Don Gray Recognized for His Impact on Church Ministry

Longtime champion of Adventist evangelism, Don Gray, was honored during the March 2 North Pacific Union Conference executive committee session. Max Torkelsen, NPUC president, and Al Reimche, Oregon Conference president, presented an engraved plaque to Gray in recognition of his “innovative leadership, passion for new media and legacy of evangelistic ideas and success.” Don and his wife, Marge, began their pastoral ministry in 1946 in a five-church district in Oregon. They served in Oregon, Upper Columbia and Idaho for years. He finished his official pastoral career in Michigan in 1988. Since then, Gray has been active in retirement, helping create the New Beginnings DVD program distributed in 40 languages and birthing the successful model for ShareHim.

Walla Walla Student Dies

Sad news from Walla Walla University: Noel Ordelheide, a business administration student, died in his sleep during the night on Feb. 23. Ordelheide, from Denver, Colo., began attending Walla Walla University in January at the start of winter quarter. “Please join me in praying for Noel’s parents and brother as they grieve this devastating loss,” requests John McVay, WWU president. “We should remember also Noel’s friends and his extended family members.” A Celebration of Life service will be held in the Denver First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Denver, Colo., at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 4. A special memorial page for Noel has been set up HERE.

Schroeder Elected as NPUC Trust Services Director

As a result of an affirmative vote by the North Pacific Union Conference executive committee on March 2, Kimberley Schroeder is the new NPUC trust services director. She replaces Gary Dodge who now fills a similar role for the General Conference. Schroeder, who has held trust services certification from the General Conference since 1990, has served as the NPUC Association assistant treasurer since 2002. She has held various positions connected with treasury and trust departments for the Oregon and Alaska conferences.

Looking Ahead

March
5: Women’s Day of Prayer
24: May Ad/Article Deadline

April
1–3: Wash. Impact Your World Retreat
3–5: WWU University Days
7: UCA Academy Days
9: Ore. Ministry Fest South
21: June Ad/Article Deadline
21–24: WWU Homecoming Weekend
30: OAMC Concert

GLEANER Blogs

- Cindy's Garden Blog
- Monthly Archival Photo
- Let's Talk
- Tip Sheet
**ADRA to Cut HQ Staff**
The president of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency today announced the agency will cut staff and adjust its management structure at its international headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States. Rudi Maier, ADRA president, says the move follows three years of "gradual decline" in revenue. ADRA International currently employs 77 people, according to John Torres, an agency spokesman. Most of the agency's revenue comes from United States government contracts, such as the United States Agency for International Development. About 10 percent of the agency's income is received from donations of private income. Read more from the Adventist News Network HERE.

**PLR Invites Listeners to be Hands and Heart of Jesus**
During February, Positive Live Radio announcers shared new ways to be the hands and heart of Jesus to family, neighbors, coworkers, and complete strangers. With ideas ranging from praying for a neighbor to returning an extra shopping cart at the grocery store, there was something for everyone. This is the second year for the 28 Ways in 28 Days initiative. Its intent is to invite listeners to look outside of their own needs and focus on others. The initiative takes its theme from Proverbs 11:25 — "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." It’s just one of the many Hands & Heart projects Positive Life Radio participates in each year. See the complete list of 28 Ways in 28 Days Hands & Heart ideas HERE.

**Auburn Academy Hosts Conference Choral Clinic**
See photos of the Washington Conference recent choral festival held at Auburn Adventist Academy HERE.

**Can’t Out Give God**
You can’t out give God. This famous tithe-payer tried and but instead struck oil. Check out the new blog at Cindy’s Garden Blog.
Noel Douglas Ordelheide

December 1, 1990 – February 24, 2011

Noel Ordelheide, a business administration student at Walla Walla University, will be most remembered for his easy smile and his unbeatable sense of humor. One person described Noel as having “a contagious sense of humor with an others-centeredness that he freely gave of, even at his own expense.” Other words used to describe this fun-loving young man are kind, joyful, special, thoughtful, individual, talented, genuine and hilarious.

Regardless of whether people had known Noel all his life or had only just met him, they all had stories of being treated as though they were Noel’s best friend, that he truly cared about them, and the warmth with which he interacted with them.

Noel easily made friends of all ages while working at Big Lake Youth Camp last summer as an archery instructor. He enjoyed basketball and would often spend his time on the bench journaling about the games and what he observed about the plays. He was an avid storyteller and left a lasting impression on anyone who knew him.

One friend summed it up best with a post on Noel’s memorial wall on Facebook, “Many of us would be hard pressed to spread as much joy in the next 20 years as Noel did in the last 20. In honor of Noel, though, I hope we’re willing to try.”

View photos of Noel and leave memories or messages of condolences on the “Memories of Noel” Facebook page.

A Celebration of Life for Noel will be held on Friday, March 4, at 10 a.m. in the Denver South Seventh-day Adventist Church in Denver, Colo. The service will also be live-streamed at 9 a.m. in the Alumni Board Room in Havstad Alumni Center on the College Place campus. All are invited to attend.

Page maintained by Becky St.Clair
Last update on March 2, 2011
ADRA to cut staff at world headquarters

President cites three years of revenue decline
22 Feb 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
ANN staff

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Maier said many NGOs reduced staff in 2009 because of the downturn in the economy, while ADRA instituted a temporary hiring freeze and cut administrative expenses. “However ADRA continues to struggle to keep operational and management costs balanced,” Maier said.

This is ADRA’s second management shift this month. On February 10, the agency replaced two of its vice presidents -- Vice President for Programs Mark Webster and Vice President for Finance Gideon Muzero -- with Ken Flemmer and Robyn Morden.

Maier said more information would be available soon.
28 Ways in 28 Days (To be the Hands and Heart of Jesus)
Every Day: Smile and say hello to everyone in your path. Saying hello is more than just saying hello. It’s an acknowledgement of existence, and affirms the worth of another.

1. Take a moment to reflect. Familiarize yourself with those around you and their needs. Be ready to follow God’s leading.
2. Take a flower bouquet and/or note to someone who needs a day brightener.
3. Instead of saying “hi” on facebook, pick up the phone and talk with them! NO TEXTING!
4. Pray for your neighbors. Get to know them a little better.
5. Give someone close to you (spouse, child, etc.) a neckrub and name the things you love about them.
6. Spend a Sunday (even today!) with family (parents/siblings/etc) that you don’t connect with very often. In person is great, but even a phone call will work.
7. Volunteer to watch a friend’s kids so they can go out on a date night.
8. Write a letter or card to encourage someone that needs that boost.
9. Compliment or affirm a co-worker who isn’t necessarily your favorite to work with.
10. Drive Through Difference!
11. Do someone else’s chore – without asking or telling them.
12. Make a new friend at a nursing home or hospital, or maybe with a shut-in from your church.
13. Give a family member the gift of your undivided attention and time.
14. Make a valentine and bring it to someone who needs a little love.
15. Treat the office to some goodies / acknowledge their hard work.
16. Return a shopping cart – maybe it’s not even the one you used.
17. Spend some time in prayer. Take 5-15 minutes and pray for those around you.
18. Invite a friend out to coffee. Someone you haven’t connected with in a while.
19. Write an encouraging letter to your pastor or other church leader.
20. Invite friends over and serve them dinner. Emphasis on serve…be attentive.
22. Volunteer time at a local school, whether that is for story time, mentoring, helping with esl (English as a second language) or tutoring.
23. Donate blood. The American Red Cross is always grateful for the help.
24. Put together a food box for your church to give to a family in need.
25. Invite someone to church.
26. Volunteer a couple of hours at the local humane society. Walk the goldfish.
27. Write a letter to someone in service…whether that is a police officer, fire fighter, soldier, teacher, or some other service oriented profession.
28. Reflect back on the month. See the growth you’ve experienced, and don’t forget to give all the credit to God.
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Mary Kay Ash: You Just Can’t Out Give God

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Years ago, the pastor of my church asked me to address the congregation about raising funds for a children’s learning center… Each Sunday a member of the congregation made a plea for the special collection but the results were always discouraging… $600 – 1,000 a week. At that rate we would not have that building for a long, long time… I decided I couldn’t do much worse than anyone else had done, so I agreed to make a plea…

I was very busy at that time, at the office and traveling regularly. But in the back of my mind, I was always searching for the right words to include in my plea to the congregation…

On the night before my speech, we arrived home well after midnight. I was very worried because the right words still hadn’t come. But I convinced myself it would be better to get a good night’s sleep and plan my speech in the morning.

That morning Mel and I overslept. When I awoke and looked at the clock, it was after ten. I had less than an hour to get my thoughts in order and be at the church! … When was I going to write my speech? I had fully intended to have some quiet time that morning to work up the best presentation I could… For about five seconds, I thought of just staying home. But that was impossible; I had to keep my promise.

Mel was already racing around getting ready, and so I did the same. I grabbed the first dress I saw in my closet and as I was slipping it on I thought, “Lord, fill my mouth with worthwhile words and stop me when I’ve said enough.

“You’ll have to tell me what to say, Lord,” I prayed. And then I stopped dead in the middle of putting on my makeup, because a thought came to me so clearly and suddenly I was shocked: “Mary Kay, tell the congregation you will match whatever they give today.”

The thought was so vivid I put down the makeup I was holding and said out loud, “Wait just a minute, Lord! I’ve got to think this over!” Fortunately, Mel didn’t hear me talking away in my dressing room.

In the car, I had a moment to think and pray and I was tempted to tell Mel about my idea. “Don’t you dare,” I repeated to myself as we rode in silence… All I could think about was: “Mary Kay, tell the congregation you will match whatever they give today.”

By the time we got to church, the choir was in place the service was about to begin. We had to tiptoe down the side aisle to reach our seats.

Hardly had we sat down when the pastor called me to the pulpit.

As I walked up, I realized I still had no idea what I was going to say. Once again I said silently, “This is in your hands Lord…”

After speaking awhile about the benefits of Sunday school… I heard myself saying, “You know, we’ve all been talking about this building for quite some time. At this rate these children are going to have grandchildren before the building is built. We must do something about this. You’ve heard me talk about our company and how we operate on a cash basis. Well, I’ll match whatever you give today.”

There was complete silence. I took a deep breath and went on. “You know that we operate on a no-credit basis, so I don’t want pledges from you today – I want cash or checks!” And then for good measure, I repeated, “Whatever you give today, I’ll match.”

There, I had done it… Whatever the amount was – I knew I was going to have to match it personally.

Mel looked shocked and so did a few other people. But for the most part the congregation just sat there. I really could see no reaction at all…

When the pastor finished his sermon, he paused and added, “I had some difficulty keeping your attention this morning. I hope it’s because you were thinking of Mary Kay’s offer.” Then he looked over at me and said, “Mary Kay, I happen to know that a lot our members make out their checks before coming to church and so they may not have their checkbooks with them. Would it be all right if we gave them until five this afternoon?”

“That’s fine,” I said. I was surprised the pastor seemed to think the congregation would respond, but I hoped he was correct. When five o’clock came… nobody called. I kept checking my watch, and the hour kept passing…

It was about ten o’clock the next morning before I finally received a call from the chairman of the building committee.

“I was waiting for you to call last night,” I said. “What happened:”

“Well,” he said, “we had a meeting about this after church last night, and it got to be quite late.”

“Oh. Was it that bad?”

“Oh, no on the contrary. It was phenomenal.”

“Phenomenal? … What do you mean?” I asked him…
“Now, Mary Kay,” he said carefully, “before I tell you the figure ... we spent some time talking about this, and we decided that we don’t want to hold you to your offer. I have been charged with the responsibility of making that absolutely clear. We know you didn’t expect what happened, and we didn’t either.”

“I made the offer,” I said, “and I’ll stick to it.”

“Now, you don’t have to; I want you to know that. We would certainly understand if you didn’t.”

“How much...?”

Finally he spoke. “$107,748.”

I had gone to bed the previous night just praying we could collect at least $1,000. I have never in my life had such mixed feelings. That $107,748 along with my contribution and what we already had would be enough to start the building! I had asked God to tell me what to say, and He certainly had. It had succeeded beyond my wildest dreams. On the other hand, my announcement came back to me very clearly: they had to give cash – and so did I – today!

By now, the silence on my end of the line was becoming notable. “Are you there?” he asked.

“Yes,” I sighed. My mind was working furiously. I don’t leave that kind of cash in my account... But those other members came up with it and somehow, I would too. The only solution that occurred to me was to cancel my next appointment and set about arranging a bank loan.

“Now, you don’t have to,” he began again.

“I know, I know. And that’s very considerate of you. But I certainly I intend to keep my word. In fact, you be sure the building committee knows that it is definitely my pleasure.”

I hope I sounded cordial; I’m not sure, because the moment I hung up that phone, I had my head in my hands. That was a lot of cash – about one hundred times more than I had expected to need. “Okay, Lord,” I said. “You got me into this. Now you get me out! How am I going to get this money?”

Then the phone rang. It was Richard ...

Months before this event, Richard had come to me with an investment proposal. A geologist that he knew had developed a seismic technique for finding oil. Richard investigated the procedure and had been very impressed with its potential. As a result, he had encouraged me to invest in two oil wells. I trusted his judgment and told him, “Go ahead.” (From that day forward, I had never given those wells a thought.)

Richard was elated. “I’ve never see anything like it in my life! Everything you put your hand to turns to gold.”

“What do you mean?”

“Those wells,” he said. “Remember? I’ve just heard that they’ve come in. Not one, but both of them. And both gushers! It is unbelievable. Do you know what those wells are worth?”

“Tell me.” I’m sure that I’d stopped breathing, because I just had a funny feeling.

“Between the two of them,” he said, “your share this month will be more than $100,000.¹”

This story was written by Mary Kay Ash, one of America’s top entrepreneurs. It was shortened and edited by Cindy R. Chamberlin, 2011.


This entry was posted on Thursday, March 3rd, 2011 at 1:45 pm and is filed under Cindy's Garden Blog. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

One Response to “Mary Kay Ash: You Just Can’t Out Give God”

1. Linda Hamerly says:
   March 3, 2011 at 11:23 pm

   Isn’t our God awesome - “Before you call I will answer” - Still is true today. Thanks for posting this story !- Linda

Leave a Reply

Name (required)