Washington Members Overflow with Evangelistic Fervor

Washington Conference members are more passionate than ever about evangelism. The conference-wide faith goal for the camp meeting evangelism fund this year was set at $450,000. Thanks in part to a $100,000 matching fund, when all donations and pledges were tallied at the end of the camp meeting, more than $470,000 had been raised, far surpassing the goal.

Northwest Pastors to Attend Fall Leadership Convention at WWU

The North Pacific Union Conference is partnering with local conferences to sponsor the Northwest Adventist Leadership Convention, Sept. 7–10, on the campus of Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash. All pastors are encouraged to attend. More than 30 Adventist thought-leaders will present plenary sessions and seminars on nearly 50 different topics. This event directly precedes the NPUC constituency session on Sunday, Sept. 11. More information about the leadership convention is available HERE.

Black Adventists Have Health Advantage over Average Americans

African-American Adventists can hold their heads a little higher with the results of a recent study. It shows blacks who identify as members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church actually report a better quality of life than the average American. The research was conducted at Loma Linda University as part of the Adventist Religion and Health Study (ARHS), a study of nearly 11,000 Adventists, including more than 3,400 black Adventists. “This difference is particularly pronounced in older age groups, who progressively demonstrate increased mental health — lower depression, more energy, feeling more calm and peaceful — relative to the general population,” says Dr. Jerry Lee, principal investigator for ARHS. Read more from the Adventist News Network HERE.

Looking Ahead

July
4: Independence Day
12–16: Ore. Gladstone Camp Meeting
14: Sept. Ad/Article Deadline
30: Arctic Mission Offering

August
11: Oct. Ad/Article Deadline
27: WWU Alumni Rosario Sabbath

September
11: NPUC Constituency Session
11: WWU Constituency Session
15: Nov. Ad/Article Deadline

GLEANER Blogs

- Cheri Corder
- Cindy’s Garden Blog
- Let’s Talk
- Mike Jones
- Monthly Archival Photo
- Tip Sheet
Student Wins Firefighter of the Year

Tiffany Buissink, a Walla Walla University education graduate student, volunteers as a local firefighter for station 43 in Walla Walla, Wash. Her commitment to this position recently won her the award of Firefighter of the Year for her station. As a volunteer, Buissink does not hold regular shifts. Instead, when there is a call, if she is available she heads to station 43 to help. “My experiences as a firefighter have been very fulfilling for me as a human being,” she says. “Everything I do reminds me that I am working for something that is higher than myself. This [award] means so much to me because it makes me realize I have been accepted by my new station members and that my love for this job really shows.” Read more on the WWU website HERE.

A Sermon in Action

Tim Rasmussen from Nine Mile Falls, Wash., writes: “On June the 11th, General Conference President Ted Wilson and his wife Nancy were guests at the camp meeting in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Wilson delivered an inspiring message at the main worship hour that reminded all of us of the real message of faith in Jesus we as Seventh-day Adventists possess. The real message was delivered, however, early on Sunday morning when Wilson could be seen folding chairs in the main auditorium. Unasked and unscheduled, he saw a need and was willing to serve in any way he could.”

Check Out the Latest GLEANER Blogs

Mike Jones talks about “good intentions” for connecting with former church members; Cheri Corder wonders why her daughter who hates fish is going fishing; and the staff from the Walla Walla University School of Education and Psychology answers a question about how curtail an obsession with texting. It’s all online at the GLEANER Blog HERE.

Cindy’s Garden Blog

The amazing story of Welches grape juice. Read more on Cindy’s Garden Blog.
September 7-10, 2011
Walla Walla University, College Place, WA

- Convention Overview
- Schedule
- Speakers and Presentations
- Registration Information
- Exhibitors
In U.S., black members of Adventist Church defy health disparities, study shows

Physical, mental quality of life better than general population

28 Jun 2011, Loma Linda, California, United States
Jennifer Frehn/ANN

Health disparities between black Americans and the rest of the United States have been well documented in medical journals. But one study shows that blacks who identify as members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church actually report a better quality of life than the average American.

Researchers point to certain lifestyle behaviors as a possible explanation for the difference. The research was conducted at Loma Linda University as part of the Adventist Religion and Health Study (ARHS), a study of nearly 11,000 Adventists, including more than 3,400 black Adventists.

The findings were drawn from an ARHS survey that included questions from SF-12v2 Physical and Mental Health composite scores, widely recognized among researchers to be accurate measures of quality of life. Examples of questions included are:

- "During the past four weeks, how much did pain interfere with your normal work?"
- "How much time during the past four weeks have you felt downhearted and depressed?"

ARHS results were then compared to results from a nationwide sample of people who took the SF-12v2 survey. Overall, black, as well as white, Adventist study participants reported better physical and mental quality of life than the U.S. norm, in some cases by as much as 4.5 percentage points.

"It is striking that, although in the general population blacks show poorer quality of life on a variety of measures, our results show that black Adventists have a significantly better quality of life than the average American," said Dr. Jerry Lee, principal investigator for ARHS.

"This difference is particularly pronounced in older age groups, who progressively demonstrate increased mental health -- lower depression, more energy, feeling more calm and peaceful -- relative to the general population," Lee said. "This could be a result of the healthy lifestyle choices that are built into the Adventist faith."

Compared to non-Adventist blacks and whites, rates of smoking, drinking, and meat consumption for Adventists were lower, and rates of vegetarianism and water consumption were higher. In addition, about 95 percent of the males and females in the black study cohort attended church weekly or more often, as compared to 30 percent of black males and 50 percent of black females in the General Social Survey -- a survey routinely conducted on a sample of the entire U.S. by the National Opinion Research Center.

Adventists, who advocate temperance, a plant-based diet, and setting aside Saturday for worship and family time, have received much coverage in recent years for their longevity and quality of life.

Loma Linda, California, a city with a high concentration of Adventists, was the only U.S. locale featured in the book The Blue Zones, by Dan Buettner. The book examined five areas of the world where life spans often noticeably exceed the norms. Loma Linda Adventist subjects of the book have been featured on many national TV spots, including a heart surgeon practicing at 94 years old, interviewed on The Oprah Winfrey Show, and a piano teacher giving lessons at 97, interviewed on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360.

ARHS is a sub-study of the Adventist Health Study-2 (AHS-2), a long-term health study of more than 96,000 Adventists, including 26,000 black Adventists, across the U.S. and Canada.

Research shows that lifestyle diseases disproportionately affect blacks. Part of AHS-2's goal has been to determine why this is the case by exploring the links between diet, lifestyle, and disease. Researchers at the study's outset said the results of ARHS would be in important step toward learning practices that may help eliminate health disparities between blacks and the general population.

As analysis of data continues, researchers say they expect more results that will have far-reaching implications for improving the health of the black community.

AHS-2 is conducted by researchers at Loma Linda University School of Public Health. For more information, visit www.adventisthealthstudy.org.

Click HERE for a PDF of a graph with more specific information from the study.
Grad student volunteers at station 43

By: Jennifer Jorgenson

When she is not in class, teaching or studying, 28-year-old Walla Walla University education graduate student Tiffany Buissink is a volunteer firefighter. Her commitment to this volunteer position recently won her the award of Firefighter of the Year for her station.

Buissink is currently a volunteer for station 43 in Walla Walla and has been working as a firefighter for five years. She has also worked as a resident firefighter when she was not in school. Buissink can’t imagine her life without firefighting now.

As a volunteer, Buissink does not hold regular shifts at the station. Instead, when there is a call, if she is available she heads to station 43 to help out.

Not many students can say that they spend their down time responding to calls about fires, but Buissink loves it.

“My experiences as a firefighter have been very fulfilling for me as a human being,” she said. “Everything I do reminds me that I am working for something that is higher than myself. These people experiencing something terrible and it is our job to help them through it. The experiences that stick with me the most are the really difficult calls and the really happy calls.”

Each year the station holds a banquet where the firefighters cast votes for who should be Firefighter of the Year. This year Buissink won the award and feels incredibly honored.

“This means so much to me because it makes me realize that I have been accepted by my new station members and that my love for this job really shows,” she said.

There are many experiences that have touched her heart during her time as a firefighter. Not only does Buissink help with fires, but she also assists with medical emergencies in some cases.

“I love knowing that we are helping other people,” she said. “We see people on some of the worst days of their lives and it is our job to help them.”
Thomas Welch (1825-1903) was a 19th-century Methodist minister, physician, and dentist who thought it hypocritical that his church opposed consumption of alcohol, but served wine in its communion services. To rectify this problem, Welch used the process pioneered by Louis Pasteur — he filtered and bottled grape juice in his kitchen, and then boiled the bottles, which had the effect of killing any naturally-occurring yeast, thereby preserving the juice while preventing fermentation. In 1869 Welch began taking his “Dr. Welch’s Unfermented Wine” to other churches, but few clergymen expressed any interest, and he was often told that the notion of serving “unfermented sacramental wine” was tantamount to heresy.

Temperance

When Welch’s grape juice failed to prove popular, it soon faded into the background of Dr. Welch’s busy life — he was also running Welch’s Dental Supply Company, marketing Dr. Welch’s Neutralizing Syrup and Dr. Welch’s Dental Alloys, and publishing his long-running Items of Interest (later re-named Welch’s Monthly), a leading dental journal of the time. Welch was deeply involved in the temperance movement, and was sworn as a policeman in Philadelphia, where he worked to apprehend illegal sellers of liquor. Until the Civil War was won he had been involved in the Underground Railroad, helping escaped slaves find their way to freedom in the North.

Demand Grew

The early 1890s, when his son Charles became active in the juice company and started advertising Welch’s, demand grew rapidly, and Dr. Welch devoted himself full-time to the juice business. After a splashy showcasing of the juice at the Chicago World’s Fair of 1893, the business boomed and the Welch Grape Juice Company was incorporated in 1897. Welch died in 1903, but his name remains synonymous with grape juice. In 1930, as a Christmas present, at the height of the Depression, Welch’s grandsons distributed 10 percent of the company’s common stock among its 300 employees [the four Welch brothers made the gift from their personal holdings in memory of their father, Dr. Charles
In 1952, the company loaned $28M to the farmers that supplied it with grapes, to finance the farmers’ purchase of the company. Since then Welch has been owned by the National Grape Cooperative Association, an agricultural group comprising more than a thousand American fruit farmers.

**Editor’s Postscript:**

Early Welch’s marketing focused largely on temperance themes rather than financial gains. Catchy slogans like, “Lips that don’t touch Welch’s grape juice won’t touch mine,” were common.

The founder of Welch’s grape juice was a known tithe payer and the company continues to be blessed today. The most current website boasts, the American family-farmer-owned business exists as an American icon and despite the economic downturn, Welch is — thriving. It’s Concord and Niagara grapes are still grown in U.S. vineyards in Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Washington. And you’ll find Welch’s products on store shelves across the U.S. and additionally in 50 countries around the world. According to their annual report, net income rose by $10 million (+56%) following a $21 million increase in 2009. The 100% Grape Juice slogan, a hallmark of its founder, still proudly rests on labels today as a testament to its Christian founder.

**Sources:**


This entry was posted on Thursday, June 30th, 2011 at 12:29 pm and is filed under Cindy's Garden Blog, General. 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.
My daughter grew up a vegetarian. She’s never had a hamburger or a piece of chicken or even one little bite of smoked Alaskan salmon.

HOW could anyone go HUNTING? she’d wonder. And FISHING?? Just the thought of all those shiny, slimy things thrashing around on the bottom of the boat could make her shudder.

Which is why I couldn’t help but smile when she married into a family that not only EATS fish… They FISH. In ALASKA. Every summer. And why I did more than smile when she told me a few days ago that this summer, SHE is going fishing, too.

“Wow!” I said. “That will be a lot of really hard, physical work!”

“I think I’ll do fine,” she reassured me, “once I get past all the fish.”

We both laughed, because, of course the fish are the point.

It reminded me of a day, early in my nine years on staff at a boarding academy, when a few of the kids had been a little, well, difficult. “This job would be great,” I quipped to a fellow staff member, “if it weren’t for all the teenagers.” (We smiled. The kids were the point. We loved those kids!)

It also reminds me of the time I heard someone wondering what to do with some of the new church members that had come in through a recent evangelistic series. I don’t remember exactly what the concerns were, but I got the idea that these people were messing things up. You know how new people can mess things up — They have all these crazy ideas about what might be fun at the Saturday night social, and they bring scary-looking things to potluck, and they throw off the long-established seating arrangement for church. Their new-to-Sabbath School kids can create havoc, not to mention that some of them have habits and social lives that are, well, complicated.

When Jesus used fishing as an analogy for soul winning, I imagine He was simply using something familiar to the fishermen to illustrate the new focus of their lives. When it comes to casting the vision of gathering in a lot of people – and that it takes a lot of work – the imagery is profound. Maybe an additional point is that fishing can be messy. (The cross sure was.) But those “messy” people… they’re the point, right?

We love people, of course, and we love it when they come to the Lord and to our church. It’s just that in some circumstances we don’t know quite how to live out that love. As you have observed new members being assimilated into the life and, yes, culture of our church, what have you observed? Has it ever required some extra wisdom, some extra love? What did love look like under those circumstances?

Were you once one of those “messy” fish? Are you still? What did people do, or do you wish they would do, to help you transition into the Christian life and into the church?

PS It is likely that my daughter will be on the boat as you read this… Say a prayer for her! J
Mike Jones says:
June 28, 2011 at 8:46 am

Re Cheri Corder’s fishy perspectives blog, I remember when I was a boy loving to go fishing with my dad, but not much interested in cleaning them afterwards. I also appreciate that in the Christian life we’re primarily called to catch the fish; the Holy Spirit’s job is to clean them. Nice piece, Cheri.
Mike Jones — Aren’t There More Effective Ways to Do Evangelism?

Do you ever notice that some folks you used to see regularly in church aren’t present any more? Do you say to yourself, “I really should give them a call,” but you don’t?

The purpose of this column is to stimulate you to make that call.

Several years ago, someone at my home church mentioned a couple we used to know who were no longer active in church. I did a little sleuthing and was able to obtain their phone number. When I got the husband on the line and identified myself, I chatted with him initially about our children who used to hang out together when they were teenagers. From there, we caught up on the rest of our families what he and I were doing now 20+ years later.

Toward the end of the call, I said, “I hear you haven’t been in church for a long time. Don’t you think you should get your act together and start coming again?”

Of course I said nothing of the sort. I didn’t even mention church, as I recall. But I did suggest it might be fun to catch up some Sunday morning with our wives and have breakfast together. He said that might be enjoyable but that he and his wife were pretty busy just now. Perhaps I could call another time.

Three weeks later, I called again only to find he and his wife were busy again. About a month later after praying for God’s guidance, I was impressed to call again. This time he and his wife were available. Our two families had breakfast in a local restaurant, me with a different wife from 20 years earlier, and we had a really enjoyable visit.

Toward the end of this encounter, I mentioned that our church had a free buffet meal every Wednesday evening and perhaps they might join Diane and me in the near future. A few weeks later, they did join us. We had great fellowship once again. But even better, some of the longtime members who were present also welcomed them.

After two or three of these Wednesday evening encounters, I said we’d love to have them join us in church some Sabbath morning. A few weeks later they joined us. They came sporadically at first, but now come quite regularly, and Diane and I have two new friends.

Perhaps this story reminds you of some folks from your church who’ve become inactive. Most churches have two to three times their active membership who are no longer active. If someone comes to mind you’d like to connect with, perhaps some of these ideas will help you get started.

Make a non-religious phone call. (Possible message: “What’s going on, _______? Haven’t seen you around for awhile. What’s new? Let’s get together some time.”) No texting or emails in the early going.

Schedule a connection. Try for a casual encounter, perhaps at a Starbucks or some other nearby hot (or cold) drink place. Or you might opt for a Sunday morning breakfast. But no fancy restaurants or invites to your house or church. Not yet unless your prospect says, “I sure do miss church.”

Touch Your Prospect. Handshakes, hugs, whatever seems appropriate. Remember that God’s love will be flowing through all of these connections, including your tone of voice if, say, the telephone precludes your being physically present because prospect has moved away.

Maintain good eye contact, smile. These expressions convey empathy, show that you care. (P.S. If you smile even though you’re on the phone, your voice will make your connection more winsome).

Keep listening & asking followup questions. Listen for problems and pain. Famed theologian Francis Schaeffer once told his teenage son, “We help people find healing not by so much by what we tell them, but by listening to them.” Everyone has issues.

Pray silently. You’ll feel inadequate when you hear some of your contact’s complicated problems. So pray for wisdom and grace and for God’s blessing on your connection while it’s happening. Jesus promises to be your adequacy. “You are complete in Him.”—Colossians 2:10.

Schedule a next time. “Hey, this has been fun. Let’s get together again soon, okay?” Then ask what time of the month or day of the week is better for your prospect and indicate that you’ll be in touch in whatever time frame seems appropriate. Try to maintain the lead without being pushy.

Pray before, during, and after your connection. Someone has said, “Prayer is not so much preparing for battle; it IS the battle.” Plead the merits of Jesus’ shed blood that your prospect’s sins may be forgiven and that the Holy Spirit might be enabled to bless your contact (perhaps even your son, or daughter, or grandchild) in response to your intercessions. Pray even when everything looks hopeless. God promises to respond speedily to such prayers. (Luke 17:7-8).

Back off if your prospect shows no interest in connecting. The Holy Spirit will guide you in such matters. Perhaps down the road your prospect will be more receptive. Or perhaps the Lord has someone else in mind for you to connect with.

Always remember in connecting with inactive or former members, Jesus does the heavy lifting. All you need to do is be their friend. He promises, “I will seek that which was lost, and bring again, that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick.”—Ezekiel 34:16

Mike Jones leads seminars on reconnecting with inactive members. The story of his return to membership after 16 years away appears in his book, Sometimes I Don’t Feel Like Praying. Reach him at mjones@poclinc.com or www.reconnectnow.org.

This entry was posted on Thursday, June 23rd, 2011 at 6:08 pm and is filed under Mike Jones. 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 “Mike Jones … Missing Members”

1. Kathy says:
   June 23, 2011 at 10:50 pm

   Wow! Really great ideas that are simple and fun. Thanks. I’ll try it.

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

Submit Comment
Dear Counselor: I used to send texts from my cell phone in a normal way, but lately I have noticed texting has become an obsession. I send texts to all my friends and I keep sending to those who reply. I know it doesn’t make sense, but when I am left without anyone to send to, I just text to myself! At times it is almost impossible to keep my hands off the cell phone. Do you have good advice for me?

– Rick.

Dear Rick,

Yes, some items of modern technology are habit forming and we all should be alert not to lose control. Let me assure you that there is something you can do, especially if you claim God’s promises, such as “do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

As a first step, I would suggest that you place your cell phone in the hands of your best friend for three to four weeks, and have him/her take care of your calls and messages and keep you informed of the truly important matters. It may be hard at the beginning, but it is the best way to break the habit.

During these three or four weeks of ‘treatment,’ keep yourself productively busy. Get involved in physical exercise, sports, or household work. Activity outdoors is the best to break those invisible threads that take your hands to the mobile device. Get connected to people in action and, if possible, get involved in some ministry where you can help someone in need. Lastly, use this recovery time to intensify your spiritual life—allocate daily time to Scripture reading and prayer in solitude and do not fail to participate in corporate worship as well. Memorize Isaiah 41:10 (or any other encouraging verse) and repeat it to yourself throughout the day as you utter a short prayer.

As days go by, you will start feeling and increasing sense of the presence of God and additional control over your own life and actions. Once you feel comfortable, you can get your cell phone back, but you must commit yourself to limit your messages to the absolute minimum and keep reporting to your friend on how you are doing. Remember, if you get back to the old habit, the situation will become more complicated and you may need professional help.

Dear Counselor is a service of Julian Melgosa, Linda Ivy and Austin Archer of the Walla Walla University School of Education and Psychology.

This entry was posted on Thursday, June 23rd, 2011 at 6:16 pm and is filed under Dear Counselor. 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.
These fine folks do not deserve to disappear into the GLEANER archives, unnamed and unsung. If you know when or where this photo might have been taken or the names of any of these individuals, we’d like to know. Add any information you can share in the comments below.

This entry was posted on Thursday, June 23rd, 2011 at 5:35 pm and is filed under Monthly Archival Photo. 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.

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