More Northwest Camp Meetings on the Way

The Southcentral Camp Meeting in Palmer, Alaska, will be held Tuesday, July 12 through Saturday evening, July 16. Ron Clouzet, North American Division Evangelism Institute director, is the featured speaker. He will also be the speaker this fall for the Net series of meetings beginning in September. Oregon Conference Camp Meeting in Gladstone, Ore., is back on track again this year. It will run Tuesday evening, July 12, through Saturday evening, July 16, with featured speaker Dwight Nelson, Pioneer Memorial Church (Andrews University) senior pastor.

Pastors DVD Features Alaska Offering Appeal

The Pastors DVD, produced by the North American Division Church Resource Center is arriving at churches this week. One of the menu items features a video produced by Todd Gessele, North Pacific Union Conference director of new media. It is a video challenge for members to help the Alaska Conference reach more than 200 arctic villages with the Adventist message. This video and a short 3-minute offering appeal can be helpful to Northwest churches in promoting the July 30 offering on behalf of this Alaska project. Ask your pastor if this is a resource they plan to use.

Adventist Medical Center Garners New Awards

Congratulations to Adventist Medical Center, in Portland, Ore., the winner of five national marketing Aster Awards for advertising. AMC won two gold, one silver and two bronze awards. The Aster Awards competition is one of the largest of its kind, receiving approximately 3,000 entries nationally for the 2011 awards. The hospital is also one of the first to receive a special award from the Adventist Health corporate office as seed money for innovative ideas. AMC will use the $75,000 award for a project to benefit the LivingWell program at the hospital and develop tools for other healthy living and wellness programs.

Hope Channel Expands its Mobile App Options

Looking Ahead

- July 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
- Monthly Archival Photo
- Tip Sheet
Seventh-day Adventists will be glad to know that their church’s global television network now offers more choices of channels for iPhones, iPads and iPod Touches. Hope Channel has added Esperanza TV and Hope Church Channel to its iPhone app. Hope Channel North America, Hope Channel Germany, and Hope Channel International are already included in the app. The app also offers a program guide that synchronizes with the local time zone of the device. This means Hope Channel is now available to more than 50 million iPhone users and more than 19 million iPad users around the world. Church members can use this news to share the network with friends and family. The app is available through iTunes HERE.

**Good Advice for Weight Management**

Wellsource, the health assessment service from Don Hall, reports that in the United States, 66 percent of adults are overweight. The American College of Sports Medicine recommends every adult accumulate at least 30 minutes of exercise on most days of the week — as much as 90 minutes if they want to lose weight. Yet most people do not follow these guidelines. Read what Harvard researchers found when they looked at bicycling for weight control HERE. To sign up for the regular Wellsource e-newsletter, click HERE.

**Impact of 1952 Bible Conference upon World Church Remembered**

Nearly 60 years ago, 500 Adventist leaders and scholars met for two weeks in Takoma Park, Md., to reexamine traditional doctrinal positions. The recent end of World War II led them to rethink some interpretations of prophecy. A presentation by W.E. Read suggested a switch from a literal view of Armageddon to a spiritual battle between good and evil. Edward Heppenstall argued for a new perspective on the old and new covenants and a shift in the church’s theological stance on end-time events. The event gave rise to what has evolved into the Biblical Research Institute and paved the way for projects such as the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* series. Read more from the *Adventist Review* HERE.
Bicycling and Brisk Walking for Weight Management

In the United States, 66% of adults are overweight. The American College of Sports Medicine recommends every adult accumulate at least 30 minutes of exercise on most days of the week – as much as 90 minutes if they want to lose weight. Yet most people do not follow these guidelines.

Harvard researchers set out to see whether bicycling could help control weight. "Bicycling may be more comfortable than brisk walking, especially for overweight women," said Ann Lusk, research fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health Department of Nutrition.

For premenopausal women of any weight, riding a bicycle was effective in helping to maintain weight, and overweight and obese women appeared to benefit the most. The researchers found that among women who did not originally bicycle in 1989 but bicycled in 2005, even a small increase in bicycling time – as little as 5 minutes each day – helped to control weight. Among the walkers who had increased their daily activity by an average of 30 min/day over the years, only those who walked briskly (at least 3 mph) were able to control their weight. Walking slowly (slower than 3 mph) had no effect.

"Small daily increments in bicycling helped women control their weight. But the more time women spent bicycling, the better. Women with excess weight appeared to benefit the most. This is encouraging for women with weight problems because they could substitute bicycling for slow walking or driving," says Rania Mekary, research associate in the HSPH Department of Nutrition.

"Our study provides evidence that to combat obesity, the U.S. needs to have policies that not only endorse design guidelines for sidewalks, but also for separate and comfortable places to bicycle, such as cycle tracks between sidewalks and parked cars," said Anne Lusk, research fellow in the HSPH Department of Nutrition.

When promoting physical activity, the authors encourage physicians to prescribe brisk walking, rather than just walking, and also bicycling.

Business owners can encourage biking to work by providing secure bike lockers and shower facilities for employees. Some companies arrange for employees to use showers at a nearby health club.

At least once in a generation,” noted Francis D. Nichol, editor of the *Review and Herald* in 1952, thought leaders had an opportunity to “refresh” their “spirits” and quicken their fervor “by concentrating for a time on the divinely connected pattern of truth that God has given to us.”  

The 1952 Bible Conference was a carefully crafted event held September 1-13, 1952, in the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Maryland. The records show that 498 individuals participated in some of the 82 presentations that would play a role in the development of Seventh-day Adventist theology.

Together these church leaders called for renewed emphasis upon Adventist evangelism, to reexamine traditional doctrinal positions “to make sure that they are setting forth the truth in a way that most fully explains the meaning of the times,” and to seek to further the Adventist stance upon searching for “enlarged light.”

**Impetus for Another Bible Conference**

The 1952 Bible Conference was much larger than the previous Bible Conference held in 1919, and was more structured and regulated. A planning committee of 23 members carefully screened the papers. Participants were able to submit their written questions, which were then screened, and presenters responded during formal 15-minute question-and-answer periods.

The goal of church leaders was to double the membership of the worldwide denomination from 1950 to 1953. The papers presented were to affirm the Adventist stance that the Bible was the foundation for Adventist beliefs. On the opening night then-General Conference president W. H. Branson challenged the church to become the “most powerful exponents of Bible truth who ever lived.” At the same time the planning committee believed that this meeting gave an opportunity to refute attacks made by Bible critics. Such study would take “these very missiles that are so confidently hurled at them . . . [and] even more confidently hurled back at the Bible critic.” As a result, major attention was given to recent archaeological discoveries as “evidence for Bible inspiration.” Study was also given to the relation “of science to Adventist faith.”

The recent global conflict (World War II) that had concluded only seven years earlier was also the stimulus for students of Bible prophecy to reexamine their interpretative stances. Like the previous 1919 Bible Conference, which focused on the interpretation of inspired writings (hermeneutics), and more specifically eschatology, these debates would play a prominent role throughout the meeting. The presentations were hailed by church leaders, including Branson and Review editor F. D. Nichol, as “one of the most important meetings in our history.”

**Why the 1952 Bible Conference Matters**

In the study of the development of Adventist theology, the 1952 Bible Conference is often easily glossed over. The conference, however, did make a significant theological impact in two specific areas.
First, the presentations by W. E. Read on the great controversy signaled a shift in how to interpret the final battle of Armageddon. Rather than a literal battle between actual nations (as had sometimes been taught), Read argued that this final battle was not a physical battle between earthly nations but a spiritual battle between the forces of good and evil. This position by Read has remained the normative stance that the denomination has continued to adhere to.

Second, Edward Heppenstall, then a young professor at La Sierra College in California, gave a series of presentations on the relationship of the law and the gospel. Since Ellen White’s death the Adventist theological pendulum had swung toward a dispensationalist view of the covenants (the old covenant belonged to the Old Testament). In contrast, Heppenstall argued that both the old and new covenants were a part of an everlasting covenant. Heppenstall furthermore represented a shift in the theological leadership of the church regarding end-time theology, particularly that espoused by M. L. Andreasen, a prominent Adventist theologian who had taught at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and had served as president or academic dean at several Adventist colleges. Although Andreasen was not present at the 1952 Bible Conference, his views were represented by others. In contrast, Heppenstall personified a new generation of Adventist theologians who were now at the theological helm directing where the denomination would go.

Tangible Results
Perhaps the most lasting result of the 1952 Bible Conference was the creation of a “Committee for Biblical Study and Research” ratified at the Autumn Council “to encourage, organize, and coordinate this biblical exegesis and research and then to function as a body of counsel to give guidance to those who in any part of the world field make what appears to them to be significant discoveries of truth.” Although the Biblical Research Fellowship had been started in the 1940s, this new committee gave official sanction to the work that these scholars were doing. The committee would be chaired by W. E. Read (until 1956) and would continue to evolve into the present Biblical Research Institute (BRI), which still operates at the General Conference and where scholars continue to probe biblical and historical matters (see sidebar).

The 1952 Bible Conference further showcased that new biblical and archaeological research affirmed traditional Adventist beliefs. The presentations paved the way for new scholarly projects such as the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, as well as the volume *Problems in Bible Translation* (published in 1954).

The 1952 Bible Conference highlighted the influential role that Adventist theologians and church historians play within the denomination. By producing theologically sound resources, it demonstrated how careful scholarship can strengthen confidence in the Advent message.


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*M. W. Campbell is lead pastor of the Wichita, Kansas, Seventh-day Adventist Church. This article was published June 23, 2011.*
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
"His pastor had been urging him to pursue it, but when he watched a friend sink back into a drunkard’s life after tasting wine in the communion service, Dr. Thomas B. Welch was finally motivated to develop a non-alcoholic wine.”  

Dave Harness Sr., pastor

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 Edgar Welch...].

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.
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:
Tech-NO

They were gathered around the restaurant table — husband, wife and two girls. Between bites of my own dinner, I observed their marked lack of interaction. There were no shared smiles or playful winks. Each was lost in a separate world, fiddling with their mobile devices. Were they playing games, texting, surfing the Web? I couldn’t tell. But I could see the bored expressions, the vacant eyes, the distant body language. I felt sadness for this family where the simple joy of sharing a meal together was lost. Surrounding that little table, they were miles apart.

Their unintended tableau reminded me of a quote from Christian media guru Phil Cooke: “The most sought-after commodity today is someone’s undivided attention.”

The plethora of mobile communication devices, including ever-present cell phones and iPads, mean many of us carry a billion streams of information with us wherever we go. Atlas mythologically carried the world on his shoulders. Hey, we carry it in our pockets.

Having immediate access to all this information is exhilarating. Got a question? Even an obscure one? Give me a couple minutes with Google and you’ll have your answer. Want to reach me immediately? Send me a text. I can answer that quietly, even in a meeting, or, ahem, in church.

But, this multitasking we’re getting used to is taking a toll. While we connect with the outside world, we are in danger of losing what’s nearest at hand. Talking with a friend recently, I noticed him repeatedly looking down at his cell phone as incoming text messages interrupted our conversation. “Sorry,” he said. “I’m addicted to this thing.”

He’s not too far off the mark. Our mobile devices are enabling us as information junkies, addicts in every sense of the word. FOMO is a new acronym coined to describe what many are experiencing with Twitter, Facebook and other social media networking — Fear Of Missing Out.

Flash mobs, hundreds of individuals prompted by the peer pressure of a Twitter message to do something in common at a given time and place, converge on shopping malls. Personal accounts of news and events blaze around the world, passing from one person to the next — as quick (and reliable, at times) as gossip.

Now, I’m a fan of technology and mobile communication. But this headlong rush that so often absorbs us prompts two basic questions: Is quicker better? Because we can, should we?

I think not — at least, not without first taking stock of more basic and lasting values. The simple act of lending our undivided attention to a friend, giving respectful eye contact to a colleague, lets them know they matter. In spite of all our virtual “friends” on Facebook, the ones who really count are those right in front of us who search our faces for evidence we care.

There’s another Person who desires our attention. We were designed to walk with Him in the cool of the evening through a garden of another place and time. As we eagerly seek out the latest, coolest gadget, or provocative tweet, is He watching anxiously for a glimmer of eye contact with us?

Turn your eyes upon Jesus … you don’t even need an app.

This entry was posted on Thursday, June 30th, 2011 at 3:03 pm and is filed under Steve Vistaunet. 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.
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 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@paclink.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.
NEW … July Archival Photo

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.