PACS Initiates Mobile Food Pantry

Portland Adventist Community Services is now heading out into the surrounding communities with a groundbreaking mobile food pantry. The PACS “COW” (Commodities on Wheels), a converted snowmobile trailer, may not be the first mobile pantry in the country, but is likely the first to use the PACS method of client shopping. It allows needy individuals and families to walk through with grocery carts to select items on guided shopping lists. This method preserves personal dignity while providing education on balanced food choices. A total of 91 people benefited from its first “outing” on Monday, July 11, in Troutdale, Ore. Read more and see additional photos at the PACS Blog site HERE.

Watch Live Stream from Oregon Camp Meeting

Several meetings from the Oregon Conference Camp Meeting are being streamed live during the event which wraps up this Saturday evening, July 16. Check the schedule and watch live online HERE. Dwight Nelson, Pioneer Memorial Church (Andrews University) senior pastor is the featured speaker each evening at 7 p.m., Pacific Time. Alaska members surrounding the greater Anchorage area are also heading to camp meeting this week in Palmer, Alaska.

World Headquarters Hosts Mennonite Leaders

Leaders from both the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Mennonite World Conference met this month at the Adventist world headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., to discuss their beliefs. Currently with 1.6 million members worldwide, Mennonites trace their roots to the Anabaptist branch of the 16th-century Reformation. Mennonite leaders said they were interested to learn of the Adventist Church’s focus and commitment of resources to issues of healthful living and religious freedom. The two denominations plan another conversation next year in Switzerland. Read more from the Adventist News Network HERE.

Looking Ahead

July
12–16: Ore. Gladstone Camp Meeting
12–16: Alaska Palmer 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
Undeserving — Shawn Boonstra Weighs in on the Casey Anthony Verdict

“One thing is clear: Someone is guilty. Little girls don’t end up duct-taped and garbage-bagged in the woods all by themselves.” So begins an Adventist Review column by Shawn Boonstra, North American Division ministerial department associate director for evangelism. He continues, “I’m not at all happy with the Casey Anthony verdict … But I am also freshly aware that I myself am standing in heaven’s docket, with curious angels marveling at the fact that Jesus plans to take me into the kingdom.” Read Boonstra’s complete column in the Adventist Review HERE.

TechTalk Begins Season Two

Chip Dizard and Bryant Taylor, the dynamic tech duo, are back with Season Two of TechTalk. These fast-paced online webinars, each only around 15 minutes long, discuss and demonstrate the latest technology and how it can be used successfully for ministry outreach. The newest episode and 2010 season archives are available on demand at the Society of Adventist Communicators website HERE. TechTalk is sponsored by the North American Division office of communication.

WWU Features Collection of Rare Books

The Walla Walla University history department’s Hutto-Patterson research library now boasts a collection of rare books from the 16th and 17th centuries. The collection contains numerous editions of the writings of Erasmus, a Dutch philologist and theologian who is considered one of the first modern biblical scholars. Gregory Dodds, WWU professor of European history, says it is remarkable for a university such as WWU to have a collection like this. Some of the books in the Erasmus collection, as well as over one hundred thousand others from the 16th and 17th centuries are now available to students in full-text electronic form. With devices like the iPad students can comfortably read, mark up, and annotate the pages without damaging the original documents. Read more about the collection HERE and in the upcoming August GLEANER.

Cindy’s Garden Blog

This famous tithe-payer is known in the modern computer world for his honesty at personal cost. Find out who it is on Cindy’s Garden Blog HERE.

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Spam
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Restoring Dignity

Asking for help with basic needs can be humiliating. Yet thousands in Portland must do it every day. In the PACS food pantry, health clinic and thrift store, the goal is not simply to meet basic needs for struggling families, but to give a little bit of dignity back to each person in the process, as Christ did. It is a vital step in the process of empowerment and inspiration that these individuals need to get back on their feet.
Monday night was the first food run for the recently finished PACS COW Mobile Pantry (COW stand for “commodities on wheels”). Food was provided to 21 families (a total of 91 people) from 6 – 8 p.m.

The pantry is the brainchild of PACS’ Executive Director, Paul L. Cole, who developed the “client choice” mobile pantry concept after a volunteer asked how we could help people in her neighborhood, where there were many needy families, but no food pantries. The concept is designed to reduce the time and financial stress for these families, caused by the need for long drives or bus rides to the nearest emergency food center.

The PACS COW was built from a snowmobile trailer, converted on the inside to include shelves and lighting in a walkthrough, grocery store-style setup that works like PACS’ on-site food pantry in NE Portland.

Here are some pictures of the first PACS COW opening, hosted in Troutdale, Oregon by Frontier Missions:
Restoring Dignity: For families in underserved areas, PACS launches a ... http://pacsonline.blogspot.com/2011/07/for-families-in-underserved-area...
Restoring Dignity: For families in underserved areas, PACS launches a...

PACS Basic Services Manager, Traci White, and Frontier Mission Warehouse & Marketing Manager, Greg Kennedy, review the information of two clients, before sending them through the mobile pantry to choose their food items.

David Roberts, a PACS volunteer and board member, guides a mother and her two little girls through the food selection process.

Doug Shackelford, Warehouse Manager for Sunshine Division, partnered with us to help with the mobile pantry launch. Here, he helps a woman figure out how much she can take from the green section. In both the mobile and on-site PACS food pantries, food is arranged and color coded by the food groups of the USDA Food Pyramid (green is vegetables).

Paul Cole, PACS Executive Director, entertains a group of kids waiting for their mother to finish selecting food.
Restoring Dignity: For families in underserved areas, PACS launches a mobile food pantry.

http://pacsonline.blogspot.com/2011/07/for-families-in-underserved-area...

2 comments:

Erin Lynette said...
This is really cool!
July 12, 2011 5:55 PM

Anonymous said...

What a wonderful opportunity to reach many more people with help. An approach like this would also be beneficial to inner cities communities that do not have stores offering them fresh produce.
July 14, 2011 3:47 PM

Post a Comment
First conversation between Adventists, Mennonites focuses on living Christian life

Denominations share perspectives on history, beliefs in first round of meetings

11 Jul 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
Bettina Krause and Ansel Oliver/ANN

This month’s formal conversation between leaders of the Mennonite World Conference and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists offered the opportunity for both groups to share their beliefs and dispel misunderstandings in a receptive forum, leaders of both groups said.

"By sitting down and talking with those of other faiths, we gain a deeper understanding of who they are," said John Graz, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Adventist Church, whose department organized the June 28 to July 1 event at its world headquarters.

In a joint statement, leaders from both faiths said each shares "a desire to recover the authenticity and passion of Christian history, and a strong commitment to be followers of Jesus in their personal lives and in their corporate witness to the world."

The Mennonite World Conference represents some 99 Mennonite and Brethren in Christ national churches worldwide, with a combined membership of some 1.6 million. Mennonites, who trace their roots to the Anabaptist branch of the 16th Century Reformation, are today recognized for their emphasis on peacemaking, their stance as conscientious objectors, and their involvement in dispute resolution, both at local and international levels.

The Mennonite World Conference shares "a desire to recover the authenticity and passion of Christian history, and a strong commitment to be followers of Jesus in their personal lives and in their corporate witness to the world." The Mennonite World Conference represents some 99 Mennonite and Brethren in Christ national churches worldwide, with a combined membership of some 1.6 million. Mennonites, who trace their roots to the Anabaptist branch of the 16th Century Reformation, are today recognized for their emphasis on peacemaking, their stance as conscientious objectors, and their involvement in dispute resolution, both at local and international levels.

"When you see people from a distance you can't say that you know them," said Ndlovu, who also serves as bishop of the Brethren in Christ Church in Zimbabwe. "But it is different when you sit down with someone and exchange ideas -- now we can say 'We know you.'"

Still, further conversations will pick up were this meeting left off. Future talks would explore Sabbath, its theology, and the Second Coming, said William Johnsson, director of the Adventist Church’s inter-faith relations. "They believe in the Second Coming but it doesn’t have the focus we put on it," Johnsson said.

Adventists hold their Sabbath day of worship from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown, as opposed to Mennonites, who worship on Sunday. The Mennonite delegation requested an opportunity to experience how Adventists keep Sabbath, and they stayed an extra day to attend a Friday evening supper and a church service on Saturday, Johnsson said.

Mennonite leaders at the meeting said they were interested to learn of the Adventist Church’s focus and commitment of resources to issues of healthful living and religious freedom. The Adventist Church incorporates health as part of its faith and operates the largest integrated network of Protestant hospitals worldwide. The Adventist Church also launched in 1893 what is now the International Religious Liberty Association, a non-sectarian organization dedicated to promoting freedom of conscience.

Mennonite leaders also identified the structure of their global communion as inverted compared to the Adventist Church. Though based in Strasbourg, France, Mennonite congregations are autonomous, which generates more diversity, said Robert Suderman, former general secretary of the Mennonite Church Canada, who co-chaired the meeting.

Suderman said structures of both communions "have their pros and cons." In the Adventist Church, theology and direction is offered at the General Conference world headquarters and their trickle down through the rest of the five levels of administration: divisions, unions, conferences and local congregations.

The administrative structure may have been responsible for some of the Adventist Church’s success, Suderman said.
"Adventists have grown very quickly in 150 years and we haven't," he said. "That's probably an issue we want to investigate in the next round of conversations."

The two faiths are planning another conversation next year in Switzerland.

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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BY SHAWN BOONSTRA

One thing is clear: someone is guilty. Little girls don’t end up duct-taped and garbage-bagged in the woods all by themselves.

Collective public outrage has been building in the hours since the “not guilty” verdicts left the American public speechless. Casey Anthony’s parents have already received death threats, perhaps from indignant people who struggle to find a more suitable outlet for venting frustration over the fact that whoever did this will likely never answer have to answer for it—at least not in the world’s courts.

To be perfectly frank, I struggled with the verdict myself. As the father of young girls, my paternal blood almost boils over when I hear about people mistreating children. And the fact that the person thought to be the likely perpetrator (or perhaps one of them) is going to walk out of prison a free woman is hard to take. Many who followed the case probably found themselves muttering, “She just looked so . . . guilty. Her stories didn’t add up.” The explanations offered by the defense left many wondering about both a mother’s guilt and the state of jurisprudence in the United States.

This verdict rattles what little faith many of us had left in human government and human justice. It makes me long—no, ache—for the kingdom without pain, death, or tears; the kingdom where not only parents are safe; everybody is.

In the hours since the verdict was read by a court clerk who appeared as visibly troubled as the rest of us, I’ve begun to ruminate on a few sobering thoughts.

One possibility, and one I don’t want to admit: 12 jurors might, maybe, somehow, be right. It’s possible (even remotely) that the rest of us, fueled by modern sound-bite reality, have been drawn by the scent of blood into a public feeding frenzy. History is dotted with stranger-than-fiction stories. Perhaps this is one of them.

Then there’s the more comforting thought that Someone knows every last detail of the case, and He is known to hear cries for justice from the stains of innocent blood. “Cain, the voice of your brother’s blood cries to Me from the ground” (Gen. 4:10). “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” (Rev. 6:10).

The Bible reminds us that while real justice will have to wait for the resolution of the controversy, we can rest in the knowledge that Palmoni, the Wonderful Numberer (Dan. 8:13, margin) doesn’t miss anything. “For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Eccl. 12:14). He is particularly attentive to the needs and rights of children, who reminded Jesus of His heavenly home.

I may not like the result, but the jury has spoken, the judge has agreed. The task before me is to leave it with
the God of Daniel (whose name means, “God is my judge”) and get about the business God has given me to do.

I will make every effort to keep anything like this from happening to someone else, and will guard my neighbor’s children like my own. I will also, to the best of my ability, share the only thing that can bring genuine hope in a cruelly twisted world—the redeeming, converting love of Christ.

One more thought has plagued me over recent days, and it’s the most uncomfortable of all. Think about the moral outrage and emotional pain you felt when you first heard about Caylee Anthony’s brutal demise. Few, if any, of us actually knew her, yet the anger, frustration, and pain were palpable.

Now remember Jesus standing at the tomb of Lazarus, weeping for the unnecessary death of every one of God’s children: ask yourself what kind of pain and frustration our sin has caused our heavenly Father. Consider the following paragraphs from The Desire of Ages, which underline both God’s merciful love and the deep shame of our own behavior:

“Christ did not weep for Lazarus; for He was about to call him from the grave. He wept because many of those now mourning for Lazarus would soon plan the death of Him who was the resurrection and the life” (p. 533).

“It was not only because of the scene before Him that Christ wept. The weight of the grief of ages was upon Him. He saw the terrible effects of the transgression of God’s law. He saw that in the history of the world, beginning with the death of Abel, the conflict between good and evil had been unceasing. Looking down the years to come, He saw the suffering and sorrow, tears and death, that were to be the lot of [men and women]. His heart was pierced with the pain of the human family of all ages and in all lands. The woes of the sinful race were heavy upon His soul, and the fountain of His tears was broken up as He longed to relieve all their distress” (p. 534).

Someone is guilty of something: little girls like Caylee don’t end up stashed in the woods by accident. If her cruel and ignominious death has stirred such emotion in our own sin-stained hearts, imagine the way it wrenches the heart of Christ. I imagine myself to be utterly incapable of such horrific sins, but I have no plausible deniability when it comes to the pain in our world. I have caused my share of it, for I have sinned.

I’ve never had to hide a body, but I’m painfully cognizant of the way the innocent Lamb of God equates hatred with murder. By Jesus’ standards I have murdered, committed adultery, stolen, failed to honor my parents, taken the Lord’s name in vain, and broken the Sabbath. So have you; more times that any of us would care to admit.

Now here’s the clincher: I am going to be acquitted. That’s right; I’m going to be released from the prison of death even though I certainly do not deserve it. My sins killed the Son of God. My pride was a spear in His side, and my unbelief the nails in His hands. My sins roughly and cruelly pushed a crown of thorns down over His brow.

Yet I will not receive the ultimate wages of sin because Jesus was, as Ellen White put it: “condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His
righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His” (The Desire of Ages, p. 25).

To be sure, I’m not at all happy with the Casey Anthony verdict. In fact, I’m still cooling down as I write these words. It seems like somebody ought to pay for such a horrible atrocity, and I’m still hoping that somehow, the law will catch up with the perpetrator. But I am also freshly aware that I myself am standing in heaven’s docket, with curious angels marveling at the fact that Jesus plans to take me into the kingdom.

“He has not dealt with us according to our sins,” the Psalmist reminds us, “nor punished us according to our iniquities” (Ps. 103:10).

Was Casey Anthony undeserving of her verdict? Quite possibly. I know for a fact that I don’t deserve mine.

Shawn Boonstra is associate director for evangelism in the North American Division Ministerial Association.
Old Books, New Resources at WWU

Rare 16th, 17th century books on campus

By: Becky St. Clair

Thanks to Gregory Dodds, professor of European history at Walla Walla University, the Hutto-Patterson research library in the history department now boasts a collection of rare books from the 16th and 17th centuries. The collection contains numerous editions of the writings of Erasmus, a Dutch philologist and theologian who is considered one of the first modern biblical scholars. Along with the Reformation era books came a library of recent books dealing with Erasmus and his times.

"Erasmus wrote that ‘peace and unity is the essence of Christianity’ and argued for religious tolerance,” says Dodds, whose doctoral dissertation focused on Erasmus’ influence in England. “He was tired of the theological warfare that led to so many executions and wars and instead wanted everyone to return their focus to the Bible and the Christian message of love.”

Dodds serves as an executive officer of the Erasmus of Rotterdam Society, an international organization formed in 1980 to encourage research and writing on Erasmus, his contemporaries, and their intellectual contributions. When the previous caretaker of the collection retired, the care of the collection was offered to Dodds, who agreed to house it at Walla Walla University.

While Erasmus wrote against Martin Luther’s doctrine of predestination and never joined the Protestant Reformation, his Biblical scholarship became the basis for the Bibles produced by Luther, William Tyndale, John Calvin and others, including the committee working on the King James Version. “His published Greek New Testament and, even more importantly for Biblical scholarship, his Annotations on the New Testament fundamentally changed how the Bible was studied,” explains Dodds.

Erasmus also produced a paraphrase of the New Testament so that readers who lacked formal theological training could read and understand the Bible. “When I discovered while doing research in England,” says Dodds, “that a translation of these paraphrases was required by law in every parish church, I became curious about Erasmus’ significance and influence for the development of Protestantism in England.” The result was Dodds’ first book, published in 2009 by the University of Toronto Press, entitled Exploiting Erasmus: The Erasmian Legacy and Religious Change in Early Modern England.

Dodds is certainly not the only one to benefit from the housing of the collection at Walla Walla University. Numerous students have written papers using the collection, including Ryan Cushman, a history major, who conducted research for his senior thesis using the books. While the majority of the books are in Latin, there are English and French editions as well as scholarly books about Erasmus and his contemporaries in many languages.

Dodds notes that is remarkable for a university such as WWU to have a collection like this at its disposal and that “it is an honor to now be in charge of caring for this rare collection of Erasmus’ writings.” But the resources for medieval and
Make No Excuses

Story by Cindy R. Chamberlin.

“A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful.” Prov. 14:25

Make no excuses. Own the high ground. My word is my bond. Stay out of the gray zone. Don’t ask what’s legal; ask what’s right. These platitudes come not from cradle roll children or poetic humanitarians, but a panel of America’s top businessmen.

In 2005, Dell Computers had projected to raise revenues but failed to meets its goals. Rather than blame subordinates, Kevin Rollins, Dell Computer CEO and president, shocked the corporate world by saying “Frankly, we executed poorly on managing overall selling prices.”

The business world was stunned by Rollins taking personal responsibility for the failure. However, public opinion, stock owners, and fellow colleagues respected him. In Rollin’s position he could have blamed anyone he wanted to, but did not. The New York Times went on to write a piece about the CEOs’ scrupulous honesty and wrote:

“There’s an established drill, or so it sometimes seems, when a publicly traded company disappoints Wall Street. The chief executive blames high oil prices. Or it’s the fault of unforeseen happenings in Asia, or of a software upgrade that didn’t go as planned… Rollins could have offered any number of excuses…”

Rollins is most noted for developing the strategies that propelled Dell into a dominant position in the direct selling of computer systems within the United States. He helped bring Dell to number one position worldwide. Under his leadership, the company went on to be a major contender in the industry.

In 1996, Michael Dell, legendary Dell Computer founder, asked invited Rollins who had been at Bain and Company (a global management consulting firm) to join his company as an executive. While at Dell, Rollins oversaw company plans to spend more on staff training and customer services. The effect was increased sales upwards of $14.2 billion—up six percent year on year with a net income of $762 million. With Rollins at the helm, Dell added support for AMD chips. In 2006, Forbes magazine listed Rollins as the 18th highest compensated CEO in the world with earning
$39.31 million for achievement. During his tenure stock performance was 81 percent that of the S&P 500.2

Effecting Right

But more than earning, Rollins sees his position is to also effect the right culture within his company. He takes this so seriously, that in 2001 he blamed himself for failing to set the right tone. He said that the corporate culture at Dell had been “tainted by greed.” To avoid this, he developed a new protocol ensuring he and his peers had checks and balances.”1

Rollins, a family is known for flying around the world. However, he places family on his callbacks first. He is so religious about fathering, that he is known to waking up even at 4 a.m. to call his son back home and help with homework. He also remains active in his church and is a faithful tithe payer. When asked about the practice of tithing, Rollins says, “Frankly, I don’t think any of the money is mine. I just have the luck of having it to use, whether for good or not.”

Rollins recently became chairman of the American Enterprise Institute’s Board of Trustees. He was also named by London’s CBR the 9th Most Influential persons in the Enterprise IT sector.2 His legacy will likely always be, the honesty he inspires.

Sources:
2 ^a,b,c, “Kevin Rollins.” Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia. Web. 05 July 2011.
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