NPUC Executive Committee Taps Pifher for Stewardship Role

Current officers nominated for re-election

Gordon Pifher has accepted an invitation of the North Pacific Union Conference executive committee to become director of stewardship, leadership and creative ministries. Currently serving as president of the British Columbia Conference, Pifher and his wife, Marie, will return to the Northwest where they worked for a number of years. He previously served as Upper Columbia Conference youth and family life director, Walla Walla College associate pastor, and most recently, from 1997–2005, UCC executive secretary. The executive committee also voted to approve the nomination of current officers Max Torkelsen II, president; John Loor Jr., executive secretary; and Mark Remboldt, treasurer. The officers will be formally elected at the September 11 NPUC constituency session in College Place, Wash.

Ethnic Scholarships Available for Needy Students

Special scholarships are now available to help needy Hispanic or African-American church families place their children in Adventist schools. These scholarships are currently being issued on a first-come, first-served basis. They are funded by shared partnerships, including the NPUC, Walla Walla University, and local conferences and churches. Hispanic churches or members may download the application and instructions available online HERE. A Spanish-language version of the Hispanic application is available HERE. Regional churches and families should contact the NPUC office of regional affairs HERE.

Light Bearers and ARISE Unite for Enhanced Ministry

Two active, growing ministries have agreed to merge their operations in the Northwest. Light Bearers, which produces millions of evangelistic materials for worldwide mission work, and ARISE, a training institute for Bible workers in Sonora, Calif., will co-locate on the Light Bearers’ campus in Jasper, Ore. Ty Gibson (pictured here), Light Bearers president, says the two organizations will soon begin casting creative vision for what specific projects they will undertake together. Read Mark Kellner’s interview with Gibson and David Asserick of ARISE in the Adventist Review HERE.

Looking Ahead

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GLEANER Blogs

- Cheri Corder
- Cindy’s Garden Blog
- Dear Counselor
- Let’s Talk
- Mike Jones
- Monthly Archival Photo
- Tip Sheet
PLR Food Drive Nets Nearly Twelve Tons
The spirit of giving is evident across the Inland Northwest. As part of Positive Life Radio’s annual Christmas in July Food Drive, listeners donated 23,650 pounds of food, toiletries and miscellaneous items to help stock regional food banks. Spokane-area PLR listeners led the way with more than 8,200 pounds of food donations, followed by those from Wenatchee, Wash. and the surrounding area with nearly 6,400 pounds.

National ASI Convention Raises $2.1 Million for Mission Projects
The 2011 international gathering of Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries drew an especially large attendance of generous participants who reached deep into their pockets to surpass the organization’s fundraising goal. More than 3,100 people packed into the Sacramento (Calif.) Convention Center on Sabbath morning, August 6, the final day of the 2011 ASI international convention. Approximately $2.1 million in donations was collected in a special offering to fund 47 mission projects – surpassing the goal of $1.5 million. Read more from the Adventist Review HERE.

Tragedy Hits Tennessee Adventist School
Suzette York, principal of the Memphis (Tenn.) Junior Academy was found dead in a classroom on Tuesday, Aug. 10. The 49-year old principal was allegedly killed by one of the students. The school is operated by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. Steve Haley, conference president says, “We are shocked and saddened over the tragedy that has befallen Suzette York. She was not only an administrator, but also a colleague, a friend and a fellow believer. We are also praying for all those impacted by this tragedy.” York came to the school as a teacher in 1996. She had been principal for the past three years. Prior to joining the Kentucky-Tennessee staff she taught for nine years in the British Columbia and Maritime Conferences in Canada.

It Can be Done
Canning and preserving are as fundamental to Americans as apple pie and baseball. But up until 1858, sealing food jars was a cumbersome process, using dripping hot wax. Nothing was reusable — everything was messy. See “It Can be Done” Cindy’s Garden Blog for this week’s famous tithe-payer.
Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
David Asscherick

Light Bearers, ARISE Ministries Merge, Uniting Two ASI-member Groups
Goal is to synergize, equip believers for end-time outreach.

By Mark A. Kellner, news editor

Two ministries long familiar to members of Adventist-Laymen’s Services and Industries are uniting to become more effective in equipping Adventists to reach others, the groups’ leaders say.

Light Bearers, a publishing and evangelism ministry headquartered in Jasper, Oregon, is welcoming ARISE, whose roots go back to the Troy, Michigan, Seventh-day Adventist Church, to its part of the world from its most recent berth in Sonora, California.

While mergers between ministries are not unheard of in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the joining of these two forces is drawing attention. Each organization has become well known for its enthusiasm and effectiveness, and each has been active in the ASI community.

In a recent interview Light Bearers president Ty Gibson and ARISE cofounder/president David Asscherick explained how the joint venture developed, and some of what’s in store:

Adventist Review: First of all, please tell us a bit about the ministries of Light Bearers and ARISE, because many people don’t know exactly what the ministries cover.

Gibson: Light Bearers ministry is a publishing ministry that also has a significant teaching/preaching/evangelistic and media arm to it. The publishing work that we do provides continuous truth-filled literature for the church in developing countries around the world. We produce about 50 million publications per year that go to the church in the mission field as a gift, free of charge, for evangelistic outreach in the various countries where these containers land. In addition to that, Light Bearers is a teaching and preaching ministry. We also conduct evangelistic meetings and revival meetings in local venues around the world.

Asscherick: ARISE is a ministry built around equipping people for effective gospel work, primarily what we would call lay people, but we’ve had pastors who have attended as well. We’ve been conducting varied lengths of training programs for the past 10 years. We have a four-month program that takes place in the fall that so far about 500 people have graduated from. In addition to the four-month program are shorter programs of anywhere between two days to three weeks that thousands have attended. It’s basically a training ministry. We are passionate about teaching people how to communicate the goodness of God and the love of Jesus in an effective way to their friends, associates, and neighbors.

These two ministries are obviously having an impact; you’re reaching a lot of people already. What was the impetus to combine?

Gibson: Well, primarily, let me say—it’s crucial to realize that we
were not looking for a merger. ARISE is a very stable ministry that is extremely effective in what it does, and Light Bearers is a stable ministry effective in what it does. We didn’t go looking for any kind of merger. It seemed to come looking for us. We actually were very happy, and are very happy, doing what we do. But we’ve developed a friendship over the years, and as that friendship has grown it has become clear that our vision for ministry is much the same. So the idea to unite the two ministries was an idea that grew out of a desire to be more effective in new ways. We’re already effective in what we’re doing presently, separately, and there wouldn’t be any reason to merge the two ministries if we were simply going to do what we do now as individual ministries. Our vision has developed into doing ministry at a new level, more effectively, and reaching out to the world at large with a vision of the love of God that only the Adventist theological package can offer to the world. As we unite, we see ourselves doing more than we have ever been able to do before.

**What are some of those possibilities that you might not have been able to do individually?**

**Asscherick:** There are certainly going to be things we will be able to do more efficiently and effectively. But a large part is the synergy that comes from having like-minded individuals work together on projects that are very similar. Some of the things [ARISE] was thinking about doing were very similar to some of the things that Light Bearers was seriously considering doing. When Ty and I and others began to discuss, we said, “Oh, you’re going to do that? That’s fascinating! We were thinking about doing something just like that.” And Ty would say, “Look at this video project that I’m working on.” And I’d say, “Fascinating! Look at this video project that we’ve worked on.” And we began to see points of connection and attachment. [ARISE] was giving input to Light Bearers; Light Bearers was giving input to ARISE, and we began to say things like “Wow, we should partner on some of these projects.”

The number of things we were talking about partnering on got to the point where one of us said—and it was strictly hypothetical, “Wouldn’t it be something if we joined together as a ministry, since so much of what we’re presently doing and what we’re dreaming about doing is so similar?” It literally grew from there. I think Ty is exactly correct in saying that this was not something that either ministry went looking for, but something that landed very naturally (or you might even say, very supernaturally) in the ministries’ collective laps.

**So each organization was working on complementary projects, and it just came to you that maybe there was something here.**

**Asscherick:** That’s exactly right. As we began to look at this idea and sort of explore the concept, it began to gain momentum in terms of its basic viability and enthusiasm. And it became, if I could be so bold, quite logical. It just seemed, “Wow, this is something that we really need to look at!” And that’s how it emerged.

**Gibson:** I might add that as the vision developed and became more and more attractive, and as Providence swung doors open to us, we actually tried to find reasons not to go forward, and we couldn’t find any. We consulted with everybody that we work with. We consulted with the members of the Light Bearers board, which includes representatives from the North Pacific Union and the Oregon Conference, and they voted unanimously to move in this direction. And then the entire ARISE team had the same resonance with one another and unanimously voted to move forward as well.

**So how does this work out in practice? What will this mean initially?**
Gibson:
Well, first of all, it’ll involve relocating to Oregon. The first ARISE training school will be held this coming September through December.

That’s the first practical step. Second, as the two organizations merge and inhabit the same office and the same facility, we will begin the process of brainstorming and casting creative vision for what specific projects we will undertake.

David and I both are converts to Adventism and to Christianity. And both of us have a very strong desire to speak effectively to secular populations at large—people who were not raised in a church and are not familiar with the message that God has given us. [We want to] package the message in such a way that it would be understandable and attractive to people who have no strong Adventist upbringing, no Christian upbringing. We have a desire to reach out to the secular world at large. And in order to do that, we’re going to create video projects and print media and Web media that will target that larger secular world.

Apparently that’s where the majority is right now. We’re dealing with a largely secular, and a postmodern world. What are some of the strategies you plan to use to reach those people?

Asscherick: I think one of the answers, or part of the answer, is that we need to look at the language that we’re using, because it may not mean anything to anybody. Especially as we’re trying to communicate a message that is largely—let’s be honest—contained or ensconced in very religious language. It’s not necessarily in the Bible itself, but in the way that we often communicate with others. In a Christian context we become so insular that our language, unbeknownst to us, becomes saturated in things that are not accessible or easily available to people who are not biblically literate or biblically familiar.

In many sectors of society there is a significant hostility to religion of any kind, and Christianity in particular. We’re looking at what language can be chosen, what metaphors, what images, even sometimes what vehicles of communication can be chosen that are still absolutely true to the biblical message but may not come with some of the tracks that people associate with religion. Some of what we’re doing involves methods of how to get people access to a message that they will love, many of them, if they can just get past their initial prejudices.

And we will have a continually cycling and growing output of Seventh-day Adventist young people and lay people through the educational course who will be educated in reaching out to people, to the world at large. That component of the educational course allows us to share what we’re learning, and the vision that we’re casting, with various people who will develop the same vision and be able to communicate more effectively with the secular world.

When you read the New Testament, much of what Jesus was doing was bringing the kingdom of God in new language and new pictures, because the cultural trappings of the day were so fixed that He had to speak in a whole new vocabulary to communicate the message. For example, we find in one of the Gospels that people were saying, “No man ever spoke like this Man spoke” [see John 7:46]. And after one sermon, the Bible says people were astonished at what He had to say,
because He taught them not as the scribes and Pharisees. We find Him gaining access to people through a variety of metaphors and, essentially, parables. I think we need to do that.
ASI Event Draws Record Crowds, Missionary Offering

3,100 join in worship on Sabbath morning

BY EDWIN MANUEL GARCIA, Adventist News Network, reporting from Sacramento, California

The 2011 international gathering of Adventist-Laymen’s Services & Industries drew an especially large attendance of generous participants who reached deep into their pockets to surpass the organization’s fundraising goal.

More than 3,100 people packed into the Sacramento Convention Center on Sabbath morning, August 6, the final day of the 2011 ASI International Convention. They worshipped with sacred orchestral music, listened to member and ministry testimonies, and chorused “amens” during a sermon by General Conference president Pastor Ted N.C. Wilson, who highlighted the convention’s theme, “Inspired to Finish Strong!”

The audience was clearly inspired to give: Approximately $2.1 million was collected in the special offering to fund 47 mission projects – surpassing the goal of $1.5 million.

“The crowd and the offering exceeded our expectations,” said ASI General Vice President Donna McNeilus, beaming at the conclusion of the four-day event. “I think people realize the times we’re living in, and even though the economic situation is extremely volatile, people really are serious about wanting to give their all for Jesus, and it showed here.”

ASI, which traces its roots back to 1947, is an organization of lay ministries, professionals, business leaders and other laypeople committed to actively participating in the worldwide mission of the Adventist Church.

The convention in Sacramento featured general sessions led by numerous speakers, including Ivor Myers, David Kulakov, Doug Batchelor, Lyndi Schwartz and Matt Parra.

Upward of 2,000 people registered for the full convention, and many attended some of the 20 seminars in five tracks: evangelism, spiritual growth, health, nonprofit and business, and “Finishing Strong.”

At a Friday health seminar, Diana Fleming, co-author of The Full Plate Diet, explained the top reason why people fail to lose weight. “They don’t know how,” said Fleming, whose book promotes weight loss by eating more natural fiber-rich foods.

Children and youth participated in daylong, age-appropriate programming that included community service and evangelism in the local region.
At the exhibit hall, some 340 organizations from around the world – a wide variety of independent and church-sponsored ministries ranging from 1000 Missionary Movement North America to Your Story Hour – showed their wares, promoted their programs and offered their services.

The exhibit hall at ASI conventions is well known for connecting laypeople with ministries, which provides opportunities for unique and otherwise unlikely collaborations.

That’s what Paul Karmy of suburban Dallas, Texas, experienced.

Karmy, president of Liquid-Stone Concrete, attended his first ASI convention in 2004, when he visited the Adventist World Aviation booth. A pilot himself, he joined the group and helped raise money for a mission plane, and eventually served on the organization’s board of directors.

At another ASI convention, while staffing the Adventist World Aviation booth, Karmy became interested in learning more about a television ministry being promoted from a nearby exhibit. That interest led to his next venture: Karmy and his church in Crowley, Texas, now run two Good News TV stations for the Dallas-Forth Worth area, one in English, one in Spanish.

“Paul Karmy’s story is a great example of the ministry-minded networking that goes on at every ASI gathering,” said Conna Bond, communication director for ASI.

“Some people come with money, some people come with ideas or expertise. Everyone comes with vision. ASI conventions are great places for people to pool their resources together and really make big things happen,” Bond added. “God’s hand is in all of it.”

A major highlight of the convention was the Sabbath offering designated for 47 projects from around the world that were vetted by ASI and promoted in the convention magazine and from the stage.

Some projects enjoy long-established links to the church, such as the Ellen G. White Estate, which sought $200,000 to produce downloadable versions of White’s books in languages other than English.

About half the projects are in the United States, and one is in South America, a medical mission called Amazon Lifesavers Ministry, which needs a faster boat to reach remote fishing villages in Brazil.

Tennessee nurse practitioner Brad Mills and his wife, Lina, a registered nurse, and Brazilian locals started the ministry. Mills had dreamed of becoming a missionary and doctor since age 3. He was...
further inspired by three mission trips with Maranatha Volunteers International while attending Madison Academy near Nashville.

In 2007, God called the couple to provide health services, lectures, evangelism and church construction in remote areas along the Amazon River.

ASI is helping to expand their mission field.

The $20,000 ASI grant will allow the ministry to build an aluminum boat with outboard motor that can transport volunteer doctors to faraway destinations in one day, as opposed to the three days it now takes on slower boats.

“I am very excited by the donation,” Mills said. “We truly are thankful to everyone who made this possible, and to God, who is still working in miraculous ways to financially provide for His work to advance.”

Because convention donors met the $1.5 million offering goal, every project was fully funded, and then some. As was previously arranged, three ministries will divide the “overflow” offering, which is more than $400,000. The beneficiaries are: The Ellen G. White Estate; New Beginnings, a DVD evangelism training project; and The One-Day Structure Project, a joint effort between Maranatha and ASI.

Norman Reitz, ASI president for the 2009–2011 term, summed up the mission of ASI in one word: “Inspiration.”

“Whether people are here [at the ASI convention] or in the 3ABN or Hope Channel audience, the mission of ASI is to inspire others,” Reitz told the Adventist Review. “The best example I know of this is the Fjarli family.”

Reitz explained that about a decade ago Bruce Fjarli and his dad, Merlin, in Medford, Oregon, both happened to watch a program on 3ABN about evangelistic meetings that ASI members Garwin McNeilus and Bob Paulsen were holding in Ongole, Andhra Pradesh, India. That series of meetings resulted in thousands of baptisms. Merlin later called his son and said, “If they can do it, so can we.”

“And they did,” Reitz says. “So far they’ve built 800 churches in India as part of 50 church projects—a few churches at a time—and they’re still doing it. Bruce and his wife, Jacki, travel to India twice a year to share the gospel message and build churches.”

These endeavors are being accomplished with the assistance of Maranatha Volunteers International.

Reitz adds, “Our mission is to inspire people by what other people do—and we’re successful at that.”

ASI members also elected and re-elected officers.

The officers are: Frank Fournier, president; Donna McNeilus, general vice president; Terry
Anderson, vice president for evangelism; Steve Dickman, vice president for membership; Stan Smith, vice president for finance; Ramon Chow, secretary-treasurer; and Harold Lance, president of ASI Missions Inc.

Next year’s ASI international convention will be Aug. 8-11 in Dallas, Texas.

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With additional reporting by Sandra Blackmer, Adventist Review assistant editor, in Sacramento
Canning and preserving are as fundamental to Americans as apple pie and baseball. But up until 1858, sealing food jars was a cumbersome process, using dripping hot wax. Nothing was reusable — everything was messy.

Large Portion of Success

There were some inventors who tried to create easier sealing methods, but with few results. However in 1903, an in debt and unknown wholesale grocery man, Alexander Kerr, experimented. In the process, he created the Economy Jar: an easy loading wide-mouthed jar, used with another patent. Kerr, a Baptist, had taken a “tithing vow” the year before in Portland, Oregon, making God a partner in his Hermetic Fruit Jar Company. Because canners could put food easily through its wide mouth, the jar was an instant success.

“Three months later… [Kerr] borrowed money to buy a patent on a glass vacuum jar and got San Francisco Glass Works to supply his materials. In four years he had a profitable business.”¹

He continued to experiment and by 1915 he created a two-part lid, the Self-Sealing Jar, in his own kitchen. This system took the best of others’ patents, used a smaller, flatter metal disk (with a rubber-like gasket) and added a metal-ringed lid with “threads” for screwing on and off. The threaded device adhered lids to jars during the hot water “bath” allowing canning jars to seal conveniently and be reused. The only disposable item remaining was the lid. This two-part system transformed home canning safety and is still in use today.¹

Dominant Market Force

The Kerr Company became a dominant force in the market. Kerr was so convinced tithing played a large part in boosting his business, he “gratefully took to putting tithing leaflets in every case of jars.”²

In 1948, the company turned out more than 100 million jars, not far behind Muncie’s Ball Brothers Co., the biggest U.S. canning-jar maker.² (The Ball Company was the Kerr’s biggest competitor and was generally known for duplicating Kerr’s inventions.) By 1975 the Kerr Company had the largest volume of business on record in the U.S. They owned 27 sales offices, and seven glass plants.⁴

For years the Kerr canning company had this motto which even hung on the company wall: “Every time Kerr makes a dollar, God gets a dime.” In the San Francisco, California, earthquake of 1906, the Kerr factory was “miraculously saved”² and the Kerr’s credited God for backing their company. In a devastated area, their factory stood without one jar broken. Their headquarters in Los Angeles, California, showed the high stock they placed in God’s partnership. “The walls of the president’s office were covered with religious paintings and a well-thumbed Bible was always on the desk.”²
When Mr. Kerr died in 1925, Ruth Kerr, his widow, ran Alexander H. Kerr & Co. and its subsidiary, Kerr Glass Mfg. Co. Just as Mr. Kerr had been innovative in creation, Mrs. Kerr was astute in marketing. She increased the company’s output by branching out into manufacturing for industrial canners. It is said the “blue-eyed, plump, soft-spoken matron, walked around her plants in sensible shoes and shuttled between factories by plane.”² Ruth Kerr offered “university scholarships as prizes in canning contests, sent out salesmen in a fleet of 40 Fords with giant Kerr jars jutting from the rumble seats…. And “in a nip and tuck battle with Ball for the No. 1 spot, Mrs. Kerr launched her biggest advertising campaign.” Additionally, “she set up research laboratories, and showed a genuine flair for promotion.”²

A Paternalistic Company

Running a paternalistic company, Mrs. Kerr kept employees by setting up group insurance, retirement and medical plans, and awarding gold badges and bonuses for excellence. Many of her employees were women and she readily promoted them to executive positions.²

True to her faith, Mrs. Kerr continued to make time for prayer meetings and choir practices, and saw her religion and business as intertwined. “Whenever a Kerr glass furnace [was] relit after a shutdown, a minister [was] called in to ask a blessing.”²

Until 1996, the company was a leading manufacturing of home canning supplies… The Kerr Canning Company is one of the longest-standing canning supply companies and the jars can be found today.³

Of her management, Mrs. Kerr said, “Anything I’ve done was accomplished because of what God has done.”

Sources:


