Mays Picked as NPUC Disaster Response Coordinator

Larry Mays, Upper Columbia Conference pastor, will add the responsibilities of North Pacific Union Conference disaster response coordinator to his ongoing pastoral role. He takes over for Doug Venn, who is "retiring" from this volunteer position. The important function is provided in part by a small subsidy from each conference to coordinate this critical area of church readiness and community outreach.

WWHG Staff Members are Community Connected

Many Walla Walla General Hospital employees not only lead out in their local churches but also in the community. Leaders involved in area non-profit organizations include: John Cress, foundation executive director who serves as a member of the Walla Walla Noon Rotary Board and the Community Council Board; Monty Knittel, president and CEO, who is also chair of the Chamber of Commerce board of directors; Duane Meidinger, CFO, who sits on the local United Way board; and Kristi Spurgeon Johnson, director of marketing, who is also chair of the area’s American Red Cross board of directors.

Abuse Prevention Church Resources Available

The annual Abuse Prevention Sabbath is scheduled for Aug. 27. Resources, including a sermon with PowerPoint presentation, children’s story and program ideas for adults and young adults, are available HERE. A survey published in 2007 confirms more than 40 percent of Adventists have suffered some kind of abuse during their lifetime. Abuse can include intimidation and physical violence, sexual victimization, controlling and demeaning behavior and other negative actions or attitudes. The weekend of Aug. 27 is merely a suggested timeframe. Each church is encouraged to find an appropriate Sabbath for this discussion. A Summit on Abuse will be held in Loma Linda, Calif., on Oct. 15–17. Read more HERE.

Looking Ahead

**August**
27: WWU Alumni Rosario Sabbath

**September**
11: NPUC Constituency Session
11: WWVA's 125th Reunion
16–18: WWU JumpStart
23–25: Mont. Men’s Summit
26: WWU Autumn quarter begins

**October**
7–9: Mont. Women’s Retreat
20: Dec. Ad/Article Deadline

GLEANER Blogs

- Cheri Corder
- Cindy's Garden Blog
- Dear Counselor
- Let's Talk
- Mike Jones
- Monthly Archival Photo
- Tip Sheet

Add Your Comments to the New GLEANER Blogs
Mike Jones talks about relationships, Cheri Corder shares a unique story, Cindy's Garden Blog opens up a whole new perspective on tithe, and Dear Counselor provides a solution to "test anxiety." One other area to check out is the Monthly Archival Photo. Add your comments to the discussion on a topic of your choice on the GLEANER Blog HERE.

VBS Programs Teaches Children about God's Love
Vacation Bible School is a well-loved component of summertime evangelism in western Washington. VBS leaders are submitting reports this week. There are some awesome stories of church and community children digging into the Bible to learn more about Jesus! Read this inspiring report HERE.

Watch the Latest Digma Video
Charles Darwin's famous book spawned a new belief regarding our origin as a species. Are there any social or moral implications to believing Darwin's theory of evolution? Watch the latest video blog at digma.com HERE.

Let's Move Day! Webinar
Register to watch Let's Move Day Webinar scheduled for Monday, Aug. 22 from 8 to 9 p.m., Eastern Time. This webinar will talk about the Let's Move Day that is scheduled for Sept. 25. Find out: How individuals, churches, and schools can participate; what others are already planning to do; how you report these miles to Adventist In-Step for Life; and much more! You will have the opportunity to ask questions and share your ideas with others on the webinar. Register HERE.
DATE AND LOCATION

October 15-17, 2011 • Loma Linda University
(Follows the Conference on Emotional Health and Wellness sponsored by the General Conference of SDA)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Sabbath, October 15
Loma Linda University Church
Church beginning at 9 a.m. — Sabbath School, worship service with Pastor Randy Roberts, and vespers at 5:30 p.m.
(This is a free event but is an introduction to the summit on abuse.)

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Sunday, October 16
Centennial Complex, 24760 Stewart St.
Registration begins at 4:00 p.m.
Keynote meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Centennial Complex, 24760 Stewart St., Loma Linda, CA 92354

REGISTRATION

Monday, October 17
Wong Kerlee Center (lower level Coleman Pavilion), 11121 Campus St.
Continental breakfast 7:30-8:00 a.m.
General sessions 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE
Welcome to the GLEANER blog site. Browse the topics, add your comments, and join the growing discussion among members in the Northwest and beyond. More topics and blog authors will be added in the weeks ahead, so visit often.

Cindy's Garden Blog
08/11/11: It 'Can' Be Done (Read More...)
07/28/11: On A Jet Plane (Read More...)
07/26/11: Make No Excuses (Read More...)
06/30/11: The Amazing Story of Welch's Grape Juice (Read More...)
06/16/11: Long Before They Call (Read More...)

Mike Jones
08/04/11: NEW ... Dying for a Good Relationship? (Read More...)
06/23/11: Mike Jones ... Missing Members (Read More...)
05/18/11: Mike Jones -- Aren't There More Effective Ways to Do Evangelism? (Read More...)
04/21/11: Mike Jones ... My Daily Checklist (Read More...)

Cheri Corder
08/03/11: NEW ... The Florist's Version (Read More...)
06/23/11: Cheri Corder ... FISHY Perspectives (Read More...)
05/18/11: Cheri Corder ... Adventist Potluck Politics (Read More...)
04/21/11: Cheri Corder ... Christianity at Church (Read More...)

Dear Counselor
08/03/11: NEW ... Test Anxiety (Read More...)
06/23/11: An Obsession with Texting (Read More...)
05/18/11: Overcoming Symptoms of Depression (Read More...)

Steve Vistautnet
06/30/11: Tech-NO (Read More...)
06/30/11: Fate or Faith (Read More...)
04/21/11: The Wall (Read More...)
03/14/11: Wake Up (Read More...)
03/14/11: Revival (Read More...)

Monthly Archival Photo
07/23/11: NEW ... August Archival Photo (Read More...)
06/23/11: July Archival Photo (Read More...)
05/18/11: June Archival Photo (Read More...)
04/28/11: May Archival Photo (Read More...)
03/24/11: April Archival Photo (Read More...)
General

06/30/11: The Amazing Story of Welch's Grape Juice (Read More...)
07/03/10: Heritage Singers 40th Year Perspective (Read More...)
07/03/10: McCarthy's Perspective (Read More...)
07/01/10: God-Appointed Moments (Read More...)
07/01/10: GC Women's Meetings Inspire (Read More...)

Tip Sheet

11/18/09: Holiday Stories: Timing is Everything (Read More...)
10/20/09: We are FAMILY (Read More...)
08/26/09: Add Some Spice to Your Shots (Read More...)
08/26/09: Attribution: What’s Your Claim to Fame? (Read More...)
08/20/09: Your State: Short and Sweet (Read More...)

GleanerOnline Blogs is proudly powered by WordPress
Entries (RSS) and Comments (RSS).
Vacation Bible School Teaches Children About God's Love

Vacation Bible School is a well-loved component of summertime evangelism in western Washington. Our VBS leaders share the following reports and stories about how God is at work in the lives of children.

**Bellevue Adventist Church** (report by Teresa Joy)
Vacation Bible School continues to grow at Bellevue Adventist Church every year.

Leader Dixie Robinson started out with 59 pre-registered children and was looking forward to a full house, but she was amazed and almost overwhelmed when opening night brought in 135 kids!

The theme this year, Panda Mania, featured a lot of Pandas and bamboo and taught children about how “God is Wild About You.” The program was based on Psalm 139 which reminds us of how God is always with us and always hears us.

One boy from Kirkland wasn’t about to miss it. This was 6-year-old Chase Smith’s third year, and even though he is going through another round of chemotherapy and radiation for leukemia, he showed up every night, excited and full of energy for all the fun. His mom Teke Smith says, “Your church does a wonderful job getting the kids so excited about God.”

The staff of volunteers and other children missed Chase on Thursday and Friday when he returned to Children’s Hospital for treatments. They look forward to seeing him again next year.

Of the large group that attended this year, 70 children were from Adventist families, 63 were from the community. Robinson says, “This was really special because two neighboring churches held their VBS at the same time but we still had an abundance.”

Robinson was also blessed with 63 volunteers, not counting herself.

**Bellingham Adventist Church**
Bellingham’s Panda Mania VBS program involved church youth in ministering to 40 children mostly from the church with a few children from the community.

“Our supervised youth led the two-hour program every day for five days,” says Allison Purdy, Bellingham VBS leader. “The children completely understood the theme and could recite the message that ‘God loves you no matter what.’ They want the program repeated throughout the year.”

During the program, children enjoyed the pastor’s in-costume Bible stories, crafts and prizes.

**Bonney Lake Adventist Church**
Bonney Lake Adventist Church reached out to their community with two mini VBS programs this
year during the local school district’s spring break and in mid-July.

The “Goin’ Fishing” VBS program in Bonney Lake drew 10-12 children per night with three-quarters of the children from the community.

“The interactive stories and the John 3:16 song were big hits with the children,” says Shari Ringering, Bonney Lake VBS director. “The children also liked the games and the music.”

Salvation was the topic of the last evening, and each child received a commitment card to take home as a reminder of their commitment to Jesus.

A 7-year-old boy realized the final evening of VBS that the stories he heard all week were true. He told VBS leaders how he didn’t have a Bible. Hearing this, Ringering gathered together 12 new Bibles for each child to take home.

“The kids were very excited to have their own Bibles,” Ringering says.

**Chehalis Adventist Church**

Chehalis Adventist Church created “God’s Great Outdoors,” an original program inspired by hiking and camping, for their Vacation Bible School program.

“Stories were based on animals and explained so the children could easily understand them,” says Jennifer Hubbard, Chehalis VBS co-leader. “We heard (from children and parents) that this was one of the best Vacation Bible School programs. We had music, games, crafts, stories, puppets and dinner.”

Nature stories about the Ibis bird, Angler fish, Worker bee, butterflies and desert lizards taught the 57 children in attendance about knowing right from wrong, temptation, giving our best, life transformation, and finding strength and power in God.

The children enjoyed many games and activities including running in a balloon partner relay, playing classic games of tag, painting bird houses, making frog key chains and planting seeds.

“This was something new for me,” says Hubbard who co-led VBS with her sister-in-law. “I have only been involved with one other VBS program eight years ago. I felt really moved by VBS (this year). I wanted to be there every night.”

Before VBS started, Hubbard was told by one mother that she and her children would be too busy to attend the program this year. The children heard from their friends about how much fun they were having at VBS, and the mother ended up bringing her children for the rest of the week.

“The other children kept telling her children that they couldn’t miss it,” Hubbard says.

VBS in Chehalis concluded on Sabbath with songs, a slideshow, a puppet show, a pledge to Jesus and distributing certificates and Bibles. In all, 33 church children attended, 10 area church children attended, and 14 children specified no church.
“It was just a wonderful experience,” Hubbard says, “and one I’ll never forget!”

**Graham Adventist Church**
Graham Church once again wrote their own VBS curriculum called “More Than Conquerors” where children learned about how Jesus, Mary and Martha, Peter, Paul and Dorcas used the armor of God.

“This is the third year we created our own program from the ground up — the theme, activities, crafts and lessons,” says Kristi Candler, Graham VBS leader, “and each time it is a fabulous blessing to those of us doing to work.

For each day’s lesson, the children read from their Bibles they received and were involved in hands-on activities. When they learned about Dorcas, the kids helped make blankets to donate to a local shelter and cards to be used for encouragement and thanks.

“It's so exciting to see the kids and adults anxious and excited to open their (very own) Bibles and learn more about Jesus,” Candler says.

This is the second year a nearby Christian day care center brought a number of children to Graham’s VBS program. A daycare helper shared how one day four children returned from VBS with their Bibles and found a corner where they could have their own Bible study. In all, 60 children attended VBS in Graham and up to half of the children were from the community.

One little boy from the community told his mother that he wanted to go to Graham Adventist Church “because they study the Bible there.”

“We want VBS to be fun, but most of all we want them to know Jesus and to know that the stories we tell them are not something we made up, they are in the Bible and they can find them in their own Bible,” says Candler. “These kids may be young, but we saw how hungry they are to know Jesus.”

»**Have a VBS story to add to this collection?** Send your stories to info@washingtonconference.org