Northwest Delegates Re-elect NPUC Officers
North Pacific Union Conference delegates re-elected officers Max C. Torkelsen II (president), John Loor Jr. (executive secretary), and Mark Remboldt (treasurer) at the quinquennial constituency session held Sunday, Sept. 11, on the campus of Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash. On this 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 tragedies, delegates spent time in commemorative reflection of those events, while looking to the Adventist mission ahead. In conjunction with the NPUC gathering, WWU also convened its constituency session during a portion of the afternoon and affirmed reports from WWU administrators. Photos of both the constituency session and the Northwest Adventist Leadership Convention, which preceded the session, are available courtesy of Heidi Martella and the Washington Conference HERE.

Pastors Gather at WWU for Leadership Convention
Several hundred Northwest pastors, administrators and family members visited the campus of Walla Walla University for the Northwest Adventist Leadership Convention, Sept. 7–10. Carlton Byrd, Breath of Life speaker/director, presented the opening night keynote address. The event included local conference meetings, general plenary sessions and afternoon breakout seminars. More than 100 children and youth were integrated into special activities planned just for them. Special thanks go to Pam McVay, wife of current WWU president, John McVay, who coordinated the on-campus planning and production of support services such as housing and meals. Photos of the event are available online courtesy of Heidi Martella and the Washington Conference HERE.

WWU News Notes
Walla Walla University has once again placed in the top tier of the U.S. News and World Report 2012 Best Colleges report. WWU ranks 39th out of 118 schools in the "Regional Universities – West" category, moving up from 55th place in the 2011 rankings. WWU was also listed as having a top social-work program. In other news, David Knight, former WWU men’s dean, has been appointed Oakwood University vice president for student services. Despite these good reports, we regret this tragic news: Neal Wallace, former Positive Life Radio staff member and husband of Cindee Bailey of the WWU Department of Social Work, has died following serious injuries in an auto accident just north of Walla Walla on Friday, Sept. 9. We claim Psalm 34:18 for all who mourn. Read more WWU

Looking Ahead
September
15: Nov. Ad/Article Deadline
16–18: WWVA’s 125th Reunion
18–24: WWU JumpStart
23–25: Mont. Men’s Summit
26: WWU Autumn quarter begins

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

November
6: Daylight Saving Time Ends
11: Veterans Day
17: Jan. 2012 Ad/Article Deadline
24: Thanksgiving Day

GLEANER Blogs
- Cheri Corder
- Cindy’s Garden Blog
- Dear Counselor
- Let’s Talk
- Mike Jones
- Monthly Archival Photo
- Tip Sheet
Obama Lauds Adventist Volunteers in New Jersey

United States President Barack Obama met with Seventh-day Adventist Church community service volunteers in Paterson, N.J., last week while on a tour of communities flooded by Hurricane Irene. The president met briefly with David L. King, First Paterson Adventist Church pastor, who directed the community’s faith-based response. Obama applauded volunteers for their relief efforts, which saw food and supplies distributed to more than 3,300 affected residents. Read more from the Adventist News Network HERE.

Adventist Magazine to Hit Public Newsstands

An Adventist outreach periodical will soon be available on newsstands across the country and in stores such as Barnes and Noble. The Message magazine targets an African-American audience in metropolitan centers across North America. Currently published once every two months, it has a paid circulation of 56,000. Read more from the Adventist Review HERE.
Obama visit supports Adventist Community Services volunteers in wake of Hurricane Irene

Obama visit supports Adventist Community Services volunteers in wake of Hurricane Irene

Church operating distribution hub for food, supplies in affected New Jersey community

12 Sep 2011, Paterson, New Jersey

LaFayette Trawick/Columbia Union Visitor/ANN staff

Obama joined New Jersey Governor Chris Christie on September 4 in the parking lot of an area Lowes Home Improvement store, where he spoke with more than 3,000 affected residents and applauded volunteers for “doing what Americans do in times of crisis: pull together.”

“President Obama thanked us for giving back to the community and being there to help others in their time of need,” said David L. King, who pastors the First Paterson Adventist Church and directed the community faith-based response in the wake of the storm.

New Jersey was declared a federal disaster area after homes and businesses were flooded following the hurricane. More than 2,000 residents evacuated ahead of the storm, hundreds spent the week in area shelters and area businesses were shuttered, said Ora Jane Bell, director for Adventist Community Services in the region.

With more than 300 volunteers from the church's Allegheny East Conference, First Paterson's Adventist Community Services served as a distribution hub for nearly $200,000 worth of food, personal care items and cleaning supplies donated by the nonprofit Feed the Children for more than 6,200 affected residents.

The nonprofit Meals for Kids also partnered with First Paterson to provide more than 800 hot meals to the community residents and volunteers.

"I'm so pleased with the outpouring of support and [the] efforts of all our volunteers," King said. "Our community came together to lift spirits by living our faith and providing people with help and hope," he said.

Paterson residents Kathy and Greg were among those who stood in line for food and supplies. The couple moved to an area shelter after knee-high water flooded their house. "Our apartment was condemned this week and ... we need all the help we can get," they said.

Employees and volunteers with Lowes “Heroes” program launched the initial response, offering their parking lot as a relief effort hub and partnering with Feed The Children, which in turn sought the assistance of Adventist Community Services.

"ACS remains very well connected, relevant and committed to local communities nationwide," said Minnie McNeil, who directs the program for the church's Columbia Union Conference.

As a founding member of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster forum, ACS is among nonprofits that share knowledge and resources in disaster response and recovery. The forum is the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency's primary point of contact for voluntary disaster response coordination.

When asked why First Paterson members spent Saturday distributing food and supplies rather than worshipping in church, King said service is a form of worship.

"This is an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with victims of this disaster. We strengthened our footprint in this community with new partnerships, and we plan to continue our efforts to heal this community long after the flooding is gone," King said.

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Top Stories

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- Wilson Skyes puts Malaysian youth congress, encourages members
- Obama visit supports Adventist Community Services volunteers in wake of Hurricane Irene
- Argentinian Adventist university sends first missionaries to 10/40 Window
- Seek a 'life aligned with God's will,' church president for South America says
- Bus accident shadow Adventist student group's annual outreach event
- In Dominican Republic, ADRA distributes food to families in wake of Hurricane Irene
- Inter-American seminary achieves full accreditation status
- Remembrance: Adventist musician Rittenhouse, 88, launched New England Youth Ensemble
- Annual 'meeting of experts' studies influence of secularism on religious freedom
keep the good work and our prayer is that the lord in his infinite mercy will reward you people with his ever lasting crown. what ever you doing remember his sweet promise and stand firm because he is not a man that he should lie. thank you and may God add his blessings upon your life in Jesus name Amen.

John Justina Ogechi | September 14, 2011 10:10 AM | Reply

Thank you so mach Seventh-day Adventist Church community service volunteers for the good work many The good Lord Bless you and be with you till He comes.

Jones Mlamuli | September 16, 2011 1:12 PM | Reply

God bless you

Kahuu Johnson | September 16, 2011 3:58 PM | Reply

God is good ,all the time and all the time ,God is good,and that is why we volunteer, praise be to the jersey church-with love from kenya, walter

gideon Walter Odhiambo | September 17, 2011 2:01 PM | Reply

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Message Magazine to Have National Newsstand Presence

Adventist outreach publication coming soon to Barnes and Noble, Gander Mountain, others

BY MARK A. KELLNER, news editor

A Seventh-day Adventist outreach magazine will soon be available on newsstands across the United States.

Message, originally published in 1898 as The Gospel Herald, has an African-American audience as its primary demographic, although the publication is well-received in other communities, said Samuel Thomas, Jr., the magazine’s marketing director.

“Since late 2007, the marketing department of Message in conjunction with the editor, Washington Johnson II, has pursued a single focus of reaching the masses of our metropolitan centers more effectively,” Thomas said. “A constant objective, this mission has been coupled with persistent prayer.”

“What began as a casual contact to the marketing office of Message from Ingram Publishing promises to break open the urban market for non-Christian and other Christian receivers to engage our publication,” Thomas noted. Magazine editor Johnson added, “This is a day we never anticipated, but it shows God’s power to get the message out in these last hours of earth’s history.”

Thomas said the move to include newsstand distribution has two goals: “First of all, to receive an increased presence in the general readership, and second to expand the capability of Message to prove its evangelistic value among its members. The more we prove its value, the more we have the capacity to expand its application and complement outreach projects.”

Message has a paid circulation of 56,000 copies, Thomas explained, and generally prints an additional 19,000 copies of each issue, which he said “sells out” for use in evangelistic and other outreaches. In the past two years three separate Message magazine outreaches—during the 2009 inaugural of U.S. president Barack Obama; the 2010 General Conference session in Atlanta; and the 2011 United Youth Congress in Orlando, Florida—have seen the distribution of 100,000 special issues to the public.

“When you have an attractive journal as well as one that captures current events and issues, it will resonate with the public, especially those who are non-Christians,” Thomas said.

He stated the magazine was preparing special issues to support the 2012 evangelistic outreaches of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, including a planned mass distribution of The Great Controversy, by Ellen G. White, and a renewed emphasis on urban evangelism.
The magazine’s Web site is www.messagemagazine.org.