Northwest Bible Achievement Teams Meet in Chehalis
Teams from around the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) gathered in Chehalis, Wash., during the afternoon of Saturday, March 3, for the annual NPUC Pathfinder Bible Achievement event. These Pathfinder teams, which focused this year's study on the Book of Isaiah, had already passed the critical stages in regional and local conference events. Groups which achieve a first place rating in the union-wide event are eligible to attend the national event in Berrien Springs, Mich. Kelvin Wallin, Chehalis Pathfinder leader, provided overall coordination for this year's NPUC event. The North Cascade Eagles Bible Achievement team which took first-place is pictured here.

NPUC-wide Stewardship Summit is April 1
Washington Conference is hosting the first North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC)-wide Blessings Above & Beyond Stewardship Summit on April 1 at the Auburn City Church, in Auburn, Wash. This free, one-day summit will explore concepts of stewardship to help your church, school or ministry develop a "Blessings Stewardship Strategy." Pastors, elders, church and school treasurers, communicators and other financial leaders are invited to come individually or as a local church "Blessings Team" to attend the upcoming stewardship summit. A follow-up session for Northwest pastors will be held the following day at the conference office. Please RSVP online HERE.

Stroke Services Improve in Walla Walla
Walla Walla General Hospital (WWGH) patients facing a potential or actual acute stroke now benefit from a recently formed partnership between the Swedish Neuroscience Institute (SNI) Acute TeleStroke Program and WWGH. This partnership bolsters WWGH's stroke support services through 24/7 access to SNI's nationally recognized stroke team via real-time, telemedicine-based technology. With the help of a secure, videoconferencing network, members of SNI's Stroke Program are able to quickly perform virtual bedside neurological evaluations and quickly select the best acute stroke treatments for patients.

Separating Fact from Fiction
Is it really true that 60 percent of Adventists around the world are women, or less than 40 percent of American Adventists study their Bible once a week? Many "facts" might be better classified as "anecdotes, hunches and instincts," says David Trim, who directs the world church office of archives, statistics and...
research. This year, his office plans to begin a major research project to survey the opinions, attitudes and spiritual life patterns of Adventist pastors, church members, institutional employees, and college or university professors worldwide. Read more from the Adventist News Network HERE.

**Will the AUC Campus Host a Missionary Training School?**
The Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee has approved in principle a proposal for the development of an evangelistic and gospel medical missionary training school. The Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) is envisioned as a non-accredited diploma pastoral and lay training institute to be conducted on the campus of Atlantic Union College (AUC). NETS will offer short-term intensives for pastors during each calendar year, and a six- and nine-month evangelistic medical missionary training course for lay persons with mentoring and “hands on” practice. No date has been firmly announced for the program’s inception. Read more HERE.

**Northwest Mission Institute is Now Ready**
Jason Worf, Northwest Mission Institute (NMI) director, is finalizing plans to host the first six-month Bible worker training course, beginning Sept. 23. Held on the campus of Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash., this session will provide all the benefits of a fully-accredited academic program. NMI is sponsored by the North Pacific Union Conference, is also gearing up for this summer’s boot camp training session scheduled for June 18–Sept. 7, in the Tri-Cities (Wash.) area. Worf will be present at the Outreach Leadership Conference this weekend at the Washington Conference in Federal Way, Wash., and also at the Northwest Chapter convention of Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries in Boise, Idaho at the end of April. Email Jason Worf, NMI director, for more information, or become a Northwest Mission Institute Facebook friend HERE.

**Video Site Features Stories of Answered Prayer**
Many struggle with their prayer life. Is prayer an automatic remote control that enlists heaven’s resources? Is it a relationship builder? Or is it, for some, a discouraging exercise in seeming futility — asking but never receiving apparent answers? A relatively new video site shares short, dramatic personal testimonies from individuals who have experienced what they believe to be direct answers to prayer. Check out answered.tv HERE and decide for yourself.

**Cindy’s Garden Blog**
Following a storybook courtship, Chris placed a velvet gift box alongside 12 long-stem roses and we began planning a "perfect wedding" on a not-so-perfect budget. See this week’s Cindy’s Garden Blog to read The 'Tithes' that Bind.
Survey of Adventist ‘opinions, attitudes and spiritual life patterns’ coming to local churches

Feb. 24, 2012 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

More than 60 percent of Seventh-day Adventists worldwide are women. Less than 40 percent of American Adventists study their Bible once a week.

Regularly cited at Adventist board meetings and business sessions, these and other so-called church statistics are not actually known to be factual. Many familiar “facts” might better be classified as “anecdotes, hunches and instincts,” says Adventist researcher David Trim.

Trim, who directs the world church’s Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, wants to see anecdotal evidence replaced by “actual data.” Beginning this year, his office will oversee a major research project to survey the opinions, attitudes and spiritual life patterns of Adventist pastors, church members, institutional employees and college and university professors worldwide.

“We need to know what is actually happening in the church, not just what we’d like to be happening,” Trim says. That knowledge can equip church leaders to use money and resources more judiciously and effectively, he says.

“We’re doing this because we want to do ministry and mission better. We want to be better stewards of what God has given to us, and we want to be more effective in discipling and winning souls,” Trim says.

It wasn’t until last year that top church officials first voted to establish an ongoing budget for Adventist research meant to inform the church’s strategic plan. Previously, Adventist research was conducted sporadically, with limited focus and funding, and almost exclusively in North America, Trim says.

This time around, the plan is for a “rigorous” survey carried out in each of the church’s 13 world divisions, Trim says. Using the new research budget, his office has contracted with research teams at Adventist universities in North America, South America, Inter-Amerca, Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and Australia. Each team has demonstrated research “expertise and experience,” Trim says. While much of the anonymous polling will take place this year, some surveys may continue into
Adventist researcher David Trim wants to see “actual data” replace “anecdotes, hunches and instincts” about the church. Here, Trim reviews files in the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, which he directs at world church headquarters. [ANN file photo]


early 2013, with full results due back at world church headquarters by June of 2013.

Survey questions will go beyond age, gender, ethnicity and other statistics-based research to ask about attitudes and opinions on spiritual life, fundamental beliefs and values, church leadership, Adventist institutions and fellow members, among other topics.

“The Adventist Church is committed to a strategic planning process that provides direction based on a body of evidence,” says Michael L. Ryan, a world church general vice president and vice-chair of the church’s Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee.

“All strategic planning is really only for one reason: How do we better advance the mission?” Ryan says.

How beneficial the results are depends largely upon whether Adventists worldwide fully engage in the survey, Trim says. There’s no way to track survey results back to individual respondents, so researchers are hoping members will feel confident in giving honest answers -- “not what you think we’d like to hear,” he says.

“We understand that people will not always be doing what we wish they were doing. We understand that people are not necessarily believing what we want them to believe. And we understand that often they won’t be feeling very happy with us,” Trim says. “There’s going to be what will be perceived as bad news. But we want to know this so we can do a better job.”

In some cases, survey results might spur church leaders to launch programs that would “modify our behavior and practices,” Trim says. Other results may prompt better communication between leaders and members.

“If people are unhappy with an area that’s fundamental to our faith, then we can educate and explain to members why this is essential,” Trim says.

While he expects that much of the research will be published by Adventist scholars, Trim says some of it will remain confidential.

“My hope is that in fact we would not only get answers to really important questions, but -- as a side product -- we would also increase the research capacity of the church,” Trim says.

Many Adventist researchers have demonstrated that they can produce “good, rigorous research,” and Trim is keen to see them given “time and space” to benefit the church.
"I think at times we have made decisions based on who can give the best speech at a [church business meeting]. Somebody who gets up and has a burden on his heart and says, ‘Brethren, I feel we should do thus and so,’ and he's eloquent, he's impassioned, and he uses all the right Adventist buzzwords and everybody says, ‘Amen, vote the money.’ And often nobody asks, ‘Is this really reflecting a need wider than this one person's perception?’” Trim says.

More and better Adventist research will equip leadership to use church money and resources in the best possible way rather than the most immediately appealing way, Trim says.

He also hopes the church’s growing commitment to research will help boost member confidence in Adventist leadership. They’ll know that research is steering leadership toward better informed decision-making and, ultimately, better methods of spreading the Adventist hope.

Church leaders expect the first wave of surveys to begin by the end of April.
2-29-12 The Atlantic Union's Bold, New Vision

An Evangelistic Training School

The Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee at its February 16, 2012 meeting approved in principle a proposal for the development of an evangelistic and gospel medical missionary training school. NETS or Northeast Evangelism Training School is envisioned as a non-accredited diploma pastoral and lay training institute conducted on the campus of Atlantic Union College to equip each student to become an effective soul-winning witness for Jesus.

NETS will offer short-term intensives for pastors during each calendar year by the most outstanding soul winners and church growth specialists in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. NETS will offer a six- and nine-month evangelistic medical missionary training course for lay people who desire further instruction in how to win souls in their local churches. Students will be taught how to follow the example of Jesus in meeting the needs of those they minister to, ultimately leading them to a saving knowledge of Christ and His last-day message.

While being provided with the highest quality education in soul winning, students will also have the opportunity to be "mentored" with "hands on" practice under the tutelage of experienced and successful evangelistic instructors.

Ellen G. White wrote many years ago, "We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work. The world is a lazaret house filled with victims of both physical and spiritual disease. Everywhere people are perishing for lack of a knowledge of the truths that have been committed to us. The members of the church are in need of an awakening, that they may realize their responsibility to impart these truths" (Testimonies, Vol. 7, p. 62).

The cost of operating NETS will be fairly low, since most of the instructors will be contract teachers and/or current church employees. A business plan, including a marketing/enrollment plan is being developed to ascertain financial feasibility.

NETS will be governed by the Atlantic Union Conference in cooperation and consultation with the North American Division and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Eventually, it would have the possibility of expanding into a world-class international city evangelistic training school and lay medical missionary center.

The evangelistic endeavors conducted by instructors and students throughout the northeast will foster the growth of local Adventist churches. Students flooding into churches in New England, New York, and Bermuda from NETS will breathe new life into congregations. Pastors attending NETS short-term intensives will return to their congregations refreshed with a new vision. With a new workforce of lay people, trained and equipped to witness for their Lord, the church in the Atlantic Union will grow rapidly. Souls will be won for the kingdom of God.

God's prophetic messenger to the remnant gives us this assurance, "There is no change in the messages that God has sent in the past. The work in the cities is the essential work for this time. When the cities are worked as God would have them, the result will be the setting in operation of a mighty movement such as we have not yet witnessed" (Medical Ministry, p. 304). This promise of our Lord will be fulfilled before His return.

Multitudes in the great cities and rural areas of the Atlantic Union territory will be reached with the Three Angels' Messages. The coming of our Lord will be hastened. The opportunity lies before us. The time is now to make a courageous decision to dream God's dreams and do something significant for His cause. As Jesus said 2000 years ago, it is time to launch out into the deep and cast out the NETS!

Donald G. King, president, Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Members, Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee

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### CALENDAR of EVENTS

**21-22**

- **Pathfinder Bible Experience**
  - Apr 21, Sat - NAD Pathfinder Ministries introduces a Pathfinder team...

**21-22**

- **Women Clergy Conference (Michigan)**
  - Apr 23, Mon - Conference for women clergy in North America Connect...

**21-22**

- **ACS Reach Out Symposium/N. California**
  - Apr 29, Sun - ACS Reach Out Symposium/N. California Community Services...
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<th>Your Church can have a beautiful website for free!</th>
<th>What has helped you most in your personal Christian growth?</th>
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free diving in a foreign country.
husband without oxygen for 6 minutes.
her unforgettable prayer for healing brought him back.

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The ‘Tithes’ that Bind

Story written by Cindy R. Chamberlin, with Linda LaMunyon.

“While Jesus was attending a wedding in Cana with his disciples the party ran out of wine. Jesus’ mother told Jesus, ‘They have no wine,’ and Jesus replied, ‘O Woman, what have I to do with you? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother then said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you’. Jesus ordered the servants to fill containers with water and to draw out some and take it to the chief steward waiter. After tasting it, and not knowing where it came from, the steward congratulated the bridegroom on departing from the custom of serving the best wine first by serving it last.” John 2:1-10

Following a storybook courtship, Chris placed a velvet gift box alongside 12 long-stem roses and we began planning a “perfect wedding” on a not-so-perfect budget.

As nearly as we said yes, Chris’ hours were cut significantly at work. I knew my parents couldn’t help with wedding costs, and neither of us expected any unusual bonuses. Simultaneously, I read a book about tithing: Giving to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s. The book advocated paying tithe on gross income and I became convicted to tithe this way instead of my usual net giving. But the “conviction” couldn’t have come at a more inconvenient time. Psychologically, I struggled considering this put us in greater financial strain.

Starting Marriage with Debt

Both Chris and I felt convicted not to start off our marriage with debt. Therefore, giving more tithe was a real test of faith. But we determined and prayed for God to MAKE our budget work; truthfully it didn’t seem possible.

No sooner had we made our resolve, when two escrow checks arrived unexpectedly in the mail for $500 and $1000. Additionally, I was able to skip a mortgage payment for a refinance. The timing of the funds was perfect.

Other blessings followed. A wedding dress store closed everything and I obtained a dream dress at approximately a fifth of the price I expected to pay. The dress had to be altered down three dress sizes. But when it was done, the seamstress refused to charge anything. Additionally, my mother got a large sum of money unexpectedly and provided funds. My family scheduled several work bees, creating a beautiful stage and all the arrangements for our reception flowers and decorations. The musician gave his services as a wedding gift.
Not a Dime over Budget

We were able to have a beautiful wedding and a honeymoon to Maui without incurring a dime of debt and saved over $10,000 in six months. Afterward, we realized we had just enough money for the wedding of our dreams — down to the exact dollar!
We just celebrated our second anniversary. Yes, Chris’s hours are still down. But, even so, we are doing financially well. We continue to pay gross on every paycheck and God keeps blessing and we trust him with the years ahead.

This entry was posted on Thursday, March 8th, 2012 at 11:45 am and is filed under Cindy's Garden Blog. 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.

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