WWU Vice President Headed to Southern Union

Ken Rogers, Walla Walla University (WWU) vice president for student life and mission, has accepted the position of youth and young adult director of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Rogers will continue serving in his current position through the end of this school year. During his six years of service WWU service, Rogers has led student life departments and programs. Working with 33 staff members, Rogers oversees the areas of student housing, food services, campus ministries, student activities, campus health, campus security, and counseling and testing services. From 1990 to 2006, Rogers was campus chaplain at Southern Adventist University, where he also served as youth pastor for the campus church from 1986 to 1990. Read more from the Walla Walla University website HERE.

NPUC Summit Discusses Marriage and Homosexuality

A small group of leaders met today, Thursday, April 12, at the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) headquarters in Ridgefield, Wash., to discuss issues of marriage, homosexuality and the church. A joint effort of the family ministries departments of the NPUC and Oregon Conference, the summit featured presentations from John McVay, Walla Walla University president, and Claudio and Pam Consuegra, North American Division family ministries directors. Participants discussed current legal issues of gay marriage, transgender cases, and implications for pastors, churches and members. This meeting was not empowered to make any official decisions or policies, but was instead meant to deepen the level of discussion and bring understanding on these important topics.

Are Changes Underway for Flagship Media Programs?

The Adventist Media Center (AMC) board voted April 3 to allow each of its related ministries to move from the current Simi Valley, Calif., location. The North American Division media ministries affected include Breath of Life, Faith for Today, It Is Written, La Voz de la Esperanza and The Voice of Prophecy. Each ministry has been asked to submit a business proposal to the AMC board by June 3. The board also voted to divest itself of LifeTalk Radio which currently provides programming to more than 70 radio stations across North America and beyond. Read more from the Adventist News Network HERE.
April 14 Offering to Help Christian Record Services

Adventist churches around North America will gather offerings this Sabbath for Christian Record Services for the Blind. This organization understandably but ironically has a vision statement—a very simple one: We help the blind see Jesus. The funds gathered from Adventist sources will augment a budget which receives 75 percent of its annual income from individual and corporate donors outside the church. In fact, only 12 percent of those who subscribe to Christian Record publications are Adventist. This is truly a mission outreach which church members have the privilege of supporting. For more information and an interview with Larry Pitcher, president, go to the Adventist News Network HERE.

A Pastor Shares His Heart

Lloyd Perrin, Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) Church pastor, was featured this week in the Coeur d'Alene Press. In the online article, he shared how the Bible has enriched his life through the years, and how he passes on his preaching Bibles to family members. Read about his role in the church's Easter pageant, The Borrowed Tomb, and his perspectives on being an Adventist pastor at CDA.com HERE.

Current Issue

April

Because Jesus has invited them to His feast, Don and Linda Deardorff are making sure the people of Nampa, Idaho, have a place at the table as well. In the April issue of the GLEANER, read how these relatively new Adventists are reaching their community with an everyday commitment to service.
Vice President for Student Life and Mission to Join Southern Union

Rogers Has Served Six Years at WWU

By: Rosa Jimenez

Ken Rogers, vice president for student life and mission, has accepted the position of youth and young adult director of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Rogers will continue serving in his current position through the end of this school year.

During his six years of service, Rogers has led Walla Walla University’s student life departments and programs. Working with 33 staff members, Rogers oversees the areas of student housing, food services, campus ministries, student activities, campus health, campus security, and counseling and testing services.

Among his accomplishments, Rogers has overseen facility improvements in the residence halls and the improvement of campus food services. Through his work with student life staff and student body leaders, Walla Walla University has one of the strongest extracurricular campus life programs in Adventist education.

President John McVay says of Rogers, “He has been a huge blessing to the University. From his public presence to his contributions on Cabinet to his advocacy for student life issues, he has helped to advance our mission. We are all in his debt for his careful and prayerful leadership.”

Students have appreciated Rogers’ leadership and his work with them individually. In a December 2011 edition of the student newspaper, a tribute to Rogers includes a mention of Rogers’ classic sense of humor. “You do a wonderful job of working with student and faculty leaders to improve life on our campus. Your sense of humor is legendary, and you always know when to lighten the mood with a timely joke.”

Prior to his service at WWU, Rogers served in ministry roles at both churches and school campuses. From 1990 to 2006, Rogers was campus chaplain at Southern Adventist University, where he also served as youth pastor for the campus church from 1986 to 1990. He has also served as a youth pastor in Napa, Calif., and at two academies, including both Fletcher Academy and Mt. Pisgah Academy in the state of North Carolina.
In the U.S., ministries could re-locate from California’s media center

Apr. 09, 2012 Simi Valley, California, United States

NAD and ANN staff

The board of the Adventist Media Center, home to productions such as Faith For Today and It is Written, is requesting from each of its ministries a business proposal that can include the option of relocating from its Simi Valley location.

The action, voted April 3, would allow ministries to move to locations with a lower cost of living than Southern California, said Warren Judd, the center’s manager.

There is no indication yet of which ministries might choose to relocate, said Dan Jackson, AMC board chair and president of the denomination’s North American Division.

The media ministries of the division include Breath of Life, Faith For Today, It Is Written, La Voz de la Esperanza and The Voice of Prophecy.

The board said business plans of each media ministry should be presented to division administration by June 3. The proposals will then be brought to a future AMC board meeting for consideration.

Two productions will remain at the center: Adventist Media Productions, the electronic media production unit of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, and the Adventist Media Services Agency, which assists in media buying and placement.

The move comes nearly a year after church officials in North America met for a summit with producers, lay members and consultants to review the effectiveness of media ministries. In a subsequent release, Jackson said awareness of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America did not match the money spent on past media ministries and required re-evaluation.

In a statement Friday, Jackson affirmed ministries at AMC, which is home to about 125 employees.

“The media ministries’ mission and messages of hope have helped to spread the gospel of Jesus...
Christ throughout North America and beyond. We have appreciated the tireless efforts of the many people who have been involved with each of the ministries,” Jackson said.

Also during its April 3 meeting, AMC’s board voted to divest itself of LifeTalk Radio. That decision follows a January 2011 vote to move LifeTalk’s administration to AMC for financial reasons. LifeTalk broadcasts to about 75 stations across North America and internationally in Guam, Saipan and England. Popular programs on the stations include Your Story Hour, Voice of Prophecy, Bible Answers Live, Breath of Life, and Science, Scripture and Salvation.
Christian Record Services for the Blind President Larry Pitcher oversees a burgeoning ministry to the blind and low sight community from headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska. [photo: Rajmund Dabrowski]

Apr. 11, 2012 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

Christian Record Services for the Blind President Larry Pitcher is enthusiastic about a young Nebraska teen’s efforts to send 13 blind children to summer camp this year.

After Christian Philson raised more than $4,500 toward his goal at a local pancake breakfast, the legendary Harlem Globetrotters named the 13-year-old an honorary Ambassador of Goodwill. Autographed memorabilia from the team for a fundraising raffle will further benefit his project.

Pitcher says what Philson is doing on a small scale illustrates what the Nebraska-based charity stands for – Christian ministry anchored in the community.

Established by the Adventist Church in 1899, Christian Record Services for the Blind offers a library of Braille, large print publications and audio recordings to a potential audience of 39 million blind and low sight people in United States. The ministry also operates a system of camps for blind children across North America.

At the helm of Christian Record since 1995, Pitcher has steered the ministry toward efficiency. He oversaw cutbacks ahead of the 2008 economic downturn, trimming Christian Record's annual budget to $4.2 million, down from $6.1 million. The tighter focus, he says, is kindling growth and drawing a new brand of service-minded employees to the ministry.

Most recently, Christian Record began transferring its library from audio cassette to digital cartridge technology used by the U.S. Library of Congress. The ministry has ambitious plans to put digital players stocked with encouraging, relevant content in the hands of veterans of the Iraq and Afghan wars who have suffered eye damage in the line of duty.

Pitcher spoke with ANN ahead of the ministry’s April 14 annual offering. The Chicago native discussed the growing Missionaries to the Blind program and the challenges involved in offering camps to the blind. Excerpts:
Adventist News Network: What will this coming Saturday's offering fund?

Larry Pitcher: Donations from church members will go toward Seventh-day Adventist-specific publications. For example, we have the New Believer Bible study guides we're preparing for the North American Division. They're brand new. These are Sabbath School lessons designed for people who've just been baptized. The offering will also help support a new audio version of The Great Hope – the condensation of The Great Controversy [by church co-founder Ellen G. White]. In terms of our funding, about 75 percent of our annual budget comes from individual and corporate donors outside of the church. So the money that does come from the church, we want to use for Seventh-day Adventist-specific projects. This way, we can assure the Baptist or Catholic donor that their money is going toward the general Christian aspect of our ministry.

ANN: Is it difficult to maintain a distinctly Adventist ministry when so much of your funding comes from outside the church?

Pitcher: It is hard to target, but what we do is divide our mission work. If a blind person wants to know about Seventh-day Adventists, we have that material. We also offer general Christian material designed to encourage and inspire and to inform. A third category is just good, clean Christian reading. You don't have to worry about sex and violence. We also have health-related publications, like Dynamic Living by Dr. Hans Diehl. That's not specifically Seventh-day Adventist. And the same is true with some of our other material that has to do with issues of, say, marital conflict or raising children. In terms of people we serve with our publications, only 12 percent of our nearly 20,000 subscribers are Seventh-day Adventists. So we're missionary minded. We're Seventh-day Adventists facing the Christian and non-Christian communities. We're a bridge.

ANN: Christian Record has recently expanded its Missionaries to the Blind ministry. What's the idea behind this program?

Pitcher: We started Missionaries to the Blind about seven years ago to connect with the hundreds of thousands of blind people who receive Christian Record publication or who have attended our camps. We train church members to befriend people who are receiving our publications. After these Missionaries to the Blind volunteers are screened and trained, they get two or three names to contact, and they simply strike up a conversation. They offer more resources and create a friendship. Maybe the person needs transportation help. Maybe they're lonely and want someone to talk to. We encourage the missionaries to invite the blind to church functions, like a picnic, a concert or a holiday event. Quite a few people began visiting church regularly through this program, and of those, we've had baptisms. Currently, we have 400 volunteers in the U.S. visiting about 1,100 people. We also serve a few hundred clients In India. In Egypt, there are a few more hundred. Australia, too.

ANN: To what degree are Adventists attuned to the needs of the visually impaired community?
Pitcher: Few people are actually very acquainted with Christian Record Services for the Blind. They’ve heard of it, but they’re not acquainted with it like they are with Voice of Prophecy, or It Is Written. It’s more like, ‘Well, I know what that is, but it’s for the blind.” So our purpose when we go to the churches is to share the vast missionary work that we’re doing with the Braille publications, the large print, the audio, the website, the lending library, the camps for the blind and the Missionaries to the Blind. And then I ask people to join the Missionaries to the Blind, be part of our task force of volunteers.

ANN: Ahead of the economic downturn, Christian Record cut back the National Camps for Blind Children from 24 to 10 per year. You’re back up to 11 camps this summer. What factors are still influencing camp attendance?

Pitcher: Two things have impacted us, not the least of which are new privacy issues. You can’t get a list of blind people on the Internet, nor can you get a list of blind people from most of the agencies that serve the blind anymore. We used to be able to go to schools of the blind. But many states have mainstreamed blind students into public schools. So now you’ve got to find them individually and connect with them, which is time consuming and expensive. Secondly, if they’re a minor, you have to convince the individual of low vision or blindness, plus the parents. Not all parents, believe it or not, are willing to let their kids go off to some camp they don’t know anything about. So parents want to investigate, they want to see the camp in action and make sure everything’s safe. The Seventh-day Adventist camps that we choose are accredited by both the American Camping Association and the Adventist Association of Camping Professionals.

ANN: What has changed at Christian Record over the past decade?

Pitcher: The biggest change is that we’ve become more technologically savvy to improve our services to the blind while reducing costs. I’ve also seen an improvement in the quality of people who want to serve in this ministry. People who are professional, dedicated, ministry-loving, wanting to serve, wanting to help people. These are people who could work somewhere else and make more money at less effort, but we do this because we’re committed to the ministry. Most of our department heads all have their master’s degrees. They don’t have to work here. But when people want to do things for the Lord, and they want to impact people’s lives, this is one way they can do it. And they see the difference.

ANN: What does Christian Record offer that isn’t available anywhere else?

Pitcher: Our vision statement is simple: We help the blind see Jesus. It is by seeing Jesus that hope and health and healing comes to the individual. As people join our ministry they realize that we are enabling people to independently experience Jesus Christ through our publications, through our Missionaries to the Blind and through our camps. This ministry is vital because Jesus said go into all the world and we have here in the U.S., for example, 39 million people with major vision problems, from cataracts, to RP [Retinitis pigmentosa], to detached retina, to total blindness.
There’s about 10 major causes of blindness. But 39 million people is a lot of people. And it’s growing as the population ages.

-- Find out more about Christian Record Services for the Blind at christianrecord.org.
Lloyd Perrin: Pointing the way

By BILL BULEY/Staff writer | Posted: Sunday, April 8, 2012 12:00 am

COEUR d'ALENE - Every five years or so, Lloyd Perrin needs a new preaching Bible.

The pages and passages of the old one are so marked up, so crinkled and weathered and worn from reading and studying, it's time for a replacement.

But rather than place the old Bible on a shelf, it is passed to his children.

"I'll finish this and then I'll give it to one of my kids as a way to remember dad," he said. "All my kids get my preaching Bible. Every five years I finish with a preaching Bible that's falling apart. This is two years down the road," he added holding up the Bible sitting on his desk.

Perrin, 59, a pastor since he was 23, has been leading Coeur d'Alene Seventh-day Adventist Church for 13 years.

His path to preaching began when he was a boy, raised by Milford and Wilma Perrin. He called his upbringing "a rich heritage" from both parents.

"My dad was a man of the word," he said.

Young Lloyd memorized scripture before he went to school, and could recite chapters in Psalms, Isaiah, John and Matthew.

"I love the word of God. I got it from my Mom," he said.

Today, Perrin remains passionate

about his faith. Whether standing behind the pulpit, having lunch with a friend or sitting around the dinner table at home, the theme is the same.

He loves to talk about Jesus Christ, about God, about heaven, about family.

Easter Sunday is a good day to share his message.

"Look at what God did to show his love. He wants a relationship with you. When we see heaven, when we see what Jesus gave up to come down to Earth, to rescue us, that's love."

On being a pastor:

I never wanted to be a pastor. But when I became one my mother said, 'When you were in the womb, I knew out of all the other kids, I knew that the hand of God would be upon you. And you'd be a pastor.' She didn't want to say it before then. She didn't want to influence me with her words. She just wanted to pray and let the Holy Spirit nudge me.

As a young man, I left Christianity, I grew real long hair, I hitch-hiked around the country, I got into mischief. But the prayers of my mom and my dad kept calling me back.
On playing Pontius Pilate in "The Borrowed Tomb" (final showing at 7 tonight) at Coeur d'Alene Seventh-day Adventist Church:

The first time I did that, I was introduced as a pastor at the door. A little girl stopped and looked up at me. 'I know you. You're that man that's good at being bad.' I got a little choked up on it. I grab his face, I say, "Don't you know who I am, and I shove him to the ground.'

I stand over him, dominate Rome. So, it takes a hunk out of me. The church knows it now. I have to prepare my heart to do it. It's just hard.

In the practices, somebody made a comment to me. It was a lady I baptized the last year. She came up with a perspective nobody else could see. She said, 'Pastor, I sense this is really difficult for you,' and I started sobbing.

On playing the role of Jesus on stage during his worldly travels:

The Sermon on the Mount is what I mostly do. It is the greatest words ever spoken. You want to know how to get to heaven? Jesus stands on this mount and says, 'Here are the principles of my kingdom.'

On prayer:

Pray is the most intimate thing you can do. You become vulnerable, transparent. If you learn to talk to God as a friend, then you've got a great relationship. It's not about things you do. The point is, if you're in a conversation with God at the deepest heart level, then the rest of this flows from it.

His mother's Wilma's last words:

I stood over her bed. She weighed 134 pounds when she got colon cancer. When she died she weighed 67. I was reciting chapters and chapters to my mom. I said, 'Let me close with John 3:16,' and I said it. Her hand started to shake and kept coming up. It pointed at the ceiling and I thought, 'What's she pointing at?' Her eyes were closed. And she said, 'Lloyd, don't forget John 3:17.'

It says, God sent his son not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. That was the last thing I know that she heard me say. She lost consciousness about four or five hours later and died.

On Christianity for nonbelievers:

I say you are at where I was at years ago. Christianity has to make sense intellectually. It's not just something you have a feeling inside. I have a lot of feeling. I get moved by Lassie being chased into a tunnel and he's going to die and I'll start crying. I'm a big baby.

The Bible invites us to use our highest mental reasoning powers. To sit down and check it out. See what the Bible has to say and ask your best questions. Christianity deserves an intelligent response.

To me, I can tell you it changed my life. It changed my life.

On challenges today facing him as a pastor:
It's always the same for me. I have to spend time with the Lord every day. I can not be robbed of that time. It always boils down to a relationship with a person. There's that pull, some things are happening, I'm needed, I've got to be there. Sometimes you just have to shut down, go into a room and say 'I've got to feed my soul.' That's always for me, the number one issue.

On a legacy for his children:
I want to hand all my faith to my kids. I want them to love Jesus.

On what he would like people to know about Lloyd Perrin:
He pointed to Jesus.

On how long it takes to prepare a sermon:
A lifetime. I could say I sit down, discipline myself eight to 10 hours a week. But I'm preparing my heart with everything, every day, in what I do.

On the importance of family:
I told my staff, you should never be gone from home more than three nights a week. Your best ministry is your own family. That's what my dad did.

A father's example:
The greatest gift you can give to their kids is to love their mother. And my dad did that. I knew my dad loved my mom, and I want my kids to know that I love their mother. I think that's the best gift you can give. It all starts that heartbeat in the home. The home is solid, it keeps moving out to the church, to the world. I think we're as strong as our homes area.

About God:
There's nothing like having a relationship with the Lord. We talk a lot about Jesus and knowing Jesus. But Jesus came to reveal the father. And most people are afraid of him. John 14 says, 'I go to the father's house to prepare a place for you.'

Jesus said, 'If you've seen me, you've seen the father.' I think knowing who God really is, the father. Jesus came to let us see what God is like. He is friendly. God was in Christ.

When Mary Magdalene was going to be stoned, Jesus knelt down and wrote in the sand and he said, 'Where are your accusers?' because they all left. And he said, 'Neither do I condemn thee.' Well, that's God the father. I think that's my passion. God's a friendly person. He loves you. You'll be safe in his care. You don't have to be afraid.

On the importance of Easter Sunday:
It's huge because it seals up all of the content of Jesus' life. We're not in our sins anymore. He is risen.