Remembering Max C. Torkelsen (1926–2012)

Max C. Torkelsen, longtime husband, father, church pastor, educator and administrator, passed peacefully to his rest at home in Portland, Ore., on Saturday evening, Dec. 8. He was 86. Torkelsen’s service for the Seventh-day Adventist Church began in a five-church district in North Dakota, moved into educational work as a principal and superintendent, and continued into conference administrative posts. He served as North Pacific Union Conference executive secretary from 1971–1974, and as president from 1976–1980. In later years he was a world church general vice president. He is survived by his wife, Ardis, sons Max and Monte, daughter Myrna Smith, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Services will be private, but information on how to direct memorial gifts and condolence cards are available online. A Facebook page, Honoring the Life of Max C. Torkelsen Sr, provides an opportunity to share thoughts and memories with the family online.

What Did Ellen White Think About Christmas?

Some Adventists wonder how the celebration of Christmas fits into a biblical model of Christianity. Is it fraught with pagan origins? Does a Christmas tree signal a sell-out to ancient druidism? While Ellen White didn’t specifically offer opinions on all

Looking Ahead

December

15: Christmas Cantata, Mount Ellis Academy, 11 a.m.
16: Fountainview Academy Orchestra & Choir Concert; 7 p.m.; Adventist Community Church of Vancouver
those questions, she did have a few comments about the celebration of Christmas you may find interesting in this Adventist News Network video commentary from Cindy Tutsch of the Ellen White Estate. Watch the video at GleanerOnline.org.

Delay Avoids Date with Tragedy

When an Oregon Conference member determined to do some Christmas shopping this past Tuesday afternoon at the Clackamas Town Center mall, she was delayed by an impromptu request from a neighbor to watch her children for 20 minutes. After this “interruption” to her afternoon, she returned home and prepared to leave for the mall. Then she remembered some Macy’s coupons that had probably been put in the recycling bin. She fished around and finally found them, got in the car and headed toward the mall where she intended to stop first at the food court for a bite to eat. But all the entrances to the mall were blocked. All those delays in her afternoon had saved her from being right in the center of the chaos and danger when the horrific shooting began at 3:30.

UCC Presidential Search

The Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) Executive Committee met Dec. 4 to discuss the election of a new president, following Bob Folkenberg Jr.’s departure for the Chinese Union Mission. The committee plans to meet again Jan. 8, 2013 to elect the next president. A short executive committee will follow this meeting at the UCC office in Spokane, Wash.

19: Portland Adventist Academy’s Alegria, a 100 voice choir, 8 p.m.; The Grotto.
25: Christmas Day
31: New Year’s Eve
28–Jan. 1: GYC Seattle

Additional concerts and Christmas events are listed at GleanerOnline.org

Current Issue

December

This month in the GLEANER, we feature the Yakima Church food bank and the ministry happening there each week. The second feature is the story of the Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus recent tour to South Africa. You won’t want to miss a thing! Download the issue today!
**Pacific Press Dedicates New Equipment**

Dale Galusha, Pacific Press president, offered a prayer of dedication this week over a recently installed binding line — a Mueller Acoro A7. The new machine replaces the 22-year-old Kolbus Binder that had become outdated and costly to maintain. According to Chuck Bobst, vice president for production, the new system can bind and trim up to 7,000 books an hour — much quicker than the old system. But set up time is perhaps the most significant improvement. Whereas the old system took up to an hour to set up, the new equipment can be ready for action in as little as five minutes. This also makes it feasible to use on very short print runs. With a redesigned floor plan, the new system can move directly from the printing press to the binding, instead of the being transported to the other side of the factory. Spreading the gospel through the printed page means "staying on the cutting edge of technology and innovation," says Galusha. Read more about this new equipment at PacificPress.com.

**Adventist Health News Notes**

The Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore., was recently recertified as a Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission. Additionally, the hospital won HeathGrades’ Gynecological Surgery Excellence Award and is ranked in the top 10 percent of the nation, and number one in Oregon, for its gynecological surgery program. They have also received two silver Cardiovascular Advertising Awards for their Northwest Regional Heart Center. Walla Walla General Hospital, in Walla Walla, Wash., recently opened the first phase of their remodeled Emergency Center. The remodel makes room for new technology and generously-sized exam and triage rooms.
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Pacific Press® Dedicates New Binding

Nampa, Idaho (December 12, 2012) — Dale Galusha, Pacific Press® president, offered a prayer of dedication this week over a recently installed binding line — a Mueller Acoro A7. The new machine replaces the twenty-two-year-old Kolbus Binder that had become outdated and costly to maintain.

"The Acoro A7 has all the features we need," said Chuck Bobst, vice president for production. He added, "It can bind and trim 7,000 books an hour, a great improvement over the much slower Kolbus output."

Another significant improvement is the digitized quality control feature known as signature recognition which scans signatures - the multiple-page sections that are bound together to make each book. If the wrong "sig" is inserted, the scanner will recognize it immediately and will automatically discard the incorrect material.

But perhaps the single-most important improvement is the greatly reduced set up time. While the Kolbus took between 45 - 60 minutes to set up, the Acoro A7 can set up in between five and ten minutes. Besides the obvious time-saving factor, it will now be feasible to do very short print runs.

A redesigned floor plan was needed to accommodate the Acoro A7. This has led to a more streamlined work flow and improved productivity. Materials can now move directly from the web press to the binding line instead of being transported to the other side of the factory.

"Our mission at Pacific Press®," said Galusha "is to spread the gospel through the printed page. In today's world that means staying on the cutting edge of technology and innovation. This new binding line will help us to achieve that mission more effectively." The first book to be run through the new machine was the ASI edition of The Ministry of Healing.

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