This week's enewsletter is sponsored by "Gays in the Family," a 2-day conference coming April 5–6, 2013.

Wilkins to Leave Mount Ellis Academy

Long-time Mount Ellis Academy principal, Darren S. Wilkins, announced that he will be leaving the Bozeman, Mont., academy in July to become principal of Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, Ohio. Wilkins, who has been at the Mount Ellis since 2002, has been instrumental in redefining the image of the school by establishing a variety of new programs. Under his leadership, the academy has seen the addition of a week-long outdoor school, learning trips to Europe, development of a master plan for the campus, a new cafeteria and a $500,000 grant from Kohl's Cares for Kids. Additionally, the school now has a vibrant international student program. Said Wilkins "The MEA students, staff and parents have been a true family to us. I'm confident God's blessings and miracles will only continue at MEA." Read the full story at GleanerOnline.org.

NPUC President Interviewed on Turning Point

North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) church president Max Torkelsen II was interviewed recently by Connie Vandeman Jeffery on her program Turning Point for the Hope Channel. The program looks at the major turning points in the lives of Adventist leaders, highlighting times when they made decisions to follow Christ. In the 30-minute program, Torkelsen shares several turning points in his life, from being saved from drowning at age four by his father after their boat flipped, to the founding of Bibleinfo.com while he was serving in the Upper Columbia Conference office. Watch the complete interview at GleanerOnline.org.

Global Youth Day Marks the Largest Adventist Social Media Event

http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=08d79fc6ae01ad05827cf29bb&id=524cb8695a&e=b5a60611a1[3/21/2013 5:33:06 PM]
Hundreds of thousands of Adventist youth from around the world participated March 16 in Global Youth Day. The youth skipped hearing the sermon at church in order to demonstrate the sermon in practical ways in their communities. They served in local nursing homes and hospitals in England, gave blood in Tanzania, and prayed for motorists on a busy street in Puerto Rico. In South Africa, youth made breakfast for local law enforcement officers. More than 80,000 youth were connected to the event though Facebook and Twitter, with updates being broadcast online and on the Hope Channel throughout the day from around the world. Watch some of the archived recordings and pictures on Facebook and read the news story from Adventist News Network.

### WWU Engineering Professor Receives Award

Walla Walla University (WWU) engineering professor Curtis Nelson received the Peter J. Bosscher Faculty Advisor for Outstanding Leadership by the national organization Engineers Without Borders (EWB). Nelson, who founded the local chapter of EWB, has led trips to Honduras to assess, design and construct schools in underprivileged communities. As co-faculty advisor to the local chapter, he is particularly interested in service learning and engineering design for developing countries. The EWB award "recognizes faculty advisors who provide outstanding leadership and mentorship to their student chapter.” Read more at WallaWalla.edu.

### Mary Richards Remembered

Mary Margaret Richards, wife of H.M.S. Richards Jr., former Voice of Prophecy speaker/director, passed away late last month. Richards, who was 82, died of complications from surgery. A service was held March 9 at the Auburn Adventist Academy Church in Auburn, Wash. The Wedgewood Trio, along with Connie Jeffery, recorded a tribute song to her, "The World is Not My Home" and it is available on YouTube. Additionally you can read a tribute from Connie Jeffery at VOP.com.

### Update on Imprisoned Togo Adventist Pastor

Previously, the GLEANER featured the story of Togo Adventist pastor Antonio Monteiro who was imprisoned on unsupported charges. Church lawyers and human rights activists continue to work to secure the release of Monteiro. Despite much lobbying, documented history of the witness's mental instability and several major public campaigns, the government has refused to release him. "We are disappointed that our request has once again been refused, despite our ongoing efforts," said Guy Roger, president of the Sahel Union Mission. The pastor is well and "by God’s grace, expecting a miracle." Read the full story from Adventist News Network.
Looking Ahead

March

28–31: Journey to the Cross, Spokane Valley, WA
28–30: Faces Around the Cross, Tacoma, WA
29–31: Journey to the Cross, College Place, WA

April

4–6: SONscreen 2013
5–6: Gays in the Family
12–14: Health Ministries Training Symposium

More Events

March

Ninety-seven percent of people who've never heard of Jesus live in an area of the world called the 10/40 Window, so named because it lies between 10 and 40 degrees north latitude. This month, the GLEANER looks at the work of Gospel Outreach, a Northwest ministry reaching into the 10/40 window, and the missionaries they sponsor. You don't want to miss this glimpse and an exciting mission work. Download the issue today!
BOZEMAN, Montana (March 20, 2013) The longest tenure of any principal at Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) is coming to an end this July. After eleven years as head of the private high school just east of Bozeman, Darren S. Wilkins has accepted the chief position at Spring Valley Academy in Centreville, Ohio.

“This is an incredibly bittersweet moment in our storied history,” said Kevin Emmerson, Director of Development and Alumni Relations at MEA. “Darren has accomplished so much during his tenure here and it’s difficult to realize he won’t be in the head office come August. The good news is I’m very happy for him, his wife Yvette and their three sons as they embark on this new adventure.”

Wilkins assumed the job of principal in the fall of 2002, and in the ensuing eleven years he has been instrumental in redefining the image of Mount Ellis by establishing a variety of programs. For the past ten years students have enjoyed a week-long outdoor school experience which Wilkins designed to bring the application side of classroom learning to the forefront. Additionally, he established learning trips to Greece and France. During the same period Wilkins developed a campus master plan for future growth, oversaw the building of a new cafeteria, and was instrumental in the school’s winning a $500,000 grant from Kohl’s Cares for Kids in the fall of 2010. His vision for increased enrollment has seen a vibrant international student program developed which includes students from every continent except Africa and Antarctica.

“Eleven years ago, Darren was called to MEA and has been a faithful tool in God’s hands to accomplish His will here,” says Merlin Knowles, Chairman of the Mount Ellis Operating Board. “I am grateful for the vision, enthusiasm, and leadership Darren has provided. Our loss is definitely a gain to Spring Valley Academy. We will miss Darren and his family, but we trust that the same God who met our needs eleven years ago will do the same again as we move forward”.

Darren Wilkins
The transition to Ohio was a difficult decision for Wilkins who is himself an alumnus of Mount Ellis, graduating in 1989. “Fortunately hearts are designed to recover because a very big part of mine will be left right here at MEA” said Wilkins. “The MEA students, staff, and parents have been a true family to us. I’m confident God’s blessings and miracles will only continue at MEA. I will be its biggest fan as long as I’m alive and kicking.”

The process of locating a replacement principal will begin immediately. Meanwhile, the school will continue providing the same high quality programs that it has for generations. “This is a school of strong faith,” said Emmerson. “We've had 33 principals across our 111-year history, and through those many transitions God has continued to bless MEA. I trust He will again and that our programs and offerings will continue to grow well into the future. I’m confident a quality candidate can be located as a replacement principal, but they’ll have some very large shoes to fill!”

Mount Ellis Academy is a private high school operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and has been in operation since 1902. Current enrollment is 67 students.

Spring Valley Academy is a private pre-K-12 school also operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a total enrollment of more than 320 students. They have been in operation since 1968.
Global Youth Day was church’s largest social media event – Adventist News Network

http://news.adventist.org/en/archive/articles/2013/03/20/global-youth-day-was-churchs-largest-social-media-event

March 21, 2013

Mar. 20, 2013 Bern, Switzerland

EUD news and ANN staff

Last Saturday’s Global Youth Day was the single largest international mobilization of Seventh-day Adventists through social media, said Gilbert Cangy, the world church’s Youth Ministries director.

Youth March the streets of Alberton, South Africa, on Saturday, March 16, as part of the Adventist world church’s Global Youth Day.

As hundreds of thousands of Adventist youth participated in community outreach, the church’s Youth departments worldwide reported their service activities live on Hope Channel in Australia, Germany and the United States.

More than 80,000 youth were connected through the social media – including Facebook and Twitter – and over 4 million people were talking about the initiative on the Internet.

Adventist youth skipped hearing a sermon and mobilized for service to demonstrate practical Christianity.

"It was a historically unifying moment for global Adventist youth," Cangy said. "At the heart of it all, this was not any of our doing; we simply made ourselves available to God as his hands and feet to get His work done. It was so inspiring to see the results."

Hundreds of young people in Spain participated in a flash mob in one of Madrid’s biggest shopping centers.

Youth and children get ready for a day of service activities on March 16 in San Pablo City, Philippines. Hundreds of thousands of Adventist youth participated in the community outreach day worldwide.
In England, young people served as missionaries for the day at local nursing homes and hospitals. Another group transformed their church into a shelter for abused women.

Young Adventists in Tanzania responded to an urgent call for blood donations.

In Puerto Rico, young people prayed for motorists on a busy street.

In South Africa, young people made breakfast for law enforcement officers.

And a headline in the Guyana Times read: “Adventist youths inspire hope through community service.”

“It was so wonderful to see the Youth Ministries department taking leadership in mobilizing the whole church this way,” said Daryl Gungadoo, distribution and network engineer for Adventist World Radio Europe and an organizer of the event.

Megan Brauner, social media specialist in the world church's Communication department who assisted with the event, called for more social media integration with church activities and initiatives. "Social media is the perfect vehicle for spreading awareness and showing the results of a global movement in one place," she said. "The more we integrate social media into our projects, the more we'll reap the benefits of quickly communicating with millions of people and receiving immediate feedback.

The next Global Youth Day is scheduled for March 15, 2014.
Curtis Nelson Awarded as Advisor for Outstanding Leadership

By: Camlynne Waring

Curtis Nelson is the recipient of the 2013 Peter J. Bosscher Faculty Advisor for Outstanding Leadership by the national organization Engineers Without Borders. Nelson, an engineering professor, founded the Walla Walla University chapter of EWB in 2006.

Nelson has led chapter trips to Honduras, helping assess, design, and construct schools in underprivileged communities. Co-faculty advisor of the 70-member chapter, Nelson is interested in the development and implementation of undergraduate courses and programs, particularly relating to service learning and engineering design for developing countries.

According to EWB–USA, the award “recognizes faculty advisors who provide outstanding leadership and mentorship to their student chapter. It is named for the late Peter J. Bosscher, who was an EWB–USA faculty advisor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and was actively involved with the national organization.” Nelson was nominated for the award by members of the EWB–WWU chapter.

Published February 28, 2013.
A Special Message from Connie Vandeman Jeffery, Associate Speaker

Three Funerals – One Blessed Hope

It’s March 2013. Springtime is here in Southern California. A time of renewal and new beginnings. It is also a time of sadness as we have laid to rest three wonderful, godly people in three consecutive weekends. All three died in the month of February – all three died completely assured of their salvation. They shared the Blessed Hope of a soon coming Savior. Jesus was their personal Friend!

First, my own dear pastor, Tim Garrison, lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on February 4 at the much-too-young age of 62. Then, Morris Venden – author, teacher, pastor, and former Associate Speaker of Voice of Prophecy – fell asleep in Jesus on February 10. He was 80 years old. On February 25, Mary Margaret Richards, the beloved wife of H.M.S. Richards, Jr., died following complications from surgery. She was 82.

Their services were on three consecutive weekends. I sang at Pastor Tim’s memorial service. I attended Morris Venden’s service in Loma Linda the following weekend, and sent my condolences to the Richards family via a video tribute. Mary Richards’ service was on March 9 at Auburn Academy. My prayers are with all three families as they go through this time of grieving and loss. Please remember them in yours.

For Harold, Jon, and Mary Richards King and their extended families – they have lost a mother and grandmother. There is nothing quite like losing a mother.

What brings me great joy is knowing I’ll see not only my mom and dad again, but I’ll see these three wonderful people who made such an impact in my life and the lives of others.
Yes, we have a Blessed Hope! I cannot wait for that Day – that great Family Reunion – when Jesus comes to take us Home! How about you?

Pastor Morris Venden spoke at my mother’s funeral service in 2001 and quoted from memory this precious poem written by H.M.S. Richards, Sr. I’d like to share it in honor of Mary Richards and mothers everywhere. Click Here to read “When My Mother Tucks Me In.”

Click Here to watch a video tribute and song from the Wedgwood Trio and Connie Vandeman Jeffery for Mary Richards.

Click Here to listen to a classic camp meeting sermon by Morris Venden from the late 1990s when he worked for Voice of Prophecy. The title is “Going Naked to the Wedding.”

In His Love,

Connie

Connie Vandeman Jeffery introduces former Voice of Prophecy speaker Lonnie Melashenko on daily and weekend broadcasts. She is the youngest child of George and Nellie Vandeman and was born the same year her father founded the It Is Written telecast continue reading
Founder: HMS Richards

H.M.S. Richards, pioneer religious broadcaster, was the founder and long–time speaker of the Voice of Prophecy radio ministry. His ministry inspired continue reading >>

Read previous Speakers' Page articles
One year later, Adventist pastor still in Togo prison – Adventist News Network


Mar. 15, 2013 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

ANN staff

A year after Seventh-day Adventist Pastor Antonio Monteiro was imprisoned in Togo on unsupported charges, church lawyers and human rights activists are redoubling efforts to secure his release.

Togolese government officials this week rejected the Adventist Church’s fifth request for Monteiro’s immediate release, according to a lawyer from the church’s Sahel Union Mission working closely on the case.

Adventist Pastor Antonio Monteiro, center, prays during a recent visit with church leaders in the Civil Prison of Lomé, where he has been held without bail for a year. Ongoing efforts to secure his release include a public awareness campaign and behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts.

“Tomorrow is the sad anniversary of the unjust arrest of Pastor Monteiro. We are disappointed that our request has once again been refused, despite our ongoing efforts,” said Guy Roger, president of the Sahel Union Mission.

Roger, who met with Monteiro in prison on March 13, said the pastor is well and “by God’s grace, expecting a miracle.”

Monteiro was detained in March for conspiracy to commit murder after a Togolese man implicated him and two other Christians, one an Adventist, as conspirators in an alleged criminal ring that trafficked human blood. The witness had earlier confessed to the murder of some 20 young girls, claiming he was only carrying out orders.

However, the witness has a documented history of mental instability and his statement is widely considered unreliable, a representative from the National Commission of Human Rights in Togo said.
Evidence and testimony additionally suggest that the statement implicating Monteiro was obtained under duress.

Church leaders said the witness met Monteiro when the pastor previously ministered to him.

A native of Cape Verde, Monteiro had since 2009 served as the church’s Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director for the Sahel Union Mission, headquartered in Lomé. A police search of Monteiro’s home and local church headquarters shortly after his arrest failed to produce any evidence of his connection to the case.

Public pressure to solve the string of murders last year likely thwarted his release and exoneration, church officials said. Prior to Monteiro’s arrest, human rights groups and a local women’s coalition accused Togolese police of not doing enough to solve the crimes.

Monteiro, left, washes the feet of a fellow inmate during a communion ceremony last month.

Adventist Church leaders said they are planning a major campaign for April focusing on collecting signatures for a petition and sending letters to officials in Togo demanding an end to Monteiro’s arbitrary detention and calling for the arrest of those guilty of the crimes.

Previous appeals coordinated by the church have included the mailing of hundreds of Christmas cards to Monteiro, a worldwide day of prayer and a press conference in Lomé. A second press conference is expected shortly, Roger said.

Adventist religious liberty leaders said they plan to actively involve young people in efforts to release Monteiro. At several recent petition–signing events in the U.S. state of California, college students stood in line to show their support for Monteiro.

John Graz, director of the Adventist world church’s department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, said public appeals will intensify in the coming months, a strategy to parallel behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts to secure Monteiro’s release.

“We are asking all Adventists, all Christians and all people who believe in justice to join in this campaign,” Graz said.

**Religious Liberty**
Adventists believe that religious liberty is a God-given universal human right, and they work to make the free expression and practice of religion a universal reality. Adventist religious liberty advocates are active in promoting and protecting religious freedom through the church’s department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty. They represent the church’s priorities to national leaders and policy-makers worldwide.

**Areas of representation:**

- United States Government in Washington, D.C.
- United Nations in New York City and Geneva

**Recent Photos**