College Students Raising Money for Wells

Walla Walla University students have joined with Wilkinson Baking Company and other donors to raise money to build up to 10 wells and provide water for as many as 30,000 people. After learning that the average Mozambican is surviving on an average of 8 ounces of water per day, the Associated Students of Walla Walla University chose to take this on as a service project. The students hope to raise $60,000, with the help of generous matching donations, to build and maintain 10 wells. Several fundraisers are planned, including the International Food Festival, April 7, in College Place, Wash. Read more about the project at WallaWalla.edu.

Week of Spiritual Emphasis at Adventist Medical Center

Hundreds of Adventist Health employees in Portland, Ore., recently chose to participate in the Week of Spiritual Emphasis at Adventist Medical Center. The presentations featured Dr. Hyveth Williams, director of Homiletics at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University and former senior pastor of the Campus Hill Church in Loma Linda, Calif. Her topic, "Your Time has Come," including glimpses of her journey through life, helped employees tangibly connect the dots between mission, value and purpose. Williams spoke to packed audiences each day about the importance of demonstrating the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

Gays in the Family

With the topic of homosexuality currently getting national
Northwest Easter Events

With Easter weekend around the corner, many Northwest Adventist churches are taking this opportunity to reach out to their communities with events focused around the risen Savior. From special church services to weekend walk-through events, each event is an opportunity for members to invite their friends, family and neighbors to join them in experiencing a special Easter celebration. Visit GleanerOnline.org for a complete list.

Recently in Adventist History

Each week, Adventist News Network features highlights from the past week in Adventist history. The video is hosted by David Trim, archives, statistics and research director. The most recent episode, from March 22, features the death of Joseph Bates, a founder whose theological understanding of the Sabbath was a key to our current understanding of the topic today. Watch the complete video at Adventist News Network.

Does Adventist Church Culture Need a Change?

Andy Nash, Southern Adventist University professor, explores that question in a recent column. Rather than living a mostly secular life with some sacred frills around the edges, he observes we should be living a mostly sacred life with the secular relegated to the edges. "Our church culture can be tipped," says Nash, "but only if our most natural leaders decide to lead." Read the column 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

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April
Project Patch not only features its youth ranch in rural Idaho, a stable, caring environment for troubled teens, but also the expanded outreach of a family life center in Goldendale, Wash., where families are equipped to thrive in the midst of life's challenges. Read more about it in the April GLEANER!
Students Rise to the Challenge

By: Hilary Nieland

Walla Walla University students are joining Wilkinson Baking Company and private donors to provide as many as 30,000 Mozambicans with clean water. The project, headed by the Associated Students of Walla Walla University, follows a tradition of organizing an ambitious service project each year. ASWWU’s goal for this year is to build 10 wells in the Zambezi Province of Mozambique.

Most people in the rural communities of Mozambique are surviving on an average of 8 ounces of water per day. Working in extreme climates and having so little water can cause severe cardiovascular issues. Also, a lack of access to clean water often results in exposure to malaria and other diseases and parasites.

According to the World Health Organization, access to clean water can increase a person’s life expectancy by 20 years and lower infant mortality rates by up to 50 percent.

The first community to receive a well has 3,678 people. If the goal of 10 wells is met, as many as 30,000 people would have access to clean water. The Mission Mozambique fundraising goal is $60,000. To drill a well and have routine maintenance performed, $6,000 is needed.

Wilkinson Bread Company and anonymous donors have agreed to match what the university raises $2 to $1, therefore if the university raises $20,000 the goal of $60,000 will be met.

Several fundraisers will take place throughout the rest of the school year including the International Food Festival. The festival will take place April 7 from 4 to 9 p.m. in the Winter Educational Complex. It will feature food and entertainment from throughout the world as well as several prizes. Students, faculty, and the community are all encouraged to attend. All proceeds will go to the fundraiser.

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With Easter weekend around the corner, many Northwest Adventist churches are taking this opportunity to reach out to their communities with events focused around the risen Savior. From special church services to weekend-long walk through events, each event listed here is an opportunity for members to invite their friends, family and neighbors to join them in experiencing a special Easter celebration.

Oregon Conference:
- Longview, Wash.: Journey to the Cross, March 29-31, at 7 p.m. at the Journey Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Upper Columbia Conference:
- College Place, Wash.: "The Village Players' Journey to the Cross," Outdoor Easter Walk-through, March 29-31 p.m. 12th and Larch Streets in College Place, Wash.
- Spokane Valley, Wash.: "Journey to the Cross," Outdoor Easter Walk-through, Friday March 29, 6-9 p.m.; Sabt Sunday, March 30 & 31, 4-9 p.m., at the Spokane Valley Adventist Church.

Washington Conference:
- Tacoma, Wash.: "Faces Around the Cross," March 28-30, at 7 p.m. and Sabbath, at 11 a.m. at the Tacoma Cer Adventist Church.

Online/Satellite:
- Breath of Life: "The Seven Last Words of Christ," with Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Speaker/Director – Breath of Life, ak seven others preachers, Friday March 29, at 7 p.m. Streamed live from Oakwood University Church.
- He is Risen: A half-hour special with hosts Dan Jackson and Connie Jeffery features Family Reunion music an special Resurrection message from Pastor Jackson. Visit HopeTV.org for local air times March 29 – 31. Also st on The Adventist Channel several times on March 31.
Recent Posts

Lay Evangelism Is More Than Just Idea at Hillside O’Malley Church
Our Youth, Our Community, Our Future: Finding Hope at Project Patch
Community Thrift Store Ministers in Bonners Ferry
Our Youth, Our Community, Our Future
Senior Class Officers Represent Graduating Class
There’s a moment in the life of Jesus where he seems to not know what to say. “As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes’” (Luke 19:41). Jesus’ sentence starts one direction, then wanders off – as though there’s no point in continuing.

If, figuratively speaking, Jesus were to look across the Adventist Church, what would He say? Would he view us the way much of the outside world still seems to view us – a bastion of legalism? Heavy facial expressions as we trudge around thinking we can work our way to heaven? (“We don’t need a Savior; we’ll take care of it.”)

Perhaps in years past, there was some element of that. When I was in college, a speaker came to campus and said his passion was grace. To be honest, his messages felt like water on parched ground.

But if the dry winds of legalism have now mostly blown through, what has replaced them? A healthy life of faith that combines true joy in Christ with careful choices about what we allow into our minds and homes? Or something else?

In my view our church’s biggest threat is no longer legalism (though it still exists). It’s secularism, materialism, the world. This is the thief that now comes to “steal and kill and destroy” the abundant life in Christ.

In his book “The Tipping Point,” Malcolm Gladwell explores the moments when culture tips – and then spreads like wildfire. The tipping point, he explains, has everything to do with the leaders of a given culture – even if they don’t realize they’re leaders. For example, in the mid 1990s in New York, Hush Puppies shoes suddenly got wildly popular because a small group of cool kids in the East Village and Soho decided to start wearing them. “The 30-dollar shoes went from a handful of downtown Manhattan hipsters and designers to every mall in America in the space of two years.”

If you’re a natural leader (whether you want to be or not), the decisions you make will shape the culture of those watching you. So who are the Adventist Church’s cultural leaders right
In my view, our church culture today is shaped largely by natural leaders who are good solid people, who you’ll see once a week at church and several times a week at the Little League fields, who know all the latest films and shows, who believe we have “the truth” – which primarily means worshipping on Saturday – but who may be part of the 50 percent of Adventist church members who never study the Bible individually. Their children grow up to be natural leaders with God–given gifts, but they don’t even consider fulltime ministry. Instead, they choose prestigious or lucrative careers and become good solid citizens and church members – like their parents.

So, Adventists, how different are we from anyone else? Would it be fair to say that, even as we recognize that the most gifted leaders in our Bibles were exactly the ones God called to ministry leadership – Moses, David, Daniel, Peter – most of our best and brightest today don’t even consider ministry leadership because that’s not where our church culture is anymore?

We should be careful not to replace a culture that majored in minors with one that minors in majors: the transforming grace of Christ, our distinctive Adventist message, the abundant life. Our standards should be higher than those of any legalists because we understand that our behavior doesn’t determine our salvation anyway.

So why not aim high? Rather than living a mostly secular life with some sacred around the edges, we should be living live a mostly sacred life with the secular relegated to the edges. Our church culture can be tipped, but only if our most natural leaders decide to lead.

“If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace . . .”

—Andy Nash is a professor of journalism and religion at Southern Adventist University and the author of the forthcoming book “The Haystacks Church” (Review & Herald). This ANN Commentary is reprinted by permission from the Adventist Review magazine.