Conference on Gays Draws Northwest Members

More than 150 Northwest Adventist members and other interested individuals attended the Gays in the Family seminar held April 5–6 in Gladstone, Ore. The weekend seminar sought to reaffirm the Adventist Church position on homosexuality while emphasizing the need of a loving attitude toward gay individuals. Presenters included Scott LeMert and George Gainer (Portland-area pastors), Dr. Lucille Ball (marriage and family therapist), and Dr. Miraslav Kis (Andrews University professor). The audience also heard testimonies from five individuals — Wayne Blakely, Michael Carducci, Lisa and Verna Santos, and Ron Woosley — who have ministries that address hope and healing in Christ. Videos of the presentations are available at the conference website, gaysinthefamily.com.

Northwest ASI Convention Around the Corner

The spring 2013 convention for the Northwest chapter of Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) happens May 2–5 in Seaside, Ore. This year’s theme is "Sharing Peace on Life’s Stormy Seas" and features Randy Maxwell and Will Roche as special guest speakers and music from the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus. The convention, which this year includes an all-day business seminar on Friday, offers an excellent opportunity to network with Adventist business people from across the Northwest. There will be children's programing available. Registration ends April 15. Visit the Northwest ASI for details.
Oakwood Leading in Nationwide Grant Contest

Oakwood University (OU), in Huntsville, Ala., is currently the leader in The Home Depot’s Retool Your School contest. The company is offering grants totaling more than $195,000 to historically black colleges and universities. Oakwood University is the only Adventist school in the running. The top prize is $50,000, and OU hopes to use the money to build an outdoor pavilion to enhance their students’ outdoor activities. One witnessing opportunity the school has been exited about is watching the voting pattern. The school currently in second place has been surging ahead from Friday to Saturday night but Oakwood then regains their lead on Sunday. The school is asking people to refrain from voting during Sabbath hours to continue this witness. The contest runs through April 15, and votes are accepted once each day. Grants will be awarded May 3. Vote daily at RetoolYourSchool.com.

ANN Chat's with Ben Carson

Noted Adventist neuro-surgeon Ben Carson has gained media attention in recent weeks after a speech he gave at the National Prayer Breakfast. Carson, who is retiring in June, currently works at John’s Hopkins University, in Baltimore, Md. In a recent interview with Adventist News Network (ANN), Carson talks about the recent media attention and how his belief in the Bible and Seventh-day Adventist church relate to his everyday life. When asked if he feels the need to distinguish himself from the Adventist church, he replied, “I’m proud of the fact that I believe what God has said, and I’ve said many times that I’ll defend it before anyone.” Read the complete interview on ANN.

PAA Mission Trips

While many look forward to spring break as a time to relax and get away, students at Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) in Portland, Ore., took time on their break to help with service projects around the globe. Whether helping with hurricane relief projects in New York, playing with orphans in the Dominican Republic, constructing buildings in Fiji, preaching in Costa Rica, or working on a healthcare project in Nepal, PAA students have been showing Christ’s love through service around the world. At each location, the help of students and faculty was appreciated as they shared their time and talents. Watch a video report of the project in Fiji.

Share the News

Each week, you receive the GleanerNOW with Adventist news highlights from around Northwest and beyond. While we are happy for each one of you, we know you have friends who aren’t receiving it yet and we don't want them to miss out. If you find GleanerNOW helpful, please share it by clicking the “Forward to Friend” link below and encourage them to signup for themselves at GleanerNOW.com. If you have suggestions to make this weekly email update more useful, please hit reply.
Looking Ahead

**April**
- 12–14: Health Ministries Training Symposium
- 21–25: SAGE Sunset Lake Workbee

**May**
- 2–5: ASI Northwest Convention

More Events

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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!

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Church Chat: Carson handles spotlight ‘prayerfully, humbly’

Apr. 05, 2013 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

ANN staff

When Dr. Ben Carson spoke at February’s National Prayer Breakfast in front of United States President Barack Obama, his critical views on national healthcare legislation and the country’s increasing debt set the media abuzz.

In an interview, Dr. Ben Carson said he chooses to believe in a literal, six–day creation, and would willingly debate those who believe otherwise. Here he speaks at the Celebration of Creation outreach event on December 2 at the Adventist Church world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States. [ANN file photo]

His comments have since led to appearances and features in top news agencies, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, CNN and Fox News.

Carson, 61, is no stranger to the spotlight. He first gained international recognition in 1987 for successfully separating cranially conjoined twins. He has served as director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, since he was 33 years old.

A lifelong Seventh–day Adventist, he is a member of the Spencerville Seventh–day Adventist Church in Spencerville, Maryland.

Carson is the author of four books. His first, “Gifted Hands,” tells the story of his rise from a single–parent home in the inner city to a renowned medical career. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. portrayed Carson in an HBO movie of the same title. Carson and his wife, Candy, launched the Carson Scholar’s Fund in 1994 to promote reading and scholastic achievement, offering trophies as big as those awarded to high school athletes.

He spoke to ANN briefly by telephone earlier this week, after having completed four surgeries in the morning and waiting for a team to call him to a fifth.
While the Seventh-day Adventist Church doesn’t corporately become involved in politics, ANN interviewed Carson about how he as an Adventist shoulders responsibility of media attention. He also discussed how his views stemming from his faith shape his beliefs about the earth’s origins, as well as his promotion of reading and educational opportunities in underprivileged communities.

The unedited interview in its entirety:

**Adventist News Network**: Do you feel a special sense of responsibility and stewardship for the attention you get?

**Dr. Ben Carson**: There’s no question God sets these things up. My whole life I feel has been orchestrated by him. When you’re placed on a platform, you have a definite responsibility to remember who put you there and why.

**ANN**: How do you handle the spotlight?

**Carson**: Prayerfully, humbly, recognizing that you always have to make sure you keep yourself in the background. It’s very easy when all the spotlights are on you to think, “Oh, wow, I’m a great person.” You have to make sure to resist the urge to think that, and always remember that whatever you do, God is first.

**ANN**: What do you want people to understand about the Seventh-day Adventist Church by looking at your life?

**Carson**: I want them to understand that we’re very reasonable people and kind people, but we do have values and principles that we live by, and those are the things God has set forth in his word.

**ANN**: Are there ever any times when you feel it’s best to distinguish yourself from the Seventh-day Adventist Church and what it teaches?

**Carson**: No, I don’t. You know, I’ve seen a lot of articles that say, “Carson is a Seventh-day Adventist, and that means he believes in the six-day creation. Ha ha ha.” You know, I’m proud of the fact that I believe what God has said, and I’ve said many times that I’ll defend it before anyone. If they want to criticize the fact that I believe in a literal, six-day creation, let’s have at it because I will poke all kinds of holes in what they believe. In the end it depends on where you want to place your faith – do you want to place your faith in what God’s word says, or do you want to place your faith in an invention of man. You’re perfectly welcome to choose. I’ve chosen the one I want.
ANN: Are there any other things you think Seventh-day Adventists should speak out on?

Carson: Yeah, I think we should be the people who truly advocate for life. Abortions that are done on-demand are not within the purview of God's will. We sit around and criticize ancient pagans for sacrificing babies and saying what heathens they were. But are we really any different if we go around killing babies because they're inconvenient? I feel very strongly that we should be speaking out on those issues and don’t just go along to get along.

ANN: Some have said your message at the prayer breakfast was overly political in a setting that was supposed to focus on God. How do you respond?

Carson: I think a prayer breakfast is an excellent place to talk about the spiritual state of the nation, which unfortunately is critical at this state because people are afraid to talk about what they believe. One of the founding tenets of our nation was freedom of speech. So if you’re not going to be able to talk about that at a prayer breakfast, it’s pretty ironic that we can’t have freedom of speech at a prayer breakfast. And then some people have been critical of the fact that I brought up tithing, the Bible, God – it’s a prayer breakfast. Give me a break.

ANN: With the increased media attention, do you keep Sabbath any differently than you did before?

Carson: Not really. Sabbath is still a precious day for us. We go to church as often as we can. Even if we’re on the road we treat it as a different day than all the others.

ANN: How would you want to change the world?

Carson: Well, there are a number of things. First of all, particularly focusing on our nation, I want us to remember that we are one nation under God. And I want everyone to be able to say it and to say it with pride, not to say it shamefully. I also would like to bring back a real definition of fairness. Fairness means treating everybody the same, not just your special group or those special interest groups who contribute to your well-being.

ANN: Are there any biblical characters that offer you an example or encouragement?

Carson: Joseph, because he had a pretty difficult life. He was sold into slavery by his own brothers, decided to make the best of it and became the head of Potiphar's household. And then living up to high moral standards caused him to be thrown in jail. He wasn’t resentful about that. He became a model prisoner. He gained position of authority there and started interpreting dreams and became governor of the most powerful nation in the world. That
said a lot to me about not griping and complaining about where you are, but using the situation, trusting in God and making the best of it.

**ANN:** What does retirement look like for you in June?

**Carson:** It looks very busy. I may have to come back to work to get a break. I’ve got 10 international trips scheduled already and multiple engagements around the country – too numerous to count. Our scholarship fund is in all 50 states and we’re penetrating different counties. We’re putting in our reading rooms all over the country to try to increase the interest in reading, particularly in Title I school districts because the people who founded this nation said it is dependent on a well-educated and informed populace, and without that it cannot survive.

**ANN:** Anything else as we end?

**Carson:** We always have to remember that no matter what’s going on, no matter how much of a spotlight we have, that all of that comes from God and everything we do should reflect glory on his name.

**North America**

Membership of about 1.1 million among a population of about 345 million.

**Countries**

Bermuda, Canada, Federated States of Micronesia, the French possession of Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Guam, Johnston Island, Marshall Islands, Midway Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and the United States of America.

**Recent Photos**
So begins a letter from Denise Murphy* to her 14-year-old daughter, Taylor,* just after dropping her off at the Project Patch Youth Ranch in Idaho.

“That day was the hardest day of my life,” says Denise. “I don't think I've ever cried more. Taylor wouldn't speak to me or even say goodbye, and that made me feel even worse. But after leaving I felt somewhat relieved, knowing she was in a safe place where she could get the help she so desperately needed.”

Project Patch is a Christian nonprofit organization specializing in helping at-risk teens and working with families to make them stronger and more resilient to face life’s challenges. Patch carries out its vision
through its youth ranch in Idaho; Family Experience in Goldendale, Washington; and seminars and administration from its Vancouver, Washington, office.

A PASSION FOR TEENS
The Patch youth ranch is a residential behavioral treatment facility for teens ages 12–17. The ranch sits on 169 forested riverfront acres, nestled in the mountains of Idaho about an hour north of Boise. The youth ranch is the realization of the dream of founders Tom and Bonnie Sanford. Raised in an extremely abusive home, Tom empathized greatly with hurting teens and had a passion for helping them. In 1984, he and Bonnie began Patch as a foster care referral and placement service, and, once they realized the need was greater than what their service could provide, Patch grew into the residential center in existence today.

“Patch was by far the best thing that has ever happened to me,” says Taylor. “I felt that for the first time people understood, and I belonged to a sort of family. I started to see I am worth so much more than I had thought, and I began to realize that family was one of the best gifts God had given me.”

Faith is an important component of the Project Patch program. Residents attend church every weekend, take Bible classes and enjoy the opportunity to ask questions of the staff chaplain.
Teens are at the youth ranch for a minimum of 12 months, with an average stay of 14 months, during which time they participate in five core program elements: faith, therapy, education, recreation, and community service. Licensed therapists (all with master’s-level degrees in social work or similar areas) work in group settings and one-on-one with youth as they deal with complex issues such as abuse, abandonment, loss of a parent, extreme anger, hopelessness and more.

“Patch was well equipped to deal with Taylor’s needs, and she responded well to the consistent, caring environment,” says Denise. “The dedicated, persistent efforts of the Patch staff brought out new strengths in her. When she came home, she had a different perspective on life, with new goals. She’d had to work hard at Patch, faced her problems squarely and learned to resolve them.”

In addition to regular therapy, Patch teens attend classes at a fully licensed and accredited high school, go to church on campus, and enjoy regular recreation such as snowboarding, swimming, basketball and horseback riding. They also complete daily chores and participate in the ranch’s community service program, which teaches responsibility, the importance of helping others and how to be part of a local community.

**REACHING THE WHOLE FAMILY**

As Patch worked with more and more teens, the desire grew to reach out to the family as a whole, strengthening them so they didn’t need to place their teens in a program like Patch. That dream became reality when Patch was gifted 500 acres near Goldendale. The Project Patch Family Life & Conference Center opened its doors in 2011 with the goal of building stronger families by helping them thrive in the midst of life’s challenges.

The center is home to the Family Experience, a 3- to 4-day program designed to be proactive in helping before the family requires a higher level of care. The program focuses on education and coaching rather than individual therapy, and together families learn about the pitfalls they may face, develop the skills required to weather challenging events, and share in a positive and fun experience.

A few months after Taylor returned home from completing the youth ranch program, she and her mom attended the Family Experience.

“It was like a mini ranch experience,” says Denise. “It was helpful to review what Taylor learned at the ranch, as it included ways to integrate what she had already learned and what I was working on.”

Through a variety of activities including outdoor recreation, conversation, a low ropes course, crafts and coaching with an experienced counselor, families learn different communication styles and what works best for them, how each individual fits into the family unit as a whole, and how to work together to establish boundaries and resolve conflict.

*The Project Patch Family Experience is a 3- to 4-day program designed to help families grow more resilient to face life’s challenges.*
“We believe that God made families to be this amazing, functioning team,” says Chuck Hagele, executive director. “So many families now are under attack, and our vision is to reclaim families to be what God designed them to be.”

Though every family can benefit from attending the Family Experience, it is especially critical for those facing challenges such as divorce, chronic illness, blended families, loss of a family member and other major life changes.

“One thing I took away from that weekend was that my mom and I have a lot more in common than I thought,” says Taylor. “The ropes course was a chance for my mom and I to really bond because she had to trust me and I had to trust her — something we’d never really done before.”

Returning home after time at the ranch isn’t always easy; though the teens have changed, it is sometimes difficult for the family to grasp that, since they didn’t see the teen’s growth at the ranch. Taylor also found it was hard to stay true to what she had learned when she didn’t have the staff as her support system, encouraging her to make good decisions. Attending the Family Experience was like a refresher course for both her and her mom.

“Our goal is for families to leave the Family Experience with the idea that they can do this,” says Hagele, “that they’ll leave with a determination that they’re going to talk, they’re going to work, and they’re going to make this thing called ‘family’ happen.”

For more information about Project Patch, or to sign up for the Project Patch newsletter, visit projectpatch.org or call 360-690-8495. You can also follow Project Patch on Facebook for parenting tips, photos and more at facebook.com/projectpatch.

Becky St. Clair, Project Patch communication director

*Not their real names.*

**TOOLS OF THE TRADE: A TIP FOR SUCCESSFUL PARENTING**

Teens say some of the most outrageous things when they are emotional. It’s natural to try calming them down, bring perspective to their problem or to advise them on solutions. While it feels like you’re helping, you are most likely decreasing the chance that they will talk to you and missing a great opportunity to really help.

Rather than trying to fix things, first try to understand and focus on emotions. If you are patient and work toward understanding, you will be surprised as the teen moves from anger to a really good plan — not a vengeful plan but a reasonable plan.

This process also helps the teen become independent rather than dependent on you for the answers and is a key step on the path to responsibility.

**EQUIPPING WHOLE COMMUNITIES**

With a passion for supporting parents and educating communities, Patch has developed a series of seminars on various family-related topics. Most can be adapted for either secular or Christian audiences. Attendees will leave understanding that we believe God cares deeply for children and families and will be armed with tools they can use to raise responsible, respectful kids. To invite Project Patch to speak for your group, call 360-690-8495.