This Week: Journey Films Releases "The Blueprint;" WWU Helps Family in Need; and more!

Journey Films Releases "The Blueprint"

"The Blueprint," Martin Doblmeir’s new documentary for Public Television on the Adventist school system, is available for purchase and viewing. This new film portrays eight Adventist schools across America including The Bronx, N.Y., where the concern is the very safety of the children. At Arizona’s Holbrook Indian School, Navajo students are discovering ways to combine their native culture with modern American life. In Colorado, a school is using the beauty of nature to reveal each child’s role in creation. In Alabama, where over a century ago missionaries brought education by boat to the newly freed slaves — today a school is thriving. In North Carolina, a program mixes academics with hands-on trades in keeping with the vision of Ellen White. Watch the movie trailer and find more information from Journey Films online.
**WWU Helps Family in Need**

One local Walla Walla, Wash., family is thankful for the generous response of Walla Walla University (WWU) and the community to their immediate need. During November, Helpline, a local emergency social services company, alerted the WWU campus ministries office that a mother and her two children would face eviction if they could not come up with $2,800. When Paddy McCoy, campus chaplain (pictured here), notified the WWU community and local residents, they responded with $3,000 — meaning the family would be able to spend Thanksgiving in their home. “When [the mother] received the money, her eyes filled with tears … for such an amazing gift,” recalls McCoy. Read the full story by Rachel Wood online.

**He's Back!**

A new issue of U.S. Postal Service forever stamps includes the name of Desmond Doss as one of 464 Medal Honor recipients during World War II. Doss, a devout Seventh-day Adventist, was the first conscientious objector to receive the honor. The commemorative “World War II Medal of Honor” series, lists the names on the back panes of the self-adhesive first-class stamps. They should be available at Post Office locations everywhere. Read more from the Adventist Review.
"Miracle at Gate 213"

The 2013 Christmas Special, "Miracle at Gate 213," is this year's Adventist media entry to seasonal network television. The plot finds travelers stranded at an airport on Christmas Eve and shares the personal journey of each unfolding through miracles at Gate 213. Adventist messages will air in commercial spots within the program. Contact your local NBC station and encourage them to air “Miracle at Gate 213” during the Christmas holidays. This full-hour program is FREE to NBC stations nationwide this year. The film features well-known actors Louis Gossett Jr., Shirley Jones and Della Reese. [Watch the 30-second promo on the "Miracle at Gate 213"] and [visit the Facebook page for information about the film].

From Islam to Adventist

When Shahin and his twin brother, Shahbaz, were growing up in the Middle East, their mother dreamed that God had a purpose for her boys. At that time she said, “Allah, has a purpose.” Today she would say something different. When Shahbaz became a Christian, Shahin and the rest of his family made life difficult for him. But a number of events led to the entire family becoming baptized Seventh-day Adventists. Now Shahin serves as the Spokane North View Adventist Church outreach coordinator. [Read his story at Upper Columbia Conference online].
Your Christmas Greetings Needed

Adventist human rights advocates are urging members worldwide to send encouragement in the form of Christmas cards to three members in prison on what church officials say are false charges. Adventist pastor Antonio Monteiro and church elder Bruno Amah were imprisoned in the West African country of Togo more than a year and a half ago in a criminal case without evidence or a trial. Cards for Monteiro and Amah can be sent to the Sahel Union office. The address is: Antonio Monteiro / Bruno Amah, Union du Sahal, B.P. 2157, Lomé, Togo. “We want to show them that they are not alone; that they have brothers and sisters praying for them,” says John Graz, world church of public affairs and religious liberty director. Read more from the Adventist News Network.

Northwest Christmas Programs

Christmas is upon us again: shopping, traveling, cooking and time with family. As the days get busier and busier, don't forget to take time to remember why we celebrate Christmas: remembering the birth of Christ. Take time with your family and friends to attend one of these Northwest Christmas programs and make it a part of your holiday celebration. The Gleaner has prepared a list of events around the Northwest that we know about. If you have an event that we don't have listed, hit reply and let us know!
Looking Ahead

December

A full list of Christmas events around the Northwest.
14: Kirkland, WA Concert Series
14: Holiday Concert, Portland, OR
20: Sunnyside Church Musical Christmas Program
25: Merry Christmas!

As we head through the holiday season, author Mike Jones asks a simple question: What was Jesus thinking before leaving heaven and coming to this world? Read more in the December Gleaner.

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Our mailing address is:
North Pacific Union Conference
5709 N. 20th Street
Ridgefield, WA 98642
$3000 Raised to Help Local Family

By: Rachel Wood

WWU Campus Chaplain Paddy McCoy. Photo by Chris Drake

This week, Walla Walla University and the community raised $3,000 for a local family in need, surpassing the minimum amount requested of $2,800.

Helpline, an emergency social services company in Walla Walla, contacted the WWU Campus Ministries Office on November 8 for assistance in helping a local family raise $2,800 by the following week to pay for bills and living expenses.

That evening at the Vespers program, Campus Chaplain Paddy McCoy notified the university community and local residents of the need to raise these funds within the following week. The mother and her two children would face eviction if they could not come up with the $2,800 in one week.

The response resulted in full generosity. $3,000 was raised during that week and the family will spend the Thanksgiving holiday in their home.

“When she received the money her eyes filled with tears (of) thankfulness for such an amazing gift,” McCoy states. “I am grateful for this faith community and its generous spirit in service. I am grateful for a big God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than all I ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us.”

Published November 22, 2013.

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Shahin's Conversion

by Kathy Marson

Shahin is an Outreach Coordinator at the Spokane North View Adventist Church.

Spokane, Wash., November 18, 2013 - When Shahin and his twin brother Shahbaz were growing up in the Middle East, their mother had a dream that God had a purpose for her boys. At that time she said, “Allah, has a purpose ….” But today she would say something different. This is their story.

When Shahin and his brother were 4-years of age, Shahbaz wondered who made the flowers and snowflakes. He wanted to know the God who made these intricate details.

When the twins were 13 years of age, their father moved the family to California. In the USA the family still followed the Islamic faith and were a part of the Muslim community.

**Encounter with Jesus**

As a teenager, Shahbaz was a devout believer and wanted forgiveness from sins. As others in this belief system sometimes do, Shahbaz punished himself physically to obtain forgiveness, but he felt no peace. One day in a deep depression, he called out to Allah. Finding no relief, he called to God in his native language. He felt a new presence in his room that was full of peace and forgiveness. He knew then that God was real and his sins were forgiven.

A few months later, Shahbaz was again in darkness and depression. His brother Shahin was in town and encountered some Baptist boys. They said, “Jesus is coming soon. If you can accept Him, you will go to heaven and He will give you eternal life.”

Shahin said, “I was near a payphone, so I called my brother to tell him about the boys. My brother met with them and accepted Jesus!” Shahbaz was grateful because he had prayed to God and searched for Him. Now he realized it was God in heaven who was leading in his life.

Shahbaz was baptized in a Pentecostal Church. He was told once he was baptized, he would speak in tongues. But coming up out of the water, he had no words to say. He questioned if the gift of tongues was properly understood and continued to pray to find a true church.

Unfortunately when Shahbaz became a Christian at 18 years of age, the family was not supportive of his decision. His twin, Shahin, and the rest of his family verbally abused him and made life difficult. Shahin said, “I felt a sense of guilt in treating Shahbaz this way. One day I lifted him up off the ground and shook him. It was supernatural strength that I did not have. Later I had a powerful dream that I was on the wrong path and that Jesus was the right path.” Other members of the family had similar dreams and after a few months they stopped the persecution.

Shahbaz was in church one Sunday when a Seventh-day Adventist colporteur stepped up to the pulpit. The pastor had invited him to share books up front and stay after church in case anyone was interested in purchasing them. Shahbaz spoke to the colporteur and later he came to study with him. In this way he learned about the Seventh-day Sabbath. Peace fell on his heart. He also studied with the pastor of the Adventist Church. God showed him that Adventist Church was correct church.

**Eight Years Later**

Shahin realized there was power in his brother’s faith in God. He had sensed his need of God and became convicted he should not smoke. He had depression and darkness which he hid by going to parties and enjoying the things of the world.
Shahin was now in Burlingame, California where his brother Shahbaz was the custodian of an Adventist Church. Shahin needed work and so the church also hired him even though he was still smoking. He began to study the Bible with his brother. He also attended meetings at the church where they prayed and sang hymns. It was a sweet experience. Shahin realized that cigarettes were his god and as he reflected on his life he felt he was on one side of a white wall and his brother and the church members were on the other side with no way to get across!

“One day an elder of the church was preaching,” said Shahin. “My brother invited me to come. As I listened to him, my heart broke, and everything changed for me. The sky was bluer, the trees were greener and I knew it was from God.”

Shahin is so thankful that Jesus gave him a fresh start. From his conversion experience, he went on to Weimar College and received a 4-year degree in pastoral ministry. He worked in Oslo, Norway, the Nevada Utah Conference, and the Central California Conferences in ministry to people from the Middle East. Shahin currently is Outreach Coordinator at Spokane North View Adventist Church. His brother, Shahbaz, lives near Colville and works with refugees.

**The Family**

The family became Adventist Christians. “My mother became an Adventist because she saw how my life had changed,” said Shahin. “She loves to tell people about Jesus and is not afraid even though part of the time she lives in a country hostile to Christians.

My father was dying from cancer and came to an Adventist hospital for treatment. He was baptized a year and a half before he died.” Both his sister and older brother also became Adventist Christians.

Today Shahin’s mom would say, “It was the God of Heaven who had plans for my sons!”
Christmas card campaign to offer support for imprisoned members

Antonio Monteiro has been held in Prison in Lomé, Togo, since March of 2012. Here he washes the feet of a fellow inmate during a communion ceremony in January. [ANN file photo]

Monteiro and Amah in Togo, Masih in Pakistan still jailed on no evidence

December 03, 2013 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Author: Vania Chew/SPD/ANN staff

Seventh-day Adventist human rights advocates are urging church members worldwide to send encouragement in the form of Christmas cards to three members in prison on what church officials say are false charges.

More than a year and a half has passed since Seventh-day Adventist pastor Antonio Monteiro and church elder Bruno Amah were imprisoned in the West African country of Togo in a criminal case without evidence or a trial.

Cards for Monteiro and Amah, preferably in English or French, can be sent to the Sahel Union office. The address is:

Antonio Monteiro / Bruno Amah
Union du Sahal
B.P. 2157
Lomé, Togo

“Everyone can do something for our members in prison. We want to show them that they are not alone; that they have brothers and sisters praying for them,” said John Graz, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Adventist world church. “Every Christmas card they will receive will be an encouragement.”

In March 2012, a Togolese man implicated Monteiro and Amah as conspirators in an alleged blood trafficking network. A police search of the pastor’s home and local church headquarters produced no evidence, but Monteiro and Amah have not been released.

Seventh-day Adventists around the world have rallied to show support for their brothers in Christ. Last December, a social media campaign calling for a day of prayer helped raise awareness of the situation in Togo. Facebook followers interacted with ‘Pray for Togo’ content more than 50,000 times while the Twitter event hashtag reached more than 7 million users. Members are encouraged to visit the website Pray4Togo.com and sign the petition.

Church leaders are also urging members to send Christmas cards of encouragement to Sajjad Masih, who is being held in prison in Pakistan on charges of blasphemy, despite his accuser’s subsequent retraction and prosecutors’ failure to produce evidence of his involvement.

Cards may be sent to Masih at:

Sajjad Masih
Pakistan Union
Post Box 32
Lahore, Pakistan

Church officials have been working through legal procedures and diplomatic channels to have the three men released.
Christmas is upon us again: shopping, traveling, cooking and time with family. As the days get busier and busier, don’t forget to take time to remember why we celebrate Christmas: remembering the birth of Christ. Take time with your family and friends to attend one of these Northwest Christmas programs and make it a part of your holiday celebration.

Alaska

- **Anchorage**: Anchorage Junior Academy; Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
- **Anchorage**: Northside Adventist Church; Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Fairbanks**: [Golden Heart Christian School](#); Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Homer**: Homer Adventist Church; Dec. 21
- **Juneau**: Juneau Adventist School; Dec. 15 at 5 p.m.
- **Juneau**: Juneau Adventist Church; Dec. 21 at 11:15 a.m.
- **Kodiak**: Kodiak Adventist Church; Dec. 21
- **Palmer**: Amazing Grace Academy; Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Togiak**: Togiak Adventist Church; Dec. 20 at 6 p.m.

Idaho

- **Caldwell**: O Holy Night cantata; Dec. 21 at 10:45 a.m., Caldwell Adventist Church, 2106 E Linden St., Caldwell, ID.
- **Eagle**: Live Nativity; Dec. 6 from 6 to 8:30 p.m., and Dec. 7 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Eagle Adventist Church, 538 W State St., Eagle, ID.
- **Meridian**: Journey to Bethlehem; Dec. 13–15 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Meridian Adventist Church, 1855 N Black Cat Rd., Meridian, ID.

Montana

- **Bozeman**: Mount Ellis Elementary; Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m., Mount Ellis Academy Chapel.
- **Bozeman**: Mount Ellis Academy Christmas Cantata; Dec. 14 at 11 a.m., Mount Ellis Academy.
- **Bozeman**: Mount Ellis Academy Christmas Concert; Dec. 19 at 7 p.m., Mount Ellis Academy chapel.
- **Butte**: Highland View Christian School; Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m., Highland View Christian School.
- **Butte**: Highland View Christian School; Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m., Bridger Adventist Church.
- **Great Falls**: Five Falls Christian School; Dec. 14 at 11 a.m., Great Falls Adventist Church.
- **Helena**: Helena Adventist Christian School; Dec. 14 at 11 a.m., Helena Adventist Church.
- **Libby**: Libby Adventist Christian School; Dec. 14 at 110 a.m., Libby Adventist Church. “The First and Second Coming” will be presented through a variety of musical offerings and narration from the Bible and The Desire of Ages that highlight the tragic lack of preparation for Christ’s first coming and our opportunity to be ready for His second coming. All are welcome to join the fellowship meal at the school following the service.
- **Missoula**: Mountain View Elementary; Dec. 14 at 10:45 a.m., Missoula Adventist Church.
- **Ronan**: Glacier View Christian School; Dec. 18 at 6 p.m., Glacier View Christian School. Refreshments and open house to follow.

Oregon
- **Bend**: Journey to Bethlehem, Dec. 5-7, 6 to 9 p.m., Bend Adventist Church.
- **Kelso**: Journey to Bethlehem, Dec. 12-15, 5 to 9 p.m., Journey Adventist Church.
- **Portland/Gladstone**: Follow the Star, Dec. 6-8, 13-15, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Gladstone Park Conference Center.
- **Portland/Battle Ground**: Handel’s Messiah, Dec. 6, 7 p.m., Meadow Glade Adventist Church.

**Upper Columbia**

- **Lewiston**: 42nd Annual Christmas Cantata; Dec. 21 at 4 p.m., Lewiston Adventist Church. *Refreshments following the performance.*
- **Milton Freewater**: Journey to Bethlehem; Dec. 14–15 from 5 to 8 p.m., Stateline Adventist Church.
- **Newport**: The Christmas Story – Pend Oreille Valley Adventist School; Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m., Newport Adventist Church.
- **Spokane**: Journey to Bethlehem; Dec. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Dec. 7–8 from 5 to 8 p.m., South Hill Adventist Church.
- **Spokane Valley**: Christmas Service; Dec. 14 at 11 a.m., Spokane Valley Adventist Church.
- **Spokane Valley**: Spokane Valley Adventist School Christmas program; Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m., Spokane Valley Adventist School.
- **Yakima**: Journey to Bethlehem; Dec. 6–9 from 5 to 8:30 p.m., Yakima Adventist Church.
- **Wenatchee**: Journey to Bethlehem; Dec. 5–8 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Cascade Christian Academy, 600 N Western Ave., Wenatchee, WA.

**Washington**

- **Chehalis**: Sing-a-long Messiah; Dec. 7, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Chehalis Adventist Church.
- **Green Lake**: Candlelight Christmas Concert; Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m., Green Lake Adventist Church.
- **Puyallup**: K–8 Christmas Program; Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m., Northwest Christian School.
- **Sequim**: Community Chorus, Dec. 6–7 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 2:30 p.m., Sequim Adventist Church.

If you have an event to add, please don’t hesitate to contact us!
Upcoming Events | GleanerOnline.org

Kirkland Concert Series

Second-annual concert presented at the Kirkland Church, Kirkland, Wash., at 4 p.m. A Christmas theme featuring an all men’s chorus, “Impact Ladies” of Puget Sound Adventist Academy, and full orchestra under the direction of Estyn Goss. In the spring, a full choral Easter concert, and finally a guest concert in the summer will finalize our concert series with the third and fourth concerts. For more information, call 425-828-7888.

Find out more »

Holiday Concert

A holiday concert featuring Craig King, Carl Parker and other local musicians. Call 503-232-6018 for more information.

Find out more »

Sunnyside Church’s 32nd annual Musical Christmas Program

Invite you friends to enjoy an evening listening to some of Portland’s finest musicians. Bring your music and join in singing the “Hallelujah Chorus” for the finale. An offering will be taken at the door for the ministry that feeds the hungry at O’Bryant Square. We hope to see you there.

Find out more »

Alvin Woodruff’s 96th Birthday

Alvin Woodruff, Falls City Church member, will turn 96 on Dec. 29. A celebration of his 96th birthday will be Jan. 5, 2014 at the Polk County Fairgrounds in the arts and crafts building, in Rickreall, Ore. There is an open invitation to all. Send your best wishes to Alvin by writing to 14595 Forest Hill Dr., Monmouth, OR 97361 or calling 503-623-5358.

Find out more »

FREE

Washington Conference Youth Rally

The Washington Conference Youth Rally is designed to help high school aged youth discover their place in the church. The day will feature powerful worship music, testimonies, drama, breakout sessions and engaging preaching, including featured speaker Dan Jackson, North American Division president. The event is free. An optional lunch will be served in the dining hall for $10. This must be purchased ahead of time. Youth groups who have further to drive may reserve cabins to stay over on Friday…

Find out more »

$20

Steve Green in Concert

Grandview Adventist School is hosting Steve Green in concert. The concert will be held at the Sunnyside High School Auditorium, 1801 E. Edison Ave., Sunnyside, WA. Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for children 6–12. For more information, call the school at 509-882-3817 or 509-439-1054. Come and enjoy an evening with Steve Green.

Find out more »