Why Have Adventist Education?
Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
Psalm 8:9 (NIV)

“Majestic” photographed by Debbie Blackburn Beierle of Snohomish, Washington.
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HOW I BECAME A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN

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LITHO USA
Is There an Adventist Advantage

BY ALAN HURLBERT

For many decades, we have marketed our Adventist schools by quoting statistics and test scores. We talk about the more than 85 percent of our students who attend college and the more than 80 percent of those who begin college who complete a degree. We talk about the nearly 100 percent of our teachers who are certified and student performance which is close to the 70th percentile on nationally normed standardized tests. Is all this talk mere propaganda? Do we have empirical evidence that leads to the conclusion that there is an Adventist advantage?

Parents who still want to be convinced that their children will receive a quality education in the Adventist school system ask questions like: How do our Adventist elementary and secondary schools measure up to their public and private counterparts? Is the North American Division (NAD) Adventist curriculum comparable or superior? Do Adventist teachers have the “right stuff” that the denominational certification process is expected to instill?

Are these legitimate concerns? You bet they are! These concerns are to be addressed in a new study developed by the La Sierra University School of Education. It will seek to answer the question, “What impact does Adventist education have on the academic performance of students?”

A definitive answer, based on valid, reliable, empirical data, will lead to one of two possible outcomes, either of which will prove beneficial to Adventist education:

1. The validation of Adventist education in terms of students’ measurable academic performance, or
2. The identification of areas needing improvement.

The title of this new study is CognitiveGenesis. A pilot study is currently underway in the Pacific Union Conference. CognitiveGenesis will be comprehensive, with most all of the Adventist elementary and secondary students across North America involved for a period of three years. CognitiveGenesis will use valid, reliable data and statistical tests. The study will allow cause and effect to be explored by removing biases. The demographic composition will include four groups:

1. Adventist students attending Adventist schools.
2. Non-Adventist students attending Adventist schools.
3. Adventist students attending non-Adventist schools.

Parents and teachers will also be a part of the research. Parents will be asked to complete a brief survey to facilitate the study. Teachers will be asked to perform an additional tally procedure when administering the standardized tests. These joint efforts will provide much-needed answers on how Adventist students compare with counterparts in other school systems.

Ellen G. White, in the book Education, describes true education as the harmonious development of the physical, mental and spiritual powers. In the landmark study ValueGenesis we have attempted to measure the success of faith in learning in our schools. In CognitiveGenesis we will attempt to measure the mental advantages and later studies may focus on the physical advantages.

One of the researchers involved in this study put it this way, “CognitiveGenesis can help Adventist education determine if our schools are developing ‘thinkers and not mere reflectors’ of other people’s thoughts.” Isn’t the calling of Adventist education to develop true thinkers—young people equipped with sound academics to serve God and their fellow man?

Is this a scary initiative? Not at all. Self-examination led by the Spirit can only be helpful as we plot a course for the future. Could we find out things we don’t want to know? Yes, possibly. However, what an opportunity to make Spirit-directed changes, if needed, to benefit our kids and help them be ready for this world and the better one to come.

We hope this CognitiveGenesis study will build faith in both our students and parents that our Adventist school system is truly a gift from God. Our members, our parents, and certainly our students deserve this study and this attempt to do our very best to prepare them for life here and hereafter. We want our schools to be the embodiment of our NAD education motto, “A Journey to Excellence.”

Alan Hurlbert, North Pacific Union vice president for education, writes from Vancouver, Washington.
Birds of the Northwest

These birds are commonly seen in the Northwestern United States. How many can you identify?

Photographs by Roger Windemuth of Brush Prairie, Washington.

Answers on page 55.
In spite of its outstanding contributions to the church and the larger world, Adventist education is under fire. But the sad fact is that in the early 21st century, the attack all too often is coming from inside the denomination.

Some pastors, for example, have argued that Adventist education “is stealing money from evangelism.” A concerned church member recently wrote that “the pastor of my church has decided that Christian education is irrelevant and not soul winning and therefore our local [Adventist] school should be closed so as not to waste any more of the money that he could be putting into his evangelism to win souls. He has previously sent out e-mails stating that it is his intention to see the school closed. Last school year, the school presented a church service at each of the constituent churches, except ours, because the pastor felt it was irrelevant to the members and a waste of time, and told them they were not welcome. He has even preached a sermon on the evils of not bearing fruit, which is a great sermon topic, except when his whole point was that our academy does not bear any visible fruits and therefore should be closed.”

Taking the long view

As I read that letter, I wondered how that pastor would have evaluated the teaching/evangelistic ministry of Jesus. After all, He intensely taught a core of 12 disciples/students for three years, yet when He went to the cross, not one of them, as far as we can tell, was converted or even understood the central message of His teaching. Far from self-denial and servanthood, they were all arguing about who was the greatest, even as He approached His sacrificial death. And, of course, one betrayed Him and another swore that he didn’t even know Jesus.

What a wasted life! From a human perspective, Jesus could certainly have spent His time in a more profitable way. But He had His eye on the long run rather than the short term. After Pentecost, the majority of those disciples would be transformed into powerhouses for the gospel.

So it is with Christian schooling. Results are generally not immediate. Ellen G. White caught that vision when she wrote of the resurrection morning:

“All the perplexities of life’s experience will then be made plain. Where to us have appeared only confusion and disappointment, broken purposes and thwarted plans, will be seen a grand, overruling, victorious purpose, a divine harmony. There all who have wrought with unselfish spirit will behold the fruit of their labors.... How little of the results of the world’s noblest work is in this life manifest to the doer!... Parents and teachers lie down in their last sleep, their lifework seeming to have been wrought in
vain; they know not that their faithfulness has unsealed springs of blessing that can never cease to flow; only by faith they see the children they have trained become a benediction and an inspiration to their fellow men, and the influence repeat itself a thousandfold. Many a worker sends out into the world messages of strength and hope and courage, words that carry blessing to hearts in every land; but of the results he, toiling in loneliness and obscurity, knows little. So gifts are bestowed, burdens are borne, labor is done. *Men sow the seed from which, above their graves, others reap blessed harvests. They plant trees, that others may eat the fruit. They are content here to know that they have set in motion agencies for good. In the hereafter the action and reaction of all these will be seen.*" 1

Myopic vision just won’t do in evaluating the true value of Christian education. Short-term evaluations of long-term projects are nearly always distorted and inadequate.

Six reasons for Adventist education

1. At the top of the list of reasons for Adventist schooling is that it introduces students to the Bible as a framework for thinking and evaluating. In 1881, in writing about Adventism’s first educational institution, Ellen G. White noted that “God has declared His purpose to have one college in the land where the Bible shall have its proper place in the education of the youth.” 2

It does no injustice to that quotation to expand the idea to an entire system of Christian schools. But, and this is a crucial point, the Bible in an Adventist school is never studied as an end in itself. Rather, the Scriptures provide the framework for everything that takes place on campus, whether it be academics, extracurricular activities, chapels and Sabbath services, or work-study programs.

2. Chief among the “everything else” for which the Bible is instrumental in Adventist schools is introducing young people to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. At its core, Adventist education is evangelistic and redemptive. As Ellen G. White’s book *Education* puts it, “In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one.... To aid the student in comprehending these principles, and in entering into that relation with Christ which will make them a controlling power in the life, should be the teacher’s first effort and his constant aim. The teacher who accepts this aim is in truth a co-worker with Christ, a laborer together with God.” 3

This redemptive role of education means that teaching is just as surely a form of ministry as that which takes place from behind a pulpit. 4 Martin Luther glimpsed that idea. “If I had to give up preaching and my other duties,” he wrote, “there is no
office I would rather have than that of schoolteacher. For I know that next to the [pastoral] ministry, it is the most useful, greatest, and best; and I am not sure which of the two is to be preferred. For it is hard to make old dogs docile and old rogues pious, yet that is what the [pastoral] ministry works at, and must work at, in great part, in vain; but young trees... are more easily bent and trained. Therefore let it be considered one of the highest virtues on earth faithfully to train the children of others, which duty very few parents attend to themselves.5

And, Ellen G. White points out, while “it may seem that the teaching of God’s word has but little effect on the minds and hearts of many students,... some lessons of divine truth will linger in the memory of the most careless. The Holy Spirit will water the seed sown, and often it will spring up after many days and bear fruit to the glory of God.”6

The primary function of Adventist education is to help young people find a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. And that function is just as important for children who grow up in an Adventist home as for those who don’t. Concerning the evangelistic potential of Adventist education, it is important to realize that worldwide, the percentage of young people from non-Adventist homes attending Adventist schools is more than 50 percent and sometimes runs as high as 90 percent. When we get our perspective right, we will see that public evangelism and Christian education are not adversaries but rather serve as complements to each other in achieving the gospel commission.

As the denomination continues to mature, it needs to constantly reassess its commitment to Adventist education.

3. Even introducing students to Jesus as Lord and Savior is not an end in itself in Adventist education. Adventist schooling at its best leads a person to a lifelong dedication of service to others. It is no accident that the first and last pages of the book Education focus on the “joy of service.”7

A major function of Adventist education is to help naturally selfish human beings gain a vision of service for others. That is one reason why Seventh-day Adventist higher education has traditionally been heavily slanted toward the helping professions such as teaching, health care, spiritual nurture, and related fields. Most church leaders have been trained in Adventist schools. What if we had no such institutions?

Adventist educational institutions at all levels need to be viewed as training grounds for soul winners—in whatever profession they choose. And for the young to be prepared to give a definite sound to their service/soul winning trumpet, they need to be properly instructed. The magnitude of that challenge becomes clearer when we realize that 74 percent of Adventists are first generation and lack even a basic grasp of the denomination’s heritage, structures and beliefs—and most importantly, an understanding of the church’s apocalyptic mission to the world.

4. We noted in our first point above that Adventist education introduces people to the Bible. But that goes far beyond required religion and Bible classes. Adventist schooling helps students to view every topic from the philosophic perspective of Scripture. For example, while the Bible is not primarily about history or science, it does provide a framework for thinking about and organizing the facts of history, science and every other subject.

In a similar manner, the Bible provides the tools for valuing and decision making. Here we have a contribution of Adventist education that is all too often overlooked. And that is unfortunate, since, as one author puts it, “education has to do with the transmission of values.”8 Values are strategic to human thinking and behavior because they form the basis for every decision a person makes in life.

Our humanistic, postmodern culture has many methods of transmitting values. Young people are influenced by the glorification of consumerism, violence, and immorality in the media, video games, and music; and a peer culture that celebrates drinking, drugging, carousing and casual sex. Yet public schools in most countries are barred from teaching religion or morality, and cannot even tell students that there are alternatives to evolution. Other schools transmit a distorted view of the meaning of life and the way of salvation. Adventist schooling is one of the most forceful ways of transmitting a biblical value system. That transmission is not perfect, but when one considers the alternatives, it is a giant step in the right direction.

5. A fifth imperative for supporting Adventist education is in the social realm. While any gathering of young people has its potential for problems, that likelihood can be minimized if a large sector of a peer group share a biblical/Christian/Adventist value system and have an interest in developing a future lifestyle that is built upon those values.
To put it more bluntly, I firmly believe that one of the major contributions of Adventist schools is to bring young people together in sufficient numbers so that they can make lifelong friends and meet spouses who share their vision of what is important in life. I still vividly remember my first three visits as a beginning pastor in San Francisco. Each of those visits was to young church members who had married non-believers. Disorientation and depression were the messages that consistently bridged their individual experiences. At that point in my professional career, I began to view the social function of Adventist education as extremely important.

We must not forget that most students learn more from other students than from either teachers or parents. Thus, it is important that we do all we can to create an educational atmosphere that maximizes the benefits of peer-group power and the influence of student leaders.

6. There are certainly many other reasons for upholding Adventist education. One of the most important is the influence of godly teachers and other adult role models. Then there is the fact that lessons are best learned when students hear the same message at school, home, and church. And last, but not least in importance, extracurricular activities, including sports and other programs, often occur during the Sabbath hours in most schools and thus force Adventist students to make difficult choices between their faith and their social life. That reality is an extremely important one for most young people. The obvious solution is the creation of schools that respect both the needs of faith and healthy social development.

Conclusion

Adventist education has held a central place in the building of a unified church, which since 1863 has spread throughout the world. And yet, Adventist education is not keeping up proportionately with the growth of church membership. In 1945, the ratio of students in Adventist schools to church membership was 25 per 100. That figure remained somewhat constant until 1965. But since that time, the ratio has dropped off precipitously, to 15 per 100 in 1985 and 9 per 100 in 2000. At the same time, more non-Adventist students are enrolling in our schools, which makes the actual ratio of Adventist students to members closer to 5 per 100.

As the denomination continues to mature, it needs to constantly reassess its commitment to Adventist education. To lose that commitment could have a devastating effect on the very nature of Adventism as it moves into the 21st century. Recommitment should be viewed as an imperative as the denomination focuses on advancing the gospel commission.


References


George R. Knight, Adventist pastor, teacher and author, writes from Grants Pass, Oregon.
The teachers in my Seventh-day Adventist school were lifesavers for me at a critical time. When I was 15, my mom had just married a man out of prison who made my home life quite unpleasant. At the same time, my neighborhood friends and I were getting into some habits that, if cultivated, would have led me down paths I would come to regret.

Enter three people into my life: Gene Roemer was my eighth-grade PE teacher, Ron Busby, my eighth-grade math and science teacher, and Pam Tait, my eighth-grade English teacher. Each of them saw that things were not going well in my life, and each of them took me under their wing in different but meaningful ways.

Mr. Roemer was just beginning his teaching career and was a young, good-looking, popular teacher. Every kid wanted to be just like him. He would take me in his car running errands around town. While we were in the car, he would listen as I'd tell him stuff that was going on in my life. He didn't offer up any life-shaking advice. He just listened. The big difference he made in my life was that he made me feel like he liked me. That's what I needed, to know that somebody I looked up to liked me.

Mr. Busby, my math teacher, was the same kind of person. He had an old military jeep that he'd ride around in. He'd take me along and give me little bits of advice here and there. He'd just let me hang out. He liked me. I needed that.

And then there was my English teacher, Mrs. Tait. When she noticed things weren't going well at home for me she sat me down and told me that she and her husband had a room in their house that was mine to use anytime. Sometimes I needed and used it. She and her husband became two of my dearest friends. He stood up for me at my wedding, and she served as an elder in the first church I pastored.

All three were extended family to me. And all three were my teachers—teachers in my Seventh-day Adventist school. One of the most important functions of the church in a child's life is to provide extended family members that they can trust and confide in.

I believe our church does well in providing this essential ingredient in a child's life. As I write this article, my wife and I will soon travel to Monroe, Washington. There is going to be a big reunion at Sky Valley Seventh-day Adventist School. My wife, Wendy, taught fourth and fifth grades there, and the students all want her to come back and visit. Most of them are married now and have children, but they want her there.

She’s an extended family member, and the reunion wouldn’t be the same without her.

The Bible tells us in Deuteronomy 11:18-21: “Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, involved with the total school program, Mark Witas, CCA principal and assistant coach, gives a pep talk and instruction to the girls’ basketball team, the Lady Wolverines.
so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the Lord swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth” (NIV).

Are there any duties more sacred that we have as a church than this: to pass our heritage, our knowledge of right and wrong, and most important the knowledge of our Savior on to our children? I don’t think so. That’s why Wendy and I give faithfully to the worthy student fund at our local Adventist school every month. We consider it our sacred duty to do what we can as church members to help pass down to our children what this church holds so dear.

There are quite a few families that feel they just can’t afford to send their children to church school, so they are sending them to public school. I hate hearing that, because I know that many of these children need to have Gene Roemers and Ron Busbys and Pam Taits in their lives.

What we all can do

Let me close with a few suggestions that could help parents make the most of the one chance they have to raise their children. 

1. Be active in your church. This will plug your children into a group of people who will give them positive role models. And I’m not just talking about church attendance. I’m talking about worshiping, playing, studying, and praying with the members of the church on a regular basis. Being active in your church will give your children a better chance at succeeding in life.

2. Do the Deuteronomy 11 thing. In other words, take full advantage of every situation to direct thoughts, glory, honor, and credit to God. Encourage your children by your love and relationship with God. Train up your children in the way they should go by making your walk with God evident. Let them see and hear how you feel about God. In the end, imitation may indeed be the most sincere form of flattery.

3. If it’s at all possible, send your kids through the Seventh-day Adventist school system. I know that it’s not perfect. I know that sometimes children or teachers or both can let you down. But, I’ve got to say, the experience and the role models they will get will, most of the time, far outweigh the drawbacks.

4. Get involved with your local school—and this applies to every church member. If you have the ability to volunteer, do so. If you can go on a trip as a sponsor, put your name in. If you have the means to put a little in the offering plate each week toward the worthy student fund, do it. If you aren’t praying for the success of the teachers in your school, start now. Get involved some way, somehow. It’s not just our job; it’s our sacred duty.

Remember, we have only one chance to raise our children. Let’s do it right! •

Mark Witas, Cascade Christian Academy principal, writes from Wenatchee, Washington.
Chuck Paulson and his students enjoy the process of transforming this 1984 Subaru Outback into a “Hummer”!

They’re building guitars!” a prospective student turned in astonishment to his parents while on a tour of Upper Columbia Academy’s woodworking class. But this student had an even bigger surprise around the corner. When they entered the auto shop, they came face to face with a Hummer that had once been a 1984 Subaru Outback. “How did you do that?” the family asked. “Piece by piece,” Chuck Paulson grinned.

Wide variety of class offerings

In addition to making guitars in woodworking class, technology teacher Chuck Paulson has had students make hope chests, coat racks, porch swings, picture frames, end tables, cabinets… One student even built a kayak. In welding technology class, he’s had students make utility trailers, steel coffee tables, engine hoists, engine stands, car ramps, firewood storage boxes, snowboard rails, weightlifting equipment and more. Other available classes include photography, fabrication technology (designing and building things out of steel), aviation ground school and computer-aided drafting (CAD).

State-of-the-art computer lab

Thanks to the continuing generosity of future-minded alumni and several private foundations, the school was able to develop a state-of-the-art technology lab, installing 11 specialized work stations with 16 new computers. Each station features at least one computer with a flat-screen monitor. Under the teacher’s supervision, the computers offer specialized learning modules, which take students through a somewhat self-paced tutorial program. With each topic taking approximately three weeks to complete, every student will be able to choose at least six areas to complete during a semester.

College credit available

Students are able to receive college credit (through Spokane Community College) for auto CAD, aviation, automotive, welding and fabrication technology.

“Whether or not these students end up majoring in a technology in college,” says Paulson, “this credit gives them a head start. They can use the credits as electives and they can use their skills to get good jobs to earn their way through college.”

Two current UCA students are already using their CAD skills for an area engineer and earning much more than minimum wage.

Philosophy makes the difference

Paulson has been heading up UCA’s technology department for 13 years and is proud of the variety of class offerings, the state-of-the-art technology and the opportunities his department is able to give for students to earn college credit. What really gets him excited, though, is talking about the department’s philosophy and mission.

“Far more important than the variety of classes we offer,” he says, “is our philosophy. The mission of this department is to
Chuck Paulson

Sarah Tupper is forming the body of her guitar.

show students that there is a place for them within the Great Commission. Those of us who are more ‘industrially gifted’ and want to pursue hands-on careers have been given the Great Commission as much as any other Christian, including preachers and teachers. I don’t want any student to leave this campus wondering if there is a place for them in the work of the church.”

Experiencing the mission

Paulson’s philosophy is dramatically illustrated by his personal mission work in the African country of Malawi where he is overseeing the building of a medical clinic along with a grade school, high school and, eventually, an orphanage. He and his wife, Loralee, were inspired to initiate this project while on a UCA mission trip to Malawi several years ago. Next spring, UCA technology students go to help construct the clinic and the first school buildings.

Students have been successful

“Many kids do great with both academics and the hands-on classes,” observes Paulson. “But sometimes we have students who struggle academically, and it’s the hands-on technology classes that get them through. Sometimes we have a few who are full of mischief and these classes give them an outlet for their creativity. My real pay comes when I hear from those kids about what they’re doing with the education they received here.

“One of my former students is now running a farm. One provides very well for his family by working on cars. One runs a parts store. One has a floor tiling company. Another is a successful diesel mechanic and another is doing the maintenance at one of our schools. Several are now making good money and are helping me financially with the Malawi Mission Project—some want to go over and help me with the construction.”

But back to the “Hummer”

About two years ago, someone gave the technology department a 1984 Subaru Outback. They figured the students could tinker with the engine and practice changing the oil. Instead, Paulson had them take all the sheet metal off the car (door, sides, top…) and design replacements on the computer in the style of a Hummer. They imported those designs into a plasma cutter, cut out the pieces (from new metal), and put it together. It needs to have the fuel tank reinstalled and it still needs some body work, windows and paint, but the students are very proud of it. To see a video clip of UCA’s “Hummer,” visit www.ucaa.org, click on “About Us” and then on the video “Creative Academics.”

“I had fun with my students when I taught in public school,” says Paulson. “But I couldn’t pray with them and I couldn’t have pictures around the shop of Christ as a carpenter and I couldn’t breathe a word about fulfilling the Gospel Commission. As long as I do have those freedoms here at UCA, I might as well use them to the fullest!”

Cheri Corder, Upper Columbia Academy GLEANER correspondent, writes from Spangle, Washington.

Manual training should be connected with every school giving all young people practical knowledge of the most useful trades to further the gospel.

Fabrication and welding students are currently working on the metal lettering for this Ellen G. White thought, along with a metal depiction of Christ working with a student in the carpenter’s shop. It will be displayed on the side of the Upper Columbia Academy technology building. Student Kelsi Wheeler drew up the design; student Cody Skeels is cutting the metal out with the plasma cam.
May I please pray in my own language?” a seventh-grade Russian student asked Shannon Whidden, Kirkland Adventist School teacher.

The school sits at the crossroads of the Seattle metro area. Like an ancient trading route, the faces in its classrooms reflect far-flung countries and cultures. Its location—just across Lake Washington from Seattle and between Everett and Renton—serves as a central spot near both Eastside suburbs and Seattle, convenient to the many ethnic groups settling in the metro area.

This multicultural melting pot has created a unique learning environment where teachers and students learn together about a variety of cultures through foods, customs, and through the most intimate of communications—prayer. Teachers also work through the challenges of testing and the breaking down of stereotypes.

Students speak Korean, Japanese, Spanish and Russian, with ethnic backgrounds varying greatly. Those who speak Russian are from Estonia, Latvia and Moldova. Spanish speakers are from Puerto Rico, Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. Classrooms are not only made up of new immigrants, but also include American ethnic groups such as Hispanic, Filipino and African American students.

Learning more about my world

“We have a lot to learn about how to incorporate multiculturalism into the classroom,” said Jaimie Burton, eighth-grade teacher. “We don’t have any idea most of the time about different cultures and customs. We should inquire more about others’ cultures in the most tactful way.”

Students are helping the teachers and other students to learn about their customs and cultures. For example, this year Carolyn Howson’s fourth-graders brought enchiladas and tamales for a school lunch.

Besides sharing their customs, older students are challenging stereotypical beliefs. In Adam Dovich’s sixth grade, students studied a literature book about Japanese internment camps. A student with Japanese heritage helped to interpret some of the Japanese words in the book and apply the meanings to the context of the story. She also voiced her displeasure with some of the stereotypes in the book.

“When there are students of different races and cultures in a classroom, there is an opportunity to address stereotyping and racism,” said Dovich. “Without those students’ representation and firsthand experience, many stereotypes would go unchallenged.”

The academic challenges

For students born in other countries, standardized testing can be an obstacle. Vocabulary used in the reading passages in the tests are often far removed from their own experience, said Barbara Heathcock, the school’s second-grade teacher who has also taught older students and watched them read the test questions, unfamiliar with the meanings intended because they were written from an American perspective.

Even so, Kirkland suppresses very few tests, and test scores are in the 70th to 80th percentile while the nation’s scores are in the 50th percentile.
Everyone is welcome

The education that Kirkland offers is also an Adventist education, which means a commitment from local churches that anyone who wants to attend an Adventist school should have that opportunity.

“This year we had a donor offer the school $12,000 for scholarships if the school would match the money,” said Doug White, the school’s principal. “By the time school started in August, we had found enough donors to match the money and have been able to provide an Adventist education for more students whose parents couldn’t afford tuition on their own.”

Now students from many different economic and ethnic backgrounds learn together, play together and worship together. They bring Russian piroshki for lunch. They complain about writing in cursive because it is so foreign to their own Korean characters. They speak Spanish to one another on the playground.

“Because students at Kirkland experience this international mix, they will ultimately relate better as adults,” White said. “This combined with a Christ-centered philosophy will prepare the way for Jesus’ soon return.”

Kellie Tompkins, freelance writer for Kirkland Adventist School, writes from Kirkland, Washington.

GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD

Students at Puget Sound Adventist Academy (PSAA), located on the same campus with the Kirkland Adventist School (KAS), represent at least 13 countries. This 10-year-old academy is a microcosm of the world’s youth colliding together in the hallways, during lunch breaks, and in classrooms, creating a multicultural way of life.

“Our high percentage of multicultural groups gives each student who attends here a bigger window in which to view the world—a world that Jesus wants us to embrace,” said Doug White, PSAA and KAS principal. “So when students leave Puget Sound Academy they are better prepared to meet the people who live around the globe because they have already seen some of them face to face.”

Kellie Tompkins
At the age of 20, Alonzo T. Jones left his home in Rockhill, Ohio, and enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served in the Southwest before being transferred to Fort Vancouver in the Northwest. In January 1873, his company was transferred to northern California to reinforce existing troops who were attempting to dislodge 50 Modoc Indians from lava beds near Tule Lake and return them to their reservation.

Soon after their arrival, Lieutenants Sherwood and Boyle approached the Indians under a flag of truce, but were fired upon. As they ran for safety, Sherwood was killed. Jones’ group was closest to the action and was able to help Boyle escape and recover Sherwood’s body.

In time, the Indians were captured and taken to Indian Territory in what is today Oklahoma. Jones’ company of battle-weary soldiers was given orders to walk across eastern Oregon during the summer to their new assignment at Fort Walla Walla.

In 1874, Isaac Van Horn, the first Adventist minister to work in the Northwest, started by holding tent meetings in Walla Walla, the largest town in the Washington Territory. As a result, he organized a church of more than 60 members, who erected one of the nicest church buildings in the town.

One of the individuals who accepted the Lord and joined this church was Alonzo T. Jones. Describing his conversion, Adelia Van Horn wrote, “The next one that came forward (to be baptized) was a young soldier from the garrison. For weeks, he has been earnestly seeking the Lord, and a few days since received bright evidences of sins forgiven. After being buried with Christ he arose, exclaiming with upraised hands, ‘Dead to the world, and alive to thee, O my God.’”

Following his baptism, Jones spent his spare time studying the Scriptures, especially the prophecies. By the time of his discharge from the Army in late 1875, he was well-informed on the teachings of the Bible and began assisting Van Horn with his evangelistic meetings. Six months later after organizing churches in Milton and Dayton, the two ministers moved to the Willamette Valley. Here, they conducted tent meetings and organized a church in Salem followed by congregations in Eola, Eugene City, Beaverton and Damascus.

In 1877, Adelia Van Horn’s sister, Francis Patton, came to the Northwest for a visit. While here she fell in love with Jones and they were married. At first the two families lived together. George Knight in his biography of Jones mentioned that this arrangement soon proved to be a mistake. The misunderstandings that developed put a strain on the couple’s relationship that continued for years.

When a second conference (Upper Columbia) was established in 1880 in the Northwest for the territory east of the Cascade Mountains, the General Conference leaders thought it best to move Jones to the new conference. Here Jones held meetings in Farmington, Washington Territory, and organized a church. He also erected a church building for them.

For years, Jones had been asking denominational leaders for an opportunity to leave the Northwestern frontier to either attend college or work in the East. In 1884, he was transferred to California where he became co-editor of the *Signs of the Times* with E. J. Waggoner. Four years later, these young men presented messages on righteousness by faith at the 1888 General Conference Session that made a lasting impact on the denomination.
Interstate 495, the beltway around Washington, D.C., was clogged. I sat in my Avis rental car thinking about how nice it is to live in Walla Walla (where the only traffic jam occurs at Dairy Queen when the Peanut Buster Parfait goes on sale).

Suddenly I heard a voice from on high. “Excuse me,” he said, “Um, sir?”

I looked out the passenger window to see an appliance delivery truck from Sears. The driver, a dead ringer for the former football player William “The Refrigerator” Perry, asked, “Do you know if this highway goes to Bethesda?”

“I don’t know,” I replied. “I’m from Washington.”


“So does this take me into Bethesda?” He was unrelenting. “I don’t know, sir. I’m not from this area.”

Then he asked me a question that still baffles me. Why would you ask for a stranger’s opinion on direction?

Need direction?
That conversation still baffles me. Why would you ask a stranger’s opinion on direction?

So I reiterated, “Sir, I really don’t know.”
“But what do you think?”
Exasperated, I just spouted what he wanted to hear. “Yea, this road heads toward Bethesda. Just go on up here and you’ll see the signs. You can’t miss it.”

“Thank you, sir!” his front gold tooth glimmered in the sunshine.

“No problem,” I said as I changed lanes. (Since he was about 250 pounds my superior, I didn’t want him following me in case my directions were skewed!)

After all, there is a true north and that doesn’t change with a hunch.

Nevertheless, a lot of folk these days drift through life with a similar worldview. “There is no moral truth,” they’ll tell you.
Some real bright professors teach this. For example, a distinguished professor at the University of Chicago addressed the incoming class by saying this: “There are two goals that the university will not pursue. Don’t expect them here. The first one is ‘providing truth’… We expect you to figure out the truth, if there is one.

[Secondly], don’t expect us to provide moral guidance. Elite universities operate on the belief that there is a clear separation between intellectual and moral purpose… We are silent on the issue of morality.”

Well, call me old-fashioned, but I believe there is such a thing as moral truth. Moreover, I want my kids to learn as much in school. That’s why I’m happy to invest in Adventist education. At the church school where my daughters attend, they are learning that there is right and wrong, good and evil, truth and lies. In spite of what the world might suggest, there are NOT lots of pathways to some nirvana where we will all land some day. Jesus claimed, “I am the way and the truth and the life…” (John 14:6). He did not say He is one of many ways.

To have this truth instilled in my kids at school is well worth the price of Christian education. In our world of moral relativism there’s no better investment than to train our young people in truth. If you doubt me on this, ask a mature Christian for a second opinion. Just don’t ask some bewildered, big guy roaming aimlessly on I-495. I have a hunch he’s not in a good mood. •

Educational Directions

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Karl Haffner, Walla Walla College Church senior pastor, writes from College Place, Washington.
All Seventh-day Adventist schools in the North Pacific Union Conference, including Walla Walla College, admit students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school and make no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

### Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

- **Anchorage Junior Academy**: 5511 O’Malley Rd., Anchorage, AK 99507 (907) 346-2164 Ruth Farnsworth, K-10
- **Dillingham Adventist School**: PO Box 969, Dillingham, AK 99576 (907) 842-2496 To Be Announced, K-8
- **Golden Heart Christian School**: PO Box 82997, Fairbanks, AK 99708 (907) 479-2904 Barbara Quaile, 1-8
- **Juneau Adventist School**: 4890 Glacier Hwy., Juneau, AK 99801 (907) 780-4336 Nancy Linder, K-8
- **Mat Valley Adventist School**: PO Box 3229, Palmer, AK 99645 (907) 745-2691 Ken Nelson, K-9
- **Nome Adventist School**: PO Box 2069, Nome, AK 99762 (907) 443-5137 Melanie Stroud, K-8
- **Sitka Adventist School**: 1613 Hallibut Point Rd., Sitka, AK 99835 (907) 966-2661 Ruth Millard, K-8

### Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

- **Gem State Adventist Academy**: 16115 S. Montana Ave., Caldwell, ID 83607 (208) 459-1627 Mike Schwartz, 9-12
- **Adventist Christian Academy**: PO Box 50156, Idaho Falls, ID 83405 (208) 528-8582 Carrie Tow, 1-8
- **Baker Valley Adventist School**: 42171 Chico Road, Baker City, OR 97814 (541) 523-4165 Gary Laabs, K-8
- **Boise Adventist School**: 925 N. Cloverdale Rd., Boise, ID 83713 (208) 737-7141 Allan Sather, K-8
- **Caldwell Adventist School**: 2317 Wisconsin, Caldwell, ID 83607 (208) 459-4313 Judith Shaner, K-8
- **Canyon View Adventist School**: PO Box 70, Cambridge, ID 83610 (208) 257-3374 Dianne Eslinger, K-8
- **Desert View Christian School**: PO Box 124, Mountain Home, ID 83647 (208) 580-0512 Dannia Birth, K-8
- **Eagle Adventist Christian School**: 538 W. State Street, Eagle, ID 83616 (208) 938-0093 David Pitcher, K-8
- **Enterprise Adventist School**: PO Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828 (541) 426-8339 Dan Webster, K-8
- **Hilltop Adventist School**: 131 Grandview Drive, Twin Falls, ID 83301 (208) 733-0799 Heathery Pavly, K-8
- **La Grande Adventist School**: PO Box 1025, La Grande, OR 97850 (541) 963-6203 Ben Pflugrad, K-8
- **McCall Adventist Christian School**: 3592 Longview Rd., McCall, ID 83638 (208) 634-0053 Harold Appel, K-8
- **Salmon Adventist School**: 400 Fairmont, Salmon, ID 83467 (208) 766-4439 Mark Law, K-8
- **Timberline Adventist School**: 2582 10th Avenue W., Vale, OR 97918 (541) 473-9661 Cheryl De La Rosa, K-8
- **Treasure Valley Adventist School**: PO Box 396, Payette, ID 83661 (208) 642-2410 Randy Creitz, K-8

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**ADVENTIST EDUCATION ISSUE | NORTHWEST ADVENTIST SCHOOLS**

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**NORTHWEST ADVENTIST SCHOOLS**
### TIST SCHOOLS

**Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
175 Canyon View Road • Bozeman, MT 59715 • (503) 652-2225 • Superintendent – John Gatchet

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<th>School Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tillamook Adventist School</td>
<td>4300 12th Street, Tillamook, OR 97141</td>
<td>(503) 842-6533</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Valley Christian School</td>
<td>PO Box 38, Willamina, OR 97396</td>
<td>(503) 879-5812</td>
<td>1-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tualatin Valley Junior Academy</td>
<td>21975 S.W. Baseline, Hillsboro, OR 97123</td>
<td>(503) 649-5518</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three Sisters Adventist School</td>
<td>21155 Tumalo Road, Bend, OR 97701</td>
<td>(541) 389-2091</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Dalles Adventist School</td>
<td>3339 E. 13th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058</td>
<td>(541) 296-2692</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shady Point Adventist School</td>
<td>PO Box 216, Eagle Point, OR 97524</td>
<td>(503) 825-3291</td>
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### Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

13455 SE 97th Ave. • Clackamas, OR 97015 • (503) 652-2225 • Superintendent – John Gatchet

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<td>Columbia Adventist Academy</td>
<td>11100 NE 189th Street, Battle Ground, WA 98604</td>
<td>(360) 687-3161</td>
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<td>Livingstone Adventist Academy</td>
<td>5771 Fruitland Rd. N.E., Salem, OR 97301</td>
<td>(503) 363-9408</td>
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<td>Milo Adventist Academy</td>
<td>PO Box 278, Days Creek, OR 97429</td>
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<td>Rogue Valley Adventist School</td>
<td>3675 South Stage Road, Medford, OR 97501</td>
<td>(541) 773-2988</td>
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<td>Hood View Junior Academy</td>
<td>PO Box 128, Boring, OR 97009</td>
<td>(503) 663-4568</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelso-Longview Adventist School</td>
<td>96 Garden Street, Kelso, WA 98626</td>
<td>(360) 423-9250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klamath Falls Adventist School</td>
<td>2499 Main Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601</td>
<td>(503) 882-4151</td>
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<td>Laurelwood Adventist School</td>
<td>PO Box 39, Gaston, OR 97119</td>
<td>(503) 985-7289</td>
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<td>Lincoln City Adventist School</td>
<td>2126 N.E. Surf, Lincoln City, OR 97367</td>
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<td>Madrone Adventist School</td>
<td>4300 Holland Loop Rd., Cave Junction, OR 97523</td>
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<td>McMinnville Adventist School</td>
<td>1349 N.W. Elm Street, McMinnville, OR 97128</td>
<td>(541) 472-3336</td>
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<td>Meadow Glade Elementary School</td>
<td>18717 N.E. 109th Ave., Battle Ground, WA 98604</td>
<td>(503) 687-5121</td>
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<td>Mid Columbia Adventist School</td>
<td>1100 - 22nd Street, Hood River, OR 97031</td>
<td>(541) 386-3187</td>
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<td>Milo Adventist Elementary School</td>
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<td>(541) 825-3514</td>
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<td>Pleasant View Adventist School</td>
<td>91272 Highway 101, Warrenton, OR 97140</td>
<td>(503) 861-1633</td>
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<td>Portland Adventist Elementary</td>
<td>3990 N.W. First, Gresham, OR 97030</td>
<td>(503) 665-4102</td>
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<td>Rivergate Adventist Elem. School</td>
<td>1505 Ohlson Rd., Gladstone, OR 97027</td>
<td>(503) 656-0544</td>
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<td>Riverside Adventist Christ. School</td>
<td>PO Box 367, Washougal, WA 98671</td>
<td>(360) 835-5600</td>
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<td>Roseburg Junior Academy</td>
<td>1653 N.W. Troost, Roseburg, OR 97470</td>
<td>(541) 673-5278</td>
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<td>PO Box 899, Scappoose, OR 97056</td>
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<td>Shady Point Adventist School</td>
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<td>(503) 826-2255</td>
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<td>Sutherland Adventist Elementary</td>
<td>PO Box 1108, Sutherlin, OR 97479</td>
<td>(541) 459-9706</td>
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<td>Wahkiacus Adventist School</td>
<td>457 Wahkiacus Heights Rd, Wahkiacus, OR 98670</td>
<td>(503) 369-3735</td>
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</table>
**Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**

PO Box 19039 • Spokane, WA 99219 • (509) 838-2761 • Superintendent - Keith Waters

**Cascade Christian Academy** .............. 600 N. Western, Wenatchee, WA 98801 ............... (509) 662-2723...........Mark Witas ............... K-12

**Upper Columbia Academy** .................. 3025 E. Spangle-Waverly Rd., Spangle, WA 99031 .... (509) 245-3600...........Jeff Bovee .......... 9-12

**Walla Walla Valley Academy** ............... 300 S. W. Academy Way, College Place, WA 99324 .... (509) 525-1050...........John Deming .......... 9-12

Beacon Christian School .......................... 615 Stewart Ave., Lewiston, ID 83501 ............... (208) 743-8361...........Richard Rasmussen ........ K-9

Brewster Adventist School ......................... 115 Valley Road, Brewster, WA 98812 ............... (509) 869-3213...........Jared Meheary .............. 1-8

Colville Valley Junior Academy .................. 139 E. Cedar Loop, Colville, WA 99114 .......... (509) 684-6830...........Laurie Hosey .......... K-10

Cornerstone Christian School ..................... PO Box 1877, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805 .......... (208) 267-1644...........Dennis Shelton ............. 1-8

Countryside Adventist School ..................... PO Box 187, Farmington, WA 99128 ............... (509) 287-2601...........William Hager .......... 1-8

**Mountain View Adventist School** ............. 7799 Nahahum Canyon Rd, Cashmere, WA 98815 .... (509) 782-1499...........Nancy VonBergen ........ K-8

Omak Adventist Christian School .................. PO Box 3294, Omak, WA 98841 .................. (509) 826-5314...........Jennifer Hoffpaur ........ 1-8

Palouse Hills Adventist School .................... 3148 Toner Street, Moscow, ID 83843 .......... (208) 882-0350...........Daniel Yerian .......... 1-8

Peaceful Valley Christian School .................. 32094 D Hwy, 97, Tonasket, WA 98855 .......... (509) 486-4345...........June Graham .......... 1-8

Pend Oreille Valley Adventist Sch. ................ 33820 Highway 41, Oldtown, ID 83822 .......... (208) 437-2638...........Richard Wilson ........ K-8

Rogers Adventist Elementary School .............. 200 S.W. Academy Way, College Place, WA 99324 .... (509) 529-1850...........Jim Weller .......... K-8

Saint Maries Adventist School ...................... 216 N 9th St, Saint Maries, ID 89861 .......... (208) 245-2274...........Verna Sonnentag ........ 1-8

Sandpoint Junior Academy ........................... 2255 W. Pine Street, Sandpoint, ID 83864 ........ (208) 263-3584...........Charla Suppe .......... 1-8

**Spokane Junior Academy** ......................... 1505 W. Cleveland, Spokane, WA 99205 .......... (509) 325-1985...........Don Bryan .......... K-10

Spokane Valley Adventist Sch. .................... 1603 S. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley, WA 99037 ... (509) 926-0955...........Brian Hays .......... K-9

Tri-City Junior Academy ......................... 4115 W. Henry, Pasco, WA 99301 .................. (509) 547-8092...........Anthony Oucharek .... K-10

Upper Columbia Acad. Elem. Sch. .................. 3025 E. Spangle Waverly Rd., Spangle, WA 99031 ... (509) 245-3629...........Brad Slavens ........ 1-8

Valley Christian School ........................... 270 Mission Road, Thorp, WA 98946 ................. (509) 966-2112...........Jeff Wallen .......... 1-8

Yakima Adventist Christian School ............... 1200 City Reservoir Road, Yakima, WA 98908 .......... (509) 966-1933...........Patrick Frey .......... K-10

**Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**

3450 S 344th Way Suite 200 • Federal Way, WA 98010 • (253) 681-6000 • Superintendent – Lon Gruesbeck

**Auburn Adventist Academy** ...................... 5000 Auburn Way South, Auburn, WA 98002 .......... (253) 939-5000...........Keith Hallam .......... 9-12

**Orcas Christian School** ......................... PO Box 669, East Sound, WA 98245 .................. (360) 376-6683...........Dale Milam .......... 1-12

**Puget Sound Adventist Academy** .............. 5320 108th Ave., NE, Kirkland, WA 98033 ........ (425) 822-7554...........Doug White .......... 9-12

Baker View Christian School ....................... 5353 Washike Road, Bellingham, WA 98226 .......... (360) 384-8155...........Anthea Lindsey ........ K-8

Buena Vista SDA Elementary .......................... 3320 Academy Dr. S.E., Auburn, WA 98092 .......... (253) 833-0718...........Ron Trautwein .... K-8

Burien SDA School ................................ 14237 Des Moines Way S., Seattle, WA 98168 .......... (206) 246-8433...........Sue Keating .......... 1-8

Cedarbrook Adventist School ......................... PO Box 150, Port Hadlock, WA 98339 .......... (360) 385-4610...........Greg Reesek .......... K-8

Cedarhome Christian School ....................... 28505 68th Avenue N.W., Stanwood, WA 98292 .......... (360) 629-5340...........Jennifer Forslund .... K-8

Cypress Adventist School ......................... 21500 Cypress Way, Lynnwood, WA 98036 .......... (425) 775-3578...........Lowell Dunston .... K-8

Forest Park SDA Christian School ................. 4120 Federal Avenue, Everett, WA 98203 .......... (425) 258-6911...........Jim Beierle .......... K-9

Kirkland SDA School ................................ 5320 108th Avenue N.E., Kirkland, WA 98033 .... (425) 822-7554...........Doug White .......... K-8


Lewis County Adventist School ..................... 2104 S. Scheuber Rd., Chehalis, WA 98532 .......... (360) 748-3213...........Dan Baker .......... K-10

Mountain View Christian School .................. 255 Medsker Rd., Sequim, WA 98325 ................. (360) 629-5340...........Sherri Seibold .... 1-8

Nelson Crane Christian School ...................... 904 Shaw Road, Puyallup, WA 98372 .......... (253) 845-5722...........Marshall Merklin .... K-8

Olympia Christian School .......................... 1416 26th Ave N.E., Olympia, WA 98507 .......... (360) 352-1831...........Anita McKown .... K-10

Poulsbo Adventist School ......................... 1700 N.E. Lincoln Rd., Poulsbo, WA 98370 .......... (360) 779-6290...........Kerry Trethewey .......... 1-8

Shelton Valley Adventist School .................. W. 21st St Shelton Valley Rd., Shelton, WA 98584 ...... (360) 426-4198...........Judith McCain .......... 1-8

Skagit Adventist School .......................... 530 N. Section St., Burlington, WA 98233 .......... (360) 755-9261...........Ken Knudsen .......... K-11


Student Prayer Warriors

I've always known that our Lord loves to hear what our kids have to say. And He loves to watch as their faith grows from their conversations with Him! During recent years, it has been a huge blessing to watch my students at Juneau Adventist School as they’ve become prayer warriors, not just for the usual things, but for others who now call us for prayer.

In the Gleaner some time back, we reported on Jason, one of our students who had to go to Anchorage expecting open heart surgery on an elongated aorta. He came home and reported “because of your prayers, I don’t have to have surgery!” Jason recently came back from his annual checkup and told us that his surgery may not ever have to happen!

Our prayer experiences show up in the most unusual ways sometimes. One day, during worship, I answered the phone. It was a telemarketer from India. I quickly and quietly explained we were in the middle of worship. He said, “Worship?” I replied, “Yes, we’re at a Christian school. After a slight pause, in a strained and desperate voice, he asked if we would pray for him, that he had many financial problems, was in a failing relationship and that he didn’t want to live. The kids prayed for him. In an e-mail, he told us that after we prayed for him that morning, he felt a huge peace and comfort, and knew that God was there, and that he would be all right.

Another experience that shows how God works happened just this spring. We have a special group of elderly in our congregation who we pray for. One of them is Pablo Bartolomé, a dear, elderly Filipino gentleman with numerous ailments. “It is the prayers of the students that help me through these tough times,” he said.

But what has been so great is that it has now become a common thing for members of the congregation to call the kids at school to ask for prayer. Someone’s sick, they call the school. Someone’s having a rough time, just tell one of the students, and get them praying!

What a gift and privilege to see our Lord at work in the lives of our precious students!

Nickie Linder, Juneau Adventist School teacher

Auburn Academy’s Sylvan Chorale Tours Alaska

The 31 members of the Sylvan Chorale from Auburn Adventist Academy toured Alaska for a week in mid-April 2006, singing at churches and schools from the Matsu Valley to the Kenai. Led by director John Neumann, the group performed 11 sacred concerts, visited five schools and stopped to sing at the Pioneer Home in Palmer. During the course of the visit, the flu slowly worked its way through the ranks of singers. In spite of depleted numbers, the Sylvan Chorale inspired their audiences with their music, energy and spiritual focus.

Bobbie Grimstad, Palmer Church member
Idaho Youth
Fulfill a Miracle
Mission Trip to Lima, Peru

Each evening the small group of Adventist believers in the community of Nueva Esperanza in Lima, Peru, gathered to level the ground, by hand, for their very own church building—one they could not possibly afford to build. It would be named Eben-Ezer.

The little group of believers had prayed for a church and petitioned Maranatha for one. Maranatha leaders came to check their tiny piece of ground but said they did not qualify. At that point the little Adventist group in Nueva Esperanza formed a week-long prayer circle to ask God to help them acquire a church building. Members prayed continually around the clock for seven days. And God answered their prayers when Maranatha was able to help with the building after all.

Thirty-one people, including 19 high school and Gem State Adventist Academy students and 12 adults from Idaho, under the direction of John Bryson, Idaho Conference youth coordinator, traveled to Peru to help with this project during spring break.

The cement floor and girders were already in place when the workers arrived, and their task was to put up the walls. Maranatha would add the roof and stucco later. The walls were put up in just seven days, and the Eben-Ezer church was dedicated on the last Sabbath before the workers returned home.

Beyond the work, however, it is the friendships formed, and the memory of the people they loved and left behind, that will stay with them forever. •

Patricia Herbel, mother and grandmother of several trip participants

Caldwell Students
Take Classes Outside

Every year, the sixth-grade classes of the Idaho Conference ship off to Bend, Ore., to attend Cascade Science School (CSS), which is operated by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). At Outdoor School, they learn about the surrounding forest. They have the privilege of going to Smith Rock, Lava Lands, and a mile-long dark lava tube.

During the week, the staff teaches the students how to test the temperature, pH (how much acid and alkaline is in the water), and DO (dissolved oxygen) in the running and calm water of Tumalo Creek.

The students make new friends while experiencing exciting and adventurous events such as Town Hall Meeting, Campfire, Night Hike, Morning Hike and Lava Lands.

Lava Lands is a national park where a cinder cone erupted about 2,000 years ago. As the students walk along the instructor tells them about the different kinds of lava and talk about some interesting plants and animals. The journey through the lava tube is very dark so they have to use flashlights.

CSS is about more than environmental safety, forest ecology and stream ecology; it is another place for education that allows children’s minds to expand outside of the classroom and the world of electronics. •

Cheyanne Reinke and Sammy Schnell, Caldwell Adventist School sixth-graders

Benefit Pie Auction has Sweet Results

Auctioneer Dan Beckner and second-grader Sadie Washman along with other members of the La Grande Church gathered in their school’s fellowship hall for a fundraiser pie auction April 1. Guest “auctioneers” Dan Beckner and Buck Schaffer opened the event by selling the first pie for more than $60. The auction netted more than $1,200. Proceeds from the event were evenly divided between the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist School’s eighth-grade class and Home & School projects. •

Kathy Beckner, La Grande Adventist School Home & School leader
GSAA Wins National Business Competition  
Is Named First Runner-up

Starting an international company may seem like an impossible task, but not to a group of Gem State Adventist Academy business students who spent time this year in Cambodia doing just that.

“Launching our company, Khmer Krafts LLC, was a big task but very exciting,” said senior Cinthya Hererra. “It was amazing to interact in another culture and set up a business that will give jobs to poor village women.”

Khmer Krafts makes and sells exotic Cambodian products such as purses, pillow covers, Bible covers, pencil cases and clothing, both in Cambodia, the U.S. and around the world.

As a business club involved with SAGE (Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship), business students take on projects in the areas of entrepreneurship, community outreach, civic engagement, environmental responsibility, use of college mentors and use of a business advisory board.

In March, the team competed regionally and won the state. Then, in May, in Brooklyn, New York, they competed nationally with other high schools and won first runner-up (second) for the whole U.S.

“I’m very proud of our team,” said sponsor and founder Debra McCarver. “This is our first year, and for a small school from Idaho, this is a huge accomplishment.”

Products can be viewed on their Web site, www.khmerkrafts.com or call (208) 459-1627, ext 110. •

Debra McCarver, GSAA GLEANER correspondent
Handbells
The Tradition at GSAA Continues

For more than 25 years Gem State Adventist Academy has taught and played handbells. The program continues to expand under the direction of music director Ben Purvis. “We still teach handbells and perform,” says Purvis, “but we have also seen a need for events that teach youth bell-ringing basics and gets them excited about being involved in music.”

Purvis started to give kids this opportunity with an event called Cool Ringings, which invites kids in grades 5 through 8 to campus for a three-day intensive clinic the third weekend in January. More than 350 students from Utah, California, Oregon and Idaho have attended Cool Ringings.

After doing two years of Cool Ringings, Soundwave members began asking for an intensive workshop of their own. Thus was born Total Workout, a two-day handbell event. Total Workout is the only high-school-age workshop of its kind in the Pacific Northwest and has drawn groups from Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Total Workout with Kevin McChesney, world-renowned handbell composer and director, is planned for Oct. 6–7.

“When I’m teaching kids to play bells,” says Purvis, “they’re really learning skills like leadership, commitment and responsibility to take with them through the rest of their lives.”

Next year, the GSAA Soundwave handbell group will be going to Florida to play at Disney World as well as other venues.

For more information about Gem State Adventist Academy and their handbell program, call (208) 459-1627 or visit www.gemstate.org. •

Debra McCarver, GSAA GLEANER correspondent

A Higher Standard

God calls His children to a higher standard than what is promoted in our world today. We have adopted this “Higher Standard” of excellence as our school motto at Caldwell Adventist Elementary School (CAES). In faith, learning, citizenship and life our students learn skills that will allow them to reflect Jesus’ character.

Our school is a praying school. Before our school year began, the school board, members of our constituent churches, parents and teachers gathered to walk through the school praying for the families and the students that would be part of our school family. Prayer is a vital part of our school, and teachers and students pray with and for each other throughout the day.

We believe that students learn best by getting involved with the curriculum. This year our school has focused on the United States. The first- and second-graders studied Colonial Williamsburg. The third- and fourth-grade students focused on a region of the U.S. and shared information and products from that area. The students in grades five through eight studied specific states in-depth, writing reports, creating PowerPoint presentations and other visual creations to represent their state.

Our Christ-centered focus leads to action within our community. This year our students helped in a variety of ways, from raking leaves for people in the neighborhood around our school, to distributing brochures for an evangelistic crusade at our local church, to adopting grandparents at a care facility. By demonstrating compassion, generosity, and love to those around them, students develop valuable life skills that they will have for eternity.

Helping students be ready for this world and for eternity is our goal at CAES. •

Susan Winchester, CAES third- and fourth-grade teacher
He scales buildings with a harness and thin rope. He crops photos late into the night. He climbs trees in snowstorms to get the perfect shot. He sets up explosions for eager students and hunts birds with binoculars. Who is he? Super Stuart—a.k.a. James Stuart, Mt. Ellis Academy’s one-man science department, rock climber and photographer.

Like every teacher at a small Adventist boarding school, Stuart has learned to be a jack-of-all-trades, while making learning fun. “He’s hilarious,” said Charisa Ransom, MEA junior. “He can raise one eyebrow and make these great expressions.”

Mr. Stuart was a huge help with the yearbook this year. He put in incredible amounts of time and effort—we couldn’t have done it without him.”

He’ll do anything for a good shot—even climb a tree in a snowstorm to take a photo of the group who climbed Mt. Ellis to raise $10,000 to help the Hurricane Katrina victims.

And speaking of shots, Stuart coaches the MEA soccer team during the soccer season. “He’s a better soccer player than any of us on the team,” said Johnson Turner, MEA junior. “That means he really knows what he’s talking about, and it makes him a really great coach.”

Stuart isn’t the only Super Stuart. For the past two years, his wife, Ingrid, has coordinated community service projects for Mt. Ellis students with Eagle Mount—a local nonprofit group that works with special-needs children.

James Stuart teaches physical science, anatomy and physiology, physics, biology, advanced biology, chemistry and yearbook.

James Stuart is always willing to spend extra time teaching his students.
The wheels of the plane bumped along the airstrip, announcing our arrival to Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Our long journey had finally ended, but in a sense it was just beginning as we stepped into the humidity, anticipating the journey that God would lead us on during the next two weeks. Feelings of nervousness, exhaustion and excitement mingled in the air while we juggled our luggage through customs and were granted entrance into an unfamiliar land. But any uncertainty was cast aside as we walked through the airport doors and were greeted with a royal welcome. A band was heartily playing and people greeted us with hugs and small gifts. Pathfinder troops were quick to whisk away our luggage while rapidly firing questions at us in Spanish. It was overwhelming, yet humbling to realize how thrilled they were for us to be involved in their lives and ministry.

Receiving such a heartfelt welcome made the 24 hours of traveling worth it, and suddenly the feelings of grogginess and our achy backs didn’t seem to matter anymore. We knew that God was going to do something mighty, and He did, for the Bolivian people and for us individually.

Our group had 25 students and faculty from Mt. Ellis Academy and the Montana Conference. The purpose of this mission trip was twofold: to participate in building a church and to be involved with the widespread evangelism endeavor reaching throughout Bolivia and parts of South America.

Every night for two weeks there was an evangelistic meeting. It was during this first week that the students, along with some adults, had the opportunity to help with the evangelistic presentations. Some of the students team-preached while others participated in the children’s program, telling stories and teaching songs. The children couldn’t get enough of the action songs, and they loved to be as near to us as possible.

La Esperanza es Jesus
[The Hope is Jesus] in Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Miriam Davis, MEA senior, said, “The kids were so much fun.”

From our group there were eight speakers presenting at five sites, in addition to the sites led out by other mission groups or the local people. The sites were all different sizes and met in churches, tents, courtyards or the open air, spanning across the bustling city of 1.2 million people. It was very rewarding interacting with the local people, even if, at times, there were frustrations with a lack of translators, miscommunications, or rain that made it difficult to preach. Plus, there was always the harrowing drive to get from our hotel to the site (those oncoming headlights seemed to come awfully close to our taxi!) Through it all we learned flexibility and patience.

Kelly Ree, MEA junior, recounts a little of her experience on the first night at their evangelistic site. “We were a bit nervous when our ride pulled up, but we all piled in, hoping for the best. When we started down the street, I anxiously asked in my broken Spanish if we had a translator. Our driver turned around, smiled and said ‘you.’ Trying to remain calm, we looked at each other and said, ‘we need to pray,’ and so we did the whole way there. Five minutes before it was time to start, a fluent translator walked in the door in answer to our prayers. It was an amazing night, and everything worked out for the best.”

During the second week, our small sites joined up with the large evangelistic crusade led by Jere Patzer, North Pacific Union Conference president. It was encouraging to see the large auditorium fill up throughout the night and see hundreds of people making decisions to follow Christ. Including the satellite sites, more than 5,000 people were baptized by the end, and it was projected that another 5,000 people would later be baptized with the follow-up work!

The decisions made for Christ were memorable, but so was sitting in the newly constructed church that we had seen go from just a skeleton to a functional house of God. At the building site, we were kept busy doing various tasks from laying brick, mixing concrete, to painting the walls with funny brushes that looked like brooms. Working all day at the church, then hurrying back to the hotel to get cleaned up before heading for the evangelistic meetings made it a long day, but every achy muscle was worth it.

As always, a mission trip has to come to an end. There were many tearful goodbyes and hugs, but even though we had to leave Bolivia, the experiences we gained will never really leave our lives. The knowledge we acquired will help shape our future and will hopefully touch people that we come into contact with throughout life’s journey.

EDITOR’S NOTE:
According to Dan Serns, NPUC Global Mission director, during the first harvest cycle of 2006, the Bolivian Union surpassed its goal of 10,000 newly baptized members by April 30!

Amy Russell, MEA assistant dean of girls

Women’s Retreat
October 13-15, 2006
Helena Red Lion Colonial Inn

featured speaker: Ginny Allen
theme: Catch the Wind

Ginny is the founder of “Joy! Ministries,” a lay ministry committed to bringing joy to the heart of God as we seek to know His heart and be His hands.

Workshop speakers:
Jolynn Gugliotto Bible Study Skills for Busy Women
Cheryl Woolsey Even God Doesn’t Have Perfect Children—What He Does About It
Jeane Allison RN CCCN Fearfully and Wonderfully Made—The Wonders of the Female

For more information, contact Shelli Spannring
(406) 585-0257 • shelli@spannring.org

Olivia Courser, Amy Russell and Liz Spearson use steady hands to paint the green border along the inside walls.

Paul Curtis works hard to patch up the spaces between the bricks and the roof.

Gleaner • July 2006
A Place To Grow
Milo Graduates Accomplish the Mission

A
cademic excellence. Christlike character. A safe, nurturing environment. These
are the things that the 2006 graduates of Milo Adventist Academy have found here.

Forty-six students received diplomas May 27; 78 percent of the class graduated with
honors. Twelve earned enriched diplomas, which means taking extra courses in the area of enrichment while
maintaining a GPA of 3.5+ in those subjects. Three of these, Katie Currier, Neil Patel, and
Justin Woods, earned GPAs of over 4.0 while earning enriched diplomas in three areas.

In addition to academic excellence, Milo is known for its family atmosphere. Eleven of the original 17
freshmen in the class of 2006 graduated this year. Students attribute this staying power to the safe, nurturing climate. Colin Gladden says, “Milo’s best thing is its overall

Senior Casey Lawson chose to be baptized on graduation weekend, a fitting tribute to the most important aspect of Christian education.

show my faith in God and be supported.”

That spiritual atmosphere is one of the most common reasons why students choose to attend Milo. Alyssa Jameson describes it this way: “I want a life that is focused on God, and Milo provides that throughout every aspect of my life, whether it be friends, sports, academics, or otherwise.”

Another student, Lacey Leidig, gives this summary: “Milo has the perfect balance of guidance and freedom needed to develop the kind of person who will succeed in a career, home life, and a walk with God.”

Carol Sumerlin, retired Milo teacher
It is not every day that a school assignment can ignite a lifelong passion. While working on her senior project, Jesica Hernandez of Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) was touched by her teacher’s stories and photos of orphans in Ethiopia. She decided to go above and beyond her original project requirements. In addition to her original presentation on various photographic styles, she created an ongoing outreach to raise money so these children could receive basic health care, shelter and educational opportunities.

Inspired by her teacher, Joan Oksenholt, Hernandez decided to make a multimedia presentation about the children. Using Oksenholt’s photographs, she created a video to share with churches and schools to help raise money for the orphans. “We can help them,” says Hernandez. “They need us and we all can do something.”

In their junior year, PAA students present a proposal to a faculty committee for a senior project. The students prepare their projects and defend them using various types of media. A reflection of the student’s high school experience, the project not only gives the student the awareness of the importance of their education but also prepares them for life. “It gives them real-world relevance, a connection that they need for the future,” says Oksenholt.

Real-world relevance is not the only lesson Hernandez learned from her project. Hernandez would like to keep serving others, possibly as a missionary. “I want to be a radiologist. Working in the medical field would enable me to help others all over the world,” she says.

Heather Fowler, PAA GLEANER correspondent

Going beyond what was required for her senior project, Jesica Hernandez also raised money to help support orphans in Ethiopia.
Blessings and Miracles
Experienced In Cancun

The Livingstone Adventist Academy (LAA) senior class landed in Cancun, Mexico, on April 25 for their senior class trip. This was not the sort of senior trip that you might expect. Most tourists only see the developed hotel zone with all the glitz and commercialism. The real Cancun, where the local populace lives, is primitive and in great need.

We had the opportunity to spend one week helping rebuild an Adventist church devastated by Hurricane Wilma. Our students worked hard, mixing concrete, hauling buckets up ladders and pouring beams for the roof.

The trip proved to be a greater blessing for us than we ever anticipated. We discovered that building a church involves building relationships as much as a structure. Senior Dana Koger said, “For me, this was by far the most meaningful class trip we have ever been on. We fell in love with the people and they with us. Even though we got to visit and see lots of incredible places, it was the people who truly brought our class together.”

This is why LAA always incorporates mission service in every senior class trip.

Another senior, Kayla Quinn, shared this: “Blessings and miracles rained down like the gravel and sand that poured from our buckets. Mixing and hauling concrete became habit, and the people there became family. We were welcomed with love and graciousness; we received more than we could have ever given. The greatness shown was unbelievable and the anticipation for heaven is magnified because I know I’ll get to see my Mexican family once more.”

Jon Dickerson, LAA vice principal

World Awareness
at CVCS

This year Central Valley Christian School (CVCS) put an emphasis on world awareness. Every week, students were given clues about a different country. The first to guess the correct location received a small prize. The Fall Festival was replaced with a World Faire that embraced many cultures and cuisines. Students had passports so they could have them stamped as they traveled “around the world.” Some of the activities included “Sumo” wrestling (which included large balloons stuffed in large sweats), a treasure chest filled with sand for the Middle East, archery for England, knight’s jousting and a root beer garden for Germany. Students shared with visitors information they had learned about each country.

The fifth and sixth grades studied the ancient history of numerous countries around the world. Students were very excited when the local newspaper showed up to cover their Middle East Living Museum. The parents of Amy Carter, wife of CVCS seventh- and eighth-grade teacher Douglas Carter, were missionaries in Pakistan in the 1970s, and provided students with some dress-up material. “I feel strongly that the more we understand, the less we fear, and the less we fear, the less violence we have,” shared Lisa Sheldrake, the fifth- and sixth-grade teacher. Each child was assigned a different Middle Eastern country and shared an export from that country that visitors could touch or eat. Students left the museum with a new understanding: The Middle East, along with many other countries in the world, has beautiful customs and cuisine—not just war.

Lisa Sheldrake, CVCS fifth- and sixth-grade teacher
all are precious in His sight
Being an Adventist means belonging to a family. When one family member is happy, the rest are rejoicing. When one family member suffers, the rest do their best to comfort. At least that’s what happened when Mark and Vivian Kirk were in a car accident on Dec. 12, 2005—only a dozen days before Christmas.

The McMinnville Adventist Christian School (MACS) made sure the Kirk family had comforting arms around them during their time of trouble. The couple were driving home to their five children when their Chevy Astrovan hit an icy patch and caused them to collide with another vehicle. Vivian had some minor injuries, but Mark was taken by Life Flight helicopter to Portland’s Legacy Emanuel Hospital, where he would be hospitalized for the next 36 days.

But even though things looked bad, his wife Vivian quickly called their local church and school to ask them to pray. The church and school did more than pray though. Church members helped take care of the family, and the school had a fundraiser to help with finances.

Over the next few weeks, the tight-knit family of Adventists did everything possible to make life easier for Vivian, Mark and their children. Friends drove Vivian into Portland each day so she could spend time with Mark, and then home again so she could spend time with the kids. The children had rides to school, and after-school care from local neighbors. Women from the church provided meals. Some bought groceries for the Kirk family, and one understanding parent helped Alisha pick out a gift for the Christmas exchange they were doing in class before the holidays.

But the support did not stop when Mark was released from the hospital on Jan. 17. MACS decided to help the Kirk family with some of the financial needs the family was now facing. It seemed appropriate to chip in—after all, four of the five children were currently enrolled at the school. Since vegeburgers were such a hit on the hot-lunch menu, the school decided to host a vegeburger feed fundraiser.

Little did they know what a success their event would be! So many donors arrived that the school actually ran out of supplies and some of the hosts had to run to the store to pick up more food items. Altogether, the school raised $1,200 for the Kirk family. The money helped with medical bills, transportation and other expenses. When Principal Shawn Pfafker presented Mark Kirk with the large check from the fundraiser, she exclaimed to her students, “We’re so excited Mark is here. He’s a walking miracle!”

All in all, there is something to be said about us Adventists. We stick together through thick and thin, especially the members of the McMinnville Adventist Christian School. •

Kristine Gabrys, MACS School secretary’s daughter

The McMinnville church members and school families came together to assist Mark and Vivian Kirk and their children, Alisha, Caleb, Sierra, Kendra and Denver. Kendra and Denver are not pictured.
Here are just a few of the reasons WE love the Rogue Valley...

- The Sunshine! We get lots of sunny weather & 1/3rd the rainfall of Central & Northern Oregon!
- The Beautiful Scenery! We’ve got orchards, vineyards, rivers, lakes, & parks, just to name a few!
- The Great Outdoors! We love to go camping, hiking, fishing, snowmobiling, rafting, boating, & snow skiing!
- The Churches! We have 5 constituent churches: Ashland, Maranatha Spanish, Medford, Sunrise, & Valley View!
- Our School! New SENIOR ACADEMY providing quality education for Kindergarten thru 12th Grade!

Rogue Valley Adventist School
Providing Quality Academics in a Safe Environment

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Youth Education Scholarships (YES!) make it possible for students with financial needs to attend one of the four Oregon Conference senior academies: Columbia, Livingstone, Milo and Portland.

Since 1973, YES! has granted more than 4,000 scholarships totaling over $4 million. In addition to realizing their dreams to attend academy, these 4,000 students have received a solid Adventist education preparing them for lives of service.

Unfortunately, student aid funding is not keeping pace with the inflationary increases in the cost of Christian education. For YES! to continue to meet the financial needs of parents and students, we need additional funds. Will you be part of the solution?

Just for a moment, consider how blessed we are and how we can become partners with our Lord in returning to Him money for the education of young people. Seventh-day Adventist Christian education is not a “luxury,” but a necessity. What has God enabled you to do?

YES! is making a difference in the lives of students now and for eternity! (Please see the letter on the right.) Can there be a more fruitful mission field? Only eternity will tell us the entire story of how YES! has made a difference in the lives of our youth.

For more information about contributing to or applying for YES! funds, please contact the education department at (503) 652-2225 or info@oc.npuc.org.

—A Grateful Mother

A special offering designated for YES! will be collected during the Thursday evening meeting, July 20, at Gladstone Camp Meeting. Please consider a generous gift to help provide Adventist Christian education for our academy students.

Strengthening our Schools

Several Adventist Christian schools in the greater Portland/Vancouver area have caught the vision of working together in order to strengthen their educational programs. These schools are part of a marketing group called RockSolid Schools: Columbia Adventist Academy, Hood View Junior Academy, Meadow Glade Elementary School, Tualatin Valley Junior Academy, Portland Adventist Academy, Portland Adventist Elementary School and Rivergate Adventist Elementary School.

RockSolid Schools was born from the concept of “branding” local Adventist education in such a way that name recognition will transfer from one entity to another. In addition, there is the understanding that there are increased marketing and economic advantages when schools work together. Its mission is to spread the word to both the Adventist and general public about the quality and cutting-edge approach to Christian education at RockSolid Schools.

Equally funded by each school, RockSolid Schools goes beyond joint marketing efforts. Goals include the development of positive pastor/school relationships, addressing common scholarship needs, joint purchasing and resource sharing, and trust services/estate planning. Brainstorming sessions during regularly scheduled administrative meetings are also proving productive.

Whether it is sharing the success of a newly started Alternative Learning Center, reaching out to immigrants, or working with a local Chamber of Commerce, RockSolid Schools is leading the way in showing that cooperative efforts succeed.

—Gary Brown, CAA principal

Dear Mr. Davis,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We just received word that our daughter will receive assistance toward her school bill. You don’t know how well timed that good news was!!

My husband was out of work for the first part of the month and I just came home after emergency surgery. This letter was like a ray of sunshine after many days of dark clouds.

Again, thank you for following this through and for being in a position where you can help parents and children finance Christian education.

God bless you!!

Glen Davis, Oregon Conference YES! Coordinator
Seventh-day Adventist Christian Education at its Best
If you haven’t joined us, come and see what you are missing!

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360.687.5121  www.mges.com

Rivergate Adventist Elementary School
1505 Ohlson Road
Gladstone OR 97027
503.656.0544  www.rgsda.org

Tualatin Valley Junior Academy
21975 SW Baseline Road
Hillsboro OR 97123
503.649.5528  www.tvja.org

Portland Adventist Academy
1500 SE 96th Avenue
Portland OR 97216

Portland Adventist Elementary School
3990 NW 1st Street
Gresham OR 97146
503.665.4102  www.paes.com

Hood View Junior Academy
26505 SE Kelso Road
Boring OR 97009
503.663.4568  www.hvja.org

Columbia Adventist Academy
11100 NE 189th Street
Battle Ground WA 98604
360.687.3161  www.caasda.org
CCA Mission Trip to Fiji

The Cascade Christian Academy (CCA) bus pulled out of the church parking lot in Wenatchee, Wash., on Tuesday morning, March 28, loaded with clothes, gear, tools and 22 people headed to Fiji to build a church. Six more people joined us along the way, making the total 28. The trip was organized by Ernie Reynolds, CCA’s chaplain, and included CCA’s senior class, who made this mission trip their senior trip.

The goal of the trip was to help build the new Sigatoka Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. Not only did each member of the group raise money for our own portion of the expenses, we also raised approximately $34,000 to cover the cost of the building.

After a 26-hour trip and after settling into our quarters, a stream of Fiji natives came carrying food and shouting “Bula Bula” (a Fiji greeting). They gave us each a leaf, a flower lei, a hug and a personal “Bula.” After a prayer of thanksgiving for our safe arrival, we ate a meal of rice, bananas, papayas, and other fruits and vegetables.

The weather was hot and humid and sunscreen, drinking water and shade were life-sustaining commodities. We had to start work earlier to take advantage of the cooler morning temperatures.

During the next six working days, we learned many new construction skills and that when you are working for God the devil tries extra hard to discourage or stop you. But each night at worship “Tellatella” (the locals’ name for Pastor Ernie) kept reminding us that we were doing God’s work and He would see us through.

I also learned that the Fiji people are some of the friendliest people I have ever met and I learned to depend more completely on God.

I asked Simi, a 26-year-old local church member who was helping build the church, what he did for a living. He said he had quit his job to build the church. When I asked him what he would do when the church was finished he just said: “God knows.” The more I’ve thought about it, the more I’ve decided that this is the best answer to a lot of life’s questions: “God knows.”

Monte Saxby, CCA teacher

God’s Call
A Perspective

I had mixed feelings about going on a mission trip to Fiji. I had to get numerous shots, and it was beyond my imagination that we were going that far. I was scared.

Fiji is a place of love and happiness and the people always had a smile. The more people I met the more I fell in love with my surroundings.

As I moved bricks, dug holes, painted window frames, and hammered trusses, I found out that I was not only getting in better shape but I was bonding with my Lord.

As we were leaving, I sat on the bus looking out at the people waving at us, and I realized that God put me in Fiji for a reason. I felt him working in me, and I loved it! The people I met are what made going worth everything.

Samantha Wood, CCA senior

Samantha Wood and Heidi Schnibbe, CCA seniors, quickly learned to deal with Fiji’s high temperatures and humidity—quite a contrast to the Northwest’s mild climate.
Harris Junior Academy Volunteers

A Vital Part of our Program

The cooperation and hard work of volunteers at Harris Junior Academy in Pendleton, Ore., is what makes our high-quality educational program possible each year. Built in the 1970s, the school serves kindergarten through 10th grade. Financial challenges each year mean we have needed to be creative to make ends meet. We are selling a few unused lots from the school property. We are renting extra classrooms to a preschool and daycare and renting the gym to a local orchestra and chorale for weekly rehearsals.

But one key way that we save money is by relying on the many volunteers who help at the school. Church members have painted the interior and exterior of the building, worked on the plumbing, installed a new sign by the school entrance and put up a play structure for the younger students. The part-time janitor, while paid a small amount, often contributes extra hours. A volunteer maintains the computer lab and the school’s computers. Several cooks volunteer, preparing daily hot lunches. Other willing workers keep up the school landscaping, perform office tasks, listen to children read, raise funds for classroom materials, and assist in the upper grade P.E. program.

A special volunteer

Retiree Audrey Zummach has become our volunteer librarian, spending several afternoons a week at the school, cataloging books and other media, and conducting weekly classes for the students. A natural teacher, Zummach makes a special effort to ensure that learning is fun for the students. For a number of weeks she hid a teddy bear called the Book Bear, which held a storybook in a pocket on its back. At her signal the children searched until one of them found the Book Bear. Then they would listen as she read them the story.

Recently, she taught grades one through four how to find books using the Dewey Decimal System. The children find the book, then she talks to them about their book, using a toy parrot that records and plays back their answers, much to the delight of the students.

Along with many others, Zummach contributes her time and life experience to benefit the students of the school and to enable Harris Junior Academy to carry on a program of excellence.

Audrey Zummach makes learning how to use the library a fun activity for grades one through four at Harris Junior Academy.
St. Maries Christian School
In its Second Year

St. Maries Christian School has completed its second year of operation. It has been another year of fun activities and financial challenges.

The kids enjoyed Jana Gardner and her teddy bear CPR class. They also enjoyed swimming once a month at the Wellness Center in Plummer. Our highway cleanup project was tiring but rewarding and outdoor school was a highlight for the upper grades. The year ended with a trip to Cat Tales, located between Spokane and Newport.

We have some financial challenges, but we have blessed and amazed at how God provides. Many months the treasurer, Gail Resser, looked at the bills and wondered, “How will God pay the bills this month?” Through the blessing of several donations totaling over $12,000 in November, some of the stress was reduced. She was able to know that the money was there and was able to pay the bills when they arrived.

Also helping with our finances is a grant that we have received again this year. This grant of $4,000 from the J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation Education Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation will be used for playground equipment, library books and educational computer programs. We are the only Christian school that has been accepted for these funds in northern Idaho.

For more pictures and information about our school, please visit our Web site at www.stmariesidahochristianschool.com.

Martha George, St. Maries Christian School board chair

Hermiston Junior Academy Mission Trip
Eighth-grade Class Serves Others in Ensenada, Mexico

Hermiston Junior Academy’s eighth-grade students spent an awesome week down in Ensenada, Mexico, March 13–19. They were working with Y.U.G.O. (Youth Unlimited Gospel Outreach) Ministries in an effort to provide better living conditions for poverty-stricken families.

They worked hard as they dug, leveled (without a level), mixed, poured and smoothed a 16- by 20-foot concrete floor for a new house. However, the reward was great! To see the smile through the tears of a woman with five children who had lived in a house with a dirt floor, no running water, one bed, and little to eat, they knew they had made a difference.

They also built a 16- by 32-foot two-room building out of scrap lumber materials for a local pastor.

These students came back with a different perspective on life and what’s really important.

Randy Foss, Hermiston Junior Academy principal

For more pictures and information about our school, please visit our Web site at www.stmariesidahochristianschool.com.

Martha George, St. Maries Christian School board chair
Mission 101
The Basics of Ministry

The gospel commission is a call to ministry and is the reason Walla Walla Valley Academy (WWVA) started its Mission 101 class, taught by Gayle Norton. The purpose of the class is to cover the basics of mission work.

Students must obtain recommendations and apply to join the class. The class includes a weekend trip to WWVA lodge and a mission trip to the All Nations Center in Wapato, Wash.

The trip to WWVA lodge at the start of the semester is a time for the group to bond, to set goals and to have personal devotional times for rebirth and renewal. During the weekend, the students discuss the class goals, like the upcoming trip to Wapato, the weeks of prayer for the Rogers Adventist School and the Milton-Stateline school, and the community services projects at SonBridge.

Then the class begins planning the weeks of prayer, working on the content, music, settings and public relations for the students at the Rogers and Stateline schools.

In the middle of the semester, the entire class goes on a four- to five-day trip to the Indian Reservation at Wapato where the students work diligently on various service activities in the area. Every day the class meets with children in the community to play in the park, sing songs, and tell Bible stories.

During the second half of the semester, the class goes out twice a week for community service. This year they worked at the SonBridge Community Center.

The Mission 101 class shapes students into the kind of people who truly know how to live for Christ, fulfilling the gospel commission to take action.

Lindsay Meharry and Lydia Green, WWVA seniors and members of the Mission 101 class.
Annual Marine Biology Trip
Shows Students More of God

This spring, students from Upper Columbia Academy’s (UCA) marine biology class headed out on a four-day field trip in Western Washington.

Making their headquarters at Rosario (the Walla Walla College Biological Field Station near Anacortes, Wash.), they were able to explore several other fascinating places as well. Their activities included beach transects in Deception Pass State Park and studies at the Padilla Bay Research Center. By taking a ferry to Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, they were able to go tidepooling at Eagle Cove and visit the Lime Kiln Lighthouse to observe orca vocalization studies. In Friday Harbor, they attended a class at the Whale Museum and enjoyed a special picnic at a park near the marina. On the final day, they visited the Seattle Aquarium.

A special part of the trip was spending evenings around the campfire on the beach. The last night, especially, was a time for worship and reflection, including the opportunity to write a prayer to God in their journals. “It was very gratifying to watch the students’ reaction to things,” says Gayle Haeger, UCA biology teacher and organizer of this annual trip. “They heard the whales communicating and learned that each pod actually has its own language. Some of them saw sea otters at play. They were fascinated by how the little fish were camouflaged, and they were inspired by some of the most gorgeous sunsets. Many of them expressed awe over seeing the variety God had created and realizing He had done it for them.”

Cheri Corder, UCA GLEANER correspondent

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher appreciation at Cascade Christian Academy (CCA) was the week of May 7–13. The CCA Home & School Association along with the Wenatchee Church were busy recognizing the fact that all our teachers are appreciated.

The pastoral staff gave each teacher cinnamon rolls and a card of appreciation. The Home & School Association headed by Jackie Stonas made each day special for the teachers:

- Monday, the teachers were treated to a continental breakfast and a half-hour back massage.
- Tuesday, the teachers received a hearty loaf of bread with a jar of jam.
- Wednesday, the school board gave each teacher a potted flower arrangement.
- Thursday, each elementary classroom had a parent in charge to organize something for that teacher. For example, a kindergarten parent asked everyone to bring a handful of flowers or greenery from their yards at home so teacher Wendy Witas would receive a huge bouquet of flowers. A first-grade parent asked each child to bring an item for a bath and beauty basket for their teacher Susan Whitely.

Friday, each teacher was sent home with a full meal for Sabbath—a homemade lasagna ready to slip in the oven, salad with all the toppings, garlic bread and a pan of brownies.

Also, all week there was a card-making center set up in the library where students could make thank-you cards for their teachers.

Kim Eastman, Wenatchee Church communication leader
Yes!...

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to a life of SERVICE

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UCA offers an emphasis on academics, involvement in music and art, technology and physical fitness, missions and community service, integrity and truth, revolving around God’s Word.

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Community Members
Add to the Rich Fabric of Academic Life

Ken Atkins, master carpenter and former apprentice with the National Historical Preservation Trust, wasn’t in his typical surroundings. Instead of being at his shop, he was in the classroom, explaining a variety of geometric principles to students at Orcas Christian School (OCS).

“Mr. Atkins didn’t think he would need math once he finished high school,” says tenth-grader Colton Guilford. “He didn’t even like it.” It wasn’t until years later when his son went through geometry that Atkins realized just how much high school geometry he did every day.

Throughout the school year, OCS has enjoyed a vibrant group of real-life educators: a massage therapist, spinner, physicist, chiropractor, businessman, an activist for humanity, and an innkeeper, to name a few. The innkeeper, Karen Elizabeth Rennie, has a masters in divinity and taught a class on Jewish culture while the literature class was reading Elie Wiesel’s book *Night*.

When the literature class finished *Night*, Lindsey Smith, a counselor and humanitarian activist, presented a two-day class on writing for change. “We have a responsibility to use our voice to help bring relief to those who suffer,” she shared with students. After educating them on the genocide occurring in Darfur, Sudan, Smith taught students how to write letters to local representatives and the president. Several students received replies.

Rebecca Ortman, a local chiropractor, joined the anatomy and physiology class to speak on back pain and nerve function and transmission. Later in the year, massage therapist Debbie Shaw helped students identify muscles through facial massages and jaw movement.

Drew Vandenberg, OCS business manager who donates much of his time to the school, taught an elective class called Fun with Money. A two-day field trip included a tour of the Mariners, Microsoft, Costco headquarters, a law firm and Todd Shipyard.

OCS views the joining of traditional classroom instruction with community real-life experts as an integral part of 21st-century educational experience. “There’s nothing like life experience to bring learning full circle. Community members teach life experience and time-tested skills in a memorable way,” says Roger Worley, OCS team leader. “They provide variety and perspective for the students and make them aware of the possibilities for applying their knowledge.”

Celina Worley, OCS teacher

Blueprints and Boats
Students Design Boats for Science Project

The crowd goes wild with excitement as the boats speed through the water until the paddle control unwinds.

Seventh- and eighth-graders at Buena Vista Adventist School spent many hours with teacher Scott Spies carefully crafting wind-up boats for a science project.

With this creative science project, students first created blueprints and learned science concepts such as drag, displacement, and friction along with learning the parts of the boat such as the keel, rudder, hull, bow and stern.

The boat race finale in a 6-foot pool made this a memorable science project.

Sherri Codd, BVAS staff member
Serving families with students Grades 1 through 12 who desire a Christian education based on the belief that each student is unique and of infinite worth.

“God, family and a future. Christian education will last an eternity!”

“I never liked school until I came to OCS. I like the small class sizes.”

Brittany W.

“The technology we have access to in each classroom is the best!”

Cetacea S.

“It’s cool how the high school students pay attention to us in Junior High. It makes you feel good!”

Dylan M.

“The schoolwork is hard but with our small class size it’s easier to work one on one with my teachers.”

Thane

“I like the sports the best and all the off island field trips that tie into our studies”

Maddy S.

“I OCS really prepared me for the future.”

“I love my school, you are safe here.”

Anika T.

“I’m finally getting Math! It’s not as much fun as our snowboard trips but I like it now.”

Graye P.

107 Enchanted Forest Road
Eastsound, Orcas Island

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Research Physics Field Trip
AAA Students Get Hands-on Look at Medicine

Twelve students from Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) recently got a firsthand look at modern medicine and its connections to physics. As part of the school’s Research Physics class, a five-day field trip to Loma Linda University (LLU) offered students exposure to possible medical careers.

Clad in professional attire, including white coats, the high school students observed surgeries, talked with medical specialists and spent late nights in the Emergency Room. The visit included stops at LLU’s Medical Simulation Center, School of Dentistry, Emergency Department, surgery wards, cadaver lab, proton accelerator, and Behavioral Medical Center.

The whirlwind trip of intense on-site education allowed students to learn a month’s worth of information in just a few days.

“It is really cool how much a trip like this can make an impact on a person’s life,” said Sam Steele, of Spanaway, Wash.

Research Physics is also making a difference in shaping students’ plans for the future. Ryan Gratias, of Auburn, Wash., observed an open-heart surgery. He said it was one of the most exciting moments of his life, inspiring him to seriously consider a medical career.

“I’ve always been interested in building and fixing stuff,” he said. “I think it would be the most amazing and rewarding experience to work on the only thing in this world God molded with His hands.”

Christina Poh, an international student from Thailand, decided to become a doctor after her father was killed in a car accident. She wants to give others a second chance at life as a tribute to her father.

“As my father always told me, ‘It is not just about life, it is about making a difference in someone’s life.’ I aspire to become a person that could change someone’s life for the better.”

Jondelle McGhee, AAA GLEANER correspondent

Small Enough for Big Activities
Extracurricular Programs Enhance Academics at PSAA

With just under 100 students at Puget Sound Adventist Academy (PSAA), there are a lot of big opportunities for this growing campus. The school’s small classroom size enables teachers to give personalized attention, and to offer trips and extracurricular activities that larger schools cannot match because of logistical difficulties.

“We have a great family atmosphere,” says Doug White, principal. “We get to know our students on a personal level, offering accountability, friendship and spiritual guidance.”

Each quarter, teachers are assigned students who are struggling with their grades. Students regularly report progress to their teachers and discuss learning and time management methods.

Beyond academics, PSAA students participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities, from yearly band and choir tours, to mission trips and history tours abroad, to sports events. These tours allow students to share their talents and experience while gaining a larger worldview.

This year’s music tour took 73 students down to Napa Valley, San Francisco and Santa Cruz. Students performed at Pacific Union College, local churches and nursing homes, and also took part in a regional music competition with other high schools. The competition rated the band as “excellent,” and the choir received a top score of “superior.”

The extracurricular activities enhance the academics to give students life skills, confidence and a spiritual foundation to succeed in college and life.

Brian Burton, PSAA GLEANER correspondent
For 10 years, the Cypress School has presented Sabbath services for our constituent churches. Today we were at the Edmonds (Wash.) Church.

The K-2 choir sang, the bell choir followed with two pieces, and the ten upper-graders performed a Scripture drama. During the sermon, I shared a few ValueGenesis statistics. I was proud of our Cypress School kids. They did a super job. I was not prepared, though, for three dramatic responses.

A teacher in the audience approached me. “I walked in today at an all-time low,” the teacher began. “I was discouraged with my job. In this last hour, I’ve recaptured my sense of mission and my desire to teach.”

Then a man told me about his bout with cancer. Dissatisfied with his treatment at a local hospital, he obtained care at Loma Linda University Medical Center. “This morning I decided to visit an Adventist church,” he said. “I knew you Adventists had great hospitals. I had no idea you had schools. Your students were wonderful. I’m coming back here next Sabbath.”

Another individual shared these words. “I went to academy in the legalistic age, it was just rules, rules, rules. My buddies and I vowed to never darken a church door again once we got our diplomas. I’m the first to venture back. Where can I get more information about ValueGenesis? I want to know how things have changed.”

These encounters reminded me why the mission of Adventist Christian education claims my life. There is something far more powerful and wonderful than our feeble human efforts that drive it. God is very present in it.

Lowell Dunston, Cypress Adventist School principal
WASHINGTON

Did You Know?

Washington Conference students participated in an Art, Prose and Poetry contest this spring. Their creative work reflected the theme “Blessings” in artwork and “To give is better than to receive” in prose and poetry. Winning entries were displayed during camp meeting.

Baker View students honored their mothers with a special Mother’s Day Tea. Students presented handmade gifts, prepared and served food platters, performed songs and recited poems.

After Hurricane Katrina last fall, Nelson Crane Christian School students held a Penny Drive where they collected coins for hurricane relief.

Washington Conference students expressed a lot of creativity with the “Blessings” art theme. This vase of flowers by Cypress School third-grader Jazmin Murphy is just one of many art pieces submitted by students for the Art, Prose and Poetry contest. It won first place in its category.

When Skagit Adventist School eighth-grader Amanda Billick thought of “Blessings,” she thought of a dove. This art piece is one of many submitted to the Washington Conference Art, Prose and Poetry contest. It won honorable mention in its category.

Washington Conference is saying “happy retirement” to two teachers this year. Jerry Sage, principal/teacher at Poulsbo for eight years, will retire and turn over the keys to a brand-new school that he hasn’t had a chance to teach in yet. Ciri Achord, third- and fourth-grade teacher at Olympia Christian School, is also retiring this year after 17 years at Olympia. Burien K-2 students recently got a landscaping lesson. These students helped to beautify the school grounds as part of a gardening unit. Students planted flowers, moved bark, and placed hanging flower baskets.

Lewis County Adventist School fifth- and sixth-graders presented the entire church service at Chehalis Spanish Church last spring. The church service allowed students to get a taste of practical, cross-cultural ministry.

Almost 20 Shelton students are swinging along with new playground equipment. Not too long ago, only four students were enrolled at Shelton Valley Christian School. In the fall, the school will start a kindergarten program. Shelton Valley is excited to see how God is working in their school, with their new teachers and in the community.

More than 110 students graduated from Washington Conference schools for the 2005-2006 school year.

Bailey Gillespie presented ValueGenesis2 results for Washington Conference to pastors and teachers this spring. The survey results give guidance to leaders as they teach and mentor our young people.

Ciri Achord, Olympia Christian School third- and fourth-grade teacher, is retiring after 17 years of teaching in Olympia.

Jerry Sage, Poulsbo School principal and teacher, is retiring this year.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication intern, with the Office of Education

Shelton Valley students try out their new playground, a gift from an alumnus and the Home & School Association.
A Hand of God
The Wilma Hepker School of Social Work and Sociology

It’s been a long, sometimes bumpy, road for the social work program at Walla Walla College (WWC), but God’s hand has been firmly steering it along the way. Just ask Wilma Hepker, School of Social Work and Sociology dean.

“I had to do a lot of standing on my head to get things done,” Hepker says. “But I know it has always been God’s will. Otherwise, we would never have overcome all the obstacles that we faced.”

Along with God’s blessing, it was Hepker’s impetus more than 30 years ago that led WWC to offer social work classes. Those classes have morphed into a fully accredited school, offering both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree. There are 23 faculty members and approximately 300 students on three campuses in two states.

More students graduate from the School of Social Work each year than from any other program at WWC. In fact, nearly one-third of all WWC graduates receive a Masters in Social Work.

Hepker can recite one miraculous story after another, detailing challenges the fledgling department faced as it struggled to get off the ground.

Now the program will have to continue without the leadership of its founder and driving force. Hepker plans to retire in September, after 33 years at WWC. Pamela Cress, associate professor of social work, will take over the reins as dean of the School of Social Work and Sociology at that time.

Recently, Hepker was honored by the renaming of the school to the Wilma Hepker School of Social Work and Sociology. “It’s all ‘much ado about nothing’,” Hepker laughs. “But this is certainly a great honor and I do appreciate it.”

The ‘nothing’ she refers to could fill several lifetimes. Hepker has made many valuable contributions to WWC, the Adventist church, the community, and the social work field. From time spent in Beirut, Lebanon, to classrooms in Little Rock, Ark., or the kitchens of Helpline, a Walla Walla County emergency social services organization she helped create, Hepker’s tireless energy for helping others serves as a living example of service.

Although she will be leaving the program to spend time with her eight grandchildren, write the School of Social Work’s history, and clean out the stacks that have accumulated in her house throughout the busy years, Hepker knows God holds the School of Social Work and Sociology close to His heart.

“Christ was the greatest social worker,” says Hepker.

“Christ was the greatest social worker,” says Hepker. “He met people’s needs. He loved them, cared for them, fed them, clothed them. Social work’s belief in the value and worth of each human being comes from Christ’s example. Our goal is to help each person to reach his or her potential. That’s why we have a social work program at Walla Walla College.”

Kristi Spurgeon, WWC GLEANER correspondent
When you’re ill, nothing seems quite as comforting as a soft, warm blanket—even more so when it’s a handmade gift from someone who has lovingly connected each stitch to create something more meaningful than a simple piece of cloth.

That’s the purpose behind Cover Me With Care, a program initiated earlier this year at Tillamook County General Hospital (TCGH) in Tillamook, Ore. The physical comfort of the donated, handmade quilts and the hours required to make each gift are a tangible expression of the hospital’s mission to share God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing.

Overwhelming Response
The program was started when Pat Valenti, infection control nurse, whose mother received a handmade afghan while she was a hospice patient in another state, talked with Velda Handler, TCGH’s manager of the medical/surgical unit and ICU. Handler then proposed the program to the hospital’s charge nurses. They enthusiastically embraced the idea, so Handler put out a call for handmade afghans, quilts and lap robes. The response was overwhelming: At least 40 people answered the call, including community residents who learned about the program through relatives and friends who work at the hospital. Even 12 young people in the local 4-H Club signed up to participate.

Donations began arriving in January 2006, and Handler said the hospital had received at least 50 handmade items by mid-May 2006. Nurses identify patients they feel would benefit from one of the items, and they talk with the patient or family members about favorite colors and other criteria that help them choose an appropriate gift.

Leading the Way
When phlebotomist Marie McCabe read Handler’s e-mail about Cover Me With Care, she had no doubt about how to respond. As an avid needle worker, McCabe has knitted and crocheted for the past 25 years. As a breast cancer survivor, she knows firsthand how it feels to receive a special gift when you’re not feeling well.

“Having been ill myself, I know that any thoughtfulness means ten times more when you are sick than when you’re healthy,” she said.

McCabe got right to work, finishing an afghan she had previously started—a five-foot-square patchwork in blue, yellow and white. Her afghan was the first donation to the program, and she has made four more since then.

The Giving Begins
Fittingly, McCabe’s first afghan went to Geraldine “Jerry” Trump, a pneumonia patient who, like McCabe, loved to knit, crochet and quilt. Although Jerry Trump was never aware of the gift since she passed away two days earlier, her husband, Moe, said he and other family members were touched by the thoughtfulness and generosity of the handmade quilt.

Later, Moe Trump had the opportunity to personally thank McCabe and give back to the Cover Me With Care program through a donation of yarn that Jerry Trump had not had a chance to use. McCabe’s afghan is now displayed in the Trump home, a reminder of the many kindnesses Jerry Trump and her family received at TCGH. •

Steve Willis, freelance writer for Adventist Health
This is my 18th year teaching in an Adventist boarding high school, dealing daily with teenagers. While some come from non-Christian or non-faith backgrounds, most are from second, third, up to sixth-generation Adventist homes. They are also truly “typical” teens: last year’s music or fashions are without merit, adults are suspect, and rules are for examining and debating—critically.

Given all that, I still believe that this generation of Adventist teenagers will do just fine as church leaders.

Facts and figures I could quote to you. But three specific examples from my students will show where I get courage to make such an assertion.

This is the second year I’ve had “A,” a truly scatterbrained student with an attention span of about two seconds and seemingly no interest beyond the here and now—with the emphasis on the here. When she applied to be in the journalistic writing course, I had visions of missed deadlines as the least of the complications. Last week, I saw that energy focused on the plight of women in other parts of the world, a place where the death and birth of women are simply not recorded, where education is not an option. “That’s NOT fair,” she stormed. “We can’t let that happen.” Somehow, someway, she was determined to help change that. I’m betting that with her energy, she will.

My “B” student sits on the back row. If I didn’t require a change of seats every six weeks, she’d still be in the same seat. Her paragraph responses showed absolutely no interest in exploring ideas. No part in class discussion. No trouble, certainly, but never seemingly engaged in anything.

One day I mentioned a book I had just finished—and highly recommended: Matters of Life and Death for the 21st Century by Reinder Bruinsma, published in 2001 by Pacific Press. “Well-researched, great style on issues that are not easy,” I said. After class, “B” stood at my desk. “Please, may I read that for this month’s outside reading?” I gladly handed her the copy, but was pretty sure she’d return it in a couple of days. She did, with completed thoughtful paragraphs indicating she had read the entire book. “I’ve always been interested in these issues,” she said.

As the school principal has done over the years, he announced that this year’s senior class has a National Merit Scholar. As such, student “C” can go to virtually any college or university he chooses. He has narrowed it down to two: both Seventh-day Adventist institutions. His goal: a double major—with secondary teaching credentials. He wants to teach history and religion to the next generation of this church’s young people.

No, I have no worries about the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the next generation. •

Ila Zbaraschuk, Auburn Adventist Academy English department chair, writes from Auburn, Washington.
I was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. My dad was an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service and was assigned to the World Health Organization malaria eradication project. My mom and dad were married about a year when I was born in the Adventist hospital in Addis. Though my dad grew up with a Presbyterian or Episcopalian background, and my mother was raised a Methodist, they now leaned toward atheism. When I think of how I came to know God, I sometimes wonder if the doctors and nurses at the hospital had special prayer for me. I first encountered Christianity when I was 9 years old. My dad, who was then a biology professor at Alaska Methodist University (AMU), was offered a teaching sabbatical at a sister school in the Philippines. Even though AMU was a Methodist school, it wasn’t really Christian in the sense that many mission colleges are, whereas the sister school was staffed mostly by career Methodist missionaries. I went to Bible class once a week there. Miss Dietz, a dear old lady, taught me well-known Bible stories. My parents were expected to attend church. They took me once and then gave me the choice of whether I would go or not. For me, it was boring; I was very glad not to attend any more services. By now I was a confirmed atheist and had little respect for Christians. During fifth grade, I had my mouth washed out with soap for having such filthy speech (at public school in Anchorage). During this time, a junior/senior high school was built near our home. There were race riots and drug problems. My dad figured that I would get mixed up in some trouble, especially drugs. Some of my friends ended up ruining their lives just that...
way. His solution was to send me to school at the Anchorage Junior Academy (AJA). I had never heard of a Seventh-day Adventist. In fact, I’m sure you could have convinced me that an Adventist was some kind of flower from West Africa that blossomed seven days after being flooded with water, or some other crazy thing. I wasn’t happy about my dad’s idea. Going to a private school was the pits; going to a private church school was even worse. Leaving my friends was hard, and I wouldn’t be at the new school where you could pick your classes, the gym was fantastic, and going there was the cool thing to do.

My first day at church school was everyone else’s second day. Our family was vacationing and didn’t get back for the first day of school. Even though the school had only four classrooms, I felt lost. One of the other students, Chris Nash, made me feel welcome. It was generally a hard time for me, though.

After awhile I discovered there were some things that I liked about church school, for instance—recess. We played organized games; dare base was one I really liked. I also discovered that these people truly believed in God. In fact, their beliefs governed how they lived. I was impressed with their dedication, but knew they were all deluded. I learned to live with their delusions (things like morning worship, prayer, etc.). I made friends and was eventually doing OK.

Around spring, there was this thing called week of prayer. By the time it came along, I figured that there might just be a God, but there wasn’t any way, if there was a God, that I was going to let it affect my life. The week of prayer made me think. By the end of the week I wanted to join the baptismal class, but I was too chicken. It depressed me for a couple of days until I realized that they probably had week of prayer every year and I would get the chance again. I read the Bible at night and I still remember when I found the fourth commandment in Exodus 35 (not where most people look). The Holy Spirit was working on me.

After seventh grade I spent most of the summer in Chitina. I attended a Sunday church there with a family friend, who was the pastor. I was tempted to tell the pastor that he was confused about the day to worship on, but I didn’t. It’s just as well since I still didn’t know about Exodus 20 or Deuteronomy 5. The next year I was happy to go back to church school and enjoyed it a lot. I was elected student association president, started attending church with my friends, and was doing things outside of school with them too. Scholastically things were improving; in fact, my whole life was getting much better.

I had long since decided that I wanted to be in baptismal class and I joined at the next week of prayer. I dropped hints to my parents at the dinner table that I was in baptismal class, but it didn’t faze them. The Friday evening before I was to be baptized I had to tell my family in no uncertain terms what I was doing. My dad took it in stride, but I later heard that it was the last thing he expected. My mom didn’t react too calmly. She whisked me off to the pastor’s house and got a crash course in Adventist doctrine. The upshot was that my baptism was postponed until the next Sabbath, and my folks attended church for it.

It is interesting to look at the pictures on the wall of the AJA. You can see the evolution of Rob Frohne, from something like a monkey to something much more like a human being. The Lord changed almost everything about me. The reasons I am committed to the Lord now have a lot to do with the changes He brought about then. I am very grateful.

Rob Frohne accepted the Lord when he was a student at Anchorage Junior Academy.

Rob Frohne, WWC professor of electrical engineering
The Holmes family includes Jean Venter of Milton Freewater, Ore.; Joan and Ken Money of Yakima; Debs Campbell of Valdez, Alaska; 3 step-grandchildren and 4 step-great-grandchildren.

Jacoshenk 65th
Ray and Ruby Jacoshenk celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary by hosting a family dinner in Portland. They are members of the Sunnyside Church.

Ray Jacoshenk married Ruby Howell in Washburn, N.D., on June 2, 1941. After moving to Portland, Ore., from North Dakota in 1945, both worked at Portland Sanitarium and Hospital—Ray as purchasing agent and Ruby in the patients’ business office as collection manager. They now spend the winters in Palm Springs, Calif., and the summers in Oregon.


The Klein family includes James Jr. and Trudy Klein of College Place; Kathleen and Glenn Spring of Aurora, Colo.; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Miller 90th
Dorothy (Hammill) Miller celebrated her 90th birthday on April 30, 2006, with a family party at her daughter’s home.

Dorothy worked as a nurse at Portland Adventist Hospital and Walla Walla General Hospital. She was married to Byron Miller for 60 years. He died in 1998. The Millers were long-time members of the Montavilla Church in Portland. She now lives at Somerset Retirement Center, in Gladstone, Ore.

The Miller family includes Sheryl Butherus of Napa, Calif.; Phyllis and Don Hall of Clackamas, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

GUIDELINES
The required forms for Family listings are available at www.gleaneronline.org by clicking on Contributors’ Information (in the left panel). You simply scroll down to find a printer-friendly PDF file you can print out. If you don’t have a computer, have someone else print out the form for you. Then fill in the information and mail it to GLEANER FAMILY, PO Box 871150, Vancouver, WA 98687.

Or you can log in and fill out the appropriate form online. Step-by-step how-to instructions are available under Tips for Authors, at the same location, to help you through the process.

BIRTHS
DENNIS—Sarita was born April 25, 2006, to Brad and DeeAnna (Garcia) Dennis, Vancouver, Wash.


FERRELL—Brandon Carl was born April 27, 2006, to Daniel Lee and Chantall Deonna (Current) Ferrell, San Diego, Calif.

GEIGLE—Lauren Amelia was born May 13, 2006, to Nathan and Heather (Calkins) Geigle, Gresham, Ore.

MICHAELS—Jaden G. was born May 2, 2006, to Jordan and Tiffany (Wright) Michaels, College Place, Wash.

MILLER—Karalynne Elaine Pualani was born April 8, 2006, to Jeff and Kim (Miguel) Miller, in Days Creek, Ore.

MONTPLAISIR—Kian James was born Feb. 24, 2006, to Brad and Wendy (Collins) Montplaisir, Tigard, Ore.

NORTON—Cascade Sierra was born Feb. 20, 2006, to Jaison and Laurieanne (Rich) Norton, North Plains, Ore.

ROBINSON—Sunny Ross was born April 18, 2006, to Mark R. and Sarey J. (Beard) Robinson, Ronan, Mont.

WALCH—Ellia Rose was born March 22, 2006, to Matthew and Janelle (Berger) Walch, Oregon City, Ore.

WETTERLIN—Lorelai Jeanette was born April 18, 2006, to Cory and Laura (Whidden) Wetterlin, Fort Morgan, Colo.

Looking for someone’s Family listing from a past issue?
Search online
by last name at:
www.GleanerOnline.org
**WEDDINGS**

**FARDO-PAYNE**—Andria N. Fargo and John P. Payne were married Aug. 6, 2005, in South Fork, Ore. They are making their home in Wasilla, Alaska. Andria is the daughter of Sean and Lori Fargo. John is the son of Allan and Leigh Payne.

**JOHNSON-BRUNKORST**—Rachel Johnson and Joshua Brunkhorst were married Dec. 3, 2005, in Richland, Wash. They are making their home in Amity, Ore. Rachel is the daughter of Al and Linda (Kiser) Johnson. Joshua is the son of Fred and Beckie (Stark) Brunkhorst.

**MELLON-BEIERLE**—Heather Mellon and Ben Beierle were married July 31, 2005, in Snohomish, Wash. They are making their home in Bothell, Wash. Heather is the daughter of Jim and Kande L. Mellon. Ben is the son of Udo and Debbie L. Beierle.

**MILLER**—Carl E., 76; born July 2, 1928, Las Animas, Colo.; died March 26, 2006, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: wife, Donna (Wishy); son, Ken, Woodland, Wash.; daughters, Jeannie Nunez in South Dakota; Bonnie Nelson in British Columbia, Canada; dies Jan. 14, 1914, Westmore, Mont.; daughters, Sandy; and a grandchild.


**CAFFERKY**—Edwin A., 84; born June 18, 1921, Peace River, Alberta, Canada; died April 17, 2006, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: wife, Grace E. (Burke), Portland, Ore.; sons, Ron, West Linn, Ore.; Bob, Portland; daughter, Carmen Cafferky, Vancouver; 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**CRONK**—Ramon R., 89; born May 31, 1917, Omaha, Neb.; died April 19, 2006, Albany, Ore. Surviving: wife, Lela (Thompson); sons, Jerry, Walla Walla, Wash.; Ron, Highland, Calif.; sister, Jean Benson, Santa Rosa, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.


**FROST**—Morgan D., 35; born March 24, 1970, Bangor, Maine; died March 3, 2006, Woodland, Wash. Surviving: wife, Donna (Heckman), Centralia, Wash.; sons, Enoch Josiah Heckman and Karsten Blake Frost, both of Centralia; daughters, April Lynnae Frost and Marissa Darlene Frost, both of Centralia; father, Blake Frost, Deal Island, Maryland; mother, Valerie (Peckham) Frost Beck, Spokane, Wash.; and brother, James Baldwin, Wis.


**MELLON-BEIERSLE**—Gina Mellon and Jim Beierle were married Aug. 14, 2005, in Sammamish, Wash. They are making their home in Bothell, Wash. Gina is the daughter of Jim and Kande L. Mellon. Jim is the son of Udo and Debbie L. Beierle.

**STICKLAND-MAYBERRY**—Elisabeth A. Stickland and Jonathan P. Mayberry were married May 28, 2006, in Walla Walla, Wash. They are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif. Elisabeth is the daughter of Donn and Lyndel (Schoepflin) Stickland. Jonathan is the son of Paul and Anita Mayberry.


**CAFFERKY**—Edwin A., 84; born June 18, 1921, Peace River, Alberta, Canada; died April 17, 2006, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: wife, Grace E. (Burke), Portland, Ore.; sons, Ron, West Linn, Ore.; Bob, Portland; daughter, Carmen Cafferky, Vancouver; 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

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NPUC

Offerings
July 1—Local Church Budget; July 8—World Missions; July 15—Local Church Budget; July 22—Walla Walla College; July 29—NAD budget: Women’s Ministries; Aug. 5—Local Church Budget.

Special Days
July is Adventist Lifestyle month. July 8—Home Study International promotional day.

OREGON

Sunnyside Concert
July 15—Pre-Camp Meeting Vespers, 7 p.m., featuring Carl Parker, Valley Brass, Victor Ramos and the Spanish Children’s Choir, Michael Bishop and the Grace Grove Singers, and other local area musicians, at the Sunnyside Adventist Church, 10501 S.E. Market St., Portland, Ore. For more information, call (503) 281-8596.

Camp Meeting Seminar
July 22—Sabbath School leaders, pastors and Bible workers, don’t miss "How to be an Effective Sabbath School Teacher" during Gladstone Camp Meeting on Sabbath morning from 8:30–10 a.m. in the lower level of Holden Convention Center. Recognized as one of Adventism’s premier Sabbath School teachers, Skipp Farr will guide participants in the fine art of teaching effectively, including techniques on how to prepare yourself to teach a lesson, how to study and break the lesson down, how to prepare pertinent questions regarding the lesson, how to lead the class in discussing the lesson, how to deal with class sidetracks, how to tame troublemakers, and how to conclude the lesson. Bring your Bible, quarterly, pen and notepad! Priority seating will be reserved until 8:30 a.m. for those who pre-register by July 6. For more information, contact Tina Schrader-Ingram at (503) 652-2225, ext. 410, or tina.schrader@oc.npuc.org.

Oregon SAGE Activities
July 27—pizza and miniature golf at Wilsonville Family Fun Center; Aug. 15—Jet boat ride and lunch, Grants Pass, Ore.; Sept. 6-8—Arlene Taylor Seminar at Gladstone.

Milo Registration Day
Aug. 13—Registration and move-in date for Milo Adventist Academy between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Classes begin Monday, Aug. 14. For more information see www.miloacademy.org, or contact the academy at (541) 825-3200 ext. 3317, info@miloacademy.org, or PO Box 278, Days Creek, OR 97429.

Laurelwood Academy Class Reunion
Aug. 26—The 60-year class of 1946 will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Activities Room of Somerset Lodge, on the upper end of the Gladstone campground. Still looking for Avis Hiebert van Swearingen and Marie Luce Harris. For more information, contact Marjorie at (503) 985-7298 or marj@juno.com.

Laurelwood Academy Class Reunion
Sept. 9—The 40-year class of 1966 reunion, 6 p.m.–midnight, at The Monarch Hotel in Clackamas. For more information and to RSVP, contact Jerry Meyer at home (503) 655-9097, work (503) 215-5123 or jerry.meyer@providence.org.

UPPER COLUMBIA

Spokane Valley Anniversary
Sept. 16—All friends, members and former members are invited to the 10th anniversary celebration at the Spokane Valley Church. Come share in the fun of meeting friends, reminiscing about the old times and looking forward to wonderful things ahead. For more information, call the church office at (509) 926-5866.

Missing Members
The Abundant Life Church is seeking information about Lewis and Rose Gentilo. If you have any information, please call (509) 665-7090.

WASHINGTON

Anniversary Celebration:
July 14-16—The Shoreline Church is celebrating 25 years in the community of Shoreline. All are encouraged and invited to attend the three days of festivities. For information, please call (206) 363-2355 or e-mail shorelinesda@onebox.com. All pastors of Shoreline for the past 25 years will be in attendance. The celebration begins at the Shoreline Church on Friday at 6 p.m.

Seward Park Missing Members
Seward Park Church is looking for a current address for Joe Sarivi. Please contact Dilnaz Heckman at isacanddilnaz@hotmail.com or at (425) 766-2704.

Organ Concert
Sept. 18—You are invited to attend an organ concert presented at 3 p.m. by Daniel Goltz, a Walla Walla Valley Academy senior and five-year student of Kraig Scott of Walla Walla College. Featured is a very diverse program, with music from the Dutch composer Sweelinck to Seattle native William Bolcom, and ending with a complete Vierne Symphony. The concert will be held at St Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral located at 1245 Tenth Avenue East in Seattle. The Cathedral’s Flentrop organ is one of the largest mechanical action organs in the U.S. Tickets are available for advance purchase at (206) 325-6500, www.ticketwindowonline.com, or in person at The Cathedral Shop.

WORLD CHURCH

Amateur Radio Operators and Pilots.
Aug. 3-6—The 34th NAARA Camp Hope Retreat is scheduled for Camp Hope, British Columbia, Canada. This is the second year that Adventist pilots are joining the ham radio operators in the retreat. All pilots, commercial, private and pilot wannabes, and their families are welcome. The event mixes “shop talk” with a strong spiritual emphasis. Several reports of current mission activity will be featured. Music too plays a strong role. Seminars on Friday afternoon cover topics in radio, aviation, women’s health issues and a craft program for adults and kids. Some of the key presenters for this year’s program include: Thomas Knoll, KR8C, currently Upper Columbia Conference trust officer and estate planner; Clyde Peters, OA8AV, the first full-time Adventist missionary pilot, based in Pucallpa, Peru, who flew the Fernando Stahl in the upper Amazon jungle. (See the book about his life, The Man Who Jumped Off Clouds available at the ABC or from Amazon.com.); Dr. Sid Kettner, VE7LLU, from British Columbia will report on his recent mission trip to Greece; and seminar speakers Larry Young, WB6EGS, from Portland, a veteran engineer with Motorola Corporation; Evelyn Trautwein, health lecturer specializing in women’s health; and others. Camp Hope is a short distance from the Canada/U.S. border. It is set up for everything from tent campers to a lodge with full amenities. For registration and reservation information, go to www.naara.org or contact Keith Carlin, N7ACW, at (253) 740-8173.

Sunndale Homecoming
Oct. 5-8, 2006—Sunndale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend will honor the classes of ‘56, ’66, ’71, ’81, ’86, ’91, and ’96. Activities start with the Silver Showcase Thursday evening. For additional information, call (573) 682-2164 or visit the Web site at www.sunndale.org.
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**BIRDS OF THE NORTHWEST**

FROM PAGE 5

1. Female Common Golden-eye Duck
2. Burrowing Owl
3. Female Hooded Merganser
4. Black-headed Grosbeak
5. Anna’s Hummingbird
6. Black-crested Titmouse
7. Snowy Egret
8. Green-winged Teal
9. Red-tailed Hawk
10. Steller’s Jay
11. Wilson’s Snipe
12. Black-throated Sparrow
13. Marsh Wren
14. White Pelican

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS DEAN, beginning August 2006. Earned doctorate, have significant experience as chair or equivalent administrative experience, have proven skills in organization and fiscal management and be committed to research. Adventists submit resume: Dr. Patricia Vpaa, Vpaa, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0630; e-mail mutchp@andrews.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEeks
REFERENCE/DATABASE OFF-CAMPUS SERVICES LIBRARY, beginning August 2006. Applicant must have Master’s degree in Library Science from an ALA-accredited institution, three or more years experience in an academic library, knowledge of complex library-specific computer applications, electronic reference sources, etc. Adventists apply at: http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs.html.

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SEeks 3RD–4TH GRADE TEACHER beginning July 2006. All duties associated with teaching, motivating and evaluating students, conferencing with parents, and successful team player. Adventist Certification and Elementary Education Certification required. Commitment to leading children to Jesus. BA in Music Education preferred. Need skills in program planning, classroom management, interpersonal relationship and communication. Adventists apply at: http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs.html.


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PORTLAND ADVENTIST ACADEMY has a half time employment opportunity for someone with interest and experience in public relations. This person would be responsible for writing newspaper articles, Gleaner articles, handling communication with area Adventist churches, and producing school ads and promotional brochures. Competency with MS Word, Pagemaker, InDesign, and digital photographic ability are all prerequisites for this job. Please contact Mr. Gale Crosby, principal at 503-255-8372 ext. 212 or gcrosby@paasda.org. This opportunity will be available in late July 2006.

SOCIAL WORKER International Children's Care in Vancouver, Wash., is seeking part-time MSW for adoption department. Possibility of full-time position if candidate also speaks Spanish. Contact Sharon Fleck at: Sharon@ForHisKids.org; 800-422-7729.

Bike Ride for India July 23-28, 2006
Join other Adventist bicycle riders on a cross country trip along the North Cascades Hwy. to raise money for a new school in Kurnool, India. We are looking for riders and sponsors with the goal of raising $40,000.00. All riders must be sponsored to participate. For more information contact Pastor Kevin Willfrey at (509) 465-9566, or e-mail: kwillfrey@msn.com.
LIFESTYLE CENTER OF AMERICA, a premier diabetes medical resort with mission to restore health through lifestyle intervention has the following job opportunities: Physician, Researcher, Nurse Manager, Human Resources Director, Assistant, Restaurant Manager, and Massage Therapist. Submit resume to Diana Wildermuth: Lifestyle Center of America, Route 1, Box 4001, Sulphur, OK 73086; dwildermuth@lifestylecenter.org.

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE has open position for Assistant to Administration with assignment in Investments and Operations assistance to President, Treasurer and Secretary. The scope includes investments oversight, research, strategic planning, operation i.e., IT and Web coordination and some treasury functions. MBA in finance/CPA or CFP certification and MDiv required. Ten years combination of experience in business and pastoral ministry desired. Contact HR: 951-509-2352.

RECENTLY WIDOWED ELDERLY LADY needs help in living in beautiful golf course home in the Portland area. Duties consist of light housekeeping, help in food preparation, driving her to appointments, taking her to church, etc. Room, board and negotiable payment for services. References needed. If you are interested, call 360-892-4701 or 360-892-4404.

WEITER-RESPECTED SUPPORTING MINISTRY involved in world-wide evangelism seeks an experienced Director of Planned Giving/Trust Services to lead dedicated team. Qualified Seventh-day Adventist candidates may contact Carolyn Hamilton for job description: 706-271-5471; hamiltons11@mindspring.com.

EVENT


FIRST EVER CHIP RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM Want to get your health back? Experience the life-changing Coronary Health Improvement Project as never before by attending the first residential CHIP program, at the beautiful Lifestyle Center of America August 13-31, 2006. Participants will enjoy in-depth medical, nutritional, fitness consultation and treatment with one-on-one coaching with Dr. Hans Diehl, all in a tranquil world-class environment. Only 30 spaces are available. Call today for free information at 800-213-8955.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Livingstone Adventist Academy Alumni Homecoming will be Nov. 3-4, 2006 at the school. Our theme is “Living a Life of Service.” We need old pictures and memorabilia, for a tribute, by decade, of school history, students, faculty and staff. Please mail your labeled pictures to the school: 5771 Fruitland Rd NE, Salem, OR 97301 or e-mail scanned copies to alumni@laa.info. We look forward to seeing you there!

MARANATHA VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL’S 2006 CONVENTION will be held September
29-30, in the Portland, Oregon area. All are invited to attend this inspirational weekend. Featured speakers are Mark Finley, General Vice President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; Ron Watts, President of Southern Asia Division; Paul Ratsara, President of Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division; and Leonel Lozano, President of Ecuador Union Mission. For more information, contact Maranatha Volunteers International at 916-920-1900 or www.maranatha.org.

FOR SALE

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T. MARSHALL KELLY MUSIC CDs and Dr. Ben Carson’s book and video set through Brown Sugar & Spice. Also: multicultural children’s books, specializing in TRUE STORIES. Purchase online: www.brownSSbooks.com; 734-729-0501.

WANTED: Meatless Chicken Supreme Product; Loma Linda. Call 866-522-7715 ext. 5602; trishaeaston@yahoo.com.


MISCELLANEOUS

EVANGELISM PRIORITY #1: “If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures.” 4T, 390. Get equipped for the job! Call PROJECT: Steps to Christ at 800-728-6872 to learn how: info@projectstc.org; www.projectstc.org.


FREE MISSION AVIATION STORIES! Send your name, e-mail address and street address to: info@flyawa.org or mail your request to: Adventist World Aviation, Box 251, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. Or, sign up for our free newsletter at www.flyawa.org.

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YOUR SW WASHINGTON REALTOR Dedicated professional ready to serve your real estate needs in the greater Vancouver area. Please call David Gasser of Prudential NW Properties at 360-600-9994 or e-mail dgasser@pru-nw.com.

PORTLAND, ORE. AREA REAL ESTATE BROKER and native Portland resident will help you buy or sell your home. Call Tom at Prudential NW Properties: 503-906-1363; e-mail tterry@pru-nw.com; www.TomRTerry.com.

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To serve the poor & hurting in Christ’s name
The Moral Minority

Karl Marx has been credited with the observation that capitalism is destructive since freedom of choice inevitably leads to wrong. Are trends in America, the bastion of world capitalism, proving him right?

I’m no fan of Marx, yet certainly postmodern definitions of morality in America, of right and wrong, seem increasingly hard to find. The airwaves are filled with politically correct confusion on the left and dogmatic ranting on the right. Issues of morality are bounced from one side to the other. And in the end, America’s actions increasingly proclaim a rising sense of moral ambiguity.

Seems to me our society is hungry for those who do not steal, who don’t bear false witness and who honor their parents. It’s hungry for corporations that treat their employees fairly, that do the right thing even if the media isn’t watching. It’s hungry for men and women who don’t cheat on their taxes... or their spouses. It’s hungry for more people like Desmond Doss, who follow the conviction of conscience.

Could it be that the time is ripe for individuals that go beyond the rhetoric to follow the practical good sense in a profound set of 10 principles some people call the Moral Code? Could Adventists be well known in their communities and in their places of work for those kinds of values?

What do you think? Are we mentoring our children to be moral leaders in their churches, communities and corporations? As a church, are we modeling anything that America wants or needs? How do we stand for the right without becoming moral bigots? Let’s talk at www.gleaneronline.org.

“Our society is hungry for men and women who don’t cheat on their taxes or their spouses.”

Our world doesn’t want to be preached to. It really doesn’t welcome legislation or “morality police” to force it into a false shell of external propriety. But when Ellen G. White described “the greatest want of the world,” she saw people who were “as true to duty as the needle to the pole... who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.” Marx’s equation missed an essential element. Freedom of choice, coupled with the principles and power of Christ, inevitably leads to right.
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