When God Answers the Phone
"But my eyes are fixed on you, O Sovereign LORD; in you I take refuge..."

Psalm 143:8 (NIV)

"Face of a Saw-whet Owl" by Michael Woodruff of Spokane, Washington.
Feature

[ADVENTIST HEALTH: Sacred Work]

WHEN GOD ANSWERS THE PHONE

Beyond the X-ray equipment, operating rooms and IV’s, Adventist Health workers believe their main business is “Sacred Work.” Read why in this month’s feature beginning on page 6.

CREATION
A Matter of Science or Faith?

GLEANER STAFF
Editor Steven Vistaunet
Managing Editor Cindy Chamberlin
Intern CJ Anderson
Copy Editor Denise Rutledge
Advertising and Copy Coordinator Desiree Lockwood
Design MCM Design Studio, LLC.

CORRESPONDENTS
Alaska Butch Palmero, butch.palmero@ac.npuc.org
Idaho Don Klinger, idconf@idconf.org
Montana Archie Harris, info@montanaconference.org
Oregon Krissy Barber, info@oc.npuc.org
Upper Columbia Conference Jay Wintermeyer, ucc@uccsda.org
Washington Heidi Martella, info@washingtonconference.org
Walla Walla University Lisa Krueger, lisa.krueger@wallawalla.edu
Adventist Health Shawna K. Malvini, info@ah.org

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gleaner@nw.npuc.org
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Be nice to your brother. Don’t gossip. Clean up after yourself. Help your friends. Treat your neighbor as yourself.

I grew up with the Golden Rule in mind, and I suspect you did, too. “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you” (Matthew 7:12, NIV). This makes a fairly easy lesson for children young and old to grasp.

Further on in Scripture, however, the lessons become more difficult, especially for the adult-minded. Consider what Jesus said: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another,” (John 13:34–35, NIV). We can all probably agree with that in principle. But how easy is it to really put that into practice — to love the neighbor who never mows the lawn; or the client who shows up late continually; or the annoying coworker who doesn’t pull his or her own weight?

I’m sure we can all think of many people who are hard to love. But, what if we thought of that homeless person on the corner as our brother? The heroin addict as our sister? The murderer on the news as our father or mother? Thinking with love can dramatically change our perspective and make John 13 an easier command to comprehend.

It’s that kind of perspective shift that’s transforming Adventist Health.

I am especially glad this annual health care edition of the GLEANER is focused on Sacred Work. In 2007, the health care system introduced the term at San Joaquin Community Hospital in Bakersfield, California. Since then, the concept has caught on rapidly. Simply, Sacred Work means expressing God’s love in practical ways through everyday work. It means loving coworkers, patients, community members and oneself. Sacred Work means love.

I believe this work is integral to the very ministry of Christ who, in Ellen White’s description, “ministered to people as one who desired their best good,” (The Desire of Ages, page 151). She held His method of ministry out as an example of Sacred Work for us.

In our Adventist hospitals, this work of love often manifests itself through service — the mundane task done well, the extra mile walked, the troubled soul comforted. Our special feature this month is all about those stories of service and love. As you read through them, I encourage you to consider personal applications to your own life and the principles of Galatians 5:13 — “By love, serve one another.”

Max Torkelsen II
North Pacific Union Conference president and Adventist Health Board of Directors vice chairman
This month’s GLEANER feature highlights Adventist Health. October has been a significant month in medical history. Here are a few key events originating in October.

**October 8, 1958** — Doctor Åke Senning implanted the first internal heart pacemaker. It used only two transistors, was the size of a hockey puck, and worked for only three hours.

**October 14, 1993** — Doctor Michael J. Walsh of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute announced that cystic fibrosis can be corrected by gene therapy.

**October 16, 1987** — Paul Holc became the youngest person in the world to receive a heart transplant. The operation was performed by surgeons at Loma Linda University Medical Center when Holc was three hours old.

**October 18, 1962** — Doctors James D. Watson, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins won the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology for determining the double-helix molecular structure of DNA.

**October 24, 1882** — Robert Koch, a German physician, discovered the tuberculosis germ. Koch received a Nobel Prize for his discoveries and is considered one of the founders of bacteriology.

**October 25, 1990** — The first transplant operation of a lung from a live donor to a recipient was performed by Doctor Vaughn A. Sterns at Stanford University Medical Center in Stanford, California.

Source: [www.todayinsci.com](http://www.todayinsci.com)
When God Answers the Phone

When God Answers the Phone

Sacred Work

Robert G. Carmen, Adventist Health president and CEO.

When I think about what makes Adventist Health what it is today, I think of our people and our mission. When I think about what Adventist Health does, I think of Sacred Work.

As you will read in this annual Adventist Health special edition of the GLEANER, Sacred Work is demonstrating God’s love at every possible level and recognizing ourselves, our work and our coworkers as sacred. As the concept makes its way throughout our system, I am excited to see transformational change taking place for our employees, physicians, patients and communities. We are serving with love.

I hope you enjoy reading our stories, and through them, recognize the sacred work that our employees do every day.

For example, in excerpts from our recently published devotional book, you’ll learn of the great emotional connection our caregivers make with patients and families. From Dennis Reed’s interactions with a mother about to lose her child, to Glenna Collier’s comforting song with a patient in chronic pain, these connections leave indelible impressions on all involved. They speak of a legacy of care that our doctors and nurses create on a daily basis.

Stories of Sacred Work abound throughout our company. In this special edition, you’ll read about the compassionate volunteer Eleanor Rootvik.

The Emergency room was slammed. Ambulances rolled in one after another and patients were piling up at the front desk to check in. At the same time, Erika Rootvik, admitting clerk, was trying to implement a new standardized telephone script. Little did she know, the script would help save someone’s life that night.

“I was feeling hurried and impatient as I answered yet another phone call with the standardized, ‘Good evening, Emergency room admitting ... This is Erika. How may I help you?’” says Rootvik.

“The woman asked if Dr. Underhill was on duty that evening. When he wasn’t, she replied with obvious disappointment. I asked if she wanted to leave him a message, but she declined,” Rootvik recalls. “Something about this woman’s voice piqued my interest and so when I asked the scripted question, ‘Is there anything else I can do for you?’ there was nothing scripted about it. I was asking with true sincerity.”

Her response made time stand still in that small Emergency room at Walla Walla General Hospital, “I just wanted to thank him for being such a good doctor to me. ... You see...” she said, “I won’t be seeing him again, because I am ending my life tonight.”
“Feeling like a bucket of ice water had been dumped on me, I sent out a quick prayer for guidance — ‘God help me. Walk me through this,’” says Rootvik. “I don’t remember what I said to her. All I know is that I got her talking, and I told her that people care for her. I did not want her to hang up before I could get her information.”

So Rootvik engaged the woman, who talked about how she felt alone and like a burden to her adult children who lived far away. “Meanwhile I was writing down her name and phone number from the caller identification,” she says. “By some miraculous stroke of luck, Esther Davis, nursing supervisor, walked around the corner. I flagged her down and in her wonderfully calm and capable way, Esther went into action getting in touch with the crisis response team and other necessary services.”

Rootvik is adamant divine intervention helped her in this situation. “I’m sure my words were not my own while I was on the phone with this woman,” she says. “I stayed on the phone with her until I knew help was on its way.

“At first she had told me she did not want the crisis team to come out and talk to her, but toward the end of our conversation she was willing to accept help,” Rootvik adds. “After almost 20 minutes on the phone, I handed her care over to trained crisis workers. It was hard to hang up, but it was clear to me God was in control of the situation, and I marveled at his mysterious and wonderful ways.” •

Shawna Malvini, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent

activities employees at Adventist Medical Center do to improve their local community through health outreach. And you’ll hear about a busy Emergency room nurse whose short prayer performed a miracle for a suffering patient. These extraordinary acts are the epitome of Sacred Work.

Sacred Work also exists where you least expect. Consider the telephone script used by Erika Rootvik, Walla Walla General Hospital admitting clerk. Using simple words, Erika helped save a woman’s life. While a script may not seem sacred outright, it and Erika’s actions demonstrate God’s love through our compassion for and communication with one another.

When I think of these stories, I am reminded of a quote by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D., “The original meaning of medicine is not science, it is service. Science can never serve unless it is first translated into a work of the heart.” That concept applies perfectly to Sacred Work and to the extraordinary people at Adventist Health.

I hope you enjoy this spotlight on Adventist Health. If you wish to know more about us and our Sacred Work, please visit www.adventisthealth.org. •

Robert G. Carmen, Adventist Health president and CEO
Humor, tragedy, heartbreak, healing, loss, redemption ... As with most health care institutions, Adventist Health is filled not only with patients, beds, doctors and nurses, but with stories. For each patient that walks in the door and for each clinician that does the business of healing, comes a collection of memories and experiences that touch hearts, change lives and demonstrate the healing love of God. Thanks to the hard work of Adventist Health nursing leadership throughout most of the system’s 17 hospitals, a collection of patient care stories came together this year in the newest devotional book, Stories From Our Lives. Below are three edited excerpts from the heart-felt publication.

**Unexpected Results**

Many years ago, Dennis Reed, registered nurse, was relieving on the obstetric unit at Tillamook County General Hospital. The only patient that day was a woman who was about to lose her third child. She had carried this one for 26 weeks and, at that time, babies born at this gestation were not expected to survive.

“As I entered her room, she was in tears, knowing she was about to lose another child,” recalled Reed.

“Why is this happening to me?” she cried. “I would make a good mother. I’ve prayed to God, but He doesn’t seem to hear me.”

“I don’t remember what I said that day; her cry — more to God than to me — still resonates in my ears,” said Reed. “If there was any way for her labor to stop or the baby to live, I wanted this for her, too.”

It was a slow day in the rest of the hospital, so Reed stayed to offer his support. The time finally arrived, and the baby was born. After attending to the mother, the doctor went back to the nursery to see the baby. He was surprised to find the baby was still breathing, and not as labored as expected. Immediately he contacted the tertiary hospital many miles away.

“For almost two hours, they worked with this baby, waiting for the transport team to arrive,” he remembered. “When the team saw the baby with their own eyes and how well she had done for this long, they also started to hope for a miracle.”

The hospital received reports for at least a month that the baby girl was doing well. Then, as often happens, we heard no more. Recently, Reed asked the doctor if he had heard any more about this child. The physician was happy to report she had graduated from college with honors. Surely this young woman was God’s miracle!

**Gentle Promptings**

Gary* was suffering from cancer, had undergone multiple surgeries and was experiencing scleroderma. He was in great pain, no matter what we did, so he often called for help.
“It was my turn to care for him, and I knew it was just a matter of time until he would die,” said Glenna Collier, registered nurse. “I tried all the interventions I knew to make him comfortable, but nothing seemed to be effective.”

Part way through her shift, Collier had a strong feeling to share a song with him — “‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus.” She kept pushing back the urge, thinking it would be too awkward.

However, the sense was overwhelming, so on her break she went see him. Holding his hand, Collier started to sing. By the time she finished, they both were crying.

“He told me he had never heard the song and that it was beautiful,” she recalled. “He said that he wanted it sung at his funeral.”

It wasn’t long before Gary was discharged to a care center. Not long after that, he died.

“I will never forget that experience and the power we have to heal in so many ways when we allow ourselves to be used by God,” said Collier.

Charity Barruetta, registered nurse, was less than thrilled about being scheduled to work on Christmas Day. However, she figured it probably wasn’t her patients’ choice to be in the hospital on Christmas, either. Determined to make the best of the situation, Barruetta brought Christmas cards to work in an effort to create a more festive environment for her patients.

“Most of them said, ‘Thank you, and Merry Christmas!’ but I will never forget one gentleman,” remembered Barruetta. “I entered his room to complete the morning assessment and began chatting. When I gave him the card, he stared in disbelief. His eyes filled with tears.”

The man told Barruetta he was completely alone, and hadn’t received a card in many years. He explained to her how much it meant to him and gave the young nurse a warm hug.

“He told me again how much he appreciated the Christmas card I had given him. He said that he had a gastrointestinal bleed and didn’t know what was going to happen to him. I held his hand and listened,” recalled Barruetta. “It’s a wonderful thing when God uses you to touch the soul of another human being. I was touched just as deeply as my patient was on that first Christmas Day I spent at work.”

* Names have been changed to protect patient privacy.

Shawna Malvini, Adventist Health
GLEANER correspondent, and Heather Wheeler, Adventist Health senior communication coordinator
AMC shows passion for compassion

On earth, Jesus was a man of action. He didn’t say, “sit at home and think about helping,” but rather, “go out into the world” and, to paraphrase, share the good news.

As manager of Wellness Services at Adventist Medical Center, Ed Hoover’s professional concern is the health and vitality of patients and employee groups. As a Christian, his personal concern is to extend that vitality and Christ’s love into his broader community.

Through Hoover’s leadership, the team at AMC joined Compassion Connect to help improve the health of their local Portland communities. Compassion Connect works with churches and various Christian organizations to help people in need by providing access to health and human services. With an army of volunteers, the organization puts on “Compassion Clinics” in a growing number of Portland neighborhoods which provide free health and dental care, access to support services and a helping hand to the less fortunate.

After learning of the first clinic project, which debuted in 2006, Hoover remembers thinking, “This is the kind of thing Adventists have done for years, but usually overseas. We have significant needs in our own neighborhood to be passionate about, too.”

A MIRACLE OF THE HEART

Doug* was a frequent patient in the Emergency department at Tillamook County General Hospital. On one particular day, he was blue, gasping for breath and his eyes were sunken.

To Larry Hamilton, registered nurse and director of the Emergency department, it appeared the end was near for Doug. As requested by the attending physician and internist, Hamilton was preparing to administer morphine to ensure Doug was comfortable.

“As I was leaving to go and retrieve the medication, Doug reached out and grabbed my arm,” Hamilton recalls. “He had panic in his eyes. His breathing was so labored he could hardly speak. Mustering all his remaining strength, he gasped, ‘Please, please.’ I looked into his terrified eyes and simply said, ‘Doug, heaven is not a bad place.’”

His grip tightened, and between gasps, he replied, “I am not ready!”

Hamilton stood for a moment looking at Doug. Then, glancing toward the ceiling, he simply said, “God, You hear this man’s prayer,” and turned to get the morphine.

The day was busy and there were many patients in the Emergency department. As Hamilton passed another bed on his way to get Doug’s medication, the nurse caring for that patient grabbed him. The patient had developed a lethal heart rhythm and needed immediate intervention. Modern medicine did its work, and in about 20 minutes the patient was out of danger.

Soon, it dawned on Hamilton he had left Doug in distress and had done nothing to relieve his pain or suffering. He ran to the medication room and retrieved Doug’s morphine. Slipping back into the man’s curtain, Hamilton was shocked when he saw Doug sitting there with a big smile on his face.
Larry Hamilton helps a patient learn about God.

FOR "COMPASSION"

“Compassion Connect contacts different churches and social service organizations to participate. They realize for a lot of folks, it’s not just one day of help. A lot of people need to be plugged in to an appropriate follow up care,” states Hoover, who also described a discharge process that visitors go through to make sure follow up care is scheduled.

“For the clinics’ first year, we provided medical supplies and limited volunteers. It’s even more substantial this year,” states Hoover, whose team is participating in four Compassion events in 2009 with a booth about wellness and God’s natural remedies.

“This year we decided to get more involved on Sabbath,” says Hoover, who describes the volunteer activity as mission work. “At two of four events, we’re also doing cholesterol and diabetes screenings. We promoted the events to our employees and challenged our local Adventist churches to get involved, too.”

As a result, the hospital boasts more involvement with its booth than ever before, which includes Spanish and English versions of Steps to Christ.

“Our mission at AMC is to demonstrate the human expression of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ,” says Tom Russell, president and CEO of the facility. “Our work with the Compassion Clinics is an excellent example of that mission in action. It really shows that our employees offer care you can have faith in.”

“It’s such a big blessing to be involved and serve,” says Hoover. “I’ve been delighted to volunteer and it’s neat to work with other staff at the hospital. The participants are extremely appreciative and it’s wonderful to build bridges with other churches. Prayer is a big part of this, too.”

One health screening at a time, Hoover and the team at AMC are working to improve the health of their community just as Jesus would — by going out and serving.

Volunteers from various health and human services agencies, including Adventist Medical Center, provide free services at Compassion Clinics.

Shawna Malvini, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent

“Hello, Larry!” he said. “I feel great.” All Hamilton could do was gasp. “Doug, did someone give you a treatment?” he asked.

“No,” Doug replied. “You said something just before you left, and I suddenly felt better.”

He took a deep breath to demonstrate his new ability to breathe. A chill ran down Hamilton’s back as it dawned on him that a miracle had just taken place.

Hamilton wanted to visit Doug and share Jesus with him, but circumstances just never seemed right. However, during one of Doug’s later hospital stays, a Faith in Action community volunteer did have that opportunity, and Doug gave his heart to God. Doug did not have his health restored, but it became obvious his heart was healed. Just before he died, Doug was being transferred to a care center via ambulance and Hamilton overheard him telling his story to a young paramedic who had not yet met Jesus.

* Names have been changed to protect patient privacy.

Heather Preston Wheeler, Adventist Health senior communication coordinator
Editors Introduction

When David Asscherick, Adventist pastor, wrote an impassioned letter to several select church leaders earlier this year, he had no idea it would go “viral” around the world. In his letter, Asscherick pointedly asked why evolutionary principles should be espoused within an Adventist university, in seeming contradiction to the church’s official stance on creation.

Does the study of our earth’s origins indeed pit science against faith?

The following messages from the NPUC, General Conference and Walla Walla University underscore our church’s deep respect for scientific inquiry yet affirm the foundational role of faith in establishing Christian belief — specifically in reference to questions on origins.

— The GLEANER editors
As we observe the perplexing and sometimes frightening events taking place in our world today, it is not difficult to conclude Jesus is coming soon.

One of the “signs” we sometimes forget is found in the words of the apostle Peter who describes those living in the last days as those who “deliberately forget God made the heavens by the word of his command, and he brought the earth up from the water and surrounded it with water. Then he used the water to destroy the world with a mighty flood,” (II Peter 3:3–6).

Our very name, Seventh-day Adventist, shows a unique calling tied directly to the Creator God and the creation cycle of Scripture. It is imperative we remain committed by faith to the biblical account of origins even though we are part of a culture that has adopted the evolutionary theory as absolute truth. We can appreciate the amazing research scientific exploration provides without making it the basis for our belief in the God of science.

At least some scientists understand the implications of accepting “naturalistic evolution” as fact. In a 1998 Darwin Day keynote address, William B. Provine, Cornell University professor of biological sciences, said the clear consequences of naturalistic evolution include: “1. No gods worth having exist; 2. No life after death exists; 3. No ultimate foundation for ethics exists; 4. No ultimate meaning in life exists; and 5. Human free will is nonexistent,”¹ — not to mention the problems introduced regarding the observance of Sabbath.

One wonders why Professor Provine and thousands of his colleagues feel so confident of a theory Darwin himself said amounted to “... a mere rag of an hypothesis with as many flaw[s] and holes as sound parts” and that his “... speculations run beyond the bounds of true science.” He worried that he may “... have devoted my life to a phantasy (sic).” Michael Denton says, “Ultimately, the Darwinian theory of evolution is no more nor less than the great cosmogenic myth of the twentieth century.”²

In the following segment, Jan Paulsen, General Conference president, highlights several important positions for our church with which I heartily concur. We have been entrusted with a unique mission to prepare the world for the soon return of Jesus. Those Three Angels’ messages include a call to “Worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is,” (Revelation 14:7). May we remain faithful to that message and to that mission.

² Evolution: A Theory in Crisis (Bethesda, Maryland: Adler and Adler, 1986).
An Appeal from the General Conference President

In a statement released June 19, Jan Paulsen, Adventist World Church president, appealed to church administrators, ministers, teachers and writers to articulate and reflect the church’s stand on creation.

“I place this before you in awareness of an ongoing discussion in some quarters between faith and science, particularly as it relates to origins and creation.

“For us as a community it has always been of utmost importance to stay close to the Scripture. Faith has that as its final point of reference. We must not allow ourselves to come adrift from the Bible in defining our values and in stating what we hold.

“Our position as a church in the matter of origins is clearly, although somewhat broadly, stated in our Fundamental Beliefs. This position is further amplified in a statement voted by the General Conference Executive Committee at the 2004 Annual Council.* To remind ourselves of the details of that action, I have included the wording in this appeal:

“We strongly endorse the document’s affirmation of our historic, biblical position of belief in a literal, recent, six-day Creation.

“We urge that the document, accompanied by this response, be disseminated widely throughout the world Seventh-day Adventist Church, using all available communication channels and in the major languages of world membership.

“We reaffirm the Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the historicity of Genesis 1–11: that the seven days of the Creation account were literal 24-hour days forming a week identical in time to what we now experience as a week; and that the Flood was global in nature.

“We call on all boards and educators at Seventh-day Adventist institutions at all levels to continue upholding and advocating the church’s position on origins. We, along with Seventh-day Adventist parents, expect students to receive a thorough, balanced and scientifically rigorous exposure to and affirmation of our historic belief in a literal, recent six-day creation, even as they are educated to understand and assess competing philosophies of origins that dominate scientific discussion in the contemporary world.

“We urge church leaders throughout the world to seek ways to educate members, especially young people attending non-Seventh-day Adventist schools, in the issues involved in the doctrine of creation.

“We call on all members of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist family to proclaim and teach the church’s understanding of the biblical doctrine of Creation, living in its light, rejoicing in our status as sons and daughters of God, and praising our Lord Jesus Christ — our Creator and Redeemer.’

“I appeal to all engaged by our church in the ministries of administration, preaching, teaching and writing to articulate and reflect our stand as a community on creation. We are a faith-community, and the world of faith is the world in which God’s creative powers are on constant display. Sometimes the findings of science may reflect some of this, but often not. Faith is certainly not subject to findings of science.

“To those who teach at our colleges and universities, let me say that you have a demanding, often difficult, but sacred assignment. It is a ministry you hold in trust. It is understood that to care for your ministry responsibly you have to take your students on many a journey of findings into various disciplines of study. They need to know what they will meet in their profession and in life. As part of that exercise you will also expose them to the elements and concepts of evolution. That is understood.

“As your pastor, however, I appeal to you that when you take your students out on the journey, you bring them safely back home before the day is over. And their home must always be in the world of faith. You owe it to the students, you owe it to God, you owe it to their parents, you owe it to the church, and you owe it to yourself as a believer to safely guide them through difficult moments on their journey.

“This appeal comes with the greatest respect for your integrity and your professional skills. But you are also my sister and brother in faith and we share a common commitment to God to whom we shall ultimately bring the fruits of our labor. I pray that he will give to each of us the strength that accompanies faithfulness.”*

* The entire statement can be found at: www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements under the title ‘An Affirmation of Creation.”

Jan Paulsen, Seventh-day Adventist World Church president
A Statement from Walla Walla University

Our Privilege and Responsibility

“Walla Walla University is founded on Christian teaching and values as understood and appreciated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

That first sentence in our Philosophy of Education Statement emphasizes our privilege and responsibility for providing students with wisdom that transcends academic achievement.

Our mission isn’t just a statement that exists on paper — it is a daily commitment from faculty and staff as we prepare students for faith-filled lives of service to our Creator. We are a faith community firmly rooted in Scripture, which serves as both the beginning of and conclusion for a thorough, balanced and rigorous education in all areas of study.

As you’ll read in Dr. Bob Cushman’s reflections on faith and science, we are indeed blessed with a “sacred trust.” Thank you for praying for all of us in this important work.

John McVay, Walla Walla University president

This is a Sacred Assignment

Our faith is strongest when it is based on a relationship with God and not a set of beliefs or datasets of scientific evidence. Indeed, the complexities of addressing origins issues in an academic environment are many, but faith must be our final point of reference.

As faculty in the biology department at Walla Walla University, our goal is to offer students a thorough, balanced and scientifically rigorous exposure to, and affirmation of, our historic belief in a literal, six-day creation. At the same time we are challenged to adequately prepare these students to think and work in a scientific community where evolution is the dominant paradigm. We welcome this challenge!

I have dedicated my life to mentoring and nurturing the spiritual and intellectual development of Adventist students from junior high through graduate school. My colleagues and I serve as both scientists and mentors as we journey with students through the discussions regarding origins. We feel immense responsibility to develop the skills of our students to handle the challenges to their faith that may come from the world of science. We know the faith of their childhood may not withstand the rigors of scientific evidence — in fact, students are often surprised when they get to college and learn that many aspects of evolution make scientific sense and are based on real data. It is at this time that they are most vulnerable, and we are privileged to walk with them and nurture their Seventh-day Adventist faith.

As the parent of two college students, I want my children to learn and affirm the Adventist position on origins. I want them to be lifelong participants in the Adventist faith community. I affirm faculty who have a deep, spiritual commitment to serve as mentors and role models for my own children. This is a sacred assignment, one that I know firsthand is shared and valued by those who teach our children.

Walla Walla University is a place where each student’s spiritual and intellectual development is considered a sacred trust. I appreciate and endorse Jan Paulsen’s thoughtful stance on the issue of teaching origins in our Adventist colleges and universities, and I applaud his reminder to “bring them safely back home before the day is over.”

Bob Cushman, WWU Biology Department professor and Biology Sciences chair
UGANDA

Student Unrest at Adventist School
Seventh-day Adventist Church officials in East-Central Africa are investigating a recent series of clashes between students and administration at Bugema Adventist School in Luweero, Uganda. Students reportedly began rioting when a much-anticipated music program was cancelled. Students allegedly caused more than $4,000 in damages to school property before police officers were able to bring them under control. Two students were injured in the incident. Church officials say there is evidence the recent unrest is related to deeper, ongoing issues at the school.

Source: Adventist News Network
Switzerland

World’s Hungry Passes One Billion
The U.N. World Food Program reports the number of people going hungry every day has reached 1.02 billion. An additional 100 million people are in chronic hunger and poverty compared to this time last year. While the number of hungry people worldwide is increasing, many aid agencies are reporting fewer donations and budget cuts.

Source: christianpost.com

Israel

Jerusalem Celebrates Religious Liberty
In July, hundreds of religious liberty proponents from Israel and the Palestinian Territories gathered in Jerusalem for the symbolic city’s first festival of religious freedom. Hosting the event in a city holy to Christianity, Judaism and Islam was particularly significant to the International Religious Liberty Association, who sponsored the event. Organizers report the event generated a climate of good understanding among attendees.

Source: Adventist News Network
“Cristo en la familia,” fue el lema utilizado por la Iglesia Hispana de Hermiston durante su retiro espiritual y matrimonial. El orador principal para este retiro fue el Pastor Enrique Pérez quien vino desde la ciudad de Chetumal, Quintana Roo, México. Fue una bendición muy especial tener al pastor Pérez con nosotros por dos semanas consecutivas durante el mes de Mayo. El hizo dos presentaciones. En su primer seminario le habló a la iglesia acerca de la importancia de poner a Dios como centro de la familia y también cómo fortalecer los matrimonios. Además, también hizo énfasis en los jóvenes y la importancia de su liderazgo en la iglesia. También fue invitado para hablar en la estación de Radio Cadena, desde donde hizo una magnífica presentación acerca del enriquecimiento espiritual y cómo criar a los hijos. Su hijo David Enrique, quien le acompañó durante estas dos semanas también apoyó a las iglesias de Milton y Hermiston. En la segunda semana el Pastor Pérez habló acerca de los principios para vivir una vida cristiana más feliz. Como resultado de sus presentaciones ocho preciosas almas entregaron sus vidas a Dios por medio del bautismo. Además de eso, once parejas renovaron sus votos matrimoniales.

**GRAN FIESTA MEXICANA**

Además de la gran fiesta espiritual y matrimonial que tuvimos durante el mes de Mayo, la iglesia de Hermiston también celebró una gran fiesta Mexicana a la cual asistieron decenas de personas de la comunidad. Esta gran fiesta fue dirigida por los jóvenes y su propósito fue recaudar fondos para un templo. “El propósito de dicha fiesta fue para reunir fondos que serán utilizados para construir un templo que sea digno de adoración a Dios”, fueron las palabras de la directora Gabriela Esparza, quien funge como directora del departamento de jóvenes. Por muchos años la iglesia de Hermiston ha estado recaudando fondos con el propósito de construir un templo que tenga suficiente capacidad. El edificio actual sienta unas 60 personas y como podrán imaginarse es muy pequeño e inapropiado para una congregación donde se reúnen más de 80 personas para adorar a Dios todos los Sábados. Oramos para que un día muy pronto la Iglesia Hispana de Hermiston pueda tener su propio templo. •

Ramon Canals, NPUC vice president for Hispanic ministries

La gran fiesta Mexicana atrajo la participación de muchas Iglesias de los alrededores y ofreció sabrosos platillos típicos del país.

Hermanos de la iglesia de Hermiston elegantemente vestidos renuevan sus votos matrimoniales.

El pastor Enrique Pérez predicando a la iglesia.
How to Build a Church with Rhubarb

One thing Alaskans know how to grow is rhubarb, and Becky and George Alder are no exception. This April, as they stood looking over their crowded garden plot, they agreed something had to be done. They decided to get tough with the massive plants, several of them were over 8 feet in diameter. They would trim the plants down to size and toss the rest. And then they had a bright idea. They would sell small clumps and put the money toward building a Maranatha One-day Church. The raspberries needed thinning, too. Becky put an ad on Craigslist, and they waited for the phone to ring. They expected to make around $75. Becky and George know a lot about the Maranatha One-day Church program. They have been eager participants in at least 14 different Maranatha projects and have the pictures and the stories to prove it. Their faces brighten and their enthusiasm is contagious as they tell about the way God is working through Maranatha projects. “Maranatha … is the best fun I’ve had,” says George. Imagine their amazement and delight when, after two weeks of rhubarb sales, the total earned topped $700, enough to fund an entire One-day Church. And that is how you build a church with rhubarb.

Bobbie Grimstad, Palmer Church member

Alaska Conference Advocates a Safer Workplace

With today’s troubling headlines, workers are more concerned than ever about their well being — and their ability to react quickly and appropriately in an emergency. The teacher’s conference held Aug. 4–6, provided an avenue for a first aid responder course conducted by Joyce Baker of the Alaska Red Cross. The teacher’s conference was also the perfect place to introduce Tom Maher, new interim education director for the conference.

Alaska Conference believes teachers and office staff will benefit from the Red Cross CPR/AED with first aid training courses. It is a tangible way to show the value of workers’ health and safety, and commitment to co-workers, their families and the community at large. At the same time, the conference will reap the benefit of a well-trained workforce that can manage emergency workplace situations more effectively and in less time than ever. It is the goal of the conference to participate in developing the vital knowledge and skills necessary to respond with confidence to life-threatening situations in the church, office or classroom. The CPR/AED component of this class included conscious and unconscious choking and rescue breathing for adults. A first aid certificate was awarded to all participants.

Ed Dunn, Alaska Conference vice president, helps the “choking” Ken Crawford, president.

Ed Dunn, Alaska Conference vice president, helps the “choking” Ken Crawford, president.

between the Red Cross and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Butch Palmero, Alaska Conference GLEANER correspondent
Cloverdale VBS Kids
Learn How to Serve Jesus

The central theme for this year’s Vacation Bible School at the Cloverdale Adventist Church in Boise, Idaho, was My Community. Aug. 3–7 revolved around how children can serve and witness for Jesus within their home, school, church, country and community. The children enjoyed singing songs, reciting memory verses, hearing interesting Bible lessons and stories, assembling unique crafts, indulging in tasty treats and unveiling amazing discoveries in nature.

The attendance was consistent throughout the week, with nearly 35 children. Watching a child’s eyes and face light up because they learned something new about Jesus is a heartwarming feeling that cannot be described and that was the purpose of this year’s Vacation Bible School at Cloverdale! •

Gerry Essink, Cloverdale VBS volunteer

Eastern Idaho Offers Teen Retreat

Twenty-one high school, home school and church school teens, most of them from small communities in Eastern Idaho, gathered at Camp Tawakani on Aug. 7 for a weekend of fun, inspiration and fellowship. John Bryson, Idaho Conference youth coordinator, designed the event to help teens connect with one another. He was assisted by David and Kathy Iwasa, Gem State Adventist Academy deans, and three GSAA students, Kristi James, Dani Maxwell and Sammy Schnell. Funding was provided by Versacare, Inc.

On Friday evening, Anthony Thomsen, pastor, set the tone for the weekend with his talk, Experiencing God for Real. The GSAA group led the Sabbath morning activities: charades, ice breaker games and finding nuggets in nature that remind one of God. Following lunch the games and singing continued indoors as rain prevented them from pursuing planned outdoor activities. One activity proving to be a favorite was finding a Bible verse and then telling why the verse is special.

The fun continued on Saturday night with a pie eating contest and a frozen T-shirt game. Shelby King, a sophomore who attends Salmon High School, says, “I made a lot of really neat friends! It was good to spend time with people who believe the same as I do.” •

Linda Klinger, GSAA GLEANER correspondent
Kalispell Montana Youth Conference

Dreams of starting a youth conference in Kalispell, Mont., with the purpose of challenging, inspiring and equipping young people from all over the Northwest became a reality July 30–Aug. 2. In keeping with this year’s theme “For Such a Time as This,” each speaker: Michelle Boothby, Tim Riesenberger, Phillip Sizemore, pastor, and Scott Moore, from Lay Institute for Evangelism, focused on helping participants find purpose for their lives.

Seminars dealt with understanding the principles for experiencing boy/girl relationships God’s way and in His timing, witnessing to others and finding your purpose in life. Common Bible stories came alive as presenters made practical applications to current life. Presenters pursued a common goal — to help prepare young people for more effective ministry!

The Kyle family shared their talents in song services and concert, using music to bring the message home.

Young people made decisions for baptism at this conference and others recommitted their lives to Him in a deeper way. Throughout the conference, attendees were able to grow in their personal walk with God, learn how they could better fulfill His purpose, and fulfill the great commission of taking the gospel to the world.

For more information on next year’s conference, visit the MTYC Web site at: www.mtycweb.org. Information and recordings from this year’s conference will also be posted on the Web site.

Huldah Kimbrough, Montana youth conference

Lewis and Clark Meet Mt. Ellis on the Missouri

In keeping with tradition, Mt. Ellis Academy students in grades 9–11 spent the first week of school in the great outdoors. This year outdoor school meant paddling 47 miles through the White Cliffs section of the wild upper Missouri River. This stretch of river has seen almost no change since Lewis and Clark were the first European Americans to pass through.

Students not only felt the historic expedition come alive with each bend in the river and corresponding page in Lewis and Clark’s journals, but they also learned about the Native American cultures that predated European exploration. Students focused on spiritual lessons during morning and evening worships.

The remoteness and beauty, combined with the physical rigors of paddling 15–20 miles each day, bonded students and faculty in much the same way as it did the Corps of Discovery 200 years ago. Anita Ojeda, veteran MEA teacher, says “This was the best outdoor school we’ve ever done.”

Jaime Woodall, junior, could not have been more enthusiastic. “I loved climbing around on the rocks and learning about the geology of the different formations.” She did say she was grateful to be able to paddle downstream rather than pull her canoe upstream like Lewis and Clark.

Darren Wilkins, MEA principal

Tim Riesenberger speaks to the young people at the Montana youth conference.

Brennan Garst and Justin Brown, students, power their way down the river.

Mt. Ellis students squeeze through the Slots Canyons.
This year’s theme, Powered to Serve, sought to give attendees the tools and encouragement needed to better serve their families, churches, communities and beyond. The 80th annual Gladstone (Ore.) Camp Meeting brought together an unusually large crowd as people came together to worship, talk about God and mingle with friends. This year’s Main Pavilion speakers included: Dick Duerksen, Maranatha assistant to the president and master storyteller, with his inspirational stories and Jose Rojas, North American Division director of volunteer ministries, with his thought-provoking messages. On Sabbath morning, Al Reimche, Oregon Conference president, spoke on how God’s message impacts our current view of events.

The youth not only attended meetings in large numbers, they also enjoyed afternoon recreational activities such as the Alpine Slide at Mt. Hood and the Clackamas Aquatics Center. In addition to the normal afternoon activities, they volunteered in surrounding Portland metro communities. They helped in such places as the ReBuilding Center, the Children’s Book Bank, the Oregon Food Bank and Northwest Portland Ministries. The Evangelism Training Camp also spent time out around the Gladstone neighborhood knocking on doors to talk about God.

The children’s divisions had a space theme — Imagine the Universe. Outstanding storytelling and crafts gave children a glimpse of Jesus. Special guests like the Reptile Man and The King’s Yomen (the Yo Yo Man) were favorites. The water slide, obstacle course and hay rides rounded off youth experiences at camp meeting.

People come to camp meeting for different reasons — some for spiritual absorption, others for fellowship. Barbara came to Gladstone Camp Meeting when she was first born in 1936. She continued until she went her own way at age 17. In 2008, 55 years later, she decided to come back to camp meeting. Some people befriended her and this year she was part of the hospitality staff. Barbara also reports she was baptized into the Adventist church on March 14.

We may have found our most experienced Gladstone Camp Meeting camper this year. Olive Watson is 100 years old. Olive remembers the first Gladstone Camp meeting in 1930. She was a 21-year-old nursing student at the time. Olive enjoys the seminars and seeing old friends. Bill volunteers for Better Life Television as a camera operator so he helped out at camp meeting also. Come join us next year. We would love to have you! Gladstone Camp Meeting will be July 13–17, 2010.
A Simple Dream
A Simple Ad

On Feb. 9, the Central Point (Ore.) Church began an outreach program under the direction of Iris Eastwood, member, and Ben Salazar, head elder. The goal was to teach and educate neighbors about the importance of having a healthy body.

Their sister church in Shady Point, Ore., joined them in the ongoing project. “We went on

in faith, expecting a miracle and our God did just that and still is,” says Eastwood.

For the last four months, members have been sponsoring health lectures by a variety of health educators/professionals, including Jim Said, medical doctor. Vegan meals are served and attendance ranges from 30–37 each time.

Prior to the first seminar, a woman called explaining she would not be able to come, however she asked if the health lecture on the “benefits of being a vegetarian” could be given at her church, the Apostolic Christian Church, as a women’s outreach program.

The invitation was accepted, and for the past three months, members have enjoyed this fellowship. Sharon Lynch, registered nurse, presents the health lectures and Eastwood brings the meals.

Sisters at the Apostolic Christian Church are so excited about what they are learning — how important it is to have a healthy body and that our body is God’s temple.

Iris Eastwood, Central Point Church member

Happy Bridge of Fellowship

About 12 years ago, the Canby (Ore.) Church began renting their quarters to members of the Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church for Sunday services.

Shortly after arriving in October of 2007 as the new pastor for the Canby Church, Charles Williams made contact with Jon Yoder, the Mennonite pastor. Williams found Yoder to be very cordial and soon sensed his deep commitment to God and his congregation.

He told Yoder he would enjoy an opportunity to visit further

and suggested they take lunch together one day. Yoder happily agreed, and they soon met at a restaurant and enjoyed a good lunch — made better by the pleasure of becoming acquainted.

A few months passed, and they again set up a luncheon appointment. Their mutual love for souls and common interests in pastoral ministry made for pleasant and meaningful conversation. The time passed quickly, and they soon needed to part. It was then Yoder said, “Chuck, I have a little question for you to consider. Would you be willing to let our Mennonite congregation join your Adventist congregation for worship some Sabbath morning?”

What a great idea! “Of course, Jon,” Williams replied. “I’m sure our people would be very happy to have you and your people join us in worship!” So on Sabbath morning, May 9, both congregations came together for worship.

The combined congregations enjoyed music, worship and a delightful fellowship meal. They shared certain parts of the program. Yoder offered the morning prayer, and Williams preached the Sabbath morning sermon.

Subsequently on Sunday morning, June 28, the Adventist congregation joined with the Mennonites in their worship service. Williams led out in the congregational prayer, and Yoder delivered a message drawn from the Psalms of David. Both congregations were pleased to become acquainted and both found blessing in the sharing of worship. Although there are differing views on certain points of doctrine, there need be no hint of stifling exclusivity among true Christian believers. They are thankful for the wholesomeness of being one in Christ Jesus. To Williams’ knowledge these joint worship services are a first at Canby and may well be repeated in the future.

Charles L. Williams, Canby Church pastor

Left: Charles L. Williams, Canby (Ore.) Church pastor, and Jon Yoder, Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church pastor, enjoy a joint worship service.

The two congregations worship together and have a fellowship meal after the service.
PAA Hires New Teachers and Staff

Portland Adventist Academy welcomes: Tim Erich, Stephen Lundquist, Drechelle Larry, Jonathan Schaffer and Greg Damazo as new teachers and staff members.

Erich joins PAA as head of the social studies department. He and his wife, Kristy, have two sons who will attend Pacific Union College this fall. Erich is a teacher because he enjoys helping young people realize their ability to make a difference in their homes, churches and communities.

Lundquist is a familiar face to PAA because of his years as a youth pastor in the Portland area. He joins PAA as head of the religion department. Lundquist and his wife, Kyndre, have been married for four years. Lundquist believes teens are still open to change, and his ultimate goal is to show them how to follow Jesus.

Larry is a 2002 PAA graduate and will be teaching global studies this year. She is engaged to Kevin McCravy. Both are actively involved at the Sharon (Ore.) Church. Larry’s ultimate goal is to inspire young people to make positive changes in their lives.

Schaffer graduated from PAA in 2005 and will be assisting with security and safety at PAA part time. He is a nursing student at Walla Walla University’s Portland campus and attends the Hood View (Ore.) Church.

Damazo is a 2007 graduate of PAA. Damazo is returning as a task-force worker from Walla Walla University. He will assist the vice principal with various tasks and responsibilities.

Left: Drechelle Larry and Tim Erich make up the new social studies department at PAA.

Left: Stephen Lundquist, the new head of PAA’s religion department, pictured here with his wife Kyndre and their dog “Norm.”

VBS Rides at Gladstone Park Church

This year’s Vacation Bible School theme was “Avalanche Ranch — A Wild Ride through God’s Word.” Children, ages 5–12, attended the program from July 6–10 at Gladstone (Ore.) Park Church. There were 16 volunteers who helped out with an average attendance of 10 to 13 children.

Belinda Reynolds, VBS director, says “The children said they had fun and learned from the Bible stories.” There were four stations with an opening and closing program. The day began at the “stampede” with singing, a skit and a daily point — God is with us, real, strong, awesome and in charge. When the children heard this they yelled “WAHOO!”

The VBS included Wild Bible Adventures where children were told a Bible story, Cowpoke Crafts, Chuck Wagon Chow and Horseplay Games. The day concluded at the Roundup where children watched Chadder’s Wild West Theater, said the daily memory verse and sang.

Children brought friends from the neighborhood, that continued the rest of the week. One mother said her child was having so much fun learning Bible verses, they were studying them at home. A teen leader said he enjoyed working with the children.

On Sabbath, July 11, children helped with worship by providing the children’s story, telling what they liked at VBS, reciting daily memory verses and singing. God is real ... WAHOO!

Left: Avalanche Ranch VBS at Gladstone Park (Ore.) Church shows children God is real.

Richard Cook, Gladstone Park Church communication leader
Cheetah Comes to VBS

The Myrtle Creek (Ore.) Church Vacation Bible School used a western theme with cowboy hats, neckerchiefs and more during Aug. 20–21. Western tunes were sung with modified words about David and his life experiences. Children enjoyed five days playing games, doing crafts, eating good snacks from a chuck wagon and listening to Loren Fenton, pastor, tell the story of King David.

Each day began with songs followed by a live animal feature. More than 30 children learned about a drug-sniffing dog that works for the Sheriff’s office, a talking Macaw from a feed store, three miniature farm horses, a cheetah from Wild Life Safari and a couple of pythons. The children had a chance to talk about snakes in the Bible and learn how a snake smells, senses heat and more. The cheetah was hands off, but Emily Schornstein, leader, talked about how in the new earth cheetahs will be our friends.

Theodore Uren, Myrtle Creek Church communication leader

The Road Back to Gladstone

She was born in Lents, Ore., — one of Portland’s blue-collar neighborhoods on the southeast side. Both her parents were Adventists; in fact, “My mother and brother helped build the Lents Church,” says Barbara Butler. That’s why, beginning in 1936, she went to camp meeting every year.

But her parents got divorced. And money was tight — too tight for her to continue in Adventist schools. When she met her soon-to-be husband at Roosevelt High School in Portland, he wasn’t interested in going to church on Saturday. So she dropped out of church, moved to California, raised a family, and picked up some bad habits along the way.

By 1982, Butler was ready for a change. “I was an alcoholic,” she says, “but when I moved back to Portland, I gave up drinking. Then my husband gave up drinking and smoking, so I gave up smoking too. But I still didn’t come back to church.” Not until last year — that’s when Butler decided it was time to come back to camp meeting. “I knew something had to happen,” she says, “and I knew I needed God in my life. So I came here, and I felt so good. I went to all the meetings and I wasn’t left sitting by myself. Three women who were camped by me — Kathleen from Salem, Vida from Gladstone, and Mary from Pleasant Valley — were right there with me all the time.

That helped a lot.” Following camp meeting, Butler began attending the Lents Adventist Church, where she was baptized by Pat Milligan, pastor, on March 14, 2009. “Our pastor is something else,” she says. “He was a big help to me.”

Barbara was back at camp meeting this year — and not only that, she worked as a volunteer. She says, “I’m just happy to be out here. That’s what we all need to do: be happy, don’t get mad, just look around at what God made for us. God is so awesome,” she adds. “Everybody ought to know that.”

By Greg Brothers, Lincoln City Church pastor
Intentional Friendship Leads to Baptism

Tom and Sharon Hughes looked radiant as they prepared for their baptism June 20. They recently moved from California to Deary, Idaho. Upon arriving in Deary, Tom and Sharon enlisted Lon Boothby, a local Adventist realtor, to help them purchase a home. When word spread the Ginter house had new owners, local Adventists began dropping by to welcome them. One day, they went to a yard sale at the home of retired Adventist pastor Otis and Ann Parks. A friendship developed and it wasn’t long before they began Bible studies.

When asked what brought them into the church, Sharon, with face aglow says, “There were several things involved. It wasn’t a coincidence we kept running into these Adventists. Also, it has always bothered me to attend church on Sunday when the Bible plainly says the seventh-day Sabbath is the true day of rest. Then on our first visit to the Deary Church, we felt right at home. We were received in genuine love, warmth and friendship. Our decision was sealed.”

Tom, a retired heavy equipment operator and electrician, spends time these days working on their ‘divinely appointed’ house. Everywhere one finds Tom, he is sharing his newfound faith in Jesus. The burden of sharing Jesus’ love with the townsfolk weighs heavily on his heart. Tom is ready to serve his Lord.

Sharon’s Christian experience began, when at a very young age, her widowed mother started faithfully sending her brothers and her to church every Sunday. Then, at 12 years old, her pastor invited her and a friend to sing on his Christian-radio program every Sunday. One of her many talents is writing poetry. And Sharon recently discovered the Holy Spirit had expanded this gift into song writing.

They are a tremendous blessing to the Deary Church. •

Norma Jones, Deary Church member

Left: Dennis Nickel, Deary (Idaho) Church pastor, Tom and Sharon Hughes, Jenny Nickel, Ann and Otis Parks, retired pastor, stand together at Tom and Sharon’s baptism.

Baptism Becomes Witnessing Opportunity

When 11-year-old Beth Ann Dobson came to live in Northport, Wash., last fall she didn’t know what was in store for her life. She only came to spend six months with her great aunt and uncle due to family difficulties.

Soon Dobson began to enjoy the country lifestyle and fellowship with the Northport Adventist Church family. She began learning to be a young leader, even helping teach Cradle Roll and her junior/youth class. She put into practice training from the church’s witnessing and evangelism seminars.

Not long after she began attending church with her great aunt, Dobson expressed a desire to be baptized. She began studies with Leon Anderson, Northport Church elder, despite discouragement from some family members. During the last Bible study before baptism, a visiting acquaintance was present and listening. The topic was the state of the dead. This visiting young mother just experienced the death of her husband.

On May 23, nearly 80 people were present for Dobson’s baptism including her mother and several visitors. After the program, Dobson generously gave one of her baptismal gifts, a copy of The Desire of Ages, to the visiting mother. Later, this mother shared she had been especially blessed by the Bible study, saying “Now, I know what to tell my three-year-old boy when he asks me, ‘Where is Daddy?’”

Meanwhile, Dobson would like to become a colporteur missionary and a pediatrician so she can be of service to others. •

Erick Reeve, Northport Church communication leader

Beth Ann Dobson is a happy new member and a young leader.
Cowboy Camp Meeting

Cowboy Camp Meeting Draws a Crowd

The most recent Adventist Horseman’s Association Cowboy Camp Meeting was held June 30–July 4 at Tamarack Springs, outside Ellensburg, Wash. Highlights of the 27th annual Cowboy Camp Meeting included stunning scenery, rich spiritual food and good fellowship with horse enthusiasts.

Nearly 200 people from six states and British Columbia, Canada, brought 79 horses — plus Zaccheaus, the miniature donkey. Another couple dozen people came up just for Sabbath services, which concluded with a baptism of four young people: Cody Colville, Kady Colville, Kyle Pierce and Sheylene Pierce. All are from the Walla Walla, Wash., area and attend the Stateline Adventist Church in Milton-Freewater, Ore.

The speaker for the morning meetings and church service was Steve McPherson, Idaho Conference president. His son, Peter McPherson, Gem State Academy principal, led the adult Sabbath School lesson. Eric Brown, Riverside Community Church senior pastor, spoke for the evening meetings. Brown grew up in the Adventist Horseman’s Association thanks to the charter involvement of his parents. Others shared riveting “Old-Timers’ stories” and children’s stories at each meeting, and the music was abundant and beautiful.

The 2010 Cowboy Camp Meeting will be held at Goose Corrals outside of Dayton, Wash., June 29–July 3, 2010. For more information on the event and the local chapters, go to www.adventisthorsemansassociation.com.

UCA Adds New and Familiar Faces

Upper Columbia Academy has been blessed with devoted teachers since it opened in 1945. This year, one out of three teachers have dedicated ten or more years to the school. “I can’t imagine working anywhere else,” says one staff member.

Rounding out this year’s team are some familiar faces. Kelly Santee is returning to campus as the food service director. Santee has served in the UCA cafeteria before, having worked there as a student in the 1980s and later as the assistant director. Now, after running his own business for several years, he’s taking the helm and will be assisted by Donna Katsma.

“I’m excited to be back home, working with the kids and being part of a dynamite staff,” says Santee. “I’m happy to play any part in the bigger picture God is working on here at UCA.”

While Santee and his team focus on feeding the students, Kellie Humbert wants to feed their minds. Having spent the 2006–2007 school year on campus, Humbert is making her return to UCA, teaching Spanish and English. Her husband, Jefre, teaches in the math department. “We’re excited to be back,” says Humbert, “and look forward to a great year.”

Several taskforce workers complete the staffing picture: Shanin (Olsen) Gillen, driver; Nick Gillen, maintenance and Jessy Person, taskforce men’s dean.

“As we welcome our new staff for the 2009–2010 school year, it feels good to know so many of our staff continue to return,” says Troy Patzer, UCA principal. “They’re dedicated to making UCA the kind of school we’re known to be.”

Katie Torkelsen Spoo, UCA alumni and development associate

UCA has some new staff. Back row, from left: Jessy Person, Jefre Humbert, Nick Gillen and Kelly Santee. Front row, from left: Kellie Humbert, Shanin Gillen and Donna Katsma.
Jesus’ love flowed like lava during the Pendleton (Ore.) Church Vacation Bible School week, Aug. 3–8. Children visited Lava, Lava Island and learned about Jesus’ love in an explosive way.

Suzette McCrary and volunteers worked hard each evening at Lava, Lava Island. Suzette’s sister, Sylvia Escobar spent the week energetically leading the group in songs, putting actions with them to provide an emphasis on Jesus. Each evening children met a new character that assisted them in remembering memory verses and learning about Jesus’ interest in their lives. After reciting Bible verses, children shouted “Mahalo,” the island term for “thank you.”

Each day the children headed downstairs in the church into Hot Bible Adventures, where an angel (Judy Jenner) told the story of the shepherds who were “bummed” because the king had not come yet, but that she and all the other angels (children) came to bring them the good news Jesus had indeed come to their world as a small baby and He would save us. Also in the Bible Adventures, Susan Lundquist portrayed a fellow thief, a friend of the saved thief on the cross. Each child received a scarlet bracelet representing their sins, which they laid over a cross representing the sacrifice Jesus made. Then, a robe of white righteousness was draped over their “sins” completely covering them, indicating the forgiveness and life Jesus offers.

Daily trips to the Crater Craft station kept children busy making water bottle insulators, dry erase boards, totes (complete with self-portraits) and other fun projects. The Jungle Gym station provided energetic games, resulting in many balloons and fun outside. And of course, there were tropical treats to be made and consumed by the children each evening.

By the end of the week, on Sabbath morning, children brought their parents to an open house to tour the church building, see the fabulous decorations (compliments of Brittany Sandvik and crew) and visit with friends and other church members. A rousing program was provided with the children showing things they learned throughout the week. Andrew McCrary, pastor, provided a short sermon and then invited everyone outside to a “Tiki Hut” reception, which included fresh fruit kabobs, cookies, tropical fish treats and something to drink.

Truly, everyone felt the “lava flow” of Jesus’ love.

Marilynn Colcord, Pendleton Church communication leader
Renck’s Ministry to Youth Transcends his Life

How many of you attended Robert Renck’s Primary class sometime over the last 25 years?” Throughout the packed Spokane Valley (Wash.) Church, a large percentage of teens and young adults raised their hands in response to the question. A bowl of bubble gum in the foyer also alerted attendees this would be a memorable service.

“Dr. Bob,” as he was affectionately known by children and young adults, was “a gentle giant,” remembers Katie Torkelsen-Spoo. “He welcomed me into his home, his family and life. He always had a piece of gum for you and a ready laugh. He put up with van loads of crazy kids on the way to the slopes and the same on a few vacations. He wasn’t flashy but he was present. He was a part of our lives and what we were doing and got a kick out of doing it. No loss is ever okay, but to lose him right now ... he went to sleep much too soon.”

“Kids were his number one priority!” recalls Lola Lile, fellow Primary leader for many years. Renck passionately supported Christian education with both his time and resources. Besides teaching Primary, “Dr. Bob” enabled many young adults and teens to experience the joy of snow skiing. If a young person had little funds to cover the cost of skiing, no problem, “Dr. Bob” paid. Week after week during the winter months his van, loaded with young people, would head for the slopes.

For Sabbath School, attendees built three Bible cities (Gaza, Jericho and Jerusalem) which were used on Sunday as paintball forts. For the church service, participants sat in 65-degree water, sang songs and listened while Milosavljevic preached from an old fishing boat. All day Sabbath, attendees stayed close to the water since it was well over 100 degrees outside. On Saturday night, campers hooked a video projector to a generator and watched the movie “Faith like Potatoes.”

Because Camp Chelan can only be accessed by boat, one particular individual ferried members across both ways. Clyde Skeels, from the East Wenatchee (Wash.) Church, faithfully came through. In all, he invested well over six hours moving people and supplies across to 25 Mile Park. Ron Knutson provided his ski boat and jet skis for the weekend and donated the gas.

Special thanks go to the Crossw@lk Youth Evangelism team who coordinated the event and made it a fun adventure. For more information about the Crossw@lk youth ministry, go to yourcrosswalk.com.

Gary Blanchard, Leavenworth/Wenatchee Church associate pastor

Camp Chelan Adventure

Recently the Wenatchee youth ministry department, Crossw@lk, took 40 youth and ministry staff to Camp Chelan, Wash., for a weekend of paintball, swimming, snorkeling, boating, jet skiing and worship. Camp Chelan is a Seventh-day Adventist owned camp on the north side of Lake Chelan approximately 1.5 miles from 25 Mile Park.

Philip Milosavljevic, Andrews University student, spoke for the event and challenged unchurched youth to “give God a chance” and reach out to Him through prayer. Milosavljevic also challenged churched youth by using the story of Ezekiel to “stop being silent” regarding their faith. He did a dynamic job and during the weekend several young people prayed for the very first time.

Jim Reinking

These 40 young people attended “Dr. Bob’s” Primary Class and are representative of hundreds more.
Sharing God’s Love
A Sanctuary-Themed VBS

This year children at the Valley View Church Vacation Bible School in East Wenatchee, Wash., explored and learned about the Sanctuary. “Exploring the Sanctuary 2009” shared what God’s people were looking forward to when Jesus came the first time.

To make it as real for the children as possible, a small-scale Sanctuary, with furniture and accessories like those found in the biblical Tabernacle, was recreated. The children were encouraged to explore and touch as part of the learning process. Lessons, snacks, crafts and outdoor games filled the evenings Monday through Thursday. The snacks introduced “a taste” of the Sanctuary with manna, unleavened bread, and bitter and sweet foods along with an explanation of why these foods were significant.

On Thursday, a pet chicken held the attention of the children. The chicken represented the sacrifice of the poor. The child who owned the chicken shared how she might have felt if her chicken had to be sacrificed because of her sin or her family’s sin. All were relieved they no longer needed to do this. It gave a new meaning to the importance of obedience and Jesus’ death.

Friday evening, parents were invited to come and Jim Anderson, pastor, summarized the week. Sabbath morning there was a special all-child Sabbath School focusing on the Sanctuary.

The most surprising thing about this VBS was how interested the children were to learn about the details of the Sanctuary.

— Lorenda Rae Edwards, Positive Life Radio weekend host, and Michael Dauncey, Coeur d’Alene Church associate pastor, visit with a listener who donated food items during the Christmas-in-July event last month.

The Christmas Spirit Lives All Year Long for PLR Listeners

The last time you crossed the sweltering blacktop of a grocery store parking lot in midsummer did you think of Christmas? Not likely, unless you were participating in Positive Life Radio’s 11th annual Christmas-in-July event.

On July 30, the Christmas spirit was felt in front of several grocery stores and other locations throughout the Inland Northwest as listeners donated over 20,000 pounds of food and hundreds of dollars to local food banks. Radio staff and volunteers set up drop points to collect food and visit with listeners.

“We had a great time baking in the sun! We received 1,181 pounds of food and $115 in cash. Our food bank director was smiling from ear to ear,” says Michael Dauncey, a pastor from Idaho who volunteered at the Coeur d’Alene drop point.

“It was uncomfortable in the heat, but I count the experience a blessing. It kinda restores my faith in humanity,” says Julia Marcyes, a Positive Life Radio listener, who helped at a Spokane drop point.

Humanity does have a heart for those in need, and the things people do to receive the blessing of giving is about as varied as the people themselves.

Matthew, who was listening on his way home from backpacking and hearing about the event, decided to give the food he had not used on his trip.

Fran drove to the wrong location but sat in her car until she heard the right location, then drove like crazy to get across town before the volunteers went home.

The Hardesty and Clark families went door to door with a car load of kids. They collected 146 pounds. Another group was holding a VBS and got all the children involved for a total of 352 pounds.

Some get such a blessing from Christmas-in-July they plan for it all year long. Jim puts aside a can or two in his garage each time he gets home from shopping. When July rolls around, he makes his haul. This year’s was 187 pounds.

Even Erin, who raids her pantry each year, didn’t want to miss giving, so despite the fact her house burned down and she didn’t have canned goods, she brought a cash donation.

Whether it’s parents, singles, all-year planners, or spur-of-the-moment givers, the Christmas spirit lives in July and all year long.

— Jon Dalrymple, UCC communication assistant

— Jay Wintermeyer, UCC communication director
Sunset Lake Focuses
On Camper’s Spiritual Growth

Seventy-five staff members at Sunset Lake Camp (near Wilkeson, Wash.) had one purpose this summer: to help young people find Jesus.

“What sets Sunset Lake apart is the way we minister to and provide long-term spiritual care and support for our campers and their families,” says David Yeagley, Washington Conference youth director.

Sunset Lake supports this commitment through preparing campers spiritually for their week of camp, providing a spiritual director to oversee the evangelistic impact of the week, providing long-term support for parents to deepen the impact of the week and partnering with churches for effective follow-up.

In addition to regular God-focused recreational programming, campers also had the opportunity to sign up for a voluntary rest period Bible study led by Jacob Serns, camp spiritual director. During tween camp, for ages 12–13, more than 100 campers joined the study.

The camp gives Bibles to campers who do not have a Bible available at home. “I saw one child carrying his new Bible all over camp,” Yeagley says. “I asked him if he was reading it, and he told me he was already halfway through Genesis and loving it.”

During eight weeks of summer ministry to 1,048 campers, 154 campers made decisions for baptism and 11 campers were baptized on site.

Each week we are seeing lives changed because of what churches and individuals are doing to partner with the ministry of Sunset Lake,” Yeagley says.

One young man, who attended camp, loves playing football. As he participated in the program at Sunset Lake, he made an important choice. “My child has made the decision to worship on the Sabbath and follow God’s word,” his mother says in a letter to camp staff. “He has chosen to learn more about God and not play football. Now I must do my part and continue to keep him interested in what he has learned.”

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director
VBS Offers Child-Friendly Evangelism

In the long, hot, lazy days of summer, Vacation Bible School provides children with a fun, faith-based environment to learn about Jesus and build friendships.

“Vacation Bible School provides a dual purpose — to reach out to children and their parents,” says Wilma Bing, Washington Conference family ministries director. “Plus it brings the church together for a common goal.”

Through the years, VBS has emerged as an effective way to bring Adventist and community children together for child-friendly evangelism.

“When I first got involved with VBS about 12 years ago, the majority of the kids were Adventist with only a handful of kids from the neighborhood,” says Linda Burman, Auburn City (Wash.) VBS director. “It was very difficult to integrate the neighborhood kids as they were basically outnumbered.

In the last couple years, the majority of kids are from the surrounding neighborhood.”

Children in Kirkland (Wash.), Bellevue (Wash.), and Auburn City explored facing fears at Crocodile Dock, while children at Shelton Valley’s (Wash.) summer daycare camp discovered Bible royalty in Castles and Crowns. Graham (Wash.) children explored creation, while children at Auburn Academy Church visited “Rome” and the underground church in the church’s “Journey to Bethlehem” facility.

The Crocodile Dock theme, about not being afraid, was particularly relevant for a young boy with leukemia who attended the Bellevue VBS. The staff and children prayed for him to not be afraid of his treatment. When he came back, he said because of God, he hadn’t been afraid.

“VBS benefits our church,” says Dixie Robinson, Bellevue VBS leader, “because such a large percentage of people work together as a team to put on this evangelistic effort, which has a great impact on our community.”

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director

**VBS from a Kid’s Point of View**

Church and neighborhood children gathered each evening to enjoy fun-filled activities at Auburn City’s (Wash.) Crocodile Dock. At the Sing and Play Swamp Stomp, the children learned new songs about how they have nothing to fear because God is always with them.

The Bible Bayou, Snack Shack and Gator Games taught them about how God took care of Moses and the Israelites through hard times — plus how Jesus died and rose again. The children made beautiful crafts to take home at the Crawfish Craft and Mission. Each evening, children also took home in their hearts God’s promise through the memory verse they learned, and the children left not only with new friends, but also with a better understanding of Jesus, their powerful Savior.

Timmy Kosaka, VBS participant, age 12

Period actors Kyle Bahnsen, Harold Richards and Doug Bing portray freedom in Christ during a skit at Auburn Academy Church’s “There’s No Place Like Rome” Vacation Bible School.
Bible Study Groups
Strengthen Emerald City

A Sabbath Bible Study, held at the Emerald City Adventist Community Church in Seattle, Wash., has proven to be an asset to the church. The study is in its third year and began when one newly baptized member continued to seek knowledge of the Word of God through study with Eric Salisbury, Bible worker, after the church service. It became a way to learn more about what God had to say and a way to spend the rest of the Sabbath involved in an activity pleasing and acceptable to God. “The Bible study group has fostered love, joy, social interaction, fun, food, spirituality and a closer walk with God and each other,” says one Bible study attendee. It has since branched out to include many small home Bible study groups. The most profound impact is the number of attendees who have become leaders. •

Monica Pickett-Pittman, communication leader

International Students Benefit
From AAA’s New Orientation Program

Students from 11 countries arrived early on the campus of Auburn Adventist Academy to participate in a new, three-day international student orientation program. This new orientation helps international students understand American culture and serves as an introduction to the Auburn campus. “This orientation has been very helpful to me and made me feel more comfortable in my surroundings,” says Sally Lee of Korea. The youth participated in English placement exams, tours of AAA’s campus and the Seattle area, and short interviews with the English as a Second Language teachers. “I feel more prepared for the school year because of orientation,” says Jinny Lee of Korea. “I’m really excited that I came here, and I like it a lot already.”

The mission of this program is to help international students get to know the campus better and facilitate an easier adjustment to their new environment. “Students greatly benefit from this orientation,” shares Troy Carle, Auburn’s ESL director, “because they familiarize themselves with the school and have a comfortable introduction to our programs on campus.” •

Amy Alderman, AAA GLEANER correspondent

Left: Hyun Jung (Sally) Lee, a student from Korea, gets help from Tanapa (Nap) Poshyananda at Auburn Adventist Academy’s international student registration.

Bill Ludwig, AAA math teacher, helps Youjeong (Jessie) Lee, a student from Korea, figure out a class schedule.
Generosity in Service
Legacy Is Going Strong

A Day for Service
For more than a decade, WWU students, faculty and staff have taken a day twice each year to serve the community. This last April, WWU joined with Whitman College and Walla Walla Community College for a joint service day. More than 300 students worked on 25 projects, including planting trees, cleaning up area parks, painting and leading tours at museums. “You get to know so many people, while at the same time helping the community,” says one student. This year Oct. 14 and April 18 are reserved for service to others.

Helping Portland’s Homeless
For the past three years, 25 to 30 students have traveled to Portland, Ore., during the winter to help the homeless. McCoy says, “I wanted to help create a local mission trip that would be short and affordable for those who couldn’t spend the time or money for a larger trip.” Students help the Portland Rescue Mission, mostly with painting projects. They also walk the downtown Portland area, offering blankets, hats, gloves and scarves to the homeless. Last year, about 200 blankets were donated by WWU students and community members. An on-campus knitting group, called the Knit Wits, supplied the scarves and hats. “It has been such a blessing to know that we make things that will keep someone else warm,” says Ellie Veverka, Campus Ministries administrative assistant.

Another emphasis of the trip is praying with people. “I love watching our students interacting with the homeless,” says McCoy. “Many pray with each individual they meet. Others sit down on the sidewalk and just chat and listen to them.”

Katie Wittlake, sophomore, says, “This was my first time on this type of trip. I was nervous about handing out blankets, but I really enjoyed talking to people. They just wanted to share their stories with us.”

The outreach this year will be Feb. 12–15.

Building Stronger Connections
“Although there are several organized service opportunities during the year for students, we find many WWU clubs and departments develop their own service activities,” says McCoy.

For example, automotive students have led a car care workshop for single mothers, and School of Business students have conducted a free tax workshop. “We want to better connect students with all of the service options, so this year for the first time, we will have someone tracking volunteer opportunities with an online database,” says McCoy. Bridget Bechtel, coordinator, says, “This database will help us reach out to the community, to form more relationships with people through service. I want to help students get more excited about service.”

Lisa Krueger, WWU GLEANER correspondent

WWU students connect with the Portland (Ore.) homeless through prayer during an annual weekend mission trip.

more WWU news
Freshmen Get JumpStart
Christian Radio Chaplain, Former Member of White House Honor Guard Terry Johnsson to speak at Fall Week of Prayer

READ MORE AT:
WALLAWALLA.EDU/NEWS
Former Evangelist and Civil Rights Activist Dies
Edward Earl Cleveland, Seventh-day Adventist Church ministerial associate secretary and renowned evangelist, died Aug. 30, at Huntsville Hospital in Huntsville, Ala. He was 88. Cleveland served the Adventist Church for more than 60 years as a pastor, evangelist, church leader, teacher, civil rights leader and mentor to thousands of preachers.

Ogden Men’s Conference
Make plans now to attend the 2009 Oregon Men’s Conference, Nov. 6–7 at the Holden Convention Center in Gladstone, Ore. This event is open to all men age 16 and older and will feature a variety of fellowship and learning sessions. The featured speaker for the event is Dan Matthews, former Faith for Today executive director and Lifestyle Magazine co-host. For more information, or to register, visit www.PlusLine.org, or call Diane Pestes at (503) 850-3575.

Oops!
In the September, 2009, Healthy Choices column the Web link to Don Hall’s answer to the high-protein diet question was incomplete. The correct URL is: www.wellsource.info/wn/ask-ProteinDiet.pdf.

Roger Martin is resuming pastoral duties in the Farmington/Fairfield (Upper Columbia Conference) district after serving with the UCC trust department and with Bibleinfo.com.

Larry Kirkpatrick has accepted the call to pastor the Bonner’s Ferry (Idaho) Church.

John Bradshaw has accepted the call to pastor the College Place (Wash.) Village Church.

Greg Jones began pastoring the Great Falls and Choteau (Mont.) churches in September. Jones previously served the Arizona Conference as the Glendale (Ariz.) Church associate pastor.

Michael Demma began serving as the Puyallup (Wash.) Church associate pastor in September.

Ben Bilan is leaving the Russian Company/Stone Tower Russian (Portland, Ore.) churches to enter the Adventist Theological Seminary.

Keith Bowman is leaving the Tabernacle (Portland, Ore.) Church to pastor the Beaverton/Tualatin (Ore.) district.

Randy Cummings is leaving his position at Portland Adventist Elementary School to join the Oregon Conference Information Technology department.

Ron Hart is leaving the Christmas Valley/La Pine (Ore.) district to pastor the Hood River (Ore.)/White Salmon (Wash.) district.

Nathan Hellman is leaving his position as Roseburg (Ore.) Church assistant pastor to enter the Adventist Theological Seminary.

Doug Kincaid concluded his ministry as Junction City (Ore.) pastor and Springfield (Ore.) assistant pastor, to attend law school.

Lee Larson is serving as Springfield (Ore.) Church interim pastor.

Matthew Lombard is leaving the Sandpoint (Idaho) Church to pastor the Blue Mountain Valley/Milton district (Upper Columbia Conference).

Andrew McCrary is leaving the Pendleton (Ore.) district to serve in the Upper Columbia Conference trust department.

Perry Parks is retiring from his position as Ashland (Ore.) Church pastor.

Jonathan Pawson is pastoring the Bend/La Pine/Christmas Valley (Ore.) district. Pawsom comes from the Adventist Theological Seminary.

Jonathan Russell became Sunnyside (Portland, Ore.) Church assistant pastor. Russell comes from the Adventist Theological Seminary.

Gary Walter has concluded pastoral ministry at the Scappoose–St. Helens/Vernonia (Ore.) district.
Chrowl 60th

Roger and Ruby Chrowl celebrated their 60th anniversary on July 27, 2009, with family and friends in Salem, Ore., where they have lived for the past 32 1/2 years.

Roger and Ruby Hall met at Laurelwood Academy during the 1945–46 school year and were married in Klamath Falls, Ore., on June 6, 1949. Roger has been a dental lab technician for 40 years and was previously a log truck driver. Ruby has worked as grocery clerk, church secretary and clerk, dental assistant and lab assistant.

The family includes Linda and John Brownlee, Oldtown, Idaho; Wanda and Rodney Janssen of Salem, Ore.; Larry and Joanne (O’Farrell) Chrowl also of Salem, Ore.; 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Dade 90th

Frances “Leone” Dade celebrated her 90th birthday on July 10, 2009, with a small celebration.

Frances Mayfield was born July 10, 1919, in Pillager, Minn. For her career, she was a full-time mother and homemaker and taught accordion lessons. She loves yard work and flowers. She has been a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1960 and has been active in Sabbath School and community services.

Her family includes Sharon and Les Martin of Mt. Vernon, Ore.; Tom and Myrna Dade of Willamina, Ore.; Janet and Ted Gage of Siletz, Ore.; 7 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

James 90th

Doris James celebrated her 90th birthday on Aug. 17, 2008, with a reception in the fellowship hall of the Meadow Glade (Wash.) Church. Family and friends were in attendance to honor her.

Doris Cook was born on Aug. 12, 1918, to John and Lillian Cook of Snohomish, Wash. At the age of 12, she was baptized at the Columbia River in Richland, Wash. Doris married A. Lewis James in 1934 in College Place, Wash. Lewis worked at the Milton Nursery in Milton-Freewater, Ore. They moved to Meadow Glade in 1947 and raised their four children.

Her family includes Bernita Paunder of Scappoose, Ore.; Tom and Wanda James of Rochester, Wash.; 10 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

Kabanuk 60th

Andrew and Dorothy Kabanuk celebrated their 60th anniversary on May 30, 2009. Their family provided a celebration dinner served on the deck of Dorothy’s nephew’s Tollgate mountain home. It was not only a happy event, surrounded with children and grandchildren, it was also a beautiful day!

Andy and Dorothy met Sept. 29, 1948. They were engaged Dec. 29, 1948, and were married May 29, 1949, in Pendleton, Ore. They are both the youngest of eight children. Both families came from Ukraine/Russia in the early 1900s and both mothers made large kettles of soup called “borsht.”

The Kabanuk family spent 20 years in Portland, Ore. Andy supervised the cytology department of the United Medical Laboratory and Dorothy worked as a secretary. They later moved to the Walla Walla Valley where Andy was employed by the Davis/Sameh/Meeker Lab for 28 years. Dorothy worked as a secretary at the Washington State Penitentiary.

Through the years, the Kabanuks have traveled and camped with their RV. They love attending camp meetings. Andy, always the scholar, spends much of his leisure time reading one book after another. He enjoys his yard and garden, and especially loves picking his produce and bringing it in for Dorothy to cook something good. Dorothy loves to cook and entertain friends. She keeps herself busy by playing her organ, the accordion and a variety of other musical instruments daily.

The family includes Valerin Chapin of Pomeroy, Wash.; Gregory and Sharon Kabanuk of Seaside, Ore.; Cindy and Melvin Sorensen of Sammamish, Wash.; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Stewart 60th

Syd and Florence Stewart celebrated their 60th anniversary on July 26, 2009, with a family brunch at the Oregon Coast.

Sydney E. Stewart and Florence M. Olson were married Aug. 28, 1949, in Sisters, Ore. Harry Hemple, pastor from the Oregon Conference, officiated. Syd served as a teacher for 36 years in the Oregon Conference, Northern California Conference and the Pacific Northwest. Florence was a homemaker, secretary, office assistant for schools, churches and medical offices.

The Stewart family includes Cindy Stewart of Vancouver, Wash.; Debra Stewart of Angwin, Calif.; Shari and Allan Thompson of Mt. Shasta, Calif.; and a grandchild.
**BIRTHS**

**ARRIOLA-MAMOULELIS**—Nikki Arriola and Teddy Mamoulelis were married Aug. 2, 2009, in Walla Walla, Wash., where they are making their home. Nikki is the daughter of Harry II and Marlien Arriola. Teddy is the son of Pam Mamoulelis.

**BROWN**—Samuel Nikole was born July 11, 2009, to David M. and LeAnn R. (States) Brown, Cocolalla, Idaho.

**DAVIS**—Nathan was born Feb. 9, 2009, to Joseph and Jacqueline (Hester) Davis, Priest River, Idaho.

**DOUGLASS**—Saylor Genevieve was born Nov. 5, 2008, to Darin and Jennifer (Bivens) Douglass, Clarkston, Wash.

**DOUGLASS**—Shaun Gregorie was born Nov. 5, 2008, to Darin and Jennifer (Bivens) Douglass, Clarkston, Wash.

**OLIVER**—Elliot Parker was born June 28, 2009, to Charlie and Tanya (Marsa) Oliver, Graham, Wash.

**WELLMAN**—George Michael III was born Aug. 7, 2009, to George and Misty (McCormack) Wellman, Albany, Ore.

**WELLMAN**—Nathan was born Feb. 26, 2009, to Charlie and Tanya (Marsa) Oliver, Graham, Wash.

**SEKELLEY**—Danielle L. was born Nov. 9, 2008, to Joseph D. and Shannon (Davis) Sekelley, Priest River, Idaho.

**THYGESON**—Leah Mai was born July 22, 2009, to Hans and Mindy (Waterhouse) Thygeson, West Linn, Ore.

**ATKINS**—Levi James was born July 31, 2009, to James R. and Marissa S. (McElvain) Atkins, Polson, Mont.


**RADKE**—Aidan Matthew was born July 21, 2009, to Adam and Colleen (Brundual) Radke, Bothell, Wash.

**RICE**—Sydney Jo was born March 21, 2009, to Andrew and Becky (Leavell) Rice, La Conner, Wash.

**SCHAFFER**—Lillyanne Sophia Grace was born Dec. 4, 2008, to Don and Sharon (Huntz) Sfafer, College Place, Wash.

**SKELETT**—Daniel L. was born Nov. 9, 2008, to Joseph D. and Shannon (Davis) Sekelley, Priest River, Idaho.

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**GERACI-RICH**—Kristi Lynn Geraci and Jeremiah Isaac “J.D.” Rich were married July 15, 2009, in Bozeman, Mont., where they are making their home. Kristi is the daughter of Gary and Marci Geraci.

**HYDE-JACOBSON**—Brendan Jacobson and Ashley Jacobson were married Aug. 22, 2009, in Minnesota, Minn., where they are making their home. Brendan is the son of Michael and Betty Jacobson. Ashley is the daughter of Robert and Carol Jacobson.

**GERACI-RICH**—Kristi Lynn Geraci and Jeremiah Isaac “J.D.” Rich were married July 15, 2009, in Bozeman, Mont., where they are making their home. Kristi is the daughter of Gary and Marci Geraci.

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**ATKINS**—Levi James was born July 31, 2009, to James R. and Marissa S. (McElvain) Atkins, Polson, Mont.


**HARM**—Dorothee (Roehn), 57; born July 4, 1951, Velbert, Germany; died Jan. 24, 2009, Hillsboro, Ore. Surviving: sons, Jason Roehn and Evan Harin, both of Hillsboro; daughters, Taylor Harin, Hillsboro; and parents, Herbert and Eva Roehn, Hillsboro.


**KNAPP**—Tamara L., 55; born Dec. 21, 1953, Astoria, Ore.;


MACKEY—Ebba Mae (Sundin), 85; born Dec. 16, 1923, Springfield, Ill.; died March 6, 2009, Medford, Ore. Surviving: son, Steven, Glide, Ore.; daughters, Diana Corey, Post Falls, Idaho; Robyanne Norton, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; Kelly Dabulsikis, Dixie, Wash.; 13 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.


MATHIEN—Merrill D., 93; born Nov. 17, 1915, Wellington, Colo.; died April 9, 2009, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: wife, Viola M. (Steinert); son, Nelson, Portland, Ore.; Judith Mohr, Lake Oswego, Ore.; 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

MAYER—Ellis, 80; born May 23, 1928, Williams, Minn.; died March 23, 2009, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Joyce (Thurston); daughter, Daronda Miller, Salmon, Idaho; sisters, Ruby Stevenson, Silverton, Ore.; Charlotte Jones, Coeur d’Alene; Laverne McCormick, Prineville, Ore.; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

MILLER—Harry, 95; born July 14, 1913, Dent, Minn.; died June 5, 2009, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: wife, Ethel (Graham); daughters, Audrey Rice, Nampa, Idaho; Donna Harding, Yakima; Arlene Wright, Hermiston, Ore.; Verla Matico, LaCombe, Alberta, Canada; 11 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

PESTERFIELD—George Ray, 85; born April 16, 1923, Tillamook, Ore.; died Dec. 6, 2008, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: wife, Kathryn Riddle Hanson Pesterfield; sons, Gerald, Pacific City, Ore.; Duane, Wood Village, Ore.; George G., Gresham; daughters, Linda Bratcher, Gresham; Julie Bratcher, Portland, Ore.; brothers, Everett and Clarence, both of Tillamook; Jack, Pacific City; Merrell, Wheeler, Ore.; and Leonard, Hood River, Ore.


WAHNER—Velma L. (Sams), 91; born April 20, 1918, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; died July 21, 2009, College Place, Wash. Surviving: sons, Doug and Fred, both of College Place; sister, Lenora Hayes, Milton-Freewater; 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

WARD—John, 37; born June 22, 1972, Canyonville, Ore.; died July 1, 2009, Lebanon, Ore. Surviving: wife, Shantel (Largent), Nampa, Idaho; daughter, Tiffany Ward, Nampa; and brother, Chris, Seattle, Wash.


YOUNKER—LaVer E. (Schrenk), 89; born Feb. 15, 1920, Lehr, N.D.; died May 27, 2009, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: sons, Gerald, Boring, Ore.; James, Portland, Ore.; sister, Eleanor Winkenwerder, Portland; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.
Depression Is Common, but Treatable

One in five women and one in nine men will have depression symptoms at some point in their lives. Typical symptoms include feelings of hopelessness, loss of interest in things they once enjoyed, withdrawal from social activity, changes in eating and/or sleeping patterns and suicidal thoughts.

These symptoms may occur due to actual physical changes in the brain, including shrinking of the part of the brain that is key to memory and concentration. Depression also appears to trigger the output of a stress hormone (cortisol) that can damage neuron connecting pathways.

If you have symptoms of stress or depression, get medical help. Depression is treatable with:
• Talk therapy (using cognitive therapy and problem solving therapy).
• Medications (antidepressants) that help repair neuron pathways to help people feel better again.
• A combination of talk therapy and medication is usually more effective than one treatment alone and recommended for long-term success.

Other important therapeutic options (and good preventive actions) involve a healthy lifestyle, including:
• Nutritious meals made with unrefined foods (e.g., whole grains), healthy fats (e.g., omega-3 fats found in flax meal and fish oils), and highly colored fruits and vegetables (e.g., berries, citrus and spinach, which are high in antioxidants and phytochemicals that help promote brain health).
• Regular exercise, such as brisk walking 30+ minutes daily.
• Mentally stimulating activities, such as reading, problem-solving and playing a musical instrument.
• An active social life, such as hiking or camping with friends or attending church socials.

These are all positive actions you can take daily to keep your brain healthy and working well.

NORTH PACIFIC UNION

Offerings
Oct. 3—Local Church Budget; Oct. 10—World Budget; Voice of Prophecy; Oct. 17—Local Church Budget; Oct. 24—Local Conference Advance; Oct. 31—World Budget: GC Session Offering.

Special Days
Curriculum Focus for the Month—Adventist Heritage+

North Pacific Union Conference Association
Official notice is hereby given that a Regular Membership Meeting of the North Pacific Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists is called for 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009, at Walla Walla University in Walla Walla, Wash. The membership is comprised of the members of the North Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee. The purpose of the Regular Membership Meeting is to hear reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Max Torkelsen II, president
Gary W. Dodge, secretary

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

Oct. 5—10—Week of Worship with Terry Johnson, pastor.
Oct. 8—10—Fall Classic Tournament with women’s volleyball and men’s soccer.

ALASKA
It Is Written New King James Bible
The Hillside-O’Malley Church is looking for cases of the It Is Written New King James Bible. It is no longer in print. They are large, red paperback Bibles. If you have any information on where some can by acquired, please contact Tina Steenmeyer: (907) 223-9319 or tina@gci.net.

MONTANA
Women’s Retreat
Oct. 16–18—Women’s Retreat in Fairmont Hot Springs in the Butte area. “His Faithfulness.” Guest speaker is Esme Branner. For more information, contact Shellie Spanning, (406) 585-0257.

OREGON
Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM)
Oct. 5—Swim Pool Party, noon to 3:30 p.m., at the indoor pool located at Cherrywood Village, 1417 S.E. 107th, Portland, OR 97126. Bring some snacks to share after the swim. Please sign-in at swim pool area upon arrival! Oct. 17—Hike at Falls Creek Falls, north of Carson, Wash., carpool from Beaverton Church after the service. Bring a picnic lunch and your camera. For information call: Tom Terry at (503) 684-7971; tom.te@verizon.net or Charlotte Miles at (503) 579-9549. www.beavertonsda.com, then to the Church Life Button and then to the Adventist Singles Web page. Maps will be made available at the Web site above. Save this date: Nov. 21—Progressive Dinner Party.

Rockwood Concert
Oct. 10—Mike Bishop will sing with his sister Marilynn Bishop at 6 p.m., at the Rockwood Adventist Church, 1910 S.E. 182nd Ave., Portland, OR. His new CD project, “Not On My Own,” as well as his previous CDs, “Rise Again,” and “My Hymnal: The Fourth Generation,” will be available for purchase after the concert.

Sunnyside Inside Out Ministries Present
Oct. 11—Dynamics of Human Relationships, 8-weekly sessions, starting at 7:30 p.m. at Sunnyside Adventist Church, 10501 S.E. Market St., Portland, OR 97216, in the fellowship room. This features: behavior patterns, communication skills, how to connect with people, and more. Donations to cover expenses will be accepted. Moderators are David and Gloria Myers, long-time management and sales trainers/counselors. For more information, call (503) 252-8080.

Women’s Retreat
Oct. 16–18—Women’s Retreat in Florence, OR. “How Great is Our God.” Guest speaker is Gail McKenzie. For more information, contact Cheri Corder, (503) 850-3558, or e-mail cheri.corder@oc.npuc.org. Don’t miss the early bird deadline of Oct. 6.

UPPER COLUMBIA
Young Women’s Retreat
Oct. 2–4—Camp MiVoden, Hayden Lake, Idaho. Guest speaker is Lisa Marie Buster. For more information, contact mabled@uccsda.org.

Annual Women’s Retreat
Oct. 23–25—Camp MiVoden, Hayden Lake, Idaho. Guest speaker is Dr. Carol Richardson. For more information, contact mabled@uccsda.org.

WASHINGTON
Women’s & Teen’s Retreat
Oct. 16–18—Guest speaker is Jo Ann Davidson.
Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores, Wash. For more information, contact Wilma.bing@wc.npuc.org.
The 2010 Images of Creation Nature Photography Contest for the GLEANER will open October 2009. Winning entries will be selected to 1) appear on page two of the GLEANER magazine next year or 2) be featured for one week on the GleanerOnline.org Web site's home page throughout the year. The deadline for entries is Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009.

The GLEANER will be accepting digital photos as well as slide transparencies, but several contest rules will apply to both media:

1. Photographers may submit a maximum of 15 vertical images.
2. Only images of nature scenes taken within the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington will be considered.
3. Photographers should be prepared to supply model releases for any recognizable people appearing in winning entries.
4. Winning entries from past years are no longer eligible for submission.
5. Twelve contest-winning images will be used in the print edition of GLEANER, with payment of $100 per photo.
6. Fifty-two additional photos will be selected to appear on the GleanerOnline.org Web site in low resolution each week during the year, after which the photo may be seen in archival form for four weeks. Any requests for high-resolution versions of these photos for any other purpose will be forwarded to the photographer.
7. Entries should be mailed to or delivered to 5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642, during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Digital Entries
1. If submitting photos taken with a digital camera, ensure that your camera captures at least three megapixels. Further, make sure your camera is set to its “highest-resolution” mode and the image is recorded at the “largest JPG size.” The file should be several megabytes in size.
2. Files other than JPG will not be accepted. Virgin JPG files should be saved at the highest possible resolution. Avoid degrading the image by re-saving a JPG file to the same filename.
3. Submit photos on a CD that is clearly identified “2010 Image of Creation Photo Contest” along with the photographer’s name.
4. Use the title of each photo as its filename on the CD to facilitate future correspondence about that image.
5. Full contact information should be contained in a cover letter that accompanies the entries: name, mailing address, day and evening phone numbers, and e-mail address. Include a typewritten list of all the titles you are submitting.
6. Entries should be placed in a plastic slide page and protected in a large manila envelope.
7. All slides will be returned by regular first-class postage at GLEANER expense or may be picked up in person by the photographer during regular GLEANER office hours after the winners are announced.

Slide Entries
1. Only original 35-millimeter slides will be considered. Slide duplicates will be disqualified.
2. The photographer’s name must appear on the slide mount along with the photo title to facilitate future correspondence about the image and avoid loss or confusion.
3. Full contact information should be contained in a cover letter that accompanies the entries: name, mailing address, day and evening phone numbers, and e-mail address. Include a typewritten list of all the titles you are submitting.
4. Entries should be placed in a plastic slide page and protected in a large manila envelope.
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EVENT
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First-time Advertisers— Advertisers who are members of the Seventh-day Adventist church must submit a letter of endorsement from their pastor or from the local conference communication director along with their first submission. Other first-time advertisers must submit references from business members of their community, a credit bureau and/or any other references requested by the editor. All references must be on official letterhead stationery and received at the GLEANER office before the deadline date of the issue desired for publication. References do not render unnecessary the approval of the GLEANER editorial committee.

Payment—Payment is due upon receipt of invoice. Payment must be received before the ad is published. Visa and Mastercard accepted. Always give complete contact information (including daytime phone) to facilitate the billing process.

Every space between characters marks the beginning of a new word. Count each unit of a date as one word unless it appears as xx/xx/xxxx, which counts as one word. The editors reserve the right to edit ads for length and to conform to GLEANER style and policy.

Classified Ads
Classified Ad Word Count— Classified ads must be submitted as hard copy either by e-mail (to gleaner@nw.npuc.org) or by mail. A maximum of 80 words will be accepted for any new classified ad.

Classified Ads Rates, Other Advertisers—For advertisers who are not members in the North Pacific Union Conference: $37 for 30 words or less; $1.25 for each additional word.

Display Ads
Reserving Space—Display ad space should be reserved on or before the published deadline at least one month before the publication date. For large ads, call the GLEANER advertising manager regarding space availability at (360) 857-7043. Go to www.gleaneronline.org for ad policies, specifications, rates and deadlines or request the information from the advertising manager.

National Advertising—Advertisers who wish to place half- or full-page display ads in at least five of the nine NAD union magazines concurrently should go to www.nadnationalbuy.com or contact the NAD National Buy Advertising coordinator at manager@nadnationalbuy.com.

OCTOBER 2009 • GLEANER 43
North Pacific Union Conference Directory

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Certification Registrar Linda LauManyon
Early Childhood Coordinator ......... Sue Patzer
Asst. to Pres. for Global Mission, Evangelism, Ministerial ......... Dan Sems

Upper Columbia

Local Conference Directory

ALASKA
Ken Crawford, president; Ed Dunn, secretary; Sharon Staddon, treasurer; 6100 O’Malley Road, Anchorage, AK 99507-7200; (907) 346-1004; www.alaskaconference.org.

IDAHO
Stephan McPherson, president; Donald A. Klinger, secretary; Harald Dixon III, treasurer; 7777 Fairview, Boise, ID 83704-8418; (208) 375-7524; www.idahoadventist.org.

MONTANA

OREGON
Al Reenche, president; Dave Allen, v.p. for administration; Jon Corder, v.p. for finance; 19800 Oakfield Road, Gladstone, OR 97027-2546; (503) 850-3500; www.oregonconference.org.

UPPER COLUMBIA

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V.P. for Hispanic Ministries ...... Ramon Canals
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Sun ............ 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Nampa Branch
1350 N. Kings Rd.
Nampa, ID 83687-3193 (208) 245-2352
Friday and Sunday Closed
M-Th .... 11 a.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Oregon
19700 Oakfield Rd.
Gladstone, OR 97027 (503) 850-3300
M-Th ....... 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
F ......... 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Sun ...... 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Medford Branch
Shamrock Square Shopping Center
632 Crater Lake Ave.
Medford, OR 97508-8014 (541) 734-0507
Sun-Th ....... 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Upper Columbia
15918 E. Euclid Ave.
Spokane Valley, WA 99216-1815
PO Box 19039, Spokane, WA 99219-9039
(509) 838-3168
M-Th ....... 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sun ......... 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

College Place Branch
505 S. College Ave.
College Place, WA 99324-1226
(509) 259-0723
M-Th ....... 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sun .......... 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Washington
5100 32nd St.
Auburn, WA 98092-7024 (253) 833-6707
M-W ....... 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Th ....... 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
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The Sunset Schedule

October

2 9 16 23 30

Alaska Conference

Anchorage 7:26 7:05 6:43 6:22 6:02
Fairbanks 7:14 6:49 6:24 5:59 5:35
Juneau 6:27 6:08 5:49 5:30 5:12
Ketchikan 6:18 6:01 5:43 5:27 5:11

Idaho Conference

La Grande 6:30 6:17 6:05 5:53 5:42
Pocatello 7:09 6:57 6:45 6:34 6:24

Montana Conference

Helena 7:05 6:52 6:39 6:27 6:15
Miles City 6:41 6:27 6:14 6:02 5:51
Missoula 7:13 7:00 6:46 6:34 6:23

Oregon Conference

Portland 6:48 6:35 6:23 6:11 6:00

UCC Conference

Pendleton 6:33 6:20 6:07 5:55 5:44
Spokane Walla Walla 6:26 6:12 5:59 5:46 5:35
Yakima 6:39 6:26 6:13 6:01 5:49

Washington Conference

Bellingham 6:46 6:32 6:18 6:05 5:52
Seattle 6:46 6:32 6:19 6:06 5:54

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The Project

When our front porch began to exhibit characteristics of the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa, I saw an inestimable opportunity to learn a new skill.

Boards, saws and all other tools of the carpentry trade have never been my first love, nor supportive of my spiritual gifts — other than that of “patience.” But I am a naturally thrifty person, and, spying a chance to save some cash, I succumbed to the question that has been the shipwreck of so many myopic men before me: “Why not do it myself?”

Two weeks of vacation time stretched before me — plenty of time, I reasoned, to accomplish a project so small. As I figured it, it could be accomplished in three short steps: 1) Tear the old porch down. 2) Acquire the materials. 3) Build the sparkling new replacement.

Steps one and two went by in a flash, proving only my competence at demolition. “That was easy,” I thought. But the house now resembled a four-year-old child missing two front teeth. And thus began “the vacation that never was.”

Those two weeks were filled with repeated challenges to pride. In spite of dusty applications of geometry and physics theorems, more than once I caught myself muttering some variation of, “I cut it twice, and it’s still too short!”

When I was nearly flummoxed, a close friend saw my dilemma and brought an expert over to give me a few pointers. Someone who had done it before — time and time again — made it seem so simple. Without his plan, my project would have been lost.

Without the Creator’s touch, our lives would be lost.

Our best reasoning, finest logic, greatest wisdom might indeed be foolishness to someone who has done it before — time and time again. When the Creator came to this formless project, the Bible says simply “He spake and it was done.” Why, then, do we often ascribe our highest accolades to those whose judgment countenances little room for faith or divine intervention.

C.S. Lewis pointedly remarks: “Ancient man approached God ... as the accused person approaches his judge. For the modern man, the roles are reversed. He is the judge: God is in the dock. He is quite a kindly judge: If God should have a reasonable defense for being the god who permits war, poverty, and disease; he is ready to listen to it. The trial may even end in God’s acquittal. But the important thing is that man is on the bench, and God is in the dock.”

I want God “on the bench.” I’ve come short too many times in my life to think I know better. I believe what the Creator miraculously began millennia ago: He is well able to finish in a manner beyond my ken. Sure, it’s a matter of faith. But what prize of eternal value isn’t?

And, oh, the porch? It’s done — as is my “vacation!”

1 God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics, C. S. Lewis. Walter Hooper (Editor), Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; Reprint edition (October 1994; original copyright 1970 by the Trustees of the Estate of C. S. Lewis.)
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