What’s in Your Hand?

Kingdom Assignments

WWW.GLEANERONLINE.ORG
God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, “Fall on the earth.”

Job 37:5–6 (NIV)

Stewardship: It’s All About Him

After finishing seminary, I became the pastor of the Woodland (Wash.) Church which was exciting, challenging and a bit intimidating because Mel Rees was a member of the congregation. Rees was the Oregon Conference stewardship director and the recognized expert on stewardship throughout the Seventh-day Adventist church. Fortunately, he was also very approachable and became a cherished mentor. Each Wednesday afternoon, I joined him for an individualized stewardship class, enjoyed supper around his table, and then went with him to prayer meeting.

One of the first things I learned was every person becomes a steward at birth and remains one until death. We may be a good steward or a bad steward. We may be in the church or out of it. But we are still stewards, nothing more and nothing less. We do not own anything. God is the Owner of everything — even our lives. “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him,” (Psalm 24:1, NLT).

Sometimes we hear the expression, “It’s my life, I’ll do with it what I like.” But that shows ignorance of both our creation and our created purpose. Every one of us belongs to God first by creation and second by redemption. “Are we not all children of the same Father? Are we not all created by the same God?” (Malachi 2:10). “Or don’t you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price,” (I Corinthians 6:19, 20). God is the Owner, and we are His stewards.

As stewards, we are under the constant care and protection of a loving God, who regards us as His children. Our time and talent, our health and wealth, are good gifts to be used in the Owner’s service.

Rees recalled talking with a group of farmers one time. One asked, “Do you mean to say that I don’t own my farm?”

“I’m afraid not,” replied Rees.

“Do you have any idea how long and hard I worked before I was able to pay off the mortgage and get my place free of debt?” the farmer asked.

“And you still say I don’t own it?”

Rees continued, “You remember your neighbor who died a couple of years ago? How much land did he own?”

“About a section [640 acres],” said the farmer.

“Did you go to the funeral? How much of his farm did he take with him? Not even one handful of dirt?”

“I see what you mean,” replied the farmer.

God owns it all. It is not the possession of things that is wrong, but the claiming of ownership that really belongs to God. Christian stewardship is a total commitment. If we believe that, we’ll want to handle our Owner’s goods as He would handle them himself. We are called upon to carry out the Owner’s wishes completely — to care for our time, talent, health and wealth as God directs. And with this responsibility comes accountability. There cannot be one without the other. “Yes, each one of us will have to give a personal account to God,” (Romans 14:12). How carefully each Christian should manage the resources God has provided. How carefully we should check the effective results of our stewardship responsibility.

“One of the first things I learned was every person becomes a steward at birth and remains one until death ... We do not own anything. God is the Owner of everything — even our own lives.”

MAX TORKELSEN II
North Pacific Union Conference president
Changes for the GLEANER

For 2010 the GLEANER will feature a few changes in page content. This page will include the news and notes typically found on the previous FYI pages with the exception of Advent Movement which will now appear in the Family section following the news pages.

Page five will include a variety of perspective articles, reader e-mails and letters and excerpts from the GLEANER Blog. Share your thoughts on the GLEANER Blog at www.gleaneronline.org or e-mail the editors at gleaner@nw.npuc.org.

NPUC Initiates Northwest-Wide Bible Worker Training

The NPUC executive committee has approved a plan to facilitate literature ministries and Bible worker coordination programs in every interested local conference within the NPUC.

Beginning immediately, Northwest leadership will develop plans based on the successful Souls West program operated by the Pacific Union Conference. While Northwest students will be initially trained through a cooperative arrangement with the Souls West program, plans include the opening of a Northwest training site at a summer camp or academic setting by the 2011–2012 school year.

“We’re serious about this for several reasons,” says Dan Serns, NPUC ministerial director. “It means being faithful to our Adventist mission and developing the spiritual leadership of our youth and young adults in the area of soul-winning. And, we believe it will bring revival to each of our churches, schools and institutions.”

Read the complete NPUC Souls Northwest proposal at www.npuc.org.

Don’t Forget

The deadline for the February issue of the GLEANER is January 4, 2010. The final GLEANER issue to include Christmas stories is March 2010, with a news deadline of January 28, 2010. News stories of pageants, plays or other holiday events received after this date will not appear in print editions of the GLEANER.

Society of Adventist Communicators Convention, 2009

Adventist communication professionals from around the world gathered in Newport Beach, California, for the 2009 Society of Adventist Communicators Convention, October 15–18. The event featured continuing education workshops, presentations by leading communication and media professionals, as well as awards for occupational excellence.

Don Roth, reporter, author and former associate secretary for the Adventist World Church, received the SAC Lifetime Achievement Award. Steve Vistaunet, North Pacific Union Conference assistant to the president, and Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director, were elected to the 2010 SAC board as president and vice president for communication respectively.

GLEANER BLOGs

GLEANER Blogs:
• Cindy’s Garden Blog
• MAXimum Perspectives
• Current Events
• Current GLEANER Issue
• Finance
• Tip Sheet

The latest Northwest and World Church News:
www.gleaneronline.org

Up to the minute updates:
www.twitter.com/npuc
Recently I took a long hike with a friend. We began early in the day and took just enough water and snacks to significantly weigh our packs, yet never fill us — an interesting commentary about trail mix. We passed fellow hikers on switch back after switch back. As the air became thin and the path steep, I doubted it was the road less trodden — but that it was even a road!

Just when I begin to question my friend’s path-making abilities and Sunday morning excursions, the top side of a waterfall cascaded into my blurred and dusty vision. My blistered feet collapsed and my pack fell onto lush grass, and untouched, rare, raw beauty. All the clichés about the best places being the hardest to reach charged into my aching frontal lobe.

Amidst Gatorade and imminent C.P.R.; I reflected on the trail census and fellow hikers along my “proverbial thorny — rutted and awful” path.

One, hiker still sat by the fire drinking hot chocolate. Another two, were still in the Forest Service parking lot arguing over maps. A fourth one, we left at mile one complaining about blisters. Number five appointed himself some sort of trail master and was erecting bench posts on the way.

Some hikers were still at the welcome sign, making — perfect, beautiful marshmallows. One or two only bragged about grade-A — UNUSED, boots.

But my friend and I actually made the hike.

And now we sat, gulping down a million-dollar view.

And somewhere between delirious re-hydrating moments, I thought:

Position and wealth are much like this hike. Some fellow journeyers seem to only take up trail space. Others never get past the parking lot. Some show up only for the hot chocolate.

But a rare few actually use their boots and shore up their laces. They kick the rocks out of their way, and forge ahead to take the hike.

Someone once said “Never underestimate the impact of a small group of volunteers, with little resources and much enthusiasm — for everything that has ever been done, has been done by them.” This GLEANER is full of little groups who actually “used the boots.” Consider Chandler who grew a $100 for homeless classmates. Consider Todd and Laura who used influence to form a charity baseball game.

Are you JUST SITTING at that cherry desk, or using it to push positive change? Are you “JUST recycling disposable income” or GROWING it for something good? It’s like this, you can either shine your boots or you can use them for good.

No, the “high road” isn’t for wimps. It’s full of rocks. But its “horizons” make you forget all about the blisters.

“Position and wealth are much like this hike. Some fellow journeyers seem to only take up trail space.”

Cindy R. Chamberlin,
GLEANER managing editor
Teen Raises Money for Homeless Classmates

Zachary Chandler, a 17-year-old boy from Battle Ground, Washington, took a Kingdom Assignment and earned money for homeless teens.

Chandler is a senior this year at Battle Ground High School. Like the others, he was given $100. Chandler used his seed money to grow it upward to $1,000 by serving an Italian fundraising dinner. He recruited the Columbia Academy cook, while community members and the local congregation supported the event and spread the word.

Chandler used the funds to found the Battle Ground High School Student Support Team, a group dedicated to helping the school’s homeless and needy students. The BG HSST was able to form an account with the local Fred Meyer store, which gave an additional $5,000. The funds donated, along with what was raised, have been able to support more than 150 homeless students, providing them with clothing, school supplies and city bus passes.

Chandler currently recruits youth to fundraising events. “I have had an amazing amount of support not only from my church but the community and fellow students,” says Chandler.

Working with a liaison through the school system, he continues this KA today. Chandler plans to get a charitable account and continue helping fellow classmates. He recently enlisted in the Army as a chaplain’s assistant to obtain funding and experience to become a pastor. He is also an ordained deacon in his church.

According to Rhonda Whitney, the Oregon Conference gave out $5,000 in chunks of $500 to the first ten churches who requested it. Initial reports, from just three churches, say they raised a total of $28,840.

The response has been so overwhelming, two weeks ago a Meadow Glade member gave $1,000 to repeat the project there with another ten teams. “It has been great to see the support from the church community and our local community in general,” says Jim Bollin, pastor. “As people have partnered with God, they have seen His hand at work, and their faith has grown.”

Kingdom A$$ignment

By Cindy R. Chamberlin

Definition Kingdom Assignment: Creative strategy to catapult congregations to become externally focused.

Who? Ordinary individuals.

Why? To touch your community for Jesus Christ.

How? One act of kindness at a time.

When? A term first coined by the Christian community approximately ten years ago, then introduced to the Adventist church by David Jamieson, a Canadian-Adventist pastor.

Method? Members are given assignments and money to GROW ministries.

“The creativity, enthusiasm and freedom, our members displayed when they discovered that they could serve God within their own unique talents and personalities, was absolutely amazing. Lives continue to be touched and blessed because of those partnerships with God on behalf of His children. I pray this type of partnering with God will begin to consume our lives. It truly gives meaning to the verse that says, ‘My yoke is easy and my burden is light’ (Matt. 11:10). The Lord is incredible!” — Rhonda Whitney, Oregon Conference Community Outreach director. •
**Charity Baseball Game**

On Sabbath, March 7, 2009, the Upper Columbia Conference hosted an IMPACT — UNLEASH THE POWER OF KINDNESS Sabbath in Tri-Cities, Washington. David Jamieson, keynote speaker, gave out seven $100 bills (supplied by the UCC) to seven individuals. According to Patty Marsh, UCC Community Service director, the initial $700 has multiplied to over $3,900.

Laura and Todd Pascoe, from the Pleasant Valley (Ore.) Church, attended the IMPACT weekend. They were moved to go forward and accept an assignment; however they didn’t feel they should since their home church is in Oregon. “I didn’t think an outsider should take UCC money,” says Laura. Then a few weeks later they visited the Vancouver (Washington) Church (in the Oregon Conference), a call was made for 30 to respond. They leapt from their seat.

“But . . . they soon discovered when we ‘do battle for the Lord’ even in something good/fun, lots of research, abundant faith, prayer and hard work are required,” says Marsh. “For a couple of weeks, they hit dead ends and discouragement. But in the end, God blessed beyond their expectations. And they are making plans to repeat the process next year. Todd is a defense attorney, and many of the participants were from the legal community — defenders, prosecutors, bail bondsman, jailers . . .”

Thanks to the Vancouver Church’s $100 seed money, Clark County’s neediest children (as determined by DSHS), the Pregnancy Resource Center and two dozen other local agencies will receive a $1,200 donation, and four book sets of Etta Degering’s *My Bible Friends*. The contribution will be given through Northwest Children’s Outreach, [http://www.northwestchildrensoutreach.org](http://www.northwestchildrensoutreach.org).

Through the tournament, ten teams raised $1,548.50. Because of the IQ Credit Union’s sponsorship and two private donors, game costs were minor.

The UCC saw individual and creative use of KAs. These included one project for a Costa Rican mission, another for Operation Backpack (delivered through the Agape House), Willow — a flower growing ministry, and a bake sale which netted dividends four-fold and more. In summary, Marsh quotes Isaiah 55:8-11: “They’ll do the work I sent them to do, they’ll complete the assignment I gave them,” (The Message).

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**A Church Takes Kingdom Assignments**

Members of the North Cascade Church in Burlington, Washington, used Kingdom Assignment to fulfill and strengthen already existing ministries. “Participants were to let God lead them in how to fulfill their assignments,” says Tim Williams, NCC youth pastor.

This church raised their own funds through donations from an existing thrift shop, and some inhouse outreach funds.

One family took the KA challenge and turned it into $7,000 worth of books for homeless children in the Skagit County. Another member took the KA second challenge dealing with treasure and sold a model train on E-bay. Bids began at $500 and closed at $1,575. Another member sold his snowboard.

One member, Peggy Fisher, felt impressed to fill backpacks with emergency sleeping bags, blankets, socks, gloves, scarf, hand sanitizers, rain ponchos, and scripture books to give to the homeless. The project began with $100 and ended with $2,915 and with a completion of 100 backpacks going to the homeless.

“The assignments did not produce new ministries for the church however, individuals and families participated in ministries they may not have been involved with normally,” says Ira Bartolome, NCC associate pastor. “It did help to bring increased involvement in existing outreach ministries.”
La Unión del Pacífico Norte fue la sede de la campaña evangelística RED 2009, de la División Norteamericana. Esta campaña se llevó a cabo Octubre 23–31, 2009 desde Portland, Oregón. La serie de temas se tituló “SECRETOS DE LA VIDA” con el evangelista Ramon J. Canals. La campaña fue transmitida por Esperanza TV por todo el territorio de la División Norteamericana y otros países. Estas reuniones constituyeron un proyecto unido de laicos, pastores y administradores de la iglesia Adventista a todos los niveles de la organización. Más de 500 líderes de grupos pequeños fueron entrenados para invitar a sus amistades a sus hogares, dar estudios bíblicos y preparar las personas para las reuniones. Más de 500 sistemas de satélites fueron comprados e instalados en los hogares de hermanos en toda nuestra Unión incluyendo 11 hogares pentecostales. Los reportes siguen llegando, pero al concluir las reuniones 354 personas fueron bautizadas en nuestra Unión fin contar los bautismos de toda la division. Nuestra meta era de bautizar 1,500 personas, entrenar 500 líderes de grupos pequeños y plantar 5 iglesias. Sin embargo, cuando comenzamos la campaña satelital, más de 1,000 personas ya se habían bautizado. Esto nos indica el arduo trabajo previo, realizado por laicos y pastores. Uno de esos pastores fue el pastor Alejandro Dovald, de Yakima, Washington, quien informa lo siguiente: “Trazamos un camino que contemplaba varios pasos. El primero era una campaña de siembra en el mes de Agosto, orientada a los matrimonios de nuestra comunidad y presentada por el Pastor Alejandro Dovald. Después tuvimos un programa basado en grupos pequeños y estudios bíblicos todos los sábados por la tarde. Un grupo de carteros misioneros se abrieron paso en hogares donde nunca había llegado el evangelio, y un programa radial semanal constituyeron el esfuerzo y la preparación para la RED 2009. Cuando llegó el mes de Octubre, se instalaron 11 antenas en Yakima para recibir la señal. Como fruto del trabajo previo, el esfuerzo y la oración, llegamos al final de la RED con 23 nuevos miembros, recibidos por la iglesia a través del bautismo o por profesión de fe.”

También esa misma semana se ofrecieron servicios médicos gratuitamente a la comunidad. Más de 1,200 personas recibieron cuidado médico durante el día. Estos servicios incluían chequeo del diabétes y el colesterol, exámenes de un médico general y dental, exámenes de oculista, tratamiento quiropráctico, clases de cocina y medicina preventiva. Aproximadamente 200 personas de la comunidad llegaron 2 horas antes que comenzaran las reuniones para registrarse para esos servicios. Muchos de los que vinieron por razones médicas se quedaron para las reuniones evangelísticas. Alabamos a Dios por su dirección y les agradecemos a todos los que participaron y oraron por el éxito de esta campaña.

Lisa Arias, asistente administrativa del ministerio hispano de NPUC
I’d rather eat a piece of paper than go vegan!” declared one young participant. However, more than 787 people visited the Adventist Wellness for Life Booth at the Alaska State Fair, Aug. 27–Sept. 7, 2009. Many were thrilled to learn about God’s health principles.

More than 64 dedicated volunteers, worked 5–6 hour shifts, helping visitors understand the eight laws of health, taking blood pressure checks, and weighing others on a body composition scale. Participants were encouraged to fill out surveys on their coronary risk, health age and stress profile. Participants panted their way through a step test, and browsed through a jaw-dropping display on hidden amounts of salt, sugar and fat in various foods. After hoisting a shocking 5 pounds of rubber “fat,” many put weight loss on their “to do” list.

Counselors answered questions, explained scale readings, and listened as visitors poured out their concerns and problems. This made it possible for the counselor to give helpful hints directly related to the individual’s health, school, work and/or family troubles.

In addition, the wellness booth promoted upcoming programs such as CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project), Zero Cholesterol Cooking Class, Financial Peace University, and the Depression Recovery Program.

Although the volunteers were tired at times, they gained a blessing by their unselfish service. One volunteer says, “It was a privilege for us to be able to help. It was so encouraging to see how the Lord prepared the hearts of the people — when they walked in they were ready to hear what we were seeking to share. Ellen White said the health message is the ‘entering wedge and the right arm of the gospel.’ This was confirmed even more to us, since many visitors requested Bible studies as well by the end of their visit.”

Savanna Gaiser, Palmer Church member
Salmon Adventist Church

Unlocking Revelation

The Salmon (Idaho) Church recently finished a series of meetings with Richard Halversen titled Unlocking the Puzzle of Revelation. Ten people made a decision to be baptized and two were re-baptized.

John, a newly baptized member, previously walked away from God but reconnected with Him at the meetings. John is experiencing the newness that comes from God’s presence, not addictive behaviors. John’s wife and children join him each Sabbath to study and worship.

Chris, a newly baptized member, says “I knew I should have attended the Seventh-day Adventist Church for years. I was tired of trying to live life myself. I want a new start, a new life refreshed with God as my guide.”

Doug and Krista, with Tristan, their son, moved to the area looking for a fresh start. They quickly found employment, a home and the Salmon Adventist School. They heard about and attended the meetings. Now baptized, they have become involved in the church’s maintenance ministry and co-lead the music program at the school.

The church recently held a Welcome-to-the-Family banquet in honor of the new members. A slide show highlighted all those who were baptized during the past year.

Miracles happen when church members invite Jesus to take over.

Anthony Thomsen, Salmon Church pastor

Kuna Outreach by Web-cast

Makes an Impact

In 2008, the Kuna (Idaho) Church attempted to connect with the community through a monthly teleconference called Community Conversations. Newspaper ads gave the topic, date, time, call-in number and access code. The teleconferences led up to a series of meetings presented by Randy Maxwell, pastor, from Jan. 3–Feb. 14, 2009.

This fall, 2009, Kuna leaders decided to switch from teleconferences to internet Web-casts. Sealing Time Ministries provided cameras and live video stream for the monthly Web-casts from the Kuna church. Ads were placed in the local paper, and notices went out on social networking sites.

Attendance built up online, in person and from outside the state. “This has been great,” wrote one “chatter” during November’s Web-cast, titled: When Believers Get Depressed. “I’m used to many churches labeling meds as not having faith — I’m feeling good!”


Randy Maxwell, Kuna Church pastor

This is one ad which the Kuna (Idaho) Church ran advertising their Web-cast to the local community.
Montana Men’s Summit Provides Blessing

The seventh-annual Montana Men’s Summit convened on the last week-end of September 2009, in Monarch, Mont. A record number of men attended and were blessed by the ministry of Jerry Page, Central California Conference president, as he related scripture and life experiences, demonstrating the power of prayer. All who attended were energized by the fellowship and inspired by the music and the setting. Thanks to Eudene Stevens, Vicky and Gary Fish, the food was good as well.

Special music was provided for each service by the Kalispell Adventist Quartet. One of their members, Rob Vixie wrote a special arrangement of “Let the Beauty of Jesus be Seen in Me,” the summit’s theme song. The Montana Men’s Chorus was organized at the summit and performed regularly. The chorus is planning to get together next June at the Montana Camp Meeting to do some more singing and to recruit additional members. We hope to make this a regular part of the summit.

The 2010 Montana Men’s Summit will be held the last weekend in September. Ty Gibson will be the speaker, and his topic will be: The Trinity. Men are urged to make attending a priority. The cause of God is suffering for lack of strong, committed, bold leadership. The summit is a great place to become equipped to fill the place God has in mind for you to fill.

Leo Beardsley, Havre Church communication leader

Pat Dauer, Leo Beardsley and Nathan Bardell lead out in the music during the Montana Men’s Summit.

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Jerry Page and Ed Schwab visit around the vespers campfire.

Josh Holloway, Garry Dieter, Rob Vixie and Randy Courser, members of the Montana Men’s Chorus, sing at the Montana Men’s Summit in September 2009.
Adventist churches throughout Portland, Ore., are catching the vision of health ministry, all because of the initiative of a group of retired nurses and their friends from The Village retirement complex in Gresham, Ore.

When Molly Geddis, parish nurse for the Sunnyside (Ore.) Church, became the lifestyle director of the Healthy Heart team, she received permission from the corporate office of a large chain store to do blood pressure screenings at one of their stores. At that first screening more than two years ago, 144 people were seen. After three months, the corporate director of pharmacy operations for the store asked if the group was willing to do the Healthy Heart program in more stores. The program has blossomed from there. During 2009, Gladstone, Pleasant Valley, Stone Tower, and Meadow Glade churches, all within the Portland (Ore./Vancouver (Wash.) metro area, began their own Healthy Heart teams. The overall program sees more than 650 people at the monthly screenings and involves 140 volunteers.

Greeters, secretaries and nurses make up the team. Two nurses check blood pressure, one counselor helps those with elevated blood pressure make lifestyle changes. Fifty percent of the people seen have elevated blood pressure, and many of them are not aware of it. Each church team has a unique follow-up program. Marge Baker, a nurse counselor from the The Village complex, signs people up who want follow-up counseling, calling them for an appointment. Baker says, “Each month we add 10 more people to our list. We give them a little booklet, a promise book or Bible Answers.”

The Pleasant Valley Church held a six-week class. Chris Binder, of the Gladstone team says, “My husband and I love this program. We could write a book about our experiences.”

Molly Geddis, Healthy Heart lifestyle director brought four of her clients to the class. One lady and her daughter attend church on Sabbath and are taking Bible studies.

George Gainer, pastor, from the Pleasant Valley Church greets a man as he steps up to be screened.
Oregon Conference News

Portland Adventist Academy
Students Learn Cutting Edge Science

Portland Adventist Academy honors anatomy and physiology students recently witnessed a heart surgery at the Oregon Health and Science University. The experience was highlighted with a lecture from Albert Starr, inventor of the heart valve.

Visiting cutting-edge facilities and meeting life-saving scientists and doctors might be rare for the average high school student, but Adventist educators go above and beyond to have their students appreciate the science of saving lives.

“Learning from a textbook has value,” says Terry Verlo, head of the PAA science department. “But when a student can view a live heart surgery on a real patient, the experience brings the value of learning to a much higher level.”

The dream of becoming a surgeon isn’t the only reason a student would benefit from taking anatomy and physiology at PAA. “I know I’m not going into a science career,” says Hannah King, student. “But I want to be in the class because it’s challenging me and making me better.”

Classmates agree. “I was really excited to take this class because it’s preparing me for college,” says Renée Beaulieu. “At the end of this year, I know I’m going to feel really accomplished.”

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

Sharon Church:
Reaching Out to Young and Old Through Education

The Sharon Church in Portland, Ore., is making a difference in the surrounding community. All because three years ago Heather Hawkins saw a need and stepped into the gap.

The tutoring program she initiated is now known as P.E.T.A.L. — Preparing, Education, Teaching and Learning — and it has found a niche in the community. P.E.T.A.L. tutors work with students from kindergarten through high school as well as those working on GED preparation and résumé enrichment.

In addition, P.E.T.A.L. sponsors two subgroups. Reflecting Inner Beauty and Toolbox are groups geared toward young men and women ages 12–19.

Kevin McCray have partnered with two licensed cosmetologists to demonstrate techniques for hair care, skin care and hygiene.

On Nov. 14, 2009, the P.E.T.A.L. program was awarded a $3,500 grant from the Oregon Conference Humanitarian Fund. The fund is used to help make programs and projects like P.E.T.A.L. a reality for churches that want to bridge the gap between their pews and their streets.

More information on P.E.T.A.L. is available at www.sharonsda.net.

Rhonda Whitney, Oregon Conference Community Service director, presents Violet Larry, from the P.E.T.A.L. program, with a grant from the Oregon Conference Humanitarian Fund on Nov. 14, 2009.

The teens learn what it means to be a virtuous person. Mentors provide an atmosphere where spiritual and emotional topics can be discussed and questions and concerns voiced. Physical appearance is also approached. Drechelle Larry and Kevin McCray have partnered with two licensed cosmetologists to demonstrate techniques for hair care, skin care and hygiene.

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GARY MCLAINE

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Drechelle Larry, P.E.T.A.L. tutor

In the PAA science laboratory, Hannah King (left) and Renée Beaulieu, anatomy and physiology students, dissect a cat to learn about the circulatory system, muscles, lungs and more.

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Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

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Springfield Celebrates
Fall with Imagination

On a wet and windy Oct. 31, 2009, the Springfield (Ore.) Church social committee invited children from the community to enjoy an evening of fellowship and blessing at the church. Marian Piellette, Bonnie Gladden, Stephanie Eric, Beth and Don Whitsell, social committee members, organized the autumn celebration, inviting families to a safe and fun Halloween alternative. Though the wind and rain pounded outside, the inside was full of games, food and goodie bags.

“We decided we would bring the kids here instead of taking them out trick or treating,” says one parent. “It’s a lot more wholesome playing games and being with friends than just going around asking for candy.”

“I think it was a great idea to bring our candy or toys that we were going to give out to trick or treaters and bring them here to put in the harvest party goodie bags,” remarks a grandmother who attended the event.

Ruth came as Ruth of the Bible. Queen Esther brought her public school friend who looked like a princess. Ponies with their cowgirls, and Roman soldiers raced about capturing the goodies that flew from the piñata. Dorothy could be seen skipping about in her red shoes, and a furry little bear was seen munching happily on cookies. Smiles, laughter and chatter filled the hall as children pranced about in their make-believe costumes.

Cheryl Whitsell, Springfield Church member

Big Lake Youth Camp Wins Award

Big Lake Youth Camp recently received the Phyllis M. Ford Award from the American Camp Association, Oregon Trail section. The award praised Big Lake for “creating innovative and effective programs using the camp environment for Abba’s Child Grief Camps” in 2009.

The Abba’s Child program at Big Lake offers a camp experience with support-based counseling for children ages 7–15 who have experienced the death of an immediate family member. Loss can be overwhelming for anyone, and it is especially important for children to know they are not alone as they deal with new and sometimes frightening feelings.

The American Camp Association is divided into 24 sections across the U.S. The Oregon Trail section is made up of about 40 camps across Oregon and southern Idaho, ranging in size from small, one-week camps to those which house up to more than 300 campers and go all summer long. These camps are made up of religious, privately owned and agency camps such as Scouts, Camp Fire, YMCA and YWCA camps.

The Abba’s Child camp program is, in many ways, a typical summer camp offering a wide variety of activities. But beyond the swimming and canoeing, it features two-hour daily support group sessions for children to interact with peers facing similar losses. Art, crafts, music, storytelling, writing and games are designed to assist with the healing process. The Abba’s Child program is free to children who attend the camp.

Gary McLain, Oregon Conference communication director

Abba’s Child offers a camp experience for children who have experienced the death of an immediate family member.
Ryan McCune, of the Spokane Valley (Wash.) Adventist Church, finished his senior year at Upper Columbia Academy in the spring of 2009. It was a landmark victory — his epilepsy convulsions made the year a struggle for him.

But with the support of teachers and friends, he made it through.

Half way around the world, a small island captivated McCune’s mind even while he fought to keep up in school.

Along with a group of thirteen other youth from the Spokane Valley Church, he helped build a sea wall on the Fijian island of Kioa in 2008 to protect the island from severe flooding.

While there, Ryan noticed a problem. Most of the people make a drink from a kava root, which when finished becomes a sort of drug. The men go to “kava huts” where women are not allowed, and drink away the hours.

In addition, the island is isolated enough that there isn’t medical help within easy distance. The islanders have fishing boats, but if there is a medical emergency, these may not be available to take people in for care.

McCune began to dream. What would happen if the island had a medical boat to take them off the island to get care when there was an emergency? Or what would life on the island be like if there was a place for young people, both guys and girls, to go where there would be constructive entertainment instead of kava? Could it even grow into a place where they could learn about Jesus?

McCune set to turn his dream into a reality. He started a non-profit corporation (Island Missions Incorporated) and gathered a team. Together, they raised $13,000 to begin funding a medical boat as well as the youth center they’re planning for.

That’s just a start — to accomplish all the dreams, they’ll need much more.

In April of 2010, Island Missions Incorporated plans to team up with several builders and a health team to build the youth center and have a health clinic.

McCune is taking this year off from school to change medications and to focus on missions.

For more information on Island Missions Incorporated, and how you can be involved, visit www.islandmissionsinc.com or call (509) 844-2650.

For additional mission options call Upper Columbia Youth Department at (509) 838-2761 or go to www.uccsda.org/Youth/Missions •

Heidi Corder, UCC Streams of Light GLEANER correspondent
Go Mission Fest
A Call to Christian Service

Nearly a thousand people attended Go Mission Fest at Upper Columbia Academy Nov. 13–15, 2009. The three-day event was designed to inspire Christians to accept the commission of Jesus to take the gospel to all the world.

All of the worship services, seminars and even the children’s meetings at the Go Mission Fest focused on some aspect of missions, whether it is mission work in a foreign country or mission work right at home.

Speakers for the event included former missionaries, trainers and church planters from around the world including Jon Dybdahl, Gary Krause, Russel Burrill and others.

John Kent, Adventist Frontier Missions training director, opened the weekend Friday evening with a stirring appeal to Christian service. Kent recounted how he and his wife Belinda, along with their four children, spent eight years as missionaries in a remote village in Papua New Guinea.

Kent challenged students and adults alike. “I have no idea what God saw in us,” he says, “but the truth is God looks into every heart and sees something he wants to use for His glory in a world that desperately needs to know Him.”

Audio recordings of Go Mission Fest are available online at www.uccsda.org/audio.

Jon Dalrymple, UCC communication assistant

Students from Yakima Adventist Christian School sit on a petrified stump looking for evidence of a worldwide flood on this trip to Yellowstone, Wyo.

Yakima (Wash.) Adventist Christian School students spent the third week of September 2009 looking for evidence of a worldwide flood. The evidence for this trip focused on petrified trees sticking out of the ground at almost 8,000 feet above sea level.

Students hiked up the trail head leading to Specimen Ridge. The first finds were petrified stumps and logs, some so well preserved they could count the growth rings.

After another half hour of hiking, students came upon petrified tree trunks sticking ten feet out of the ground, remains of a world before the flood that changed the Earth’s crust beyond recognition. They climbed down and touched these evidences of God’s control of nature. Less than one percent of all visitors to the park actually see these trees.

This was science in action, part of Northwest Creation-Science Adventures, a program being developed at Yakima Adventist Christian School that will take students into nature to experience God’s creation firsthand.

Patrick Frey, Yakima Adventist Christian School principal

Yakima students enjoy Creation Adventures in Yellowstone

The students yelled in unison “Oh, stop the bus! There’s a buffalo in the road!”

Twenty cameras pointed out the windows as the 2,000-pound bull sauntered down the highway.

Patrick Frey, principal, and two students hug a tree.

Homer Trecartin wears a traditional “warm” outfit worn for special occasions from the Muslim country of Kyrgyzstan.

Students from Yakima Adventist Christian School
**UCC Welcomes New Trust Officer**

The Upper Columbia Conference is pleased to welcome Andrew McCrary to the Trust Department as an officer. McCrary has an interest in business and a love for people. One of his passions is sharing biblical financial principles. McCrary and his wife, Suzette, have pastored for over 18 years in the Upper Columbia Conference. Their last pastoral district included the Pendleton, Pilot Rock and Mission (Ore.) churches. They currently reside in Spokane, Wash., and enjoy canoeing and trail riding on motor bikes.

His responsibilities include the north, west and east portions of the conference, helping members with estate planning needs. •

*Jay Wintermeyer, UCC communication director*

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**W.H.E. Network Opens**

*Three Healing Centers*

While it may be shocking, domestic violence is just as prevalent in Adventist homes as it is among unchurched families. The Women’s Healing and Empowerment Network in Spokane, Wash., is working to minister to the growing need. Upper Columbia Conference news correspondent, Kathy Marson, recently visited with Mable Dunbar, W.H.E. Network director, to learn more.

**Kathy:** Mable, I’ve heard there is something new and exciting developing with the Women’s Healing and Empowerment Network.

**Mable:** Yes, we now have more W.H.E. Network Healing Centers to assist women in crises. Patty’s Healing Center has been in operation since September of 2009 and now the UCC recently donated the use of one of their homes which will be Frieda’s Healing Center. And we also have a transitional home for people who need a safe haven.

**Kathy:** Can you explain the difference between these healing centers?

**Mable:** Patty’s Healing Center is a safe home, donated by a Baptist pastor and his wife, and it’s for single women without children who need healing from domestic violence or sexual abuse. We provide a daily schedule that includes group therapy, counseling sessions and a life-skills group. We are opening Frieda’s to women and their children who are either in crisis due to homelessness or domestic violence. And really most homeless women are in this situation because of some kind of abuse. Freida’s will hold their therapy sessions in the evenings so women can hold down a job. The transitional home is simply a place where we can take care of women coming from violent situations.

**Kathy:** Are these healing centers funded by donations, or is there a cost?

**Mable:** We just ask them to pay something, whatever they can each month. So this doesn’t cover the cost completely and yes, we accept donations.

**Kathy:** I understand Freida’s Healing Center opened before Christmas. What needs to happen and how can individuals help when they see this story in January?

**Mable:** The W.H.E. Network (http://whenetwork.com) still needs supplies. I’m excited at the possibilities of this home and hope it will inspire other conferences to replicate this.

**Kathy:** Just after my interview with Mable, a call came in with a need for a place of refuge. This need was met with the transitional home. God is using the W.H.E. Network to heal broken lives. •

*Jay Wintermeyer, UCC communication director*
New Industrial Arts Technology Building
at Harris Junior Academy

Smiles and cheers abounded Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009, at the long-awaited ribbon cutting ceremony for Harris Junior Academy’s newly dedicated industrial arts technology building in Pendleton, Ore.

The project began more than two years ago when Alton Olson, a retired teacher, saw the need for a quality industrial arts program for HJA students. Olson taught shop in public schools for 30 years and desired to help young people utilize their minds and hands in skilled labor to complement their academic curriculum.

Olson strongly agrees with Ellen White’s statements in the book Education, encouraging manual training in schools.

Olson organized a floor plan and budget, then presented the idea to the school board who strongly embraced it. Church members did not hesitate to jump on board with their support, stepping up with large contributions to get the project rolling. Additional contributions of money, time and labor were offered as others caught the vision.

“God has been working on our behalf, providing us with many blessings — in finances, time and volunteers,” says Olson. “It is to His credit that we have been able to complete our project so wonderfully.”

The HJA industrial technology program will focus on woodworking and metal working. Students will learn safety skills, small engine repair, building and carpentry. Olson’s goal is to provide his students with skills they will utilize all throughout their adult lives.

The new building also provides an opportunity for community classes such as lawn-mower repair and tune-up, basic woodworking and metal working.

The weekend retreat demonstrated that teachers, parents and children’s ministry leaders share the same goal — reaching children and teens for Jesus and eternity.

The next Disciple Ship II is planned for Oct. 8–10, 2010 at Camp MiVoden.

The Disciple Ship

The Disciple Ship, a partnership of the Upper Columbia Conference Children’s Ministry and Education departments and the North American Division of Children’s Ministry, sailed into harbor at Camp MiVoden, Friday, Oct. 9, 2009. With nine presenters and 22 seminars, a frequently overheard comment echoed in the halls, “How can I decide which seminar to attend?”

Keynote speaker Linda Caviness, Seventh-day Adventist educator and brain researcher, shared insights into cutting-edge research that shows humans are “wired” for a relationship with God. A potpourri of topics included teaching children to pray, leading a child to Christ, making God real to today’s children and grace-based leadership. Active and hands-on classes included creative arts, craft labs, creative Bible learning activities and children’s service projects.

“When I came, I was at the end of ideas, very discouraged. I didn’t know where to go next with children,” said one children’s ministry leader. “Now, I have so many ideas. I am really excited to get home and get busy.”

The weekend retreat demonstrated that teachers, parents and children’s ministry leaders share the same goal — reaching children and teens for Jesus and eternity.

The next Disciple Ship II is planned for Oct. 8–10, 2010 at Camp MiVoden.

Patty Marsh, UCC Sabbath School and Community Services director
Washington Begins to GLOW

No matter your age, there is a new and easy way for you to share your faith. Giving Light to Our World (GLOW) is a literature ministries program where participants are challenged to distribute at least three tracts a day.

While GLOW is a new ministry in western Washington, the program began in the Central California Conference and spread to Michigan, Arizona, Southern California, Idaho, Upper Columbia, and now to Washington Conference.

“The concept of literature evangelism is not new,” says John Freedman, Washington Conference president. “We are reviving and investing this ministry as an easy way for our church members to personally get involved in sharing Jesus.”

The Bible-based literature covers topics including peace, health, talking with God, trusting the Bible, end of the world, the second coming, and answers to questions like “What happens when you die?” and “Does God care that I’m hurting?”

Each tract offers an opportunity for people to sign-up for Bible studies by calling a toll-free number or visiting glowonline.org, an outreach ministry Website. Bible study requests are forwarded to local churches.

GLOW is a component of Souls Northwest, a new literature ministries initiative in the Northwest. It is specifically designed to involve youth and young adults in soul-winning activities while bringing revival to churches, schools and ministries.

A New Team Member
Washington Conference recently hired John Miller II as literature ministries coordinator. Miller will provide leadership and training for GLOW and lead Youth Rush (formerly Youth Challenge), a summer Maga-book program.

Miller is a 2008 graduate of Souls West, an outreach leadership school in Arizona, where he gained hands-on training in literature evangelism. Miller worked in the Central California Conference before accepting the invitation from the Washington Conference in September 2009.

Teaching Others to GLOW
Already, seven churches and one academy are committed to literature ministries, and Miller is involving church members of all ages in creative literature distribution.

Sixteen Auburn City (Wash.) Pathfinders went door to door on Oct. 31, 2009, to “GLOW in the Dark” while handing out hundreds of GLOW tracts about what happens after death.

In early November, 20 people from the Olympia Transformation Life Center in Olympia, Wash., arranged to sing and distribute literature at a local nursing home.

Get involved in GLOW by visiting www.washingtonglow.org or calling (253) 681-6027.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director
Three churches in the Washington Conference recently celebrated significant milestones.

Debt-Free, Mission Focused
The earliest presence of Seventh-day Adventists in Tacoma, Wash., traces back to June 4, 1887, when 22 Adventists pitched a tent for a meeting and committed to keeping the seventh-day Sabbath and telling others about Jesus.

A year later, members bought land and built a 24'x34' sanctuary. As the church grew, the congregation met at a variety of locations. Today, Tacoma is home to two Caucasian, two Samoan, one African-American, one Hispanic, one Korean, and one Russian church.

One hundred years after the first convocation, Tacoma Central Church sold their facility on Division and Sprague to Mount Tahoma Church and began constructing a new facility on Baltimore Street adjacent to Highway 16. In October 2009, 21 years after building the new facility, Tacoma Central paid off both the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

Growing for God
Nine years ago, a group of Indonesians started dreaming about planting an Indonesian-speaking church in Lynnwood, Wash. The Washington-Indonesian church plant was formed into a church group in April 2000, and a church company in July 2002.

Through the years, the Washington-Indonesian congregation held community events and sponsored evangelistic trips to Indonesia. Membership continues to grow.

In early November 2009, Washington Conference officially recognized Washington Indonesian as a church congregation. During the official ceremony, church leaders challenged the congregation to be filled with love and caring toward all.

A House of Prayer
A small group of 14 members began praying in April 2008 about planting a Spanish church in Auburn, Wash., following an evangelistic campaign with Alejandro Bullón, an internationally-respected evangelist.

With leadership from Omar Grieve, Washington Conference Hispanic coordinator, Samuel Pagán, pastor, and Regelio Reginoso, Bible worker, the Auburn Spanish group nurtured Bible study interests and held their own evangelistic meetings. More than 70 people are currently attending services held in Auburn Adventist Academy’s Evergreen Chapel.

Students, Smiles and Sandbags
A Sabbath of Service

It was a cold, rainy, Sabbath afternoon in mid-November 2009, when Auburn Adventist Academy students helped with a sandbagging effort in Auburn, Wash., after city officials sent out a call for help.

“The kids were really excited,” says Mary Kobberstad, AAA English teacher and supervising faculty member. After several hours of hard work, the 19 student volunteers were able to sandbag around an apartment complex in peril of the imminent flood waters near the Green River.

Despite frosty temperatures and a lot of back-breaking work, students gained a blessing from giving to God in the service of others. “An elderly lady came out of her apartment to see what we were doing,” says Rachel Coon of Sedro Woolley, Wash. “It was sweet to hear her appreciation and to meet someone who we had helped.”

Though not a typical Sabbath activity, AAA was glad to be involved in the flood prevention program. “I can’t think of a better thing to do,” says Marvin Mitchell, AAA principal, “than help people on a Sabbath afternoon.”

Jondelle D. McGhee, AAA GLEANER correspondent
The Biggest Loser Winners Share Lifestyle Insights

The holidays offer many tempting culinary treats presenting a challenge for people trying to be good stewards of health.

Matt and Suzy, NBC’s The Biggest Loser season 2 winners who lost 157 and 95 pounds, respectively, shared advice recently for eating through the holidays and beyond with a weight-loss group at the Auburn City (Wash.) Church. Their advice? Take healthy food with you to holiday gatherings, or invite people to your home.

“[As a couple] we decided we’re going to change our family legacy,” Matt says. A typical meal in their home starts with a salad and a salad dressing they like. They over-portion their vegetables, drink lots of water, incorporate a protein, and save the most tempting item for last.

Matt and Suzy offered three basic steps for making lifestyle changes: 1) Stop talking and take action; 2) Find a support system; and 3) Do some house-cleaning in your life and find new friends to support you in your new lifestyle choices.

“The most important lesson we learned is to finish,” Matt says, who recently competed in an Ironman Challenge. “There’s always going to be a reason to stop, but you have to choose to keep going.”

Auburn City (Wash.) Church invited Matt and Suzy, NBC’s The Biggest Loser winners from season two, to share lifestyle advice with the church’s “Biggest Loser” small group ministry.

As a couple with two young sons, Matt and Suzy, first- and third-place winners on NBC’s The Biggest Loser season two, make daily choices to change their family’s legacy of health.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director

Introducing The Big Picture of Ministry

Every month in the GLEANER you read a snapshot of ministry activity in the Northwest. Our churches, schools and ministries are active in sharing Jesus with family, friends and neighbors.

In the conference news pages this year, Washington Conference is introducing a new feature called “The Big Picture of Ministry.” We’ll share big picture ministry and mission tidbits in 140 characters or less. Each Big Picture box will include a reference to www.washingtonconference.org where you can read more about the current Big Picture feature.

As we look at the Big Picture of Ministry, we invite you to join us in praying for God’s blessing with our ministry outreach.

Heidi Martella

Read more
Western Washington churches offer community follow-up programs after holiday outreach events. See stories at washingtonconference.org.
For the staff of Positive Life Radio, the Adventist radio station broadcasting from the campus of Walla Walla University, cooperation with students is a time-honored tradition. But when Kevin Krueger, station manager and afternoon host, invited Paul Dybdahl, professor, and students from the WWU School of Theology to take prayer requests from anxious listeners, it was an exciting step forward.

As part of a continued effort to strengthen communication with listeners throughout the Inland Northwest, PLR, a family of stations in Eastern Washington whose signal also reaches deep into Oregon and Idaho, has developed a prayer line that gives people a chance to call and share their concerns.

“I didn’t expect such a high volume of calls,” Dybdahl says. “When Kevin mentions on-air that the phone lines are open for prayer requests, the calls come in!”

“It has been a great addition to the church and personal ministry class that I teach,” he continues. “The class already includes practical components including home visitation and Bible studies, but answering phones and praying with callers was a new and somewhat unique ministry opportunity.”

While the staff of PLR, which includes several student announcers, frequently takes prayer requests from listeners throughout the week, the sessions on Thursday evenings are emphasized with special on-air promotions and encouragements to call. Occasionally, the prayer requests can be difficult, rather sensitive subjects.

“I was surprised at the willingness of callers to share such personal needs with me,” Dybdahl explains. “I was especially moved by a caller who was with her family at the bedside of her dying father. Clearly, PLR is an important spiritual lifeline to many people.”

Krueger is excited the program has had a successful start but envisions it growing into something even larger.

“The program is still in its infancy, but we’ve already been blessed,” Krueger says. “My prayer is that throughout the year we would be able to engage several hundred students, faculty and staff. The opportunity to pray with someone going through a rough spot in life is a true honor.”

Martin Surridge, WWU graduate student
Walla Walla Physician Focuses on Lifestyle and Preventive Medicine

Whether he's treating a headache or helping someone learn how to lose weight, Gily Ionescu, M.D., has a passion for people and health that's obvious.

Ionescu and his wife, Lily, recently moved from Utah to Walla Walla, Wash., along with their son, Jayden, who's nearly two years old. They attend the University Church.

“We were looking for a community with Adventist schools that also had physician opportunities for outpatient internal medicine,” Ionescu says. “We decided Walla Walla was the best fit.”

Originally from Romania, Ionescu lived through one of the worst communist dictatorships in Europe. He recalls a particularly bleak time in 1989 during his second year of medical school. He was given an ultimatum: Join the communist party or forget about advancing. Fortunately, the communists soon were ousted from power. Ionescu finished medical school and completed his residency, inspired by two older sisters who were doctors and by his desire to understand and treat the human body.

He also married Lily, whom he’d first met in the mid-1980s. The newlyweds planned to stay in Romania, and Ionescu took a job at a medical clinic in Bucharest. However, as the years went by, they discovered it was impossible to get ahead financially.

“There are two big rewards in medicine,” Ionescu says. “One is restoring a sick person to health. The other is helping a person develop a healthful lifestyle and reap the benefits of living wisely.”

“Corruption was so bad you couldn’t do anything unless you bribed those who controlled permits and licenses,” Ionescu says.

It seemed providential when a friend offered him a scholarship for a master’s degree in nutrition at Andrews University. In 2002, with $20 left in his pocket, Ionescu arrived in the United States. Lily joined him a month later.

After finishing his master’s degree, he completed a medical residency in Connecticut and practiced as an internist in Utah before moving to Walla Walla.

An area of special focus for Ionescu is preventing and treating obesity. “If we can make a difference in obesity, we also positively impact a host of other health issues,” he says.

“We are pleased Gily has joined us,” says Monty Knittel, Walla Walla General Hospital president and CEO. “His clinical experience combined with his emphasis in lifestyle and preventive medicine makes him a real asset to our group.”

Kevin Waite, Adventist Health
GLEANER correspondent
PAUL CONEFF left the Mt. Vernon and Cedarhome (Wash.) district at the end of 2009 to start his own supporting ministry of the church.

JONATHAN FETRICK has accepted the pastoral position for the Port Angeles and Forks (Wash.) district, beginning this month. Fetrick previously served as the associate pastor of the Chehalis (Wash.) Church.

JOHN MILLER II is serving the Washington Conference as literature ministries coordinator. This new outreach position will restart the Magabook program for the conference.

MICHAEL PEARSON became pastor of the Parma and Meridian (Idaho) district. Pearson replaces Garey Gantz, who has taken a leave of absence to join his wife in Macau.

MILESTONES

**BOUNDEY 60TH**

Burton and Geraldine “Geri” Boundey celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a weekend of festivities, starting with a surprise Friday morning brunch with the children on Sept. 4, 2009, at a popular restaurant in Vancouver, Wash. Their children also took them and thirty some guests on a delightful cruise aboard the Portland Spirit along the Columbia River. The anniversary dinner was held Sept. 6, 2009, at the home of their daughter Carolyn, with 30 relatives and friends. Geraldine Rieck was born and raised in Lodi, and learned about the Seventh-day Adventist Church from Melva Bryan, a neighbor who lived across the street from her home. She was influenced to go to Pacific Union College where she was soon baptized and joined the church.

Soon afterward she met Burton J. Boundey. Burton graduated from Pacific Union College, and they were married on Sept. 4, 1949, in the old Central Adventist Church, in Lodi, Calif. Burton entered the ministry that same year; he was 21 years old. He pastored churches in the Nevada-Utah, Upper Columbia, Oregon and California Conferences for 55 years without interruption until he retired on June 30, 2005, from the Southern California Conference. They now live in Vancouver, Wash.

The Boundey family includes daughter Carolyn and Lance Dutton of Vancouver, Wash.; son George of Yuma, Ariz.; daughter Beverly and Larrie Dean Porter of Vancouver, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

**CARR 50TH**

Kenneth and Ellamae Carr celebrated their 50th anniversary on Sept. 20, 2009, with their family and friends at Woodburn Senior Estates Golf and Country Club in Woodburn, Ore.

Kenneth H. Carr and Ellamae Kurtz were married on Sept. 13, 1959, at the Meadow Glade Church in Battle Ground, Wash. After Ken’s graduation from Walla Walla College in 1961, he worked in accounting offices in Gold Beach, Coos Bay and Portland (all in Oregon). He retired from Blue Cross-Blue Shield after 20 years as manager of cost accounting and budgeting in 1995. Ellamae worked for Portland Adventist Elementary School for four years and then transferred to the Oregon Conference office, working in secondary education and later in the treasury department. She retired after 23 years from the conference office.

Since retirement Ken and Ellamae have been involved with Maranatha Volunteers working on many projects. They also volunteered at Hawaiian Mission Elementary and Intermediate Schools for the 1998–99 school year.

The Carr family includes Dan and Pam Carr of Canby, Ore.; Don and Becky Carr of Aurora, Ore.; 7 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**GRAHAM 50TH**

Duane and Janice Graham celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 14, 2009, by taking a two week trip to see the Canadian Rockies and visit friends in British Columbia.

More than 100 family and friends attended their celebration at the McMinville (Ore.) Adventist Church Friendship Hall on July 12, 2009. Seven of their original wedding party also attended. After enjoying beautiful music sung by Duane’s sister Marjorie, Duane and Janice renewed their wedding vows.

While attending Walla Walla College, Duane met Janice Ausman on a street corner near the soon-to-be-completed cafeteria. They were married June 14, 1959, in Payette, Idaho.

Duane graduated in June of 1960, and started working for the Hyster Company in Portland, Ore., right away. He worked as a test engineer and then as a supervising and facility manager at the Hyster Technical Center until he retired in 1994.

Janice worked first as a beautician, then as a stay-at-home mom while their children were still at home. She did child care in her home and was an exceptional Tupperware salesperson. Later, she worked at Portland Adventist Elementary School as a teacher’s helper. In addition, she worked at a church nursery. Young people were her life.

In 1992, they moved to a scenic home fronting Rock Creek near Vernonia, Ore. They traveled to England and Scotland in 1991; to Thailand in 1993; to Hawaii many times; to Kenya, Africa in 2003.

Duane and Janice moved to McMinnville, Ore., in 2004. Since 1995, they have spent winter months at the Fountain of Youth Spa, 65 miles south of Palm Springs, Calif. They enjoy the friendship of other very active retirees. Both of them are involved in church services at the spa. Duane participates in orchestra and choir, and plays his violin more since retiring.

The Graham family includes Stephen Graham of Happy Valley, Ore.; Michael Graham of Milwaukee, Ore.; David Graham of Puyallup, Wash.; and Jana...
MILESTONES

HALSEY 100TH

Eldred Halsey celebrated his 100th birthday on Dec. 5, 2009, with a potluck at The Dalles Church School social hall.

Eldred was born Dec. 5, 1909, in Tilden, Neb. He served in the Coast Guard for seven years. He and his wife Atla joined the Adventist church on Dec. 17, 1938. Eldred worked as a cartographer, and was honored with international map-making awards. He served as a church elder in several churches. He was also featured in the Oregonian newspaper as the oldest rower on the Willamette River.


SCABER 50TH

June 14, 2009, was a special day for Lyle and Millie Schaber of Longview, Wash. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Meadow Glade (Wash.) Adventist Church, the same church they were married in. The room was festive with wonderful music and even a barber shop quartet from Hillsboro, Ore.

Retired from nursing, Millie, is now actively involved with kitty rescue, both in her home area and in New Orleans, La., since Hurricane Katrina. Kyle, also a retired nurse anesthetist, recently spent some time on a mission trip to India and helps Millie.

The Schaber family includes son Kerry of Arizona; and daughter Diane Epstein of Portland, Ore.

WOOD 50TH

Jim and Annetta Wood celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 4, 2009. The celebration was hosted by their children at the Old Spaghetti Factory. They are members of the Yacolt (Wash.) Church.

Jim Wood married Annetta Roderick on Oct. 4, 1959, in Battle Ground, Wash. After serving four years in the Navy, Jim went to auction school in Montana and then joined his dad at the Columbia Auction Barn in Vancouver, Wash. Jim has been auctioning ever since. For the past 37 years, he and his daughter Diane own and operate Woody’s Auction Market, in Woodland, Wash. Annetta’s career has included being a medical assistant, homemaker and now office manager for their auction business.


BIRTHS

CASWELL—Vienne Ranee was born Sept. 6, 2009, to Todd D. and Karmon R. (Heinrich) Caswell, Sedro Woolley, Wash.

EVANS—Colby Nathan was born Oct. 15, 2009, to David and Melissa (Larson) Evans, College Place, Wash.

FOSTER—Austin James was born Aug. 25, 2009, to Daniel and Mindy (Van Gundy) Foster, College Place, Wash.

GRUIA—Andon Luc Gheorghe was born Nov. 10, 2009, to Ovidiu “Ervin” and Carmen (Driessen) Gruia, Gresham, Ore.

HENDERSON—Daphne Reese was born Nov. 5, 2009, to Jason and Katrina R. (Farrell) Henderson, Vancouver, Wash.

KELLAR—Jack Warwick was born Sept. 8, 2009, to Jesse and Louisa (Fandrich) Kellar, Loma Linda, Calif.

KINNEY—Wesley Roy was born Feb. 10, 2009, to Andrew and Amy (Piuser) Kinney, Walla Walla, Wash.

LLOYD—Noah Daniel was born July 3, 2009, to Daniel and Denise (Flores) Lloyd, Moses Lake, Wash.

PATTON—Kasey Michael was born Sept. 12, 2009, to Daniel and Michelle (Malott) Patton, Olympia, Wash.


HENDRICKSON—Enoch Evert, 89; born March 27, 1920, Portland, Ore.; died July 9, 2009, Brush Prairie, Wash. Surviving: wife, Pauline (Quimby); son, Carl, Hockinson, Wash.; 3 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

IVerson—Cleta May (Page), 91; born May 21, 1918, Belle Fourche, S.D.; died Sept. 29, 2009, Salem, Ore. Surviving: son, Clyde, South Korea; daughter, Clydetta O’Dell, New Brunswick, Canada; 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.


KESLER—Yvonne Grace (Steel), 88; born July 23, 1921, Stockton, Calif.; died Oct. 2, 2009, Chula Vista, Calif. Surviving: sons, Mervin, Chula Vista; Byron, Volcano Village, Hawaii; daughters, Joyce Jacob, of Ohio; Regina Sevel, Fresno, Calif.; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.


LUrKAN—Vernon Jean, 83; born Nov. 18, 1925, Sioux City, Iowa; died Sept. 1, 2009, Sandy, Ore. Surviving: wife, Ruth (Naomi); son, Michael, Seattle, Wash.; daughters, Kathleen Stout, Sandy; Becky Halgren, Sunriver, Ore.; brothers, Virgil, Portland, Ore.; Eugene, Venita, Calif.; sister, Beverlyann Brant, Bellingham, Wash.; and 2 grandchildren.

MATHIESEN—Viola Marie (Steinert), 89; born Aug. 9, 1919, Shattuck, Okla.; died July 13, 2009, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: son, Nelson, Portland, Ore.; daughter, Judith Mohr, Damascus, Ore.; 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.


MEISNER—Melba Jean (Rich), 85; born March 5, 1924, Edgewater, Colo.; died Oct. 21, 2009, Pendleton, Ore. Surviving: sons, Gerald, Pendleton; Garrett, Hermiston, Ore.; Stanley, Columbus, Mont.; brother, Melvin Rich, Denver, Colo.; 11
grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.


**PERMAN**—Marie (Lindsey), 84; born July 30, 1924, Grand Junction, Colo.; died May 28, 2009, Everett, Wash. Surviving: sons, Tim, Apache Junction, Ariz.; Keith, Marysville, Wash.; Ken, Auburn, Wash.; half brother, Dave Deselle, Carntation, Wash.; sister, Nina Martin, Marysville; half sister, Norma (Deselle) George, Maple Valley, Wash.; 8 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

**PIERCE**—Laura (Christopher-son), 99; born Nov. 20, 1909, Rainier, Ore.; died Sept. 26, 2009, Wenatchee, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Ursella Ball and Laurne Pierce, both of Wenatchee; Charla Snead, Windsor, Calif.; 4 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 4 great-great-grandchildren and a great-great-great-grandchild.


**REED**—Daisy E. (Marsh) Moor, 67; born July 13, 1942, Portland, Ore.; died Oct. 22, 2009, Forest Grove, Ore. Surviving: husband, Earl; sons, Ron Moor and Jeff Moor Jr., both of Cornelius, Ore.; daughters, Donna (Moor) Pickelsimer, Hillsboro, Ore.; Cynthia (Moor) Wegener, Banks, Ore.; brothers, John Marsh, of Thailand; George Marsh, Cornelius; and 11 grandchildren.


**TWEDDELL**—Betty L. (Jenkins), 85; born Aug. 18, 1924, East Peoria, Ill.; died Oct. 29, 2009, Central Point, Ore. Surviving: husband, Harold L.; sons, Jim, Crescent City, Calif.; Harold J., Eagle Point, Ore.; Donald, Central Point; David, Darlington, S.C.; Terry, Central Point; brother, Robert Jenkins, Central Point; 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.


**WILL**—Helen A. (Cates), 87; born Nov. 28, 1921, Cabri, Saskatchewan, Canada; died Sept. 19, 2009, College Place, Wash. Surviving: husband, Albert; sons, Gayle, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada; Dennis, McBride, British Columbia, Canada; Ronald, Walla Walla, Wash.; Robert, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; daughters, Lynnette Michulak, Okotoks, Alberta, Canada; Lana Will, Calgary; brother, Lyle Cates, Kyle, Saskatchewan, Canada; sisters, Enid Henderson and Letitia Byrd, both of Yakima, Wash.; 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Offerings
Jan. 2—Local Church Budget; Jan. 9—Local Conference Advance; Jan. 16—Local Church Budget; Jan. 23—NAD Budget; Religious Liberty; Jan. 30—GC Session Project: Silk road religious liberty; Budget—NAD Budget: Jan. 9—local Church and you think it will never stop hurting.” Loss is not just confined to losing someone you love, sometimes it is about losing health, a job or the ability to cope. Whether it is you or someone you know who has experienced grief, whatever your experience there is hope and help. Sunday, Jan. 10, from 3–5 p.m., nationally certified bereavement facilitator, Joanne Petrie, will come to the Castle Rock Adventist Church and give an introductory session on how to deal with grief. This will be in preparation for her 5-course DVD series which will be presented at the Castle Rock Church beginning in February. For more information, please contact Wanda Whitaker at (360) 967-2165.

Tenth Annual Lift Every Voice Community Mass Choir Workshop
March 7–12—Calling all singers to please join us for the 10th Annual Lift Every Voice (L.E.V.) Workshop and Concert. Vocalists from throughout the Oregon and Washington area are invited to come together during the week of March 7–12, with Thursday off, and learn approximately 10 spirituals and/or gospel selections. The singers will perform the songs in concert on Saturday, March 13, at 6 p.m. Call (503) 287-7649; fax (503) 287-8688; e-mail sharonsda@qwest.net; Web site www.sharonsda.net; 5209 N.E. 22nd Ave., Portland, OR 97211.

Missing Members
The Gaston (Ore.) Church is seeking the whereabouts of the following missing members: Ana Cervantes, Frank Chavez, Camilo DeJesus, Cornelio DeJesus, Guadalupe Gallego, Maria R. Garza, Elva J. Jose, Miquel J. Jose, Maria Llamas, Jose A. Lopez, Ignacio Martinez, Marceccino Martinez, Monica Munoz, Perla Munoz, Juan D. Osorio, Augustin Quintana, Ines C. Ramirez, Miguel Ramirez, Roberto Ramirez, Yesenia Rodriguez, Catalina Ruiz and Faviola E. Sanchez. If you have any information, please call the church’s message phone at (503) 662-4711; or visit the Web site gaston22.adventistchurchconnect.org; or write to P.O. Box 57, Gaston, OR 97119.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

Jan. 3—Registration for Winter Quarter. Jan. 4—Winter Quarter begins. Feb. 5, 6—African American University Days. For more information, call (800) 541-8900.
March 4–7—March University Days. For more information, call (800) 541-8900. March 5–7—Young Writer’s Conference. For more information, call the English department at (800) 541-8900, ext. 2862.

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Working Through Your Grief
Jan. 10—“Grief is the process of putting back together the pieces of a broken heart — a hole so deep in the middle of your heart it aches and hurts and you think it will never be filled.” Loss is not just confined to losing someone you love, sometimes it is about losing health, a job or the ability to cope. Whether it is you or someone you know who has experienced grief, whatever your experience there is hope and help. Sunday, Jan. 10, from 3–5 p.m., nationally certified bereavement facilitator, Joanne Petrie, will come to the Castle Rock Adventist Church and give an introductory session on how to deal with grief. This will be in preparation for her 5-course DVD series which will be presented at the Castle Rock Church beginning in February. For more information, please contact Wanda Whitaker at (360) 967-2165.

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WORLD CHURCH

Third Annual Adventist Health System CEO Reunion
Jan. 29–30—Avon Park, Fla. For information, contact Bill Sager, (863) 452-2593; e-mail wcsager@tnni.net; or Tom Amos at (863) 452-1979; e-mail dtamos@gmail.com; or Jim Culpepper at (615) 415-1925.

Union College Homecoming
April 1–4—Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to Homecoming. Honor classes are 1940, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 2000. For more information, contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503 or alumni@ucollege.edu.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend
April 23–24—Friday Golf Tournament and Vespers; Sabbath services at the LSA gym, class reunions and basketball game. Yearbooks are available for sale. Visit your campus; renew your friendships. Honor Classes: 1940,’50,’60,’70,’80,’85,’90,’95,’00 and ’05. Contact Alumni Office: (951) 351-1445 ext. 244 or e-mail lsalumni@lsak12.com.
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The Spirit is Still Willing

“If God were to take the Holy Spirit out of our midst today, about ninety-five percent of what we are doing in our churches would carry on ... and we would not know the difference.”

With all due respect to the Holy Scriptures, The Desire of Ages and other inspirational books, I cut my earliest theological teeth on Uncle Arthur’s Bible Stories.

Before I could decipher words, the colorful pictures there painted a graphic portrayal of the plan of salvation. The images of Pentecost were strangely riveting, flames sprouting from the believers’ heads — tongues of fire, my mother said.

Those tongues made the Holy Spirit seem very real to me then. It brought life and energy and courage. It caused stumbling, bumbling disciples to become fearless apostles. The man who denied his Lord baptized 3,000 new believers, all because of Holy Spirit power. With tongues of fire and fire on their tongues, they turned the world upside down.

But through the years, I began to wonder about the Spirit. It became more of a ghost, a Holy Ghost to be sure, but increasingly vague, a bit mysterious — even dangerous. I recoiled from tales of church folk “caught up in the Spirit” rolling around in the aisles, foaming at the mouth. It sounded as compelling as rabies.

Adventists have carefully tried to avoid the extremes of so-called Spirit manifestations. Realizing the heart can be ultimately deceitful, we have found security in knowledge. But that effort can also callous our hearts to the real work of the Spirit and endanger us to the divine lament: “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me,” (Matthew 15:8 NKJV).

I shudder to consider the potential truth of an observation I once heard: If God were to take the Holy Spirit out of our midst today, about ninety-five percent of what we are doing in our churches would carry on ... and we would not know the difference.

That thought gives me pause. It forces me to ponder what room I have given the Holy Spirit to work in my own life.

The Spirit doesn’t need us; we need the Spirit. And whenever and wherever it comes, hearts are convicted and lives are changed. At times it tiptoes in quietly. On other occasions, as at Pentecost, it sweeps in with a mighty, rushing wind, moving all in its path.

I opened the pages of The Bible Story once more, recently. There were the familiar images, the tongues of fire as brilliant as ever, in an event nearly 2,000 years past.

The Spirit indeed is still willing. Our flesh indeed is still weak. Our human condition is still the same — in need of those same tongues of fire.

It’s high time to move the Pentecost story from the past to “current events.”

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Tuesday, February 4, 7 pm

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Thursday, January 28, 7 pm

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Saturday, February 27, 6 pm

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