Beyond Broken
One Couple’s Story
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
Proverbs 3:6 (NKJV)

“Mt. Spokane Chalet” by Dean Huggins of Newman Lake, Wash.
Stewardship: It’s All About Talents

Life is made up of two components: time and talent. Stewardship is the management of our time and talent to the glory of God. Time is given equally to every individual. Talents are given diversely. Some have many. All have at least one.

When we think of talents, often what comes to mind first is singing, public speaking, writing or art. These, of course, are talents that can be used effectively in the mission of the church. But equally valuable are talents of cooking, caring for children, growing food, and building, repairing vehicles and inputting computer data. Every skill of every church member is valuable to the Lord’s work.

“Then Moses called Bezabel, Oholiah and all the other skilled people to whom the Lord had given skills, and they came because they wanted to help with the work,” (Exodus 36:2, NCV). Bezabel and Oholiah were experts at working with gold, silver and bronze, as well as other crafts, and their skills were particularly valuable in building the wilderness tabernacle.

Years ago, when I was pastor of the Cedar Creek Church in Woodland, Washington, there was a new business called Hayes Cabinets located across from the church. In those early days, sometimes the Sabbath School lesson was studied during lunch break, and Pastor Max considered himself the cabinet-shop chaplain.

Today the company is known all over the Northwest for its exceptional quality and fine craftsmanship — a reputation you would expect of Adventist Christians. When we were looking for a new home in the area, many classified ads mentioned Hayes Cabinets by name as a home feature enhancing both quality and function. Now many Adventist churches and schools in the Portland, Oregon/Vancouver, Washington, area contain work done by Hayes Cabinets. Here at the North Pacific Union Conference office, we are often complimented on our building and especially the skillfully crafted cabinets and board tables — all work done to the glory of God by Hayes Cabinets.

Every time I walk into the office, I am thankful for church members like Bezabel and Oholiah and Loren and Frank and Louise too. They faithfully and generously have used their talents for the Lord’s work. And who is to say whether preaching a sermon or building a cabinet is of greater value? After all Jesus was a carpenter.

MAX TORKELSEN II
North Pacific Union Conference president

“At last Jesus was a carpenter.”
Oregon Governor Signs Religious Apparel Bill

In an affirmation of efforts by the Northwest Religious Liberty Association and other groups, Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski signed Oregon House Bill 3686 into law on April 1. This provides protections for the wearing of religious apparel by public school teachers in their classrooms and repeals Oregon’s blanket prohibition dating back to 1925. The legislation was initiated by NRLA, the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Oregon Family Council and the Portland State University Muslim Student Association. Rep. Dave Hunt, speaker of the house, was a chief sponsor of the bill, along with the departments of Education and Labor.

Gladstone Camp Meeting Cancelled This Year

“This has been an extremely hard decision to make considering the value and blessing camp meeting has been to so many of our members,” says Al Reimche, conference president, “but without the funds being available, we feel to move ahead would be irresponsible.”

Conference leaders set a goal of $250,000 in member pledges to be raised by March 20, in order for the camp meeting to go on as scheduled. When pledges received totaled less than $80,000, Oregon Conference administrators decided to cancel the event.

Reimche says leadership looked carefully at other options, such as running a reduced event, but realized much of the normal preparation and infrastructure would still need to be present — resulting in relatively minor savings. See page 12 for more information.

The GLEANER Goes to Atlanta

Catch daily Northwest reports during this summer’s GC session in Atlanta through the GleanerNOW! e-newsletter. Sign up for this FREE service by June 23 at www.gleaneronline.org.
Relationship Suggestions for Guys*

1. **Start your day right.** Die first (to self) and enhance all of your relationships. Die to self (who you are by nature) by asking the Holy Spirit to make your decision a reality. Do this daily.

2. **Friends first.** The quality of a couples' friendship determines the marriage.

3. **Have a realistic budget.** Work hard at staying out of debt. Finances, sex, religion and in-laws are the top-four relationship busters. But financial issues trump all the others.

4. **No relationship is ever 50-50.** Give 100 percent. And don’t worry about who does more.

5. **Don’t stonewall.** Stonewalling is one of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse, not a relationship builder. Listen — maybe she’s got a point.

6. **Practice patience.** When she apologizes for making you late (again), say “You’re worth waiting for.”

7. **Don’t flirt.** If you’re in a relationship, flirting is stupid, hurtful and immature — don’t do it!

8. **Don’t be needy or controlling.** Overly needy and controlling people cannot have successful relationships.

9. **Have daily prayer.** Prayer can bring couples together, but if she doesn’t want to pray with you, don’t make it an issue.

10. **Make eye contact and smile.** Like you did on your first date. Don’t forget to hug. Football and hockey players do it. Why can’t you, Mr. Tough Guy?

* Read more suggestions in Mike Jones’ recent book, *Help, Lord, I Blowed it Again*, available through the Adventist Book Center.

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**Earth Friendly Faith a Hit**

Dan Serns’ article, “Earth Friendly Faith,” in April’s GLEANER, was a welcome and happy surprise. Sometimes we get caught up in trendy, politically correct movements just because we’re living here in this place and time. But rather than joining the lockstep masses, Dan is out in front with this approach, which addresses all aspects of our reason for being here on God’s beautiful planet: physical, mental, spiritual and emotional. I love this philosophy — thank you, Dan.

*Alice Kirkman, Auburn, Wash.*

**A Vote for Accion**

I, too, have noticed the Accion page each month. Personally, I think it is great. If only there were a way to do more. In 1967 I was drafted into the army and rubbed shoulders with Spanish speaking young men. Try and put yourself in their place. Pretend that you don’t speak English, yet every month you receive a magazine from your beloved church and only one page is in a language you understand. If you are lucky maybe you have a friend that can translate for you. What a wonderful day that will be when we can understand each other perfectly.

*Daniel Fry, North Bend, Ore.*

**Let’s Talk about the Spirit**

I appreciated some of the thoughts shared in January’s Let’s Talk article about the Holy Spirit, “The Spirit is Still Willing.” So now is anyone brave enough, bold enough, serious enough, to start wrestling with the issue of why the Spirit is NOT being poured out, and what God wants to do in us to prepare us for it?

*Cheryl Whiley, Caldwell, Idaho*
We were the young, fun, pastoral couple. People used to look at us and think we had it all together. Once when we were at some pastoral in-service meetings, a pastor friend of ours came up to us and said, “You guys are just the perfect couple.” We looked at each other and smiled weak smiles. What he didn’t know was that we had been fighting in the car all the way to the meeting and, only moments before, had pasted on our happy faces as we stepped out of our vehicle and walked into the building. This was normal for us.

There were probably a few intuitive souls in our congregations who detected all was not well in paradise. But our well-guarded ministry façade had most people fooled. Even family members had no idea we were struggling deeply and had been literally since our honeymoon.

Then the phone call came from a trusted friend with words I needed to hear: “Richie you are spiritually and emotionally abusing your wife.”

That was hard to hear, but it opened a window in my mind to begin to see things as they really were. Shortly thereafter, we found ourselves in a very dark valley where our church was failing and so was our marriage.

Timi left for several weeks as we sought to stop the hemorrhaging in our home. Just before she left, a couple that has walked with us for several years now sat in our home. Jerry looked at me and said, “Richie you’re the key.” I hated him for that because what I heard him say was, “Richie it’s your fault.” I didn’t
Christian stewardship includes cultivating healthy families, as illustrated in this guideline statement voted by the General Conference.

"The Bible clearly indicates a distinguishing mark of Christian believers is the quality of their human relationships in the church and family. It is in the spirit of Christ to love and accept, to seek to affirm and build others up, rather than abuse or tear one another down. There is no room among Christ’s followers for tyrannical control and the abuse of power or authority. Motivated by their love for Christ, his disciples are called to show respect and concern for the welfare of others, to accept males and females as equals, and to acknowledge every person’s right to respect and dignity. Failure to relate to others in this way violates their personhood and devalues human beings created and redeemed by God."

RICHIE
While we still have uncomfortable conversations and don’t always see eye to eye (what couple does?), we now know that the Spirit striving within each of us will bring us back together. We definitely agree with Ellen White who once wrote, “Hearts that are filled with the love of Christ can never get very far apart,” (*Adventist Home*, p. 94).

We continue to learn simple steps for staying on each other’s team. One powerful tool is to simply share what God is doing in our lives, just as it says in Rev. 12:11, “they overcame by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony ...” We have dedicated our lives to sharing that Good News.

*Richie and Timi Brower*

my need for humility and connectedness was far deeper than the criticism and harsh words waiting to spill out. Everything changed for both of us. We ended the evening united again because we listened to God and obeyed His instruction.

TAMI
There were many months of struggle and fear and painful growth. But finally, we began to see fruit. One evening we were going into one of those conversations — the kind where there is only debris at the end. Richie went outside to complain to God. As he paced our wooded driveway, he felt an impression: “Richie you need to go back inside and LISTEN to your wife — you haven’t really heard her.” His response: “I’m too tired to continue, but okay, you’ll have to help me.” In the meantime, I was feeling sorry for myself on the couch when an impression hit me. “Is this really what’s bothering you?” “Yes,” was my grumpy reply. “Are you sure?” And I began to realize

feel I could handle anything else being my fault at that point.

But before Timi would agree to come back, she wanted me to promise I would get support. So, under duress, I began meeting with Jerry for two to three hours a week to talk about what it meant to be godly men and love our wives. I began to ask God to change me — instead of HER! As He began to change my heart, a miracle began to take place in our marriage.

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Richie and Timi’s Seminars
For more information about Richie and Timi Brower’s ongoing seminar ministry, see their Web site at www.elijahnow.com.

An Additional Resource
See the Women’s Healing and Empowerment Network, formerly Polly’s Place Network, at www.pollysplacenetwork.com.

1. Taken from the statement on family violence voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee on August 27, 1996.
Walter acaba de cumplir veintiún años. A pesar de los diversos desafíos espirituales por los que ha pasado, Walter sigue asistiendo a la iglesia, empeñado en luchar por su fe. Ahora lo acompaña su joven esposa, Aisha. Además de haberse criado en un hogar donde se le inculcaron los principios de la fe adventista, Walter posee otra característica común a todo joven nacido en este país: le cuesta mucho hablar el español. Y en el caso de su esposa, ella no lo habla del todo. Sin embargo, ambos siguen buscando cultivar una relación con Dios dentro de la iglesia adventista hispana de Nampa. Walter y Aisha son tan solo una muestra de los desafíos que nuestra congregación, al igual que cada congregación hispana en el territorio norteamericano, enfrenta para ministrar a sus jóvenes de segunda generación.

Pero el año 2010 encendió la chispa de un nuevo proyecto para la obra adventista de Idaho: Anita Bermúdez, líder del ministerio de jóvenes y Moisés Morales, otro joven dinámico a quien el Señor bendijo con el don del liderazgo, han dado inicio a una iglesia para jóvenes de segunda generación. El Sábado 23 de Enero más de treinta jóvenes se congregaron para inaugurar este proyecto. Ahora Walter no acude al templo para sentarse en la última banca, sino que, guitarra en mano, está pendiente de llegar muy temprano para preparar, junto con su líder Alex Gallegos, el servicio de canto. Simultáneamente, otros jóvenes están consagrándose sus talentos al servicio en una forma que hasta ahora no imaginaban era posible.

Mientras tanto, a trescientas millas de Nampa, en la parte suroeste del Estado de Idaho, el Espíritu Santo ha estado haciendo su obra en forma quieta pero incontenible. Y como resultado, una nueva congregación hispana ha venido a la existencia. El Sábado seis de Marzo los administradores de la Asociación de Idaho, en compañía del Pr. Edwin López, coordinador de la obra hispana de esa Asociación, organizaron oficialmente el nuevo grupo hispano de Idaho Falls. Con una asistencia regular de cincuenta personas, esta nueva congregación muy pronto aspirará a ser organizada en iglesia. El caso de Idaho Falls es tan solo la primicia de lo que el Señor se propone hacer en el suroeste de Idaho. En efecto, las señales abundan indicando que esta región está lista para una gran cosecha. Los corazones están listos. Tan solo faltan obreros. Los hermanos adventistas de Idaho invitan al resto de la familia de Dios en la Unión del Noroeste Pacífico para que se unan a su ruego: que el Señor de la mies envíe más obreros a su mies.

Edwin López, Pastor y Coordinador de la Conferencia de Idaho
Mel Matthews, pastor, and a team of eager young people and their mothers traveled from Nome, Alaska, to Gambell, Alaska, for children’s and adult meetings in January. The team and many attendees (young and old) received a blessing on St. Lawrence Island. Stephanie, Mike and Heather Evans preached Bible truths each night. Shoni Evans, Truth 4 Youth coordinator and director, presented Biblical truth for five- to 13-year-olds. Doug Sayles, Review and Herald marketing vice president, visited Gambell with the team. Sayles was there to observe and also support the team. He had many suggestions and offers of support for native ministries outreach. More than 28 young people attended the evening meetings, and the adult meetings were also well attended. Sayles was delighted to see his family preaching Bible truths in Gambell. Presentations by the youth team from Nome drew children from the village each evening. On Sabbath, Feb. 6, four youth were baptized and became members of the Gambell Church: Cassandra Temkeruu Slwooko, Valerie Yuyangighaq Apangalook, Dominic Aruuquyaq Apangalook and Leonard Qiiftaan Apangalook.

Mike Evans and Fran Hansen will soon occupy the Gambell parsonage as part of the Arctic Mission Adventure program, ministering to the faithful people there.

Melvin Matthews, pastor
Baptism Transforms Goth to GLOW

It’s been a long and winding road home for Michelle Willis.

Raised an Adventist, Willis was drawn as a teenager into the Goth subculture, a term most often associated with moods of morbidity and darkness. She adopted many aspects of the Goth lifestyle, including dyeing her hair black and wearing all black clothing and makeup. Willis kept a tenuous hold on her walk with the Lord, but moved to the periphery of church involvement.

One evening while feeling especially alone, she prayed for assurance and comfort. Hearing only silence, she says she “officially walked away from God,” not realizing at the time he had her in his sight all along.

Partying, depression and loneliness followed until Willis realized something had to change. She knew she needed to surround herself with people who had her best interest at heart, but she fought against going back to church until she received an invitation to take photos for the Meridian (Idaho) Church directory. Willis laughs at the memory, “God is so good. He knew I wouldn’t be able to resist doing the photography even if it meant going back to church for a couple of months.”

While working on the directory, she began to reconnect with members she hadn’t spoken to in a while, and when Gem State Academy held their annual evangelistic campaign at the Meridian Church, Willis attended the meetings.

One evening, Willis encouraged the Bible worker who was about to give a presentation. “I told her even if one person came to the Lord, it would be worth it all. To be honest,” she says, “I wasn’t planning on being that one person.”

On Sabbath, March 20, Willis was baptized and rejoined her church family — who she realizes, never stopped loving and praying for her.

Willis says to anyone who may be deciding whether or not to follow the Lord, “You can follow the curvy road and think it’s more fun, but the fun doesn’t last — I know. If you’re looking for an eternity of fun, however, then the God road is the one to take. It may have some bumps in it, but at least you’ll have Jesus helping you over the rocks.”

Karen Pearson, Meridian Church member

Michael Pearson, Meridian (Idaho) Church pastor, baptizes Michelle Willis at the end of a Gem State Academy evangelistic campaign.

From left: Shay Hopkins and Shasha Mejia, Bible workers, stand with GLOW co-coordinator Jeff Kimmel. They find their inspiration by connecting with people like Michelle Willis.

Michelle Willis shares a special hug with her mother, Irene Willis.
Pathfinder Sabbath Delights Libby Members

What happens when you put Pathfinders in charge of church? A Pathfinder Sabbath, of course. On Feb. 20, the Libby (Mont.) Pathfinder club had the opportunity to implement their leadership skills by planning the entire church service. Pathfinders conducted the worship service, with several special music selections, including James Vogel who shared an original piano composition. Archie Harris, Montana Pathfinder director, shared a more in-depth look at the Pathfinder pledge and law. The Libby Pathfinders have been very active making a positive impact in their community. This special Sabbath was a glimpse into the future of church leadership and the good things members have to look forward to.

Deanna Harris, Montana GLEANER correspondent

Fundraising Dinner

Like many other schools across the North American Division, the students at Libby (Mont.) Adventist Christian School wanted to help with an Adventist education project — building a new facility for the Maluti Adventist Christian School in Lesotho.

Rather than just bringing a few dollars each to contribute to the project, the students committed to holding an event to involve their local school and church community.

On Saturday night, Feb. 27, the 11 students served a lasagna dinner, which they prepared themselves, for more than 50 people.

The after-dinner entertainment, performed by students, was an adaptation of the story of Daniel entitled “The Lions and Their ‘Den-er’ Guests,” which included sound effects and songs played on hand chimes. In addition to tickets for the dinner, many attendees donated an additional amount.

Students were pleased to send off $465.50 for the NAD education project.

Cindy Patten, Libby Adventist Christian School teacher
**Gladstone Camp Meeting Cancelled for 2010**

It is with deep regret we announce the cancellation of Gladstone Camp Meeting 2010. This has been an extremely hard decision to make considering the value and blessing camp meeting has been to so many of our members, but without the funds available we feel to move ahead would be irresponsible.

We received just over $70,000 in pledges for which we are very grateful. We know each of you who pledged dollars in support of camp meeting did it with a generous spirit and from your heart, and we want you to know how very much it means to us. Throughout our Town Hall meetings we were personally made aware finances are tight right now for the majority of our members. The response we received was just over one quarter of the requested $250,000 needed in order to go ahead this year. We asked for pledges instead of cash, so if you made a pledge it is cancelled since it was directly related to an event that is now not happening.

We looked at the possibilities of running a reduced event but realized much of the preparation and infrastructure would need to be present given our usual attendance of 12–15,000 over the weekend. This would result in small savings and would have pushed our costs over the amount pledged.

Those who have already given an amount for camp meeting can either have the funds reimbursed or redirected toward another fund, such as conference evangelism, television ministry or future camp meeting expenses. Those who have prepaid registration fees for camping can contact Jayne Johnson and either apply fees paid toward Camp Meeting 2011 or receive full refunds.

We realize the Oregon Conference Camp Meeting is a core event for supporting and nurturing spiritual growth conference wide. Please know this decision to cancel camp meeting came after much prayer and did not come lightly. We have already begun to prayerfully make concrete plans for next year’s camp meeting program.

If you have questions regarding this decision or ideas that will make Camp Meeting 2011 a greater blessing, please call me directly or contact any of the Oregon Conference administration.

We want you to know the Oregon Conference is still very committed to the Gospel Commission and is looking creatively at ways to continue to support church families as they spread God’s love throughout their communities across Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Please join me in praying God will continue to bless and guide as we give all of this over to him and that he will continue to make his plans for our conference family clear to all of us. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Al Reimche, Oregon Conference president
Butte Surpasses CAA Goal ... ‘Bearly’

Students at Columbia Adventist Academy in Battle Ground, Wash., have seen God’s blessings with the transformation of their campus. But in a “bear market,” and desiring to “bear” the burden of completing the payment of the new classroom and administration building, Matthew Butte, CAA principal, decided to undergo a transformation few have experienced.

It was just a year ago Butte shaved his head to bring in $50,000 for the building campaign. In sticking with the theme of a bare head, he chose to move the vowels and “bear” his head in an effort to raise another $50,000. What did he get himself into this time? A bear suit, CAA’s Kody the Kodiak bear suit. Thinking outside the box is necessary these days, but thinking inside the Kody suit is really unique, and that’s how Butte ran the Portland Shamrock Run on March 14, with a sponsorship of $10,000 per kilometer from alumni, students, staff and CAA friends. In response to doing crazy things for money, Butte says, “If it isn’t illegal, immoral, unethical or life-threatening, I’m willing to try anything once in order to raise funds for the CAA building. This includes running into parked cars and other runners, as the peripheral vision in that suit was zero.” Fortunately, Butte had assistants to help guide him and finished the 5 km without major incident. He helped CAA realize more than $80,000 more toward the building fund.

While CAA students recognize God’s transforming power is eternal, they’re glad Butte’s transformation and the school debt are merely temporary.

Larry Hiday, CAA GLEANER correspondent

Children Send Balloons Aloft

Woodland (Wash.) Church took on a festive appearance as Tommie Estes walked down the aisle holding large bunches of balloons. Children followed her eagerly, reaching for the color they wanted. Then the fun began as children signed their names to slips of paper, which read:

“Do you want to make a new start this new year? Invite Jesus into your life. We, your friends of the Woodland Church, (address and phone number), invite you to come and worship with us on any Saturday, 9–12 a.m. We will have a wonderful meal afterward. Please bring this card with you so I can greet you personally. Sincerely, (child’s signature).”

These cards were placed in a small Ziploc bags and tied to balloons.

Trouping out to the front of the church, the children released balloons with a lot of laughter and cheering. Two weeks later, a hunter called the church and said he had found a balloon near Kennewick, Wash. He wanted a little girl, Darby, to know he found her note and to thank her. Needless to say little Darby was delighted as were the rest of the children. About a month later the balloon ministry was repeated, but so far no one else has responded.

Norma Brunson, Woodland Church member
RVAA Sponsors Sparrow Club

-Outreach Project-

Rogue Valley Adventist Academy has chosen to partner with Sparrow Clubs for one of its community outreach projects. There are three parts to the project: 1) a qualified Sparrow (a child in medical need); 2) a school adopting a child as a community service; and 3) sponsors with seed money to launch the project. Through project sponsorship and a service voucher system, students perform community service as a way to raise funds to meet the needs of their Sparrow child.

RVAA students were willing, and the Robert and Frances Chaney Family Foundation in Medford, Ore., generously agreed to partner with them as a project sponsor.

Angel Villa was selected as a Sparrow Child. As a 23-month-old boy, Villa has already received surgeries on his back and foot, and will most likely need additional ones in the future. The funds raised through the Sparrow Club will be used to help offset the costs of his medical bills, travel expenses to doctors in Portland, Ore., and basic family expenses.

Villa visited the campus for a school-wide assembly with his mother on Tuesday, Feb. 2. He was an instant hit with the students, who stood to their feet to show their willingness to take on the Sparrow Club challenge of CGI (compassion, generosity and integrity). Students took home Sparrow vouchers to begin logging community service hours. Mariah Albrecht, a sixth-grade student, is looking forward to making baked goods to share with her neighbors and washing cars as part of her way to make a difference for Villa. Albrecht loves to read to the pediatric children at the hospital and was excited to learn these activities qualify for Sparrow voucher time. Cassidi Sandefur, an eighth-grade student, enjoys making cards for a local retirement center and church members. She is thinking about incorporating these into Sparrow voucher time. Eric Katzenbach, 10th-grade student, plans to organize a committee to plan school-wide community projects with elementary students.

The Sparrow project for RVAA is already making a positive impact on the community while benefiting their Sparrow — Angel Villa.

Michelle Wachter, RVAA GLEANER correspondent

A New Name
Rogue Valley Adventist Academy

It has evolved over the years. Rogue River Academy, a one-room, 12-grade school, opened in 1908. After dropping grades 11 and 12, it became Rogue River Junior Academy, then, to avoid confusion, Rogue Valley Adventist School (it is not near the Rogue River). Since RVAS started offering a full academy curriculum in 2004 and recently received a six-year accreditation, the name has changed again to reflect full academy status — Rogue Valley Adventist Academy.

Michelle Wachter, RVAA GLEANER correspondent

From left: Taylor Wold, Jesse Gilley, Max Kim and Christian Goodness remove rocks at a local cemetery. RVAA students work to benefit their Sparrow Club project.

Mae Camarena, student, visits with Angel Villa, the RVAA Sparrow Club child.
Yoncalla Church Gives Back

Bags of Love

In 2007 Pat Stacy was inspired by a program she watched on Three Angels Broadcasting Network about a guest's Bags of Love project.

Stacy was impressed to start a branch in her church in Yoncalla, Ore., but told God she was too busy and couldn't afford it. In 2008 the impression came again. "When I told God I didn't have the money, He said, 'I do,'" Stacy recalls. "He told me to stick my foot in the water and see what happens." So she did. The Yoncalla community contributed $500, and Bags of Love began at the Yoncalla Adventist Church.

There are nearly 20 active members at Yoncalla and more than half work with Bags of Love.

The bags each contain a quilt, a large stuffed animal, personal-care items, toys and other items. The bags are all age and gender appropriate and are delivered to local children’s services agencies.

Members gave 86 bags to Douglas County Children's Services in 2008 and 80 bags in 2009. The bags go to children in Douglas County who have been removed from their homes and families and put into foster homes.

If you are interested in starting your own Bags of Love, contact Stacy through the Yoncalla Church at P.O. Box 217, Yoncalla, OR 97499.

Billie Snook, Yoncalla Church communication leader

Women Grow in the Spirit

Women from the Veneta, Santa Clara and Junction City (Ore.) churches decided to combine resources. They coordinated a women's ministries mini retreat, hosted by Junction City, called “Growing in the Spirit.” Last year, the three groups met at the Santa Clara Church, and Veneta Church is eagerly planning the gathering for next year.

During the welcome, Carolyn Fields, local women's ministries leader, reviewed projects completed by area women's ministry groups and shared those in progress. One project is Bags of Love. Completed bags are filled with desired items and given to children removed from homes in crisis situations.

Leota Bliss shared gardening wisdom and how this activity provides closeness to the Creator and his love.

In her personal testimony, Lynda Lydick counseled the group to be aware of the importance of their influence as women of God.

The Family Life Center bustled with activity from early morning, preparing a tea luncheon for more than 60 women. Along with delightful teapots loaned for the event, pussy willows and daffodils atop pastel green, pink and yellow linen added an impression of spring to the food and fellowship.

Lunch was served by Krystal Bliss and four other women from Laurelwood Academy: Karena Kuebler, Victoria Kuebler, Clareesa Kuebler and Hannah Boram.

One participant says “I am thankful for a time set aside for the Lord with other women.”

Carolyn Fields, Junction City Church women's ministry coordinator

Coral Couch sews Bags of Love, a featured ministry during a coordinated mini retreat, hosted by the Junction City (Ore.) Church.
Open House for New Healing Center

A house became a home on March 7 at an open house ceremony for Frieda’s Healing Center in Spokane, Wash. The center serves women who need a place to heal, regroup and renew their emotional health following domestic abuse. It was established through the leadership of Mable Dunbar, Family Life educator and Upper Columbia Conference women’s ministries director.

While gathered at the open house, many attendees recounted the ways God intervened to make this center a reality. Bob Folkenberg Jr., UCC president, held a prayer of dedication and said he supports the work Dunbar is doing through the Women’s Healing and Empowerment Network and wants to do what he can to keep it strong.

“Who would’ve thought 30 years ago that we’d be here together at Frieda’s Healing Center,” recounts Linda Schultz, WHE board chair. Schultz and Dunbar were next-door neighbors when their husbands attended the ministerial seminary at Andrews University. And now they both live and work in the Spokane area in counseling and healing ministries.

Healing is what the WHE Network is all about, providing healing and empowerment to those who have been abused. Currently the network has three centers for domestic abuse prevention: Patty’s, Ellen’s and Frieda’s healing centers. For more information regarding the WHE Network see the box on the left.

The WHE Network also educates the whole church by offering volunteer training, education about abuse prevention and recovery programs, and crisis counseling. Each year they conduct the national “Being There” conference that provides a healing experience for men, women and young adults who have been abused, are abusive or are caregivers for individuals dealing with abuse issues.

The WHE Network (formerly Polly’s Place Network International Ministries) was founded in June 2003 by Dunbar as a response to the growing need for programs and services to address the issues of domestic violence and sexual abuse in the faith community.

Kathy Marson, UCC communication administrative assistant
Soup’s On Ministry Born Out of Spiritual Gifts

Members boiled up a new ministry last fall in St. Maries, Idaho, after Sue Clark’s spiritual gifts inventory got them thinking about outreach.

Judy Sibert and Debbie Herra felt their spiritual gifts best suited them to provide good hot meals for people in need. “It was easy to get several church members to help make soup, bread and dessert,” says Sibert. “All we needed was help finding people who would come eat it.”

John Thomson used his spiritual gifts to invite people to come enjoy the meal. Charlie and Terri Prouty placed sandwich-board signs around town advertising the free meal. Word traveled quickly, and it wasn’t long before church members and their Soup’s On ministry were sharing meals with community members every Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m.

“It started last October with 15 people,” says Martha George, St. Maries Church communication leader, “including the members who came to serve and mingle. Now members serve more than 20 to 30 community guests in the fellowship hall and nearly 20 meals to elderly people in their homes.”

And lack of money isn’t the only reason people appreciate a home-cooked meal, George adds. “They even deliver a meal to the emergency room doctor on duty at the hospital across the street.”

Martha George, St. Maries Church communication leader

Pioneering Incentive Plan Discounts UCA Tuition

Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash., is announcing a new opportunity for financial assistance to all students and their families while saving on tuition.

The pioneering program, Tuition Incentive Plus, offers families the option to incrementally reduce their student’s tuition over time. The longer the enrollment, the greater the financial benefit.

Under TIP, first-year students pay full tuition. The second year, they receive a 20 percent tuition discount. The third and fourth year, discounts are even more dramatic: 30 and 50 percent, respectively.

“I’m convinced the Lord has had direct involvement in us thinking out of the box,” says Weston Davis, the Spokane, Wash., business man who came up with the plan. “Many of our young people are not attending Adventist schools because their families simply can’t afford it. I really believe TIP can make a big difference for these families.”

Debbie Nelson, UCA’s vice president for finance, agrees with Davis. “TIP has the potential to revolutionize Christian Adventist education, making it more affordable for families in these difficult times,” she says.

Troy Patzer, UCA principal, emphasizes how TIP brings extra support for families and recognizes the significant investment families make when they enroll their students in UCA.

“We’re excited about the potential TIP has to give more students continued access to a Christian Adventist education,” says Patzer. “This plan is especially geared for students not currently attending an Adventist school and those who do not have access to a local Adventist school.”

For more information about TIP, visit www.ucaa.org or call 509-245-3600.

Jay Wintermeyer, UCC communication director
Spokane Churches
Create North American First

Eight area Seventh-day Adventist churches joined to launch the first Adventist Russian-language television channel in North America.

In addition to being the first channel, the Open Book Channel is also the first Russian-TV channel in Washington. The channel was officially launched at a grand opening ceremony Sabbath, Feb. 6, at the Spokane Linwood (Wash.) Adventist Church.

The new channel offers religious-themed programs, including local Slavic church services, cooking and exercise shows, and children’s programming. Piggybacking on an open channel of Spokane's He's Alive Television, an Adventist television station, the new channel is airing at 39.3 on the UHF dial. It is not currently available on cable.

Volody Nesteruk, pastor in charge of the OBC, says the goal of the channel is to appeal to all Russian-speaking viewers, though a lot of the programming will have a religious bent.

“We provide a wide range of programming for our Russian families here in Spokane,” says Nesteruk. “We're trying to make our channel interesting for people who have no religious affiliation.”

Spokane is home to an estimated 25,000–30,000 Russian-speaking people, a population that has been rapidly growing since the 1990s. Nesteruk says the programming will be a little touch of home for them.

"We are here to share the gospel,” says Nesteruk. “We are grateful God has given us this privilege to minister to our Russian-speaking families in a special way.”

The OBC is also available online.

Jay Wintemeyer, UCC communication director

Musical Showcase at Upper Columbia Academy

One hundred and nine music students from around the Northwest and Canada visited Upper Columbia Academy in February for a three-day band clinic. Amidst the tumult of the 80-member UCA concert band, students experienced an environment of learning, growing and spectacular band music.

The clinic aims to help students achieve a higher level of music performance than might be possible at their own schools; experience the thrill of playing with a large group of musicians; and highlight the UCA experience. Schools from across Upper Columbia Conference and even a group from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, joined in the fun.

This year’s repertoire was entirely sacred by design. “It helps students understand there is a lot of exciting, fun, sacred music written for band,” says Dean Kravig, UCA band director.

A Sabbath afternoon concert for an audience of nearly 500 people climaxed the event where the musicians shared their experience without saying a word. Says Kravig, “It was great fun to challenge them and have them rise to the occasion so beautifully. Not only were we able to showcase their talents, but also highlight the great things happening with music at UCA. I know of at least three students who decided to come to UCA based on their clinic experience.”

Katie Torkelsen Spoo, UCA GLEANER correspondent

February’s three-day band clinic at Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash., culminated in a sacred concert.
Tacoma-area Churches Engaged in Community Outreach

Churches in the Tacoma, Wash., area are actively engaging in community outreach in preparation for bilingual Momentum evangelistic meetings in English and Spanish this fall with José Rojas, series speaker and North American Division volunteer ministries director.

**Tacoma Central Church**, with 459 members, continues to strengthen and grow its congregation through small group ministries, Bible prophecy seminars and health outreach. Scott Tyman, pastor, and Nelson Miles, small group coordinator, and other church leaders recently met with the mayors of Tacoma and Lakewood to begin exploring long-term community impact activities related to healthy living and community beautification.

**Mount Tahoma Church**, with 404 members, and **Open Bible Fellowship**, with 83 members, are organizing all of their ministries, including the worship service, to have an evangelistic focus. Both congregations, led by Kevin Rogers, pastor, are engaged in health ministries, community services, personal ministry, Bible study teams, small groups and Urban Youth literature evangelism.

Following an evangelistic series with Dan Bentzinger, Washington Conference evangelist, **Tacoma South Side Church** is particularly focusing on discipling 31 new members, spiritually strengthening its congregation of 278 members and continuing Bible studies with people who attended the meetings.

**Tacoma Hispanic Church**, with 216 members, and the network of Spanish churches in western Washington are actively training lay leaders in giving Bible studies, hosting small groups and presenting an evangelistic series.

**Tacoma Samoa Church**, with 162 members, is tapping into the chief-tribal concept to reach the Samoan community with messages about Jesus. Additionally, Mika Devoux, pastor, uses social media on a daily basis to send short messages of encouragement and inspiration by text message to 100 recipients. About half of the congregation is under the age of 25, so generational, language-based meetings address youth in English with some Samoan, and adults in Samoan with some English.

**Tacoma Russian Center**, led by Ivan Bokov, pastor, continues to grow the congregation of 53 members through three small groups, a beliefs seminar and building connections in the Russian community in Tacoma. The church is participating in an eight-night outreach program in five locations between Tacoma and Everett and supporting a Russian radio program in the region. **Tacoma Korean Church** also uses radio evangelism.

**Puyallup Adventist Church**, with 769 members, is finding great success with small-group ministries and special events. Small groups cover topics such as spiritual growth, marking your Bible, and marriage, parenting and financial management seminars, which each attract 20–30 participants. Kieth Noll and Michael Demma, Puyallup pastors, also plan special community events such as a “Passion Week” series, a car show, a 9/11 remembrance ceremony, and a Revelation Bible prophecy seminar.

The Tacoma Momentum series will be held Nov. 13–20 at the Clover Park Technical College. Find more information at washingtonconference.org.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director

Missionaries represented Washington Conference in five countries with six spring break mission trips to Fiji, Peru, the Philippines, Mexico and Nicaragua.

DISCOVER MORE: WASHINGTONCONFERENCE.ORG
Auburn Adventist Academy Welcomes New Principal

After a year-long search, Auburn Adventist Academy and Washington Conference are pleased to welcome Samir Berbawy as AAA’s new principal. Having recently returned from abroad as the president of the Egypt Field, Berbawy has also served as an administrator and educator for 30 years.

With a passion for Christian education, Berbawy is excited to join Auburn’s school family. “Being with young people gives me energy,” he explains when sharing his enthusiasm for educating teens. “I am eager to introduce people to Christ. I want them to see Jesus whether they choose him or not.”

“We are pleased to welcome Samir and Tanya Berbawy to the Washington Conference,” says John Freedman, Washington Conference president and AAA board chairman. “With valuable experience in classroom teaching, school administration and also as an ordained pastor, we were impressed by Samir’s spiritual depth, experience and love for people.”

In order to facilitate a smooth transition, Marvin Mitchell, current interim principal, will work closely with the principal-elect to finish out the school year.

Berbawy and his wife, Tanya, have been married for 31 years and have two grown children, Kristin and Ramzy.

Jondelle D. McGhee, AAA GLEANER correspondent

Students Raise Funds for Haiti

With images and stories from Haiti dominating the news, Larry Arnott, Mountain View Christian School principal in Sequim, Wash., decided to use this tragedy as an exercise in compassion for the school’s 20 students. When he asked the boys and girls, ages 6–14, if they’d like to help, the answer was a resounding “Yes!”

“My first reaction was, are the people there okay?” says Sam Manders, age 14. “And my second reaction was, what do the towns look like after the earthquake?”

The students chose to raise money by placing donation containers in the Sequim Adventist Church and Eastern Hills Community Church, both in Sequim, Wash., where students attend. Students created the containers, progress charts and posters advertising the project. In all, students raised $540 for Adventist Development and Relief Agency’s work in Haiti.

“I thought it was sad about Haiti and I wanted to be generous with my things and share,” says John Cotter, age 12.

In addition to what adults donated, the students were encouraged to do small jobs to earn money or to give of their allowances, making this a personal lesson in applying their Christianity to the world, as well as showing compassion to strangers.

Jay Richmond, Sequim Church communication leader
Feeding on God’s Word and Losing Weight

A small group at the Bellevue (Wash.) Church is learning to “live it” instead of “die-t.”

Each Wednesday evening, eight to 10 women (with some participants from other denominations) meet for “First Place 4 Health.” The nationally recognized small-group curriculum is a Christ-centered weight-loss and healthy-living program featuring Bible study, accountability, a food plan with a diary and exercise at least three times a week.

“The goal is spiritual growth first with weight loss as a side benefit,” says Ruth Lemus, class participant. Lemus struggled with a weight problem for most of her life and eventually gave up because she had no motivation remaining.

Since joining the class a year ago, Lemus has lost 25 pounds and says, “It’s the first time I’ve had total success relying on God instead of myself or some preplanned-diet program. I stayed focused on God and let Him do all the work. I feel like a brand-new person on the outside, and God is still working on the person inside.”

Ceci Hansen, another class participant, had limited success with various weight-loss programs before joining the class last year. “First Place is so much more effective because the emphasis is not on me, the food, or counting points and potato chips — it’s on Christ,” says Hansen, who lost 20 pounds. “That’s what makes the difference.”

Teresa Joy, Bellevue Church communication leader

Forest Park Church Fills Giant Prayer Book

The prayer list is hard to miss at Everett Forest Park (Wash.) Church: The 64- by 94-inch prayer book is prominently displayed in the front of the sanctuary.

The giant book, symbolic of the Book of Life, contains hand-inscribed names of more than 800 people the church began praying for as the congregation prepared for a Revelation Now Bible prophecy seminar with Jac Colón, North Pacific Union Conference evangelist, this spring. The church has a goal of entering at least 2,000 names.

Darrell Kleckley and Gary Jessop Jr., both associated with the Everett Forest Park Church, developed and built the prayer book. The names in the book represent friends, neighbors and family members. Weekly prayers include a plea for the Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of loved ones and inspire them to attend the evangelistic meetings.

The book serves as a visual reminder to the church family of the importance of prayer and strengthens their desire to have their loved ones join them in the Heavenly Kingdom. As the meetings progress, attendees are encouraged to write their own names in the Book of Life.

Linda Anderson-McMullin, Everett Forest Park Church communication leader
It was one of the largest humanitarian collaborations Walla Walla, Wash., had ever seen. Months of planning, countless decisions, numerous meetings and e-mails, all came down to one critical weekend. Two Walla Walla University students even ended up bald.

Shelter for Freedom was a series of events available to the Walla Walla community to increase awareness of global human trafficking and in turn raise money for the local women’s shelter. The support would help ensure the facility had the means necessary to aid vulnerable women at risk for being trafficked. The events were coordinated by a number of passionate individuals and organizations, including WWU’s student association, ASWWU; Amnesty International; and Walla Walla Soroptimist.

Through efforts by Karen Scott from Artists for Human Rights, the school was able to acquire the film “Cargo: Innocence Lost,” a documentary on human trafficking. Michael Cory Davis, writer and director of the film; Michael Wisner, executive director of AFHR; and Anne Archer, award-winning actress and AFHR founder, were all present that weekend.

The weekend events included a historical lecture on the beginnings of human commoditization and a music and poetry recital featuring the powerful expressions of women composers and writers. The executive director of AFHR spoke at the student-led worship service on Saturday, and later in the evening there was a film screening, a panel discussion and an art auction.

All of the events were well attended, and enthusiasm began to grow in proportion to attendees’ increased awareness.

The weekend concluded successfully, but events continued.

ASWWU organized several follow-up events, and funds continue to add up. Two WWU students, Landon Sell, junior communications major; and Darcy Sturges, junior English major; shaved each other’s heads after a close competition to see who could raise the most money for Shelter for Freedom.

Those involved are pleased with the success of the events and feel a sense of accomplishment for having played a part in increasing community awareness of such an awful human rights violation. All together, the fundraisers brought in more than $20,000 for the local women’s shelter.

Kathleen Erwin, WWU senior
**Surgery Robot ‘Bob’ Offers State-of-the-art Care**

American society is fond of naming things. Pets, buildings, cars — everything gets a moniker it seems. And thanks to a group of Portland, Ore., fifth-grade students, the new da Vinci surgery robot at Adventist Medical Center is properly titled: Introducing... “Bob.”

As a way to celebrate the new state-of-the-art robot, AMC offered tours for local elementary students. Young visitors learned about the hospital’s newest surgical technology and several were able to manipulate the robot’s arms during the simulation. Tours included video demonstrations, fun facts about surgery, and information about the clinical team’s education and skills. During their visit, the surgeons-to-be were encouraged to suggest names for the robot. From the 250 ballots submitted, AMC’s surgical team chose “Bob” and honored the five lucky fifth-grade students who suggested it.

Also known as the da Vinci Si Robotic Surgical System, Bob will transform the way certain procedures are done at AMC — initially urology and gynecology, although the technology has clinical applications for many other specialties. The system involves a sophisticated robotic platform designed for complex surgeries using a minimally invasive approach. The technology provides surgeons with superior visualization, and enhanced dexterity and precision.

Through the high-resolution 3-D stereo viewer, anatomy appears at high magnification, in brilliant color and with natural depth of field. To perform a procedure, the surgeon places the robotic instruments through small incisions and uses the master controls to maneuver four robotic arms, which securely hold the instruments and high-resolution endoscopic camera.

For the patient, a robotic procedure offers the benefits of a minimally invasive approach, including less pain, less blood loss and less need for blood transfusions. It means a shorter length-of-stay, quicker recovery times and a faster return to normal daily activities. “The da Vinci represents one of the greatest surgical advances at Adventist Medical Center,” says Wes Rippey, AMC chief medical officer. “We are grateful for technology that will enhance the delivery of patient care.” A group of physicians along with four nurses and two surgical technologists will comprise the initial team and are currently using the robot. David Winchester, a urologist, successfully completed the first procedure in late January.

To learn more, visit www.adventisthealthnw.org

Shawna Malvini, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent
Don and Eileen Edwards

**Edwards 65th**

Don and Eileen Edwards of Milton-Freewater, Ore., celebrated their 65th anniversary three times. The first celebration was a surprise at the Edwards Family Reunion near Goldendale, Wash. The second was at the Haeger/Holweger Reunion (Eileen's family) at the Belknap Resort on the McKenzie River in Oregon. The third was a dinner at their family home on Dec. 27, 2009. All celebrations were hosted by their children.

Don Edwards married Eileen Bitzer on Dec. 27, 1944, at the Adventist church in Wapato, Wash. Don worked on a ranch and Eileen worked as a dinner cook in a local restaurant. In 1960, they moved to College Place, Wash., where Don was employed by the Milton Nursery.

In 1972, they moved to Milton-Freewater, Ore., and Don went to work at the Steen/Schroeder Ranch. Don retired in 1990. Eileen worked two years for the Washington Children's Home Society in Walla Walla, Wash., and then joined the staff at Walla Walla College (now University). Eileen retired in 1992.

The Edwards like to camp in their fifth wheel with family and friends. Don likes to hike and backpack. In August 2009, he celebrated his 83rd birthday in the Wallowa Mountains with his daughter and grandson. They were out seven days and hiked 50 plus miles. Eileen likes to sew, bake and do puzzles.


**Hilde 50th**

Jim and Karen Hilde celebrated their 50th anniversary on Sept. 27, 2009, at the Green Lake Church in Seattle, Wash. Family and friends from all over California, Oregon and Washington came to honor the happy couple with music, speeches and great food, and a towering homemade cake transported on ice from Southern California.

Jim grew up in Washington and Karen in Illinois. They met at Auburn Adventist Academy when she was a junior and he was a senior. Karen couldn't decide if she liked the leather-wearing biker Jim. Bikers from her hometown of Chicago weren't always good people. Friends assured Karen Jim was the nicest of guys, so she started encouraging his advances. Jim knew he was in love on his 18th birthday when Karen bought him a pure wool sweater and made him a birthday cake. He knew she didn't have much money, so such a sacrifice touched him. They dated for nearly a year when, after attending a mutual friend's wedding, they committed to get married. They didn't announce the engagement until Jim found Karen a watch. They were both 19 years old when they married at the Green Lake Church.

While married, they built three houses, raised four children and saw them all through church school and college. Family is their pride and joy. Karen is a mother, grandmother and homemaker, and Jim is a retired engineer who designed air conditioning systems.

They enjoy bird watching, camping, kayaking, traveling and entertaining their family. Jim likes to build model airplanes and Karen likes to crochet and paint with watercolors. They currently live in Goldendale, Wash.

The Hilde family includes Jeff and Esther Hilde of Ridgecrest, Calif.; Steve and Jeri Hilde of Sandy, Ore.; Ron and Kathy Hilde of Stanwood, Wash.; Jonathan Hilde of Everett, Wash.; 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**Schnell 60th**

Arnold and Joyce Schnell of Sandy, Ore., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at an open house on Nov. 21, 2009, at the Rockwood (Ore.) Church. The pastor who married them, Ben Hartman, flew from Bryson City, N.C., to be with them for their celebration. Hartman is now 97 years young.

The Schnells were married in Friendship, N.Y., on Nov. 23, 1949. They lived in Rochester, N.Y., for 19 years where Arnold worked as a carpenter, insurance inspector and auditor. He earned his Elementary Education degree at Atlantic Union College in 1970 and received a master's degree at Walla Walla College in 1979. He has taught in Houston, Texas; Killeen, Texas; Rochester Culver Junior Academy in Rochester; and at Portland Adventist Elementary School in Portland, Ore.

Arnold retired in 1995 after teaching 25 years for the denomination. Joyce also retired in 1995 after working as a secretary in Massachusetts, Texas, and New York and 15 years at Portland Adventist Convalescent Center as a payroll clerk.

The Schnell family includes Carol and Paul Graff of Gresham, Ore.; Jeanie Pond of Aurora, Ore.; Sherri and Dan Tyler of Uniontown, Wash.; Tim and Beth Schnell of Portland, Ore.; 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**Stafford 50th**

Chuck and Ruth Stafford celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 16–23 in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada. They had a week stay in a condominium with their family.

Charles R. Stafford married Ruth Y. Emery on Aug. 2, 1959, in Bandon, Ore. Chuck completed Physical Therapy at Loma Linda University in 1960 and later a Master in Health Education and MPH degree. Ruth finished her BS in Nursing at Walla Walla University in 1958 and later a MS in Nursing Education at LLU. In 1963, they were asked by LLU to lead a Health Education School in the western highlands of Tanzania, Africa.
where for 12 years they taught pastors, teachers, hospital workers and their spouses the principles of physical and spiritual health during a 10-month course.

Their last six months in Tanzania were at Arusha Adventist Seminary where the Health Education School had been moved. While there, they were able to climb nearby Mt. Kilimanjaro.

In 1976, they were called to the Princess Zauditu Memorial Adventist Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where Chuck was head of Physical Therapy and Ruth taught in the School of Nursing. After a year, the government took over the hospital so they transferred to Karachi Adventist Hospital in Pakistan where Chuck was in charge of Physical Therapy and X-ray and Ruth was the principal for the School of Nursing for five years. They were privileged to fly through the Karakorum Range and visit the famed and healthy people of Hunza. In 1981, they returned to the U.S. to be closer to their children during their college years.

Chuck has continued physical therapy in home health facilities, his clinics and a rehab center where he still works part time. Ruth worked as an RN in hospitals and home health facilities, her clinics and a rehab center where she still works part time. While there, they were able to climb nearby Mt. Kilimanjaro.

In 1973, the Wilsons moved to Selah, Wash., where Howard was employed as a mechanic in an automobile dealership and Pat was a mother and homemaker.

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Howard and Pat were married on Dec. 26, 1959, in Cottage Grove, Ore., where they met during grade-school and where their families are still residing. They attended Milo Adventist Academy together, where Pat graduated in 1959.

Howard attended a trade school in Tigard, Ore., taking a mechanics course. After their marriage, they made their first home in Cottage Grove where their three sons were born. Howard worked as a mechanic for an automobile dealership and Pat was a mother and homemaker.

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The Stafford family includes Lori and John Gulley of Collegeagedale, Tenn.; Merlin and Benita (Schmidtke) Stafford of Gaston, Ore.; Laren and Donna (Wiggins) Stafford of Eureka, Mont.; Marilee and Mike Kier of Ayuthaya, Thailand; 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**Wilson 50th**

Howard and Pat Wilson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends on Dec. 26, 2009, at the Republic Church fellowship room in Republic, Wash.

Howard and Pat were married on Dec. 26, 1959, in Cottage Grove, Ore., where they met during grade-school and where their families are still residing. They attended Milo Adventist Academy together, where Pat graduated in 1959.

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**Cafferky**—Ethan Ladd was born March 2, 2010, to Nathan and Andrea “Dea” (Botimer) Cafferky, Denver, Colo.

**Claridge**—Keegan Lawrence was born Nov. 30, 2009, to Jon and Melissa (Rote) Claridge, Lafayette, Ore.

**Clarke**—Liam Chad was born Feb. 19, 2010, to Chad Michael and Amanda Irene (Coy) Clark, Pendleton, Ore.

**Downs**—Miya Hana was born Dec. 31, 2009, to Jeff and Alisha (Tsuchiya) Downs, Wasilla, Alaska.

**Jorgenson**—Taya Linnea was born March 9, 2010, to Brian and Ammy (Bechtel) Jorgenson, Sandpoint, Idaho.

**Gall—Peil**—Halli Rachell Gall and Cameron Richard Peil were married Sept. 20, 2008, in Salem, Ore. They are making their home in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Halli is the daughter of Martin R. and Kim M. (Tremaine) Gall. Cameron is the son of Rodman H. Jr. (deceased) and Rosemary Peil Mattson.

**Hansen—Large**—Brandi Jo Hansen and Nathan Large were married Aug. 29, 2009, in Florence, Ore., where they are making their home. Brandi Jo is the daughter of Jeffrey and Bonnie (Long) Hansen. Nathan is the son of Don and Debbie (Harroun) Large.

**McEwen**—Oliver Kenneth was born Feb. 25, 2010, to Zach and Samantha (Clifton) McEwen, Walla Walla, Wash.

**McIntyre**—Colton Earnest Robert was born March 8, 2010, to Tristan and Katie (Allen) McIntyre, Portland, Ore.

**Radke**—Carleigh Aubrien was born July 30, 2009, to Augusta Radke and Serena Kast, La Grande, Ore.

**Randolph**—Zoe Yuet Mei was born March 7, 2010, to John and Evonne (Lee) Randolph, Renton, Wash.

**Weddings**

**Meng-Parcher**—Norma L. (Yount) Meng and Emmett C. “Chuck” Parcher were married Feb. 14, 2010, in Sutherlin, Ore. They are making their home in Roseburg, Ore. Norma is the daughter of Ike F. and Veda M. Yount. Emmett is the son of Claud and Mildred Parcher.
ANDERSON—Craig Kenneth, 68; born Nov. 6, 1941, North Bend, Ore.; died Jan. 19, 2010, Kent, Wash. Surviving: wife, Myrna (Fisher); son, Shane, New Market, Va.; daughters, Shana Anderson, Ventura, Calif.; Stephanie Bossen, Ravensdale, Wash.; Andree Anderson, Portland, Ore.; and 3 grandchildren.


CHRISTENSEN—Paul Edward, 65; born July 5, 1944, Chicago, Ill.; died Dec. 7, 2009, Oregon City, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Jennifer Christensen and Rebecca Schmit, both of Vancouver, Wash.; Sheila Washington, Clackamas, Ore.; brother, Walter, Oregon City; sisters, Lois Dalrymple and Barbara Dale, both of Portland, Ore.; Virginia Green, College Place, Wash.; and 7 grandchildren.

COPELAND—David R., 82; born Oct. 29, 1927, Coos Bay, Ore.; died Dec. 31, 2009, Keizer, Ore. Surviving: wife, Mary Lou (McKenney); son, Steve, Gresham, Ore.; daughter, Karen M. Riddell, Salem, Ore.; sisters, Mary A. Carter, College Place, Wash.; Jean M. Wadlin, Cleveland, Okla.; Roberta C. Herd, College Place; 4 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.


LAEL—Winifred E., 88; born Aug. 17, 1921, Mill Creek, W.V.; died Dec. 26, 2009, Baltimore, Md.


LUTZ—Marie Elizabeth ( Bolton), 84; born April 10, 1925, Rosetown, Saskatchewan, Canada; died June 18, 2009, College Place, Wash. Surviving: husband, Alvin R.; son, Richard, College Place; daughters, Karen Bickford, Burleson, Texas; Dorothy Lutz, College Place; Maryann Barnett, Ferndale, Wash.; sisters, Alice Ames, Umapine, Ore.; Doris Bolton, Oliver, British Columbia, Canada; 9 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.


SMITH—Lorraine B. (Id- dings), 95; born April 7, 1914, Danbury, Iowa; died Jan. 28, 2010, Albany, Ore. Surviving: daughter, Gwendolyn Chandler, Albany; and 2 grandchildren.


SHERMAN—Jim Sargeant, McMinnville; and 3 grandchildren.


WILLIAMS—Lysandra Rittenbach; Anahi Trejo; and mother, Violeta Trejo.


AT REST
North Pacific Union Conference

Offering
- May 1—Local Church Budget;
- May 8—World Disaster and famine Relief;
- May 15—Local Church Budget;
- May 22—Local Conference Advance;
- May 29—World Budget: Spring Mission Appeal.

Special Days
Curriculum Focus for the Month — Community Services+
- May 1—Community Services Sabbath;
- May 8—Youth Sabbath;
- May 15—Single Adults Sabbath.
+ Curriculum resource materials are published in NAD church resource journals — Sabbath School Leadership, Celebración, Célébration, Kids’ Ministry Ideas and Cornerstone Youth Resource Journal.

Walla Walla University

April 30—May 2 —Weekend of Worship, themed Revolutionary Love, featuring speaker Tony Campolo and weekend local outreach activities, as well as a focus on prayer. For more information, contact Campus Ministries at 800-541-8900, ext. 2010. May 7—9—Women’s Club (AGA) Weekend, featuring a Mother-Daughter Celebration at 6 p.m. on May 8 in the U-Church Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact the women’s residence hall at 800-541-8900, ext. 2531.

Oregon
Laurelwood Academy 50th Reunion
- June 11–13—Laurelwood Academy’s Class of 1960, 50th reunion activities are being planned. Please contact Richard Salsbery at 503-985-7783 or Richard@salsbery.net for details.

Where Have 40 Years in Pathfinders Gone?
- June 25—Dist. 7, or the Mt. Hood Dist., will be having their 40-year jamboree at Pathfinder Paradise. We are inviting any staff member or Pathfinder member from 1969 to come to this year’s Jambooree. Please call the Bremers at 503-632-3154. We would love to hear from all former members.

Missing Members

Upper Columbia
Cowboy Camp Meeting
- June 25–July 3—Cowboy Camp Meeting sponsored by the Adventist Horsemans’ Association, will be held in the Blue Mountains at Goose Corrals near Dayton, WA. Speakers will be Dave Shanky, Redmond and Sisters (OR) churches pastor and John Dickerson, Livingston Adventist Academy principal. The program features trail riding and other equine events. Everyone is invited, even those who don’t own a horse. For more information, go to www.adventisthorsemansassociation.com.

Missing Members
The Sandpoint (Idaho) Church is seeking the whereabouts of the following members: Faustina Aronica, Jerry W. Brown, Carman Catelillo, Rosalina Chinchilla, Beatriz Cobarrubias, Francisco Delarosa, Salomon R. Dominguez, Myra Dubon, Shirley M. Dugger, mana I. Duran, Brian H. Durst, Rosanna D’Vicente, Jimmie Ellis, Marcus D. Elmore, Teresa Elmore, Orelana A. Elvira, Esperanza Enamorado, Mercedes Errazuriz, Froylan Espejo Hernandez, Josefina Espinal, Miguel Espinal, Giovanni Espinosa, Josefa Espinosa, Antonio Estrada, Edgard Estrada, Maria D. Estrada, Pedro Estrada, Yoconda Estrada, Eleno G. Euseda, Jose Jamartina Everson and Tauta Fanene. If you have any information about these members, please contact Janeth Carnuff, conference clerk, at 253-681-6008; janeth.carnuff@wc.npuc.org.

Jamesina Griessmer, David Hackney, Tasha Knowles, Vincent Lopez, Colin McChesney, Jason Rivers, Brice Thornton and Joseph Thornton. If you have any information, please contact Lynda Bailey at 208-263-3648 or sandpointsdachurch@verizon.net.

Washington
Stand and Walk at Shore Revival Meetings
- May 26—29—Stand in the gospel and walk with Jesus in loving and serving others. James Rafferty, Light Bearers Ministry co-director, will be speaking at the Shoreline Church, 17424 5th Ave. N.E., Shoreline, WA, every evening at 7 p.m. and on Sabbath. All are welcome. For information, contact Dan Chavis at 425-774-6278 or danchavis@comcast.net.

SAGE
JUNE 12, 19—You are invited to stop by and learn what Seniors in Action for God with Excellence are doing at the outdoor canopy at Auburn Camp Meeting both Sabbath afternoons. Celebrate SAGE’s 16th anniversary with a free dessert and a SAGE mug for 15th anniversary with a free dessert and a SAGE mug for every evening at 7 p.m. and on Sabbath. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dan Chavis at 425-774-6278 or danchavis@comcast.net.

Missing Members
The Washington Conference Church would like to reconnect with the following missing members: Angela A. Aronica, Jerry W. Brown, Carman Catelillo, Rosalina Chinchilla, Beatriz Cobarrubias, Francisco Delarosa, Salomon R. Dominguez, Myra Dubon, Shirley M. Dugger, Amanda Willis, Kevin Wilson and Shawn Wilson. Please contact the Eugene Church office at 541-683-4169 or eugene.sda.secretary@gmail.com.

World Church
Adventist Single Adult Ministries Day
- May 15—Celebrate our NAD Adventist Single Adult Ministries Day on Sabbath, May 15th. The purpose of ASAM Sabbath is to focus on inclusiveness — to help everyone feel accepted, wanted, included, heard and involved. It is also an opportunity to listen to the desires and dreams of all members and explore together how your church can facilitate their realization. Download materials to celebrate this important day at www.adventistsingleadultministries.org.

2010 German Camp Meeting
- June 4—9—German Camp Meeting is at Camp Hope Youth Hill, 61855 Lougheed Highway, Hope, British Columbia, Canada. The featured speaker is Lothar Reiche, East German Union former president. Bring your German Bible, musical instruments, and German food for the potluck. For room or camping reservations, call 604-869-2615. For more information, contact Reiner Kuppers at 604-826-0300 or rkuppers@telus.net.

Libraries 2020: Visioning and Planning for the Next Decade
- June 16—21—The Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians 2010 Conference will be at Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL. For conference information, visit www.asdal.org. For more information, contact Joel Lutes at 707-965-6674 or jlutes@puc.edu.

Madison College Alumni Homecoming
- June 18—20—Madison College Alumni Homecoming, honoring classes of 1940, ’45, ’50, ’55 and ’60. All events are on the Madison Academy Campus. Jim Culpepper, 615-654-3311.

Amateur Radio Operators
- June 27—The quinquennial business and fellowship meeting of the Adventist Amateur Radio Association International will be held at the General Conference session in Atlanta, GA, in building B, room B-217, at 2 p.m. All radio amateurs are welcome. Visit our booth in the exhibit area. www.aarai.org.
ADULT CARE

55 OR OVER? We invite you to consider a warm and friendly retirement lifestyle at Peace Tree Retirement Center located on four acres in the beautiful Yakima Valley in Washington State. Housekeeping, three vegetarian or non-vegetarian meals, activities, transportation, and more all included in one reasonable monthly rental amount. Choice of floor plans, all on one level. Complimentary meal when taking a no-obligation tour. Call Dan Andersen at 509-248-1766.

ADULT CARE HOME opening soon in Sutherlin, OR. Newer home in new subdivision, vegetarian meals, 3ABN, most levels of care. Call Bobbie: 541-537-4732.

REALLY LIVING ADULT CARE

Are you or your loved one looking for elderly home care? An Adult Family Home has just opened at 284 Roberson Rd, Woodland, WA. It is operated by Seventh-day Adventist members. We provide 24-hour care to adults with mental, age-related illnesses and disabilities. We accept individual families funded by Medicaid and private families.

For further information, please contact Paul and Neema Makoko at 360-225-1870 or 360-450-8677.

ADULT CARE HOME available for individuals who are unable to live independently and would enjoy living in a family-oriented atmosphere. We invite you to consider an Adventist home located in a pleasant and quiet area of SE Portland. Services include 24-hour care and supervision; three nutritional, home-cooked meals planned to meet all dietary needs; medication and care provided that promotes physical and emotional well-being. In-home physician care and home pharmacy delivery available. Contact Valeria at 503-251-2766.

AUTOMOTIVE

NEW AUTOS COST LESS!!!

All makes FLEET PRICES. Out-of-stock or factory orders. Low-interest financing & factory rebate programs. Leasing = lower payments and taxes. Quality used vehicles available. TRADE-INS WELCOME. Quotations by phone or fax. Test drive and demo before you buy. Nationwide warranty on new autos. Delivery at your home, office, credit union or our facility. We ship nationwide, Alaska and Hawaii. Save thousands! Call or fax your specific vehicle desires: make, model, options, etc. Contact WESTERN AUTO WHOLESALE & LEASING: Portland, OR, 503-760-8122; Vancouver, WA, 360-263-6522; nationwide 800-284-6612; fax 800-300-0484; e-mail wawl@aol.com.

RVS! Adventist owned and operated RV dealership has been saving Adventists money for over 30 years, $8 million inventory—over 30 brands in stock. Courtesy airport pickup and on-site hookups. Satisfied Adventist customer list. Call toll-free 888-933-9300. Ask for Adventist discount pricing. Lee’s RV City, Oklahoma City; e-mail Lee@LeesRV.com.


EMPLOYMENT

RURAL PHYSICIAN OPPORTUNITY

Clark Fork Valley Hospital, www.cfvh.org, located in scenic Western Montana, is currently seeking candidates for an employed family medicine hospitalist or outpatient physician position. Salary and benefits competitive. For more information, contact Greg Hanson, M.D., president/CEO, 406-826-4813 or ghanson @ cfvh.org, or Barry Fowler, recruiter, 406-826-4858 or bfowler@cfvh.org.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for the position of Director of Institutional Assessment. The DIA is responsible for accreditation compliance, data collection and analysis, and providing pertinent information to University decision makers. Candidates must have earned Master’s degree (Ph.D. preferred). For more information and to apply, visit www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking a psychology professor. Preferred applicants must have earned Ph.D. from an APA-accredited school with strong training in research methods and teaching experience. For more information and to apply, please visit www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS NEEDED at small community hospital in scenic mountain community of Libby, MT. Active Seventh-day Adventist church and school in the area. Current

Sunset Schedule

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Add one minute for each 13 miles west. Subtract one minute for each 13 miles east.
openings include emergency room physician, emergency room manager, med-surg nurse and a physical therapist. For more information, contact Bill Patten: 406-293-8780; bcpatten@windjammercable.net.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is searching for a qualified candidate to join our School of Education as a leadership and educational administration professor. Must have an earned doctorate and demonstrated leadership skills. For additional information and to apply, please visit www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

DIETARY DIRECTOR Walla Walla General Hospital, located in southeastern Washington, is a 72-bed Adventist Health hospital with over 100 years of service to the community. We are looking for an experienced Dietary Director with a minimum of five years experience managing a food service department and licensed as a registered dietitian. We offer a comprehensive benefit/salary package, including relocation assistance. Visit our Web site at www.wwgh.com to learn more about us or apply online. Or call Human Resources at 800-784-6363, ext 1135.


SEEKING NURSING EXECUTIVES AND SEASONED NURSING LEADERS Adventist Health System is seeking experienced nursing executives and nursing leaders. With 37 hospitals in 10 states, multiple home health agencies and skilled nursing facilities, seasoned nursing leaders are always in demand. If you have an interest in exploring opportunities within the Adventist Health System, please e-mail your résumé to susan.jamerson@ahss.org.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY’S School of Education and Psychology seeks full-time faculty beginning June 2010. Earned doctorate (ABD considered) in psychology preferred. Responsibilities...
include teaching introductory and advanced undergraduate courses and faculty-student research. Applicant must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing. Submit letter of application, curriculum vitae, at least three references and evidence of effective teaching to Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Dean: e-mail sep@southern.edu; fax 423-236-1765; PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Ph.D.-prepared biologists for fall 2010. Looking for two talented, committed Adventist creationists who are able to inspire students in classroom and in research. Teaching assignments are negotiable in a five-person department. Contact Dr. Suzanne Phillips, Chair, biology: SWAU, Keene, TX; 817-202-6274; suzannephillips@swau.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY School of Nursing Business is seeking additional part-time clinical instructors in the areas of critical care, chronic illness and community health on the Portland, OR, campus. Positions begin in September 2010 to support the expansion of the program. BS in nursing required; master’s degree preferred. Contact Lucille Krull, School of Nursing Dean, at 503-251-6115. For details and to apply, visit our Web site at http://jobs.wallawalla.edu.

SEEKING POSITION: Mental health nurse practitioner seeking position for medication management and some counseling in a multi-provider counseling or medical practice setting in the greater Portland, OR, area. Please leave message at 503-661-2621.

CHRISTIAN RECORD SEEKS RECORDING ENGINEER. Requirements: computer skills, experience with recording studio software/hardware, produce audio books/magazines, work with narrators, digitizing books. Contact Alicejan at

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<tr>
<td>5709 N. 20th St. Ridgefield, WA 98642</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: (360) 857-7000 • Fax: (360) 857-7001 • <a href="http://www.npuc.org">www.npuc.org</a></td>
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<td>Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<th>President</th>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Health Ministries, Institute of Mission and Ministry</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Mark Remboldt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undertreasurer</td>
<td>Robert Sundin</td>
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<td>Associate</td>
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<td>Todd Gessele</td>
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<td>V.P. for Education</td>
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<td>Keith Waters</td>
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<td>Certification Registrar</td>
<td>Linda LaMunyon</td>
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<td>Early Childhood Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asst. to Pres. for Global Mission, Evangelism, Ministerial</td>
<td>Dan Sersh</td>
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<td>V.P. for Regional Affairs, Youth, Multicultural Ministries, Human Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toll-free number for Northwest ABC orders (800) 765-6955</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Crawford, president; Ed Dunn, secretary; Sharon Staddon, treasurer; 6100 O’Malley Rd., Anchorage, AK, 99507-7200; (907) 346-1004; <a href="http://www.alaskaconference.org">www.alaskaconference.org</a>.</td>
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<td>Stephen McPherson, president; Donald A. Klinger, secretary; Harold Daxom III, treasurer; 7777 Fairview, Boise, ID 83704-4818; (208) 375-7524; <a href="http://www.idahoadventist.org">www.idahoadventist.org</a>.</td>
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<td>Al Reimche, president; Dave Allen, v.p. for administration; Jon Corder, v.p. for finance; 19800 Oakfield Road, Gladstone, OR 97027-2546; (503) 850-3500; <a href="http://www.oregonconference.org">www.oregonconference.org</a>.</td>
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<td>Robert Folkenberg Jr., president; Doug R. Johnson, v.p. for administration; Myron Iseminger, v.p. for finance; 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.</td>
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<td>505 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324-1226; (509) 529-0723; M-Th . . . . . 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.</td>
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| Toll-free number for Northwest ABC orders (800) 765-6955 |
| Official ABC website: www.adventistbookcenter.com |

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<tr>
<th>Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center is one of the best health systems in the nation. Explore our careers.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Asst Professor -PhD - Counseling &amp; Family Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Director, Heritage Awareness Office/White Estate branch office (Open Rank Faculty, for the ILU School of Religion)</td>
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<td>• Case Manager - Home Health</td>
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<td>• Clinical RN - CVL</td>
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<td>• Compliance Program Manager - Billing</td>
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<td>• Executive Director - Philanthropy</td>
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<td>• Major Gifts Officer</td>
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<td>• Supervisor - Clinical Research</td>
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| If you are an individual who understands and embraces the mission and purpose of Loma Linda University and its entities as premier Seventh-day Adventist Christian institutions, please visit careers.llu.edu or call 1-800-722-2770. |

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<th>Many Strengths. One Mission</th>
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<td>DIVINE POWER.</td>
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**EVENT**

**HERITAGE SINGERS** will be in concert at the Idaho Camp Meeting on June 12. Heritage is attending the 2010 General Conference Session and will not tour the Northwest this year. Tickets for the 40th Anniversary Celebration Concert in Atlanta on July 2 are available online www.heritagesingers.com; by phone, 530-622-9365; or (if not sold out) at the Heritage GC booth #1229.

**2010 GERMAN CAMP MEETING** June 4–5, at Camp Hope Youth Hill, 61855 Lougheed Highway, Hope, British Columbia, Canada. Featured speaker is Lothar Reiche, former president of the East German Union. Bring your German Bible, musical instruments, special music for blessings in worship and delicious German food for the potluck. For room or camping reservations, call 604-869-2615. For more information, contact Reiner Kuppers: 604-826-0300; e-mail rkuppers@telus.net.

**2010 NW SINGLES RETREAT** May 28–31, at Camp MiVoden, Hayden Lake, Idaho. Sponsored by the Upper Columbia Conference. “It is WHO you know!” presented by Lloyd Perrin, pastor. Join us for a spiritual weekend with single adults. Numerous activities available. Banquet and Grand March: Come dressed as your favorite outdoor hobby—snow skier, hiker, pilot, etc. Prize for best costume. To register, go to www.uccsda.org/Singles/2010-NW-Singles or contact Cheryl Wallace: 509-838-2761, ext. 502; cherylw@uccsda.org. For more information, contact Terrie Leen-Griebel, UCC Single’s Retreat Coordinator: 541-310-7248; tlleen@msn.com.

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At an early age, I realized our family was frugal — not by choice, but by necessity. We had food, clothing and plenty of love. But there was little money for anything beyond the basics. So excitement prevailed in the spring of 1962 in the form of a large envelope in the mail from a generous relative. In it were tickets for our family to attend the World’s Fair in Seattle, Wash. A colorful brochure displaying wonders of the event played upon my vivid imagination until it was all I could think about. What would it be like to ride the Monorail or survey the world from atop the new Space Needle? Yet, while I waited for the great trip to begin, my anxiety grew. Our pastor had been preaching about prophecy, the end of the world and the Second Coming. I didn’t want that — not with tickets for the World’s Fair sitting on my parents’ dresser.

And so I prayed. I begged God to wait a couple of months. “Please don’t let Jesus come until after we go to the World’s Fair,” I pleaded. Night after night I sent my petitions heavenward. And Jesus didn’t come.

Nearly a half century later, I recall those misguided prayers with a wry smile, yet realize my 8-year-old rationale was not so different than that of many today. It’s echoed in the recent lyrics from country music artist, Kenny Chesney: “Everybody wants to go to heaven ... have a mansion high above the clouds. Everybody wants to go to heaven ... but nobody wants to go now.”

We all want what’s best, just not now. We all want to give a Bible study, help our neighbors, eat right, get more exercise and watch less TV ... just not now.

The tickets to a great feast have arrived in the mail. R.S.V.P. excuses are pouring in to the heavenly post office: “I have just bought some property ... I just got new car ... I just got married,” (See Luke 14:18–20.) The great apocalyptic vision that once stirred Adventist juices has been put aside for later consideration.

As Jesus tells the story, the master finally tells his servants to go find people anywhere to come to the feast so his house will be full. And then the sobering proclamation: “I tell you, none of those whom I invited first will eat with me,” (Luke 14:24).

Already sent in your R.S.V.P.? Don’t despair. It can be altered with a simple prayer. Why not now?

—Kenny Chesney
While you look forward to graduation, we’re looking beyond, thinking of how a priceless education can be yours, especially in these tough times. We’ve come up with a new way to help.

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4. **Enroll as a WWU freshman in the fall of 2010.**

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