Leaving a Lasting Legacy
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.

Psalm 36:6 (NIV)

“McDonald Lake” by Dean Huggins of Newman Lake, Washington.
I think you could say Herb and Iris Jensen planted the Woodland Church in Woodland, Washington. We didn’t quite use that terminology in those days, but that is what they did. Some years later, I became the pastor of that church and got to know Herb and Iris very well because I depended on them for so much — not the least of which was breaking in a new rookie pastor.

Herb and Iris loved Ingathering. I didn’t think asking for donations was my favorite part of pastoral ministry. But Ingathering was fun with the Jensens. Through Ingathering with Iris, I got to know every store owner in the small town of Woodland and every one of Herb’s business associates. After two or three years of Ingathering contacts, I could go almost anywhere in town and people would see me and call out, “How are you doing, Pastor?” Too bad we don’t do more Ingathering these days. The greatest loss isn’t a financial one, but that we don’t get to know our communities as well as we once did.

Herb loved evangelism even more than he loved Ingathering. Every time an evangelistic series was announced within a hundred-mile radius of the church he would start putting a plan together. It often began with arrangements to rent the biggest yellow school bus he could find. Then he would invite all of his employees and all of his friends to come along to the meetings. That was a lot of people because Jensen and Grove was a big logging business and because Herb and Iris had lived around Woodland for their entire lives.

Sometimes the meetings were at the church, of course, but if they weren’t, we’d still meet at the church and fill up the bus with friends, guests and church members and we would get to know one another as we rolled down the Interstate toward our destination.

On the way home, we would stop for ice cream, compliments of our host, with plenty of opportunity for cordial conversation and informal discussion of that evening’s sermon topic. What a concept: support evangelism; invite a friend; show people you care; talk about Jesus in a non-threatening way; and discover the thrill of being part of God’s plan to prepare the world for the Second Coming.

Public evangelism still works. So why not rent a bus? Or at least fill up your car with people who need to know Jesus. I suppose you could even use a megaphone and shout, “Bus driver! Move that bus!” Move it right down the highway to the evangelistic series now happening at a Seventh-day Adventist Church near you.

MAX TORKELSEN II
North Pacific Union Conference president

“So why not rent a bus?”
Better Life expects Portland signal soon

Better Life Broadcasting Network, based in Grants Pass, Oregon, hopes to be on the air throughout the Portland, Oregon/Vancouver, Washington, area by the end of June. The exact date is dependent on final arrangements with the Federal Communication Commission’s approval of the license transfer, and fundraising results to acquire needed equipment. The station will initially be broadcast only and not available through cable providers. Updated information is available online at www.blbn.org or by calling 877-741-2588.

Fall Heritage Tour Planned

Northwest Adventists are invited to join the 2010 Adventist Heritage Tour, “In the Footsteps of the Pioneers.” Led by Jim Nix, Ellen G. White Estate director, the tour will include the birthplace of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Washington, D.C., New Hampshire, Hiram Edson’s farm near Niagara Falls, the William Miller farm, Ascension Rock and many other sites. For more information, visit www.npuc.org or contact Sue Patzer, tour organizer, at sue.patzer@nw.npuc.org.

Better Life Expects Portland Signal Soon

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NRLA President Receives National Award

Gregory W. Hamilton, Northwest Religious Liberty Association president, received the 2010 A.T. Jones Medal of Freedom during the Religious Liberty Dinner in Washington, D.C., on April 13. This annual event is sponsored by the North American Religious Liberty Association and Liberty magazine. Hamilton was instrumental not only in the passage of Oregon’s Workplace Religious Freedom Act, but also in promoting the recent Oregon House Bill 3686 signed into law. This overturned a 1923 statute barring teachers from wearing religious clothing in the state’s classrooms. Rep. Dave Hunt was also honored with the NARLA national award for his legislative sponsorship of both the Oregon Workplace Religious Freedom Act and HB 3686.

CORRECTION

On page 9 in the Alaska section of the May GLEANER, the article titled “Truth 4 Youth in Gambell” was incorrectly edited to state “Mike Evans and Fran Hansen will soon occupy the Gambell parsonage ...” The original from the author correctly stated “Mike and Fran Hansen” would be the occupants. We hope both Mike Evans and Mike Hansen, as well as author Melvin Matthews, can now breathe a sigh of relief. We apologize for the confusion.

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A smiling woman opened the door in response to our knock and swept us into her little home in Trujillo, Peru. When she learned we were visiting from North America, her eyebrows went up. With astonishment she turned to me and asked, “Then why are you here in my humble home?”

Georgiana, a local church member who accompanied us, told us Gabriella had been baptized a year before but had not been back to church since.

I asked Gabriella if she had some questions or issues of concern. “No,” she said, shaking her head sadly. “I have been working seven days a week to be able to keep this house, humble though it is, and to have food! If I don’t get out on my bicycle to sell, we have no money!”

My mind was a bit blank when presented with the real problem of eating versus church attendance and Sabbath keeping. I breathed a silent prayer, then asked my Milo Academy students there with me, Amber and Philip, to pray, while I trusted the Holy Spirit to give me the needed words.

We then talked about faith, how to take little steps at a time, of trusting enough to wait and see what God would do. I told Gabriella I was sure I couldn’t afford to fly to Peru, but God had indeed provided a way, and here I was in her house! I urged her to trust God enough to keep His Sabbath as He had asked.

Gabriella’s eyes widened and she stamped her foot in the dirt floor. She shook her head and I started to apologize.

But instead tears welled in her eyes. “Sister! I am not offended.” She swallowed hard and so did I. “You just said the exact words of Jesus!”

This time MY eyes widened. She continued, “A week ago I had a dream that Jesus was knocking at my door. When I opened the door, He told me I needed to trust Him and keep His Sabbath. Sister, I could not do that, and I went to work last Sabbath. But all week that dream has bothered me.” She turned to me and grabbed my hands.

“Last night, I again had the dream. But I knew what He would say. I did not open the door!”

Tears were rolling down both our cheeks now. Gabriella shook my hands, where they were clasped with hers. “I cannot believe that here you all are, sent by God all the way from the United States, to tell me what He tried to say in a dream. You knocked on my door, just like God did! Oh my sister, if I am that important to God, I had better learn to trust, hadn’t I?”

We prayed together and that next Sabbath, when I stood up to talk, I noticed Georgiana grinning from ear to ear as she frantically waved my gaze across the church. It was Gabriella, our humble hostess, there to keep God’s Sabbath and begin her new walk of faith.

Editor’s note: The author, Carol Bovee, with Milo Academy students, joined other groups from the Northwest on this short-term mission trip to Peru in March.

Carol Bovee, MAA Spanish teacher

A Knock at the Door

From left: Gabriella stands with Milo Adventist Academy representatives Amber Spoon and Carol Bovee and Georgiana, a local Trujillo member.

SEND US LETTERS, STORIES, PHOTOS!

Do you have a comment or question regarding something you’ve read in the GLEANER? Or do you have a brief anecdote or photo about your faith or your church? Share it with us on this page.

Send your comments, anecdotes or photos to talk@gleaneronline.org or to GLEANER, 5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642.
Today, Americans are perhaps more uncertain about their financial future than ever before. And yet it is also likely no other generation has managed more material assets with less training. As one Christian financial firm bemoans, “In a single generation today, an individual can go from near poverty to an estate of millions of dollars. Unfortunately, the succeeding generation can just as quickly lose it all. We seem to be a people of extremes.”

Many Adventist Christians have taken Paul’s advice to heart: “If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever” (I Timothy 5:8). But, as any good parent knows, just passing money along can become a curse, not a blessing.

Larry Burkett, who founded what later became Crown Financial Ministries, once asked a man who had accumulated a sizeable estate what he was planning to do with it. “I’ll leave it to my children, I guess,” he replied. “Why not give it all to them now?” Larry asked. “Well, they’d just lose it all,” the man said. When Larry retorted they might do the same after...
the man had died, he replied, “Well, I’ll be gone then, so who cares?”

God cares. And, as his management team, so should we. Good stewardship, whether we’re talking about the environment or a financial roadmap, leaves a tangible legacy that grows rather than diminishes our vision for the future.

That legacy is why Ben and Brittany decided to make a change in their lifestyle. Proud 30-something parents of two grade-school children, they wanted to fit in with their active friends. Before long they had a boat, several ATVs, polished hardwood floors and a new TV. The problem was a mountain of debt was beginning to squeeze the life out of them. So they got smart and took a simple, yet difficult, first step — they sat down and prayerfully wrote out what they wanted their future and the future of their children to look like.

Brittany says, “There was no way our current lifestyle was going to get us anywhere close to where we wanted to be.” Ben saw it too. “The legacy we were going to leave our children was, debt, debt, debt. We decided we really wanted them to grow up to be givers, not takers.”

Ben and Brittany have begun this lifelong change at a relatively young age. They’re fortunate. Many come to this realization after decades of self-focused living. The earlier you begin a life of stewardship, the greater your options.

Are you single? Guard against becoming inward-focused. This is an ideal time to develop your life and legacy plan. And don’t just leave it in the “good intentions folder.” Find and use practical opportunities to apply your philosophy of stewardship at church, in the workplace or within the community.

Are you out of work? Don’t despair. You’re at the spot where so many have turned the corner toward greater success. While you may need to receive for a time until you get back on your feet, you will gain empathy and understanding as stepping stones to a life of generosity.

Think your assets are too small to make a difference? Consider the example Jesus gave of the man with just one talent. Because he considered it unworthy of investing, he lost even what little he had. If faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains, if five loaves and two fish can feed thousands, think of what your one talent can do if placed in the right hands.

As Gary Dodge, North Pacific Union Conference planned giving and trust services director, puts it, “The miracle in God’s plan is this — the more we share, the more we have.” It’s a thought directly from 2 Corinthians 9:6.

Create a Prayerful Life and Legacy Plan
What do you want the legacy of your life and death to include? What philosophy do you want your children to learn and live by? How will you not only take care of your family’s needs, but empower them to be responsive to the larger needs of their church or community? Seek to live by the principle in Isaiah 58:11.

Model and Mentor Your Family
Learn the principles of Christian financial management, model them in your home and family, and train your children so they can carry these same principles forward even after you die. See Proverbs 22:6.

Create an Estate Plan
Every asset you have, whether small or great, is given to you to glorify God. In the event of your death, make sure you do not leave the management of those assets to chance or in the hands of someone who will not honor God. With the guidance of a certified counselor, create a financial arrangement that ensures your life and legacy plan will continue to achieve your desired results. See Philippians 1:20.

Questions?
If you have one or more of the following questions, you may benefit from the advice of your local conference planned giving and trust services director or one of the resources listed below.

• How can I care for the financial needs of my spouse or children if I die?
• How can I provide inheritances for my heirs with the lowest possible tax burden?
• How can I eliminate probate costs and distribution delays?
• How can I establish a lifetime stream of income from property I currently own?
• How can I further my life mission through a charitable legacy?

Helpful Resources

WillPlan — Browse for information or request a free consultation from local Adventist professionals at www.willplan.org.

Faith and Finance — A 12-lesson study guide on money management available through your local ABC.

NPUC Planned Giving and Trust Services — Gary Dodge, director, gary.dodge@nw.npuc.org, 360-857-7022.


Steve Vistaunet, North Pacific Union Conference assistant to the president for communication
Lo que he experimentado con mi familia en los últimos días fue un cambio radical en nuestras vidas,” me contó Arturo Rodriguez. Tuvimos el privilegio de asistir a las reuniones del hermano Carlos Salomé en la Iglesia Hispana de White Center y asimilamos verdades increíbles. Aunque somos Adventistas desde 2008, por primera vez aprendimos la importancia de hacer un culto familiar en nuestro hogar, de comer saludablemente y de devolver nuestro diezmo con fidelidad.

Antes de ser Adventista, fui Católico por 25 años, fui monaguillo y llegué a ser Presidente de la Sociedad de St. Vincent de Paul. Además yo era el único Hispano de los Caballeros de Colón en el área de Seattle.

Mi cuñado, Reyes Jiménez, me hablaba de los Adventistas del Séptimo Día por más de 17 años. Me irritaba tanto escucharlo platicar sobre su iglesia, que una vez lo corrí de mi casa para que no me molestara más. Le dije: “Ustedes los Adventistas son los únicos que están mal, totalmente equivocados en cuanto al Domingo”. Mi religión se basaba en lo que me decía el sacerdote, con quién teníamos muy buena relación. El solía venir a nuestra casa y yo le lavaba sus pies. Cuando le preguntaba en cuanto a la doctrina del Domingo, él me decía que yo tenía que defender mi fe, pero nunca me mostraba nada en la Biblia.

Un día mi hermana me prestó 3 CDs del Pastor Bullón y de José Ocampo. Los acepté pensando criticar su contenido para poder refutar a mi cuñado. Escuché los CDs y no pude encontrar nada para reprochar. Cuando devolví los CDs a mi hermana, le pregunté si tenía más y me dio 20 en total. Cuanto más oía esos mensajes, más quería conocer al Pastor Bullón, pues tenía muchas preguntas. En Octubre del 2008 supimos que él estaría presentando reuniones en Yakima. Fue así como decidimos asistir a las reuniones. Todos los días viajábamos desde Federal Way a Yakima para escucharlo. Podíamos hablar con él, me aclaró mis dudas y fuimos bautizados con mi esposa y mis tres hijos.

¡Fue un día muy especial! El Pastor Bullón nos introdujo a la verdad, empezamos a asistir a la Iglesia Adventista y como nuevos miembros, intentábamos imitar lo que nuestros hermanos hacían en la iglesia. Infízmente entramos en una vida cristiana de rutina. Pero todo cambió cuando aprendimos el verdadero propósito de seguir a Jesús: no un Jesús en papel, sino un Jesús vivo. Deseamos darle el 100% a Jesús y aumentar nuestras ofrendas el doble y triple de lo que hemos dado hasta ahora. ¡Ha sido una experiencia que no tiene precio! Nina Rodríguez, la esposa de Arturo, también me comento: “Nuestra vida familiar ha cambiado positivamente y sentimos la presencia del Espíritu Santo en nuestro hogar.”

Nessy Pittau, Asistente Administrativa del Ministerio Hispano en la Conferencia de Washington

Respuesta al llamado en la Iglesia Hispana de Bellevue.
Juneau Responds to a Dry and Thirsty Land

This refrain haunts me as in my mind’s eye I see a tall, slender black man, his eyes squinting against the African sun, feet dusty as he walks the roads to neighboring homes and villages. In his hands he carries books, and he is excited, his heart sings, for these books carry something precious — eternal life.

Only weeks before, these books sat in a box in a hallway at Juneau Adventist Christian School in Alaska under a poster labeled, “Bibles for Africa.” The project started with a letter we received in late November from James Lumumba, elder, who leads the church in Kisii, Kenya. His letter begged for Bibles for his people, and we just couldn’t turn him down. I replied that we would send some, but needed to collect them and the money for postage.

Before Christmas break, our church collected offerings for postage, and we sent two boxes. On Feb. 22, we received a letter, dated Feb. 3, praising God and thanking us for the literature, saying the boxes were received on Jan. 8. After receiving the boxes, the Kenyan Church immediately went house to house in a spiritual campaign, and 40 people accepted Christ as their Savior.

On March 1, we received a letter, dated Feb. 11, saying an additional 16 people had been added to the number and they needed more Bibles!

We also received another request from a pastor in a different district for Bibles for his congregation. We passed this request on to our sister school, Anchorage Junior Academy.

What a joy to share with my students and church family the result of their and Lumumba’s faithfulness, and to see how God waters a dry and thirsty land.

Nickie Linder, Juneau Adventist Christian School head teacher

Women’s Ministry at Anchorage Samoan Church

Feb. 22 was designated Women’s Ministry Day in the Anchorage (Alaska) Samoan Church.

The Sabbath service began with inspiring songs and was followed by welcomes and announcements. The women’s choir presented special music. Guest speaker Colleen Crawford, wife of the Alaska Conference president, presented the message about five women heroes of prayer and faith in the Bible: Esther, Hannah, Mary, Martha and Dorcas. Each character was illustrated with a Samoan girl, dressed in costume, acting the part of the Bible character. The service concluded with a moving song of dedication for all the women in the congregation.

The color and pageantry were inspiring and well received by those attending.

Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president

God waters a dry and thirsty land.

Nickie Linder, Juneau Adventist Christian School head teacher
Enterprise Team Reaches Out to Bangladesh

Like the woman in the Bible who bled for years without a cure, Amala (name has been changed) wondered if it would be of any use to go to the makeshift clinic arranged in the middle of a beetle nut grove. Her Hindu husband encouraged her to go, saying, "They will touch you and you will be healed!" Amala came and shared her problem and fears. Could she really be healed? Could her life return to normal? Would her husband accept her again?

Lola Kissinger, physician's assistant, did touch her and shared with the Hindu woman the story of the woman in the Bible who, through faith, touched the hem of Christ's robe and was healed. Then they prayed together, asking for the same healing power to touch Amala's life.

In March, a 26-member team from Enterprise, Ore., went to Bangladesh to be the practical hands and feet of God's love. The group hoped barriers could be broken down in a country where Christians are often looked upon with suspicion. They found no better way to topple barriers than by easing the physical needs that cause concern in the Bangladeshi people's daily struggle to survive.

The team conducted a two-week medical- and dental-mission trip to Bangladesh. In addition to the medical and dental clinics, glasses were dispensed. Many found seeing the joy that comes to people's faces when their vision is restored thrilling.

Vacation Bible School programs were conducted at the Bangla Hope Orphanage and surrounding villages where children were from Hindu and Muslim homes.

The team thought the greatest blessings would be giving to those in need. However, the real blessings were the changes in their own hearts and lives after ministering to the impoverished people of Bangladesh. They now thank God for little things in life like running water, indoor plumbing, a local supermarket and even traffic laws!

Ken Rose, mission trip coordinator and participant
At the start of my senior year, I felt an urge to reach out and give back something for everything I’ve received. My friend, Wendy Lane, and I had been talking about what an awesome opportunity it would be for us to get together as students and sponsor a child from a foreign country. To sponsor a child would be a significant financial commitment and, as teens, we don’t exactly have a lot of money. Many of us had been on mission trips, but this would be different. We would be taking money from our own pockets every month, receiving nothing tangible in return, and continuing to support the child for a long time. Sponsorship would be a major commitment for a bunch of busy teens, but we decided the least we could do was try.

We planned a vespers all about child sponsorship to introduce our idea. The response from the rest of the students was spectacular. The next step was choosing a child. A group of students met with Darren Wilkins, Mount Ellis Adventist Academy principal, and picked two children to sponsor. We chose a five-year-old girl from Togo and a nine-year-old boy from Guatemala.

Sponsoring these children has been such an amazing experience. We receive a letter from each child every month, which usually includes a picture the child has drawn of something he or she is interested in. Each month we collect and send $38 per child, a total of $76 a month. MEAA enrollment is currently nearly 70 students, so each student gives approximately a dollar a month.

The key for this project is to think about the things one usually wastes a dollar on. Instead, by giving that dollar in sponsorship, we are helping a child survive and receive an education. A dollar doesn’t seem like a big sacrifice at all when you see how much good it is doing.

Savannah Weaver, MEAA senior

Savannah Weaver, MEAA senior and ASB chaplain

Prepare to find:
• Inspiration
• Training
• Networking
• Encouragement
• & more!

Montana Youth Conference

July 28 – August 1, 2010
Mountain View Elementary School
Missoula, Montana

Wes Peppers  Marion Peppers  Matt Parra  Justin Howard

To register, visit www.mtycweb.org
The mission trip began early Sunday morning, March 14, from Hood River, Ore. The destination was 1,300 miles south to Uruapan, Mexico, about 40 miles south of Ensenada.

Curt and Elaina Mathiesen began planning this trip after returning from the same location last year. Happy to go back to Uruapan where homes are being built for orphans, they organized a crew of nearly 30 students and adults. So far, the first home is occupied by nearly 16 children plus staff. The second home is almost ready to be occupied while the third and fourth buildings need to be finished.

Ralph Staley, Hood River Pathfinder leader, helped find the needed workers for the many different jobs. Staley invited other Pathfinder clubs and leaders in both Oregon and Washington to join the Hood River group.

Each year the Lord supplies Curt Mathiesen, dentist, with helpers for dental care. A makeshift room is quickly fixed up in Uruapan. Nineteen-year-old Michael Do, an aspiring dentist from South Korea, was able to take leave from his college classes to assist. Angelena Marx served as the hygenist and Alicia Mckenzie was the receptionist and interpreter. The team helped more than 200 patients in just five days.

Meanwhile, Jim Rickabaugh and Lisa Giebel organized the teens to hand out 20 cases of literature and 200 Bibles. They visited every home in the town and approached people on the street. When everything had been distributed, the teens said, “People are so happy and hungry for literature and Bibles, we wish we had more to give out.” They shared wonderful stories during worship time and felt God had surely watched over them.

A team of Walla Walla students arrived during the project and the two groups enjoyed working together. Also special time was shared with the orphans and staff. At departure time, the team left a gift of 30 beautiful blankets made by White Salmon (Wash.) and Hood River church ladies.

Eight and a half days at the orphanage did not seem long enough. But plans are being made to return to this beautiful area again next year.

Joyce Gallentine, Hood River Church communication leader
More Than 1,000 Visit PAA to Hear Speaker with No Limbs

Portland Adventist Academy hosted a sold-out crowd of nearly 1,300 people for an event to be remembered.

Nick Vujicic was born without limbs and at an early age contemplated suicide. Now he speaks to people around the world about how he found purpose through God and has turned his life without limbs into a life without limits. Vujicic brought his powerful message to Portland, Ore., where PAA was privileged to host an event at which students and community members were literally brought to their knees.

PAA students, staff and youth pastors heard Vujicic at a private chapel where students were directly challenged with his relevant message about bullying, video games, addictions and more. Almost all 220 students knelt for an altar call commitment. Afterward students came to meet and hug Vujicic.

“It was life changing,” says Brian Schorzman. “He helped me to see who God is for the first time. There have been times when I wasn’t sure about God. But that day, I knew He was and will always be real to me. It's nice to have that feeling.”

That evening, almost 1,300 Portland and Vancouver, Wash., community members came to hear Vujicic in the school gymnasium where they too were inspired and challenged. More than 300 people came forward for an altar call and 200 Steps to Christ books were distributed for free.

“I had the opportunity to pray with several individuals and families who had responded to the altar call,” says Greg Phillips, PAA vice principal of campus ministries. “God clearly used Nick’s message to change hearts and lives. One couple shared how they had drifted away from God and their church. Before they left, the husband assured me, 'We'll be back in church this weekend!' It was so exciting to see the Holy Spirit at work!”

The proceeds from the event benefited Portland Adventist Community Services and Portland Rescue Mission, two organizations that PAA works closely with for student service projects.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

Nearly 1,300 people fill the gym to hear Nick Vujicic speak at Portland Adventist Academy on April 14.

Nick Vujicic challenges PAA students with an important message during chapel.

Madisen Cotter, freshman, hugs Nick Vujicic after his PAA chapel presentation.
During spring break, March 21–26, the Friends Helping Friends Mission Team took 37 youth and adults to the Warm Springs Native American Reservation in Warm Springs, Ore. The team had 23 youth hailing from nine Adventist churches in California, Oregon and Washington.

They scraped, primed and painted the exterior of one home, cleaned the grounds of two communities and covered a variety of facility repairs for the Boys and Girls Club. A number of adults worked as chaperones with the native children on a field trip to the Portland Zoo. The teens also ran a four-day Vacation Bible School at the recreation center on the reservation, where they led out in group games, crafts, snacks and worship songs. This was topped off with Mr. K’s Nature Gallery and scientific experiments. More than 90 children were able to experience the wonders of God’s creation. They witnessed a geyser and saw rocks glow in the dark using ultraviolet light. On the last day, the children raced pinewood derby cars they had made during craft time. Every boy and girl was a winner.

The goal of Friends Helping Friends Missions ministry is to give an opportunity for adults, children and teens to serve God by helping those who have a need in their own communities or abroad. The next trip may be scheduled for this August, but if that’s not possible, it will definitely be scheduled for March 2011. Contact Friends Helping Friends by e-mail at jmklingler@q.com.

Jim Klingler, Friends Helping Friends Missions director

Basketballin’ for Haiti

If you had peeked into the gym at Portland Adventist Academy, in Portland, Ore., on the morning of March 21, you would have found more than 50 people warming up for the basketball tournament set to begin at 10 a.m. What would make these people not only spend the next 10 hours playing basketball but pay money to do it? A good cause, of course!

Gabriel Canals, Your Bible Speaks Community Church youth coordinator, helped organize a basketball tournament last year, and after the earthquake in Haiti he thought the same concept could be used to raise money for the families struggling in Haiti.

PAA donated its gym for the day, and Adventist Medical Center, Adventist Federal Credit Union and Scott Ward, at John Hancock Financial Network, sponsored the event. They, along with the competing teams, raised more than $1,300 for Adventist Development and Relief Agency’s Haiti project. Now they can’t wait for the next good reason to hold another tournament.

Krissy Barber, Oregon Conference communication assistant

The winning team, “Mixed Nuts,” was captained by Tanya Martin.
Love Finds A Way At Gladstone Park

A wedding reception was held in the Gladstone Park Fellowship Room Sunday, April 18, in Gladstone, Ore. It was the final knot tied between Daniel Sandoval, local elder, and Opal Lindsay. Paul Rivera and his daughter, Luana Arthur, sang and played Hawaiian songs on the guitar, and Leroy Klein, chaplain, read a poem by Livinsky. On March 28, a wedding ceremony was held in Klein’s home for 20 relatives.

Several years ago he held Revelation and Daniel seminars in Denny’s restaurant and then in Oregon City, Ore., where Lindsay attended.

“At Denny’s I attended because I received a pamphlet in the mail,” Lindsay says. “At the next meeting, I learned about the true Sabbath, and I joined the church on Profession of Faith. That was six years ago.”

Sandoval says, “About two years ago I was in Klein’s Sabbath School class and met Opal. I asked her out and the rest is history.”

When asked about going on a honeymoon, Sandoval says, “No, just being together is our honeymoon.”

Richard Cook, Gladstone Park Church communication leader

Retirement Celebration at Roseburg Church

A retirement celebration was held Feb. 21 for Linda Trenholm, Roseburg (Ore.) Church long-time secretary and custodian. A surprise potluck at the Better Living Center drew many friends and supporters to help Trenholm celebrate her many years of service.

Trenholm began work as a custodian nine years before becoming the church secretary, which she has been for the last 20 years. She has served 29 years under the leadership of 10 different senior pastors and many more associate, assistant and intern pastors.

A special guest and former pastor of the Roseburg Church, Stan Beerman, Oregon Conference ministerial director, made appreciative remarks about Trenholm’s faithful service.

Adding to his remarks was Lyle Arakaki, current Roseburg Church pastor, who, although he has not worked long with Trenholm, praised her also for her dedicated service.

As part of the celebration, Amber and Isaac Arakaki performed a violin duet, “Let There Be Peace On Earth,” accompanied by their mother, Iris. Sandra Haynes shared a poem entitled “Retirement.”

After dinner, a beautiful cake, donated by the social committee, was enjoyed by all. Guests placed cards of appreciation in a decorated basket in the entry so Trenholm could take them home. The Roseburg Church thanks Linda, for her faithful service and wishes her well in her retirement years.

Sandra Haynes, Roseburg Church member
Four Upper Columbia Conference churches participated in three Easter outreach events sharing the good news of our risen Savior. Nearly 4,000 visitors attended these events in Spokane, Wash., Cheney, Wash., and Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

The Spokane Valley Church held their third annual “Journey to the Cross” event in the field beside their church where visitors were led through various dramatic scenes depicting different parts of Jesus’ life. More than 300 people helped in the production of this walk through the streets of ancient Israel. “Three years ago when I first attended this event, I knew nothing about the Easter story,” says Lindsay Hubble, a community member in Spokane. “I’d been to church before, but I had never really read the story. Since then, it has inspired me to read the Bible more to get the whole story. I’ve been reading to my kids, and this year I brought my parents to see it.” One father wrote to the church by e-mail saying, “My four-year-old daughter has started asking questions about the Bible and wants to read from it ever since coming to Journey From the Cross.” As a single parent raising four children, he felt that “Journey to the Cross” was a blessing to the entire family.

The Upper Columbia Academy and Cheney churches held their second annual “Deliverer” event at Showalter Auditorium on the campus of Eastern Washington University in Cheney. This hour-long song drama told the story of the Great Controversy with more than 80 church members and students. “I was very moved by the story,” says one attendee. “To see how Jesus’ life and the Bible relates to a modern person who loses a loved one to cancer is very moving.” “I think this event is not only a great way to reach out to the community,” says Ken Wetmore, UCA and Cheney churches pastor, “but it is also a fantastic way to bring the church members and the academy students together to bond as a family or team with a common goal.”

The Coeur d’Alene Church held their annual event called “The Choice.” This dramatic presentation featured music and stories from the life of Christ. As a result of these three events, more than 130 people filled out response cards, 17 of whom want to know more about Jesus, and more than 120 left their names and numbers to be contacted.

Compiled by Marilee Thomas, Jay Wintermeyer, Jon Dalrymple
Groundbreaking Launches Building Phase

A groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, April 6, marked the beginning of the building phase for the new Upper Columbia Conference headquarters to replace the office destroyed by fire in December 2008.

The ceremony, attended by Adventist church officials, area church members, county officials, architects and contractors, featured short comments from previous and current employees. “We are very thankful for the miracles God has done thus far,” says Bill Skidmore, construction project coordinator. “As we begin construction, we want to dedicate the project and the workers to his service.”

Contractors have already started laying the foundation and infrastructure for the new facility. The construction process will continue throughout the year with an expected completion date of April 2011.

Bob Folkenberg Jr., UCC president, says rebuilding the office sends a statement to members that God’s work in the Inland Northwest isn’t done yet. “We’re moving forward, sharing Christ and the good news that He’s coming soon,” says Folkenberg.

The conference has set up a Webcam to show the construction progress. Visit www.uccsda.org/Webcam.

Jay Wintermeyer, UCC communication director

Share the Life Seminars

Bring People Closer to Christ

Our personal relationship with Christ is the most important aspect of any outreach we undertake. In order to share, we must first have something to give away.

Share the Life, the Upper Columbia Conference evangelism initiative, encourages members to renew their relationship with Christ. This renewed passion for Jesus fuels the ability and desire to share with others.

One way Share the Life is helping members renew their relationship with Christ is through revival meetings held by Lee Venden, conference revivalist and pastor, and his wife, Marji.

The Yakima (Wash.) Church recently hosted a series with Venden. The series entitled, “All About Jesus Revival Seminar,” reminded those in attendance that Jesus is the central theme of Scripture and that “The Truth” is really a person. Everything we believe or hold dear can be found in Him. Experiencing a meaningful relationship with Him changes our entire outlook on life.

The meetings began on Friday night and attendance steadily grew throughout the week. In addition to visitors and former Adventists, a good number of children were also in attendance and eagerly followed the stories and sermons each evening.

Harry Sharley, Yakima Church pastor, was impressed at how the Vendens effectively communicated the wonderful truth that Jesus is deeply interested in each of us. “What impressed me most was how Lee and Marji brought every belief we have back to Jesus,” says Sharley. “Lee encouraged each of us to discover a personal relationship with Him.”

Lee and Marji Venden have worked as a revivalist team for UCC since 2008. Their seminars are offered as an aid to pastors and churches, encouraging members to grow in their personal walk with Christ. The Vendens’ presentations are characterized by clear, practical suggestions about how to develop and deepen a meaningful relationship with Jesus.

Lee Venden shares how Jesus is central to all our beliefs.

The Vendens are holding meetings all year throughout UCC. To find out if there will be a series taking place near you, visit www.allaboutjesus-seminars.org.

Jay Wintermeyer

June 2010 • GLEANER
SHAREtheLIFE

Upper Columbia Conference
Camp Meeting 2010
Fully Consumed with Christ and His Cause

Bill McClendon
Bill is pastor of the South Tulsa Adventist Fellowship (Oklahoma Conference), one of the fastest growing English speaking churches in the North American Division.

Ty Gibson
Ty is co-director/speaker of Light Bearers, an international publishing and media ministry based in the state of Oregon that provides shipments of truth-filled literature to the church in developing countries.

Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus
The Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus is a group of over 150 Christian men who join in worship, praise, and public sharing of their faith through music. Members come from over 65 churches in five states and from all walks of life.

Evangeliving Seminars
Faith, Hope and Salt.......................................................... Leslie Bumgardner
The Friendly Factor .......................................................... Dave Livermore
Cooking Schools and Health Evangelism ......................... Richard and Linda Sloop
Outreach Team Leadership............................................... Steve Rogers
Faith and Finance, ......................................................... Myron Iseminger and Andrew McCrary
GLOW-Giving Light to Our World ..................................... Jordana Ashburn
Jump Start Your Devotions ............................................... Gerald Haeger
Community Relationships................................................ Alex Bryan

Friday
6 p.m. Share the Life Stories
7 p.m. Evening Meeting, Ty Gibson

Sabbath
9 a.m. First Service, Ty Gibson
10:30 Sabbath School, Share the Life Stories
11:45 Second Service, Bill McClendon
3:00 Evangeliving Seminars
4:10 Concert: Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus
7:00 Evening Meeting, Bill McClendon

June 18-19, 2010
Walla Walla University Campus
College Place, Washington
Meal Tickets: (509) 527-2732
Dorm Rooms: (509) 527-2531
RV Reservations: (509) 838-2761
www.uccsda.org/CampMeeting
Sixty-one Pathfinders participated in the 14th-annual Teen Mission Adventure during spring break this year. Youth from all areas of the conference spent seven days doing volunteer community service projects for a school, a hospital, an assisted-living center and a campground in Brewster, Wash.

Each teen participant gave up their spring break and paid $100 to go and work from March 21–28. During the adventure they learned trade skills, practiced team work, made new friends and got better acquainted with Jesus.

“It is amazing to see the reaction from community folks watching these young people at work and how much they get done,” says June Cross, Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder fair and camporee specialist. “They nearly always complete projects in half the time planned or better!”

Work crews included two or more adult staff and six to eight youth. The teams rotated each day so everyone had a chance to participate in each aspect — including help in the kitchen. Construction teams built a pole barn to house school buses, completely repainted the outside of the school, remodeled a bathroom and built a roof over the school’s front steps. Grounds crews helped clean up yards and landscaping at the hospital, a recreational center and at the homes of several elderly church members. Other work teams got to build trails, repair docks, build safety railings and build outhouses at a camp on Lake Chelan.

Each day of TMA begins and ends with worship time. This year the worship speakers were staff members and community members who each shared either their conversion story or what Jesus means to them.

“One of the greatest successes of TMA is God blesses the teens as they help others,” says Frosty Cross, Columbia Basin District area coordinator. “One of our main missions is to reach the teens who participate, not necessarily the work that gets done.”

Pathfinder Teen Mission Adventures began in 1997 under the leadership of Steve Meharry, TMA coordinator and Wailatpu Pathfinder Club (College Place, Wash.) director.

“The purpose of TMA is to provide a mission experience for Pathfinder teens who wish to serve but do not want to travel overseas,” says Meharry. “There are lots of mission fields right here at home.”

Jon Dalrymple, UCC communication assistant
The doors of Auburn Adventist Academy Church in Auburn, Wash., opened Sunday morning, April 18, to welcome nearly 300 delegates to the 58th Constituency Session of the Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Before the session officially opened, delegates sang hymns such as “We Gather Together to Ask the Lord’s Blessing,” listened to a devotional thought about the role of the church and split into small groups for a time of prayer.

“It amazes me how a group of people with such different ideas, backgrounds and cultures can become one through Jesus Christ and His mission,” says Rob Aaron, a delegate from Lacey, Wash.

With a quorum secured, the constituency session officially commenced with the seating of six new churches, a short ministry survey using electronic voting devices and approval of session procedures.

John Freedman, Washington Conference president, shared how every ministry is prayerfully moving to align with the Adventist Church’s mission. In the last four years, Washington Conference encouraged lifestyle evangelism and invested in training, public evangelism, missions, literature ministries, youth ministries and more. “Everything we do is centered on Jesus,” he says.

Leaders Re-elected

All leaders were re-elected including all three officers, four new directors and two new associates. Officers for the next quadrennial are: John Freedman, president; Doug Bing, vice president for administration; and Jerry Russell, vice president for finance.

The four new directors are Dennis Carlson, trust services director, from associate; Omar Grieve, Spanish ministries and stewardship director, from coordinator; EuGene Lewis, regional affairs director, from coordinator; and Heidi Martella, communication director, from associate. The two new associates are: Jeff Fogelquist, associate treasurer, from business intern; and Peter Rampton, trust services associate, from It Is Written Television Ministries.

Church Business Decisions

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee presented three recommendations to update one remaining gender reference to gender-neutral terminology (a process addressed four years ago) and to update the conference address to reflect the current location. The third recommendation suggested changing the frequency of session meetings from four to five years beginning in 2014 to reduce expenses and to align schedules to prevent a conference session from occurring in the same year as a General Conference session or North Pacific Union Conference session. Delegates passed this measure with 93 percent approval.

The session wrapped up with a come-and-go ministry fair where delegates interacted with conference ministries and discovered new resources.

“Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director

Washington Conference convened its 58th constituency session in April at Auburn Adventist Academy Church in Auburn, Wash., to elect leaders, present reports and vote on church business.
Several Auburn Adventist Academy students presented their first health talks and sermons in Peru during an evangelistic-mission trip organized by the North Pacific Union Conference in March.

This spring break mission trip included 85 Pacific Northwest participants, with students from Northwest Adventist academies, including AAA from Auburn, Wash., forming 11 of the 20 evangelistic teams.

The presenters and mentors attended mentoring sessions, visited in the community and presented two sets of meetings at churches in close proximity each night. The mentoring meetings covered Peruvian culture, home visitation guidelines and preaching pointers.

The AAA team included two pastor’s daughters, Hannah Roberts and Kaleigh Bing, brothers Roger and Eder Reynoso, and Derrick Dos-Santos. Arturo Ledezma, AAA vice principal for finance, served as a translator and Jeff Carlson, Auburn City (Wash.) Church associate pastor, presented a series of meetings.

“Smiles really are universal, even if you don’t speak the same language,” says Kaleigh Bing. “We made some new best friends.”

In all, more than 800 people were baptized in Peru. On the final weekend, thousands of Adventists from Trujillo gathered in a downtown coliseum for a celebration rally and to say goodbye to their missionary friends.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director

In every conversation, report, letter, meeting or sermon, David and Gaylene Wolkwitz show a deep love for Jesus and for people.

“Dave and Gaylene made a spiritual difference in this conference,” says John Freedman, Washington Conference president. “They have a prayerful interest in each department, ministry and life they interact with in their ministry.”

The Wolkwitzes are retiring after serving the Washington Conference as trust services director and associate director for the last nine years.

In his 44-year career, David W. Wolkwitz served as a literature evangelist, singing evangelist, high school teacher, division secretary-treasurer, pastor, evangelist, hospital chaplain, church ministries director, conference secretary, conference president and trust services director.

Wolkwitz spent significant time studying the Holy Spirit. He authored a book titled A Mighty Rushing Wind about the Holy Spirit’s transforming power. During Holy Spirit Seminars, the Wolkwitzes challenged attendees to pray daily at 6:15 a.m. for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In her 25-year career, Gaylene Wolkwitz served as a college instructor, elementary teacher, medical secretary, administrative assistant and trust officer in addition to raising their two children, Jonathan and Jacinda.

David summed up his ministry with three worship talks before his retirement. He challenged his colleagues to follow the example of the vine and the branches in John 15: Remain in the vine, study scripture and ask questions, and bear fruit for Jesus.

Heidi Martella
Friday Harbor Hosts Earth Day Creation Fest

The Friday Harbor (Wash.) Church hosted an Earth Day Creation Fest in April for their island community. This is the small congregation’s third year hosting.

“This event makes a positive impact in the community and for the church family,” says William Hurtado, pastor. “The Adventist message is at the core of our presentations about God as our Creator.”

Part of the church’s property is used to host the San Juans Community Gardens, and church leaders invited the gardeners connected with each plot to attend the Earth Day Creation Fest. Most of the gardeners and some community guests attended the special event.

The Creation Fest featured community fellowship, homemade food, music about creation and a sermon about how Earth Day is meant to honor the Great Gardener, Jesus Christ.

Marty Ahart, Community Gardens executive director, organized a Garden Open House with tours and a scavenger hunt to educate guests about how compost, dirt, sun, water and seed make a beautiful garden. Ahart received the Gardener of the Year award for her hard work in developing the Community Gardens.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director, with William Hurtado, Friday Harbor Church pastor

Skagit Students Raise Funds for Mission Well

The eighth-grade class at Skagit Adventist School in Burlington, Wash., found an idea for a class mission project several months ago.

The class decided to raise money to install a well after hearing Sebastian Tirtirau, founder of Pilgrim Relief Society, speak about his mission work in the Kalahari Desert and how the San Bushmen survive on less than six ounces of water a day.

Each solar-powered well costs $4,500 to purchase and install. Students brought in spare change for the change jar and recycled scrap metal to raise a few hundred dollars. The class also decided to present the project to surrounding churches by creating a video.

After each video presentation, the students passed out M&M candy containers for church members to fill with quarters and return to the students. The result was amazing! Donations reached more than $4,000.

“It was fun to watch all of the money come in,” says Quinn Lindell, student. “The people were really nice and generous in their giving.”

Matthew Lee, Skagit teacher, deposited $5,252 into Tirtirau’s bank account for the mission project, just days before the missionary returned to the Kalahari. Tirtirau plans to send back news and pictures of the well and the people who are affected.

David Morales, student, says, “I loved realizing that the Bushmen would be blessed.”

Kari Stickle, Skagit Adventist School eighth-grade student

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director, with William Hurtado, Friday Harbor Church pastor
Academic Excellence Easily Maintained
Students Receive Awards for Achievements

What is an immortalized Schwann cell?” John McVay, Walla Walla University president, asked Lisa Barcelo, senior biochemistry major, from the platform of the University Church.

It was WWU’s annual Alumni Homecoming Weekend awards event, when the president takes a few minutes to highlight a few of the many high-caliber projects on which students are working.

“My research studies cells to determine if there’s too much sugar,” Barcelo explained. “This can eventually have implications for people with diabetes.”

Barcelo was one of five students who shared their research with students, staff, faculty and alumni.

Andrew Sell, senior mechanical engineering major, talked about his project using sunlight to heat water, even when there is no sun.

“This is possible because we use a molecule called a zeolite,” explained Sell. “Zeolites get hot when they suck up water and they can then transfer that heat into the water itself.”

Two biology students shared information on their studies of gulls. Zach Taylor, senior biology major, found gulls are efficient with daylight, and tend to have a curfew of sorts, returning to the colony at specific times, generally related to loss of daylight.

Sean Hayes, biology graduate student, is researching the preening habits of gulls.

“When we’re nervous we tend to do something pointless, like toss our hair,” said Hayes. “Gulls do similar things when they’re nervous.” When asked why this was important, Hayes answered, “Lots of behaviors in animals are similar to behavior in humans. If we can understand animal behavior, it may help us better understand ourselves.”

Later in the program, several students were given awards for their academic achievements.

“Recognition is given to students who engage in original research, immerse themselves in performance, distinguish themselves in the academic area, challenge themselves by participating in the honors program and maintain outstanding academic records,” said Scott Ligman, associate vice president for academic administration.

Nine students received awards of more than $7,000, one of whom has completed over 300 hours of coursework. More than 250 students who received awards maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher, and one senior was set to graduate with a 4.0 cumulative GPA.

“Although many of the awards focus on academic achievement,” said Ligman, “award decisions often involve broader consideration of the student’s contribution to WWU, their professional potential, and their commitment to service.”

Ligman and McVay agree that WWU lives up to its mission of excellence in thought, generosity in service, beauty in expression and faith in God.

“It has been so much fun to learn in some detail about the projects and research these students have been a part of,” said McVay after the brief on-stage interviews. “Thank you all for your excellence in thought at Walla Walla University.”

Becky St. Clair, WWU GLEANER correspondent
Some Adventist Churches in Port au Prince, Haiti, are destroyed and broken. At least one is intact but it stands empty. Since the devastating earthquake earlier this year, church members refuse to step foot inside most buildings. Instead, they occupy tents in the yard and hold worship services al fresco.

An exception to this is the Hopitale Adventiste d’Haiti where Jack Hoehn, M.D., and many volunteers from Walla Walla General Hospital visited to provide care and support in April.

The 11-person contingent visited the disaster-ravaged region for two weeks, delivering much needed medical care but more importantly, a loving message of hope. More often than not, the volunteers themselves received the blessings.

Hoehn facilitated the trip and spoke of his journey poignantly. He says, “I didn’t treat many patients, but tried to keep the 40 volunteer-medical workers and scores of daily visitors supplied.

“I was tasked with organizing the huge mountain of donated supplies,” he states, describing a boatload of supply boxes, some useful, many superfluous.

“I had supplies for procedures not done in Haiti, but I ran out of Chloroquine to treat malaria,” he laments. And still, inadequate supplies could not stop the healing that took place every day.

“I remember an elderly woman sitting on a bench with a cloth over her head, obscuring her face. I asked her with gestures if I could look. The entire left side of her face was covered with a bulging tumor,” he describes. “I was so glad for the specialists and anesthesiologists who make amazing surgeries happen here.”

Hoehn describes the facility as largely a surgical hospital led by Scott Nelson, an orthopedic surgeon from Loma Linda University. “People with rods in their legs are all around — some in donated wheel chairs, some walking with crutches, others living with amputations done in the flurry of emergency care after the earthquake.”

Despite hardships, the loving spirit of the people persists. “I was walking down the road when I suddenly felt a gentle little hand slip into mine,” says Hoehn. “I looked down to see the sweetest little girl, perhaps 4 years old, with her hair tied up in pigtails made of rags. She was not pushy or shy, she just wanted to hold my hand as we walked down the road, her big sister walking on the other side.”

“What a Haitian thing to do — when you walk down a road, you hold the hand of the person next to you,” Hoehn says.

And so, the WWGH team will continue to hold the hands of Haitian people, offering care and healing when possible, and kindness and prayer at all times.
Franklin 50th

Dale and Darleene Franklin and all five of their children were together for a festive weekend to celebrate their 50th anniversary. The weekend culminated with an open house with friends at the Dallas (Ore.) Church, Aug. 2, 2009.

Dale Franklin and Darleene Storey were both raised in Southern California and graduated together from Lynwood Adventist Academy in 1949. Ten years later, they met again and were married Nov. 19, 1959, in Downey, Calif. Darleene attended Walla Walla College, graduating with her R.N. after training at Glendale Adventist Hospital. Dale worked as an engineer in the petrochemical field. Semi-retirement sparked a relocation to Hopland, Calif., where they lived for about 10 years and attended the Ukiah Church. Another relocation in 1999 took them to Dallas, Ore. They are active supporters of 3ABN, helping others to get connected. Dale and Darleene have always been active members in their local churches, serving as deacon, deaconess and Sabbath School leaders.

The Franklin family includes Janet Franklin and Andy Ransley of Bow, Wash.; Susan and Jeff Evans of Grass Valley, Calif.; Dale Franklin II of Grass Valley; Ben and Sylvia Franklin of Simi Valley, Calif.; Julie and Phil Segura of Dallas, Ore.; 13 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Lucas 90th

Ivy Lucas celebrated her 90th birthday on Nov. 14, 2009, with her family and the Lacey (Wash.) Church family at a fellowship dinner.

Ivy was born Nov. 10, 1919, in Brainerd, Minn., the seventh child of 12 to the Cain family. She worked in the shipyards during World War II and later went to work for the State of Washington at the Licensing Department. At age 37, she went back to college and then on to nursing school. After receiving her nursing degree, she worked mostly at nursing homes and finally homecare. She retired when she was 80 years old.

Ivy’s family includes Lois Lucas of Lacey, Wash.; Leonard Lucas of Fairbanks, Alaska; Dale and Geraldine (Evans) Lucas of Fresno, Calif.; 10 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

Meier 90th

Thelma R. Shephard Meier’s family gathered on April 4, 2009, for a small, quiet occasion to honor her on her 90th birthday. The grand celebration took place on July 25, when more than 200 family and friends gathered at the Shephard Family home in Pasco, Wash. Family from New York, California, Oregon and Western Washington came to help celebrate. The reception included a buffet dinner and a special tribute given by Thelma’s son-in-law. There was also a special music played on the saw and performed by long-time family friend Glen Edgerton of Portland, Ore.

Thelma was born on April 4, 1919, to Jesse and Ethel Miller of Rosa, Wash. She spent her childhood and high school years in Elma, Wash. She attended Columbia Adventist Academy her senior year and graduated in 1938.

Later she attended Walla Walla College and earned a degree in nursing. She married Stanley Shephard on April 18, 1943, immediately following graduation. During their early years, Thelma worked as a nurse at the Portland Sanitarium. Soon daughter Suzanne joined the family, followed a year later by son Steven.

After Stanley finished a residency in pedodontics in 1952 at the University of Washington, they moved to Loma Linda, Calif., where he was one of the founders of the Loma Linda School of Dentistry. During their ten years in California, Thelma worked as a private-duty nurse. She was involved in many of the children’s Sabbath School departments and other activities for the church and school. In 1962, they relocated to Pasco, Wash., where Stanley had a private practice in orthodontics until his retirement in 1988.

Thelma became involved in the Pasco Church, Pathfinder club and the school library. Sadness hit the family when Steven died in 1987. Then in 1990, Stanley died of lymphoma.

During their 47 years together, Stanley and Thelma traveled all over the world. Every year they both looked forward to boarding the train to Big Mountain, Mont., for snow skiing.

In 1991, Thelma married long-time family friend Bernie Meier. Shortly after they married, they served a mission term in Taiwan for a year. Since that time, they have enjoyed traveling, Bible studies and grandchildren.

The family includes Suzanne and Larry Swisher of Pasco, Wash.; 3 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Syfert 60th

Gene and Roberta Syfert celebrated their 60th anniversary on Dec. 27, 2009, with a reception at the Hood View Church in Boring, Ore., hosted by their children.

Eugene Syfert married Roberta Beckner on Dec. 27, 2009, in the Nurses Chapel of the White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles, Calif. Gene and Roberta met while in school at White Memorial. Roberta was studying for her R.N. degree and Gene was studying to be an x-ray tech. After living briefly elsewhere, they moved to Portland, Ore., where they raised four children. The Syferts both worked at Adventist Medical Center for many years. They now live in Jasper, Ore., just outside of Springfield, Ore., where they enjoy the country atmosphere.

The Syfert family includes Linda and Jake Platten of Beaverton, Ore.; Bob and Catrline Syfert of Sioux Falls, S.D.; Elaine Syfert of Portland, Ore.; Rick and Kathryn (Muse) Perkins Syfert; a grandchild and a great-grandchild.

Sign up online at www.gleaneronline.org.
BIRTHS

ASH — Julianna Elise was born March 28, 2010, to James and Joy (Harwood) Ash, Tualatin, Ore.

BROWN — Emilia DeJuan was born April 10, 2010, to Daniel and Stacy (Page) Brown, Priest River, Idaho.

DAWES — Ryan William was born Jan. 26, 2010, to Todd and Jennifer (Davis) Dawes, Mt. Vernon, Wash.

HOWARD — Natalie Jane was born April 5, 2010, to Matthew W. and Denise M. (Whittemore) Howard, Klamath Falls, Ore.

MACKENZIE — Julia Grace was born May 24, 2009, to Jon and Jennifer (Hooker) MacKenzie, Edmonds, Wash.

MACKENZIE — Sophia Morgan was born May 24, 2009, to Jon and Jennifer (Hooker) MacKenzie, Edmonds, Wash.

RODMAN-BRENTON — Kiana Rain was born March 11, 2010, to Dave Brenton and Sheri Rodman, Seattle, Wash.

SMITH — Ellasyn Marie was born March 21, 2010, to B. David and Janelle (Denney) Smith, Battle Ground, Wash.

WEDDINGS

BALDWIN-HAYWARD — Jenny Lyn Baldwin and Joel R. Hayward were married Jan. 17, 2010, in Medford, Ore. They are making their home in Eagle Point, Ore. Jenny is the daughter of Wendell and Joan Baldwin. Joel is the son of Clarence and Betty Hayward.

BLOOM-HARDESTY — Tasha Bloom and Matthew Hardesty were married March 14, 2010, in Chandler, Ariz. They are making their home in Gilbert, Ariz. Tasha is the daughter of Randy Bloom and Brenda McFeters. Matthew is the son of Don and Michelle Hardesty.

BORJA-HERINGTON — Nahara Borja and Matthew Herington were married Oct. 18, 2009, in Lancaster, Mass. They are making their home in Helena, Mont. Nahara is the daughter of Edmund and Zolia Borja. Matthew is the son of Richard and Connie Herington.

DIETRICH-FJARLI — Jacki M. Dietrich and Bruce L. Fjarli were married Jan. 23, 2010, in Medford, Ore., where they are making their home. Jacki is the daughter of Frank and Edith Dietrich and Ellen and Leonard Lewis. Bruce is the son of Merlin and Joanne Fjarli.

FARNSWORTH-LANTO — Sarah Farnsworth and Christopher Lanto were married March 21, 2010, in Marysville, Wash. They are making their home in Hamburg, Pa. Sarah is the daughter of Jeff and Linda Farnsworth. Christopher is the son of Steve and Ginette Lanto.

HALL-DREW — Dena J. Hall and John W. Drew III were married Oct. 3, 2009, in Medford, Ore., where they are making their home. Dena is the daughter of Shirley Kennedy. John is the son of John II and Bobbie Drew.

HILL-DAUB — Lindsey E. Hill and Jason J. Daub were married Aug. 2, 2009, in Medford, Ore. They are making their home in Las Vegas, Nev. Lindsey is the daughter of Terry and Joyce Hill.

JONES-DAVIDSON — Holli Marie Jones and Todd Allen Davidson were married Sept. 6, 2009, in Ooltewah, Tenn., where they are making their home. Holli Marie is the daughter of Jeff and Luanne Jones. Todd Allen is the son of Bob and Jani Davidson.

NIEVES-PARMENTER — Madeleine Nieves and Brad A. Parmenter were married Sept. 13, 2009, in Redlands, Calif. They are making their home in Central Point, Ore. Madeleine is the daughter of Israel and Leah Nieves. Brad is the son of Roy and Marileta Parmenter.

AT REST


CORVIN — Norma Jean (Corwin) Cory Henry, 83; born Aug. 18, 1926, in Kansas; died Sept. 11, 2009, Reno, Nev. Surviving:
sons, Bob, Valparaiso, Ind.; Larry, Medford, Ore.; Scott, Reno; 7 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.


**GRAY** — Margie Jo (Gard), 78; born Sept. 4, 1931, Okanogan, Wash.; died Feb. 5, 2010, Republic, Wash. Surviving: husband, Don; sons, Terry Lemke, Richland, Wash.; Kevin, Nevada; Donald Jr., Republic; Mark, Utah; daughters, Patti Lemke, Colfax, Wash.; Sarah Fletcher, Republic; Teresa Starr, Curlew, Wash.; Rebecca Metcalf, Malo, Wash.; sister, Narda McNally, Okanogan; 27 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.


**VAN TASSEL** — Viola M. (Walter), 84; born Oct. 21, 1926, Corvallis, Ore.; died Aug. 6, 2009, Bend, Ore. Surviving: husband, Lowell Dean, Redmond, Ore.; daughters, Carol Libke and Sheri Odom, both of Redmond; brothers, Howard Hance, Astoria, Ore.; Eldon Walter, Warrenton, Ore.; sisters, Lyrel Pryor, Gresham, Ore.; Lila "Dottie" Vaughn, Tus-tin, Calif.; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.


**YOST** — Leonard J., 91; born Sept. 26, 1918, Trout Lake, Wash.; died Nov. 2, 2009, Medford, Ore. Surviving: wife, Bernice (Pyke); sons, Leonard Jr., Granite Bay, Calif.; Rudy, Millville, Calif.; daughter, Joyce Hill, Medford; brother, George, Medford; sister, Mildred Matthews, Granite Bay; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.
North Pacific Union Conference

Offering

June 5 — Local Church Budget; June 12 — NAD: Multilingual Ministries/Chaplaincy Ministries; June 19 — Local Church Budget; June 26 — Local Conference Advance; June 26 — Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings: Euro-Africa Division.

Special Days

Curriculum Focus for the Month — Church Growth and Evangelism+

June 12 — Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day.

+Curriculum resource materials are published in NAD church resource journals — Sabbath School Leadership, Celebración, Célébration, Kids’ Ministry Ideas, and Cornerstone Youth Resource Journal.

Northwest Concerts

More than 150 voices of the combined Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus and the Adventist Men’s Chorus of Romania will make several appearances in the Northwest in June. June 16 — Wednesday at 7 p.m., with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Jerry E. Hudson Concert Hall, Willamette University, 900 State St., Salem, OR. Seating is limited. Visit www.oamc.org or call 503-789-0306 for ticketing information. June 17 — Thursday at 7 p.m., Auburn Adventist Academy, 5000 Auburn Way South, Auburn, WA, as part of the Washington Conference annual camp meeting. June 19 — Saturday at 4 p.m., Walla Walla University Church, 212 S.W. 4th St., College Place, WA, as part of the Upper Columbia Conference annual camp meeting. Both of these camp meeting concerts are free. A freewill offering will be collected to help defray expenses. June 20 — Sunday in the Portland-Vancouver area with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Time and location to be announced. Visit www.oamc.org or call 503-789-0306 for the latest updates on times, locations and ticketing.

Walla Walla University

June 11-13 — Graduation Weekend. Commencement begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 13. In case of inclement weather, there is no alternate site, so come prepared. For more information on weekend events, visit wallawalla.edu/graduation or call 800-541-8900, ext. 2066. June 21 — Summer Session begins.

Idaho

Missing Members

The Ontario Church is seeking information regarding the following members: Steven S. Bass, Carol Buckles, Joseph C. Buckles, Tommy R. Buckles, Isais Beltran, Jesus Escoboza, Robert M. Flower, Melvin F. Goddard, Robert H. Jefferson, Rodney C. Jones, Scott C. Kestel, Byron D. Miller, Charles S. Peck Jr., Larry Robinson, Frank C. Rollins, Steven H. Sherman and Charles G. White. If you have any information regarding these missing members, please contact Kathy Reed, Ontario Church clerk, at 208-739-1851.

Montana

Cowboy Camp Meeting

June 9-13 — Ron Halvorson Sr. and Ron Halvorson Jr. will be speaking at the Montana Cowboy Camp Meeting in Florence, Mont. For more information, go to www.mtcowboycampmeeting.org or e-mail mtcowboycrossroadfellowship@gmail.com.

Oregon

The King’s Heralds Concert

June 5 — Celebrating 80 years of ministry, the King’s Heralds will be in concert at Tabernacle Church, 26 S.W. Condor Way, Portland, OR 97239, at the 11 a.m. worship service. All are invited to come. Bring family and friends to this all-time favorite concert.

New Orleans Mission Trip

Oct. 10-24 — A great opportunity to help displaced Katrina survivors return to their homes. Skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed to do carpentry, painting, plumbing, cooking, cleaning, electrical, etc. You may volunteer for either or both weeks. Volunteers pay $800 to cover training, insurance and transportation costs (minus baggage fees) from Portland, OR. For a limited time there is no charge for meals and hotel. Call Sam Pellecere, Oregon Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, at 503-539-6038 or e-mail sampellecere@verizon.net or rhondapacs@hotmail.com for more information. Space is limited. Register no later than July 16, 2010.

Missing Members

The McMinnville Church is seeking the whereabouts of the following individuals: Gabriel, Honoria, Erica, Elizabeth and Daniel Sanchez, Dennis South and James Stevenson. If you have any information, please contact Les Jones, pastor, at 503-873-8568 or pastorles7@msn.com.

Upper Columbia

Upper Columbia Native Camp Meeting

June 25-27 — the annual Native Spiritual Gather. To find out more about features, speakers and events, check out our Web site at www.allnationscenter.org, call 509-877-0960, or e-mail allnationscenter@gmail.com.

World Church

Adventist Race for Health 5/10K

June 27 — Join the Adventist Race for Health 5/10K on Sunday, June 27, starting at 7 a.m., during GC Session at Centennial Park in Atlanta, GA. For more information and to sign up, go to www.AdventistRaceForHealth.org. Walkers enjoy the InStep trail Friday, June 25, and Monday–Thursday, June 27–July 1, 7 a.m., at the fountains, also in Centennial Olympic Park.

LJA Alumni Event

July 23–25 — Louisville Adventist Academy invites all former students, faculty, staff and supporters of Louisville Junior Academy to its second annual alumni celebration. Please contact Chris Juhl, principal, at echrisjuhl@yahoo.com or 502-550-6787. We hope to see you there!
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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.
A dvertisements 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: jobs.wallawalla.edu.

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EVENT
ADVENTIST MEN’S CHORUS OF ROMANIA REUNITES WITH OREGON ADVENTIST MEN’S CHORUS for powerful and inspirational Northwest appearances before heading to General Conference. June 16: Willamette University, Salem, OR, with Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. June 17: Washington camp meeting, Auburn, WA. June 19: Upper Columbia camp meeting, College Place, WA. June 20: Portland-Vancouver metro area with Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, time and location TBA. Visit www.oamc.com for more details, and see and hear video clips from April 2009 Romania concerts.


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IDAHO
Stephen McPherson, president; Donald A. Johnson, secretary; Harold Dorrison III, treasurer; 7777 Fairview, Boise, ID 83704-4818; (208) 375-7524; www.idahoadventist.org.

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“It’s a dangerous business, Frodo, going out of your door. You step into the Road, and if you don’t keep your feet, there is no knowing where you might be swept off to.” — Bilbo Baggins in *The Lord of the Rings*

Beyond the allegorical pages of Tolkien’s ode to the victory of good over evil, the spirit of adventure is the eager, boisterous wind upon which progress is borne. I sit within the comfort of home because those with trailblazing urgency trekked weary and courageous miles over a winding track to settle the Oregon Territory. I join with an apocalyptic movement whose pioneers, few in number, stepped out in faith to answer the call of an end-time message. I am a debtor to these and many others.

To be sure, the reckless abandon often associated with adventure demeans the God-given spark in us all. Risking life and limb of self or others for the sake of momentary thrill resembles more of the demonic than the divine. Yet physical, mental and spiritual growth demand a risk. Every surge of progress, each victory won comes with the potential of defeat. And when defeat comes, the courageous look up and move ahead, by faith, even if the result is still unclear.

Bible stories are replete with these adventurers. By faith Abel brought a better sacrifice. By faith Noah built a ship in the middle of dry land. By faith Abraham left home without a destination. By faith Hannah asked for a child. By faith Moses and all of Israel walked through the Red Sea on dry ground. Esther walked into the unknown; David faced a giant; Peter walked on water; Paul survived a shipwreck. Hebrews 11 gives a more complete list of these heroes who “braved abuse and whips, and, yes, chains and dungeons.” They were “stoned, sawn in two, murdered in cold blood; ... vagrants wandering the world in animal skins, homeless, friendless, powerless — the world didn’t deserve them,” (Hebrews 11:36–38, *The Message*).

But Hebrews 11’s retrospective leads us to chapter 12’s call to action. “Do you see what this means — all these pioneers who blazed the way ...? It means we’d better get on with it. Strip down, start running — and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in,” (Hebrews 12:1, *The Message*).

Yes, Bilbo was right. It *is* a dangerous business, going out your door. But that path has the imprints of many before us. It has the beckoning arm of One who says, “Follow Me.” And the destination we all long for can never be reached without stepping outside.

By faith, what is your next step?

You may respond to any GLEANER topic by sending an e-mail to: talk@gleaneronline.org.

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Following the success of a combined 2009 Romanian tour, the Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus reunites with the Adventist Men’s Chorus of Romania for a Northwest American tour including performances with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and ending with special appearances at the General Conference Session in Atlanta.

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