integrity

Image is Everything.
Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.

Isaiah 40:30-31 (NIV)

"Undecided" by Debbie Blackburn Beierle of Snohomish, Wash.
Life Transitions

I was reminded of the transitions of life while visiting my dad during the late stages of what would prove to be a terminal illness. One morning our extended family prepared to visit him at the hospital. Before we left, his three great-grandchildren each drew a special picture for him. They concluded their delightful creations with comments of affection, adding personal signatures with a flourish. When we arrived at the hospital, my dad was thrilled with these gifts from the heart. As the little ones gathered around his bed, he looked up appreciatively and said to me, “This is the cycle of life. As I prepare to leave, they are just coming onto the stage.”

Life is filled with transitions. From birth onward, we celebrate the many stages of life: from birth to walking; from cradle roll to young adult Sabbath Schools; from the early play-filled years to the school years; from one graduation to another; from the single life to married life for many; from employment to retirement; from retirement to eternity. Each transition provides opportunity for growth and development. Lifelong learning and service are hallmarks of the Christian calling.

A life devoted to and spent for God is the highest form of significance for us as individuals. True significance emerges as our life becomes centered in Christ and His purposes. He entrusts us with the management of life that finds its fulfillment in glorifying Him. As we discover our spiritual gifts and invest them for His purpose, we find our true place and our greatest joy in this world. And developing these gifts prepares us for and enhances our experience in the world to come.

In all phases and circumstances of life, we bear witness to God’s character and our trust in Him — at home, at school, at work or at play. Whether we are in a period of good health or facing an experience of serious distress, our level of trust in God reflects our sense of adequacy in Him. Life offers no guarantees, but God does. The Giver of Life promises to walk with us through every circumstance. By His grace, He provides a guaranteed outcome that all who believe in Him will be made new. This is why the Advent Hope is the blessed hope. It brings to fulfillment all of life’s transitions with an ultimate transition to our heavenly home.

As I transition into retirement this month, our granddaughter is making her transition into school for the first time. The experience of lifelong learning lies before both of us. The cycle of life continues, but from my own Christian perspective, it is moving rapidly toward an eternal climax.

What a reunion that will be for every generation of believers. What an experience it will be to meet our Savior face to face. He has made our ultimate transition possible through His loving self-sacrifice. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Maranatha!

BRYCE PASCOE
NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Editor’s note: Bryce Pascoe, who has served as the North Pacific Union Conference executive secretary since 1994, is retiring as of August 1 this year. A short paragraph about his service is included on page four. A more in-depth article will appear in the September GLEANER. Here are his perspectives as he enters this new phase of life.

“Life offers no guarantees, but God does.”
New World Church President Elected

Ted N. C. Wilson, a vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the son of Neal C. Wilson, former church president, was elected World Church president on June 25, during this year’s General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia. He replaces Jan Paulsen, who has been president since 1999. Wilson, 60, was elected as a general vice president of the Adventist Church in 2000 during the General Conference Session in Toronto, Canada. His 36 years of denominational service include administrative and executive posts in the Mid-Atlantic United States, Africa and Russia. Wilson holds a doctorate in religious education from New York University, a master of divinity degree from Andrews University and a master of science degree in public health from Loma Linda University’s School of Public Health. He is married to Nancy Louise Vollmer Wilson, a physical therapist. The couple have three daughters.

Pascoe Begins Retirement

Bryce Pascoe, who has served as North Pacific Union Conference executive secretary since 1994, is retiring as of August 1. In addition to pastoral training and experience, Pascoe, who has a master’s degree in public health, has served the church in health education positions as well. He and his wife, Genia, plan to remain in the Northwest. The NPUC executive committee expects to select a replacement for Pascoe at its regular August 25 meeting in Ridgefield, Wash. More on Pascoe’s ministry will be shared in next month’s GLEANER.

Jackson Replaces Schneider as NAD President

Dan Jackson, 61, is the new president of the North American Division, elected June 28 by delegates of the World Church at their business session in Atlanta, Ga. Jackson was appointed by the church’s 246-member nominating committee and confirmed by the General Conference Session delegation. He replaces Don Schneider, who has served as president since 2000. Jackson is a native Canadian and, with the exception of five years of service in the Southern Asia Division, has lived and ministered in Canada. He is a graduate of Canadian Union College and Andrews University, from which he holds an master’s degree in religion in systematic theology. He comes to this new position from his role as president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. He and his wife, Donna, have three children and four grandchildren.

CORRECTION

In several instances, we have incorrectly used Mount Ellis Adventist Academy or MEAA to describe Mount Ellis Academy (MEA). The official name does not include “Adventist.”
Bad Balloons
In the interest of good earth stewardship, I think it would be well for the GLEANER not to publish articles about kids sending balloons aloft attached to Ziploc baggies (“Children Send Balloons Aloft,” Oregon News, May 2010). This is a lot of plastic going out into anywhere — forest, rivers, lakes, oceans — that can severely damage wildlife.
I know the idea sounded good to give a biblical message to those who might find the balloon, but needs to be reconsidered in view of good earth stewardship.
—Yvonne Stratton, College Place, Wash.

Beware The Lord of the Rings
In the article “The Next Step” by Steve Vistaunet (Let’s Talk, June 2010), the author quotes from The Lord of the Rings. This was quite unsettling to me and my husband. We don’t believe that our church should be dealing with books such as this, especially not in official publications, but also in any other capacity. It seems to me that there are many other books with much better content that the author could have chosen to make his point.
—Rebecca Swanston, Vancouver, Wash.

A Second to the Motion
I am an avid reader of the GLEANER and enjoy most of the articles. Even if I have a small disagreement, I do not always sit down and dash off a letter regarding the point in question. Today I felt different. I felt that I was being asked to accept something not to the standards of our profession of faith.
The first and last paragraphs of your article make reference to a trilogy: The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien. The books and movies of the same title are classic science fiction works of the great adversary of Christ. Having only returned to the church four years ago after an absence of forty-some years, and during that period of time being a fan of science fiction and of the movies generated by Hollywood in regards to this genre, I know of the pitfalls to be avoided in what is read and watched.
These are not the books or movies that Seventh-day Adventists should be encouraged to read or watch. This is what really bothers me. Others may make the assumption that if you have quoted from this source, then it is all right for them to follow your perceived lead. Much is written in the books of Ellen White in regards to quality entertainment and that which should be avoided. Being the excellent writer you are, could you not have opened and closed with a quote from the Scriptures or Mrs. White and still made the same point?
—Bill Gillaspy, White City, Ore.

GLEANER responds: We agree that Scripture and the inspired counsel of Ellen White are primary sources. Our intent here was to use an interesting illustration some readers (who may have learned to tune out the more traditional sources) would identify with. Along with music and diet, where some see black and white and others see gray, perhaps this is an area in which we can extend to each other a generous helping of Christian grace. Even our Lord used a fictional fantasy of the rich man and Lazarus as a creative illustration, and it has created theological debate ever since! We encourage each GLEANER reader to apply his or her own conscience to the good counsel we have as Adventists and to Paul’s advice in Philippians 4:8: “Whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely and of good report, if there is any virtue ... think on these things.”
“I think computer viruses should count as life. I think it says something about human nature that the only form of life we have created so far is purely destructive. We’ve created life in our own image.”

— Stephen Hawking

Stephen Hawking, celebrated English cosmologist, may not subscribe to a biblical view of the universe, but he shows a contemporary understanding that, in time, image reveals the heart. When God said, “Let us make man in our image” (Gen. 1:26), He was not speaking of a mere physical likeness. He breathed something special into our spirit that no other living creature can claim. Physically we are inferior to many other mammals. But God’s image adds a spiritual and relational dimension shared by no other creature. Unfortunately, we, over the millennia, have turned image into an external façade. “Image is everything,” some have claimed. Yet a plethora of recent examples from the corporate, financial and political world show how quickly an outward image dissolves when there is no inner value supporting it. We have a name for people with a lot of image but no corresponding values: hypocrites.

Integrity is Not Image
And that’s where integrity comes in. The word “integrity” finds origin in the Latin adjective integer, “whole” or “complete.” The ideal image for which God created us is a unity of the outer appearance with the inner spirit. It’s like the structure of a well-engineered bridge or airplane, with every individual element integral to the integrity and strength we all depend on for safety. Integrity is the opposite of hypocrisy. “Yes, but who’s perfect?” you respond, citing Paul’s example. In his famous diatribe against his own nature, the apostle exclaimed, “For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.”

Integrity is Not Performance
Yet nearly every element of society we can imagine hinges on the ideal of integrity and trust. Good stewardship demands it. And that involves recognizing how dependent some of us have become on image — and how dishonest we have become in our efforts to maintain it.

A friend once confided, “I am so tired of trying to be perfect in front of my family and my wife. I feel like I’m on stage all the time.” Too many Adventists are on this dead-end road, but God’s plan of wholeness and integrity is something very different than outward performance.

Integrity is Not Perfection
At first glance, the familiar description of David as a “man after God’s own heart,” doesn’t seem to match the call for integrity. Look at the hypocrisy of his dealings with Bathsheba and her unfortunate husband. The key here for David is honesty when confronted with his sins. That is what our Maker looks for — not perfection. He knows we don’t have it in us. Perfection is found only in Him. The very first broken relationship on this world resulted in Adam and Eve trying to hide from God. So all down through the ages,
He's been seeking those who are willing to come to Him as they are, with honest hearts. He knows the performance issues of many Adventists are killing them slowly. It's why He says to us today, “Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me ... and you will find rest for your souls.”

A Recent Example
Big-league baseball umpire Jim Joyce was the goat of national headlines and online videos recently when his blown call took away a perfect game from a deserving young pitcher. Yet he publicly admitted his mistake and met with the player to apologize. A few days later, when ESPN confidentially asked 100 active baseball players to pick the three top umpires in the league, Joyce was named on 53 percent of the surveys, with the next highest umpire at 34 percent. In spite of his mistake — and because of his honesty — he will be remembered far longer than most.

Mistakes? Yes. Honesty? Always. Those are found in people of integrity.
So, when linked to the values of heaven, honesty is the price of integrity. When we make a mistake, we admit it and claim God's Spirit to help us move on, to learn from the process. Only then can we begin to see that image grows from integrity, not the other way around. Only then can our image reveal that we are, like David, “after God's own heart.”

Quick Thoughts on Integrity
Character, in the long run, is the decisive factor in the life of an individual and of nations alike.

Theodore Roosevelt

An excellent man, like precious metal, is in every way invariable; a villain, like the beams of a balance, is always varying, upwards and downwards.

John Locke

Position does not make the man. It is the integrity of character, the spirit of Christ, that makes him thankful, unselfish, without partiality and without hypocrisy — it is this that is of value with God.

Ellen White

Behavior is the mirror in which everyone shows their image.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Your life is shaped by the end you live for. You are made in the image of what you desire.

Thomas Merton

Don't worry so much about your self-esteem. Worry more about your character. Integrity is its own reward.

Laura Schlessinger

Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth. Do the right thing because it is right. These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity.

W. Clement Stone

The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Romans 13:13, NKJV
Cuando Dios dice, “mi palabra... no volverá a mí vacía, sino que hará lo que yo quiero, y será prosperada en aquello para que la envié” (Isaías 55:11), nos está diciendo principalmente que su palabra tiene un propósito definido, tiene poder, y que es confiable.

Durante el mes de Mayo la Iglesia de Gresham llevó a cabo una campaña evangélica titulada “Eventos Finales” que fue conducida por el pastor local. Entre las visitas que nos acompañaron estuvo Alberto Ramos, quien asistió casi a todas las reuniones. Alberto conoce nuestra iglesia desde hace más de diez años, y ha asistido a varias campañas evangélicas. Aceptaba de buena gana los temas que escuchaba, pero cuando se presentaba el Sábado como el verdadero día de reposo, él sencillamente no lo aceptaba. Decía que para el mundo cristiano el Domingo es el día de adoración. Sus años como miembro de la Iglesia Bautista, así como su estudio disciplinado y sincero lo habían convertido en un conocedor de las Escrituras, pero “el Sábado” era algo que él no podía aceptar. En la segunda noche de reunión tuvo la oportunidad de escuchar una vez más sobre el Sábado desde una perspectiva escatológica, y en contraste con la marca de la bestia. El título de esa presentación fue “El Sellamiento”. Esa noche el Pastor Khalebb Ramírez hizo un llamado invitando a todas las visitas a aceptar la verdad bíblica del Sábado como el sello de Dios, y señal distintiva del verdadero pueblo de Dios. Alberto fue el primero en ponerse de pie, y pasar al frente. En los diez años que había estado asistiendo a las campañas evangélicas de la Iglesia Adventista nunca se había puesto de pie al escuchar un llamado, porque no quería identificarse con la iglesia que guarda el Sábado, aunque estaba de acuerdo con casi todas nuestras doctrinas. El hermano Bernardo Ventura, quien es el que siempre lo ha invitado a las conferencias, dijo: “No lo puedo creer, él nunca se ha puesto de pie en un llamado, estoy muy sorprendido”.

Esa semana Alberto regresó a su Iglesia (Bautista) y les comunicó que dejaba su puesto como tesorero de iglesia porque había encontrado la verdad y deseaba unirse a la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día. Al concluir la campaña Alberto fue aceptado en la Iglesia de Gresham por profesión de fe. Desde ese día Alberto viene cada Sábado a su nueva iglesia acompañado de algún familiar o miembro de la Iglesia Bautista. Desde hace tiempo él se está reuniendo para estudiar la Biblia en casa de una familia que pertenece a la Iglesia Adventista; la semana pasada, Alberto nos dijo que en esas reuniones de estudio él ahora está compartiendo la verdad acerca del Sábado. Alabamos a Dios por su palabra y por el ministerio poderoso de su Santo Espíritu. El Señor dijo, “mi palabra... no volverá a mí vacía...” y en la iglesia de Gresham lo hemos comprobado.

Khalebb Ramirez, Pastor de la Iglesia de Gresham, Oregon
Native Health Gospel Television Goes Digital in Alaska

On April 28, Ephraim Palmero, Alaska Conference communication director, signed an agreement with KACN-TV to broadcast a minimum of two hours of video programs from selected Adventist media sources each weekday. KACN-TV is the leading channel in Alaska, broadcasting native productions and other informational shows of interest to the arctic communities.

“The Native New Health broadcast materials are the most superior in content and quality that I have seen and broadcast here at KACN-TV, I am thankful that your church has produced this series,” says Dan Etulain, KACN-TV Alaska president.

The primary focus of the programming will be health-related as well as other native community awareness issues that would be of interest to potential viewers. With funding help from an anonymous donor, the Alaska Conference has chosen the KACN-TV network as a conduit of its ministries and to convey the message of health reform and civic matters. Alaska is demographically and culturally diverse with a vast frontier to be covered with digital broadcasting. This was an important consideration in the choice of venue for reaching the 200-plus villages throughout Alaska’s arctic.

KACN-TV can be viewed on GCI and Mat-Su Cable Channel 95 and on GCI Statewide Cable Channel 1.

Ephraim Palmero, Alaska Conference communication director

Alaska Couples Rekindle Intimacy

The North American Division Family Ministries, led by Willie and Elaine Oliver, conducted the first Journey Toward Intimacy Marriage Retreat in Alaska, held at the Palmer Church on June 5. The weekend retreat took 32 couples on a journey to discover, or re-discover, God’s plan for oneness in marriage — the intimacy they desired and hoped for when they first married. Willie says, “As couples, we must fight against the natural drift toward growing apart, which leads to loneliness and isolation in marriage; husbands and wives can be intimate friends, lovers and allies for a lifetime.”

Unexpected and overbooked late registrations caused attendees to squeeze into the church multipurpose room, but allowed participants to learn new techniques in spousal communication and expressions. People who attended found the retreat helpful. “We are stimulated to be more sensitive in each other’s needs,” and “I need to improve my expression of affection to my spouse,” were some of the lingering comments after the weekend seminar.

Ephraim Palmero and Dan Etulain finalize the official agreement allowing the Alaska Conference to broadcast Adventist health programs on the KACN-TV network.

Robbie and Jasmine Teeling fill out the marriage survey during the Journey Toward Intimacy Marriage Retreat at the Palmer Church.

Ephraim Palmero

Alaska Conference women’s ministries and family ministries coordinated the retreat.
Treasure Valley Welcomes Messiah’s Mansion

Messiah’s Mansion, a full-size replica of the Mosaic Sanctuary, came to Caldwell, Idaho, in June, attracting more than 4,700 people.

When they first considered bringing the exhibit to Idaho, conference leaders wondered if the public would respond. Would busy people make the effort to visit? They decided to try, and arranged for Messiah’s Mansion to come during camp meeting.

Invitations were mailed to all Treasure Valley pastors, inviting them to a VIP tour. Posters were sent to churches advertising the eight-day display. Announcements were made on Christian radio and ads placed in the newspaper. Volunteers were recruited to help set up the mammoth display and others to guard it night and day. Lodging arrangements were made for the 15 tour guides, mostly college and academy students.

At last, all was ready. On opening day, 500 people came. Afterward they shared the extraordinary experience with their friends and encouraged them to come. As word spread, people came from as far away as Idaho Falls, a four-and-a-half-hour drive.

One excited guest called radio station KTSY and expressed her enthusiasm on the air: “Some people say, ‘why would you want to take in all that Old Testament stuff when we have Jesus?’ I say you understand Jesus more when you understand all that stuff.”

Several hundred people indicated an interest in more information about the sanctuary and Bible seminars.

Don Klinger, Idaho Conference communication director

Randy Maxwell Ordination
Recognizes Lifelong Ministry

Randy Maxwell, Kuna (Idaho) Church pastor, was ordained at Idaho Conference Camp Meeting on Sabbath afternoon, June 12. Maxwell’s passion for ministry began long before he became a pastor. His gift of writing, coupled with a desire to share the power of prayer, has made him a familiar name across the denomination. As founder of the If My People Pray ministry, Maxwell traveled widely while working in advertising at Pacific Press Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho.

Erv Furne, then Maxwell’s pastor at the Nampa Church, recognized and encouraged his ministry. When the Kuna Church was looking for a pastor, Maxwell was given the call. He and his wife, Suzette, accepted and became the pastoral couple in 2006.

Two of Maxwell’s mentors were present at his ordination. James Merideth, his pastor when the Maxwells were in Southern California, offered the ordination prayer, along with some history of Maxwell’s ministry commitment. Don Driver, retired pastor and a member of Maxwell’s congregation, gave the homily. Alphonso McCarthy of the North Pacific Union Conference joined local conference leaders Steve McPherson, Don Klinger, Ron Watts and Erv Furne as the Maxwells were set apart for ministry.

Maxwell’s ministry utilizes current technology to reach the community, but it is not a solo effort. Church members are engaged in ministry with their pastor.

Eve Rusk, Idaho Conference communication administrative assistant
This year’s Montana Camp Meeting was a spiritual blessing for all ages. The adults enjoyed Karl Haffner as the evening meeting speaker. His sense of humor engaged the audience in his thought-provoking talks about understanding, observing, receiving and practicing grace. During the day, camp meeting attendees enjoyed seminars by Paul Richardson, Don Hall and Gordon Botting. Richardson discussed how to reconnect with inactive church members, while Hall explained how easy healthy living can be. Botting tackled the topic of faith and finances. The morning devotionals centered around knowing God, His power and method of service and were given by Bill Tucker. “This camp meeting impressed upon us how much God loves us and how he has done everything for us in order for us to accept his salvation,” says John Loor Jr., Montana Conference president.

The children and youth divisions also enjoyed interesting speakers, programs and activities. The Youth division had the opportunity to hear Ken Rogers’ enlightening talks on living life abundantly. Earlyteens met with rescue and law enforcement personnel in their “Be a Lifesaver” camp meeting program. Juniors learned how to shine for Jesus with stories from Africa and the United States. Even the youngest divisions enjoyed special classes. “It’s Beary nice to be healthy and happy” was the theme in the Kindergarten class.

The theme of camp meeting, “Grace Beyond Measure,” was seen not only in the meetings, but through The King’s Herald’s performance Wednesday evening as well. It set the tone for many other musical performances throughout the week.

This year a clothing drive was added to camp meeting’s repertoire. Good-quality clothes were donated by attendees and then organized at the local elementary school gymnasium. Signs advertising free clothing were then stationed outside the school, inviting all, community members and camp meeting attendees, to come and take what they needed.

Every year at the Montana Camp Meeting stories abound of how people are blessed and find the love of God as never before. This year was certainly no exception.

Katy Meharry and Alix Harris, summer camp staff

Montana Christian Women’s Retreat

Brenda Walsh
“Out of Your Comfort Zone”
October 7–9, 2010
Fairmont Hot Springs, Montana

Friday night: Recipe for Faith
Sabbath: Divine Appointments
Vespers: Abandoned but Not Alone
Sunday: Opening Prison Doors

Email mc@montanaconference.org for registration form.
Finding One Thing
Milo Adventist Academy Students Choose Baptism

Milo Adventist Academy took its theme for the 2009-2010 school year from Psalm 27:4 — to seek one thing: a relationship with Jesus Christ that will last throughout eternity.

The joy of that theme came home to everyone at Milo the last two weekends of the school year. Two students, Raelyn Myers, from Ocean Park, Wash., and Cassy Clark, from Wrangell, Alaska, were baptized in the Umpqua River on May 22.

During the following graduation weekend, six seniors chose to seek one thing and follow Jesus. Melissa Owens, a three-year student from Fort Jones, Calif., chose to have her baptism Friday night after Consecration services, in the river. Richard Pearson, Milo custodian, crafted Swedish candles, logs burning from within, for light and warmth. Kim Bartholomew, a four-year student from Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, was rebaptized early Sabbath morning in a quiet celebration down at the river. Alisha Kirk from McMinnville, Ore., chose to be baptized in the baptistery during the Baccalaureate service.

Dawson “Sonny” Mitchell, a three-year student from Susanville, Calif., rejoiced with his parents down at the river Sabbath afternoon. Samantha Johnson, a two-year senior from Albany, Ore., was baptized during the parent tribute time in the baptistery of the Milo church.

The last baptism for this school year was the river rebaptism of Alyssa Talimao, from Scappoose, Ore., after the Class Night activities. Swedish candles again provided light and warmth. But the true light and warmth in the hearts of parents, staff and students at Milo came from knowing that eight students had chosen to truly seek one thing.

PAA Joins Forces During All-School Service Day

Portland Adventist Academy’s recent all-school service day helped to demonstrate the tangible love of Jesus to its community. More than 275 students, teachers, parents and pastors joined forces for a full day of service. They worked for organizations like Portland Rescue Mission, Adventist Medical Center, Love Inc., Loaves & Fishes, and more.

Participants did yard work and major cleaning projects, helped build wheelchair ramps, sorted and packaged food for street ministries, stacked firewood, and even helped a family move into a new home.

Parents and pastors not only volunteered their time, but they also brought along yard tools and even provided transportation for groups of students.

New to PAA this year, social studies teacher Tim Erich was impressed. “By the end of the day,” says Erich, “our group alone had collected three large bags of food and helped two widows with upkeep of their houses and yards. Although the point was to help these individuals in need, we know that we were blessed as well.”

This is the second year in a row that PAA has organized the service day, and it won’t be the last. “It was a real encouragement,” adds Erich, “that the one question our students were asked over and over again was, ‘when are you planning this again?’.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent
Give Me That Old-Time Religion

Evangelism is alive and well at the Vancouver (Wash.) Adventist Community Church. Throughout the course of his first year at the Vancouver Church, Roger Walter, senior pastor, has presented three evangelistic series — most recently a month-long series on the Prophecies and Puzzles of Revelation with Richard Halversen.

Fliers were sent to 130,000 local residents. Weeks in advance, church members met on Monday nights, praying for the Holy Spirit to impress community members with a desire to know more about Jesus and to attend the meetings. On opening night, more than 300 people were present.

Throughout the month, Halversen’s warm delivery kept average attendance at 180, even though a decline in numbers occurred after “decision-point” subjects, such as “The Sabbath” and “The Mark of the Beast.”

On Sabbath evenings, a light refreshment was provided, and potential members mingled with their new church family. It was amazing to see God at work throughout the church lobby.

On April 23, a special service of baptisms was held. One would have thought the gospel had just fallen on the outskirts of a foreign country visited by missionaries. It was evidence that the Holy Spirit had moved on hearts right here at home.

Each decision was unique: 23 baptisms and eight new members on profession of faith. Vancouver members saw God’s continued power in each of these precious souls who accepted Him as their Lord and Master.

Wayne Blakely, Vancouver Church communication director

Evangelism Flourishes in Central Point

Central Point (Ore.) Church members began their plans for this year’s evangelistic series early in 2009. They started with the most important element: Prayer, asking God to help them be a light in their neighborhood.

The church divided their community into 12 sections with a member in charge of each section. They began praying for each person represented by the homes within each section and passed out KBLN TV schedules throughout Central Point.

Handbills were mailed to every home in Central Point, and more than 500 handbills were distributed by hand as members personally invited people to come to the meetings.

The meetings, titled “Unlocking Revelation,” opened at the Central Point Church on Saturday night, April 24. During the entire series, George White, pastor, gave 16 PowerPoint presentations. Guests were also invited to attend additional Sabbath morning evangelistic presentations.

As a result of the meetings and additional baptismal classes, nine new Shady Point (Ore.) Church members, three SonRise Outreach (Ore.) members and nine Central Point members have been added to the Advent movement through baptism.

Central Point members praise God for each of the 21 people who were baptized in Jesus and feel blessed in their outreach work for Christ.

Lynell South, Central Point Church member, and George White, Central Point Church pastor
Forest Grove Celebrates 100 years

On March 13, the Forest Grove Church celebrated 100 years as an organized church in Forest Grove, Ore.

The Forest Grove Church was organized Feb. 5, 1910, with 14 members in a newly built facility at 1705 Cedar Street. The church building consisted of one large room used for adult Sabbath School and worship services, and two small rooms at the rear of the building for children’s classes. Near the entrance of the sanctuary was a potbelly stove that kept the church warm on cold days.

In May 1963, a three-acre parcel of land located on the corner of Pacific Avenue and Mountain View Lane was purchased from Ed Sye. Groundbreaking took place July 10, 1964, under the supervision of conference builder Merritt Crawford. After 10 months and many hours of volunteer labor, the new facility was completed. A consecration service was held May 22, 1965. Upon retirement of the land debt, the church’s dedication took place on April 18, 1970, under the direction of Pastor Elmer Unterseher.

Early in 1972, as the membership continued to expand, a second building program got underway with Frank Phillips, pastor, in charge. Larger rooms for the lower Sabbath School divisions were added as well as a Sabbath School secretary’s office, library, a large community service room and janitorial space. In 1974, under Phillips’ leadership, additional projects added a youth chapel, fellowship hall and kitchen.

Finishing touches were added under the direction of Gwennie Richardson, pastor from 1975–1978. In 2001, Glenn and Viola Walters generously offered to update the fellowship hall, kitchen and church exterior, as well as fund the addition of a chapel, recreation hall, restrooms and storage area. This work was completed, and the dedication took place on Jan. 24, 2004.

Bonnie Bolton, Forest Grove church history records compiler

Oregon Youth Serve in Kenya

March found Oregon students, two home school students and five students from Laurelwood Academy, serving Jesus in Kenya, Africa. They held children’s meetings, visiting and presenting programs for schools and orphanages. They gave out clothes and toys. They initiated construction on the New Life Kisii Church. They learned a lot about Africa and its culture and hope to raise additional funds to finish what they started.

Beth Boram, Cottage Grove Church member
CHIP Program Blesses Coquille

From March 28–April 22, Coquille (Ore.) Church members Kathy Saunders, registered dietitian, and her husband, Greg, surgeon, conducted a Coronary Health Improvement Project seminar at the church. The Coquille Valley Hospital co-sponsored this four-night-a-week CHIP seminar, which drew nearly 40 participants from both the church and the community. Each night featured a full vegan meal; a series of recorded lectures by Hans Diehl, Lifestyle Medicine Institute director; and personalized counseling. Health screens were done at the beginning and end of the series. The Saunders encouraged dynamic exercise and dietary lifestyle improvements, and gave a cookbook and recipe sheets to each student. Many local church members helped out with food, hosting tables, and set up and clean up. They made new friends at each beautifully decorated table.

John Bishop, a table host and diabetic, reported, “I would recommend this program to others because of the dramatic changes in my life. My level of insulin usage dropped by 66 percent; my energy level increased; my overall cholesterol dropped by 33 percent; I lost 10 pounds and two and a half inches off my waist.” Herb Kramer, another table host, said, “These classes gave me opportunities to make new friendships with local people and to share Bible truths with them.” One participant exclaimed, “Why haven’t we known these things years ago? We need to get the entire community involved in this!”

Betty Kramer, Coquille Church public relations secretary

Participants of the CHIP seminar at the Coquille Church enjoy a full vegan meal.

Greg Saunders, surgeon, conducts a portion of the recent CHIP seminar.
Pathfinder Fair Attracts Record Attendance

Pathfinders, 829 strong, set up camp on the campus of Walla Walla Valley Academy, in College Place, Wash., May 14–16, for a weekend of fun activities, community service and spiritual growth. The annual Pathfinder Fair is the grand finale of the year’s activities for 34 Pathfinder clubs around the Upper Columbia Conference.

Known around the world for marching, uniforms, camping and honor patches, Pathfinders is often perceived as just a fun activity for grade school children. But for Pathfinders in UCC, it is much more than that.

“The most impressionable age for kids is between 10 and 12 years old,” says Wayne Hicks, UCC Pathfinder director. “We had 68 requests for baptism this year. But even after that decision is made, Pathfinder clubs continue to disciple young people in leadership skills and community outreach all the way into academy and adulthood.”

At the fair each year, many teen Pathfinders receive the Teen Pathfinder of the Year Award by reaching participation requirements and completing certain devotional or Bible reading assignment during the year. At this year's Pathfinder Fair, 79 youth earned the award.

Amanda Johnson, a senior at Upper Columbia Academy, received the award for the sixth year in a row. “I've been doing Pathfinders forever since my mom is a director, but one year I saw a teen Pathfinder receive the award for their sixth time and I was impressed. I leaned over to my mom and said, ‘Mom, someday I'm going to do that.’”

Throughout the weekend of the fair, Pathfinders have many opportunities to use their talents to glorify God and witness to others. This year, Pathfinders helped collect canned food for the Blue Mountain Area Community Food Bank in Walla Walla, Wash. Each club was assigned a section of town and asked to go door to door requesting a few nonperishable items for the food bank. In just a few hours, nearly 8,000 pounds of food was collected.

Gail McGhee, food bank director, was amazed. “Those young people should be commended for their efforts,” she says. “It is a huge boost for us as well as our clients. The community was very generous, and I know it has a lot to do with the way the youth presented themselves at the door.”

“Figuring about 1 pound per can, that’s just 10 cans for each staff and Pathfinder attending. Awesome!”

Jon Dalrymple, UCC communication assistant

Nearly 830 Pathfinders registered for the annual Pathfinder Fair this year — the largest number ever in Upper Columbia Conference history.

Wayne Hicks, UCC Pathfinder director, reads the names of the 79 Pathfinders who received the Teen Pathfinder of the Year Award this year.
Adventists gathered on the Walla Walla University campus from across the Northwest for a two-day convocation, June 18–19. The Share the Life Camp Meeting, put on by Upper Columbia Conference, is over, but the memory is far from gone.

The weekend theme, “Share the Life,” focused on full commitment to Christ and His cause. Speakers, including Ty Gibson and Bill McClendon, encouraged those attending to be active participants in God’s last-day work.

A highlight of the weekend focused attention on front-line gospel workers from around Upper Columbia Conference, including Bible worker coordinators and magabook colporteurs. Friday evening, during the Share the Life evangelism hour, Dave Livermore and Steve Rogers interviewed several about their outreach efforts. It was exciting to hear how God is working in people’s hearts.

Sabbath afternoon was a historic moment as more than 150 singers and musicians took to the University Church platform for a concert with the Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus. The OAMC was joined by 60 men from the Romanian Adventist Men’s Chorus.

The concert touched many hearts. One concert-goer said, “The men’s chorus was almost more than I could endure emotionally, short of falling on my knees right there and pleading for Jesus to come SOON!”

Following camp meeting and additional performances in the Portland-Vancouver area, the combined men’s choir headed to Atlanta, Ga., to perform at the General Conference session.

This year marks a transition for the UCC Camp Meeting. This annual event, geared to focus members on the mission of the church, is scheduled to move to Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash., next year, June 15–18. Mark Finley will be the main evening speaker. More details will be available online at uccsda.org/campmeeting.

Jay Wintermeyer, UCC communication director
What’s New at UCA

Upper Columbia Academy will start its 2010–2011 school year with some exciting innovations and great new staff.

**TIP** — UCA leadership has voted a landmark decision in hopes of making Adventist education affordable for more students. The Tuition Incentive Program will reduce tuition each successive year a student attends. The first year is full price. The second and third years come with 20 percent and 30 percent reductions. Four-year seniors pay only 50 percent, so one year is essentially free.

**One-on-One Laptops** — For the first time, UCA will ensure that every student has a uniform set of tools by providing them a laptop. Assignments may be turned in, checked and returned electronically, saving paper and printing costs. Robust safeguards still give students access to necessary research sites, while blocking inappropriate pages.

**Fresh Eyes Committee** — Because UCA desires excellence, a committee of business- and management-oriented friends of the school have been invited to evaluate the campus with “fresh eyes,” and recommend any improvements to the board and administration. This idea comes at the suggestion of Bob Folkenberg Jr., board chairman.

**Staff Transitions** — In addition to several in-house adjustments, alumni Sidney Hardy, ’95, and Bob Lenz, ’03, are returning to UCA in a new capacity. Hardy will be teaching Bible and history while Lenz heads the IT department. Also joining the staff is Kyle Gladling, teaching math.

Katie Torkelsen Spoo, UCA GLEANER correspondent

Pasco Teen Leaders Help Kick Off New Adventurer Club

Twenty-five energized kids, awesome teen leaders and God’s prompting describe the kick-off event for the new Adventurer Club at Pasco (Wash.) Riverview Church on Sabbath, April 17.

After Pathfinder leaders Larry and Suzanne Swisher approached Teddy Shupe, pastor, about their desire to begin an Adventurer program, the church board gave the club its full support and some seed money to buy curriculum materials and supplies. After a month of advertising, 10 families with Adventurer-age children showed up at the church. Five parents and two church members signed up to help organize the new club, which they hope to begin sometime in the fall.

Valarie Young, newly designated Riverview Adventurer director, worked with Suzanne Swisher and Darla Shupe to incorporate 10 teen Pathfinders into the planning, organization and presentation of a traditional Adventurer meeting for all the children who attended the informational meeting with their parents. Pathfinder teen leaders Amanda Birney, Erik Brunken, Ben and Jessica Gow-Lee, Caleb Lenz, Kirsten Rasmussen, Chanel Scotson, Talea and Shayla Shupe, and Solana Young led songs, taught Bible lessons, played games and worked on Little Lamb, Eager Beaver and Adventurer awards during the two-hour meeting. The teens also set up and cleaned up after the potluck supper and the children’s meeting.

The new Adventurer Club will be named Takoda, the Sioux word that means “friend to everyone.” Jesus was a friend to everyone, and that is what the new Adventurer club hopes to instill in its young members: Jesus’ way of doing business.

Valarie Young, Adventurer Club director
Ping-Pong Evangelism
A Share the Life Story

Every Sabbath afternoon, Joel and Nicole Haywood, Bible worker coordinators in Deer Park, Wash., hold a fundamental belief study for anyone interested. The meeting wraps up at sundown, and people pull out the ping-pong tables and light supper snacks.

“We really didn’t plan it as an outreach event, it just kind of grew out of our Sabbath afternoon gatherings,” says Nicole.

Several Bible study contacts have been invited to attend the event and are enjoying the fellowship.

The ping-pong night has had some unexpected results.

A young man who didn’t know anyone at the church saw people playing ping-pong through the windows. He came in and asked if he could join. He’s been attending now for about a month.

“The study and playtime is a great opportunity to mingle with the people and show them we aren’t a scary group,” says Nicole. “We didn’t plan it, but God has turned it into an outreach.”

This is just another example of a lifestyle of evangelism. No matter what we do, when we’re surrendered to God, He can use us to reach others for Him.

Jay Wintermeyer, UCC communication director

Chewelah Hispanic Group Gains Visitors

A group of Hispanic Adventist families have united with the Gospel Commission to initiate a new gathering of believers: Grupo Adventista del Séptimo Día de Chewelah.

When several families came to northeastern Washington from different parts of the country, they realized that there was no Hispanic work being done.

The closest Hispanic outreach was about two hours away in Spokane, Wash., so these eager believers sought the Lord in prayer. They visited with conference leaders who arranged for the group to settle in the Chewelah Church as an affiliate Sabbath School. The Hispanic group is active today, and they meet in the fellowship hall for a spiritual meal every Sabbath in their native tongue. But it gets even better. Visitors are already attending regularly, delighted to learn about God every week and hear the counsel in all areas of life, such as health, nutrition, spiritual growth and well-being.

The Chewelah group is excited about the possibilities that God has for them as they labor together to hasten the soon coming of their Lord. They are eager to share with everyone in the area about the hope of salvation and the everlasting truths of the gospel.

Pedro Naranjo, Chewelah Church elder
Chandler Ordained to Gospel Ministry

With offers of full architecture scholarships, Damian Chandler had a choice to make: to follow in his father’s footsteps or to follow after his Heavenly Father.

As he prayerfully made his decision, Chandler remembered observing how his parents planted a church in their home after moving from Barbados to New Jersey and considered his own involvement in various facets of ministry. Before long, he was studying theology at Oakwood College.

He joined Washington Conference in 2001 as a youth pastor at Emerald City (Wash.) Community Adventist Church where he founded Impact Youth Ministries to help urban youth share their faith. He finished his seminary studies in December 2008 and returned to pastor the Maranatha and Love of Life churches.

In early May, family, friends, colleagues and conference officials gathered for Chandler’s ordination to worldwide gospel ministry. Ordination for ministry comes after undergraduate studies, placement in ministry, advanced studies, first district assignment and an ordination review.

“He is a fine Christian young man, one who loves God, his family and his churches God gave him to lead, in that order,” says Eugene Lewis, Washington Conference regional affairs director and Chandler’s mentor.

Chandler’s family and colleagues challenged him to be an authentic and spiritual leader and a good husband and father. Chandler and his wife, Tanzy, have two children, Zoe and Salem.

Kent Church Celebrates Unity and Diversity

Kent (Wash.) Church is a multicultural congregation. Guests often ask: “How do you pull this diversity thing off?”

“It wasn’t something we were trying to pull off,” says Greg Schaller, pastor.

“We are just united in purpose and we encourage a diversity of people’s gifts and personalities.”

Schaller believes the Holy Spirit was involved in bringing together the people from all parts of the globe to Kent’s growing congregation.

To celebrate their diverse heritage, Kent Church declared April 10 to be International Day and asked everyone to come in traditional dress from their country of ancestry.

More than 20 countries were represented during this day of celebration, including Korea, Nigeria, Norway, Samoa, Kenya, the Philippines, Mexico, China and Uganda.

Members brought favorite ethnic dishes for potluck, from Swedish crepes with lingonberries to taro casserole.

The church listened to prayers and music in native tongues. After Pedro Ramos, Kent Church member, sang, he reminded the audience that they should all learn Spanish.

“That’s what we’re all going to be speaking in heaven,” Ramos says.

From uniting in purpose, to encouraging diversity, to celebrating community, International Day brought out the best of Kent Church.

Sally Herigstad, Kent Church communication leader
Winlock Women Cultivate Community Relationships

Women’s ministry in Winlock, Wash., recently hosted a Tea and Praise luncheon for the surrounding community.

Sue Patzer, North Pacific Union Conference women’s ministries director, provided the keynote address. Three students from Lewis County Adventist School shared their musical talents.

“All stories begin with ‘once upon a time,’” says Patzer. “No matter what happens in the chapters that follow, the life story of a Christian ends with ‘and they lived happily ever after.’ This is not only our hope, it is our blessed assurance.”

Guests included ladies from other church denominations, as well as other local Adventist churches. Guests particularly liked Patzer’s talk where she showed family photos.

The community outreach activity for women generated many positive comments and allowed for new friendships to be cultivated.

Susan Paladeni, Winlock Church member

Lacey Hosts Depression Recovery Program

Lacey (Wash.) Church recently completed a Depression Recovery Program led by Edward P. Case, a psychiatrist, and his father, Ronald L. Case, a retired allergist. In all, 32 people completed the program.

Participants shared their appreciation with comments such as “I learned to smile again,” or “The Holy Spirit sent this program at just the right time for me.” Participants also liked the holistic approach, which discussed the awareness of critical or negative thoughts, adding exercise each week, decreasing meat intake, recognizing “twisted” thinking and listening to classical music to overcome depression.

Evening sessions paired Neil Nedley’s Depression Recovery DVD with small discussion groups. Adventist health care professionals — Mirna Serby, Richard Faiola, Kevin Fedak, Theresa Johnson, Charles Richert and others — moderated all discussion groups.

“Having these health professionals donate their time to a life-improving community service for over eight weeks contributed to the success of this program,” say program leaders. Participants reported that the course opened their eyes to the causes of depression.

“The class brought out a lot of good ideas on things a person can do to help themselves physically and mentally to overcome depression and achieve peak mental health,” says one attendee.

“The Depression Recovery program pushed me to a better diet,” says another person. “It helped me deal with issues in a more effective and positive manner.”

As one participant concludes, “This program helped me trust more fully in God and to let Him take over my life — and leave the worry to Him.”

Health professionals in Lacey hope to offer this program again next January to further meet the needs of their community.

Joan Case, Lacey Church Nedley Depression Recovery Program administrative assistant
Kirklan Adventist School and Puget Sound Adventist Academy in Kirkland, Wash., share a campus and a passion for helping others locally and abroad. Throughout the school year, students learned how to “become part of the solution” in actively reaching out to individuals who need a hand, are homeless, in nursing homes, are hungry, tired or discouraged. Community projects included gift baskets, visitation, fundraising, food distribution, clean-up projects and much more.

Kirkland elementary students raised more than $800 for Children of the Nations, a national organization that feeds and educates the poorest children in the world, to send 3,320 meals to destitute children in Haiti.

After watching a series of videos from the Invisible Children organization, Puget Sound Adventist Academy students wanted to help Ugandan children who were abducted and forced to become child soldiers. PSAA students decided to conduct a phone-a-thon, distribute pamphlets, set up an auction, turn their spring banquet into a fundraising event, purchase special T-shirts and make personal donations to help support the effort to end abuse of Ugandan children.

“The project really opened my eyes,” says Jasper Anderson, student body president. “Sometimes we think our childhoods were rough, but we don’t really have it so bad. Being involved with the Invisible Children project has inspired me to go and make a difference in my world.”

Linda Taber, KAS and PSAA principal

May 21 dawned cloudy and cold as Skagit Adventist School and Academy students prepared to ride their bikes to school in celebration of National Bike to Work Day. Students as close as across the street and as far as 14 miles away chose a healthier, more environmentally friendly way to travel to school by pedaling or walking for the day.

Adults volunteered to act as escorts, following maps and picking up students from one place to the next, while other students rode on their own, until all arrived safely at school. As 67 students who participated in the program arrived at school, cheers greeted them from the growing crowd of students, teachers, parents, grandparents and church members who had all taken part in the event.

Some students who lived too far away had their parents park a few blocks away, then completed the last part of their journey to school on bicycles. Though the rain held off, it remained cold for the whole ride.

Bike to School Day was a huge success, and Skagit Adventist School and Academy looks forward to making this an annual event.

Matthew Lee, Skagit Adventist Academy teacher

Nearly 70 students from Skagit Adventist School and Academy in Burlington, Wash., celebrate Bike to School Day.
The Walla Walla University automotive program has three years to learn as much as they can about a Toyota Camry Hybrid currently in their possession. The prototype car was given to the department on a three-year loan by the Toyota Motor Company.

The deal was made when a strong supporter of WWU put Rob Holm, assistant professor of technology, in touch with Andrew Coetzee, Toyota/Lexus senior vice president. Up to that point, Holm was borrowing a vehicle from Walla Walla Community College for use in his Alternative Fuels and Hybrids labs.

“It was terribly inconvenient,” says Holm, “since we had to return it at the end of the day.”

Though many vehicles from different manufacturers are donated to technician training programs across the country, WWU is somewhat unique because it is not affiliated with any manufacturer.

“With this vehicle, students will get hands-on experience with premier hybrid drive systems available today and can utilize the other body electronics systems for testing, diagnosis and educational purposes,” says Holm. “This means we’ll be taking it apart to see how it works, putting it back together so it functions normally and putting ‘bugs’ in the vehicle for the students to get practical experience in their diagnostic abilities.”

Hybrids are a fast-growing part of the automobile market. Though they have been available for a relatively short time, they have been on the roads long enough to begin needing service and repair.

“Many shops and technicians shy away from hybrids because of the high voltage and extreme computer integration,” explains Holm. “Giving our students experience on them will put them in a more leveraged position when they apply for jobs after college.”

Part of Holm’s graduate work at Purdue University involved updating his curriculum to include hybrid systems. As a result, Holm wrote new coursework for some of his classes, and the addition of the Toyota Hybrid gives him the opportunity to implement his recent hybrid training.

“I’m delighted to give my students the opportunity to learn on a modern hybrid car with current technology,” says Holm. “It is in large part due to the support of individuals and companies such as these that our graduates are so well prepared for their careers and are performing at extremely high levels.”

Becky St. Clair, WWU GLEANER correspondent

The university’s auto-tech program, which last year acquired a dynamometer for more effective vehicle testing, now has a Toyota Hybrid for use in educating future auto technicians in repair and maintenance of these high-tech vehicles.

Toyota has sold more than 2 million Hybrids, reducing global CO2 emissions by 11 million tons. WWU is glad to be able to provide its students with opportunities to learn more about the vehicles inspiring this growing trend.

Becky St. Clair, WWU GLEANER correspondent

Do You Know Someone on Our Dean’s List?

Science in the Summer

Basketball Player Given National Award

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The Best of the Best

The 34th Annual Regional Convocation

Record crowds of more than 2,000 from throughout the Northwest and Canada defied a sluggish economy to attend the 34th Annual North Pacific Union Conference Regional Convocation held May 13–16 at Camp Berachah in Auburn, Wash. Those who came represented a majority of African-American believers, but members from many different cultures were in strong evidence throughout each meeting.

With a theme of “Giving Hope to a World in Need,” the gathering focused on a strong Bible work program and lay evangelism training. The spiritual tone for the weekend was set by Washington Johnson II, Message magazine editor. Keynote speaker Jesse Wilson, Oakwood University associate professor of religion, galvanized the audience, not only in his main presentations Friday evening and Sabbath morning, but also in evangelism workshops. Colin Dunbar, Upper Columbia Conference pastor, also provided extensive Bible worker training. Another seminar leader, Cheryl Shaw, Emerald City (Seattle, Wash.) Church member, serves as executive director of the Puget Sound Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation. She was gratified to see many attend her seminar on health and healing.

Aside from the energetic programs for children and youth, one area of special growth this year was in the young adult attendance. Delroy and Dilys Brooks, who led both the youth and young adult groups, saw nearly 150 crowd into the young adults meeting hall, which had been transformed into a comfortable café-style room with couches and other props. This
Northwest News

Alphonso McCarthy presents special tribute to Marcia and George Hocker.

Bryon Dulan, Washington Conference personal ministries director, honors Rayford and Margie Woods for their leadership in the Inner City Better Living symposium throughout the NPUC.

Three generations of the Semakula family: Gladys Semakula (right) along with her daughter, Katherine, and granddaughter, Victoria, make their way from the Sabbath morning worship service.

George and Marcia Hocker, and Rayford and Margie Woods, for their inspirational leadership.

Convocation attendees pack into the Hillside Lodge for early-morning worship.

Young people from the Pasco Ephesus Church share during the Sabbath afternoon youth program.

Music with the award-winning Alan Woodson and his Mount Rubidoux Praise Team from Southern California and singer Kali Wilder kept the audience on the edge of their seats or standing tall.

Convocation organizers Alphonso McCarthy, NPUC vice president for regional affairs; Patric Parris, McCarthy’s administrative assistant; and Bryon Dulan, Washington Conference personal ministries director, gave special recognition this year to the late Alex Fuka, reflecting continued growth in this age range during the past three years.

McCarthy says the annual convocation continues to be a valuable and growing “spiritual resource full of inspiration, training and fellowship.” He adds, “This year people kept saying ‘this was the best of the best!’”

Steve Vistaunet, NPUC assistant to the president for communication
When you think of a hospital, you know you can expect it to be focused on physical and mental well-being. As an Adventist Health hospital, Tillamook County General Hospital aims to be just as attentive to the spiritual side of the healing process.

Eric Swanson, Emergency Medical Services director, found a way to address spiritual care before patients even get to the hospital. In Tillamook County, unlike most areas, TCGH is the sole ambulance service provider, one way of giving back to the community. Swanson developed spiritual care guidelines that are used by emergency medical technicians in the field.

The outline helps the emergency responders know how to approach a patient or family members about their personal belief system, determine their spiritual needs and proceed appropriately, such as with prayer or spiritual referral to a chaplain or local clergy.

TCGH’s mission of spiritual healing is strengthened not only in this local involvement but also internationally. During the three months following the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti, three medical teams from the hospital traveled to the ravaged island with medication and supplies to provide first aid and critical care. Rex Parsons, hospitalist, Matthew Turney, emergency department physician, and Larry Hamilton, nursing supervisor, led the first team in January. Gene McColgin, emergency department physician, followed with a group in February, and Parsons returned with a team of four other hospital employees in late March.

“We treated everyone from day-old babies to 80-year-old women and everything from bronchitis to infected amputations,” says Parsons. “They lacked simple things like clean water, toilets, vitamins and basic antibiotics. Just having access to better water would solve a majority of their problems.”

Parsons and the first team arrived in Port au Prince 10 days after the earthquake. They set up a clinic in one of the many camps where displaced and injured people gather, and in one week they helped more than 1,500 people.

On Parsons’ return trip in late March, conditions had improved slightly. Tents provided shelter, better sanitation was in place and the water supply had improved.

“We were only in that area for two days,” recalls Parsons. “We saw half the people, and they were only half as sick. The degree of need in Haiti is so large that you wonder if it could ever be fixed in a lifetime,” he adds. “But the long-term solution for Haiti is literacy and education.”

Both McColgin and Parsons plan to visit Haiti next year to continue medical outreach. TCGH staff members have participated in many mission and medical outreach trips to more than 25 countries all around the globe. Countries served in recent years include Haiti, India, Iraq, Mexico, Indonesia, Brazil, the Philippines and South Africa.

Michael D. Steingas, TCGH development and marketing intern
Altman 60th
Sam and Peggy Altman celebrated their 60th anniversary with their family at a garden reception in Puyallup, Wash. Sam and Peggy met on a blind date the evening of Peggy’s nursing graduation from Emanuel Hospital in Portland, Ore. Six weeks later they were married at the courthouse on June 24, 1950. They had a second wedding at Peggy’s parents’ home in Rogue River, Ore., on Sept. 17, 1950.

Sam studied at Walla Walla College and Milwaukee School of Engineering. He worked for The Boeing Company in manufacturing and testing airplanes until his retirement in 1987. Peggy worked as a nurse in Renton, Puyallup and Des Moines and for many years at Faith Home in Tacoma, Wash. The Altmans were baptized at the Renton Church in 1952 and later were members of the Auburn City Church. They were charter members of the Federal Way Church and raised their four children there. In later years, they joined the Greenlake Community Church in Seattle, Wash., and are now again members of the Federal Way Church.

Sam and Peggy have the gift of hospitality. They have opened their home to many foster babies, children, teens and adults over the years, providing a loving, warm and accepting home. Their children attended Adventist schools and are active in area churches.

The Altman family includes Denise and John McGhee of Auburn, Wash.; Jon Altman of Auburn; Alan and Suzzy Altman of Puyallup, Wash.; Laurie and Richard Turner of Burien, Wash.; 11 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Bakke 100th
Martena Bakke celebrated her 100th birthday on April 18, 2010, with family and friends at a reception in her honor, hosted by her daughters.

Martena Thompson was born April 19, 1910, to a German/Danish farm family in Colman, S.D. She was the fourth child with eight siblings. Graduating from Plainview Academy, Redfield, S.D., in 1929, she married her academy sweetheart, Marvin Bakke, on March 2, 1930. Their first home was in Lemmon, S.D., where Marvin taught school for two years. In 1936, the Bakkes moved from South Dakota to the Mt. Hood area east of Portland, Ore., where they resided most of their married life. Martena was active in the Sandy (Ore.) Church as the clerk for many years. Her working years included several years of teaching denominational elementary school prior to her position of laundry crew supervisor at Portland Sanitarium and Hospital, where she retired in 1975 after 20 years.

After retirement she enjoyed visiting family and traveling abroad to 21 countries. She also enjoyed gardening and making quilts, hundreds of them, for the Sandy Community Services to be given to those in need. Each summer her baby quilts were a sale item at the Dorcas Boutique during Oregon Conference Camp Meeting.

In 2003, Martena moved from Sandy, after 62 years, to Curlew, Wash., to be with family. In October 2009, she moved into her daughter’s home.

Martena’s family includes Joyce Goldsborough of Curlew, Wash.; Dale and Darlene Clark of Curlew; Dorothy Van Geystel of Republic, Wash.; 7 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Jacobsen 90th
Thelma Trude Hackett Jacobsen celebrated her 90th birthday on Feb. 28, 2010, with a reception hosted by her daughters in Portland, Ore.

Thelma May Leffel was born Feb. 25, 1920, in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. Her family moved to New York when she was two. She attended Atlantic Union College.

Her family includes Linda and Andy Mayer of Roseburg, Ore.; Debbie Trude of Roseburg; and a grandchild.

Miller 50th
Harley and Sharon Miller celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 17, 2010, with their family and friends at an open house celebration hosted by their children at Woodland Estates Retirement Center, in Chehalis, Wash.

Harley D. Miller met Sharon E. Smith on Dec. 17, 1959. After graduation, they worked in Alaska and Minnesota. Harley has been in medical practice at Steck Medical Center in Chehalis since 1967.

Harley and Sharon are active with various responsibilities in the Chehalis Church and enjoy participating in annual mission trips with Maranatha.

The Miller family includes Marti Miller-Hall of Puyallup, Wash.; Kellie Hall of Jackson-ville, Fla.; Carrie and Doug Bixel of Renton, Wash.; Jennifer Sarthou of Renton; Tara Miller of Eagle River, Alaska; Rachel Miller of Seattle, Wash.; and 7 grandchildren.

Smith 90th
Dolores E. Smith celebrated her 90th birthday on Jan. 3, 2010, with lunch and cake in Milton-Freewater, Ore.


Her family includes husband W. Dean Smith of Milton-Freewater; children, Kenny A. Smith of Pomeroay, Wash.; Deena and Harvey Hochstetter of Sequim, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

WEDDINGS

MARIE-HADLEY — Tammy Marie and Jeffery Hadley were married March 7, 2010, in Baker City, Ore., where they are making their home. Tammy is the daughter of Tillie and Don Merritt. Jeffery is the son of Buell and Barbara Hadley.

STILES-BRANNOON — Rani Stiles and Frank Brannon were married April 17, 2010, in College Place, Wash., where they are making their home. Rani is the daughter of Eugene and Helen (Hauselt) Stiles (both deceased). Frank is the son of James and Mary Lou (Arney) Brannon.

WATERS-FOWLER — Allison Waters and Alexander Fowler were married May 31, 2010, in Kalispell, Mont. They are making their home in Wenatchee, Wash. Allison is the daughter of Tom and Alane (Hinkle) Waters. Alexander is the son of Ron Mori and Katie Marie Byrd.


CHILSON — Jerry Louise, 74; born April 12, 1935, Tacoma Park, Md.; died April 7, 2010, Walton, Ore.


HEIN — Clifford J., 88; born March 8, 1922, Enid, Okla.; died April 26, 2010, Winchester, Ore. Surviving: wife, Alma (Olsen); sons, James, Roseburg, Ore.; George A., Enaguera, Spain; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.


LAMBERTON — I. Bernice (Wall), 91; born Sept. 29, 1918, Macrorie, Saskatchewan, Canada; died April 3, 2010, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving:


REINKE — Oma Joyce (Sherman), 89; born Nov. 2, 1920, Mankato, Minn.; died April 27, 2010, Billings, Mont. Surviving: son, Denny, Billings; daughter, Cheryl Jellison, Davenport, Wash.; and 6 grandchildren.


SONNENTAG — B. Jean (Stillwell), 85; born Sept. 1, 1925, Marshland, Wis.; died April 10, 2010, Milton-Freewater, Ore. Surviving: husband, Jake, College Place, Wash.; son, Peter, Fernwood, Idaho; daughter, Pamela Chatley, College Place; brother, Dennis, Gresham, Ore.; 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.


Carpenter — Josiah Enoch was born March 15, 2010, to Jim and Frances (Glenn) Carpenter, Shedd, Ore.


Eaton — Leah Sharon was born April 21, 2010, to Levi and Cindy (Leno) Eaton, Meridian, Idaho.

Fowler — Kynley Kay was born May 28, 2010, to Trent and Tara (Hickman) Fowler, Walla Walla, Wash.

Hanson — Warren Asher was born March 2, 2010, to Matt and Katie (Sportsman) Hanson, Tumwater, Wash.
North Pacific Union Conference

**Offering**
- Aug. 7 — Local Church Budget; Aug. 14 — World Budget: Oakwood College/Andrews University/Loma Linda University*
- Aug. 21 — Local Church Budget; Aug. 28 — Local Conference Advance
  *Special Materials Provided

**Special Days**
- Curriculum Focus for the Month — Spiritual Gifts+
  Aug. 28 — Abuse Prevention 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.

Walla Walla University

Aug. 15 — Billings Campus Masters Hooding Ceremony.

Aug. 29 — Join WWU alumni for a Seattle Mariners vs. the Minnesota Twins game at Safeco Field. Seats are limited, so book early. Register online at alumni.wallawalla.edu or call 800-377-2586.

NW Chip Leadership Training Workshop

Oct. 7-10 — A Coronary Health Improvement Project Leadership Training Workshop will be conducted Oct. 7-10 at Sunset Lake Camp, 30811 Quinon Rd., Wilkeson, WA. The CHIP program features 16 video lectures addressing chronic medical problems, including overweight, high blood pressure, diabetes, osteoporosis, elevated cholesterol and heart disease. This workshop prepares church teams to present this powerful video-based health ministry outreach that is changing lives and making friends for the church and citizens for the Kingdom. Weekend activities begin with check-in Thursday at 3 p.m. and end on Sunday at 1 p.m. For full information and registration, go to www.sdachip.org/workshops.html, e-mail info@adventistchip.org, or call 503-257-4883.

Oregon

2010 CHIP program at Mt. Tabor Church

The free information and registration sessions will be Sept. 2, 8 and 9, at 7 p.m. Those wishing to participate in the program will need to attend one of these sessions prior to the starting date of Sept. 12. These will be held at Mt. Tabor Church Community Life Center, 1001 S.E. 60th Ave., Portland, OR. For more information, call 971-275-3163 or e-mail mttaborchip@yahoo.com. Brochures are available on request.

Oregon Conference Church Missing members

The Oregon Conference Church is looking for the following people: Marla Gladden, Cece Gould, Leza Gribionkin, Louise Gribionkin, Theodore Hagle, Bonnie M. Hall, Alvin Hamlin Jr., Kevin Hathaway, Julia Hayes, Christopher Hesse, Jackie Hicks, Yvonne Hicks, Laura Hoover, April Hoyt and Christina Johnsen. If you have any information about these people, please call 503-850-3571, e-mail maryjane.zollbrecht@oc.npuc.org or write Conference Clerk, 19800 Oatfield Rd., Gladstone, OR 97027.

Washington

Rosario Alumni Sabbath

Aug. 27-28 — Join Walla Walla University alumni and speaker Carl Wilkins for a weekend of relaxation at the Rosario Marine Station in Anacortes, Wash. Register online at alumni.wallawalla.edu or call 800-377-2586.

WWU Seattle Alumni

Aug. 29 — Join fellow Walla Walla University alumni for a Seattle Mariners game on Sunday at 1:10 p.m. when they play the Minnesota Twins at Safeco Field.

GLEANER • August 2010
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Oil in Our Lamps

“I rapidly developed a first-name friendship at the local hardware store, which saw its profits soar heavenward upon my weekly visits for additional cases of oil.”

When just a lad, I was perplexed by phrases I often heard sung in church meetings, such as, “Make me a fisher of men, keep me sinking.” At least that’s how it sounded to my young ears. And: “Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.” The song seemed happy enough, but sinking and burning were not desirable to me. I figured the oil was at fault — a suspicion reinforced throughout my formative years.

There was the unfortunate year our family bought a used ’57 Plymouth Fury. It was red and white with gigantic fins and a darkly delinquent attitude. It gave sporadic indications of impending doom, but the end came abruptly during an aborted vacation. The first hints were roiling clouds of blue smoke. Long before the invention of personal GPS units, one could stand on a Seattle hill and track our family’s progress throughout the city by the smoke trail. Benevolent souls pulled up beside us, pointing frantically toward the tailpipe — vain attempts at intervention. The end came abruptly on a hill descending into Madras, Ore., when the engine uttered its death rattle and the transmission ground to a halt with a few final forlorn puffs.

You’d think, then, when college-bound years later, I would have been savvy of the double-knit suit who persuaded me to become the legal owner of a 1974 Chevy Vega. He sold me on its sleek metallic gold exterior and fabulous black virgin vinyl upholstery. He skipped over the lack of air conditioning and the disturbing tendency of the aluminum engine to soak up oil like a sponge. So, within months, I rapidly developed a first-name friendship at the local hardware store, which saw its profits soar heavenward upon my weekly visits for additional cases of oil. My bright, shiny, gold Vega used gas by the quart — oil by the gallon.

The Bible speaks of oil in a more productive sense, which, of course, that old chorus had been trying to tell me all along. It was a vital component in the golden candlesticks of the sanctuary; it was a necessary ingredient for the widow of Zarephath and her boy; it was the most precious and sought-after commodity of ten virgins who awaited the bridegroom.

But beyond the stories, reality encompasses us who now await the Bridegroom foretold by Jesus’ parable. The Bible metaphorically uses oil to represent the Holy Spirit. We don’t have to buy it from BP — it’s a free gift, offered to us without measure.

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We need God’s oil. We need it to keep burning. If our light has gone dim or even gone out; if our faith has run dry; if our courage has run cold ... we need it. We need Him.

“Lord, give us oil in our lamps, we pray. Keep us burning till the break of day.”

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