You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

Psalm 63:1 (NIV)

“Alvord Desert” in Oregon by Mary Lane Anderson of Forest Grove, Oregon.
“I wish there were some wonderful place called the Land of Beginning Again, where all our mistakes, all our heartaches and all of our poor selfish grief could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door, and never be put on again.”

I don’t know who said those words — they were in an old church newsletter I came across recently. But they effectively describe what each new year brings: a land of beginning again. Practically everyone makes a list of resolutions at the beginning of each new year, an inventory of what we would like to do better or different in days to come.

Even though this new year is already a month old, it would be very good for each of us to take inventory in our lives. Let’s see where we fall short spiritually and then resolve to press forward in the strength Christ gives us to prepare our hearts and lives for His soon coming.

Ellen White made a similar new year appeal. “A new year has commenced. What has been the record of the past year in your Christian life? How stands your record in heaven? I entreat you to make an unreserved surrender to God. Have your hearts been divided? Give them wholly to the Lord now. Make a different life history the coming year from that of the past. Humble your souls before God. ‘Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.’ Put away all pretense and affectation. Act your simple, natural self. Be truthful in every thought and word and deed, and ‘in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.’

Ever remember that the moral nature needs to be braced with constant watchfulness and prayer. As long as you look to Christ, you are safe; but the moment you think of your sacrifices and difficulties, and begin to sympathize with and pet yourself, you lose your trust in God and are in great peril.” Ellen White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 4, p. 521.


It’s not too late to find the Land of Beginning Again. Most of this new year still awaits like a clean piece of paper, with nothing yet written. On it you can compose a tragedy or a triumph. It is up to you.
**Northwest Pastor is New It Is Written Speaker**

John Bradshaw, 43, most recently the Village Church (College Place, Washington) senior pastor, has begun his new role as director and speaker for *It Is Written*. This replaces Shawn Boonstra, who stepped down for personal health reasons. Bradshaw has broad experience in evangelism and broadcasting. He has been an Adventist pastor for 15 years and has held more than 80 evangelistic series, both in the U.S. and abroad. “He has natural, God-given talents that make him an excellent fit for [the] *It Is Written* team, and a warm, Christ-like manner that immediately pulls you in to his experience with Jesus,” says Boonstra.

**Heritage Singers’ Reunion Draws Overflow Crowd**

More than 2,000 eager Northwest fans packed into the New Hope Community Church in Portland, Oregon, on Saturday evening, December 4, 2010. They came to enjoy what may only happen once — a reunion concert with the Heritage Singers and the original Rose City Singers as sponsored by the GLEANER. It was also a celebration of the 40-year journey of faith for Max and Lucy Mace who spoke about their first Heritage concert in Yakima, Washington, in 1971. “An Evening in December,” as it was entitled, was coordinated by Cindy Chamberlin, GLEANER managing editor, and hosted by Dale Galusha, Pacific Press president.

**New Book by NW Authors on Domestic Abuse**

*No More Excuses*, a new release from AdventSource, is a 250-page book authored by Drs. Mable and Colin Dunbar. The Dunbars are longtime leaders in the Northwest and beyond for developing resources to help abuse victims. The book outlines a clear theology for understanding the impact of domestic violence in the church and ways for pastors, elders and church leaders to appropriately, biblically and honorably intervene. More information is available online at www.adventsource.org.
Rude Remnant Take 3

I agree that Seventh-day Adventists can be blunt and rude (Let’s Talk, December GLEANER). I have been on the receiving end of that many times. As I was thinking about this, the Lord reminded me that I haven’t always handled situations tactfully, especially when dealing with school-age young people. How I wish I would learn to ask God for His response FIRST before I open my mouth.

Yvonne Tooley, Grants Pass, Oregon.

Showing Our True Colors

As you so poignantly wrote in your timely article (Let’s Talk, January GLEANER), we have chosen to imitate the world so much that we have lost our edge. I even appreciate the Ellen White statement regarding breaking away “from the customs and bondage of society.” Didn’t our God expect His people to maintain a distinction from the world, not so they would be weird but so that they would point the way to Him who is the Truth?

Bruce Biggs, Caldwell, Idaho.

An Issue and An Oops!

Every GLEANER is a blessing ... we’ve been appreciative, avid readers of each issue since moving to the Northwest in 1979. I hurt because you’ve been shamed, accused of “lack of judgment” and “sensationalizing” a story and for publishing news of a “WWVA Graduate Accepted into West Point” (Letters, January GLEANER). What better a place might a fine young Adventist be? Like Esther, it’s quite possible he has been called to West Point for such a time as this!

Also, in the Oregon “Comings and Goings” insert for the months of December and January, David Schmidt is listed as Pastor of the Grand Ronde and Sheridan churches. With a smile on my face, I’ll withhold my hurt feelings if in the February GLEANER, you will also list Pastor Schmidt as OUR PASTOR at River’s Edge Company in McMinnville, Oregon, along with the other two — a responsibility of these three churches he’s assumed for several months now.

Richard Williams, McMinnville, Oregon.

GLEANER responds: Our thanks to resolute readers like the Williams! The item about Pastor Schmidt was part of a separate insert within the GLEANER designed and provided by the Oregon Conference. We are certain they did not intend to slight the fine group at River’s Edge.

FROM THE GLEANER ARCHIVES

Can You Tell Us Where This Is?

This month we’re asking GLEANER readers: Can you tell us where this photo was taken? One possible clue is: It was an Adventist academy in the Northwest. If you think you know, join the discussion of possible places on the GLEANER Blog at gleaneronline.org — you just might be in the running for a prize. By the way, take note of the short tie worn over the sweater vest!
Jim represents a lot of us. We’re willing to sacrifice for the cause of God — but not for the whim of bureaucracy. So we really want to know: When the envelope disappears into the maw of our church’s structure, where does it go? What does it do? And who decides? If tithe collected here in the Northwest (see Figure 1) isn’t used for ministry we can measure, what in the world is it good for? Let’s answer some of the basic questions about tithe.

**What do we use tithe for?**

Following general guidelines initiated by Ellen White’s early counsel, the church earmarks tithe primarily to support the preaching, pastoral, evangelistic work of ministers and Bible teachers. In addition, because Adventist schools are an ongoing ministry to students, tithe funds are used to subsidize selected administrative salaries and a percentage of salaries for teachers. Tithe provides for the support of local, union, division and General Conference services which facilitate ministry. Tithe is not used to purchase property, build churches or fund the general operations of churches or schools, since churches and schools have other means of raising money such as offerings and special project donations.

“It’s not that I don’t want to pay tithe,” Jim exclaimed. “It’s just that when I drop the envelope into the plate I have no idea where it goes!”
Why can’t the tithe just stay with the local church?

It provides support for your local church through the funding of your pastor(s). But, throughout most of its history, the Adventist Church has not used a “congregational” model for its structure. In other words — broader policies and procedures are determined not by the local church but by a representative body of the church at large. The world church has voted repeatedly to continue the plan that flows tithe funds globally. Throughout the years, this worldview of our church’s mission has enabled membership to expand from a North American base in a crescendo of global growth — something Ellen White encouraged. She wrote that the “work of faithfully bringing in all the tithes, would supply laborers for both home and foreign missions.”

When the envelope disappears into the maw of our church’s structure, where does it go? What does it do? And, who decides? If tithe collected here in the Northwest isn’t used for ministry we can measure, what in the world is it good for?

So when I drop my tithe envelope into the plate, where does it go?

Any local conference or church offerings you put in stay local, whereas tithe begins a carefully thought-out but complex journey. First, your local church treasurer sends all tithe funds to the local conference which then starts a chain reaction, (see Figure 2). Keep in mind our figures here are approximate:

1) The local conference retains about 64 percent for its own region, including pastoral salaries;

2) It sends 9 percent to the North Pacific Union Conference for ministry throughout the Northwest, plus another 25 percent to be passed on by the NPUC to the North American Division;

3) The NPUC passes on the 25 percent, with 8 percent going to the NAD, 8 percent going to the General Conference for the world church budget, a little more than 7 percent going to continue funding the defined benefit retirement plan for elderly retirees and nearly 3 percent for health-plan coverage for those retirees;
4) A final slice of nearly 1 percent is sent to the NAD for a special assistance fund to help local conferences that have a low-tithe per-capita ratio or low membership — in the NPUC it’s Alaska and Montana — as well as to assist a portion of Northwest ethnic work.

**So all the local conference gets is 64 percent of the tithe?**

Actually, they receive much more than that. For instance, while the NPUC also forwards funds to the NAD and GC for retirement and medical coverage, it uses 60 percent of all tithe funds from local conferences to support Northwest ministry. Those retained funds in 2009 amounted to around $4.6 million and a significant portion didn’t stay at the NPUC. In fact, $2.4 million were distributed as Northwest appropriations — including nearly $1 million to Walla Walla University and $330,000 in direct appropriations to local conferences, including subsidies for ministerial interns. Those same NPUC appropriations also included $335,000 to help ensure financial accountability in the form of auditing services for conferences and academies. Local conferences pay only 25 percent of the auditing costs for their offices and senior academies because the NPUC covers 25 percent and the remaining 50 percent is provided by the NAD.

“Our church has a plan that many have envied — sending funds to areas and needs that may not win a popularity contest, but are nonetheless essential. It’s an equitable plan that seeks to share available resources from areas that have much to those that have little.”
So, when all is said and done, some conferences receive back a significant portion of what they initially sent on to the NPUC, NAD and GC in the form of tithe.

**Wouldn’t it be better if each member could dictate how their tithe is used?**

Our church has a plan that many have envied — sharing surplus resources where there are few; sending funds to areas and needs that may not win a popularity contest, but are nonetheless essential. It’s an equitable plan that seeks to share available resources from areas that have much to those that have little. God has provided worldwide growth because of the willingness of Adventist members in North America to give according to what we used to call “disinterested benevolence” — giving without regard for what we personally get back.

And, don’t forget, if your local church is registered with the Adventist Giving online resource, you can electronically send your tithe as you would do any similar electronic banking. And, it integrates into the system as if you dropped your tithe envelope into the plate at your local church.

1. Suplen necesidades. Una de las necesidades básicas del ser humano es sentirse querido y valorado. Cuando vamos al grupo pequeño, podemos recibir y demostrar amor en un ambiente de confianza y honestidad. Podemos proveer para el que no tiene, y suplir más efectivamente sus necesidades espirituales, físicas y emocionales.

2. Construyen puentes. En este mundo que vivimos, muchas personas tienen prejuicios contra la religión y contra cualquier iglesia que no sea la de su familia. Cuando invitamos a personas a un grupo pequeño en un hogar, es más fácil que acepten la invitación, que si los invitamos directamente a la iglesia. De esta manera podemos construir puentes con ellos, quienes necesitan de Dios y al mismo tiempo necesitan tiempo para desarrollar relaciones que resulten en decisiones positivas hacia el mensaje Adventista.

3. Desarrollan líderes. En el grupo pequeño se puede aprender en un ambiente con menos presión a usar nuestros talentos. El mismo puede servir como una escuela o taller de desarrollo donde pulimos nuestros dones de servicio, enseñanza, intercesión y liderazgo. Personalmente he visto a varias personas que ahora son buenos líderes en nuestra iglesia desarrollar sus dones por primera vez en un grupo pequeño. Yo pienso que si puedes dirigir un grupo pequeño con éxito, estarás preparado para casi cualquier otra cosa que puedas experimentar como líder en la iglesia.

En el año 2009, como preparación a la NET 2009 con el pastor Ramón Canals, se usó un material en nuestra unión llamado “MILAGRO.” Este fue seguido por “DISCIPULO” en el 2010, y ahora en el 2011 tenemos la oportunidad de estudiar el fascinante libro de Apocalipsis con un material llamado “REVELACION.” Este estudio toma el libro de Apocalipsis y lo trae al siglo XXI. Con lecciones prácticas, relevantes y espirituales busca desarrollar las tres características mencionadas arriba. El material de “REVELACION” fue compuesto por varios pastores, coordinadores y administradores de nuestra unión. Te invito a comenzar, reavivar o unirte a un Grupo Pequeño en este año, para recibir grandes bendiciones.

Nota: Si estas interesado en el material, contacta a tu coordinador local o llama al 503-380-8252.

Roger Hernandez, Coordinador de la Conferencia de Oregón
Sitka Church Reaches Out to the Community

Many months before October 2010 plans had been laid for an evangelistic outreach to the city of Sitka, Alaska’s fifth-largest city. Believing in reaching out to the city, the Sitka Church did several activities prior to the meetings.

The Sitka Church hosted a gospel sing and people from many denominations attended the musical feast. God was glorified in song and praise and afterward there was a social in the fellowship hall.

The church also sponsored a marriage seminar weekend and invited the local community to attend, which several community members did.

Sitka Church then advertised a gospel concert which was attended by more members of the community.

October came with great anticipation of the evangelistic thrust the city was going to receive. The fliers about the meetings were passed out for church members to give to friends and family. The entire city received a mass mailing about the upcoming event.

Richard Halversen, accompanied by his wife, Mary, was the guest evangelist. Night after night he presented the precious truths about God and His end-time message. Many souls heard those messages and asked questions about what they were hearing. Some even commented they had never heard these messages in other churches.

It is quite clear there are many seeking for truth in these last days, looking for meaning in a world that is falling apart. There are people searching for this message and we as a church must lift high the Adventist message to our communities.

Through their outreach and evangelistic series, the Sitka Church received five new people into membership.

As God’s people, we must keep spreading the Good News about Revelation 14:6, 7: “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.’”

Many seeds have been planted; the cycle of evangelism must be shared with all God’s children.

Stephen Evenson, Juneau/Sitka district pastor
Journey to Bethlehem
Attracts Huge Crowd

Members of the Meridian (Idaho) Church worked extremely hard for several months in preparation for the Journey to Bethlehem pageant which ran Dec. 11–12. The event has been staged for a number of years, but this time, with a renewed vision for connecting with community members. The church opened participation to anyone who wanted to be involved. As a result, many people came from a variety of denominations. With the new focus and nearly 100 participants, it was truly an event for the community — by the community.

Don and Audrey Rice, Meridian Church members, coordinated and directed the event, which included building nine booths and setting up two tents, a hotel and a manger scene. Irene Willis coordinated a group of seamstresses who made more than 60 costumes. Weekly rehearsals took place amid costume fittings and to the sound of music from a group of Messianic-Jewish dancers, practicing for their role. The cast also included several four-legged stars: a camel, a donkey, a sheep and several goats.

Personal invitations were sent out to all Bible-study interests, campaign interests, and hundreds of people who enjoyed Messiah’s Mansion earlier last summer. Tammy DeWeerd, Meridian mayor, added her support and sent out notices to all the churches in Meridian.

“It was incredible to watch how unchurched community members connected with Meridian members,” says Michael Pearson, pastor. “One of the volunteers who helped with set construction has requested baptism.”

In all, nearly 1,000 visitors enjoyed the Journey to Bethlehem.

Karen Pearson, Meridian Church communication leader

Which is More Fun — Competition or Teamwork?

When Gem State Adventist Academy students were at Camp Ida-Haven in McCall, Idaho, for the first two days of school, the student association officers organized an outreach project at the state-owned land across the road from the camp. In the past that land had great hiking and horseback riding trails but a few years ago the area was logged and the trails were ruined.

Student association officers looked at the situation and decided it was a great opportunity to build school spirit while benefiting the community. Each class — freshman, sophomore, junior and senior — was given a section of land and told to pile the logs and sticks from that section into a large pile. At the end, the class with the largest pile would be the winner.

The students went to work with enthusiasm, each class determined to create the largest pile. Some of the logs were 30- and 40-feet long. Students could be heard calling to one another for help. In some cases, every member of the class was needed to haul a log to the pile.

As the seniors were placing the last log on their pile, one of them noticed that the freshmen were struggling. With 16 girls and three boys, they just couldn’t compete. “Hey, let’s go help the freshmen!” a senior shouted. And off they all went, grabbing sticks and logs to help the freshmen build their pile.

By the end there were four good-sized piles. The area was ready for the foresters to come in and burn. Gem State classes were tightly bonded and a great spirit of camaraderie pervaded through the entire student body.

Linda Klinger, GSAA GLEANER correspondent
Missoula’s Amazing Maze

What could a struggling church school do to stir up interest in a community that hardly knew it was there? How could it impact its neighborhood with a service building bridges and creating opportunities to witness? These were among the questions asked by school-board members of Mountain View Elementary School in Missoula, Mont., as they prayerfully wrestled with the challenge of impacting their community for Christ.

One unique solution came in a young couple’s innovative idea to use the school’s property to create a hay maze. The first event was constructed during the fall of 2009.

This past fall, thousands of people from Missoula and surrounding areas visited the school. They came to get lost in Montana’s best corn and hay bale maze created from 600 large hay bales and a cornfield.

The visitors used self-guided tour sheets and answered questions to find clues to the right path. There were questions on castle architecture, medieval life, and even the Bible. What was the first book to be printed on a printing press? It wasn’t The Swiss Family Robinson. If you chose that answer, you found yourself in a dead end.

With almost a mile of pathways to navigate, the maze took most people 20–40 minutes to solve. Everyone had their favorite maze feature with several to choose from. There was the observation deck for the bird’s eye view, the tunnel, the reverse spiral and the hurricane spiral — the most challenging spot in the maze. Everyone got lost there, including Earl Ellingson, maze creator and an elder of the Missoula Church.

While at Colorado State University, Ellingson and his wife, Christina, visited a corn maze. After moving to Missoula and discovering the closest maze was more than an hour away (and haunted for the Halloween season) Ellingson dreamed of providing an alternative fun fall activity for families.

In 2009, the maze saw 3,700 visitors. In 2010, with the sunny October weather, 1,300 people came out on one Sunday alone. Children and adults alike usually emerged from the maze smiling and laughing. Then they raced over the obstacle course or went to the petting zoo to enjoy goats, rabbits, chickens, sheep and ponies. Numerous school classes, birthday parties, Girl Scout troops and other groups visited and played. The total number of visitors for the season this year was 10,600.

And they all now know just where to find the local Adventist school.

Alvara C. Sauza, Missoula Church pastor

Earl and Christina Ellingson excitedly help their church and school. Earl, a local veterinarian, also serves as a church elder.

An aerial view shows the complex hay bale arrangements on the Mountain View Elementary School campus in Missoula, Mont.
Southern Oregon Pathfinders Participate in Christmas Parade


The annual Christmas parade is held the first Saturday night in December. This year the weather forecast predicted rain, but by parade time the overcast skies were dry. Nancy Starr, from the Milo Mustangs Pathfinder Club, was really thankful it didn’t rain. “It was great for the kids to get out there and share their faith, as a witness, being in a Pathfinder club,” she says.

The Grants Pass Pathfinder Club brought their Pathfinder fair float as one of the requirements for the new parade honor. Rachel Ermshar, a Pathfinder from the club, says, “It was a whole lot of fun. I’m glad we get to do this every year. I’m really proud of our club and drill team.”

There were record numbers along the streets as entries paraded up 6th Street. Anna Ermshar, a Pathfinder from the Grants Pass Club says, “At the end of the parade the crowd was thick.”

After the parade the clubs met at the Grants Pass Adventist School for soup and games. Pathfinder bingo was a hit as were the games in the gym.

Sharon Coupland, Grants Pass Church clerk

A New Church and New Pastor

In early January 2010 a hard freeze broke the overhead plumbing inside the Sutherlin (Ore.) Church. A huge amount of water poured into the church foyer and classrooms before the break was discovered several days later. Needless to say, church members had a great deal of repair work to complete. Several weeks before the disaster, the Lord had sent a new pastor, Rocky Gale, to Sutherlin and he guided members through cleanup and repairs.

Most of the labor for the cleanup project came from volunteer church members. Everyone became involved in doing what they could to help out. Some of the older women provided meals for work crews. After the foyer and classrooms were finished, the decision was made to replace the 10-year-old carpet in the sanctuary. Then, since everything was dismantled anyway, the church decided to do some much-needed remodeling. Remodeling included replacing older windows to match newer additions, repairing the platform and adding new siding to the outside of the building.

The Lord blessed the project, graciously providing for the church’s needs when it came to the finances involved for the undertaking. Today, church members have a beautiful new building in which to worship.

This project, began with disaster, has done much to draw members together as a warm and loving family of God.

Malinda Crisp, Sutherlin Church communication leader
Christmas Boxes from the Williams Church

Christmas boxes were filled with food on Dec. 14, 2010, at the Williams Church in Williams, Ore. Altogether 48 boxes were distributed, and eight others were given gift certificates because their names had come in too late to get the boxes.

Donna Linebaugh, Dorcas leader, did most of the work of buying food and organizing the job. Helping her with the project were Willard Regester, Gloria Kutz and Lois Rowe. Much of the food was discounted by various businesses in town.

Lois Rowe, Williams Church treasurer

ELL Religion Curriculum Created by Retired PAA Legend

Jim Robertson, a retired Portland (Ore.) Adventist Academy teacher for 34 years, recently completed a curriculum designed specifically for students learning the English language. Through this, he is leaving a legacy to students and educators alike.

The name Jesus is new to most of PAA’s English Language Learner students. “PAA is their first introduction to the Bible and Christianity,” says Les Zollbrecht, PAA religion teacher. It is an added struggle for religion teachers to teach abstract concepts to students who are not fluent in English. Because of this the Oregon Conference commissioned Robertson to develop a curriculum for the unique needs of ELL teachers and their students.

This school year, PAA’s 23 ELL students were the first to use the curriculum. Because their English skills are limited, lessons incorporate a lot of hands-on learning. “I wanted them to use as many learning intelligences as possible,” says Robertson. “So we have them acting out charades and drawing cartoons of the stories.”

And it’s working. “I am understanding and remembering the Bible stories better,” says Yoon Suh Park, second-year ELL student. “My favorite stories are about Abraham and Sarah because they had to go to a foreign place.”

But they’re not just learning stories. “We’re explaining to these kids who Jesus is and what Christianity is about,” says Robertson. “The curriculum explains why our school does what it does; why we have chapel every week and why we do community service.” The curriculum also goes on to explain denominations and the unique practices of the Adventist church, like keeping the Sabbath and the state of the dead.

“The project turned out to be a nice bookend after a career of teaching Bible,” says Robertson. “It’s emotionally satisfying to know that my emphasis on grace and relationship with Christ will continue on through this curriculum and, in a way, I will continue teaching.”

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

Rebecca Kim shows a drawing of the creation story in Genesis.

Pictured here from left are: Jim Robertson, Yoon Suh Park and Les Zollbrecht looking over the ELL curriculum.
Columbia Give a Divergence of Musical Gifts

Columbia Adventist Academy in Battle Ground, Wash., thanked the community for supporting them generously throughout their recent capital campaign by gifting them with music over the Christmas season.

Through CAA consultants Westby and Associates, a partnership was formed with Michael Kissinger, Bravo! Vancouver (Wash.) director. Then, thanks to an anonymous donor, Bravo! Vancouver, a 60-voice chorale; Washington Chamber Orchestra members; and guest soloists performed Handel’s “Messiah” at the Meadow Glade Church on Dec. 12. Community members were welcomed by CAA seniors greeting them, ushering them to their seats, and the CAA handbell choir performing seasonal songs. Guests were also welcomed by Matthew Butte, CAA principal; Rick Bowes, Meadow Glade Church senior pastor; and Mike Ciraulo, Battle Ground mayor. “The Messiah” was performed in its entirety to a filled sanctuary.

Following the concert, a candlelight path directed guests to a reception in CAA’s new building, where the seniors served drinks and seasonal goodies. The handbell choir again contributed to the ambiance, after spending intermission sharing “random acts of music” at the local Fred Meyer, Safeway and Taco Bell. (See the video on YouTube or use your mobile device app to access it directly via the Microsoft tag on the left.)

“The evening was a huge success,” Butte says. “We are glad that after all the gifts we have received, we were able to share this gift with so many of our community members and supporters. We hope they realize how greatly they are appreciated.”

Larry Hiday, CAA GLEANER correspondent

Molalla Thanksgiving Outreach

Community Service women at the Molalla (Ore.) Church, with help from church members, provided Thanksgiving baskets for nearly 50 families this year. Boxes were put together for families having one to nine people. Names were acquired through the Molalla Food Bank. The church took a deep breath after finishing the food boxes. Then Cindy Hepler, head deaconess, heard area churches were planning to host a Thanksgiving dinner for the community and thought it would be great for the Adventist Church to furnish desserts for the meal. Members knew several hundred had been fed on previous years but had no idea how many to plan for this year. In all, 12 Molalla members served, nearly 200 people. Needless to say, the Molalla Church had a lot of desserts left for their own fellowship dinner — thanks to a wonderful response from members. The leftover food provided by participating churches was taken to local shelters.

Helen Shreve, Molalla Church communication leader
Seminar on Prayer and Meditation ‘Pushed’ at East Salem

East Salem (Ore.) Church members received a recent “push” by Lenard Jaecks, pastor, introducing his new two-part seminar on prayer and meditation. Jaecks strode into the sanctuary behind a wheelbarrow, rolling to the front of the room, and telling the group that “…a plan needs to be pushed that brings prayer and meditation into the busy, information-filled lives we lead today.”

Jaecks demonstrated the Breath Prayer Fellowship Plan — how to fit prayer into small portions of time during the day — by simply having a plan involving Bible texts along with short prayers (breath prayers). That way individuals can be in distinctive contact with the Lord many times daily.

Lois Roberts, East Salem Church member, says, “Breath prayers have provided the needed focus for daily communication with God. Revisiting my chosen thought often during the day has been a real blessing.”

Daniel Fish, fellow church member, gives an example of how breath prayers have worked in his life. “The biblical breath prayer plan is a powerful portal through which I give the Holy Spirit permission to enter my mind,” he says. “When He enters He leads me to other lessons of Biblical truth.”

Jaecks is the retired president of the Washington Conference. He also served on the North American Division Prayer and Revival Committee. He and his wife are members of East Salem.

Silverton Church Celebrates Evangelistic Success

What could the Silverton (Ore.) Community Church hope from an evangelistic campaign in an artsy town, with a population of 10,000, hosting at least 20 different denominational churches? The answer rested with God as Jim Reinking, elder from Spokane, Wash., began meetings Sept. 11, 2010. By closing night, Oct. 23, seven people committed to membership through baptism or profession of faith. An eighth person, a church elder, was overjoyed to commit to his Savior in this way. For many years before baptism, he had found very little spiritual meaning. Margaret, didn’t miss a meeting during the seven-weekend campaign. She previously attended but left for another church. She says, “Now I understand the Sabbath and what a joy it is!” Another attendee, an elderly man raising five grandchildren, remarks, “Now I have the true light.”

Great as the commitments to the faith were, other blessings were abundant as well. One was Steve and Monica who, with their three young children, attended nearly every evening to hear Reinking for a second time. “The first time around,” Monica says, “when we committed ourselves in baptism we were, as it were, responding to new information. This time it is so different — [it’s] almost like comfort food!”

East Salem members (from left) Ryan Murphy, Lois Roberts and Helen Palmer, stand with Lenard Jaecks (far right) at the Breath Prayer Seminar.

New Silverton (Ore.) Church members stand side by side in faith commitments. Elder Jim Reinking from Spokane, Wash., commenced seven weekend evangelistic meetings Sept. 11, 2010.

Enid Hands, Silverton Community Church communication leader
Four Little Towns of Bethlehem

In Yakima, Hermiston, Spokane and Wenatchee

What makes more than 12,700 people travel to Yakima, Wash.; Hermiston, Ore.; Spokane, Wash.; and Wenatchee, Wash., the first weekends of December? What causes nearly 700 people to dress in Bible costumes, become parking attendants, or hot chocolate servers? The migration to Spokane South Hill’s version of ancient Bethlehem has occurred for four years. Three years ago, Hermiston began their little town, two years ago Yakima commenced their story of Jesus’ birth and this year Wenatchee began. These productions don’t just happen, they take a lot of work. Greg Griffiths, pastor from Hermiston says, “This is an all-out event. For two or three weeks this is all that is going on.”

“The people in our church really enjoy working together for a common goal,” says Debbie Gilbert from Yakima. “It is great to see so many little miracles happen. From costumes, buildings and weather — we were supposed to have a huge ice storm and it didn’t happen. God makes it all come together. This event is bigger than we are…”

For three or four days, there were many visitors to each Little Town of Bethlehem, with members of churches and communities playing the parts of the townspeople.

“I just got back from a trip to Israel and I went to Bethlehem,” says a woman who attended the Yakima event. “This was better!”

As guests arrived at each location, they were greeted by parking attendants and ushered into the church to listen to music from community groups while waiting their turn to travel through the streets of Bethlehem. They were guided by a “cousin” through streets filled with the smell of camp fires, roasting chicken and torches. Amidst the cacophony of clucking chickens, the mournful wail of the shofar and the galloping of horses, street vendors hawked their wares and the innkeeper guarded his door. Visitors experienced the tax collector’s demands, angels singing, shepherds running and baby Jesus in the stable. As he was leaving, tears rolling down his cheeks, one man said to the Hermiston parking attendant, “Thank you for the wonderful portrayal of Jesus’ story.”

Yakima had 3,700 people in attendance; Hermiston hosted 1,672 guests; Spokane had 3,847 attendees; and Wenatchee had 3,500. In all, there were 12,000-plus visitors and nearly 700 volunteers.

Kathy Marson, UCC communication administrative assistant
For the fourth year, the Upper Columbia Academy band, string and choral groups performed a Christmas musical concert in the Fox Theater in downtown Spokane, Wash. The Dec. 18, 2010, event was held as a gift to the community and opportunity for students to perform professionally.

“This was by far the best academy performance I have ever heard. I absolutely loved it,” says Chelsea English, a youth pastor attending the concert for the first time. “Academy bands don’t usually do it for me, but this was different.”

“I was incredibly proud of how sensitively and professionally the students performed,” says Dean Kravig, UCA band director. “After the concert, I had a college-level music teacher tell me she was impressed by how highly polished they sounded. She said it was hard to believe she was listening to a high-school band. That says a lot about how hard the students worked.”

The Fox Theater, home of the Spokane Symphony, is a 1930s-era well-respected art venue in the community. UCAs performances have been positive for the school and church.

“Our main purpose and the original idea came about eight years ago,” says Curtis Anderson, UCA music department chairman. “The idea was to use the music program as an evangelistic tool. Gerald Haeger, Upper Columbia Conference ministerial director, suggested we take our Christmas program, which we were performing in the gym, into the community and use it as an outreach. Not only has it opened the eyes of Spokane about who Seventh-day Adventists are, but it has also given us a purpose other than just having a nice concert at school.”

“I meet people all over town that know us because of the Fox concert,” says Kravig. “When I’m wearing my UCA music-department shirt people just start talking to me about the Fox concert. The day after the concert this year, I was at the Costco optical department and talked to a lady who said she was just driving by the Fox and saw it advertised on the sign so she decided to come.”

“I invite a Sunday church choir to come to the concert each year, and they think our students are amazing,” says Anderson. “And the staff at the Fox are continually impressed with our group … I think doing this concert each year plants seeds in these people’s hearts that will have an effect in the end time.”

Jon Dalrymple, UCC communications associate

After intermission the Upper Columbia Academy band and choir don Santa Claus hats to perform the less serious musical numbers in the second half of the concert.
Upper Columbia Conference Camp Meeting 2011

Come to camp meeting this year at Upper Columbia Academy and rediscover the most important friendship you can ever have--Jesus Christ. He’s crazy about you and He’s coming back to take you to heaven very soon.

Keynote Speaker

MARK FINLEY

Experience an old-fashioned camp meeting with music, inspiration and fellowship. Enjoy in-depth sessions on prayer, devotions, spirit of prophecy, creation, personal finance, health, church planting and evangelism. Special programs and outreach activities are planned for youth, as well. So bring the whole family to make it an unforgettable experience that will bring you closer to Christ.

• Registration opens February 15, 2011.
• Register online or call 509-838-2761.
• www.uccsda.org/campmeeting

June 15-18, 2011

Upper Columbia Academy Campus
Spangle, Washington
Historic Church Makes New History
Fruitland Pioneer Church Opens Doors Again

On Nov. 19, 2010, Friday evening, three couples invited their neighbors to a Friday-night soup and bread supper and candlelight service at the 114-year-old historic Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fruitland, Wash. The event filled the old church with singing and praise once again as a neighbor led out with guitar. His wife joined in with her tambourine and Len Tatom, retired pastor, led out with a short Bible study on righteousness. Everyone in attendance commented about how they enjoyed the service and were looking forward to returning at 6 p.m. another Friday night to continue the new tradition.

Sheryl Mixey, communication leader

Pendleton Spanish Baptizes New Members

The Pendleton (Ore.) Spanish Church is celebrating several newly baptized members who have decided to become part of the local and worldwide mission of the Adventist church. Pictured here from left are: Alicia Huervo, Isabel Lopez, Pastor Kessle Hodgson, Marivel Magana and Silverio Magana.
More than 40 churches and schools in western Washington selected from a variety of holiday events, such as concerts, drama productions, nativity scenes and more, to specifically build relationships within the church and the community.

Olympia Christian School continued their multiyear tradition of performing a 30 to 45 minute concert in the Capitol Rotunda. Anita McKown, principal, reports many people enjoy the students’ music and often inquire more about the school. Auburn Adventist Academy’s Sylvan Chorale also performed at the Capitol. The Chehalis (Wash.) Church’s sing-along-Messiah concert marks the beginning of the holiday season in the local community. More than 500 guests attended this year. A week later, the church hosted a holiday vegetarian tasting extravaganza to share a festive introduction to vegetarian cooking for guests.

Everson (Wash.) Church invited the community to “The Last Noel,” a children’s production of Joseph and Mary’s journey to Bethlehem. Children dressed as sheep, cows, angels and wise men joined together to sing praises to their newborn King.

The Oak Harbor (Wash.) Church reached out to military families to provide a free Christmas dinner on Christmas day.

The Auburn Academy Church along with its church and school partners produced the fifth year of Journey to Bethlehem, an interactive, outdoor drama, with more than 6,000 guests attending in four nights.

“Journey to Bethlehem uses almost every gift we have in our church,” says Bill Roberts, Auburn Academy Church senior pastor. “This ministry involves the youngest to oldest members to reach out to the community and helps our members get to know each other better.”

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director
Leaders Reach Up for Vision

After a year of church business meetings at the conference, division and world church levels, Washington Conference leaders recently met for a prayerful session to consider a strategic vision.

“We met to pray and ask God’s direction,” says John Freedman, Washington Conference president. “We are called to specifically reach our world.”

In alignment with the North American Division’s strategic theme of “Reach North America,” Washington Conference is adapting and extending this theme to “Reach Washington.”

Reach Washington has three components: Reach Up (revival and reformation); Reach In (spiritual gifts, ministry and community); and Reach Out (evangelism and witness).

With the vision in place, ministry department leaders met with Greg Schaller, pastor and strategic ministry coach, to set three vision-connected goals for each department.

“In our economic culture, we need more collaboration and evaluation to ensure that we are making good use of our resources,” Freedman says. “We want to grow as professionals and learn how to do ministry better.”

Additionally, two new team members are in place:

1) Bruce Koch, previously ministerial director, is now stewardship director. This marks the first time in many years that stewardship is a department’s primary focus.

2) Bill McClendon, a successful church planter from Tulsa, Okla., is ministerial and evangelism director.

Watch future GLEANER issues and other communiqués for more about Reach Washington.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director

Berg Ordained in Auburn

A successful businessman for 20 years, Kim Berg felt something was missing from his life. His search for answers led him to Jesus and into a community of believers in Snohomish, Wash., where he was baptized in 1995.

Before long, Berg was involved in lay leadership and eventually became a pastoral assistant. He re-entered school and graduated from Puget Sound Christian College in 2001. He is continuing his studies through Andrews University’s off-campus degree program.

Berg has served Washington Conference churches in Oak Harbor, Cedarhome, Port Townsend and Poulsbo. He is currently serving as associate pastor at the Auburn City Church.

After meeting ordination requirements and receiving approval from three review committees, Berg was ordained in Auburn, Wash., on Dec. 18, 2010.

“The laying on of hands at ordination represents the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon a person, asking God to give the needed gifts to perform the role of a pastor,” says John Freedman, Washington Conference president. “It is impossible to perform the role of a pastor effectively without the baptism of the Holy Spirit.”

Kim and his wife, Lisa, with children Kim, Kyle, Dylan, Levi and Annalisa, love to be involved in community outreach and youth ministries of every kind. The Berg’s passion is to involve young people in the church and let them know they are valued and necessary to the church’s mission.

Bruce Koch, Washington Conference stewardship director, with Heidi Martella
Skagit Academy Offers Mountain Biking

Ninth- and tenth-grade students from Skagit Adventist Academy in Burlington, Wash., enjoyed a new unit in their physical education class this academic year: mountain biking.

Matthew Lee, SAA physical education teacher, received a Don Keele Award last year to fund the purchase of mountain bikes to be used in his classes. The Don Keele Award provides a grant to North Pacific Union Conference teachers for use in bringing innovative ideas into schools. This money, along with additional fundraising, helped purchase 15 mountain bikes.

“My favorite part was learning how to fix my own bike,” says Kari Stickle, freshman. In addition to bicycle maintenance, students learned to ride comfortably and confidently on a single-track trail built last summer at the school.

“It was so rewarding for me to watch such a drastic improvement in skill take place over the past couple of months,” says Lee. “So many of them greatly exceeded my expectations.”

In addition to riding on the school trail, students learned to safely ride on local roads and took two field trips to local trails to apply their skills on more technical terrain.

“Helping students find sports to maintain fitness for a lifetime is what PE is all about,” Lee says. “I hope that mountain biking will be that sport for many students as they come through my classes.”

Doug White, SAA principal, with Matthew Lee, SAA physical education teacher

Cedarbrook Students Learn to Care and Share

Twenty-one students in kindergarten through eighth grade at Cedarbrook Adventist Christian School in Port Hadlock, Wash., recently participated in a learning simulation called Zooland.

Under the direction of Greg Reseck, principal and upper-grade teacher, students built an old-style zoo with shoebox cages for stuffed animals. After the “mayor” condemned the zoo, students researched animals and how to run a zoo. The six-week simulation culminated with a parent open house to showcase life-sized animals in healthy habitats.

Reaching Out

Additionally, Cedarbrook students are learning to reach out by writing inspirational verses on coloring pages for church members in need of encouragement. They also regularly pick up litter along a stretch of road by the county library to give back to the community.

Instead of exchanging Christmas gifts, the students donated almost $100 for The People of Peru Project to help relieve human suffering.

About the same time, Cedarbrook students entered a coloring contest through a local business, and prizes were given out the last day of school before Christmas vacation. One student put his cash prize into the collection basket for the orphanage in Peru and several other students followed his example of giving.

Whether it is turning the school into a zoo or learning the importance of giving to others, it’s the life lessons of caring and sharing that students carry away from Cedarbrook Adventist Christian School that are most important.

Greg Reseck, Cedarbrook School principal
Now More Than Ever
Research Affirms Eternal Value of Christian College Education

“A Christian education is an investment in eternity.” We’ve all heard that kind of passionate statement many times — and probably agree heartily with it. Although proving the monetary benefits of a college degree is relatively simple — lifetime income is 60 percent more, research shows — measuring eternal impact is considerably more difficult.

That’s all changing, and the spiritual worth of schools like Walla Walla University need no longer be quantified merely by grateful stories from parents and alumni — powerful and persuasive though they can be. Over the past decade, researchers have sought to measure the value of a Christian college experience, with some surprisingly tangible results.

Spiritual Growth Enhances Other Outcomes
Researchers at UCLA aimed to identify the role college plays in developing spiritual qualities. More than 112,000 students on 236 campuses nationwide participated in the seven-year “Spirituality in Higher Education” effort.

The study concluded those who experience spiritual growth perform better academically, have greater psychological well-being and develop stronger leadership skills. “We believe that the findings provide a powerful argument that higher education should attend more to students’ spiritual development,” says one of the study’s co-authors.

Activities and Mentorship Foster Spirituality
The UCLA researchers concluded that college activities, such as service involvement, are key contributors to spiritual growth. The authors also noted that spirituality was enhanced when students engaged in “inner work” through meditation or self-reflection, and when professors actively encouraged them to explore questions of meaning and purpose.

These findings echo the Valuegenesis study of Adventist young people, which identified service participation, sharing one’s faith and being part of a thinking climate as three of the top 10 factors in building a mature spiritual life. At WWU, thousands of young people have served as student missionaries over the past 50 years, and committed Christian teachers guide journeys of spiritual discovery.

Choice of School Affects Faith
In a 2006 article in Christianity Today, author Steve Henderson reviewed student survey data and made a sobering analysis. “If the past is a fair indication of the future, at least half and possibly over two-thirds of our children will step away from their faith while attending non-Christian colleges and universities,” he says.

In other words, the choice of a college can have a lifelong impact not just on career but on personal faith — and thus on the future of a church. In a chaotic, too-often rudderless society, the bedrock values of Christian education at WWU have never seemed more important.

Cassie Ragenovich, WWU student financial services director

Did you know?
Almost 80 percent1 of WWU students qualify for need-based financial aid.

The average out-of-pocket cost after financial aid is about $6,100.1

Of all Adventist colleges in North America, WWU ranks second lowest in average annual student loans.2

12009-2010 school year.
Northwest Doctors Exemplify Mission

At Adventist Health, our doctors are on a mission. The mission is to heal — not just the body, but the mind and spirit as well. This treatment provides our patients with a trifecta of healing.

This unique experience of healing infused with compassion and love would not find its true expression without the leadership of our doctors. That is why, for the first time, Adventist Health chose 15 physicians from around the system that exemplify the mission in every aspect of their work. These individuals were recently honored with the Physician of the Year Mission Award. Three of these doctors practice at Adventist hospitals in the Pacific Northwest.

Randy Bulger, M.D., Adventist Medical Center-Portland (Ore.); Irene Martin, M.D., Tillamook County General Hospital (Ore.); and Scott Newbold, M.D., Walla Walla General Hospital (Wash.) received this award, not only because they are great doctors, but because they are advocates for their communities and the people they serve.

Bulger, who specializes in family medicine, has been practicing at Adventist Health Medical Group's Ventura Park Clinic in Portland for the past 26 years. Early in his career, he spent time in Zaire, Africa, which is the foundation for his dedication to service. He says, "Being part of a faith-based organization has provided me the opportunity to manifest the love and powerful healing of Jesus Christ."

Martin, who also specializes in family medicine, is a well-loved physician in Tillamook's rural service area. She has been described as an understanding and gentle person by her patients. She allows them to realize they are not alone by sharing her personal experiences in difficult times. Probably her most distinguishing feature is the value she places on relationships. She shows this by personally making follow-up calls to inform patients of test results and being available to them after hours when they have questions.

Newbold has been a general surgeon at WWGH for 20 years. His reputation as a highly competent surgeon and his personable demeanor make him stand out in his community. His staff know him not only as a surgeon, but as an accomplished chef, and he often brings food into the office. Some of his more memorable dishes are mint ice-cream pie and homemade crackers with hummus.

"Physicians at Adventist Health facilities view their work as sacred," says Paul Cramp- ton, Adventist Health assistant vice president for Mission and Spiritual Care. "They, along with the nurses and the rest of the health-care team, are extensions of God's hands. Physicians give of themselves unselfishly, wherever they are needed, to make their communities a better place."

Brittany Russell, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent
Auman 60th

Jim and Betty Auman celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a family dinner followed by a train trip down the West Coast.

Jim Auman married Betty Walker on June 9, 1950, in Mossyrock, Wash. They relocated to Eureka, Calif., in 1952 and joined the Adventist church shortly after. They returned to Lewis County in 1955 and were members of the Centralia (Wash.) Church for many years. Jim was an elder in the church for 25 years.

Jim, a building contractor for many years, enjoyed building custom homes. Betty enjoyed taking care of their three children along with doing part-time work in the housing industry. They currently reside in Pasco, Wash., and attend the Pasco Church.

The Auman family includes Steve and Melissa Auman of Tehachapi, Calif.; Debi and Lou Gates of Burbank, Wash.; Jeff and Terry Auman of Richmond, Va.; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Dickerson 100th

Wilma Dickerson celebrated her 100th birthday on Sept. 17, 1910, in Kansas City, Kan. She attended Southwestern Junior College in Keene, Texas, studying to be a teacher. She taught in Gentry, Ark., where she met Leonard Dickerson. Leonard and his family moved to Oregon and Wilma stayed in the south and taught two more years in Douglas and Fort Worth, Texas. Then when Leonard wrote and proposed, she made her way to Milton-Freewater, where they were married on July 15, 1932. Wilma and Leonard had five children.

Jacoshenk 90th

Ray A. Jacoshenk was born Oct. 1, 1920, in Butte, N.D. He is an only child. He attended Butte High School, graduating in 1938, and then went to Union College. It was there he met his wife, Ruby Howell. She finished the normal training course and went to teach in Sikeston, Mo. On June 2, 1941, Ray and Ruby were married. They taught public one-room schools in North Dakota.

When their daughter Judy was small, the family moved to Portland, Ore., where Ray had several jobs before he was asked by E. E. Bietz to work at Portland Sanitarium. Ruby was already employed there. First he was head of laundry, then executive housekeeper was added to his duties. After several years, he became the purchasing agent. Retiring in 1982, after working there for 25 years.

In the ensuing years, Ray and Ruby spent their summers in Portland and their winters in Palm Springs, Calif. Most recently, after selling their place in Palm Springs, they are at home in the Summerplace Community in NE Portland. Their son, Gary, includes Ray and Ruby on trips and outings. Ray has been active in the church wherever he has been.

Ray’s family includes Judy Spina, who died in 2003; Gary Jacoshenk of Happy Valley, Ore.; James Jacoshenk, who died in 1992; 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Dickerson family includes Ray and Ruby Dickerson of Milton-Freewater; Burton and Debbie Dickerson of Quincy, Wash.; and Joella and George Harlan of Amboy, Wash.; 16 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

Whitaker-Hurd 100th

Annie B. Whitaker-Hurd was the oldest of four siblings and is now the only living survivor. Annie became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1946.

She was a member of the Spruce St. Church/Emerald City Community Church for 50 years during which time she faithfully served as a deaconess, pianist and organist. She is currently a member of the Volunteer Park Church.

Until recent years, she always reserved a room to attend yearly Auburn (Wash.) Camp Meetings. As a SAGE member, Annie enjoyed participating in world travel and local events.

Annie is blessed to have four living children: Lorretta Wasse of Seattle, Wash.; Louise Crosby of Seattle; Charles and Gladys Daniels of San Diego, Calif.; Edrick Daniels of Atlanta, Ga.; 14 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

MILESTONES

Annie was born, Aug. 4, 1910, in Nashville, Tenn.
BISSELL — Quinn Meilee was born Dec. 15, 2010, to Brett and Karen (Kirkwood) Bissell, Hanford, Calif.

CAMARGO — Andreas Maximilian was born Sept. 30, 2010, to Marcelo and Rachelle (Bolton) Camargo, Vancouver, Wash.

KINNEY — Kaelyn Elianna was born Aug. 18, 2010, to Andrew and Amy (Piuser) Kinney, Walla Walla, Wash.

KIRKWOOD — Kyan Alexander was born Oct. 11, 2010, to Keola and Anna (Mahuron) Kirkwood, Buckeye, Ariz.

KALLENGER — Rhyker was born Oct. 1, 2010, to Eddie and Sherry (Buckner) Patchen, Wenatchee, Wash.

WHITAKER — Wyatt Allen was born Sept. 1, 2010, to Jeremy and Mollie (Tachenko) Whitaker, Culver, Ore.

LEWIS-JARNES — Amber Lewis and Todd Jarnes were married Aug. 10, 2010, in Benton Harbor, Mich. They are making their home in Berrien Springs, Mich. Amber is the daughter of Star and Lonnie Lewis. Todd is the son of David and Jeanne (Beck) Jarnes.

SCHLAMAN-KANDLER — Jennifer Nicole Schlaman and Brian Charles Kandler were married Sept. 25, 2010, in Yakima, Wash., where they are making their home. Jennifer is the daughter of Don and Julie (McLemore) Schlaman. Brian is the son of Daryl and Cheryl Kandler.


SPRING — Doris (Baird) Thomas, 82; born Feb. 23, 1928, Philbrook, Minn.; died Sept. 4, 2010, Pendleton, Ore. Surviving: husband, Calvin; sons, Terry Thomas, Happy Valley, Ore.; Tim Thomas, Colfax, Calif.; daughter, Catherine (Thomas) Dimick, Antelope, Calif.; 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.
**North Pacific Union Conference**

**Offering**
- **Feb. 5** — Local Church Budget.
- **Feb. 12** — World Budget: Adventist Television Ministries.
- **Feb. 19** — Local Church Budget.
- **Feb. 26** — Local Conference Advance.

**Walla Walla University**

- **Feb. 3–5** — African-American University Days. For information and to reserve a spot, call 800-541-8900.
- **Feb. 8** — Senior Recognition, 11 a.m., U-Church. All invited to celebrate the Class of 2011.
- **Feb. 10–12** — Friendship Tournament; NPUC-wide academy basketball event. For information, call 800-541-8900.
- **Feb. 16** — I Cantori Oregon Tour; Performances at Portland Adventist Academy, Portland, OR, at 8:30 a.m.; Livingstone Adventist Academy, Salem, OR, at 11 a.m.; and Milo Adventist Academy, Days Creek, OR, at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 800-541-8900, ext. 2561.
- **Feb. 26** — Chamber Series Organ Recital; Philip Brunelle, award-winning musician, in the U-Church at 5 p.m.; admission free.

**March 3–5** — March University Days. For information and to reserve a spot, call 800-541-8900.

**Idaho**

**Gem State Adventist Academy Homecoming**

- **April 1–3** — All alumni, former students, faculty, parents and friends are invited to the annual homecoming. The following graduating classes will be honored: 1931, ’41, ’51, ’61, ’71, ’81, ’86, ’91 and 2001. The alumni office is looking for addresses for the following graduates. If you have information about the following people, please contact Linda Klinger at 208-459-1627, ext. 158, or lklinger@gemstate.org.

- **1941** Grad: Patricia (Dorgan) Auville, Estelle Ragsdale, Sylvia (Ward) Ruppert and Eleanor Silsbee.


- **1971** Grad: Robert Clark, Sharon (Lambert) Lapeyre, Chris (Rutledge) Lawrence, Myron McCumber, Bob Miller, Diane (Fullmer) Reich and Jo Zolber.

- **1981** Grad: Pam Bowen, Dave Clarkson, Ron Davison, Mark Denhardt, Lynette (Clark) Hass, Dusty Heninger, Jim Hoyt, Lisa Johnson, John Kildare, Yvette Lighthouse, Gena (Davis) Mathis, Robert Orvis, Joleen (Wentland) Shepard and Kevin Weston.

- **1986** Grads: David Anderson, David Burgess, Kimberly Carson, Lisa (Nelson) Cogburn, Ande de Leon, Kay Fraser, Laurie Lawson, Roxanne (Schwisow) MacDonald, Lidia (Hernandez) Ortiz, Kris (Kellogg) Showen, Monique (Hazelwood) Villar and Sherrie Wirth.

- **2001** Grads: Karl Forshee, Jerry Martin and Shana (Lange) Oellrich.

**Oregon**

**Relationships Series**

You are invited to a free Family-Life Series by marriage and family educators, Harvey and Kathy Corwin, on the subject of “Relationships.”

- **Feb. 5** — 9:15 a.m. “Love Takes Time” and 1:30 p.m. “Spiritual Intimacy.”
- **Feb. 12** — 10:45 a.m. “5 Love Languages.”
- **Feb. 13** — 4:30 p.m. Valentine’s Banquet for couples and singles, RSVP by Feb. 9 by 541-382-5991.
- **Feb. 19** — 10:45 a.m. “LUV Talk – Creative Communication.”
- **Feb. 26** — 10:45 a.m. “Emotional Road Map – Conflict Management.” Bend Church, 21610 N.E. Butler Market Rd., Bend, OR. Call 541-382-5991. Childcare program provided. See calendar information at bend.adventistnw.org.

**Winter Gala**

- **Feb. 12** — 7:30 p.m. at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Portland, Oregon, sponsored by the Your Bible Speaks Church Choir Guest Performers: Jaime Jorge and the Old Time Religion Singers. For information please call: Patric Parris at 360-857-7033 or 360-977-4874.

**Columbia Academy Snowbirds Winter Gathering**

- **Feb. 12** — Columbia Academy Snowbirds will be meeting at the Fountain of Youth, Niland, Calif., At 9:30 a.m. Columbia Alumni will be hosting the church service in the Sunrise Hall, followed by a potluck dinner at the barbecue pits. The afternoon will be spent visiting and renewing friendships. At 7 p.m., it’s time for hot tubing and swimming.

**Annual Big Lake Snow Weekend**

- **March 4–6** — Come and enjoy a winter weekend at Big Lake Youth Camp. Bring a snowmobile if you have one, a snow-park permit for the entire weekend, sleeping bag and pillow, Bible, snow clothes and ski equipment. Place all items in a waterproof bag. Snowmobile rides will be available for all. Cost is $70 per person until Feb. 23, and then it is $80. This includes the ONLY Friday snow-cat ride in from Ray Benson Snow Park (at 6 p.m.), five meals and two nights lodging. Your check is your reservation. Send your check to Ron Dempstead, 2747 Nonpareil Rd., Sutherlin, OR 97479. For more information, contact Ron, 541-760-5278, or Gary, 503-936-7211.

**Upper Columbia**

**Missing Members**

The Sandpoint Church in Sandpoint, Idaho, is looking for the whereabouts of the following members of the Sandpoint Church: Daniel Buholer, Desiree Fort, JoAnna Howard, Tasha Knowles, Susan Minten, Ann Sater and Shannon White. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact Lynda Bailey at 208-263-3648 or e-mail contact Lynda Bailey at missing members, please contact Lynda Bailey at sandpointsdachurch@frontier.com.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington

Free Healthful Cooking Seminars
Corky and Chere Stebbins are offering four free seminars in February. Classes will be 7 p.m. at the Bonney Lake Church, 11503 214th Ave. E., Bonney Lake, WA 98391.
Feb. 1 — Reversing Diabetes; Feb. 8 — Understanding Cholesterol; Feb. 15 — Foods for Thought; Feb. 22 — How to Cook

Simply and Healthfully. Food demonstrations, samples and recipes will be included. For more information, contact Chere Stebbins at 253-389-5049 or e-mail betterhealth4u@hotmail.com. www.blxda.com.

World Church
LAAA Alumni
March 11-13 — Los Angeles Adventist Academy will be honoring the alumni from 1941, ’51, ’61, ’71, ’81, ’91, 2010 and 2011 at its third-annual alumni homecoming weekend on the campus of LAAA located at 846 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90059. For more information, contact us at 323-321-2585, ext. 229, or e-mail alumnni3aa@gmail.com. Visit our Web site at www.alumni3aa.com.

Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend
April 29—30 — Mark your calendars for the Broadview Academy Alumni weekend. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Honor classes are: ’51, ’61, ’71, ’81, ’91 and 2001. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, we need your e-mail addresses. Postage is too expensive. Send your e-mail address to Ed Gutierrez, ed julie1@att.net; or call 630-232-9034. More information will be coming.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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Beyond Regret

“I grew up without a gun. In my era, that was a handicap, since the rite of passage for kids in my neighborhood was a daily make-believe battle involving cowboys and outlaws who chased each other from yard to yard.”

My parents didn’t like toy guns. So, if I got caught in one of these scrums, I spent my time wisely — running for my life. Life and death was a fantasy then — something contained in play, in stories, in the flexible world of imagination. If you didn’t like how a story turned out, you made up a new one.

The decades since then, however, have brought a rude education about the dark prince of this world and the death he wields. Real people have been ripped uncERemoniously from my life. I know now, death is an adversary beyond the realm of “bang-bang-you’re-dead” make-believe.

Adventists believe death is a sleep until Jesus arrives to make everything new. Paul claims Christians do not “grieve as others do” over death. But the apostle does not intend to whitewash the emotions that accompany loss — anger, regret and, in some cases, a crushing sense of responsibility. It’s why the story of Chad and Ryan Arnold is so compelling.

In the prime of life, Chad was diagnosed with a chronic liver disease. A liver transplant was his only hope. His brother, Ryan, was a perfect match for the operation and volunteered to go into surgery to donate two-thirds of his liver to Chad. All went well, but just four days later, while still recuperating, Ryan suddenly, tragically died.

What do you do with a gift when someone has died to give it? Chad started an online blog entitled “Come Too Far — When you can’t go back to how it was.”

Early on, sorting through conflicting emotions, Chad realized his response was his decision. In one of his journal entries, he wrote: “Suffering is like a pile of rocks. You can choose to carry the load, throw them at someone, just let it lay there, or you can build an altar.”

Make no mistake — this choice was (and is) not easy. “Faith,” Chad wrote in another blog passage, is “the thing you cling to when you’re taking your last breath in a freezing river whose current is too strong. Well, the current is too strong for me right now, and so I’m clinging.”

The journey of faith is neither a make-believe story or an automatic formula. It’s a winding, uphill road with ruts full of rocks. Like Chad says, it’s what we do with those rocks that counts.

Are you staring at a pile of rocks today? Tired of throwing them back at God or others? Take a step of faith beyond regret. Pick up one of those rocks — and begin to build an altar.

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Wednesday, February 2, 7 pm

Gem State Academy
Saturday, February 5, 6:30 pm

Livingstone Adventist Academy
Tuesday, January 25, 7 pm

Milo Adventist Academy
Saturday, January 15, 5:30 pm

Mount Ellis Academy
Saturday, November 13, 6 pm

Portland Adventist Academy
Monday, January 31, 7 pm

Puget Sound Academy
Monday, February 7, 7 pm

Rogue Valley Adventist School
Sunday, January 30, 10 am

Skagit Adventist School
Monday, February 7, 7 pm

Upper Columbia Academy
Saturday, February 26, 6 pm

Walla Walla Valley Academy
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Dick Hanson
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From Friday evening through Sunday noon....come for a weekend of training with our special speakers, anointing by the Holy Spirit to serve and be empowered with confidence as the Lord sends us into His abundant harvest.

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<td>Registration received March 1 through March 21, 2011</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$160</td>
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For more information contact Gayle Lasher @ 253-208-7991 or gayle.lasher@gmail.com
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