Two Ways to Let Your Light Shine
He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.
Acts 15:9 (NIV)

Priceless

We often treasure most that which costs us most. We say that these objects or relationships are “priceless” to us, right? What we mean is that they are so dear we would be willing to give or do anything to keep them close. Friendships, rooted deep in the fertile soil of love, long nurtured and valued; family ties whose bonds are inexpressible — for these we would give anything. For them, we would be willing to offer, if needed, our very lives. Why? Because they are priceless!

Take a moment with me to reflect on the value of the name we carry: Christian. As a Christian, we are a disciple and follower of the one we call the Christ — the Messiah, Savior of the world. He is not an ordinary Master. Indeed, He is the Son of God! So, how priceless is He to me? To you?

A survey of those who followed Christ during His ministry on earth, as well as those who were His disciples during that fast-paced era of history found in the book of Acts, should inform us that discipleship is a costly affair — one which is motivated by the life-defining and priceless relationship we have with Jesus the Christ.

Remember the rich young ruler who approached Jesus, more than ready to be His number one follower? When Jesus finally got through all the smoke-screens and pat answers to the heart of what it meant to be His disciple, the rich young would-be follower of Christ hesitated, then walked away. Why? Because Jesus was not priceless to Him. The command to “sell all that you have and distribute [it] to the poor” was just too high a price to pay for the honorary title of “Christian.”

In contrast, we must remember the price borne by disciples like James, half of that duo called the Sons of Thunder; Peter, the hard-of-hearing, passionate fisherman-turned-follower of Christ; Stephen, that first of seven deacons, bold and faithful in the face of angry, murderous men anxious to drag him to the local stoning ground; Paul, the single-minded missionary to the Gentile world; and so many others who valued Christ so much they gladly gave their lives as martyrs for the Kingdom of God rather than hesitate and walk away. Costly price to pay for being a disciple of a carpenter from Nazareth, wouldn’t you say? No — not at all, especially if that Nazarene was priceless to you. If His life, death and resurrection and the joy of a daily walk with you meant the abiding peace of calling Him your Savior and friend! I love the way Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it when he said, “salvation is free ... but discipleship will cost you your life.”

One of the frightening and dulling webs Satan loves to spin around those of us in the church of Christ — those who bear the name of Christian — is to take the joy of discipleship and offer it up as an item on special “sale;” to cheapen what it means to be a follower of Christ. He knows what costs little is valued less. Before long, being a Christian means little to nothing and is, as maybe our friend the rich young ruler thought, a simple and politically expedient label to wear with, of course, a measure of sanctified pride. Hum...

“All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give.” Why? Because He is priceless to me. “I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live...” Priceless.

“Priceless

BOB FOLKENBERG JR.
Upper Columbia Conference president

“What costs little is valued less.”
New NPUC Trust Services Director
Kimberley Schroeder is the new North Pacific Union Conference trust services director, replacing Gary Dodge who now fills a similar role for the General Conference. Schroeder, who has held trust services certification from the GC since 1990, has served as the NPUC Association assistant treasurer since 2002. She has also held various positions connected with treasury and trust departments for the Oregon and Alaska conferences.

Corder Joins NPUC Association
Jon Corder, Oregon Conference vice president for finance since 2008, is the new NPUC Association treasurer. He fills the position left open in March when Robert Hastings moved to become Arizona Conference treasurer. Corder brings not only his MBA skills to the NPUC but, in addition to his most recent Oregon post, nearly three decades of experience in financial leadership for the Upper Columbia Conference and Pacific Union College.

Did You Know?

Does your church use a large-screen system in the sanctuary during worship?
- Churches with less than 100 in weekly attendance: 53 percent.
- Churches with 100 to 250 in weekly attendance: 76 percent.
- Churches with more than 250 in weekly attendance: 88 percent.


New Online Columns Begin Next Month

Cheri Corder — Christianity at Church
Loving your neighbor is one thing, but loving the saints? With both heart and humor, Cheri will explore practical, biblical solutions to challenges that seem to occur often at church.

Mike Jones — Practical Ideas of Faith in Action
Veteran minister and author, Mike Jones “quit church” for more than a decade, but returned with a desire to make a difference in his church and his community. His winsome approach to practical faith will make you smile and think.

New Blogs

Does your church send e-mail blasts or e-newsletters to members?
- Fifty-six percent of Protestant churches do so.

Does your church have a presence on a social networking site such as Facebook?
- All Protestant churches: 25 percent.
- Churches with less than 100 in weekly attendance: 20 percent.
- Churches with more than 100 in weekly attendance: 47 percent.
More Background on Yakima Valley Academy

The photo (“From the GLEANER Archives,” February 2011) was taken diagonally across Sunnyside Ave. from the “Assembly Hall” known today as the Granger Church.

It became Upper Columbia Conference property circa 1915. My father, Elmer Wiggins, came to Granger via covered wagon circa 1914 and attended YVA with his seven brothers and sisters, where he met my mother, Ruth Beck from Kelso, Washington. You can see Wiggins and Beck pictures in the first annual of YVA.

The unique arts and crafts classes at the Granger school attracted reporters and photographers. Students learned the silk-screening process and printed their own PE uniforms etc. They learned bookbinding and produced countless volumes of the Junior Guide and any other magazine of interest they could find.

The Granger school must have been the only grade school known to man with a marble-floored ballroom under the East wing, the one shown in the photo.

Thanks to Bernice Searl, Walla Walla College elementary education instructor turned UCC elementary supervisor, the college sent regular van loads of student teachers to spend a day observing the program at Granger.

Al Wiggins, Omak, Washington

Oops!

Oh, the shame and embarrassment of the GLEANER editors! We credited the wrong individual for March’s beautiful Images of Creation photo entitled “Candle in the Wind” reprised here. It was taken in Woodland, Washington, by Renae Smith of Brush Prairie, Washington. We are so sorry, Renae. Thanks for sharing your expertise and artistry with us all.

FROM THE GLEANER ARCHIVES

Can You Tell Us Where This Is?

If you can tell us anything about this photo, including who, when and where, let us know. Go to the GLEANER blog site at gleaneronline.org and add your comments to the discussion under the April photo in the Monthly Archival Photo section or e-mail us at talk@nw.npuc.org.

NOTE: LAST MONTH’S PHOTO FEATURED A GROUP OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS IN FRONT OF THE OLD WALLA WALLA COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN COLLEGE PLACE, WASHINGTON. VISIT THE MARCH ARCHIVAL PHOTO AT THE GLEANER BLOG SITE FOR ADDITIONAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.
Two Ways to Let Your Light Shine

The blinding pace of new technologies introduced every year can challenge even the brightest and best of us. But it can also overwhelm and nearly discourage a local church. Where does a local congregation focus their vision, their effort or their dollars in trying to stay current with technology? How do they effectively reach an increasingly mobile membership when budgets are so tight? And how can technology support the main mission—that of keeping the message of Jesus Christ front and center?

One thing is certain: If we don’t do our best with the basics it’s likely a waste of time and money to pursue more cutting-edge opportunities. We should strive to be well above average in two key areas of church ministry: audio/visual presentation and the church website.

Why? Because our churches should be a transparent window in representing a God of order and excellence, as well as the Lord of creativity.

Audio Visual Excellence

Most members benefit from high-level technology throughout the week, at work, home, and even in their cars. Poor quality and lowered expectations at church are an embarrassment for us all — and a turn-off for visitors.

REALITY CHECK #1: If your church’s equipment is more than a decade old, it’s time to consider an upgrade. The devil knows poor production quality is a distraction to the intended message. That’s why so much effort is lavished on public media productions that have nothing to do with Christ. Satan wants to make it as easy as possible to choose his way. We should care as much about making it easy for people to learn about God and making a decision to follow Him.

But it takes more than good quality sound equipment. Our churches need attentive, trained audio volunteers committed to high production values — so God’s presence and message come through clearly without distraction.

REALITY CHECK #2: If your church’s data projector is more than six years old, it’s time to replace it. More than 50 percent of your community’s households now have one or more high definition television sets. How can we...
spend money on bright new visual screens at home and tolerate dim, dark images at church? We can do better by lifting Jesus up each Sabbath in bright, clear graphics.

There have been significant improvements in data projector technology during the last six years, especially in size, brightness and resolution. When pondering a new projector for your church, consider one that is able to accommodate a 16:9/10 image ratio. And, because technology moves so quickly, purchase one that’s as bright as you can barely afford. It won’t become obsolete so quickly.

**REALITY CHECK #3:** Has your platform or house lighting ever been updated? You might not think of this as “technology,” but a key element to helping your church members and visitors focus on the spirit of worship is lighting — both for what happens on stage and in the congregation. Compare how you feel when you visit a church with a dark and dim platform to how you feel when you visit one that is bright. How does either affect your participation in the service?

**An Up-to-date Website**

Some time ago I was alone when my family was visiting other family over a weekend and I thought it would be interesting to visit another church, just for something different. So I did some Google and Bing searches for churches in the Northwest. What I found was disappointing. Some churches had the address and directions to their location but no service times listed. Others looked like they hadn’t been updated in months or years. To be effective, Web technologies must be relevant and timely. Otherwise your church is shouting to the world: “Hey, we’re boring and out of date! And we really don’t like visitors!” Your church’s website may be the first impression you give to a potential visitor. An active, updated website may help ensure their first visit isn’t their last.

Adventist churches have two inexpensive services to help them initiate a website: AdventistChurchConnect, run by the North American Division through AdventSource, and netAdventist, managed through the General Conference. Some churches, however, have apparently decided that once they set up their basic site with one of these programs, they don’t need to do anything more. Hire a graphic designer to help create a professional and pleasing look. Get feedback from church members and strangers on what would make it better. Include content that helps your website visitors get to know your church and why you meet each week. Make it quick and easy to get to the best parts, like what and when things are happening, how to contact key leaders, and audio or video recordings from past services or events.

Put your best on display for the world to see.

These recommendations are not about spending money on frills. New technologies are to our society today what the printing press was to earlier generations. Can we imagine being silent while the world moves on without God’s message?

It’s about staying true to the basics, in the best and brightest way, for Him!

**Loren Bordeaux, North Pacific Union Conference technology director**

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“Many small churches seem to believe that new tools for ministry are outside of their budget range or may not be significant for a church of their size. It may be, though, that such thinking contributes to the continued small size of some of those churches.” George Barna
The Seventh-day Adventist Church was birthed with a compelling sense of urgency to tell the world the good news of a soon-coming Savior. With gritty determination and at great personal sacrifice, the first issue of Signs of the Times was printed on June 4, 1874, using a manual printing press on a dining room table in the home of James White — only 30 years after the Great Disappointment.

In describing the commitment of the early believers, Joseph Bates wrote, “Who does not still remember how [the] message flew as it were upon the wings of the wind — men and women ... going with all the speed of locomotives, in steamboats, and rail cars, freighted with bundles of books and papers, wherever they went distributing them almost as profusely as the flying leaves of autumn,” (Joseph Bates, Second Advent Way Marks and High Heaps, page 31).

Although much has changed in the almost 140 years since, that sense of urgency remains undiminished. From that primitive desktop publishing effort in Oakland, California, Pacific Press Publishing Association was eventually established and, today, still has at the heart of its mission the sole purpose of uplifting Jesus and publishing the good news of His salvation and soon return.

With the arrival of the Information Age and the resulting Digital Revolution, an explosion of possibilities now exists to rapidly take this mission even further. From the early days of the personal computer in the late 1970s to the development of the Internet in the early 1990s, the Information Age has redefined communications in what has become an ever-shrinking global village. The Internet has become the ultimate platform for facilitating the flow of information. It is, without a doubt, the fastest-growing form of media today, providing an incredible opportunity to spread the good news — like streams of light — around the world.

AdventistBookCenter.com

In 1998 Pacific Press pioneered the development of AdventistBookCenter.com. This became a joint venture with the Review and Herald. Soon church members were able to enjoy a full-service, secure e-commerce website featuring books from both publishing houses, as well as...
as a full line of Chapel Music. In its first full year, the website brought in sales of $31,000. In 2010, sales rose to almost $1.1 million.

Adventist-eBooks.com
With the rapid growth in popularity of e-readers, Pacific Press recently initiated Adventist-eBooks.com making all Pacific Press e-books available in one place. New releases are added on an ongoing basis, and the site will ultimately include all best sellers and many back-listed books. “As much as I love paper books, I have thoroughly enjoyed my e-reader,” says Jerry D. Thomas, author and vice president for product development. “Adventist-eBooks opens up a new way for us to put books into the hands of those who love them most.”

ChapelMusic.com
With sole ownership of Chapel Records, Pacific Press announced in November 2010 its newest website, ChapelMusic.com, which is specifically targeted to meet the growing demand from artists and consumers alike for digital downloads. Jaime Jorge, the first recording artist to sign with ChapelMusic.com, says, “I am thrilled to be a part of Chapel’s new venture to bring quality Christian music to people. I know it will be a blessing to many and an opportunity to further share the gospel with others.”

Online Devotionals
The latest development by Pacific Press is the online daily devotional reading now available in conjunction with netAdventist, which provides the Adventist Church with a common communication platform. The daily devotional readings are taken from Pacific Press’ current lineup of best sellers. Stephen Ertel, director of electronic marketing, says, “All churches, schools, conferences and ministries that use netAdventist will be able to add this feature to their existing site. Non-netAdventist sites can still take advantage of this service via an RSS feed.” To activate this feature for your website, visit www.pacificpress.com/rss.

Ertel reports, “We are currently working with Adventist Church Connect to make the devotionals available to their thousands of end users across North America.” From its earliest days, publishing has played a fundamental role in the life of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Doug Church, vice president for marketing and sales, observes, “Now, through Adventist-eBooks.com, ChapelMusic.com and AdventistBookCenter.com, technology is helping us adapt to our changing world, finding new ways to powerfully and effectively fulfill our mission to the world church.”

Even though the early pioneers did not live to see the Digital Revolution, they certainly would have enthusiastically approved of how it is helping spread the good news on the wings of the wind.

Karen Pearson, Pacific Press® Publishing Association director of publicity and public relations

From that primitive desktop publishing effort in Oakland, California, Pacific Press Publishing Association was eventually established and, today, still has at the heart of its mission the sole purpose of uplifting Jesus.
Después de 10 meses de espera y preparación tuvimos una bendecida campaña evangelística con el Pastor José Rojas, en el auditorio de Clover Park Technical College, en la ciudad de Lakewood. Este proyecto, donde participaron todas las iglesias Hispanas de la Conferencia de Washington, comenzó al principio del año con la Convocación de la Hermandad. Todo el año, por consiguiente, preparamos el terreno inmediato con el trabajo de dos Obreros Bíblicos - los hermanos Víctor Infante y Rogelio Reynoso - y el cuerpo pastoral. La hermandad se involucró con la formación de grupos pequeños, campañas laicas y campañas pastorales que apuntaron hacia la meta final. También nuestro programa Radial “Luz De Esperanza” empezó a pavimentar el camino durante todos esos meses con anuncios y ofertas, canalizando todos los intereses hacia la cosecha de fin de año. En Noviembre 13 dimos inicio a la campaña titulada “Transformación”. Cada noche asistían alrededor de 800 personas y muchas visitas conocieron a Cristo Jesús como su Salvador personal. La hermandad, con las diferentes comisiones, trabajó arduamente y se sintió el Espíritu de Dios hacer Su obra. Entre los que aceptaron al Salvador hubo un hombre llamado Mario Gómez que estaba luchando contra Satanás. Se encontraba atormentado. Por mucho tiempo rechazó el llamado de Dios. Ahora trabajando en las madrugadas entendió que su única protección era el cuidado de Dios. La liberación viene a través de una entrega completa en las manos del Libertador. Mario cuenta que cuando él se entregó a Cristo un milagro tras otro ocurrió en su vida. Ya nada le iba a impedir su conversión al Señor y así fue que luego se bautizó y ahora es un miembro activo de la iglesia Hispana de Seattle. Muchos más entregaron sus vidas. Durante la semana de Transformación se bautizaron un total de 68 almas y uniendo todos los resultados terminamos el año con 271 bautismos y profesiones de fe, para la honra y gloria de Dios. En el año 2006 éramos 11 iglesias y compañías pero hoy Dios ha bendecido nuestra Conferencia con 17 congregaciones de habla hispana. El 8 de Enero del 2011 inauguramos la nueva planta de Iglesia en la ciudad de Kent y muy pronto comenzaremos la obra en la ciudad de Elma también. Los diezmos en la obra hispana han subido el 9% en el año 2010. Dios nunca desampara a su pueblo. Pero este pueblo debe trabajar y hacer una entrega total al servicio de las almas.

Omar Grieve, Director de Ministerios Hispanos en la Conferencia de Washington.
On Christmas Day 2010, a severe storm hit Savoonga, Alaska. High northeast winds carrying salt spray from the ocean, froze on electrical equipment. This combined with extreme cold slapped electrical lines and produced a power outage.

The Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management called Butch Palmero, Alaska Adventist Community Services director, to activate disaster response and donations operations. Savoonga’s mayor also requested disaster assistance. Residents took shelter in the school while emergency food and blankets were flown in. With no way to generate heat in the subzero wind chill, dozens of homes froze solid with reports of broken pipes. Ruth de Graff, from ACS Eagle River, Alaska, and Sandy Teeling, from ACS Wasilla, Alaska, with other supporting local ACS networks, staged a donation process with 500 pounds of food, diapers, sleeping bags and space heaters. The Red Cross and Alaska Airlines provided assistance for transportation of relief shipments.

Power was restored by Jan. 3, but with intermittent outages. On Jan. 4, Debbie Reed of DHSEM visited Savoonga and commended Bill and Elouise Hawkes, Savoonga ACS disaster response coordinators, for a service well done. Reed cited the fast and immediate response of the Adventist Church during disasters and their commitment to uplifting suffering communities. ACS of Alaska is the recipient of the prestigious White House’ Presidential Volunteer Service Award for 2009.

Ephraim Palmero, Alaska Adventist Community Services director

Maria Avellaneda and Denise Fouts were invited to the annual Kairos three-day weekend outreach at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center in Eagle River, Alaska, joining 21 Christian women of varying denominations to witness to inmates for Christ. Early one November Sabbath morning, both headed to the facility. It had snowed the night before, and the roads were slippery. The women traveled a little more than a mile when the vehicle swung 180 degrees and slid toward a ditch.

The truck flipped and landed on its top, leaving both hanging by their seatbelts. After checking to make sure they were both okay, they released their seatbelts and dropped to the roof of the vehicle. They crawled out of the car and climbed up to the road praying and thanking God for safety.

Fouts’ husband and a police officer arrived minutes later. Despite their accident they were still faithful to witness for Christ that Sabbath and went to the facility.

When they arrived at the correctional facility, Nan Peters, an Adventist and Kairos’ leader, greeted them with tears of joy. Peters asked the congregation to form a circle praising the Lord for keeping the two “Sabbath keepers,” alive. It was a time of testimony for Adventists as Peters presented Sabbath as the day Jesus kept while on this earth doing His Father’s will. There were questions of faith as leaders and guests alike asked about the Sabbath. Because of this brave and unusual witness some inmates have begun attending the Adventist Bible study on Thursday nights. God used an accident to reveal His truth in a place where otherwise no doctrine would be allowed.

Denise Fouts and Maria Avellaneda

Pictured here are: Maria Avellaneda and Denise Fouts.

Maria Avellaneda and Denise Fouts survive an accident, climb out of the car and witness as Sabbath-keepers about the event moments later.
The Gem State Adventist Academy Valentine outreach, led by John Bryson, chaplain, and Denise Serack, food service director, was designed to awaken compassion in students. Students helped prepare mixes (cornbread, brownies, etc.). Then they packed the 50 boxes and delivered them to 25 families in need in the Nampa, Idaho, area. Each family received two boxes laden with approximately $400 worth of high-quality, healthful food. Approximately half of the funding was provided by an anonymous alumnus. The other half came from community suppliers who offered a discount when they heard about the project.

Linda Klinger, GSAA GLEANER correspondent

Valentines

Legal Notice
Idaho Conference Session
Notice is hereby given that the 52nd Regular Session of the Idaho Conference of Seventh–day Adventists, Inc. will convene in the gymnasium of Gem State Adventist Academy, Caldwell, Idaho, on Sunday, May 22, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports of conference activities since the last Regular Conference Session; to elect officers, departmental directors, Conference Executive Committee, and Articles and Bylaws Committee for the ensuing quadrennium. The delegates will consider proposed changes to the Articles and Bylaws, do strategic planning; and transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

Nominating Committee delegates will be selected by church nominating district, and will meet on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the Meridian Adventist Church, 1855 North Black Cat Road, Meridian, Idaho.

Donald A. Klinger, Secretary Harold R. Dixon III, Treasurer

Idaho Conference Camp Meeting
June 14 – 18, 2011
Gem State Adventist Academy

Tuesday – Thursday
Dan Matthews
JP O’Connor
Chris & Lela Lewis

Friday and Sabbath
Gerald Klingbeil
Skip Bell
Richie & Timi Brower

Saturday night concert by The King’s Heralds
Sabbath afternoon concert by JP and Ani O’Connor

Seminar and Worship speakers

Men’s & Women’s Seminars and The Big Tent

Nightly Mini-concerts
Classes and activities for kids and teens.
A Century of Grace and Growth

The Kalispell (Mont.) Church celebrated its 100th anniversary on Dec. 12, 2010, with a special Sabbath service. The church was officially organized on Dec. 10, 1910, and has operated a school 77 out of those years. Under the leadership of J. Foster, pastor, the church was organized and grew from a small group of Adventists meeting in members’ homes. Since then, 24 pastors and at least 39 teachers have served members in three different locations, one of which was destroyed by a fire in January 1969. By June 1969, property was purchased on Highway 93 North, where the church is currently, and groundbreaking took place July 26, 1970.

The commemorative service included guest speakers, special music, fellowship dinner and memories. Casey Higgins, current pastor, hosted the proceedings and all guests were honored. Speakers included Steven Chin, pastor who served in Kalispell from 1976–1980; Tammy Fisher, Kalispell’s honorable mayor; David Prest; and Merlin Knowles, Montana Conference president. There was special music by Jessica Chon, Danyann Middleton and Sonny White. Additionally Kalispell’s Men’s Quartet (Josh Holloway, Randy Coursor, Gary Dieter and Rob Vixie) sang throughout the day. Rob Vixie drove all the way from Yakima, Wash., to share in the celebration. What an incredible blessing they are able to share their talent for the Lord.

After the fellowship luncheon and a generous break, everyone reconvened to participate in a “meeting of memories” and fellowship. The pleasant and often humorous walk down memory lane was entertaining for new comers and homesteaders alike.

We all share in God’s mercy and grace and pray that the church and school will continue to be the blessing it is to our children, youth and community. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven,” (Matthew 5:16).

Louise Atkinson, Kalispell Church communication leader

Special music is heard throughout the day in honor of the Kalispell (Mont.) Church’s 100th anniversary.

"Our God is Greater"
Montana Conference Camp Meeting 2011

Keynote Speaker
José Rojas

Additional Speakers
Russell Burrill
Lowell Cooper
Gary Gibbs
David Thomas
Bruce Wilkinson

June 15-18, 2011
Mount Ellis Academy
Bozeman, MT

For reservations call 406.587.3101

With music by the King’s Heralds
Battle Ground HealthCare
Free Health Care to Open

“I was trying to write a grant proposal with a balanced budget without any money. I read in the Psalm of David it says, ‘...give me a sign of your goodness Lord.’ I prayed and I said, ‘God I don’t need a sign ... but if you want to give me one I can give you glory.’ Just then my cell phone indicated a message. It was the pastor at my church and he said someone just literally walked into the church office and handed him a check for $5,000 for the clinic. That was enough to help make a balanced budget.” — Vickie Marsh

Vickie Marsh, registered nurse and founding member, grins eagerly while telling how professional members and caregivers throughout the Battle Ground, Wash., area prayed and rallied to make their medical clinic, once only a dream, stand ready to be unveiled. On Sabbath, Feb. 19, members toured the facility waiting final clearance for their non-profit, volunteer-based, entirely free, health-care clinic at the Center Point Community Center, 11117 N.E. 189th St.

More than a year ago, the Center Point management committee appointed Ruthie Gohl, member and Walla Walla University nursing instructor, to access what could be done in a vacant building at the east side of the church’s parking lot. Gohl brought several options to the committee. A few months later, the focus group chose a health-care clinic for ministry in their service area.

Since that time, the clinic has been a collective faith effort for the church and community coming on board. And since their decision, members have witnessed miracle after miracle affirming their mission. Gohl, now executive director, notes everything for the project has been donated, from the countertops to services.

The church first received $3,000 from the Oregon Conference in seed money. Shortly after, the Vancouver Clinic, a nearby facility, donated 16 exam tables with an estimated worth of $36,000. A doctor with his own clinic donated smaller equipment. A local attorney helped write incorporation papers pro bono. The nearby Legacy Hospital agreed to provide free laboratory services. Local doctors and nurses (members and non-members) began volunteering time and skill. A local Adventist dentist donated equipment and expertise, and an optometrist came on board. The ECHO – Empowering Church Healthcare Outreach http://www.echoclinics.org/ an organization helping churches start free clinics, began providing free consultations. Volunteer Connections, a Human Services Council, began screening and managing volunteers. And other monetary gifts have poured in.

The clinic will serve chronic health-care needs for those without medical coverage and/or are below 200 percent of the federal poverty line. Those served will live in the North Clark County area, which includes Battle Ground. Chronic-care treatment includes treatment for diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, lung and heart diseases. Additionally the clinic will soon provide dental treatments, simple fillings and cleanings. Vision services will come later. In the waiting room, a volunteer will visit with people and serve as a prayer warrior or as one volunteer says “just love them up.” The clinic hopes to eventually provide one-on-one counseling sessions for patient lifestyle changes and guidance.

“I am involved with the Battle Ground HealthCare Dental Clinic to assist in providing very basic dental to help meet needs and as a way to reflect the love of my savior Jesus Christ,” says Steven D. Hokett, D.D.S., P.S.

“We see this [health care clinic] as being a community ministry, not only on the receiving end, but also for the volunteer providers,” says Marsh. And Gohl adds, “We look forward to watching this community service grow with God’s love.”

To see if you qualify for medical care at the clinic, visit http://battlegroundhealthcare.org and go to “2010 Federal Poverty Level” link.

Gary McLain, Oregon Conference communication director & Cindy Chamberlin, GLEANER managing editor
Follow His Star
Christmas Program

For the past four years, the Grants Pass (Ore.) Seventh-day Adventist School has opened its doors to the community every December to act out the biblical Christmas story. On Dec. 16, 2010, students and faculty guided more than 200 people through their classrooms in hopes of making the birth of Jesus come alive. Almost every student from kindergarten through eighth grade was in costume as the drama unfolded and the audience was guided through classroom scenes.

Cheri Meier, a parent of an upper-grade student, says, “It was so well rehearsed and organized!”

“I thought it was very inspiring,” comments Claudia Velasco, seventh-grade student.

A reception of hot drinks and cookies in the commons area gave members of the local churches and community an opportunity to fellowship. This Christmas tradition will be remembered in hearts and minds of those who participated and everyone who had the privilege of attending Follow His Star.

Haleigh Haight, eighth-grade student
Milo Seniors Think It’s About Time

Milo Adventist Academy seniors themed their senior recognition weekend It’s About Time. Rather than invite guest speakers, the seniors teamed with their parents to present heartfelt talks, thereby creating a memorable spiritual weekend that blessed all in attendance.

Friday-night speakers, Tim Mayne, pastor, and his daughter, Kate, spoke of Martin Luther’s vision for the future. Reminding attendees they too should have a vision for their future. For Sabbath School, Giovanna Abarca shared her life testimony for the first time. As her daughter, Jocelyn, translated, Giovanna told of her life as an immigrant and the ups and downs she experienced while raising her children. She told of finding the Adventist Church, and then going back to Catholicism, and the unexpected turn of events that led to her children being enrolled in an Adventist School. It was encouraging to her that no matter what you go through over time, hindsight reveals God has been with you each step of the way.

In their Sabbath sermon, Greg Margart, speech pathologist, and his daughter, Rianne, asked the audience whether they were developmentally delayed Christians or if they were right where God wanted them to be at this time in their lives. It is easy to label others or to expect them to be at the same stage of spiritual development that you have reached. But it is better instead to trust God is guiding their lives in His plan. Sabbath vespers speakers, Roger Beltran, pastor, and his daughter, Camila, talked about running the race; sticking with things;

Jocelyn Abarca and her mother, Giovanna, provide a special presentation for Sabbath School.

Saturday night the senior class presented a meal featuring menu items from the time of the caveman to the present. They also presented a skit and talent show, “It’s About Time,” written and performed by seniors. The class of 2011 deserved their recognition as seniors at Milo Adventist Academy, but even more important are the reminders God is in control and He is coming soon. And, it’s about time!

Carol Bovee, MAA teacher

The Milo Academy Saturday-night program features all the seniors in different musical productions and skits.
Special Retreat Day Teaches Girls to Become Women of God

Portland Adventist Academy recently treated junior and senior girls to a special on-campus retreat. The day was organized to inspire the ladies to become women representing true worth as daughters of God.

Laura Whidden-Wetterlin, speaker and singer-songwriter, inspired girls with a worship talk about the pitfalls of jealousy and gossip. She also emceed the entire event, including a fashion show.

Heather Vliet, former PAA teacher turned professional teen counselor, talked about teens and their developing characters. She walked the girls through an assessment of their values and goals. “That was probably my favorite part,” says Jessica Nelson, junior. “It was hard, but I learned a lot about myself.”

Dating and marriage were discussed by newly wedded Drechelle McCray, PAA English teacher, who reminded the girls patience and God’s timing is important and God wants the best for their futures.

The day ended with lunch and a fashion show, where students modeled dress-code appropriate clothing.

The theme, “Daughters of God, Born into Royalty,” was referenced throughout the day. At one point, girls dreamed up laws they would make if they were queens. “No more human trafficking” and “free education” showed their serious sides, while “naps after lunch” and “fifty percent off everything day” showed they were having fun.

Liesel Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

Oregon Member Sees 108th Birthday

On Feb. 4, Loreen Dinwiddie celebrated her 108th birthday. Born in 1903 she is quite possibly the oldest Adventist in the Oregon Conference.

When asked, “When did you become an Adventist?” She answered, “When I was born.” With tears welling up in her eyes, she says, “I just love the Lord because He has been so good to me and we got chummy when I was little.”

When asked how one might live to 108 and keep close to God, Dinwiddie replied, “Read the Bible... it’s all in there. People say to me, ‘you don’t have any aches or pains and you’re feeling great at 108, what do you do?’

We liked it so well we decided to be vegan vegetarians.”

When Dinwiddie was asked what she enjoys doing at 108, she responded with a grin, “SLEEPING!” But don’t let the answer fool you. She grabbed her walker and scooted down the hall to her room to show her fabulous paintings. She has seven of her oil paintings in her room and more around the facility where she lives. Dinwiddie has two daughters: One is 82 and the other is 86.

Loreen Dinwiddie celebrates her 108th birthday.

Well, do what God tells you to do. It is all in the Bible.”

She continued, “Second is a vegan diet. When my husband and I got married in 1922, we took some classes at the camp grounds and they taught us to eat two meals a day and walk fifteen minutes every two hours.

GARY MCLAIN

Loreen Dinwiddie is also an accomplished artist. She painted this piece when she was 106.
Town Hall Meetings Herald Constituency Session

The Upper Columbia Conference held six town hall meetings across the Inland Northwest during February and March in preparation for the upcoming conference constituency session June 19 at Upper Columbia Academy.

At each town hall meeting, Bob Folkenberg Jr., UCC president, reviewed progress in the five focus areas outlined by local church delegates during the last constituency session in 2007. Folkenberg also shared the conference vision, which emphasizes a grass-roots evangelism approach and places valuable resources at the local church level to assist with this effort.

In addition to Folkenberg’s report, Randy Terry, UCC vice president of finance, shared a financial report and Doug Johnson, UCC vice president of administration, presented a membership report and recommendations for the coming consistency session.

The next UCC constituency session, which is the primary business session for the Adventist Church in the region, will be held at Upper Columbia Academy June 19 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Jay Wintermeyer, Upper Columbia Conference communication director

Sharing Their New Life at Wenatchee Valley View

For 12 years Corey struggled with alcohol and wanted to quit. One morning he woke up on the floor, crying out to God and asking Him to take away his addiction forever.

Corey’s wife, Stephanie, had been going through a different pain. Two years earlier, halfway through her pregnancy she learned the baby had a rare disease and was stillborn. Not knowing what to do or who to talk to, she blamed herself miserably.

A few days after Corey asked God to remove his addiction, Marcus Harden, local Bible worker coordinator, and Jim Anderson, Wenatchee Valley View, (Wash.) Church pastor, arrived at their home. Corey and Stephanie agreed to Bible studies. Stephanie was skeptical, and during the first two weeks of studies Corey was drinking.

“I came home one day and decided to dump out the beer,” says Corey. “When I dumped the beer, I felt a relief. There was no craving, sickness or withdrawal.”

“Corey was a changed man instantly,” says Stephanie. “After seeing Corey’s results, I knew God was real! So I asked God to help me with smoking. The following morning my kids, Corrina and Jordan, were happy to stomp on my nasty habit.”

Corey and Stephanie both had times when the devil tried to stir up arguments, but God helped similar to the verse in Mark 10:27 which says: “With men it is impossible but with God all things are possible.”

Corey and Stephanie, with their daughter, Corrina, were baptized on Christmas Day. Corrina felt God changing her life, as she watched her parents go through rough times and find God. “Knowing that God is real,” says Corrina, “makes me thankful God is in my life.”

Corey and Stephanie feel blessed God has led them into a life with Him. “God has so changed me; I cannot help but speak about him,” says Corey.

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication director

Jim Anderson, pastor, baptizes Stephanie while her husband, Corey, watches.
Candlelight Vigil Held to Stop Domestic Violence

On Monday, Feb. 21, Spokane, Wash., community members and Adventist Church members gathered for an End It Now candlelight vigil to build domestic violence awareness. Domestic violence is a corrosive epidemic affecting equal amounts of church members and the general public.

Event coordinator Mable Dunbar, Upper Columbia Conference women’s director, says, “This event is important because it addresses a critical problem our churches and community face. People need to know they can do something to stop domestic violence.”

The vigil featured moving personal testimony from a domestic violence victim and survivor who now volunteers to help others escape the vicious cycle. Representatives from local support organizations were also on hand to answer questions and provide assistance.

The event was presented by Women’s Healing and Empowerment Network, an organization sponsored by the UCC that supports two shelters in Spokane County, offers domestic violence training classes and hosts women’s retreats. If you know someone dealing with domestic violence, more information and resources are available at www.pollysplacenetwork.com.

Jay Wintemeyer, Upper Columbia Conference communication director

Living Life to the Fullest at 90
Medical-Mission Trip to Bangladesh

As the group started their medical-mission trip to Bangladesh the statement was made, “Here we go on a new adventure!” Ted Flaiz’s response was, “That’s just down my alley!” That would have been an expected response from a teenager. But when it came from a 90-year-old person, it grabbed the group’s attention.

His definition of retirement may be different than most, for he joined 10 other people spending his Christmas holidays pulling teeth and witnessing for God. Within the last 12 months alone, Flaiz has participated in mission trips to Sumatra, Borneo, Haiti, Mexico and Bangladesh. Another member of the group, Jonathan Fish remarks, “Dr. Flaiz must be comfortable in any country. At 90, he is doing better than most 70-year-olds. He is inviting, intelligent, interested, and rambunctious.” But it is also clear that Flaiz is there to share the love of Christ. His goal in life is to work for God as long as he has the ability to help anyone in need in any way possible.

When at home in Hermiston, Ore., he spends three days a week volunteering on a mobile dental clinic providing free dental care for the indigent.

Flaiz is a true inspiration to both young and old. The younger generation can learn from his vast experience, Godly insight and a whole lot of great stories. The older generation can discover a life of service doesn’t stop at 65 or retirement.

“The next time I go to the third world,” says Fish, “I wish to bring Dr. Flaiz.” His thoughts are echoed by the whole group who were privileged in sharing this trip together.

Ken Rose, Hermiston Church director of missions
Omak Church Rejoices in a Precious Harvest

The evangelistic team of Richard and Mary Halversen joined hands with the Omak (Wash.) Church for a gripping series of prophecy meetings held Sept. 18 through Oct. 16, 2010. Several community guests found lasting joy as Halversen and Jeff Crain, pastor, brought them up in new life from the waters of baptism.

Johnny Berg, one member of the group, with a fitting last name, tested the pastor’s resolve by pleading to be baptized in the icy waters of Green Lake.

When the group baptism was organized, one couple asked Halversen if he would perform a marriage ceremony for them as well. Halversen joyfully agreed. Church women hastily baked a cake and decorated it for a reception. Just one hour before the group baptism, the church family witnessed the joy of this marriage ceremony, which also was a team effort by Halversen and Crain. Assuredly, there were many moist eyes as all shared the wonder of what God was doing in this back-to-back wedding and baptism.

Seven of the 13 newly baptized members have resulted from seeds sown and cultivated in the past through the Omak Church’s door-to-door health survey contacts, previous Bible studies and friendship evangelism.

UCA Gets Soul Real

Student Week of Prayer Challenges Students to be Real

This year’s Student Week of Prayer focused on the theme of “Soul Real” during a spiritually invigorating week at Upper Columbia Academy. Organizers hoped it would encourage students to bare their real hearts to their friends and get closer to God in a way that would last the rest of the year.

Thirteen students spoke from their hearts for the special vespers held each evening, and each had something special to say. There were dramatized monologues, songs, raps and special guests, including Seth White’s father, who miraculously recovered from a life-threatening condition. Through it all students became better acquainted with God and with each other. The theme song “At Your Feet” echoed through the tiny UCA Church.

By the time Friday night rolled around, two girls had made a very important decision. Sisi Davis, sophomore, and Lindsey Nelson, junior, were baptized Friday night and officially accepted into the UCA Church family the next morning. Twenty-two UCA students have now given their lives to Christ through baptism this year.

“It’s been an amazing week for all of us,” says Dustin Harter, UCA student. “I’m already looking forward to the next Week of Prayer.”

Sophia Rich, UCA student
SAGE Seniors Mentor Young Evangelists

Teenager Sarah Ringer and her SAGE Seniors evangelism support team arrived early one evening to set up for an evangelistic meeting in San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico.

Opening her laptop, Ringer tried to open her sermon presentation program — and the computer froze. Alternating between praying and tinkering with her computer, the program unfroze moments before Ringer and her translator stood to share that evening’s presentation.


“This is the first time we took youth of the church to be mentored in evangelism,” says Bob Grady, SAGE Seniors president. “SAGE is determined to continue this evangelism mentoring experiment with the youth.”

Additionally, 33 SAGE volunteers worked with Maranatha Volunteers International to build a new church, paint six churches in the region, hold three Vacation Bible Schools and provide a medical clinic.

“All four young preachers experienced some real miracles while in Mexico and this experience will remain with them for life,” says Grady. “My faith in the young people of this church to lead the church forward to Christ’s coming has never been so strong.”

The four teenagers plan to hold an evangelistic series in Bonney Lake, Wash., during 2011.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director

Kent’s Neighbor Ministry Serves the Community

With little recognition or honor, a dedicated group of volunteers has served meals to the homeless every Wednesday and Saturday — for the past 21 years!

Neighbor to Neighbor served its first meal — soup and sandwiches — in April 1990. Linda Train, a newly baptized member who wanted to make a difference in her community, developed the idea to serve meals in the community.

“We are a community outreach with compassion for those less fortunate,” Train says.

Twenty-one years later, this community service is now a familiar extension of the Kent (Wash.) Church. The outreach is recognized in the community as a valuable resource for the homeless, jobless individuals and struggling families.

Each week, 25 rotating volunteers cook and serve at least 160 meals and provide sack lunches. Weekly tasks include doing laundry, sorting donations, cleaning up following meals, ordering products, donation pick-ups and doing necessary shopping.

In addition to providing a warm meal and sometimes a blanket or warm coat, volunteers chat with the people who come and give a friendly smile or sometimes even a hug.

Volunteers who have served for 10 years or more include: Linda and Doug Train, Lacy Harrison, Rick Shillinger, Steve DesGarenses, Lana Jewell, Shirley Crady, Juanita Barnes, Pam Dale, and Lou and Glen Palmer.

Read more about Neighbor to Neighbor’s story at washingtonconference.org.

Janet Evans, Kent Church communication leader

Washington Conference pastors, educators and leaders met via teleconference for 40 days of prayer to seek the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

DISCOVER MORE: WASHINGTONCONFERENCE.ORG
The Revealing Looks at God’s Character

When a church decides to hold an evangelistic series, they frequently request a guest evangelist. This was not the scenario for the North Cascade Church in Burlington, Wash.

Instead, Mark Witas, senior pastor, read books, listened to sermons and interviewed authors and evangelists. He pulled elements from his research to develop The Revealing, a 15-night series designed to take an honest look at the character of God.

“The goal was to look at God’s character as revealed in the Bible and not through a medieval lens,” says Witas. “We focused on the Great Controversy and the church’s misrepresentation of God through the years.”

The series generated a lot of interest within the church and in the community with an average attendance of 220 per night. And on Sabbath mornings, the sanctuary was full — for both services. “Many people attended the meetings who weren't coming to church,” Witas says. “The series rekindled their interest.”

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director, with Joan Libby, North Cascade communication leader

Auburn Restructures Mission Program

Auburn Adventist Academy has a long tradition of involving students and faculty in mission service abroad. In recent years, as many as 70–100 participants have joined mission trip ventures to the Philippines, Peru, Vietnam, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Honduras, Ecuador, Fiji and other locales.

With mission trip groups of this size, it is difficult to find service locations that can accommodate this many volunteers. Academy administration recently decided to restructure its mission trip program.

“Mission trips not only benefit the community where our volunteers serve, but also benefit students,” says John Freedman, Washington Conference president and AAA board chair. “We know mission trips are important in the spiritual development of young people.”

With the new mission trip program, mission trips abroad and home-based service projects will be offered in alternating years. Each group will have a maximum of 40-42 participants, including young people and adult sponsors. Junior and senior students will receive first priority. In addition, to gain eligibility to participate, students will need to accumulate community service hours.

The goal, says Samir Berbawy, AAA principal, is to “broaden opportunities” for students to be involved in service at home and abroad. School leaders want to see students involved in a variety of mission trips and seek to develop partnerships with established mission trip providers.

Heidi Martella
Missionary School Educates for Eternity

In the growing community of Stanwood, Wash., just north of Everett, Wash., is Cedarhome Adventist Christian School, a small school carrying out years of educational tradition off and on since 1908.

This year, the 10 students spanning six grades are coincidentally all boys. This makes for a unique atmosphere for Amanda Kobberstad, principal and first-year teacher, to ambitiously direct their energy to studies and service.

Through the years, the Howells’ education contributions include: serving on the school board, promoting Christian education at church, raising money for student scholarships and special projects, inviting students to their home, and being regulars at school events.

The Howells’ depth of commitment to Adventist Education is illustrated by an exchange of conversation after the Cypress Adventist School board voted to borrow $15,000 from the NPUC Revolving Fund to replace a broken boiler. After the meeting, Sara approached the principal and said, “Don’t you borrow that money. I’ll find it.” And, she did!

The Howells’ commitment to Adventist Education extends beyond Cypress with their involvement in Auburn Adventist Academy’s Committee of 100. Additionally, Sara requests an ADRA goat for her birthday because each goat provides income to help educate a child in a third-world country.

The Howells’ only regret: “We only wish that we still had the energy to support Christian education the way we used to.”

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Adventist Education.

“Our commitment to Adventist Education began when we placed our daughter, Judy, in first grade at Seattle Junior Academy,” says Sara Howell. “In those days, everyone put their kids in Adventist schools and everyone supported the programs and the work bees.”

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50-Year Adventist Education Supporters Honored

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One student is showcased each Sabbath and introduced to the congregation, and the members are invited to pray for the student of the week. The students feel great knowing the church “next door” cares about them and is praying for them, and the congregation enjoys getting to know the boys from the school.

In addition to learning academics and about God, the Cedarhome boys are discovering the joy of service. A favorite service project this year was when the boys participated in a “penny war” where they raised $200 to go out and buy toys and food for local needy families.

Gail Johnson, CACS teacher aide

Cedarhome Adventist Christian School, in Stanwood, Wash., has 10 students this year, and they are all boys. Six of the 10 students are from non-Adventist homes, and the school and church are working together to integrate these students and their families into the church-and-school community.

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As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we believe in reflecting the image of Jesus and working together to proclaim the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ and His soon return.

Join us at Washington Adventist Camp Meeting in Auburn, Wash., this June 16-25 to discover how to reflect the image of Christ in every part of our life and ministry. Programming will be available for all ages.

**WASHINGTON ADVENTIST CAMP MEETING**
**JUNE 16-25, 2011**
on the campus of Auburn Adventist Academy in Auburn, Washington

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**Reserve the following for CAMP MEETING 2011**

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**WASHINGTON ADVENTIST CAMP MEETING RESERVATIONS**

are offered on a first-come, first-served basis by mail or online. All overnight accommodations must be in Conference-designated locations. Electric services is for lights and cooking only (not for air conditioning). Registration is finalized with payment, and deposits are non-refundable after June 2. **Reservation Questions?** Call Donna Dickerson at (253) 681-6008.

**DURING CAMP MEETING:**

• Check-in at Locating upon arrival to complete your registration.
• Pre-register onsite with payment for 2012 during June 20-24.
• Purchase Cafeteria meals on all days except on Saturdays. Pre-purchased Sabbath meal tickets are available for Stop & Go Café.
• Read The Accent newsletter for daily announcements and updates.

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**REGISTER ONLINE AT**
http://washingtonconference.org/reflect

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**OR MAIL FORM & PAYMENT TO:**

Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Attn: Camp Meeting Registration
32229 Weyerhaeuser Way South
Federal Way, WA 98001
Slow Down: Fast
Students lead 40-day challenge

Last year, Walla Walla University’s student association encouraged students to spend 20 minutes each day with God. This year they decided to try something different and challenged students to “Slow Down: Fast.”

“We asked them to take a look at their lives and ask themselves if there was anything getting in the way of their relationship with Christ,” explains Garrett Speyer, AS-WWU spiritual vice president and 40 Days organizer. “Oftentimes what we find in that space is really hard to give up, but in doing so, we’re able to grow so much.”

This is where fasting enters the picture.

ASWWU was quick to explain fasting is more than abstaining from food. They urged students to look at every aspect of their lives and to consider giving up Facebook, television, video games, movies, texting or even behaviors such as holding grudges, taking revenge, lust, greed, gossip, etc. Though they didn’t discourage students from food fasts, they made sure participants had healthy guidelines to do so.

“When I heard what others were giving up for the challenge, it really struck me how much stuff we have in our lives,” says Speyer. “It’s hard to recognize that, and even harder to give things up.”

Speyer explains that fasting doesn’t mean strictly giving something up; participants could also add things into their lives.

“For example, you can give up Facebook and spend more time praying,” Speyer says. “Or give up movies and go to bed early. Fasting looks different for everyone, and we encouraged students to be creative.”

To support the students in their 40 Days journey, ASWWU offered wristbands. The bands were white with red lettering reading: “40 Days — Slow Down: Fast.”

“The white means purity, since participants are attempting to purify their lives,” explains Speyer. “Red represents Jesus’ blood, which is what makes us pure.”

The challenge began in mid-January during ASWWU’s Week of Worship. At each day’s CommUnity gathering, hundreds of white rocks were provided on which students wrote what they were giving up. Those rocks were then placed at the foot of the cross on the church platform. Throughout the week large chalkboards were placed in different locations around campus on which students were encouraged to write what they were giving up.

“We wanted people to see that others were also struggling — sometimes with the exact same things,” says Speyer. “We wanted them to know they weren’t alone. It was really powerful to see what the issues are and to see the students willing to lay these things down as a means of growing closer to Christ. I think it speaks volumes about the kind of community we have here at WWU.”

In an effort to help them on their journeys, ASWWU partnered with the local ABC Christian Bookstore to give participants a 40 percent discount on any book they chose, and several recommended books were made available through the campus library. ASWWU started a Facebook discussion page for participants to encourage and support each other in the challenge, and following the 40 Days, hosted a special vespers and Sabbath gathering where students were asked to share experiences.

“We were a little nervous about how the students would receive the idea of fasting, but I was pleasantly surprised to find it was with open arms and commitment,” says Speyer. “Sometimes it may have been difficult, at other times rewarding, but our main hope was that through fasting, the students of WWU would gain a better understanding of the greatest sacrifice of all: Jesus dying on the cross for each of us.”

Becky St. Clair, WWU GLEANER correspondent

Students write what they are giving up for 40 days. The white rocks represent purity and the red ink is symbolic of Jesus’ blood.

Hundreds of white rocks are provided on which students write what they are giving up for 40 days. The white rocks represent purity and the red ink is symbolic of Jesus’ blood.
Danny Parada, chaplain at Tillamook County General Hospital, is leading a church plant in Tillamook, Ore.

Finding Truth
It started with three families from La Iglesia de Jesucristo (Church of Christ), who studied scriptures, worshiped and prayed together. One day they came across verses about the Sabbath. They went to their pastor with many questions on their hearts and minds, but his answers didn’t satisfy them.

The group decided to leave their congregation and worship in their homes. After praying, fasting and asking for God’s help, several Adventist couples in the area and the Tillamook Church contacted the group and offered them support and guidance. When the conference asked Parada to volunteer by providing additional support and working to plant a church, he knew this task was for him.

“I wanted to do this because I have a passion for evangelism,” says Parada. “I love seeing that moment when people understand what the Bible teaches, and how they change when they see the light.”

Leading the flock
Parada works with the conference and the Tillamook Church to lead small-group Bible studies nearly every day of the week. Each Sabbath, 30 or more new believers gather to hear him share God’s Word.

Since the church plant began in December, 10 people have been baptized following an evangelistic series presented by Parada. Another evangelistic series is planned for this spring, and he hopes another 10 will be baptized.

The group is a ministry of the Tillamook Church and is rapidly growing. Currently, a room in the church serves as their meeting place. Parada says he will have to start two Sabbath services soon to accommodate the growing group who can’t all fit into the small room.

“This is a good problem to have,” says Parada. “I have seen God work through the people in the group, the conference and the church. This plant will turn into a beautiful Spanish church in Tillamook.”

“The most important goals of Adventist Health are to minister to the physical, mental and spiritual needs of our communities and beyond,” says Larry Davy, president and CEO of Tillamook County General Hospital. “It is very exciting to watch God consistently use our employees, such as Danny Parada, to positively impact the lives of others in such dramatic ways.”

Brittany Russell, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent
Scyphers 90th

Inita M. “Peggy” Fallang Scyphers celebrated her 90th birthday on Aug. 21, 2010, with a reception hosted by her daughter, son-in-law and family in Richland, Wash.

Peggy was born Sept. 28, 1920, in Big Timber, Mont., to Samuel J. and Blanche M. (Thurman) Fallang. She was the youngest of five children. Peggy spent her youth in Big Timber, where she graduated from Sweet Grass County High School.

On May 27, 1939, Peggy married Joseph A. Scyphers, in Bozeman, Mont. In 1951, they moved to Butte, Mont., where they raised their four children. Following Joe’s death in 1998, Peggy continued to live in Butte and later in East Helena, Mont. In 2008, she relocated to College Place, Wash., where she now resides with her daughter and son-in-law.

Peggy was a stay-at-home mom until Joe was seriously disabled in a mining accident in 1959. At that time she began working as a nurse’s aide and later as a licensed practical nurse. Peggy was employed for 25 years at St. James Community Hospital in Butte, Mont., until her retirement in 1985. A post-retirement vacation, which she truly enjoyed, was a trip to Germany with her daughter-in-law, Barb.

Peggy was an active member of the Butte Church for many years until her move to East Helena. She held various church offices, assisted with cooking schools and other activities. She participated in the monthly luncheons for retired Butte nurses as well as monthly dinners by the Teamsters Union. Her pastimes include crocheting, embroidery and sewing.

Peggy’s family includes Patricia and Ted Winn of College Place, Wash.; Ruth and James Bebee of Richland, Wash.; Joseph “Joe” Jr. and Barb Scyphers of East Helena, Mont.; Charlene and Ron Scharf of Polaris, Mont.; 9 grandchildren (2 deceased) and 10 great-grandchildren.

Stanley 105th

On Oct. 16, the members of the Gaston Church held a potluck to honor “Aunt” Jessie Stanley on her 105th birthday.

Jessie Nora Giddings was born on Oct. 7, 1906, in Purdy, Mo., eighth child of Hiram and Laura (Buchanan) Giddings. Jessie traces her ancestry to US President James Buchanan.

She married Vern Stanley on Sept. 29, 1930. In 1938, Jessie and Vern moved to Oregon and joined the Gaston Church in February 1939. In 1942, Jessie began working in the nursery at Portland Adventist Hospital. She enjoyed caring for the newborn babies until her retirement in 1969. Jessie also enjoys a variety of hobbies and is an accomplished artist.

In the past, Jessie served as church treasurer and was on the building committee for the new church, Gaston Wayside Church, located in Gaston, Ore., where she volunteered many hours toward the building project.

Her husband Vern died in 1995, after 65 years of happy marriage. Jessie now lives with her great nephew, Ed Tucker and his wife, Lynell, in Laurelwood, Ore., where she has been for 15 years. She attends church nearly every Sabbath.

Townsend 70th

Newt and Bev Townsend quietly celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Sept. 6, 2010, at their home in Winlock, Wash.

Newton Townsend and Beverly Calkins were married in Shelton, Wash., on Sept. 6, 1940. Newt started working as a logger in 1937 and later transferred to the Simpson Timber Company machine shop, where they lived in Shelton.

Newt started his own business, Olympic Drying Systems, designing and building infra-red paint dryers in Shelton in 1949. His work took his family to Willits, Calif., for three years, then to Woodburn, Ore., for eight years and finally to Winlock, Wash., for retirement where they have lived for 11 years. Newt authored and self-published two books. They are active members of the Winlock Church.

Newt and Bev’s family include: Dennis of Silver Creek, Wash.; Keith of Missoula, Mont.; Martin (deceased); Lisa of Winlock, Wash.; Marea of West Linn, Ore.; 9 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

White 65th

Robert began working at 10, sawing slab wood for stoves and later working for the logging industry. Later he worked for Convoy Company, a trucking company hauling automobiles. He retired in 1990, after 37 years of service.

Patricia worked for the Valley Migrant League, an organization assisting migrant workers and their children. She has many years of stories and joy found while teaching/helping children.

During their 65 years of marriage, they raised nine children and fostered 25. They have many stories with the foster children in their home and still connect with them.

Robert has served many years as an elder, and more than 20 years on the Lay Advisory Committee. Patricia worked in the Sabbath School divisions and served as a Sabbath School secretary. They lead out in Pathfinderers. They are both committed to their church, Patricia becoming a member in 1956 and Robert in 1961.


Robert and Patricia White

Carlena White of Corlinas, Ore.; Robert and Patricia White celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows at the Christmas Valley Church on Aug. 17, 2010. They both grew up in Hillsboro, Ore., and had their first date as teens on July 9, 1944. They were married the following year.

Robert began working at 10, sawing slab wood for stoves and later working for the logging industry. Later he worked for Convoy Company, a trucking company hauling automobiles. He retired in 1990, after 37 years of service.

Patricia worked for the Valley Migrant League, an organization assisting migrant workers and their children. She has many years of stories and joy found while teaching/helping children.

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Robert and Patricia White
BIRTHS

AERNI — Patience Davina was born Jan. 5, 2011, to David and Summer (Thornton) Aerni, Walla Walla, Wash.

AERNI — Payton William was born Jan. 5, 2011, to David and Summer (Thornton) Aerni, Walla Walla, Wash.

HUNT — Sierra Morgan was born Sept. 19, 2010, to Jason and April (Nelson) Hunt, Pomeroy, Wash.

JANKE — Melia Hadley was born Sept. 2, 2010, to Mark and Heather (Schultz) Janke, Spokane, Wash.

JOHNSON — KyleeAnn Marie was born Jan. 24, 2011, to Nathan and Heidi (Logan) Johnson, Lincoln City, Ore.

KORT — Chloette Grace was born Feb. 9, 2011, to Jonathan and Lindsey (Marlotte) Kort, Walla Walla, Wash.

MARTINEZ — Marie was born Jan. 24, 2011, toDepending.

LAINE — Alana Sophie was born Nov. 12, 2010, to Viorel and Lilianna (Danaila) Rosca, Aloha, Ore.

LAINE — Bradley A. was born Feb. 15, 2011, to Ryan and Erin (Garner) Wilson, Centralia, Wash.

SHELDON — Ronan Guan-Jie was born Oct. 31, 2010, to Frank and Marthe (Trevino) Sheldon, Issaquah, Wash.

ST. CLAIR — Soren Christian was born Dec. 29, 2010, Shane and Christy (Duck) St. Clair, Portland, Ore.

ST. CLAIR — Emily Marie was born Oct. 1, 2010, to Brooks and Alisa (Bower) St. Clair, Eagle, Idaho.

VISTAUNET — Koen Rainier was born Nov. 27, 2010, to Brian and Liesl (Fandrich) Vistaunet, Portland, Ore.

WILSON — Benjamin was born Feb. 15, 2011, to Ronan and Erin (Garner) Wilson, Centralia, Wash.

YAP — Ronan Guan-Jie was born Jan. 18, 2011, to Llewellyn and Cherie Winwickrouch Yap, Issaquah, Wash.

ZOLLBRECHT — Sofia Audrey Jane was born Oct. 31, 2010, to Les and Marschelle (Bowes) Zollbrecht, Portland, Ore.

ZOLLBRECHT — Dorothy L. was born Oct. 15, 1928, Portland, Ore.; died Dec. 11, 2010, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: sons, Robert Bonine, La Pine, Ore.; Eldon Bonine, of Alaska; stepsons, Gordon Campbell and Greg Campbell, both of California; Dana Campbell, Sweet Home, Ore.; daughters, Susan (Bonine) Smith, Elmira, Ore.; Kari (Bonine) Hilliard, Vanity, Ore.; stepdaughter, Pam Campbell, of Oklahoma; 9 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

ACKER — Virginia Louise (Sokow), 63; born Nov. 26, 1946, Merrill, Wis.; died Sept. 4, 2010, Hayden Lake, Idaho. Surviving: son, Kris, Walla Walla, Wash.; daughters, Carol Hartzell, De Queen, Ark.; mother, Betty (Johnson) Sukow, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada; and 4 grandchildren.


BLISS — Charles “Burton,” 93; born July 29, 1917, Letha, Idaho; and 4 grandchildren.

BYRD — Letitia Marion (Cates), 80; born Nov. 4, 1930, Lacadena, Saskatchewan, Canada; and 4 grandchildren.

CAMPBELL — Dorothy L. was born Dec. 22, 2010, Portland, Ore. Surviving: husband, William E.; son, Dan, Pendleton, Ore.; brothers, Lyle Cates and Kyle Cates, both of Saskatchewan, Canada; sister, Enid Henderson, Yakima; and 2 grandchildren.

CAMPBELL — Alana Sophie was born Nov. 12, 2010, to Viorel and Lilianna (Danaila) Rosca, Aloha, Ore.

CAMPBELL — Maria was born Jan. 24, 2011, toDepending.

CRAYFOURD — Betty Winifred, 86; born Jan. 7, 1924, Witham, England; and 4 grandchildren.

CUMMINGS — Bruce Keith, 50; born Aug. 16, 1960, Walla Walla, Wash.; and 4 grandchildren.

DECHENNE-QUITUGUA — Maxine Esther (Beddoge), 86; born Dec. 23, 1923, Wapato, Wash.; and 15 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 5 "chosen" step-grandchildren.

FISHER — Richard D., 92; born May 26, 1918, Mexico, Ind.; and 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.


FRANCO — Sharron R. (Shaber), 56; born Nov. 12, 1954, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; and 15 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 5 "chosen" step-grandchildren.

GLEANER • April 2011

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JOHNSON — Gladys “Henry” (Hendricksen), 79; born Dec. 23, 1931, in Montana; died Nov. 23, 2010, Lolo, Mont. Surviving: son, Randall, Belgrade, Mont.; daughters, Kathleen Griffen, Troy, Ala.; Deanna Harris, Bozeman, Mont.; and 5 grandchildren.


SHORT — Bernice V. (Fields) Hatfield Lattin, 103; born Sept. 14, 1907, Madras, Ore.; died Nov. 29, 2010, Central Point, Ore. Surviving: 5 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 8 great-great-grandchildren and a great-great-great-grandchild.


**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**North Pacific Union Conference**

**Offering**
- April 2 — Local Church Budget
- April 9 — World Budget: Christian Record Services
- April 16 — Local Church Budget
- April 23 — Local Conference Advance
- April 30 — NAD Outreach Program

**Walla Walla University**

- April 3-5 — NPUC University Days
- April 10 — North Pacific Regional Robotics Challenge LEGO event. First through 12th-graders from across the Pacific Northwest complete challenges using LEGO robotics.
- April 21-24 — Alumni Homecoming Weekend. For full schedule, visit alumni.wallawalla.edu.
- April 22 — Homecoming Golf Tournament. To register, call 800-377-2586.
- April 23 — Young Alumni Night at Jacob’s, 9-10:30 p.m. Free appetizers and desserts; live music. Open to all graduates of the last 10 years.
- April 24 — Alumni Car Show. Free entry. To register your vehicle, call 800-377-2586.
- April 23, 24, 28, 30 & May 1 — wuadrama spring show “My Fair Lady” musical. Show begins at 8 p.m., except on April 30, show begins at 9 p.m. Matinee shows at 2 p.m. on April 23 and May 1. Buy tickets at drama.wallawalla.edu.

**Oregon**

**Gardening Seminar**
- April 9-11 — Learn how to grow your own produce. David Stottlemeyer presents practical and biblical gardening concepts in a simple and engaging manner. Topics: getting started, soil fertility, pest control and more, including demonstrations. Weekend begins Saturday night with a light supper at 6:30 p.m.

**Upper Columbia**

**UCA Academy Day**
- April 7 — Upper Columbia Academy is having its annual Academy Day on Thursday. Come out and experience the lifestyle of being a student at UCA. Enjoy performances from the choir, band and gymnastics team. Visitors will also be able to attend classes, take tours of campus and check out spiritual life. For more information, e-mail info@ucaa.org or call Joe Hess at 509-245-3680. Call 509-245-3680. UCA, 3025 E. Spangle-Waverly Road, Spangle, WA 99031.

**Missing Members**
- The Kennewick Church in Kennewick, WA, is looking for the whereabouts of the following members: Amanda R. Artz, Rebecca A. Artz, Sarah R. Artz, Daniel Atkins, John Atkins, Dennis Brons, Kurt A. Brown, Anne Cameron, Kevren R. Carpenter, Oramel M. Carpenter, Peg Chase, Sandy Cochrane, Barbara J. Creamer, Michael P. Davis, Fema Drum, Carrie Earle, Rhonda Ek, Michelle D. Ely, Brian Fichtner, Marco Flores and Samyl Flores. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact Fred Christensen, pastor, at 509-783-8731 or kennewicksda@frontier.com.

**Washington**

**Missing Members**
- Washington Conference is seeking the following missing members: Jimmie Ellis, Marcus D. Elmore, Teresa Elmore, Orellana A. Elvira, Mercedes Errazuriz, Hernandez Froylan Espejo, Josefnia Espinal, Miguel Espinal, Giovanny Espinoza, Josefa Espinoza, Antonio Estrada, Edgard Estrada, Maria D. Estrada, Pedro Estrada, Yoconda Estrada, Eleno G. Eusded, Jose Mamertina Everson, Annie Faletoj, James Faletoj, Lealofi S. Faletoj, Maria Faletoj, Nemair D. Faletoj, Setu Faletoj and Taalai Fanene. If you have information regarding these missing members, please contact Janeth Carnduff at 253-681-6008.

**Women’s Spring Day**
- Washington Conference presents their annual women’s ministries Spring Day event Sabbath, May 14, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Grace Community Church, 1320 Auburn Way South, Auburn, WA 98002. Featured speaker is Shelley Quinn. For more information or to register, go to www.washingtonconference.org/women or call 253-681-6008.

**World Church**

**Centennial Celebration**
- April 30 — Detroit Southfield Jr. Academy and Metropolitan Jr. Academy are “Celebrating 100 years of Christian Education.” Guest speaker is Nathan Greene at the Metropolitan Adventist Church, 15585 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170 at 9:30 a.m. Potluck lunch to follow. Afternoon concert with Scott Michael Bennett and Camille Aragoness. A special offering for the Worthy Student Fund. For more information, contact 734-420-4044, metroschooloffice@yahoo.com, www.southfield-metro100years.com.

**Maplewood Academy Alumni Get-Together**
- May 7 — All Maplewood Academy Alumni invited to the Pacific West Coast MWA Alumni get-together. The event will be held from noon to 4 p.m., in the all-purpose room at Walla Walla Valley Academy, 300 S.W. Academy Way, College Place, WA 99324. Enjoy a potluck dinner with old classmates and meet with a MWA representative as they share news and updates from your alma mater.
ADULT CARE
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.

ACCEPTING NEW RESIDENTS IN OUR ADVENTIST ADULT FAMILY HOME. We are located in Spokane Valley, WA. Single or couple needing adult care. We provide an Adventist environment with vegan or vegetarian meals. Solid Christian and caring environment. Contact Jon Griffith at 509-892-8858, or e-mail jongriffith155@msn.com. Three private rooms available.

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FEATHER RIVER HOSPITAL in Paradise, CA, is seeking a Director of Clinical Information Systems. Located in the foothills, 90-miles north of Sacramento, Feather River offers competitive wages and excellent benefits in a friendly and supportive environment. Qualified candidates must have experience with electronic medical records and at least three years of management experience, preferable in a clinical setting. A current California RN license is preferred. For information on this, or other opportunities at Feather River, visit us at www.frhosp.org or call 530-876-3102.

CLASSES
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master’s degrees in business, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through online and on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatedegrees.

EMPLOYMENT
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks dean for School of Education and Psychology. Successful candidate will hold a doctoral degree in a field of education or psychology. Candidate must also be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send cover letter, curriculum vita, and statement of leadership and teaching philosophy, including the integration of faith and learning to Dr. Robert Young, Academic Administration: e-mail ryoung@southern.edu; call 423-236-2804 or 423-260-0597. The position becomes available on June 1.
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S School of Social Work seeks MSW faculty. Doctorate degree in Social Work and MSW degree from a CSWE accredited institution required. Demonstrated clinical skills, technological abilities, leadership abilities, and effective teaching experience in higher education required. Must have strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, the teachings and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and be a Adventist church member in good and regular standing. Please submit a résumé and cover letter to Dr. René Drumm, drumm@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S School of Nursing seeks faculty member to coordinate Summer Study Option for Associate of Science program. Responsibilities include teaching, clinical scheduling, and supervision in the labs. Applicant must have a minimum of a master's degree in nursing, be a Seventh-day Adventist in good and regular standing, and have a commitment to nursing and Adventist education. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Barbara James, bjames@southern.edu or to SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

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Texas nursing license. Contact Dr. Ron Mitchell at 817-202-6230 or rmitchell@swau.edu.

BETTER LIFE BROADCASTING NETWORK seeks assistant to the General Manager. Good organizational skills, computer savvy, some accounting experience with QuickBooks a plus. Good people skills, “can do” attitude, public speaker. Adventist member in good standing required. Résumé to Ron Davis, PO Box 766, Grants Pass, OR 97526. E-mail rondavis@betterlifetv.tv.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks an instructor in the School of Journalism and Communication to teach one or more of the following: public relations, journalism, photography, new media and speech. A doctorate in the field, plus professional work experience, is preferred. Candidates must have at least a master’s degree, as well as membership in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send CV to Dr. Greg Rumsey, rumsey@southern.edu, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

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Event UML Reunion. If you were an UML employee and would like to join in a reunion in the Portland, OR area this summer, send an e-mail to Jim Root at jrootlsa@comcast.net. Also let us know if you have any old issues of Dateline.

Please join us in celebrating the life of Gordon Finch. Sabbath, April 9, 2011 at 4 pm. Walla Walla Valley Academy, 300 Southwest Academy Way, College Place, WA 99324.

East Salem church's 50th anniversary on May 7. Charter members, former members, pastors and friends are invited to East Salem Church's 50th anniversary, 5575 Fruitland Rd NE, Salem, OR 97317. Lunch service provided. For more information, call 503-363-0390 or e-mail karenvs@hughes.net.

Presenting amazing prophecies, the new Daniel and Revelation Witnessing Magazine. This exciting new witnessing tool for soul winners includes the full KJV Bible text of Daniel and Revelation. It presents notes, dates, charts, time-lines and 80 easy-to-understand colorful pages, just $1.59 each. FREE sample with any purchase. Call for discount prices, 800-777-2848.


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MISCELLANEOUS

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BIG ISLAND, HAWAII
I remember the earthquake vividly. Ceiling tiles cascaded; walls crumbled. As I tried to run, the floor rolled violently up and down, then gave way. I felt myself falling, falling.

With a deep shuddering breath, I opened my eyes to darkness. My heart was pounding, yet all else was quiet. I was alive and in my own bed. “I just had a horrible dream about an earthquake,” I murmured to my long-suffering wife. “I’ll bet you did,” she said with a sigh. “You were snoring so loud, I had to bounce up and down on the bed to get you to stop.”

While I smile at that memory, I’m confronted with staggering images of Japan’s recent devastation, with miles of coastline buildings, boats and bodies churned into a sickening slurry. Television reports benignly beamed into our homes thousands of miles distant can never adequately convey the stories of personal loss and lives forever changed. While relief agencies scramble to help in this tragic trifecta of earthquake, tsunami and nuclear radiation, we who remain are left to ponder our own mortality. Our beautiful Northwest, with an inscrutable tectonic schedule, is due for its own date with destiny.

No doubt this earth, as the Bible says, is “waxing old like a garment.” Many of us will see this latest disaster as yet another measuring stick of prophesy. But let’s not miss this present “teachable moment.” This is a wakeup call to our immediate need: everyday, Christ-centered living.

For sleep, while necessary, can go on too long. The 13th chapter of Romans cuts straight to the core. “Make sure you don’t get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! ... Get out of bed and get dressed!” (Romans 13:11–13, The Message)

Both physically and mentally, it’s good to get a benevolent spousal shake when our snoring gets too loud. Spiritually, an earthshaking experience provides an opportunity to re-engage and replace our own status quo with priorities of eternal value.

A disaster like that in Japan sobers us all. But every day there are individual earthquakes, too, when relational or financial tsunamis come in like a flood; when our faith hangs in the balance; when personal defeat seems more than we can bear. From my hard experience, one thing is certain — Romans 8:28 is true. Satan’s worst efforts are God’s best opportunities. Faith, when stretched, gets longer and stronger. Like Jacob, we wrestle with God in our most intimate challenges, and cry, “I will not let You go without Your blessing!”

And because of this daily, weekly crucible of faith, when the final minutes of this tired earth tick away, when the ultimate wakeup call comes, we’ll be ready to heed the joyful summons of Scripture: “Look up; lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh!” (Luke 21:28)

It’s a wakeup call I refuse to miss.

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