Portland Adventist Community Services

Everyday Gifts of Dignity

WWW.GLEANERONLINE.ORG
Return to your rest, my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.
Psalm 116:7 (NIV)

‘Flutter for the Day’ by Renae Smith of Brush Prairie, Washington.
EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES

The Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS) and the Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS) are collaborating to provide Everyday Gifts of Dignity to those in need. This initiative aims to address the urgent needs of individuals and families through practical assistance.

PACS has been working diligently to ensure that the funds raised are effectively used to support the community. The recent donations have enabled them to purchase essential items such as food, clothing, and other basic needs for those in need.

The partnership with PACS has been instrumental in reaching a wider audience and increasing awareness about the urgent needs of the community. The joint efforts have resulted in a significant impact, providing necessary resources to those who need them the most.

The collaboration between PACS and PACS continues to be a model for efficient use of resources. By working together, they are able to make a greater impact on the community, ensuring that the funds raised are used effectively to provide much-needed assistance.

The Everyday Gifts of Dignity initiative is just one of many efforts undertaken by PACS and PACS to support the community. Their commitment to serving others is evident in their dedication to providing practical solutions to the challenges faced by individuals and families.

As we continue to support these initiatives, let us remember the importance of efficient use of resources. By working together and making strategic decisions, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those who need it most.
Mission Institute is Ready for Action ... and Students

The Northwest Mission Institute (NMI) is seeking individuals, college-age or above, who are interested in becoming Bible-worker trainers. It is currently accepting applications for its summer boot camp and its first full session in the fall. The boot camp will be held June 18–September 7 in Kennewick, Washington. The full session, NMI Complete, will begin September 23 on the campus of Walla Walla University and run until March 22, 2013. The second half of the complete session will be an apprenticeship quarter, partnering with the REACH initiative in Seattle, Washington.

Costs for the boot camp are $1,760 per student, which include tuition, housing and meals. The full NMI Complete session runs $4,950. The charges for both the boot camp and full session include an iPad for each student.

Jason Worf, director, says the NMI model of training is supported by three main pillars: academic excellence, non-stop mentorship, and real-world experience. Small class sizes, limited to 20 students, will allow time for one-on-one student/instructor training. NMI is designed around the principle of helping its students follow Ellen White’s injunction to become thinkers, and not mere reflectors.

For more information and to access an application for one of these upcoming sessions, go online to missioninstitute.org or “like” NMI on Facebook at facebook.com/missioninstitute. You can also contact Worf at 360-857-7062.

Letters

Witness to Tithe Blessings

I have been receiving the GLEANER for years and this is actually the first time in years that I decided to pick it up to read and was dismayed by the responses that you/the author received in regards to the previous article ["Whatever Thy Hand Findeth to Do,” February 2012]. Let me just say that I am a witness and example to what blessings tithing can bring.

Kristine Tibbs, Silverdale, Washington

Inspiring Words

What your Mormon tithing article ["Whatever Thy Hand Findeth to Do,” February 2012] (one of the five articles, if that many, I have read from the GLEANER in the last year!) told me was that ALL people (of all faiths!) can and often do listen to what the Good Man tells their heart ... My mom sure did, and so did Bill Marriott.

But very sadly, obviously, many “good Adventists” do NOT! ... Just to let you know that type of pettiness is a big part of the reason I no longer attend church, though I have always and still do “return the tithe” (not “pay” it!). ... Thanks for a great article [and] your inspiring words, both in the article and in your response letter ["Don’t Shoot,” April 2012].

God bless you!
(And I’m sure He does!)

Julie Smith, Livingston, Montana

Cindy Chamberlin, GLEANER managing editor, responds:

Mine is just borrowed skill, strictly on loan from a very big God. To His glory I write and to His credit I press forward. Blessed? Pass the blessing forward to another who may especially need it.
Finishing Strong

I generally don’t spend much time following professional sports. But in the last few months it would be difficult for anyone not to have heard something about Tim Tebow.

As you see him kneeling along the sidelines of the football field pointing toward heaven, you can’t help wondering exactly what he is praying about. Is he praying to win? Is he praying for safety? Is he praying that he and his team will do their best? I don’t know.

Recently I was in an airport bookstore where Tebow’s book, Through My Eyes, was prominently displayed. I bought it and found it refreshing to read about an athlete who unabashedly and unapologetically loves God and talks about it with ease at every opportunity.

I’m not going to suggest that all Christians should follow his example of painting a Bible verse under their eyes, but interestingly enough, after Tebow’s small but bold witness was seen on national television — with that little “John 3:16” painted under his eyes — 94 million people did a Google search to find out about that Bible text. Amazing. Amazing too that in our so-called Christian nation, there were 94 million who needed to look up the most familiar text in Scripture. Think how long it would take and how expensive it would be to distribute 94 million pieces of evangelistic literature.

What I am suggesting is that we might take a lesson from this young Christian who seemingly uses every opportunity his position affords to speak a word for the Lord. Could we not do the same?

Tebow exhibits no embarrassment in expressing his need of God or in giving Him credit in times of success. What about you? What about me? Do we find it a natural, automatic response to go to God in prayer ... to credit Him for blessings ... to ask His help?

Something else I learned about Tebow: He is often brought into the game near the end. He has the ability to energize and lead the team to a strong finish.

In one particular game after the final touchdown, Tebow remembers the coach’s exuberance: “Atta boy. Great job. You finished. I love you.”

“It was a great feeling to hear those words and to know I’d finished well,” Tebow said.

So, how does this relate to us? Numerous “morals to the story” might be drawn, but this is the way I see it. We’re close to the end of the game. Maybe you’ve been sitting on the sidelines waiting for the right time to get involved. I believe it’s time. The team needs you. Your fresh perspective, your talents and energy and ideas and abilities might just have the Tebow effect — infusing new energy into a tired team and helping to carry the ones who are growing weary to a victorious finish.

We might have had a bad first, second or even third quarter, but it’s not over yet. There’s still hope for the fourth quarter. We can finish strong and succeed. It all depends on our connection with the One who drafted the game plan — the One who knows the end from the beginning. He has a plan for you — a plan for good and a plan to make sure you’re on the winning team. The Bible tells us what the finishers will hear at the heavenly goal post: “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21).

Will you be there? Will there be others there because you were not ashamed of the gospel of Christ? The impact of one person has amazing mathematical potential!

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12: 1–2, NIV).

“The impact of one person has amazing mathematical potential.”

MAX TORKELSEN II
North Pacific Union Conference president
Portland Adventist Community Services

Everyday Gifts of Dignity

Editor’s Note

Adventist Community Services (ACS) centers provide critical services to communities across the Northwest. Some are small. Some are big. All are important. Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS) in Portland, Oregon, is one example of how ACS volunteers are making a difference as Salt in Our Communities.

More than 200 name badge buttons line a bulletin board along one wall in the offices of Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS). Gaps reveal missing badges, although they’re not really lost. They are “in action,” attached to their namesakes out in the thrift store, medical clinic, or food pantry. All of the volunteers have made a conscious decision to brighten the corner right where they are. Their purpose: to bring everyday gifts of dignity and the love of Jesus to those struggling to make ends meet.
Meet David

Take David Roberts, for instance, who came first as a client. He wasn’t down and out. He had been, in fact, a connoisseur of fine art, his worth measured in net worth, not self worth. But what he lacked, he found at PACS. He found a sense of family. And, he discovered a purpose beyond himself. David now runs the cash register for the PACS furniture and household goods store most days. He loves interacting with those who come through the door — many on a first-name basis. He knows that they too are perhaps looking for something more substantial than just today’s bargain.

There’s something else you need to know about David. When he joined the PACS family as a volunteer, he took note of the constant and kindly difference in how people were treated. He observed the spirit of Christ pervading the attitudes and actions of staff and volunteers. And then the months and years he had volunteered at PACS paid a special dividend: David was baptized as a new Adventist member in January of this year.

The Volunteer Team

PACS volunteers range from age 14 to 96. “Anyone can apply to help,” says Carol Paulson, PACS volunteer coordinator. Many are not Adventists; some have little or no Christian connection. But, as Paulson explains, “I tell them ‘we’re all God’s children,’ and they seem to understand and appreciate that.”

In fact, Paul Cole, PACS executive director, quips, “Even if we wanted to, we couldn’t chase them off with a stick. They love it here, and we love them.” That simple circle of common ground keeps a diverse group of people focused on PACS’s central mission to follow the example of Christ to meet the basic needs and restore the dignity of struggling individuals.

PACS Facts

- More than 200 volunteers work at PACS.
- More than 1 in 9 families live without health benefits in Oregon.
- PACS provided 87,817 people a 3-5 day emergency food portion during 2011.
- 220,260 people used thrift store services in 2011.
- 1,442 people visited the medical clinic in 2011.

Find out more at www.portlandacs.org.
Equipping the Community

A traffic jam of carts greets the eye on most days in the back room of the PACS thrift store receiving room. The carts contain clothing, pictures, knickknacks, small appliances — almost anything you can imagine from garages, storerooms and closets all around Portland. These donated items are carefully sorted and then marked for sale. More than 220,000 people made use of the PACS thrift store during 2011. “I like to call this the stewardship department,” grins Tim Zollbrecht, thrift store manager. Indeed, half of the PACS income is supplied directly by thrift store sales. This enhances every service, including the food pantry and medical clinic that PACS provides.

Feeding the Community

Through the years, PACS has become an Adventist Community Service (ACS) innovator. Its revolutionary food pantry provides a three- to five-day emergency food supply to an average of 7,000 individuals each month. But it eschews the common practice of giving pre-made food boxes to families. Open each weekday morning, the pantry features a store-like experience complete with shopping lists to help clients, on limited resources, learn how to choose good nutrition. The dignity of personal choice is a key element here and in every PACS service. The PACS COW (Commodities On Wheels) mobile food pantry is a great new service. This trailer is designed to bring limited food supplies to areas not easily served by the main location.

Healing the Community

In Oregon, more than one in nine families live without health benefits. In 2011, more than 1,400 people visited the PACS clinic, staffed by a large team of individuals including volunteer health care professionals.

Carl Molina, a family practice physician for the Providence system, has volunteered his expertise at PACS for the past two years. He is able to treat people from all walks of life who are without any other health insurance due to layoffs, low-wage jobs or other misfortune. The clinic also partners with the Walla Walla University School of Nursing and Adventist Medical Center to provide critical primary care to its clients.
I had stepped outside from the clinic to catch a breath of fresh air when I saw a man approach the door to our food pantry. He gave the door a brisk tug. It was locked.

I looked at my watch and sighed. It was well past closing time.

"I'm really sorry. The pantry is closed," I said. "You can come back tomorrow during our regular hours."

The man's face fell. He had the wrong information about the pantry hours but needed food right away. Nearby, there stood another man. He had arrived before closing time and had his entry number.

"You really need the food today?" he asked.

"Yes, I've barely got anything left for the kids," the first man responded.

"Here, take my number," said the second man. "I can come back tomorrow."

And with that, he disappeared into the parking lot.

Giving sometimes means we sacrifice convenience for ourselves. But that gift always brings irreplaceable joy.

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**Everyday Miracles**

Carol Holmberg, PACS staff member, who spends a great deal of her time directing the donation traffic, says, "We experience miracles every day." That sense of God's impeccable timing stems from anecdotal stories of big and little things happening at just the right time and place. A box of rubber bands materializes just when needed; a rare prosthesis in just the right size is found on the very day it is requested. Does God care about providing a container of hot chocolate? According to the stories at PACS, He certainly does.

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**Added Dreams**

If you ask Paul Cole, PACS director, about PACS's greatest need, he will respond without much hesitation: "Space!" Thrift-store income, which drives a good share of the PACS budget, is limited to the square footage now on hand. If PACS could expand the thrift-store operation, more funds would be available to help enhance food and medical services. An additional dream is to provide weekly seminars on family finance, nutrition and spiritual principles. It all takes money — which seems always to be in short supply. How will God supply the growing need for space? Cole doesn't yet know. But he's confident that in God's special timing, the answer and the means will come.

And when it happens, it will be part of the everyday miracles at Portland Adventist Community Services, brightening the corner right where they are.

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**Giving Is a Choice**

by Dianne Glovatsky, PACS clinic manager

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La congregación hispana de Olympia, Wash., se regocijó en anunciar la organización de su iglesia el 18 de Febrero del 2012. Con la presencia de John Freedman, presidente de la Conferencia de Washington; Ramon Canals, vice presidente del ministerio Hispano y director ministerial de la Unión Pacífico del Norte; Omar Grieve, director de ministerios Hispanos; Manuel Cabral, pastor de la iglesia; y los líderes y miembros de la iglesia se deleitaron con una bendecida programación, seguida por un convivio para todos los asistentes y participantes.

Un grupo de hermanos, miembros de la Iglesia Anglo de Olympia, se reunieron por primera vez en la Escuela Adventista de Olympia para comenzar un esfuerzo de la obra Hispana en 1995. Pero no fue hasta Octubre del 2009 que comenzó el primer grupo oficial de parte de la Conferencia de Washington, contando con 18 miembros que vinieron a apoyar desde Bellevue, White Center, Chehalis, Elma, Shelton y Tacoma. En ese entonces, como líderes, estaban los pastores Jim León, Omar Grieve y los obreros bíblicos Víctor Infante y Rogelio Reynoso. La primera campaña evangelística fue presentada por Grieve. Se reunían en un salón de una biblioteca y luego pasaron a tener las reuniones en una sala de aulas de South Puget Sound Community College. El 23 de Octubre del 2010 se organizó la Compañía Adventista Hispana de Olympia. En ese mismo mes, Manuel Cabral se trasladó desde el Distrito del Norte de Washington para continuar su ministerio en el Distrito de Olympia y Chehalis, juntamente con su esposa, Bernarda Castro, ambos miembros de la Iglesia Hispana Adventista de Auburn (Wash.), le presentaron una serie de estudios Bíblicos. Despertó en Anaya un deseo por conocer más acerca de la Biblia y de Cristo Jesús. Para Septiembre del 2011, Bernarda Castro invitó a Anaya a participar del retiro de la mujer Hispana en el Campamento de Sunset Lake, en Wilkeson, Wash. Allí, la oradora invitada, Adly Campos, usada por el Espíritu Santo, hizo un poderoso llamado a la decisión. Anaya fue una de las dos visitas que se pararon para aceptar al Salvador Jesús en sus vidas y allí ella decidió prepararse para el bautismo.

Antes del bautismo ocurrió algo muy especial. El 1 de Diciembre del 2011, Anaya y su novio, Carlos Jonathan Castro, unieron sus vidas en matrimonio delante de Dios y de un grupo de testigos y amigos, siendo la boda oficiada por Omar Grieve.

Dos días después, el Sábado, 3 de Diciembre, Anaya entregó su vida a Cristo Jesús en las aguas del bautismo. Grande es el poder de Dios para convencer al alma que busca salvación. Hoy, Anaya es una nueva criatura en Cristo y su alegría refleja la alegría de los ángeles al haber visto los pasos de su conversión y su entrega en las manos del Salvador.

Una Historia de Conversión

Karina Anaya es una joven llena de talentos y buena disposición para servir al Señor. Todo empezó unos meses atrás, cuando el tío de su novio, José Luis Castro, juntamente con su esposa, Bernarda Castro, ambos miembros de la Iglesia Hispana Adventista de Auburn (Wash.), le presentaron una serie de estudios Bíblicos. Despertó en Anaya un deseo por conocer más acerca de la Biblia y de Cristo Jesús. Para Septiembre del 2011, Bernarda Castro invitó a Anaya a participar del retiro de la mujer Hispana en el Campamento de Sunset Lake, en Wilkeson, Wash. Allí, la oradora invitada, Adly Campos, usada por el Espíritu Santo, hizo un poderoso llamado a la decisión. Anaya fue una de las dos visitas que se pararon para aceptar al Salvador Jesús en sus vidas y allí ella decidió prepararse para el bautismo.

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Alaska Youth Active in Pathfinders, School and Music

Alaska is a great place to grow up, and this state has been blessed with so many young people. Google it and you will see that with a population of 626,931, the median age is 32.4. The Alaska Conference is looking to support churches that mentor and train youth to be leaders.

There are five Pathfinder clubs in the conference that are teaching young people, as the Pathfinder pledge says, to “be pure and kind and true” for the sole purpose of growing closer to their Creator. Leaders who have a passion for their clubs are making a difference in many lives so they may share their faith and follow the example of Jesus.

Alaska’s schools have dedicated teachers who teach their students to serve God with the talents that He has given them, no matter how young. Fairbanks and Juneau schools came to Anchorage in March to participate in the Chimes Clinic led by Ben Purvis from Gem State Academy (Caldwell, Idaho). They went to different churches on Sabbath and blessed the congregations with beautiful music.

Then, they came together for Friday vespers as Stephen Vicaro, Hillside O’Malley Church (Anchorage) pastor, led them in song and challenged them to pray for one another.

Quentin Purvis, Alaska Conference vice president of the secretariat

Anchorage Women Gather for Health Talks

Women from the Anchorage (Alaska) community gather once a month for health talks coordinated by Maria Avellaneda, Anchorage Spanish Church women’s ministries director, and hosted at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage. Topics ranging from breast cancer signs and osteoporosis to prenatal care, proper nutrition and baby care are presented by professional health-care providers from the community.

These free presentations are open to all women in the community and their babies. Classes encourage women in the thought that God cares about the physical as well as the spiritual parts of their lives.

Several women mentioned they decided to attend the Adventist women’s retreat because of friendships established during the health meetings.

Jean Francis, Alaska women’s ministries director

We Are His Voice to Reach Alaska

North American Division “Main Event”

Alaska Conference Camp Meeting & REVIVE!

June 8–16, 2012 - Egan Convention Center Anchorage Alaska

VisionBuilders - June 8 & 9 • VOP Bible School Graduation - June 9
Family Reunion Concert - June 9 • Alaska Conference Camp Meeting - June 9–16
Mad About Marriage - June 11–15 • Revive - June 9–16

Please note the Alaska Southcentral Camp Meeting is running in conjunction with the “Main Event”
Women’s Retreats Bring Well-being

Women’s retreats ... why do people go? Usually people have a strong opinion regarding the value of such events. After all, women cry at them and sometimes they even act silly and “frou-frou” — definitely not somewhere most men would be comfortable.

A study done by a UCLA medical team found that the well-known “fight or flight” reaction to stress actually has a third option when it comes to women. Females generally experience something akin to “flocking” that, when done appropriately, will result in the release of the hormone oxytocin, which helps lower stress and increases women’s overall sensations of peace and well-being. That’s the “why” of retreats — well-being.

This year’s Idaho Conference women’s retreat in Boise, Idaho, was a highlight in well-being. The keynote speaker, the Voice of Prophecy’s Elizabeth Talbot, brought home the point that we are beloved by our heavenly Father. We are good enough and called to be His children. It was a marvelous presentation of the true gospel.

Having an event at a public venue always has its drawbacks: staff working on the Sabbath, poor acoustics for the musicians, serving good vegetarian meals and, of course — cost. On the other hand, the wonderful thing about a public venue is the people at the hotel who are touched by “accident” — the worker who meandered in and out changing drinks, the staff member handling the sound system and table sets, and the administrators and clerks who observed the attendees’ behavior even when they didn’t realize it. There was even a former Adventist son supervising the evening meal and room setup who thought it might be okay to come back and visit an Adventist church again.

God was and is working in their hearts imperceptively. Talbot took time even after a long day of preaching to share with a hotel employee God’s love for her.

There are so many things happening about which we know not ... but God does. All we do is come!

Cheri Gatton, Idaho Conference women’s ministries director

Elizabeth Talbot shares how much God loves each of us.

Revive. Renew. Reflect Christ!

Idaho Conference Camp Meeting

June 12-16, 2012 · Gem State Adventist Academy

Alex Bryan   Claudie & Pam Converse   Steve Darmody   Vicki Griffin   Gordon Fisher   Dave Thomas

RHONDA WEYGANDT
Kalispell Students Enjoy Fun in the Snow

Valley Adventist Christian School (Kalispell, Mont.) students enjoyed four ski days in January and February at nearby Whitefish Resort on Big Mountain. (The slopes can be seen from the school.) Students from Libby (Mont.) Adventist Christian School joined them.

Participants also took lessons in either snowboarding or skiing. Some students were skilled enough to go on most of the resort’s runs. At lunchtime everyone gathered at the base lodge for lunch and socializing. Then they returned to the slopes for a second two-hour lesson and a little free time before heading home.

One second grader learning to snowboard enjoyed getting to the top of Big Mountain for the first time. “I finally got to the top on my snowboard, and it was fun,” he says. “I did lots of jumps and stuff on the way down.”

“I really enjoyed skiing because it was fun, and I got to meet new people, make new friends and spend time with old friends,” reports a fifth-grade girl.

Her friend chimes in, “I like going because of the thrill of ‘Earth Flying.’ I also enjoy the nature around me, and the people we get to see again.”

“I enjoyed everything about skiing,” adds another student. “The only thing I did not enjoy was dropping my pole on the way up to the top.”

These ski days gave the students a chance to see that the Northwest, especially northwestern Montana, is a wonderful place to live and enjoy God’s grand book of nature.

Ben Pflugrad, Valley Adventist Christian School teacher
MGAES Students Become Pen Pals With Belize School

In nineteen pairs of eyes stare in amazement at a world map as Caryn Earl, Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School (MGAES) second-grade teacher, shows the distance between Battle Ground, Wash., and Belize, Central America. This far-off place has just become a lot closer to the first through sixth graders at MGAES since they have become pen pals to the students of Zion Adventist School (ZA) in Dangriga Town, Belize.

MGAES became connected with ZA through a non-Adventist doctor, who worked across the street from ZA and noticed the poor, dilapidated building. Upon returning to the U.S., he called a local Adventist church, which connected him with MGAES.

“He wanted us to help the school,” explains Brian Allison, MGAES principal. “And once we find out their needs, that is exactly what we will do.”

In the meantime, the MGAES students have written letters to introduce themselves to their new sister school. And in March, the first package postmarked from Dangriga Town was enthusiastically received among Earl’s first and second graders. Big, excited smiles spread across the faces of the students as they jumped up to receive their letters. As the letters were read, the students learned the ages, genders, names, family members, and other things about their pen pals.

The package also contained pictures of the ZA principal, students wearing uniforms, and the interiors of their classrooms. Earl’s class was amazed to see the bars on the glassless windows, the dirt-floor play area and absence of books in the classroom. Some of the boys didn’t quite understand why the walls in all the pictures were painted pink. So the students’ ideas about how to help ranged from sending pencils and paper to books and play equipment — and, of course, paint for those pink walls.

“This is a great opportunity to help our students become mission-minded,” says Allison, who plans to have the students help collect the items the school needs. “And then maybe when these first and second graders become seventh and eighth graders, we can take them to ZA for a mission trip.”

However, for now, second grader Mirella Catarino is just happy they wrote back and want to be friends too.

Brenda Ermshar, MGAES parent
PAA Celebrates Successful Ski Program

Portland (Ore.) Adventist Academy (PAA) successfully reintroduced an optional skiing and snowboarding program aimed at encouraging friendship and physical activity among students less interested in team sports.

“We met our goals, and it was a success,” says Les Zollbrecht, program leader and PAA teacher. Zollbrecht, along with several other teachers, hoped to reach out to the students less likely to join a team sport and offer them similar benefits in a different venue. Teachers wanted to give students the opportunity to get fresh air and exercise, to challenge them physically, and to build lasting friendships.

Every Wednesday in February, PAA students joined those from other area Adventist schools, along with their parents and many teachers, at Oregon’s Mount Hood Meadows Ski Resort. “It’s a great thing to be up on a mountain with almost 200 other Adventists,” says Zollbrecht. “It builds community and friendship in a fun and healthy way.”

Adrian Lin is a good example of the program’s success. Lin, who grew up in China, is attending PAA this year to learn English. He says the only sport he’s ever played is a game of pool. But after a two-hour lesson, he was on the slopes and feeling proud of his new accomplishment. For Lin, joining the ski club also meant making several new American friends.

“It’s so neat to see these kids coming home on the bus, enjoying friendships they likely wouldn’t have made without this program,” says Zollbrecht. “And the best part is that no one lost and everyone is feeling good ...”

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

Capital Contest Held in Grants Pass

The Grants Pass (Ore.) Adventist School recently held its third-annual contest between all six kindergarteners and six students randomly selected from the fifth- and sixth-grade class. This year’s contest tested which group could correctly name a state when its capital was given. First, one class and then the other was given the name of a state capital by the judge, and then they named the state.

Students of Grants Pass (Ore.) Adventist School prepare to win the third-annual Capital Contest.

After going through all states and U.S. possessions, the kindergarteners won by one point, to the chagrin of the older students, who politely shook hands with the winners and complimented them.

The kindergarten class, led by teacher Terah Heinrich, has won two out of the three times.

Harry Smedes, North Valley Church member

Northwest 2012 Motorcycle Camp Meeting

August 17-19, 2012
Gladstone Park Conference Center
www.OregonConference.org
or call 503-850-3500

Sponsored by The Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Former Laurelwood Elementary School
Re-opens as LACE Center

The old Laurelwood (Ore.) Elementary School has received a facelift with cleaning, remodeling and a new purpose: to build a bridge of friendship in the local community. It was also renamed the LACE (Laurelwood Adventist Community Education) Center. The facility will be a resource for the community and an outreach for the Laurelwood and Gaston (Ore.) churches, which sponsor the center. As the pun goes, LACE will “tie” the community together.

The churches are working together to make LACE a friendly, community ministry and a neutral place where friendships can be built with neighbors.

More than 50 people, including many non-members, attended an open house held Feb. 5. Six people requested Bible studies because of the event, which included Caroline Salsbery, LACE director, describing the changes that have been made at the LACE Center and how it will be used to benefit the whole community.

Other presenters included Norma Turner, LACE board chairwoman; Ken Bilderback, author of Creek With No Name: How the West was Won (and Lost) in Gaston, Oregon; Judy Schierholz, who leads an exercise class two days a week; and Chris Baidenmann, who demonstrated dog toys she makes from excess materials and sells to help support the Gift of Love project for local foster children.

Current and future activities include bread making, gluten-free cooking, Ask the Dietician, a women’s Bible-study class, aerobics, exercise machines, a bell choir, quilting and a lending library. The facilities are also available for personal events, family reunions, and other items which are in the planning stages.

Richard Salsbery, Laurelwood Church treasurer

Ohana Kids Serve
Through Purposeful Mentoring

It was a special day at the Ohana Christian Fellowship (West Linn, Ore.) when 19 young people said yes to serving Jesus as junior deacons and deaconesses.

One of Ohana’s core values is to develop leadership skills through purposeful mentoring. They value their children and see the children’s love for Jesus with their willingness to serve Him and the congregation.

Children assist the deacons and deaconesses with collecting the offering, setting tables for potlucks, reading Scripture and cleaning up. They will also be helping leaders in beginners and kindergarten Sabbath School classes. The goal is to keep them involved in church service as they grow and develop their skills.

Doug Franzke, Ohana pastor, asked the Lord’s blessing for the children and honored them with special badges signifying their commitment.

Sue Washinger, Ohana Church communication leader
Gladstone Park Supports the Blind in India

By helping to support Jim Reynolds, Gladstone (Ore.) Park Church personal ministries director, on his journey to India, church members for the second time in as many years have reached halfway around the world to help give the message of salvation and fill the needs of a vastly different culture.

Students from Asian Aid High School for the Blind in Bobbili, India, receive computers sponsored by Gladstone (Ore.) Park Church.

Reynolds left Portland International Airport on March 4 bound for the Asian Aid High School for the Blind in Bobbili, India. Once there, he delivered eight computers that will help prepare blind students to meet the challenges of supporting themselves once they finish school.

Gladstone Park Church also helped Reynolds sponsor children attending other Adventist schools in India, who are the heart of missionary work. Money was donated to buy sewing equipment in order to help three struggling villages build an industry and give them work and support.

Gladstone Park Church will continue to support Reynolds and the Ultimate Mission team when they go back to the Bobbili area next year to run a Bible-worker training program focused on training children from orphanages to reach out to the villages in their areas.

Reynolds plans to follow the training by holding a week-long evangelism series with the help of the children and staff of Asian Aid-sponsored schools and orphanages.

As Reynolds says, “We have so much, and they have so little.”

Richard Cook, Gladstone Park Church communication leader

Burrill Preaches the Priesthood of All Believers

The Oregon Conference invited Russell Burrill to speak about the priesthood of all believers at eight locations throughout the conference during one whirlwind week in March. Burrill has authored 19 books on evangelism and church growth including, Revolution in the Church and How to Grow an Adventist Church.

The tagline “Members in Ministry” came full circle in Burrill’s message as he showed listeners how, throughout the Bible, the “members” are told how important it is to God that they be in ministry, in addition to the profession of their pastor. God’s plan is explained in Exodus 19:6: “And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation ...”

Burrill went on to explain that the governing verb of the Old Testament was “come” — come and see God’s plan for humanity in the nation of Israel. The governing verb of the New Testament is “go” — go into all the world and preach this good news. This is the “Missional Model” of church. Jesus proclaimed that every member today is a priest before God. In 1 Peter 2:9, Peter applies Exodus 19:6 to the church today.

Ministry does not only belong to the pastor, as Ellen White points out. “The work of God in the earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers” (Gospel Workers, p. 351–352 pp).

Chuck Burkeen, Oregon Conference member ministries director
Kids Do the Work of Angels at County Food Bank

"Our kids are amazing," says Barc Seibly, Clarkston (Wash.) Good News Fellowship member, whenever he speaks of the help provided by Beacon Christian School (Lewiston, Idaho) students to the Asotin County Food Bank in Clarkston.

Seibly and Vern Dimke, Good News Fellowship members, began helping the local food bank in 2002 when they brought together potato farmers’ crops to meet the poorer citizens’ needs. The donated potatoes had to be stored in an outdoor shed, which resulted in frozen and inedible potatoes in 2007. The Dimkes began looking for a solution and finally decided in 2009 the building had to be torn down and replaced with a much larger structure.

When Dimke became unable to help, Seibly took up the slack. Before he knew it, people from all over the county began coming “out of the woodwork” to help. Miraculously, the new building was completed in early 2010 with only donated money, labor and material (an estimated value of more than $230,000).

The food bank, which also serves as a clearinghouse for grocery stores’ overstock and perishables, runs a lunch backpack program. This gives children of low-income households two breakfasts and lunches, bagged for each weekend throughout the school year. The food bank helped 5,103 families in 2011, while the clearinghouse accommodated 3,587 families and the lunch backpack program provided 26,362 meals during the school year.

When the food bank began the lunch backpack program, Seibly wasn’t sure how the volunteers could get everything bagged while still attending to the food bank’s needs. It seemed no one could help within the time allotted. Then, as if sent by angels, in came students from the local Adventist school. And they continue to come regularly to help prepare the backpacks as well as to help unload the 10,000–20,000 pounds of food that comes by freight truck.

Like Seibly says, “Our kids are amazing.”

Yvonne Hendriks-Boyette, Good News Fellowship communication leader

Sunnyside Celebrates Two Baptisms

Maggie Ramirez came to the Sunnyside (Wash.) Church for a cooking class more than two years ago. Then more recently she took Bible studies from the church’s Bible-worker, Dale Cordes. With Cordes’ patient guidance, Ramirez realized she needed to be baptized. With her husband and two young sons watching, Ramirez was baptized on Dec. 20, 2011.

Donna Biggerstaff, long-time resident of Outlook, Wash., also decided to be baptized. As her friends from Washington’s Grandview and Prosser churches bore witness, she was lowered into the waters on March 17. Biggerstaff was surrounded by many who love her and are delighted by her commitment.

Jeanne Barrett-Usher, Sunnyside Church communication leader
The seventh-grade Bible class of Palisades Christian Academy (Spokane, Wash.) went on a secret mission for God during Valentine’s week in February. After studying about getting to know who God is and how much He loves them, students began a mission to let every student at the school know of this love.

Each seventh grader cut out hearts that said, “I love you, God.” They added chocolate hearts and then secretly placed each in lockers or on desks until every student had received a gift from God. “It was so much fun! I loved the sneaking around, not telling anyone, almost getting caught but moving at the last second,” says Ellie Springer.

This act of giving helped students realize the value of doing something for someone, even if it was done in secret. Hanna Williams says, “As I was passing them out, I thought, ‘It’s gonna make their day, and I am doing a good deed or something nice for someone else.’”

Although they desired to bring joy to others, the students also felt good inside themselves. “I felt good inside because I was giving stuff away,” says Dylan Cave. Several other students commented that it was fun to show God’s love even if God hadn’t placed the items Himself but was working through them to spread His desire that all know He loves them.

As they spread God’s love around, the students learned valuable lessons that they didn’t expect, including this mission could make them closer as a class. “What I found was the thrill and joy of the surprise,” says Tyler Denman. “It helped us as friends to work together as a team and bond with our friends.”

After the success of the project, Thomas Ewert suggested that the class do this sort of activity more often throughout the school year.

Stephanie Gates, Palisades Christian Academy principal

Seventh-grade Bible students share God’s love through notes and chocolate in February.
The Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) youth mission trip to Guatemala was about more than just building a church and holding some meetings for the people of Poptun. Mission trips are about people and their relationships with God. Some would say the trip impacts the people who go more than the people they go to serve.

For Justin and Jaclyn Lathrop, former tattoo artists, it was about giving back to God. For Nichol Timothy, mother of three and wife of a 9/11 survivor, it was about being involved. For Skyler Bushnell, home-school student from Republic, Wash., it was about refocusing his life on spiritual things. For Jesus Montes, a 9/11 survivor, it was about going on an adventure.

“We’ve all come here holding different expectations and different hopes for this trip,” said Shane Anderson, trip pastor and construction leader, “but I want you to know that it wasn’t just your doing. God has ordained you to be here. Whether you realize it or not, God will be working in your life throughout the week. Building a church for the people of Poptun, Guatemala, is a miracle for them, but God also plans to perform a miracle for you.”

As the work on the church progressed and evangelistic meetings and Vacation Bible School were held every night, the 52 trip participants began to become like a family. Working, eating and worshipping together each day created opportunities for friendships and sharing testimonies that had an impact on the spiritual lives of each person.

“I feel so in debt to God for what He has done for me,” says Justin Lathrop. “I want to do something for Him. The life I lived before I met Christ was so worthless that I wanted to kill myself. But now I have a burden to help people see how much He loves them and that He can change their life too.”

In the small eastern Oregon town where Lathrop grew up, it was normal for him to begin drinking alcohol at age 12, along with all the other kids in the neighborhood. When alcoholism caused him to lose his job, his parents were not angry that he was drinking; they were angry because he had embarrassed them. As a motorcycle gang member, he never killed anybody, but he was involved with people who did. Eventually nothing seemed worthwhile, and he was ready to commit suicide. But before he did, God stepped into his life through the witness of several godly people in Washington’s Walla Walla Valley.

“I had tried to quit drinking and doing drugs on my own before,” says Lathrop, “but it wasn’t until God changed me that I completely lost interest in it. I also quit my tattoo business just before I came on this trip. I was making $300 to $400 per day doing tattoos, but I have become convinced that that’s not what God wants me to do. Some of my former...
clients think I’m crazy, but I know God will provide. Guatemala has helped me build my faith and see more of the power of God and how He can use me.”

Now he and Jaclyn are talking about contacting Adventist Frontier Missions or a prison ministry to see what they can do to meet the burden that God has put on their hearts to help others see God’s love and transforming power.

Nichol Timothy moved to Sandpoint, Idaho, three years ago because she and her husband, Michael, felt the need to get out of the city and give their family a more secure life. “Michael came home from work on Sept. 11 [2001] with soot and ashes covering his suit,” says Timothy. “He had seen people die in front of him and watched the building come down. We knew we wanted to move.”

Since there was no other accredited Christian school in Sandpoint, Timothy’s kids started attending Sandpoint Junior Academy. “The mission trip just seemed like it would be a great experience, and we wanted to be involved,” she explains. “I had no idea the rest of the kids from our school would back out, but I’m glad my son Matt and I came because it has strengthened our relationship and we understand each other better.”

Bushnell participated in the Guatemala mission trip in 2011. His experience was powerful then, but he found himself drifting away from God less than a year later. “I knew I had lost something I had before. Somehow all the things in my life tend to drag me away from spiritual things, and I felt like I needed to come back to Him again,” he says.

At the beginning of the trip, Jesus Montes would have told you he was there because he wanted to help others, but in reality he was just there because he wanted some adventure. “I just wanted to have fun and see a new country,” Jesus says. “But somehow making new friends and seeing how the people here live, especially the children, really has made me want to help others. We have so much in the U.S. that we take for granted. These people have so little. And what we did is like a miracle for them.”

And there are many more people who experienced miracles like these and whose stories continue to unfold, all orchestrated by God to bring them closer to Him.

Jon Dalrymple, Upper Columbia

Upper Columbia Conference-sponsored seminary student Tye Davis preaches a series of evangelistic meetings in this temporary shelter every night of the mission trip.

Former tattoo artist and alcoholic Justin Lathrop shovels dirt in preparation for support beams for a new church built in Poptun, Guatemala.

Perla Suarez sets block on the church walls during the Upper Columbia Youth Mission Adventure to Guatemala.

Jesus Montes talks with one of the children attending the Vacation Bible School program held each evening.
One hundred Adventist Community Services (ACS) leaders from Washington, Oregon, Upper Columbia and Northern California conferences came together in early March for an outreach leadership conference in Federal Way, Wash.

These leaders had opportunities to worship God, network with fellow leaders, learn best practices, dialogue with experts and dream about new ideas.

“The conferences in the North Pacific Union are seeking to work more together,” says Byron Dulan, Washington Conference outreach ministries director and event coordinator. “We need to intentionally work together to help each other and the community.”

The three-day conference featured five keynote sessions and 30 breakout sessions with presenters such as Joe Watts, North American Division (NAD) and Southwest Union disaster response director; Lilya Wagner, Philanthropic Services for Institutions director; Marilyn Renk, NAD elder care ministry coordinator; Jason Worf, Northwest Mission Institute director; and local ministry leaders.

The breakout sessions covered topics such as elder care, greeter ministry, literature evangelism, health ministries, disaster response, food and clothing banks, prison ministry, financial empowerment, community surveys, fundraising, board development, community gardens, and more.

This outreach leadership conference provided opportunities not only to learn, but to network and to give feedback. Attendees challenged each other, for example, to connect more with community organizations to form better partnerships and develop good rapport.

During a question-and-answer panel session, the audience raised the topic of the “graying” of Adventist Community Services and Dorcas Ministry. The panel of outreach ministry experts suggested finding ways to involve youth in service days and promoting intergenerational interaction.

“You can come up with programs and plans,” says Sung Kwon, NAD ACS national executive director, “but they won’t change the world. People change the world. Engage people. Cultivate people. Equip and develop people.”

Northwest church and school financial leaders are creating Blessings Teams to share holistic stewardship principles of time, talent and treasure.
Highline Church (Des Moines, Wash.) held a free women’s health screening fair and seminar in mid-February. The free health event included presentations for women about healthy foods and diet, naturopathic medicine, and heart health. Guest speakers included Meagan Gratias, The Hope Heart Institute program manager; Nessy Pittau, Washington Conference health ministries director; and Joseph Dumovic, Highline Church health ministries director and naturopathic physician.

Participants were able to ask questions of health professionals and participate in various health screenings such as glucose measurement and body mass index (BMI). Margaret Severs and Rhys Fuentes, church members who both work in the medical field, offered blood pressure readings while Ruth Turner assisted ScreenPointe, a health fair partner, with cholesterol readings.

“Highline Church believes in helping people improve their health and in spreading the advent message in the community,” says Katherine Dumovic, Highline Church health ministries assistant.

Students at Olympia (Wash.) Christian School recently experienced a week of Art Encounter. Projects included making paper-mache masks, painting undersea pictures and building clay tiles with relief for a mural for the school’s entry. The enrichment week culminated with a visit from author and illustrator Richard Jesse Watson of Port Townsend, Wash.

During interactive classes, Watson began with some personal history and then moved through projected examples from his book, *The Lord’s Prayer*, on which he collaborated with Rick Warren, pastor of the Saddleback Church in Orange County, Calif.

Students were given pencils and paper so they could follow along as Watson drew characters from his other books. Watson coached students as they drew and encouraged them to loosen their imaginations and fire up the artists within.

After the sessions Watson signed his books and wrote a personal note in each. Students were also given the opportunity to request what they’d like him to draw in the flyleaf.

Watson’s next project is to illustrate *The Twenty-third Psalm*, with comments by Rick Warren. Students promised to pray on Watson’s behalf for inspiration, guidance and the ability to complete his project on time.
Sixteen Auburn Adventist Academy students wanted to raise awareness about heart-wrenching worldwide hunger statistics by taking part in World Vision’s 30 Hour Famine program for high school-aged students.

World Vision’s 30 Hour Famine is a group event to raise awareness about starvation around the world. More than 925 million people in our world are hungry, and hunger is a major cause of the tens of thousands of deaths that happen around the world every day. Event participants raise funds to donate to the need and fast for 30 hours to take a personal stand against world starvation.

The Auburn group asked family, friends and church members to sponsor them while they fasted in late February and raised $1,211 to help stop global hunger.

Hunger can be distracting, especially with tempting potluck aromas during the church service, but the Auburn students persevered. The afternoon was spent together, drinking juice when needed. As the end of the fast drew near, the students gathered for a vespers talk by Jordan Stephan, Associated Student Body president.

A pizza feed satisfied the students’ hunger at the end of the fast, but their compassion and awareness will be something that never leaves.

Students left that day understanding that for many starving children around the world, their hunger will not be satisfied by pizza alone, but by showing compassion and helping those in need.

Abby Everett, AAA senior, with Jessi Turner, AAA marketing director

Lewis County Adventist School recently welcomed families, church constituency and the community to attend an open house and tour the new facility in Chehalis, Wash.

The event on Feb. 26 was well-attended by families of students, church members, pastors, school board members, building committee members, contractors, Lewis County commissioners, a Centralia (Wash.) city councilman and families interested in enrolling their children.

Visitors were welcomed by Dan Baker, principal, and Karen Kugel, school board chairwoman, and were treated to a video showing the progress of construction, from the demolition of the old school to the completed new facility. The school moved to its new facility in October 2011.

Lewis County commissioners Ron Averill and Bill Schulte spoke words of praise and support for the positive influence the school is to the community in its commitment to quality Christian education and values.

Daughters of the American Revolution representatives Norma Rommel and Sharon Miller joined Kimberly Blake Pincheira, U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell’s Southwest Washington director, to present to the school a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol.

Refresments were served by school board members, and visitors were invited to tour the facility. Staff, parents and church members served as tour guides for guests, offering personal reflections of the trials and answers to prayer that were experienced through the construction process and fundraising efforts.

Angella Smith, LCAS secretary

During Lewis County Adventist School’s community open house, the Daughters of the American Revolution and a representative for U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell present the school with a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol.
Bienvenidos! Feliz Sabado!” A warm greeting welcomes anyone who steps into a Hispanic church in the Pacific Northwest.

This school year, three Hispanic churches in Washington and Oregon are extending those greetings to Hispanic ministries team members of Walla Walla University (WWU) who are there to present Sabado Joven worship services, with students leading the entire church service.

After a fall visit to the Tacoma (Wash.) Hispanic Church, Rubi Perez, senior religion major and Hispanic ministries coordinator, says she was amazed by the positive reaction the group received from the church. “We received invitations to come back as often as possible,” she says. “It’s a lot of fun. Even though we’re there for just a short period of time, it feels like we’re able to create that relationship where we know that if we ever came back, they’d welcome us as part of their church family.”

Perez heard about the Sabado Joven program while visiting California a couple years ago. She had never seen it done in the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) before, but she has been excited to implement the idea at WWU. “It’s a program where youth can be motivated and encouraged to participate in the church,” says Perez, “considering that they are going to be the ones taking on those leadership roles in the future.”

Hispanic ministries operates as part of campus ministries and welcomes anyone to join them in ministry. The group aims to foster spiritual growth and minister to others, especially those of Hispanic descent. In addition to Sabado Joven, the team holds weekly worships on campus and coordinates outreach programs.

The growth of Hispanic ministries on campus reflects the increasing number of Hispanic church members in the NPUC. Hispanic members in this region numbered 10,665 in 71 churches in 2011, a 43-percent membership increase since 2006. The growth of the Hispanic work is a significant reason for the Adventist Church’s robust growth among Christian denominations in North America.

At WWU, the number of self-reported Hispanic students has increased from 118 in 2004 to 194 in 2011.

The Hispanic ministries team is just one of several student groups that present Sabbath programs in NPUC churches. Churches interested in having a student group present a program can send request to wwuhappyfeet@wallawalla.edu.

In February, Walla Walla University students presented the church program at the Central Valley Spanish Church.

In February, Walla Walla University students presented the church program at the Central Valley Spanish Church.
This rendering shows what the Walla Walla General Hospital will look like when completed next year.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE AT WALLA WALLA GENERAL HOSPITAL

Construction on the new Walla Walla (Wash.) General Hospital is well underway. As the spring weather gets better, the project is beginning to speed up in more visible ways.

The first phase of the new emergency center is taking shape. Crews have poured concrete foundations and are shaping the new entrance with steel beams. This phase is expected to be completed this summer. Once completed, the emergency room staff will move operations into the new section while the remodel begins on the current ER. When completed, the emergency center will be larger, with more rooms and a spacious waiting room, as well as a smoother flow for staff, patients and EMS.

Construction on the main lobby and the remaining additions is just beginning. The main entrance will be closed early this summer as walls come down and the new lobby goes up.

While the 72-bed hospital seems like it’s in a state of constant change right now, employees and the community are excited about the finished project, which is expected to be complete early next year.

TILLAMOOK COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL OPENS NEW CLINIC IN MANZANITA

To help meet health-care needs in an under-served area, Tillamook (Ore.) County General Hospital (TCGH) is pleased to announce the opening of Tillamook Medical Group/Manzanita (Ore.) Primary and Specialty Care clinic. This new clinic location enhances health-care services available in north Tillamook County by providing specialty services in addition to urgent and primary care.

“We are very excited about this new clinic,” says Larry Davy, TCGH CEO. “We have received many requests from this community for expanded access to a wider array of health-care services. Extending the Adventist Health mission and patient-centered care is a key focus of the clinic.”

Specialty and urgent care are key areas of focus for the new clinic. Specialty physician and provider services include obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, podiatry, and internal medicine.

ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER — A LEADER IN TREATING HEART DISEASE

Adventist Medical Center (AMC) in Portland, Ore., is in the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide for consistently beating national guidelines in several important measures for the treatment of patients experiencing heart attacks. That’s one of the reasons the hospital has received the American College of Cardiology Foundation’s NCDR ACTION Registry-GWTG Gold Performance Achievement Award for 2011.

AMC is one of only four hospitals in Oregon to receive this national recognition. The award signifies AMC’s commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients and signifies that AMC has reached an aggressive goal of treating these patients to standard levels of care as outlined by the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association clinical guidelines and recommendations.

Jim Pelch, AMC Northwest Regional Heart Center executive director of cardiovascular services, states that the comprehensive cardiac center has already reached significant milestones in treating cardiac patients. The hospital consistently beats national benchmarks and is one of only two accredited chest pain centers in Oregon.

Brittany Dobbs, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent
Ludden 70th
Allene Grace Edgecombe and Hubert Elmer Ludden met at Auburn (Wash.) Camp Meeting. They were married Sept. 21, 1941, by Hal E. Willoughby, pastor, in the old North Church in the Greenlake district of Seattle, Wash.

They began their married life in Everett, Wash. During the war years, Hubert worked in the Navy shipyards and Allene drove a Seattle city bus. After the war, they moved to College Place, Wash., to attend Walla Walla College. Hubert graduated in 1950 with a degree in business administration and Allene in 1957 with a degree in elementary education. Armed with teaching certificates, they lived and taught in Boise, Idaho; Roseburg, Ore.; Brewster, Wash.; Yakima, Wash.; and Glenns Ferry, Idaho.

After 35 years of teaching, they retired and spent 20 more years building churches and school buildings with Mission Church Builders and Maranatha International. Hubert used his journeyman carpenter skills, and Allene prepared breakfast for the volunteer workers. After they had participated in more than 50 projects, advancing age put a stop to their adventures. Together, they have collected 182 years of memories.

The Luddens continue to reside in Glenns Ferry. Their family includes David and Marilyn Ludden of Glendale, Ore.; a grandchild and 3 great-grandchildren.

Marriott 70th
Clyde and Vernita Marriott celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Nov. 26, 2011, with family and church family at the Canyonville (Ore.) Church in the beautifully decorated fellowship hall.

The Marriotts married on Nov. 30, 1941. Seven days later, Pearl Harbor was attacked. Thus they started their lives together during trying times. Vernita was an Adventist, Clyde of another religion, but they put their trust in the Lord. Clyde was training to be an airplane mechanic and Vernita finishing high school. Soon Clyde was in the Air Force and sent to England where he repaired battle damaged B-17 bombers. Vernita was left caring for a little boy. After two and a half years, Clyde was home in Sacramento, Calif. With few post-war jobs on aircraft, he did various jobs including learning home construction.

Then Clyde and Vernita decided to raise their family in southern Oregon and bought a “mom and pop” store near Glendale. One thing led to another and soon they got into chainsaws and logging supplies, which became their business for 31 years. When Interstate 5 widened to four lanes, they built a new shop in Canyonville.

Clyde was the building committee chairman on a new Adventist church. After that, both he and Vernita decided to go on short-term mission projects, which for the next 25 years numbered more than 80.

The Marriott family includes Ron L. and Judy Marriott of Azalea, Ore.; Linda and Ken Lauren of Redmond, Wash.; John Clyde and Charlotte Marriott of Molalla, Ore.; 8 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Stephens 90th
Helen A. Stephens celebrated her 90th birthday with family, friends and church family on Oct. 15, 2011, with a potluck dinner and slide show following the Pleasant Hill (Ore.) church service.

Helen was born Oct. 11, 1921, in Miller, S.D., to Ray and Blanche (Hilliard) Carr, the third of nine children. The Carr family moved west when Helen was 14-years-old and settled in Arlington, Calif., where she completed her education at La Sierra Academy in 1939. The family later moved to Aurora, Ore., in 1943, and she worked as a private caregiver. She and her son Larry moved to Coquille, Ore., in 1947, to work at an area nursing home. While attending church in Coos Bay, Ore., she met Ray Stephens, and they were married in 1948. Their marriage also united her son, Larry, and Ray’s daughter, Carol, as a family. Together, Helen and Ray had three children: Phil, Nick and Cheryl.

The Stephens family lived in North Bend, Ore., until Ray died in 1981. Helen moved to Grants Pass, Ore., and worked at Highland House Nursing Center until her retirement at age 80. She now resides at Bayberry Commons, an assisted living center in Springfield, Ore.

Throughout her life, she enjoyed giving Bible studies and brought many to the Lord. She enjoys attending church and spending time with family, including her three remaining siblings, Clifford Carr of Aurora, Ore.; Kenneth Carr of Wilsonville, Ore.; and Carol Young of Casa Grande, Ariz. Helen also enjoys reading, jigsaw puzzles and embroidery.

Helen’s family includes Larry and Nancy Webb of Springfield, Ore.; Carol and Terry Morse of Kenai, Alaska; Phil and Vickie Stephens of Grants Pass, Ore.; Nick and Shawna Stephens of North Bend, Ore.; Cheryl and Dennis Moreno of Veneta, Ore.; 11 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.
ALIKIN — Nolan Charles was born March 12, 2012, to George and Katie (Farthing) Alikin, Newberg, Ore.

BROUILLETTE — Camille Jeanne was born Feb. 20, 2012, to David and Ashlee (Casper) Brouillette, Monmouth, Ore.

CLARK — Bailey Rae was born Feb. 23, 2012, to Chad and Amanda (Coy) Clark, Portland, Ore.

GIBBS — Timothy Robert was born March 9, 2012, to Matt and Jessica (Smith) Gibbs, Portland, Ore.

LIEBLICK — Danielle Marguerite was born Feb. 28, 2012, to Jim and Natalie (Smith) Lieblick, Portland, Ore.

LINCOLN — Gabriel Jonah was born Oct. 5, 2011, to Keith and Julie (Dove) Lincoln, Monmouth, Ore.

QUINTY — Theodisia Lilly-Mae was born March 8, 2012, to Ted and Lynette (Hillmon) Quntiy, Benton Harbor, Mont.

SEGEBARTT — Elianna Lynn was born March 22, 2012, to Matthew and Susan (Mullins) Segebartt, Monroe, Wash.

WALLACE-SHOBE — D. Wallace and Larry J. Shobe were married Feb. 3, 2012, in Las Vegas, Nev. They are making their home in Tangent, Ore. Melody is the daughter of Fred and Ruth Wallace and Beverley Wallace (deceased). Larry is the son of Gayle Shobe and Larry Shobe (deceased).

WILDER-ZILVERBERG — Kathleen (Werner) Wilder and William “Bill” Zilverberg were married Feb. 26, 2012, in Grants Pass, Ore., where they are making their home. Kathleen is the daughter of Samuel and Alicia (Foster) Werner (both deceased). Bill is the son of James and Helen (Yergenz) Zilverberg.


BENNETT — M. Adelia (Thompson), 89; born March 27, 1922, New Bridge, Ore.; died Aug. 16, 2011, Halfway, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Marilyn Geils, Anchorage, Alaska; Pam Dumas, Richland, Ore.; brother, Fred Thompson, Boise, Idaho; sister, Loraine Lind, Welches, Ore.; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.


CASE — Bill R., 85; born Feb. 6, 1926, North Platte, Neb.; died Nov. 6, 2011, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Jan; son, Gary, Bend, Ore.; daughter, Mary Jo Timmons, San Diego, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

CLENDENON — Daniel Martin, 61; born Nov. 14, 1949, St. Helena, Calif.; died Oct. 19, 2011, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Evelyn Clendenon; stepson, Doran Figart, Vancouver; stepdaughters, Mollie Rose Larios, Portland; Rebecca Swanston, Vancouver; father, Luther, Beaverton, Ore.; stepmother, Marian Clendenon, Beaverton; brothers, David, Beaverton; Steven, Teignmouth, England; Rollin, Gaston, Ore.; sisters, Patricia Leeson, Vancouver; Marlee Clendenon, Portland; Marcia Birch, Santa Barbara, Calif.; and 8 step-grandchildren.


DAWES — Kenna Y. (Mills), 74; born May 18, 1937, Tillamook, Ore.; died Nov. 29, 2011, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: sons, Tony and Ed, both of Springfield, Paul, Madras, Ore.; daughters, Diane Dawes,
Pleasant Hill, Ore.; Christina Mason, Lakeview, Ore.; and 12 grandchildren.


DIRKSEN — Willie “Bud” 84; born Feb. 18, 1927, Hutchinson, Kan.; died Dec. 2, 2011, Grants Pass, Ore. Surviving: wife, Alta “June” (Tate); son, Larry, Gold Hill, Ore.; daughter, Linda McIntosh, Salem, Ore.; 7 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.


GAGNON — Mae M. (Balkwill), 90; born May 25, 1921, Manitou, Manitoba, Canada; died Nov. 14, 2011, Port Angeles, Wash. Surviving: son, Charles, Port Angeles; daughters, Laurel-Lea Lomax, Port Angeles; 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.


GIBSON — Chester John, 94; born Nov. 20, 1917, Gaston, Ore.; died Dec. 30, 2011, McMinnville, Ore. Surviving: wife, Fairy (St. Clair); son, Scott, McMinnville; daughter, Sue Huet, College Place, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

GONZALEZ — Valentin Esquivel, 70; born Sept. 5, 1941, Yuma, Ariz.; died Dec. 20, 2011, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Donna (Ross); son, David, Simi Valley, Calif.; daughter, Sarah Byrd, Pendleton, Ore.; brother, David, Fresno, Calif.; sisters, Angie Gonzales, Firebaugh, Calif.; Rosie Gaona, Greenleaf, Idaho; Frances Ochoa and Norma Montes, both of Fresno; and 2 grandchildren.


HEATON — Irene H. (Dietz), 93; born Nov. 8, 1918, Emerick, N.D.; died Nov. 25, 2011, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: son, Stephen, Aloha, Ore.; daughters, Sheryl Ann Koklich and Evelyn Greene, both of Gresham; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

HEFLEY — Jimmy B., 63; born Dec. 8, 1947, McAlester, Okla.; died Nov. 2, 2011, Covington, Wash. Surviving: wife, Maude (Wilbur); mother, Jean (Reynolds) Hefley, Kent, Wash.; brothers, Bobby and Randy, both of Covington; Ted, Okanogan, Wash.; and a grandchild.


**O’LEARY — Mary (Topolinski), 98; born Dec. 29, 1912, Beauvallon, Alberta, Canada; died Dec. 25, 2011, Auburn, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Judy Frei, Auburn; Patricia O’Leary, Covington, Wash.; brother, Mike Topolinski, of Alberta, Canada; sisters, Anne Lincoln, of Alberta; Rose Larsen, Everett, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**PARMENTER — Roy A., 80; born April 16, 1931, Tacoma, Wash.; died Nov. 3, 2011, Medford, Ore. Surviving: wife, Marileta (Bratcher); sons, Gary and Raymond, both of Joseph, Ore.; Darrell and Brad, both of Medford; brother, Norman, Eugene, Ore.; sisters, Elmerla Colburn, Eugene; Marilyn Greenley, Walla Walla, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.


**RAMSAY — Lillian Janet, 92; born June 2, 1919, Bradwardine, Manitoba, Canada; died Nov. 5, 2011, Boise, Idaho.


**SANTO — Wilfred “Bill” L., 93; born Jan. 7, 1918, College Place, Wash.; died Dec. 11, 2011, College Place. Surviving: wife, Golde (Klebe); sons, Robert and Dennis, both of Walla Walla, Wash.; daughter, Jeannie Webb, Pasco, Wash.; brother, Rodney, Pendleton, Ore.; sister, Wanda Broeckel, Walla Walla; 5 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.


**WORLEY — Pamela Sue (Humphrey), 55; born July 12, 1956, Pueblo, Colo.; died Nov. 3, 2011, Napa, Calif. Surviving: son, Andrew, Napa; daughter, Susan Kuhn, Napa; brothers, Walter Humphrey, Valley Springs, Calif.; and Gary Humphrey.

North Pacific Union Conference

Offering
May 5 — Local Church Budget;
May 12 — Disaster and Famine Relief World Budget;
May 19 — Local Church Budget;
May 26 — Local Conference Advance.

Walla Walla University

May 4–5 — Peacemaking Weekend. Presentations on the topic of forgiveness and reconciliation. For more information, email pedrito.maynard-reid@wallawalla.edu;
May 7–12 — Intents, student-organized and led evangelistic meetings. For more information, email pedrito.maynard-reid@wallawalla.edu;
May 11–13 — AGA Weekend, women’s residence hall club;
May 18 — Vespers: Student Missionary Dedication Service;
May 19 — Choral Concert.

WWU Portland Campus

May 12 — Emily Flottmann, WWU pastor for spiritual development, Sunnyside Church, 8:50 a.m. and 11:20 a.m.

Oregon

Live in Person
May 18 — Forks Over Knives will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater, 23 S. Central Ave., Medford, OR. The event will also include a live presentation by Caldwell Esselstyn Jr., “Becoming Heart Attack Proof.” For tickets and more information, call 541-779-3000 or go online to www.craterian.org.

Better Life Broadcasting Camp Meeting
June 8–9 — You’re invited to attend the Better Life Broadcasting Camp Meeting at the Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, OR. Keynote speaker is Stephen Bohr, pastor, with several musical guests. Registration begins April 2. For more information, visit BetterLifeTV.tv or call 541-474-3089.

King’s Heralds Concert
June 23 — The King’s Heralds will be at the Vancouver Adventist Community Church, 9711 NE St. Johns Rd., Vancouver, WA 98665, at 7 p.m. No admission cost, but a free-will offering will be collected. For more information, call 360-696-2511 or go online to www.vancouveradventist.com.

Wayne Blakely Speaking
May 18–19 — In an age where society cultivates living as you feel, Wayne Blakely breaks the traditional church silence and shares a trio of presentations entitled “Homosexuality, Feelings, Facts and Fiction.” Come hear Blakely share his testimony and explain our role in reaching out with love. This weekend of inspiration will be held at the Silverton Church at 1159 Oak St., Silverton, OR 97381 on Friday, at 7 p.m., and Sabbath, at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Missing Members
The South Salem Church is looking for the following missing members: Cheryl R. Akin, John R. Akin, Loretta L. Akin, Steven W. Akin, Ralph C. Allen Jr., Melissa Anderson, Richard Apparcel, Carolyn Birdsell, Ralph D. Birdsell, Kelly Bond, Diana Dudycha Braini, Maria C. Braini, Terry Bucher, Ashley E. Burning, Steven L. Calvo, Richard Calvo, Casey Carter, Megan A. Churchill, Bob Clark, Janice L. Culliton, David D. Daggs, John A. Davidson, John S. Davidson, Wendy J. Davidson, Lisa Dawson, David Delaney, Rasean Dieter, Christina Dudycha, David Dudycha, Elizabeth Dudycha, Cory Fish, Stacy Fitzgerald, Brenda K. Foote, John E. Foote, Joseph Gartner, Monica S. Gartner, Jeanne M. Greer, Meredith Grubbs, Vicki A. Huffman, Jessica Hunterman, Kristen Hunterman, Sylvia D. Hunterman, Kevin P. Ireland and Roberta A. Isom. If you have seen these South Salem Church members, please contact Debbie Cook at 6994 Sunnyside Rd. SE, Salem, OR 97352; call 503-399-8697; or email south.salem.sda.debbie@hotmail.com.

Upper Columbia

UCC SAGE Camp MiVoden Work Bee
May 28–30 — Plan now to help get the camp ready for our children’s summer activities. Please RSVP to Bob or Betty at 509-529-1827 for details and head count. Leave a message.

Native American Camp Meeting 2012
June 29–30 — Native American Camp Meeting for the Upper Columbia Conference will be held at the All Nations Center in Wapato, WA., on the Yakama Reservation. Guest speakers include Monte Church, native ministries director, and Paul Vivier, Auburn (WA) City Church pastor from the Sliammon First Nation in British Columbia, Canada. Also featuring artist Lisa Marie Buster in concert. Plan now to join in this spiritual event with the gathering of our native peoples.

Washington

PNW Schola Cantorum Annual Concert
May 5 — PNW Schola Cantorum annual concert at 4 p.m., at the Kirkland Church, 6200 108th Ave. NE, Kirkland WA 98033. For more information, please call Juliette Church at 425-828-7888.

World Church

Madison College Alumni Association Homecoming
June 22–24 — The Madison College Alumni Association Homecoming will be honoring classes 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957 and 1962. Also invited are those who attended Madison College, Madison College Academy and the Anesthesia School. Activities and meals begin Friday evening until Sunday morning on the Madison Academy campus. For more information, contact Henry Scoggins, president, 615-919-7767, or Jim Culppepper, secretary/treasurer, 615-415-1925.

Adventist Muslim Relations Training and Networking Weekend
July 26–29 — Are you interested in reaching out to your Muslim neighbors? Have you ever wondered how our Adventist theology of mission can be applied to the Muslim context in North America? Would you like to be trained by practitioners, who will be presenting the field-tested fruitful practices they have discovered? If so, this first North American Division Adventist Muslim Relations training and networking weekend is for you! Location: Heritage Academy in Tennessee. Space is limited, so register early to reserve your place. For more information, contact Heidi Guttschuss at Heidi.NADAMR@gmail.com or 404-558-4682.
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which officially opens July 9, 2012, will focus primarily on enhancing the organization’s online outreach and social media presence. Successful applicants should have at least three years of professional experience in online technology and digital media. Contact Steve Vistaunet, NPUC assistant to the president for communication, for a more specific job description or additional information, at steve.vistaunet@nw.npuc.org, 360-857-7045. Résumés will be accepted until May 10.

QUIET HOUR MINISTRIES is seeking a chief financial officer. Qualifications include strong knowledge of accounting (including trust and investment experience a plus. Salary range is $61,400–$72,000, plus benefits. Send résumé and cover letter to Andrea Griggs at AndreaG@qhministries.org.

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Sunset Schedule

May (DST) 4 11 18 25

Alaska Conference
Anchorage 10:11 10:29 10:47 11:04
Fairbanks 10:29 10:53 11:17 11:42
Juneau 8:52 9:08 9:23 9:36
Ketchikan 8:28 8:42 8:54 9:06

Idaho Conference
Boise 8:50 8:58 9:06 9:13
La Grande 8:02 8:10 8:19 8:26
Pocatello 8:33 8:41 8:49 8:55

Montana Conference
Billings 8:25 8:34 8:42 8:50
 Havre 8:37 8:47 8:56 9:05
 Helena 8:41 8:50 8:59 9:06
 Miles City 8:16 8:25 8:33 8:41
 Missoula 8:50 8:59 9:07 9:15

Oregon Conference
Coos Bay 8:22 8:30 8:37 8:44
Medford 8:14 8:21 8:29 8:35
Portland 8:21 8:29 8:38 8:45

Upper Columbia Conference
Pendleton 8:06 8:14 8:23 8:30
Spokane 8:05 8:15 8:24 8:32
Walla Walla 8:05 8:14 8:22 8:30
Wenatchee 8:16 8:26 8:35 8:43
Yakima 8:15 8:24 8:33 8:40

Washington Conference
Bellingham 8:29 8:39 8:48 8:57
Seattle 8:25 8:34 8:43 8:52

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“Sit in the airport awaiting a flight out of Anchorage, Alaska, I discover latent superpowers, long dormant. Blue sparks leap the synapse between my finger and the metal seat back. It’s not unusual for an editor to receive static. But my newly acquired ability to impart such is, well, shocking.”

The dry cold of Alaska has bequeathed this special gift. I’ve just spent several days in the Bristol Bay fishing frontier of the state, rubbing shoulders with dedicated members like Rob Rau, Dillingham Adventist School teacher, and Joe Chythlook, native leader. On a frosty night that dipped to 20 below zero, I endured two hours in Joe’s authentic native “steam” room, a seriously sweaty sauna with the unmistakable sensation of climbing into a habanero pepper.

Adventist roots are deep here. Depression-era pages of the GLEANER tell the progressive story of families who settled nearby on the shores of Lake Aleknagik, one of the seed beds of Adventist work in western Alaska.

Along with Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president, Wendell Downs, Dillingham Church pastor, and others, I trekked several miles across the iced-over lake to where a mission school once operated. There, decades ago, rough, rugged and willing pioneers stretched their spiritual feet forward in faith that God would part the waters for a clear path. And He did.

Among our Adventist believers in Dillingham and Togiak, on the edge of a frozen sea, I discovered a core group of people who are the fruit of that early mission school. One of them was heretofore mentioned Joe Chythlook, who went on to Walla Walla University. Since then, he and his wife, Molly, have not only led out in the church’s mission but have become tribal leaders far beyond the Adventist circle.

The costs of progress here seem, at first, staggering. A bag of Doritos in Dillingham costs nearly 10 dollars. One trip to an outlying village may cost upwards of a thousand dollars. But the opportunities in Alaska have always outweighed the cost.

There are few mission fields bigger than Alaska — or closer at hand. And no opportunity provides a better target for Northwest members to make a difference for an Alaska-sized challenge.

I know of several items on Ken Crawford’s prayer list. Opportunities are on the table right now to procure radio stations to cover the bulk of Alaska’s population — perhaps the only economical way to share the Adventist message over such a vast land. And, throughout the vast arctic bush, mission outposts wait volunteer leaders.

The 2011–12 winter was record-breaking for parts of Alaska. Snow drifts in Anchorage at times were stacked in piles more than six stories tall. Those huge obstacles are melting into puddles now.

I know Ken is praying that God will likewise melt the barriers that bar the way for our Alaska mission field. These apparent obstacles are truly divine opportunities. Like the snow, they will disappear quickly when the way is cleared for the Son to shine.

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