“...If you have faith as small as a mustard seed ... nothing will be impossible for you.”

Matthew 17:20 (NIV)

‘Snail 2’ by Ulrich Tutsch of Tacoma, Washington.
The Voice of Prophecy-sponsored Reach Alaska evangelistic event reaches its culmination during June. One of the most intensive and intentional Adventist evangelistic events to ever hit Alaska, Revive! Experiencing God, will be held June 9–16 at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska, and beamed to churches and households across North America via the Hope Channel.

Well-known keynote speakers Dwight Nelson, Derek Morris, Jon Henderson, Karl Haffner, Randy Roberts, Elizabeth Talbot, Carlton Byrd, José Rojas and Ron Halvorsen will each address a portion of the event’s topic, Experiencing God. Nelson will begin with Experiencing God’s Grace. Other speakers will follow that theme of Experiencing God’s ..., each with its own addition: Peace, Presence, Forgiveness, Rest, Assurance, Hope and Leading.

This series will be the capstone to a chain of Voice of Prophecy events that begins with Camp Meeting at Sea, a cruise through Alaska’s inside passage.

The Reach Alaska project began in earnest last fall when Discover Bible School invitations were mailed to each person in the state. As a result, hundreds of Bible studies have been started and completed, with follow-up by Alaska Adventist members.

Voice of Prophecy will host a mass graduation of Bible-school graduates on June 9 at the Egan Center. The event will also include the Family Reunion concert, featuring musicians such as Faith First, Rudy Micelli, Allison Speer and Carol Derry-Bretsch.

Alaska is geographically larger than many nations of the world. The 22 smallest U.S. states would fit within its boundaries. Accordingly, this Reach Alaska project is the largest-ever mission attempted by the Voice of Prophecy.

Discover more at www.vop.com/alaska and watch for an expanded report on the project in a future GLEANER.

Letters

Tim Tebow
Thank you for Max’s article about Tim Tebow (“Finishing Strong,” May 2012), especially noting the “little John 3:16 painted under his eyes.” What we usually focus on with that text is the believing in God’s son and being saved part. What I’ve often missed is the first part, that bit about how God induces people to get to the believing stage: For God SO LOVED the world. I want to start doing a better job of loving the whole world, starting at home, at work and in my town. I want to look for some good in each person, regardless of our differences, and begin to realize that every tiny good thing in them is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. What the world needs now is lots more love, God’s first and best plan. Oh, and by the way, what a beautiful cover you have on the May issue: simple, colorful, and not too much copy. Thank you to this month’s designer or design team!

Carolyn Wesner, Weiser, Idaho

Marriott
I thoroughly enjoyed your article on Marriott [“Whatever Thy Hand Findeth to Do,” February 2012]. The Marriott family is a model for all Christian businesses on providing high-quality services at a fair price. The Marriott work ethic is worthy of study in any MBA business class. That said, thank you for the article. Kudos to all of the GLEANER staff. Keep up the great work.

William Pritchard, Battle Ground, Washington

Well, we certainly appreciate positive feedback. God is a faithful gentleman, always honoring His word. If you have been blessed by tithing, pass it forward. To His Excellence,

Cindy Chamberlin, GLEANER managing editor
Adventist Chaplains Carry Good News

Editors’ Note

Aside from his current role at Walla Walla University, Darold Bigger is retired as a Rear Admiral, Chaplain Corps, United States Navy. His last military assignment as Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains for Reserve placed him in charge of religious support and programming for more than 100,000 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine reserve personnel.

W
e’re used to seeing our pastors on Sabbaths and at prayer meetings, funerals, camp meetings and other spiritual events. We even expect to see Adventist pastors in hospitals and on the campuses of our denominational schools, and we call them “chaplains.” But there are hundreds of Adventist ministers whom we seldom see on the platform of Adventist churches or in the halls or walkways of Adventist institutions. They too are chaplains but minister in places where our church has little or no influence.

Employed by state or federal governments, businesses, corporations and industries, they are chaplains for inmates and staff at correctional facilities, for business employees and their families, for military personnel and their dependents during peace and war, for government officials and staff, for hospice agencies, and for patients and providers at other-than-Adventist medical facilities. Some work quietly with little public notice. Others are often in the public eye, like Barry Black, United States Senate chaplain.

In addition to employed chaplains, a growing number of Adventist pastors volunteer to provide spiritual, moral and emotional support to emergency and community agencies such as police, sheriff and fire departments, and the Civil Air Patrol.

Chaplain numbers are exploding, and now hundreds of Adventist pastors in North America are assigned to chaplain work! They provide vital spiritual support to needy persons, many of whom would have no other contact with Adventists or Adventist ministers. They augment our evangelistic outreach to settings in which we would otherwise have very little if any impact.

Even though they are not paid by Adventist conferences, they gladly represent Adventist Christianity. They play a crucial role in our Adventist mission.

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) supports and promotes the work of chaplains worldwide. In recent years, as the number of chaplains has exponentially increased, ACM has significantly expanded its reach and involvement in training and facilitating the work of Adventist chaplains. In spite of phenomenal growth in their assignment, a ministerial staff of only two oversees chaplain work worldwide. In North America three regional representatives assist those two and have the daunting task of staying in touch with chaplains and military service members over huge areas. Larry Roth, our Northwest ACM field representative, covers 14 states as well as all of western Canada — a huge and daunting assignment!

Featured in this issue of the GLEANER are just a few of the 33 Northwest chaplains. They represent hundreds of other devoted Adventist chaplains who carry the good news of God to a needy world. Their assignments are lonely and challenging. Those who work for other-than-Adventist employers sometimes feel isolated from their Adventist roots. Because all of them are part of us, we reclaim and reaffirm our support for them, for their calling and for their part in the mission of the Adventist Church. Thank you, Adventist chaplains, for enthusiastically representing your God and your church!

“They gladly represent Adventist Christianity.”

DAROLD BIGGER
WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY
RELIGION AND SOCIAL WORK PROFESSOR
In a rare moment of personal time, Jay Coon, Auburn Adventist Academy associate pastor, purposefully pushes a shopping cart toward the supermarket produce section. With a full basket, he’s nearly done with his grocery list when the pager buzzes. The police station needs him … and needs him now.

Editors’ Note

This month’s feature on Northwest Adventist chaplains focuses on two groups: those who serve their communities as volunteers and those who provide critical spiritual support within the military. Hospital chaplains and those who work within college or university campuses, while every bit as important, are not highlighted in this issue.
This is familiar territory for Jay. The men and women there have become colleagues and close friends. Jay has served as an Adventist pastor in Auburn, Washington, since 2001, but he’s also been a volunteer chaplain for the local police and fire departments since 2003. Shortly after he and his family arrived in Auburn, he began to sense an increased longing to connect with his community in some tangible way. He attended a meeting during which the mayor, along with the police and fire chiefs, invited pastors to become chaplains for community agencies. Of the nearly 30 pastors there, Jay, representing the Adventist Church, was the only one to respond positively to the invitation.

In a sense, this volunteer role has become part of Jay’s pastoral job description, made possible by the team at the Auburn Adventist Academy Church. Bill Roberts, senior pastor, and Wilma Bing, associate pastor, may wryly wish at times for a flak jacket, but Jay is the only one who treats a bulletproof vest as standard equipment — at least when he’s on call. Although he doesn’t personally carry a weapon, he’s logged more than 2,000 hours in a police car. Critical moments of pain and loss happen at all times, day or night. And those times, with raw emotions and tempers on edge, are when the chaplain is called into action.

“Going into the homes of people who have experienced trauma, being the hands and heart of Jesus in loving them in the middle of that experience, has touched my heart and changed me in many ways,” says Jay. In fact, fire department personnel, usually the first to respond in a time of family loss, are also often the first to call in a chaplain. And, they won’t leave the scene of tragedy until the chaplain has arrived.

**A TRusted COMMUNITY FRIEND**

Early in his chaplaincy, Jay noticed that while fire crews often worked together for collegiality and moral support, police officers often patrolled alone. So, down at the Auburn police headquarters, he set up a small room where he could visit with officers about the situations they face. It’s a place to have prayer or lend out a resource book. Sometimes Jay is the only person they know with whom they can have a confidential and deep connection. “I’ve had some serious conversations in here,” he says, “but they’ve always ended in restored understanding. It’s a blessing to work with these dedicated men and women.” Because of the confidence he has earned, Jay has been privileged to preside over three funerals and five weddings for police officers.

“An Adventist chaplain is ministering in a mostly non-Adventist environment — beyond the comfort and safety of church walls.” — Larry Roth
As lead community chaplain, Jay is responsible for creating a schedule for the other chaplains. Each gets an average of one week of on-call time each month. Since Jay usually works the schedule out so the other chaplains cover Sabbath, while he takes Sunday, he has never been paged while preaching. One Sabbath, however, he was walking home from church when he got called to address an issue at the local Muckleshoot Casino. “How many pastors,” smiles Jay, “have literally gone right from the church pulpit into a casino to minister?”

Beyond his full-time responsibility to more than 350 regularly attending members and 250 students at the Auburn Adventist Academy Church, Jay serves as a bridge between the Adventist mission and his local community. When the fire department lost a fireman in an accident on Mount Rainier, Jay worked with the academy administration to open the gymnasium for a community memorial service that accommodated nearly 2,000 people.

**A SPECIALIZED NICHE**

Adventist chaplains throughout the Northwest, both paid and volunteer, fill a specialized niche. They minister to congregations far beyond the four walls of church. Larry Roth, North American Division assistant director of chaplaincy ministries, says more than 450 Adventist chaplains are currently endorsed throughout the continent. They serve in the military, within hospital systems, on college campuses, and in state, federal or local correctional institutions. Volunteers like Jay Coon, give invaluable support to local community police and fire departments.

Roth, who is based in Seattle, Washington, guides the endorsement process for candidates throughout the North Pacific Union and Mid-America Union conferences and western Canada. “Chaplains have a unique opportunity,” he says. “An Adventist chaplain is ministering in a mostly non-Adventist environment — beyond the comfort and safety of church walls. But as you minister to men, women and, at times, whole families, you realize you are reaching them often at the time of their greatest need.” Nowhere is that more apparent than in a military setting.

**GREAT CONTROVERSY IN ACTION**

“You live the Great Controversy every day,” says James Hall, United States Army chaplain major who is currently stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, Washington. “I see both God and the devil at work, and I rejoice when I see the spiritual victories.” James initially came into the Adventist Church through a Revelation seminar near where he was stationed with the military. After his discharge, he eventually became an Adventist chaplain major who is currently stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, Washington. “I see both God and the devil at work, and I rejoice when I see the spiritual victories.” James initially came into the Adventist Church through a Revelation seminar near where he was stationed with the military. After his discharge, he eventually became an Adventist
pastor. But he found himself called back into the armed services — this time as a chaplain.

“There are a lot of myths about chaplaincy,” he says. “Some people think we have to put Adventist beliefs aside. But that’s simply not true. I have had the opportunity to share our unique doctrines with a wide range of believers, including Buddhists and Muslims.” But being Christ’s representative to soldiers means much more than sharing doctrine. “To be relevant to the soldier,” James says, “they have to realize you really care about them. There is complete confidentiality between them and a chaplain. A soldier can be completely honest with me without jeopardizing his or her job.”

A total of five Adventist chaplains serve in the base’s Army units, with an additional chaplain assigned to the Air Force. They include Raoul Maria, with the 338th Cavalry Squadron. A native of the Dominican Republic, he helped as a Red Cross chaplain in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy in New York City. “I want my children to grow up in a safe place,” he says. “That’s why I joined the Army — to give back to a country that has given me so much. I work to help soldiers become better men and women, to be better parents when they return from their term of service.”

A TRUE MISSIONARY SPIRIT

What about a military chaplain’s own family? The Hall family is active in their local Winlock (Washington) Church, where James is an elder and his wife serves as a deaconess. “I explained to my children that we are a ‘missionary’ family. We’ve been around the world with different assignments, and they get to see how Adventists live and minister in different cultures. Now two out of our three children want to be missionaries too.”

Other military chaplains are also active in local churches. Mike Hakanson, a top-ranking Adventist naval chaplain, is also currently serving as a lay pastor for Anacortes (Washington) Adventist Fellowship Group. Mike has authored an authoritative book on post-traumatic stress disorder used by the military.

Scott Tyman, Tacoma Central Church senior pastor, is also a chaplain in the military reserve. His connections with military personnel have led to a number of baptisms. Living in both civilian and military worlds, Scott is sometimes seen up front preaching in his fatigues.

“Controversy every day,”
—James Hall, United States Army chaplain major

with local fire and police departments. Like Jay Coon, he will rapidly build his own list of firsthand stories of lives challenged and changed by close contact with the gospel.

Although the scope of this article does not focus on hospital chaplains, the struggle of life and death, with critical questions and thoughtful answers, is nowhere more essential. Every Adventist chaplain, wherever they may be, is fulfilling a distinct role in the Gospel Commission. Whether in a police cruiser, a trench, or in triage, these men and women are truly Adventist ministers — part of God’s salt in our Northwest communities.
¿Cual Es Tu Iglesia?

Desde el año 2009 la iglesia Adventista de McMinnville, ha desarrollado un programa intencional de evangelismo a través del servicio a la comunidad. Nosotros, como iglesia, entendimos que para poder ser relevantes a nuestra sociedad necesitábamos seguir el método de Jesús para un evangelismo efectivo:


En este proceso entendimos que la iglesia debía cambiar su ADN, en otras palabras debía convertirse en una “iglesia.com” como nos gusta llamarla. Una iglesia que no solo realiza programas para la comunidad, sino hace del servicio un estilo de vida.

Que significa ser una “iglesia.com”? Para explicarte, permíteme presentarte un ejemplo del mundo de las computadoras.

Tenemos que enfrentarlo. Este es un mundo de tecnología. Es muy común que cada organización, compañía, artistas, inclusive individuos hayan puesto su nombre dentro del gran océano llamado Internet. Dentro de este mundo existen unos protocolos de ingreso. Uno de ellos es la elección del dominio.

El dominio (domain) es el código que va después del punto que identifica la página web. Es decir .net, .org, .com, etc. Uno de los propósitos de este código es identificar la “naturaleza” o la “personalidad” de la organización. El propósito de la organización o compañía se refleja en el dominio o este código con el que termina la dirección electrónica.

¿Que tiene que ver esto con servicio comunitario?

Bueno, utiliza tu imaginación conmigo, e imagínate que tuviéramos que poner un “dominio” a cada iglesia que conocemos, de acuerdo a su misión, personalidad o naturaleza. Estoy seguro que tendríamos algunos resultados como estos:

**IGLESIAS.TV**

Estas son iglesias que existen solo para entretener y hacer grandes “shows” y apariciones famosas. No hay nada de malo con una alta calidad de programación, pero cuando es desbalanceado tenemos iglesias que persiguen el reconocimiento más que la misión.

**IGLESIAS.ORG**

Estas son iglesias que se centran y enfocan exclusivamente en proteger a la organización y denominación a la que pertenecen. Es decir, su nombre lo es todo. No se envuelven en ninguna actividad que no sea dirigida por, atendida por, financiada por o promovida por la organización.

**IGLESIAS.MIL**

Estas son las que tienen por esencia una disciplina y rigidez predominantes. Es decir son casi parecidas a algún régimen militar. Constantemente se encuentran en juntas disciplinarias por alguna falla de alguno de sus reclut... miembros.

**IGLESIAS.EDU**

Estas son iglesias donde la máxima pasión es el navegar por los libros y las teorías emergentes. Son iglesias que disfrutan de un profundo y extenso estudio exegético, y que encuentran en el estudio sistemático una manera de llenar sus vidas.

**Y POR ULTIMO ESTÁN LAS IGLESIAS.COM**

Aunque en el significado real este dominio se utiliza para “comercial” quisiera sugerirte que para estas iglesias lo utilicemos para COMunidad.

Estas son iglesias como cualquier otras pero tienen una personalidad o una esencia enfocada al servicio a la quienes rodean. En vez de tener una mirada que se enfoca hacia adentro, estas son iglesias que se atreven a ver hacia fuera. ¿Cómo es tu iglesia?

Si quieres saber como un pastor y congregación, impactaron su comunidad para Jesús con servicio, contacta a juanmiguel.pacheco@gmail.com, y conoce la excelente historia de una iglesia.com.

Juan M. Pacheco, pastor de las iglesias de McMinnville, Eugene y Albany Spanish

Parte del equipo de voluntarias de Manos Abiertas food bank.
Alaska Youth Attend GYC


The conference, titled “Fill Me: Our Earnest Plea,” featured seminars by Doug Batchelor, Ivor Myers, Dwight Nelson, Stephen Bohr, David Asscherick and many others on topics from how to hold health seminars in local churches to how to have the Holy Spirit’s latter rain power.

This annual conference targets young people ages 18–35 for Bible training, workshops and seminars designed to equip and train them to proclaim the distinctive beliefs of the Adventist Church and to proclaim the Three Angels’ messages. GYC also organizes regional youth conferences, mission trips, global networking, weeks of prayer and youth camp meetings.

The Ketchikan group reported on their experiences during Ketchikan Church’s service on Jan. 28. While in Houston, they canvassed Houston homes door to door, handed out Bible-study cards and GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tracts, and asked to pray with people. They were part of a group of 2,750 youth who knocked on 23,636 doors, distributed 9,346 Bible-study cards and 30,000 GLOW tracts, prayed with 2,300 people and gathered 2,225 Bible-study requests.

Some youth reported that, in their canvassing group, a Muslim woman requested Christian Bible studies, and they prayed with her. While one group was walking the streets of Houston, a city bus driver pulled over with a load of passengers still in his bus, stepped out of the bus and asked the group if they were Christians. When they responded in the affirmative, he asked, “What must I do to be saved?” He was given a mini-Bible study right there on the street while his passengers waited.

Sandy James, Ketchikan Church member

Literature Table Reaches Tourists in Talkeetna

A small table is reaching the world as thousands of tourists pass through tiny Talkeetna, Alaska, each summer on their way to see Mount McKinley. Self-supporting Adventist missionary-colporteurs are taking advantage of that traffic by operating a literature table on a busy corner in the downtown area.

A simple “where are you from?” initially caused people to pause at the table, where they were offered free Bibles, health literature, DVDs, gospel books, prayer and a smile. Then a collection of exceptionally tame pets was added, and tourists flocked to the table to take pictures of and cuddle with rabbits, hens and chicks.

One family from New York played with the pets for about 40 minutes. The father, a corporate attorney, had no room in his luggage but left his business card so The Great Controversy could be mailed to him.

Diplomats from Austria stopped by and took a health magazine. Brothers from Wyoming picked up some books. One man, who used to be an Adventist, lingered awhile then, as he left, said softly, “This is very nice.”

Musicians, pet owners and other mission-minded visitors are welcome to come help keep the table operating daily from mid-May through September.

Dianne Merrill, Talkeetna literature table participant
GSAA Students Sponsor 11-Year-Old

Savannah Byard, a sophomore at Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA) in Caldwell, Idaho, says, “God put it in my heart to go on the Peru mission trip, but I knew that I could never raise the $2,500.”

Then one day Paul Opp, People of Peru Project director, spoke at chapel. “I told God I would do my part. If He wanted me to go, He would have to bring in the money,” Byard says.

After she wrote 150 letters, money started to trickle in — $50 here and $50 there. “At this rate, I'll never be able to go. I might as well give up on the idea,” Byard told herself. Then her sister’s ex-boyfriend sent $500, and hope revived. At the last minute, the money poured in.

When Byard arrived in Iquitos, Peru, she immediately fell in love with the people. GSAA students presented a Vacation Bible School each evening. “I found myself wanting to do more for those kids!” she says.

Lupe, an 11-year-old girl whose mother left her and her three siblings when they were small, needed a sponsor for the People of Peru Project’s breakfast program at the Iquitos public school. Opp told how Lupe’s father gets up early just to earn enough money so his children can eat. Sometimes, when sales are bad, the children must skip a meal.

Byard wanted to help Lupe but didn't know how she could ever come up with the needed $20 each month, so she asked students Lisa Beaver, Kattie Lott and Reina Navarrete to partner with her. They eagerly agreed to commit $5 each month so Lupe could have a good breakfast every day.

Now each month, these four GSAA students put their $5 into an envelope and mail it off to Peru. They remember to pray for Lupe, while knowing they can make a difference.

Linda Klinger, GSAA GLEANER correspondent

John Day Church Celebrates Baptism

Daniel Davis was baptized Feb. 11 by Tony Brandon at the John Day (Ore.) Church. “I wanted to be baptized because I heard of baptism, wondered what it was, and looked it up, and asked my parents about it,” Davis explains. “I thought about what they said, and I decided I wanted to be baptized. I took lessons for baptism and prepared myself.”

Davis continues, “[On] Aug. 4, 2011, I was in an accident when I was hit on my bike. I had minor bruises, and my back had pain for a while, but it stopped after a month. I knew it wasn't luck that helped me through my accident; it was God. I was baptized Feb. 11, 2012. I enjoyed the time, and my parents were happy with me deciding to be baptized.”

The John Day Church members are happy to welcome this young man to their membership.

Gary Davidson, John Day Church communication leader, with Daniel Davis
‘Pathfinders vs. Wild’

Pathfinder vs. Wild was the theme for Montana’s second-annual Pathfinder fair, held April 13–15 at the Skyle Ranch just outside of Great Falls, Mont. Pathfinders from five of the conference’s eight clubs traversed the state to attend the event.

Throughout the weekend meetings, Ron Halvorsen Jr., senior pastor of the College View Church in Lincoln, Neb., and former Montana pastor, tied biblical ideas and stories to modern scenarios and events in his life to which Pathfinders and staff could relate. Clubs took part in morning and evening meetings by presenting and retrieving the colors (flags), praying, helping with song service and performing skits.

Sabbath activities ranged from singing to stapling messages on plastic bags and knocking on doors. Five students from Mount Ellis Academy (Bozeman, Mont.) led Pathfinders in singing Friday night and Sabbath morning. During Sabbath School, Bret Logan, a Great Falls area game warden, talked about his work with animals and how he got into the Forest Service. Halvorsen captivated listeners at church with Beware of the Squirrel!, which brought the crucifixion of Jesus into a whole new light.

On Sabbath afternoon, Pathfinders prepared and distributed plastic bags to the Five Falls Christian School food drive, which was held the following week.

After an evening worship of campfire stories (told around the campfire of course), Pathfinders practiced drilling and marching. Then it was a short jaunt to the ranch’s indoor riding arena for Saturday night’s main event. Pathfinders and staff performed maneuvers in twos and fours, with an attempt at eight, in a grand march.

Snow greeted the campers in their private valley Sunday morning. The day’s activities were scratched, and clubs were rerouted to the arena for morning worship. At the end of the program, flags were retrieved and packed away, and Pathfinders headed home through the falling snow, excitedly planning their next Pathfinder gathering at the union campground in Oregon in September.

Kristi Rich, Montana Conference Pathfinder assistant director
CHIP Trains Leaders to Reach Their Communities

There are few things in this life that bring greater satisfaction than engaging with heavenly agencies to extend the healing ministry of Jesus.

During the past 20 years, hundreds of Adventist churches in the United States and Canada have thrown open their doors to the local community and invited people to come in, sit down and, through CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program), learn how to arrest and even reverse the major diseases of our society: obesity, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and osteoporosis. Thousands have come, and thousands rejoice in their new-found health. Many of these have stayed to learn what else this church of health and healing has to share, resulting in friendships for time and eternity.

On the weekend of March 30–April 1, 44 motivated individuals from 11 Northwest church congregations met at the Holden Convention Center in Gladstone, Ore., to learn how to bring CHIP to their communities. The group included a chief finance officer, a registered dietitian, an electrician, a pastor, successful entrepreneurs, a physician, and several nurses and homemakers, along with many other professionals and non-professionals. The success of CHIP’s ministry does not depend on one’s chosen career, but rather on a passion for health ministry, a love for people, and the ability to organize and professionally deliver this beautifully packaged health program.

New programs likely will emerge from this weekend of inspiration, education and, beyond that, the joy of watching people find health and wholeness in the fellowship of God’s people.

To learn more about CHIP and how to bring this ministry to your church, call 866-732-2447, email info@adventistCHIP.org or visit www.adventistCHIP.org.

Dena Guthrie, CHIP program development and treasurer

People around the Northwest meet in Gladstone, Ore., to learn how to be CHIP program facilitators.
Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow
CAA Student Donates Hair

What’s the story behind a beautiful, reserved sophomore at Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) being the brunt of name-calling? First, Diana Palomera gets called Troy Polamalu (the Samoan professional football player known for his long, beautiful hair who does Head and Shoulders commercials). A few days later, she gets called a boy and told not to go into the women’s dressing room by a woman “guarding” the rooms at a department store.

It is surprising that friendly, caring Palomera would be the recipient of name-calling until one learns more about this student.

In addition to the aforementioned qualities that make Palomera an asset to her high school, she also has a heart for helping people. For a long time she thought she needed money to really help in a way that made a significant difference. But then, she heard about Locks of Love, an organization whose mission is “to return a sense of self, confidence and normalcy to children suffering from hair loss ... [by providing] the highest quality hair prosthetics to financially disadvantaged children,” many of whom have cancer. A new idea, one that she could make happen, began to form.

After doing her homework, Palomera found a place that would cut her hair and allow her to donate it to Locks of Love for a child who had lost his or her hair. In just a few minutes she went from having long, beautiful black hair to a shaved head for a worthy cause.

When asked about the responses from people, she tells about the humorous dressing room situation and being told that “boys try on clothes over there.” She says her family was surprised and very supportive, with her mom joking that now she looks like her dad and brother. Her friends all thought it was “weird” but are very proud of her. Her teachers are proud of her too — for her willingness to leave her comfort zone, to put others first, and not to let outward looks take precedence over her inner beauty.

Larry Hiday, CAA GLEANER correspondent

Diana Palomera sports long, black hair before making a donation to Locks of Love.

Palomera shows off her much-shorter hair after donating her hair to a worthy cause.

Northwest Adventist Federal Credit Union Celebrates 50 Years

The Northwest Adventist Federal Credit Union in Portland, Ore., celebrated 50 years of service on March 14 at Adventist Medical Center (AMC) in Portland, Ore. More than 178 guests came to have dinner prepared by the hospital cafeteria staff.

Those who attended received John F. Kennedy 50-cent pieces. Five “lucky” winners received solid silver Ben Franklin half dollars from 1962 (the founding year). In lieu of other commemorative door prizes or expensive giveaways, the board of directors voted to donate $1,000 to International Children’s Care (ICC). Amid enthusiastic applause, Joel Reyes accepted the gift on behalf of ICC.

Shayne Gustafson, credit union president and CEO says, “Our longevity in such a competitive market is based solely on not losing our focus of who we serve. We began tithing in 2000, and have been blessed by God’s grace in our unwavering mission to connect to every member in need. We truly are a financial institution that has our members’ best interest at heart.”

The credit union was chartered in 1962 with an initial purpose of serving employees of AMC. Since then, it has expanded to serve North Pacific Union Conference employees, Adventist members within the Portland-metro area, and Northwest conference employees.

Cindy R. Chamberlin, GLEANER managing editor
God Blesses as HVJA Claims His Promise

Staff and supporters of Hood View Junior Academy (HVJA) in Boring, Ore., saw the unthinkable happen on Feb. 4. For 10 years, HVJA sat under an umbrella of debt due to a building project. Year after year, auctions and other fundraisers were held to slowly chip away the balance. But by January, the fund for their media center/music wing was completely drained.

The school’s annual auction has typically bridged that payment gap. Every February, constituents put on a silent and live auction, selling items like Lasik eye surgery, Hawaii vacation rentals, orthodontia packages, front-row Blazer tickets and front-row Mariner tickets. A can of Nuteena has even been sold for $300. Baskets full of donated cooking gadgets, games, scrapbooking materials and such are available for bidding as Gale Crosby, former Hood View principal, plays auctioneer.

Supporters knew one thing this year: They needed to continue making $3,000-a-month payments. HVJA knew the school had to raise almost $37,000 during the next auction.

The most successful auctions at HVJA have garnered $30,000, but this year it looked bleak. Donations were down, attendees were sparse, and computers were broken. Anything that could go wrong did.

And then the school community prayed. They claimed God’s promise: “‘Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it’” (Malachi 3:10).

God taught an important lesson that night: He is in control. There is nothing impossible for Him. By all accounts, the event should have been a nightmare. But God brought beauty from chaos.

After the event, constituents realized the $30,000 goal was surpassed. The school had made $50,000, a monumental confirmation that God is all-powerful.

Holley Bryant, HVJA principal

Milo Redefines Christianity for International Student

Jinny Kim says that in Korea, where she comes from, many people do not consider the Adventist Church to be a Christian church.

Adventists are known to have church on Saturday and translate the Bible differently than other churches, so the church must not be Christian.

Kim’s experience at Milo Adventist Academy taught her differently.

She came to Milo not because of religious reasons, but to learn English. She had not really read the Bible before, and she had never been in a place that had worship in the classrooms.

After reading the Bible more and listening to other people, both staff and students who talked about Jesus, Kim says, “I feel like these are people who really follow Jesus and love Him!”

During spring break, Kim went on a Milo mission trip with a small group to Utila, Honduras, and she became impressed with the Adventist people there.

They were so warm, accepting, loving and helpful; she knows she will never forget those people and her time of service there.

Kim has changed her view of what Christianity is and notices the difference from her homeland. She feels people there, even who call themselves Christians, often don’t educate their children about God and do not have worships like they do at Milo.

“I can’t say they are wrong in Korea, but this school has changed me,” says Kim. “If I go back to Korea, I really want to teach them what I have learned here.”

Carol Bovee, MAA GLEANER correspondent
Newly Baptized Members Share Testimonies

In Their Own Words

The Junction City (Ore.) Church recently added five new members through baptism. Here are excerpts from their personal testimonies:

Teresa Harwood: “When I was about to get baptized, I felt something warm and comfortable inside me. I knew this was a lifelong commitment that I would cherish the rest of my life.”

Larry Harwood: “I felt excited and nervous but much closer to God. I know my prayers were answered.”

Loen Russell: “I was adopted by the Russells. I was adopted by the Junction City Church family. I was adopted by the heavenly Father, and I felt a peace I have never experienced before.”

Nadine Johnson: “Pastor Gayle baptized me to Jesus. All my loved ones were gathered around very close to me. It was a most precious time.”

Norman Harwood: “I felt as if I was coming home. I knew this was the only correct path for me to take if I was going to straighten my life out, and this had to be a lifelong commitment. Because of Christ I have been able to quit some major addictions in my life — cigarettes, alcohol, drugs and coffee. I give God all the glory because there is no way I could have quit on my own.”

Lynda Phelps, Junction City Church communication leader

The Junction City Church is praising the Lord for these five precious souls added to His kingdom.

Loen Russell

Journey to the Cross Brings the Easter Story to Kelso-Longview

The good news of God’s salvation was again spread to the communities of Kelso and Longview, Wash., and beyond, as more than 2,000 people came to the Kelso-Longview Church to experience Journey to the Cross.

Through music and drama, this Easter event transports audiences back to Jesus’ life on Earth. It features His temptation in the wilderness, the calling of the disciples, His Sermon on the Mount, the cleansing of the temple, His healing touch and miracles, the Last Supper, and the struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane. As the crowd watches the drama unfold, Judas betrays his Friend, Jesus is dragged away by the mob, and Roman soldiers hoist a dying Man onto the wooden cross.

After the tension of the crucifixion, the audience erupts with applause and joy as Jesus rises from the tomb. Then they jump to their feet to celebrate with the final song of the production, “Let All Heaven Rejoice!” — a wonderful yearly reminder of the hope of the resurrection.

Linda Wilson, Kelso-Longview Church communication leader

The events of Christ’s time on Earth are brought to life during Journey to the Cross.
Pastors Discuss Elephant in the Room

Pastors and Bible workers from across the Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) met recently to talk about the proverbial elephant in the room. The issue at hand is that many churches across North America are stagnant if not slowly dying.

According to General Conference statistics (www.adventiststatistics.org), the growth rate of the Adventist Church in North America has declined from 2.26 percent in 2001 to 1.68 percent in 2010. The decline is even more significant when you consider growth rates from the 1960s.

“We cannot continue to ignore the slow growth in our churches,” says Bob Folkenberg Jr., UCC president. “We must make a change now in order to keep the church from dying in North America.”

The meetings took place in three different regions of the conference with pastors and Bible workers from each region meeting with conference administrators. They met in Yakima, Wash., on April 9, in Walla Walla, Wash., on May 10, and in Spokane, Wash., on April 11, with nearly 70 pastors and Bible workers attending.

The discussion cited many valid reasons for the decline as well as reasons why members and workers are reluctant to do public evangelism or give Bible studies.

“Members have a hard time sharing their faith when they hardly know anyone outside the church,” said one pastor. “People just are not involved in the community like they used to be.”

“It's a matter of priorities,” said another pastor. “Most of my members don't make it to training seminars or organizational meetings because they are too busy working.”

These critical discussions have highlighted a few key points. First, we desperately need to regain our passion for Jesus and His mission. The most important thing we can do is to begin praying for the Holy Spirit to help us be fully consumed with Christ. A real friendship with Jesus is central to being able to introduce others to Him.

Second, we need to understand that friendship evangelism is not a project or an event but a lifelong commitment to a relationship with Jesus. When we have that connection, we're promised that the natural outflow will be our uncontainable desire to share that friendship with others. When we are con-

Uniformed Master Guides Take Over

The Pasco (Wash.) Riverview Church service was led by the Pathfinder Master Guide class on Sabbath, March 10.

A highlight was a speaking choir, focusing on celebrating Jesus’ soon return. The morning message included more than 100 pictures of Earth’s history from the beginning of time to the modern day.

As a result of this culminating project, all staff members of the Pasco Cherokee Pathfinder Club were certified as Master Guides on May 12. Many Pasco Takoda Adventurer Club staff members were certified as well.

The Master Guide class is designed to train youth leaders in basic skills of youth ministry and leadership. The class was conducted by Valarie Young, Phil Van Lanen, and Larry and Suzanne Swisher.

Suzanne Swisher, Pasco Riverview Church Pathfinder director
Camp Meeting
June 29-30, 2012 - Wapato, Wash.

Monte Church | Northwest Director for Native Affairs
Doug Johnson | Native American Director for the Upper Columbia Conference
Paul Vivier | Member of the Sliammon Nation and Pastor of the Auburn City Church.
Lisa Marie Buster | Musician

More information: allnationscenter@gmail.com
Phone: 509-877-0960

Consumed with His Cause
For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

Camp Meeting Speakers:
- John Bradshaw
  Speaker/Director, It Is Written
- Bob Folkenberg, Sr.
  Director, Share Him
- Dwight Nelson
  Senior Pastor, Pioneer Memorial Church, Andrews University
- Mike Ryan
  Adventist Mission Committee Chair and General Conf. Vice President

Seminars:
This year we’re featuring seminars that will help equip you to Share the Life and get you excited about what matters most to Jesus.

June 13-16, 2012
UCA Campus, Spangle, Wash.

Registration Opens:
February 1, 2012
Register online at:
www.uccsda.org/campmeeting
Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash., is preparing to enter its third year of the Tuition Incentive Plus (TIP) program. The program is designed to make Adventist education more affordable for families after students have outgrown their local Adventist schools. TIP is designed to give families a break in tuition for every year they attend UCA.

“While some of our students come from Adventist schools with ninth and 10th grades, many of our students come from rural areas that don’t have Adventist education options past eighth grade,” says Troy Patzer, UCA principal. “TIP is designed for these students, to lower the cost of being in academy multiple years.”

After paying full tuition the first year of the program, students receive a 20-percent tuition discount their second year at UCA. “The 20-percent discount amounts to $1,655 for second-year students,” says Debbie Nelson, vice principal for finance. “We’ve given approximately $250,000 in TIP discounts this school year.”

Students receive a 30-percent tuition discount their third year, and students who attend UCA all four years receive a 50-percent tuition break their last year. A student does not need to attend UCA their ninth grade year to take advantage of the tuition discounts.

TIP was created by parents for parents who are all on the same page when it comes to their child’s education. “TIP does not eliminate the cost that comes with Adventist education, but it’s our hope this is something that will make UCA more affordable for students and their families,” says Patzer.

Joe Hess, UCA staff member

Upper Columbia Academy students Lexi, Taylor and Xandroea benefit from the Tuition Incentive Plus program.

Small Church Reaches Kids for Jesus

Where do you begin when your church hasn’t held a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for more than 12 years? Where do you find the leadership, the program resources and materials needed? That’s what the Irrigon (Ore.) Church had to wrestle with last July.

For the first time in 12 years, they decided to put on a VBS for their small community. Fortunately, the church wasn’t alone in their quest to reach out to their neighborhood kids. Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) sent a team of four energetic young people to help. These four were a part of a conference initiative called His Travelers, which helps small churches put on summer outreach programs.

Shalise Gross, John Wilson, Sierra Walley and Re’Jean Coon worked with Irrigon members and presented the “GO FISH!” program for community children. Together they totally transformed the church and fellowship building into an exciting place to teach kids how to love Jesus.

Each day “Dorothy” took kids on a pretend plane to a different country to show how children of other lands witness for Jesus. Other areas featured campfire stories, crafts and games. At the end of the week, all children attending received children’s Bibles of his or her own. The overall program was well received and will be repeated again next year.

Even though Irrigon is a small town, 46 children attended throughout the week. Only two of these were from Adventist families.

With summer just getting started, it’s not too late to put together a VBS program as an outreach for your community children. UCC’s children’s ministries department has great VBS resources to share with you. If the thought of that is too much for your small church, it isn’t too early to put your request in for a team of His Travelers to come and work with you next year. More information is available at www.uccsda.org/travelers.

Rolling Hills Church, community pastor
The doors of the Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) Church opened Easter weekend to receive more than 700 people who came to experience The Borrowed Tomb, an Easter musical. With a cast of more than 50 people, colorful costumes, professional lighting, special effects and a gripping story, the performances made an impact on many.

"It just gets better year after year," one attendee says. "I came expecting a typical church performance but was blown away with the amount of detail, preparation and talent."

"It was incredible!" adds another.

Despite all the positive feedback, Daniela Larson and Jo Anne Bell, play directors, agree the highlight of the weekend was the six people who accepted Christ as their personal Savior as a result of the drama: "This is why we put in the hours and obsess over every detail."

This is the fourth year the Coeur d'Alene Church has performed an Easter play as a gift to the community. No offering is taken during any of the performances, and with each passing year they see more visitors.

"We love seeing new faces and members excited about bringing friends. It is a confirmation that we are doing something that is resonating with our community," says Mike Larson, Coeur d'Alene Church family life pastor.

Several other Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) churches also held community outreach events Easter weekend. More than 3,600 people attended when the Spokane Valley (Wash.) Church presented Journey to the Cross for the fifth consecutive year. The Yakima (Wash.) Church welcomed more than 300 community members to their Easter play.

Are you interested in starting seed-planting activities in your community? When you take time get to know people in your community and build friendships, you open the door for the Holy Spirit to work through you to reach people for the kingdom. Contact the UCC discipleship department for more ideas, training and information.

Daniela Larson, Coeur d'Alene Church drama director
Stewardship Summit Focuses on Spiritual Growth

The traditional finance-focused stewardship definition for Adventists was redefined at the Blessings Above & Beyond Stewardship Summit in April.

“Stewardship is about a relationship with Jesus,” says Erika Puni, General Conference stewardship director. “Stewardship is all of me in response to all of God.”

In his presentation, Puni explained how stewardship is shifting from remuneration to restoration, from fundraising to faith-building, from finances to spirituality.

“Stewardship is about value transformation ... by Christ,” Puni says. “In Jesus Christ, the values become: service, simplicity, sacrifice, surrender and submission.”

More than 80 Northwest financial leaders from Washington, Alaska and Oregon met as “Blessings Teams” to discuss how to implement this new philosophy of stewardship in their church or school.

One church team decided, for example, to rename their church finance committee the Stewardship Blessings Team to encourage spiritual growth, affirm members and celebrate God’s blessings.

Larry Evans, General Conference stewardship associate director, shared biblical foundations of stewardship, leadership principles and ministry resources with 70 pastors and church elders at the second part of the summit.

“Stewardship helps clarify our purpose in life,” Evans says. “Stewardship involves every aspect of life: time, talent, health, money, influence and concerns.”

The summit was jointly organized by the Washington Conference and the North Pacific Union Conference.

Eighty leaders from the Washington, Oregon and Upper Columbia conferences assembled in Gladstone, Ore., in mid-April for a prison ministry retreat.

The retreat featured classes such as prisoner re-entry into the community, chemical dependency, family reconciliation, ministry to juvenile offenders, serving outside prison walls, and Financial Peace University.

In one session, Don’t Follow Me, a ministry group of ex-inmates sharing their stories in schools and churches, explained how they encourage youth to make different choices in dealing with their emotions and situations. This group is coordinated by Cleveland Houser, North American Division prison ministries consultant, who also presented at the retreat.

Attendees learned prison ministry best practices from Patty Desy, Washington State Department of Corrections chemical dependency program administrator; Floyd Marshall, Western State Hospital counselor and Washington Conference prison ministry coordinator; Jan Bishop, Multnomah County (Ore.) Juvenile Services community justice manager; and David and Jeannie Richardson, Oregon prison ministry volunteers.

The retreat brought together a good mix of people, including some who are exploring the possibility of getting involved in prison ministry. “I’ve felt a call to this type of ministry,” says one attendee. “Thank you for confirming what God has put into my heart.”

The retreat is held every two years and is planned by the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) prison ministry advisory committee, which has representatives from all conferences and is chaired by Alphonso McCarthy, NPUC vice president of regional affairs and prison ministry director.

Don’t Follow Me is a ministry group of ex-inmates who share their stories and encourage young people to make better life decisions.

Prison Ministry Leaders Explore Best Practices

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Anchor of Selfless Service
Alice Hansen Retires After 44 Years

When Alice Hansen was baptized four months before attending Walla Walla University her sophomore year, she had no idea God would lead her to a 44-year career as an administrative assistant for the Adventist Church.

As a young adult, she took Voice of Prophecy’s Jesus, Light of the World Bible-study lessons.

“It was the best thing I could have done,” Hansen says. “The doctrine lessons were Christ-centered — the way they should be.”

After obtaining her secretarial science degree, Hansen accepted an offer to work for the General Conference Youth Association as the Missionary Volunteers department secretary.

During this time, Hansen began helping children and adults achieve greater literacy. Throughout the years, she has tutored people from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Russia, Romania, Ukraine and elsewhere.


Washington Conference marked Hansen’s retirement with a celebration on March 29 featuring a gathering of past and current colleagues, words of affirmation for her faithful service, and a musical tribute.

As Hansen retires after 44.32 years of service, she offers this advice: “Keep your focus on Jesus. Keep your connection with God and His word. God has been my strength. There is power in knowing Jesus.”

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director

Smart Cooking Teaches Healthy Choices

Smart Cooking for Life, a one-day cooking and health seminar, features plant-based cooking demonstrations, diverse health lectures and booths with a variety of area resources to assist attendees on their journey to a better lifestyle.

The goal of this cooking class is not only to help people suffering from various health problems, but to introduce them to a God who cares about what we eat.

Anita Jepson and Edel Amundson began Smart Cooking for Life in 2010. They founded this ministry with prayer and a philosophy to help people know a better way both physically and spiritually.

Jepson and Amundson partner with Nessy Pittau, Washington Conference health ministries director, and many volunteers to share healthy lifestyle choices.

Food demonstrations, health lectures, resource booths, book sales and time for questions and answers are all featured at Smart Cooking for Life, co-founded three years ago by Anita Jepson (pictured right) and Edel Amundson.

Attendance continues to grow by the year, from 75 people the first year to 170 guests in the third year. Nearly 30 volunteers were involved in the April 15 session.

“It was great,” says Karen, one of the participants. “I have suffered from numerous heart attacks. I believe this information will help me. The food was wonderful.”

Another attendee, Cascia, shares, “I am Wiccan, and I still felt welcome. I was very impressed. I am interested in coming next year.”

“We believe that this is God’s ministry,” seminar leaders explain, “and we trust that God will bless this endeavor for reaching souls through the health message in the future.”

Chloe Amundson, student writer

From typewriters to computers, Alice Hansen knows how to work with a variety of technology. She retires this year after 44.32 years of serving the Adventist Church.
Mission Trip Helps Auburn International Student
Overcome Fears

Christine Kim, a sophomore international student at Auburn (Wash.) Adventist Academy (AAA), has a few fears in life. One trip, a few helpful friends and a perfect opportunity to get to know Jesus washed away Kim’s fears and replaced them with a newfound bravery and a newfound faith.

Before the AAA mission trip to Hawaii, Kim did not like public speaking, did not know how to swim and was not even sure how she felt about God.

The goal of the mission trip was to renovate Kahili Mountain Park, a beautiful summer camp needing special love and care. Kim was part of the painting crew, while others took care of the grounds, fixed potholes, laid carpet and remodeled the kitchen.

It was Kim’s first time to Hawaii, and she wanted to snorkel. She asked a friend to teach her to swim so she could see tropical fish. “I faced my fears,” says Kim. “God helped me.”

Now she would like to start swimming more and even participate in AAA’s annual swim meet.

For Kim, the best part of her trip was leaving her fears in Hawaii and learning to trust God more.

Jessi Turner, AAA GLEANER correspondent

New Pathfinder Club Defines Purpose

The Lacey (Wash.) Church needed a Pathfinder club, and church members Edward and Jennifer Case took on this challenge about a year ago.

Jennifer Case attended a camp meeting class, How to Start a Pathfinder Club. Armed with a mountain of information, the Cases presented their request to the church board, which unanimously voted to start a club.

The leaders recruited Pathfinders and staff through pulpit presentations, personal invitations, an interest meeting, and a charity car wash. On registration day, 17 Pathfinders and 11 volunteer staff members signed up.

The newly formed club filled the next two months with a Pathfinder induction service, club meetings, attending their first Pathfinder camporee, searching for a club name, and assisting with the church’s evangelistic meetings.

During the evangelistic meetings, a Pathfinder shared how she had made a decision at Sunset Lake Camp (Wilkeson, Wash.) to be baptized. The big surprise: The Pathfinder interested in baptism was the leaders’ own daughter, Stephanie.

Steve Shipowick, Lacey pastor, began a baptismal class for interested Pathfinders following twice-monthly club meetings. Faith Jordan, daughter of Dwight and Carol Jordan of Lacey, Wash., went through the class and soon requested baptism as well.

“The whole reason for the Pathfinder club is to help lead kids to Christ and then have them share Christ with others,” says Edward Case, Lacey Pathfinder director.

The Lacey Church named their new Swordbearers Pathfinder Club in honor of the two newest church members who bear Bible truth as their sword in their recent public decisions to follow Christ.

Jennifer Case, Lacey Swordbearers Pathfinder Club counselor
Walla Walla University (WWU) math professor Tom Thompson received the Mathematical Association of America’s (MAA) Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics in the Pacific Northwest in April. This also means his name will be considered for the same award at the national level.

Such recognition is quite significant. The MAA has approximately 20,000 members nationwide, including about 800 in the Northwest, spread throughout five U.S. states and five Canadian provinces.

“I have to say that I really am speechless,” says Thompson, who has taught at WWU for 41 years. “It tells me that my administration, colleagues, and students believe that I am making an important contribution. I really don’t know what to say, except ‘thank you.’”

To engage students as he teaches numerous math concepts, Thompson employs a number of props, including his fully functional mini-cannon.

Thompson, who also gave the university’s Distinguished Faculty Lecture in 2009 and received the Zapara teaching award in 1989, was nominated by Ken Wiggins, mathematics department chairman. Wiggins says, “Tom has had a lasting impact on our students for his caring attitude toward students, for his rigorous standards, and for the colorful methods that he uses to make learning fun.”

Letters of recommendation were also sent in by a colleague, a university administrator, and a recent graduate — all former students of Thompson.

The award from the MAA “helps to put us on the map,” Thompson says. “Today, Christian education is not always an easy sell, especially considering the costs. For someone at WWU to be chosen is significant. This is a high honor for the university.”

The mathematics enthusiast and amateur astronomer also explains how the joy of being a teacher is not about receiving impressive awards, but rather in working with students.

“I really enjoy trying to hook students on a subject that many of them are required to take for another discipline,” he says. “When you can toss out extra problems, some easy and some more challenging, and get students of a wide variety of abilities to latch onto them, it really doesn’t get better than that!”

Thompson graduated from WWU and first began teaching in 1971, and later he received his doctorate from the University of California, Davis. Since then, he has made presentations around the world, including in Brazil and Poland. The book he published in 1984, *From Error Correcting Codes Through Sphere Packing to Simple Groups*, is now in its fifth printing, and his fundraising efforts were instrumental in acquiring the observatory on top of Kretschmar Hall.

Even though Thompson is now in his 41st year behind the lectern, he relishes each day like it is his first. “I tell my students that I’m so lucky,” he says. “Walla Walla is my alma mater and, quite frankly, I never expected to be back here. I get to do that which seems to suit me exactly. I wake up in the morning and look forward with relish to what I am privileged to do that day — teach mathematics, maybe even change attitudes.”

Martin Surridge, WWU graduate

For 41 years, wit, humor and a caring attitude have been Thompson’s hallmarks as he delivers his lectures. 
“In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.”
— Proverbs 14:23 (NASB)

At age six, young Henry started helping his mother tend a small garden behind the family home. At age eight Henry was canvassing the neighborhood with a basket under each arm selling vegetables from the family garden door to door. By age nine he was growing, grinding, bottling and selling his own brand of horseradish sauce. At ten he was given a 3/4-acre garden of his own and had graduated to a wheelbarrow to deliver his vegetables. At twelve he was working 3 1/2 acres of garden using a horse and cart for his three-times-a-week deliveries to grocery stores in Pittsburgh.”
Despite his “green thumb,” Henry J. Heinz’s immigrant parents, John and Anna, wished for him to become a minister. At 14, they “plucked” the young upstart from the vegetable garden and enrolled him in the Allegheny Seminary. But, like a plant winding its way, he went against their dreams and dropped out. Later, he took bookkeeping classes at Duff’s Business College in Pittsburgh, Pa., but his knack for gardening proved lifelong, and he continued growing and selling vegetables.

His most popular item was horseradish, a common spice that was arduous to prepare. Using a recipe from his mother, Heinz cleaned the root, grated it, put it in bottles and sold it to housewives.

To win his buyers’ trust, he put his produce in see-through bottles. This was in the days before strict Food and Drug Administration packaging laws, when vendors frequently sold items in dark bottles so they could hide cheap fillers. Heinz, however, was committed to biblical honesty and sold only what was on his label. The transparency worked, and consumers readily bought his products.

Non-bashful with dirt and trowel, he was equally non-bashful telling people about his crops. He painted his iconic pickle boldly on horseless carriages, sides of buildings, landscapes and wherever he could.

One day while on the train, he saw an advertisement for 21 kinds of shoes. Fascinated with the concept (this was before multiple listings such as “31 Flavors” were commonplace), Heinz combined his wife’s and his favorite numbers, “5” and “7,” for the trademark “57.” Light years ahead of branding campaigns, Heinz 57 is considered the catchy slogan of all slogans, still studied by marketing gurus today.

Over time Heinz’s business grew prosperous. Yet he taught thrift, believing in no waste of any kind whether it was material, time or opportunity. And he couldn’t bear the thought of ill-gotten gain. He believed profit should be fairly earned. Even in today’s modern world, the Heinz Company website bears the words of its founder: “Deal with the seller justly...”

Sources:
When a heart attack or stroke hits, every minute counts. Getting immediate medical attention can mean the difference between life and death. That is why Adventist Health hospitals in the Pacific Northwest have programs in place to increase positive outcomes and provide life-saving quality care fast.

**TELESTROKE NETWORK IN WALLA WALLA**

Walla Walla (Wash.) General Hospital (WWGH) recently partnered with the Swedish Neuroscience Institute (SNI) to provide specialized stroke-care services. SNI’s Acute TeleStroke Program offers stroke support services at WWGH through round-the-clock access to SNI’s nationally recognized stroke team experts based at the Swedish/Cherry Hill campus in Seattle.

With the help of a video-conferencing network, members of SNI’s Stroke Program are able to quickly perform virtual bedside evaluations that allow them to examine patients, review brain images, and quickly select the best acute stroke treatments in collaboration with WWGH emergency-room physicians.

Treatments for strokes are time-dependent and most effective when they can be provided in the nearest ER. Unfortunately, many ERs don’t have the volume or support to provide recommended stroke evaluations and treatments. Telemedicine brings the same level of expert care available at a major medical center to hospitals in rural locations like Walla Walla.

**EXCEPTIONAL OUTCOMES IN OREGON**

Tightness in Gary Albright’s neck, coupled with lightheadedness forced him to rethink heading to work. He felt as if he was blacking out and knew a trip to the ER was necessary. The 61-year-old resident of Tillamook, Ore., was experiencing a severe heart attack.

He was taken to Tillamook County General Hospital (TCGH) immediately, where he was met by Mark Bowman, emergency physician, and Marc Hart, a cardiologist who visits TCGH weekly from the Northwest Regional Heart Center at Adventist Medical Center (AMC) in Portland, Ore. Both doctors knew the situation was serious. A Life Flight helicopter was called, and the emergency team began using a defibrillator to restart the heart.

When the helicopter landed at AMC (one of only two accredited chest pain centers in Oregon) a team of medical experts, including Brad Titus, cardiologist, were ready to receive Albright. While at the hospital, he received care that saved his life.

“The first couple of hours are critical to survival of a heart attack,” explains Titus. “Albright had a positive outcome because he came into the hospital quickly.”

This story isn’t the only one with a happy ending. Wes Rogers, small business owner in Portland, was on a telephone call at work when he suddenly blacked out as a result of cardiac arrest. Luckily for Rogers, his coworkers heard the commotion and immediately called 911. It was the action of the first responders and the coordinated care of the Northwest Regional Heart Center that saved Rogers’ life.

Security cameras in his office recorded the whole episode, which is now being used to show the importance of acting immediately in a situation like his. “What saves lives is time,” said Hart, stressing that calling 911 should always be the first step in getting timely care.

For more information about the Northwest Regional Heart Center, visit www.adventisthealthnw.com.

Brittany Dobbs, GLEANER correspondent
Hutchins 90th
Frank Hutchins celebrated his 90th birthday on Sept. 3, 2011, with cake after potluck at the Startup (Wash.) Church.
Frank was born Sept. 1, 1921, in Seattle, Wash. During World War II, he was a Marine medic in the South Pacific on the island of Tarawa of the Gilbert Islands. Frank was married by J. L. Tucker of The Quiet Hour on Nov. 4, 1944, to Esther Allison in Hayward, Calif., in the Adventist church. They recently celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. He worked at the Valcom & Vaughn Pipe Organ Company constructing keyboards. Frank also inspected the final assemblies and did testing on consoles.
Frank’s family includes Margaret Elaine Bennett of Monroe, Wash.; Mariann Walker of Everett, Wash.; Frederick Hutchins and Douglas Hutchins, both of Lynnwood, Wash.; and a grandchild.

James 60th
Bob and Doris James, of Homer, Alaska, marked 60 years together on Nov. 18, 2011. Following World War II, Bob accompanied a friend delivering a private plane to Anchorage, Alaska, in the spring of 1951. Continuing on to Dillingham, he met Doris Moody, whose family had moved to Alaska in 1931. They married about six months later.
After their first child, Judy, was born, the family moved to Homer. Bob filed a homestead claim on 160 acres, 12 miles east of town, and in the summer of 1954 set up a wall tent. Not owning a car, they caught a ride to the end of the road, loaded packs with food, supplies, Judy and baby Jerry, and then followed bear trails traversing McNeil Canyon and the woods to the tent site. Doris remembers Bob’s nonchalant reply at the sharp rips in the fabric, evidence of a bear: “Aw, he was just curious.”
Predictably, when Bob went back for more supplies, the bear showed up to inspect his new neighbors. One can only imagine the consternation of this young woman deciding how to carry both the toddler and baby up a tree.

Two more sons came: Jesse (1956) and Jimmie (1957). The family experienced the satisfaction of a pioneer lifestyle as well as the tragedy of losing Jerry at age 16 in a fishing accident on Bristol Bay.
Assisted by their children, Bob and Doris still live on the homestead, while spending the last two winters with Jesse and his wife, Shirley, in Goldendale, Wash. Bob and Doris have five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren in the Pacific Northwest and the Ukraine.

Knapp 50th
Daniel and Sharon Knapp celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 25, 2010, with family and friends at the Spokane (Wash.) Church fellowship hall.
Sharon Dury was 13 and living in Ione, Wash. Dan was 16 and worked for Sharon’s great aunt in the Colville, Wash., area when they became acquainted. Dan proposed to Sharon when she was 14, assuring her that, when she was ready, he would be there for her. At age 16, Sharon told Dan she was ready. On June 12, 1960, three months after her 17th birthday, they were married in the Colville Church. Five years later, they moved to College Place, Wash., where Dan enrolled as a ministerial student at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) and Sharon worked as a secretary and bookkeeper. Following Dan’s graduation in 1970, the Upper Columbia Conference assigned the Knapps to their first pastoral ministry as an intern couple assisting Ed Ginger, pastor, at the Spokane Valley Church. During 1971–1973, the family lived in Berrien Springs, Mich., while Dan earned his master of divinity degree at Andrews University. Sharon worked at Andrews as a full-time administrative secretary to augment their meager income that provided for the family including four school-age children. The Knapps didn’t have any school debt or loans when they left Michigan, even with educating all four children in Adventist schools.
After Andrews University, the couple completed their internship in the Wenatchee/Chelan (Wash.) District. Dan then pastored the Ephrata/Grand Coulee (Wash.) District for one year. He became senior pastor of churches in Yakima, Wash., Pleasant Hill, Calif., and Portland, Ore., before becoming the Nevada/Utah Conference church ministries director.
Nine years later, he was invited to serve as senior pastor for the Pendleton/Pilot Rock/Mission (Ore.) District. The Blue Mountain Church was added the year prior to his retirement on Dec. 31, 2004.
As a retiree, Dan became a pastor in the Colville/Ione District. Re-retirement occurred on Aug. 31, 2010.
Over the years, their gospel work wore out 32 cars,
and they moved 32 times. Their wealth is measured by the value placed on the eternal friendships by thousands whom they have been privileged to serve for Jesus. Dan and Sharon live adjacent to the Pend Oreille River, south of Ione. They winter in Black Canyon City, Ariz.


Ringing 60th

Lyle and Fern (Rosevear) Ringering were married Aug. 12, 1951, in St. Helens, Ore. To celebrate their anniversary, they spent one week on Roatan Island in the Caribbean. Later, their children arranged for a beach house for a family celebration. Following their college years, the couple settled in Oregon City, Ore. They have been active in the Gladstone Park Church since moving to the area. Lyle worked for Portland Adventist Medical Center until his retirement in 1995. Fern went to graduate school for social work and worked in the field of child welfare and adoption until she retired.

They have traveled worldwide, visiting 44 countries. Many trips have been for short-term mission projects with Maranatha and SAGE. The Ringering family includes seven children: David and Angie Ringering of Salem, Ore.; Kevin and Vicki Ringering of Caldwell, Idaho; Steve and Nanette Ringering of Sandy, Ore.; Dona and Isaiah Scott of Milwaukee, Ore.; Timothy and Trudi Ringering of Camas, Wash.; Rebecca and Jeff Deyer of Vancouver, Wash.; Peter and Lavonna Ringering of Meridian, Idaho; 13 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

after the war was over. They were married Sept. 1, 1946, in Mountain View, Calif. Eva worked at Pacific Press while Marvin worked in construction. With encouragement from friends, they journeyed to Pacific Union College in 1948, where Marvin graduated with a theology degree in 1953.

His ministry varied in Northern California Conference between pastoring, teaching and working as an assistant youth director. He served as the pastor/Bible teacher for Rio Lindo Academy and Church (Healdsburg, Calif.) from 1962 to 1965. He accepted a call in 1965 to become the youth and educational superintendent for the Hawaiian Mission. While there, he was instrumental in building a summer camp for the youth of the islands. Returning to the mainland, his ministry continued in Central California, Oregon and Northern California conferences, including pastoring the Turlock (Calif.), Mt. Tabor (Portland, Ore.) and Camino (Calif.) churches.

Marvin served on the General Conference executive committee for several years. He retired in 1987 but continued to pastor part-time at the Village Church in Gresham, Ore., until 2001. Through all these spiritual adventures, Eva was there supporting and encouraging.

The Seibels have been blessed with three children. Their family includes three children and 6 great-grandchildren.

Wiltse 50th

Jim and Lorraine Wiltse celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 19, 2011. Their celebration came in the form of a surprise potluck in their son’s barn in Lake Stevens, Wash. Jim H. Wiltse married Lorraine Kellen on June 24, 1961, in Oakland, Calif. During their life together Jim was a deputy sheriff of Snohomish County, Wash. Lorraine was an office manager at the emergency clinic near the Washington Conference office for Dr. Holm.

The Wiltse family includes James and Sam Wiltse, Deberah and Marvin Black, and Rebecca and Steve Rogers, all of Lake Stevens, Wash.; Mary and Dwayne Dixon of Everett, Wash.; 18 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.
WEDDINGS

BOLSTER-ANDERSON — Kandice Bolster and Jared Anderson were married March 25, 2012, in College Place, Wash. They are making their home in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Kandice is the daughter of Gary Bolster and Sharlene Miller. Jared is the son of Jim and Becky Anderson.

MCFARLAND-GAINER — Marissa McFarland and Jonathan Gainer were married March 18, 2012, in Beaverton, Ore. They are making their home in Keizer, Ore. Marissa is the daughter of Eliza Estrada and Mark McFarland. Jonathan is the son of George and Leanne (Jurmu) Gainer.

AT REST


HESSONG — Dorah (Fry), 92; born Nov. 15, 1919, Salem, Ore.; died Feb. 9, 2012, Portland, Ore. Surviving: sons, Robert Hessong, Gresham, Ore.; George Hessong, Portland; Larry Marcks, Las Vegas, Nev.; Terry Marcks, Carson, City, Nev.; daughters, Ann (Hessong) Ingram and Debra Hessong, both of Redland, Calif.; Sandra (Hessong) Tinlin, White Fish, Mont.; Cindy (Ellis) Groger, Lebanon, Ore.; Jean (Ellis) Bond, Clinton, Mass.; brother, LeRoy “Jim” Fry, Clackamas, Ore.; sister, Ruth Matthias, Portland; 28 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.


LOEWEN — Essie Lee (Davidson), 85; born June 4, 1926, Harrison, Ark.; died Oct. 4, 2011, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: husband, Mike; son, Greg, Spokane; and 3 grandchildren.


MORALES — Carlos, 70; born May 1, 1941, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala; died Dec. 25, 2011, Renton, Wash. Surviving: wife, Loida (Rocha), Caldwell, Idaho; sons, Carlos, Renton; George, Kirkland, Wash.; daughter, Belia Morales, Renton; brothers, Victor and Rafael, both of Chimaltenango, Guatemala; Hugo, San Fernando, Calif.; Jamie, Burbank, Calif.; and sister, Maria Morales, Cobán, Guatemala.


WOODRUFF — Marion Earl Jr.; 94; born Sept. 29, 1916, Tremonton, Utah; died July 30, 2011, Falls City, Ore. Surviving: wife, Edith (Lawson); sons, David, Ellenburg, Wash.; Douglas, Falls City; Rick, Dallas, Ore.; daughters, Janet Owen, Silverton, Ore.; Donna Dugan, Rushsylvania, Ohio; Judy Grant, Dallas; brothers, Alvin, Monmouth, Ore.; Ray, Vancouver, Wash.; Ervin, Salem, Ore.; sisters, Leola Rosenvold and Lenna Newland, both of Falls City; 14 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.
North Pacific Union Conference

**Offering**
- June 2 — Local Church Budget;
- June 9 — Multilingual and Chaplaincy Ministries – North American Division World Budget;
- June 16 — Local Church Budget;
- June 23 — Local Conference Advance;
- June 30 — NAD Outreach Project.

**Project PATCH: Family Experience Weekend**
Various dates are available through the year, starting June 29–July 1. Now open for registration. Learn effective communication and how to relate better to each other as a family, in a Christ-centered, family-focused environment, while enjoying home-cooked, made-from-scratch meals. Call 360-690-8495 for more information. All fees and costs of the Family Experience support Project PATCH and its mission to build stronger families. For program details and location photos, visit projectpatch.org.

**Walla Walla University**
- June 3 — Missoula MSW Hooding/Graduation;
- June 8 — Consecration Service, 8 p.m., University Church;
- June 9 — Baccalaureate Service, 9:30 and 11:45 a.m., University Church;
- June 9 — Master’s Degree Hooding Ceremony, Walla Walla Valley Academy;
- June 10 — Commencement, 8:30 a.m., Centennial Green;
- June 18 — Summer Session begins.

**Singles Weekend in Gold Beach**
- June 22–24 — The Rogue River jet boat ride features good fun and fellowship. Tent camping and 104-mile jet boat ride for $108. For more information and to RSVP, call 541-994-6096.

**31st Annual Strawberry Vespers**
- June 23 — The 31st-annual Strawberry Vespers at Sunnyside Church welcomes everyone at 6 p.m. There will be lots of good music featuring some of Portland’s finest musicians and an opportunity to fellowship and enjoy strawberry shortcake. Sunnyside Church, 10501 S.E. Market St., Portland, OR. 503-252-8080.

**Laurelwood CA. Academy Class of 1952 Events**
- July 21 — Meet for a potluck lunch at the Somerset facility at the north end of the Oregon Conference campsground right after the main camp meeting service. The 60th-class reunion will be held Oct. 19–21, in San Diego, CA. We would appreciate any information for the following classmates: Naomi Hutchens, Forest Williams, James Page and Melvin Smith. Please send information to Harvey Heidinger, 503-874-1844, heheidinger@gmail.com; Brooke Stafford, 360-896-2026, bstfford@q.com.

**Missing Members**
The South Salem Church is looking for the following missing members: Chenoa Kemp, Nathan Kemp, Janet D. King, John P. King, Romelle D. Kroll, Lesley Lanter, Maleah H. Lawrence, Thomas Lee, Chad Lewis, Chelsea Leis, Jacom Lewis, Jeremy Lewis, Nancy Lindsay, Dorothy Martin, Sandra Matthews, Devonne Maxey, Gordon R. Maxey, Ellen B. McCracken, Lori Silva Monroe, Hector M. Morais, Janice Murray, Barbara A. Myers, Jennifer Nichols, Valerie J. Nofziger, Andrew H. Norton, Todd Oakes, Charlene Paul, Thomas R. Peck, Shelly Pederson, Jayson L. Peterson, Krista O. Peterson, Wilber L. Pinkham, Robin R. Rovinson, Edward Riviera, Sarah Riviera, Margene Royal, Kristina M. Sather, Mary E. Saunders, Louis Schippers, Stephen E. Schreiner, Timothy L. Schreiner, Esther Sears, Tavis Sibbett, Angela Smithers, Victoria L. Stroh, Cameo H. Valdez, Justice R. Valdez, Sharyn Vogt, Michael S. Ware, Connie Walker, Dean Walker and Kevin Weston. If you have seen these South Salem Church members, please contact Debbie Cook at 6994 Sunnyside Rd. S.E., Salem, OR 97352; call 503-399-8697; or email south.salem.sda.debbie@hotmail.com.

**Laurelwood CA. Academy Class of 1952 Events**
- July 21 — Meet for a potluck lunch at the Somerset facility at the north end of the Oregon Conference campsground right after the main camp meeting service. The 60th-class reunion will be held Oct. 19–21, in San Diego, CA. We would appreciate any information for the following classmates: Naomi Hutchens, Forest Williams, James Page and Melvin Smith. Please send information to Harvey Heidinger, 503-874-1844, heheidinger@gmail.com; Brooke Stafford, 360-896-2026, bstfford@q.com.

**Upper Columbia**

**Amateur Radio and Aviation Pilot Retreat**
- July 20–22 — The Northwest Adventist Amateur Radio Association members and Adventist pilots will meet near Walla Walla, Wash. Join us for fellowship, worship, learning and relaxation. Speakers will include young and old missionary hams and pilots from South America, the South Pacific and Bangladesh. A field trip to a power generating plant on the Snake River is planned. See our website www.naara.org for information on classes for new and upgraded amateur radio licenses on July 18 and 19. Also on the website is lodging, meal and registration information. Or call Keith at 509-540-0544 or email keith@charter.net.

**Sandpoint Junior Academy Reunion**
- July 27–29 — Save the date! The reunion committee invites alumni, their parents and all who have taught classes at Sandpoint Junior Academy (SJA) to come celebrate with us at the first SJA Reunion. Join us as we renew friendships, see familiar faces, reminisce and share life experiences both past and present. Contact us at 208-263-3584 or school@sjasda.org, or “like” us on Facebook.

**UCA Missing Alumni**
Upper Columbia Academy is looking for the following former students in preparation for Alumni Homecoming:


If you can help, please call the church at 541-882-2466 or email kfsdachurch@yahoo.com.

**Washington**

**SAGE Canopy**

*June 16–23 — Visit the SAGE canopy on both Sabbath afternoons at Auburn Camp Meeting, celebrating 18 years. Stop by for some good ol’ SAGE fellowship and a yummy cookie.*

**SAGE Activity Volunteers**

SAGE Seniors of Washington is looking for volunteers for interior and exterior painting projects at the Bellevue Church on July 8–9, Kirkland Adventist School on July 9, Loving to Learn Preschool in Auburn, WA, on July 10–11, and Grays Harbor Adventist School on July 11–12. To volunteer, contact Joan Libby at 253-681-6008 or joan.libby@wc.npuc.org.

**Missing Members**

The Tacoma Central Church in Tacoma, WA., is looking for any information on the following missing members: Lisa Bible, Roger Bible, Alicia Bristow, Jan Brunk, Lisa Brunk, Darrell Burk, Arlene Burke, Cheyanne Burke, Elaine Casas, Larry Coulston, Cressida Coursey, Darren Degraw, Faron Degraw, Sharon Degraw, Tamra Donnelly, Barbara Douth, Latoya Goddard, Darlene Gough, Steven Gough, Jennifer Hamby, Mindon Marmon, Maria Hilderbrand, Rhianna Hilderbrand, Erma Hoffman, Donna Hogaboam, Jeffrey Hogaboam, Christine Hopper and Joseph Hopper. If you have any information regarding these missing members, please contact Scott Tyman, pastor, at 253-230-5324 or scotttyman@comcast.net.

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Blueberry Pie

You, a friend or family member have been there. There is where your life is comfortable and warm. There is where future plans are laid in anticipation of even better things ahead. That is there. But then “it” happens. A debt comes due. A relationship sours. A job evaporates. A diagnosis comes back positive.

We all live on the knife edge of status quo — the dividing line between the peak and the valley. Some eagerly take risks, voluntarily leaving their comfort zones for the promise of potential. Others hold tightly to the familiar, desperately hoping nothing will rock their rigid world.

But in this life, regardless of your approach, things happen. A spouse looks you in the eye and says, “I’m leaving.” Your boss mentions the possibility of downsizing. The doctor gently hands you a grenade labeled “cancer,” with pin pulled and fuse lit.

Cancer has impacted the lives of more friends and family members than I can count. Just the other day I pulled a book off the shelf, When Your World Falls Apart, written by David Jeremiah in the aftermath of his battle with lymphoma. Jeremiah draws from the 12th chapter of Hebrews three possible choices we can make in response to life challenges. Number 1: We can despise the moment and rail against it; 2. We can become discouraged by the event, lose heart and give up; or 3. We can endure it and be trained by it. 1

He references a quote from the venerable preacher Charles Spurgeon in support of the third option. “I bear willing witness,” said Spurgeon, “that I owe more to the fire, and the hammer, and the file, than to anything else in my Lord’s workshop.” 2

Those are uncomfortable words. I do not personally believe God wields cancer to teach us a lesson. He does not punish children or spouses with physical or emotional abuse. But Spurgeon is alluding to the contrast between a sin-afflicted world and a Savior. What the devil attempts to use as destructive, God turns to something instructive. That which evil intends to consume with fire is purified instead like gold.

Jeremiah concludes the thought with these words: “The only road that leads to the destination God desires for us has its sharp bends. All attempted shortcuts lead into wilderness.” 3 Maybe this is why women tend to handle these things better than men who can’t bear to ask directions.

As I returned the book to its shelf, a card slipped from where someone had tucked it into the flyleaf and fell into my hand. On it were hand-lettered instructions, a recipe for “Fresh Blueberry Pie.”

How interesting, I thought — blueberry pie in the midst of a book about suffering — and yet, perhaps, how appropriate to the recipe for life. Human struggle (mixing and baking), combined with God’s providence (ah, the blueberries), creates in the end something memorable.

Where we’re at, enmeshed in the process, is not the best vantage point from which to judge outcomes. I do know our Maker/Provider has a history of surveying their rigid world.

Sources:
2 Ibid., 18.
3 Ibid., 17.

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