The whole earth is filled with awe at Your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, You call forth songs of joy.

Psalm 65:8 (NIV)

‘Sunset at Benewah Lake’ by Kendall Rittenour of Mead, Washington.
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The Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (AC-SDR) network of North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) held a historic first meeting with leadership of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) of Canada at the Oregon Conference office in Gladstone, Oregon, April 9–10.

The meeting explored the current level of resources and communication that can be utilized for potential mutual aid and collaboration should a large-scale disaster happen along the mutual borders of the Canadian Union Conference and the NPUC. Larry Mays, NPUC disaster response coordinator, organized the meeting with the assistance of Doug Venn, former NPUC disaster response coordinator. John Loor, NPUC secretariat, chaired the summit in the bilateral talks.

Ephraim Palmero, Adventist Community Services (ACS) Alaska director, provided a model for talking points and led a discussion on factors that will guide discussions toward implementing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ACS and ADRA of Canada should a disaster affect our common borders. Palmero shared the vulnerability that Alaska has to being unable to acquire supplies for relief and recovery if a disaster, such as an earthquake or tsunami, strikes its seaports.

It was concluded that a cross-border, mutual-aid MOU should be a viable tool for both ADRA of Canada and ACSDR to implement during a time of emergency.

Doug Venn was given recognition for unselfish volunteer leadership in disaster response for the years he served as the NPUC coordinator. He is now retired in Washington and continues to serve as an ACSDR liaison and area coordinator in the Upper Columbia Conference.

The high-profile meeting was attended by Emanuel Da Costa, ADRA International representative; Debra Brill, North American Division (NAD) vice president; Sung Kwon, ACS national director; Joe Watts, NAD ACS disaster response director; and Charlene Sargent, Pacific Union Conference ACSDR representative. ADRA of Canada was represented by Dragan Stojanovic, Canadian Union Conference secretary and ADRA chairman; James Astleford, ADRA International director; Theodore Sargeant, Ontario Conference disaster response director; and Larry Hall, Alberta Conference ACS director.

Ephraim Palmero, Adventist Community Services Alaska director

Letters

See anything familiar?

Steve Evenson, Juneau/Sitka pastor, sent us this photo of an Alaska fishing boat with a familiar sounding name — Gleaner. A poem published in the first issue of the GLEANER in 1906 characterized the magazine as a ship sailing out across the Northwest with the Good News.

More on Marriott

I’m sure many were impressed with the fascinating story about Bill Marriott, his faithful tithe paying and blessings. In fact I sent a copy to my son in California. How many times have we repeated the success story of J.C. Penny of his tithe paying and blessings? Of course God’s blessings don’t fall along denominational lines. Personally I hope more stories like this will be shared in the GLEANER. Interestingly and sadly I just read in the Adventist World that only 56 percent of Christians in Canada and the United States return tithe. God has proved to me that He’ll make 90 percent go farther than 100 percent that I’d keep for myself. Thanks and keep up the good work.

Thelma Rice, Nampa, Idaho
My heart nearly bursts with pride as I hear reports of the increasing involvement of our Adventist churches and schools in their local communities. In almost every issue of the *Gleaner*, we are given reports of this kind of outreach. Praise the Lord! We are called to be the “salt of the earth.”

What a tragedy if our church buildings just stand empty with doors locked except for three or four hours a week. What a shame if our presence in a community is neither noticed nor valued. What a loss if we cannot name even one friend or acquaintance who is not a fellow church member. Our “disinterested benevolence” should be known and valued by our friends in the community. I didn’t say “reported in the newspaper” but I do say “missed if we were no longer there.”

And what a privilege to know that “all who engage in ministry are God’s helping hand.” They are co-workers with the angels; rather, they are the human agencies through whom the angels accomplish their mission. Angels speak through their voices, and work by their hands. And the human workers, cooperating with heavenly agencies, have the benefit of their education and experience” (*Education*, p. 271).

Now there is something amazing with which to occupy your time! Speak with the voice of an angel. Work with the touch of an angel flowing through your hands. Benefit from the equivalent of an angelic degree from the heavenly university. That can be our experience as we identify needs in our communities and as we seek to meet those needs in a Christ-like way.

“All who engage in ministry are God’s helping hand.”

**Max Torkelsen II**

North Pacific Union Conference president
At first look, Sharilyn Smith’s class of second- and third-graders at Rivergate Adventist Elementary School in Gladstone, Oregon, is much like any other: a mix of boys and girls representing an array of ethnicities and personalities, all busy with their studies.

But upon closer inspection, one student stands out. In this sea of blondes and brunettes, amid black hair and red, her cascade of snowy white can’t be missed. It’s not gray, nor is it merely a light blonde. This girl’s hair is perfectly, unmistakably white.

Alyssa Payne, legally blind from albinism, is receiving a mainstream Adventist education thanks to the dedicated teachers of Rivergate Adventist Elementary.

“Alyssa reminds me every day to love life and live it to its fullest.”
— Sharilyn Smith
delicate oh-so-light pink of her skin. It’s also left her legally blind and unable to see accurately more than a couple inches past her eyes.

**NOT YOUR AVERAGE CHILD**

Blindness wasn’t remotely on the mind of Alyssa’s mom, Chantal Payne, as she and her husband, Mark, were just trying to survive the first weeks of juggling their new baby girl and toddler son. With Chantal’s fair complexion and light-blonde hair, the couple never suspected their pale-skinned daughter was anything but perfectly healthy.

That changed in a heartbeat just two weeks after Alyssa’s birth, when the light hit her eyes just right and reflected back red. “My heart just stopped,” says Chantal, whose distant cousin is blind from albinism. “I knew right then she was blind.”

When Alyssa’s big brother, Kyle, enrolled in kindergarten at Rivergate, it suddenly hit Chantal that, unlike public schools, a private school likely wouldn’t have teachers’ aides and special programs for the disabled. “That’s when it started becoming reality,” Chantal explains. “I realized she wasn’t going to be able to go to an Adventist school, ever.”

**NOT YOUR AVERAGE SCHOOL**

Without taxpayer support, Adventist schools often lack the resources to educate children with unique challenges like blindness. “What concerns us is whether or not we can ensure that each child can get the education he or she deserves,” explains Ann Campbell, Rivergate principal. “But where we can help, we want to help.”

The Paynes live next door to their local public school and hear how the students speak and treat each other on the playground. “That wasn’t something I wanted for my kids,” Chantal says.

It wasn’t what Alyssa wanted either. During her kindergarden year in public school, she regularly asked her mom, “When can I go to school with Kyle and learn about Jesus?”

When the school district announced that the new budget was cutting Alyssa’s aide, although she would continue to be in a mainstream classroom, Chantal decided to talk to the staff at Rivergate. “If she was not going to have an aide anyway, I figured why not be in an Adventist classroom,” Chantal says.

Rivergate’s principal recommended Chantal speak with the first-grade teacher, Ken Smith, to explore the possibility. Ken offered to evaluate Alyssa in her current classroom and even took the time to talk with her Sabbath School teacher. Armed with firsthand information and with Chantal’s assurance that she would attend every field trip, Ken said yes. Alyssa entered first grade at Rivergate in 2009.

It wasn’t always easy, but each day Ken tried new strategies to make sure Alyssa could fully participate in the classroom. Ken’s work paved the way for Alyssa to continue at Rivergate, and he made sure to provide her next teacher, Sharilyn, with the strategies that worked.

Sharilyn, in turn, continues to look for ways to help Alyssa, such as keeping her desk at the front of the room and making sure she can sit in a high chair near the TV when a video is played. A slant board lifts her schoolwork closer to her face to ease the fatigue of leaning over constantly.

More recently, technology teacher Dan Patchin arranged for Alyssa to use a tablet computer in class, which clones what her teacher shows and writes on the classroom’s inter-active whiteboard and computer. “It’s nice when we can find a way to use technology to give some extra assistance to those who need it,” Dan says.

It’s extra work for these teachers as they accommodate Alyssa’s unique needs, but they feel honored to have the opportunity. “Alyssa reminds me every day to love life and live it to its fullest,” says Sharilyn. “I think that here at Rivergate, we are doing what Jesus would want us to do for Alyssa.”

It’s the higher purpose that helps this special relationship of teacher and student work. Sharilyn and other dedicated Adventist educators know the secret. It makes no difference: Red and yellow, black or white — all are precious in His sight.
Eight-year-old Jaicee was visiting my South Dakota home with her family from Montana. She gazed silently in wide-eyed wonder at my collection of rocks and fossils arranged on bookshelves throughout the basement.

“Grandma, did you find all these?”
“A lot of them,” I answered. “But some have been given to me, some I traded for, and some I purchased at rock shows.”
“I wish I could find a rock like these,” she whispered in a plaintive sigh.
“Ask Jesus about it,” I suggested. “He loves to give surprises.”

The next day I noticed a neighbor walking her new puppy. Wanting to get better acquainted, I walked across the street to chat with her for a few minutes. Jaicee came with me. When the conversation ended and we prepared to head back home, Jaicee queried, “Grandma, what’s that?” She was pointing toward a stone nestled in a small patch of gravel nearby.

I reached down, picked it up and knew immediately what I held in my hand. I handed it to Jaicee.
“Jaice, Jesus answered your prayers because this is a very special rock!” I exclaimed. “It’s a Fairburn agate. Let’s thank Jesus right now and then ask the property owner if you can have the rock.”
“She found it, she can keep it,” was the owner’s immediate reply.

Little did I know then that it would help Jaicee capture an even bigger dream of Adventist education.

Two years had drifted by when I decided to take part of my rock collection to the Fairburn Agate Show and Swap Meet near my home. I had already determined to donate the earnings to Christian education or perhaps disaster relief. As I went out the door with my selections, something prompted me to run back inside and grab...
Jaicee’s Fairburn agate. Maybe someone at the show would be able to tell me what it was worth.

I mustered up courage at the first table to ask the dealer if he would mind taking a look at the agate.

“This is a nice agate,” he replied. “You should be able to get $350 to $500 for it.”

“What? Really?” I exclaimed. “I was thinking it might be worth $30 to $50.”

I continued around the “wagon circle” of individuals selling off their unwanted excess of material: agates, petrified wood, ammolite, fossils, and various rocks and minerals.

Two-thirds of the way around the circle, I again ventured to ask an opinion on Jaicee’s agate. When I brought it out this time, several men gathered ’round. “Wow” was frequently heard. “May I take a picture of it?” was another frequent query. This is getting exciting, I thought.

People wanted to know who found it and where. They got excited when I told them how my granddaughter, just 8 years old at the time, prayed to find a rock and how she casually found it in a neighbor’s landscaping gravel. One man encouraged me to take it to Roger Clark, an expert on Fairburn agates. His vehicle was down a little farther.

Of course I went to see him. “Can you tell me what you think this agate is worth?” I asked.

“Are you wanting to sell it?” Roger responded, reaching out to take the stone from me.

“This is an exceptional Fairburn, certainly museum quality. If you’re wanting to sell it, I’d start the bid at $600 or $700. You might get more. There are some serious collectors here.”

It was time to call Jaicee to see if she wanted to keep her agate or sell it. “Sell it,” she said.

“This is a very special rock, Jaicee,” I replied. “The money should not be used for just anything. It should go for something really important.”

“Grandma,” said Jaicee firmly, “I want to go to Mount Ellis Academy really badly. We just started a savings account with my birthday money. I have $50 in my account so far. We could use it for that.”

With that motivation, I doubled my efforts, taking the agate to first one and then another serious collector. I was convinced I was at the right place at the right time to encourage Jaicee in her goals.

The agate was sold to a Rapid City collector for $1,525. He said, “When you find something in the top five percent of what you are collecting, you go for it. This is like the Hope Diamond of Fairburn agates. You can look your whole life and not find an agate like this. I’ve been collecting since 1960, and I have not found a Fairburn of this quality.”

What I didn’t know at the time was the day before I called her from the rock show, Jaicee and her dad had been discussing Christian education. When she told him how much she wanted to go to Mount Ellis Academy, he had replied, “Honey, it’s very expensive. Don’t get your hopes up.”

So that night, when she went to bed, she asked God to help her save money for high school. No wonder she was so eager and emphatic the next day that I should sell the rock, and she knew exactly where she wanted the money to go.

There may come a day when Jaicee wishes she still had her agate. But I’m also quite certain that as she considers the value of her Christian education she’ll remember that special answer to prayer. And she will be glad she sought a higher purpose and plan.

Renee McKey, Jaicee’s grandmother
Amanda Carrithers and Paige Jansen had been best of friends since they were 2 years old. Amanda’s mother was a daycare provider, and Paige was one of the toddlers she watched. Now the girls were teens, with Amanda attending Idaho’s largest high school, Mountain View High School. Paige attended Gem State Academy (GSA) in Caldwell, Idaho. Even though the girls didn’t see each other often, they were still very close, so it was natural Amanda wanted to talk with Paige when life seemed out of control.

Why was Amanda so upset? Well, it was hard going to such a big school — there were 600 students in her freshman class. Every day she saw teens she had never seen before. She had friends, but she didn’t really have that much in common.

“I was so upset. I just had to talk to Paige,” Amanda says, “so I drove all the way to Caldwell to talk to my best friend. We sat there in the car for a long time, me crying and Paige listening.”

Amanda Carrithers found good reason to smile when she joined the Gem State Academy family.
with them. Some wore short shorts and tank tops to school, which Amanda would never wear. Some were exploring Wicca (a modern pagan religion), and while Amanda herself didn’t attend church and never had, she instinctively knew that Wicca, witchcraft and casting of spells was wrong.

Thus it was that on this particular October day, during her junior year, Amanda found herself at her wits’ end, so she came to pick up her friend from school so they could talk. By the end of the conversation, Paige said, “Well, why don’t you come to my school? I love Gem State Academy!”

During the next couple of days, Amanda thought about transferring to Gem State, but she knew her mother would not hear of it. She was enrolled in several college-credit classes at Mountain View, and besides, her family couldn’t afford private education. But she was miserable. And so, against her better judgment and without saying a word to her parents, Amanda began to explore the possibility. She perused the GSA website and had more conversations with Paige.

Finally she mustered the courage and told her mother she was interested in changing schools. To her great surprise, her mother was open to it!

About two weeks later, when Mountain View was closed for a teachers’ inservice, Amanda visited classes at GSA with Paige. Soon Amanda enrolled in the academy for the second quarter of her junior year.

Suddenly Amanda, the girl who struggled to have friends at Mountain View High School, was surrounded by friendly, welcoming peers and open, caring teachers. “At first the family atmosphere shocked me,” she says. “I mean, everyone wanted to be my friend!”

Perhaps the thing that Amanda enjoyed most was the daily chapel service. Though she always believed in God, she didn’t know much about Him. She had a children’s Bible, and so she knew some of the stories. The family had a King James Version Bible that Amanda had tried to read, but she got tangled up in the language — the thees, thous and begats.

When she attended her first Bible class, Amanda didn’t know that the Bible was organized by books, chapters and verses. She didn’t have a clue what the teacher was talking about when he asked someone to read Romans 3:15, but she soon learned. Now, she proudly says, “I have memorized many Bible verses.”

The concept of Jesus’ Second Coming was an entirely new one to Amanda. She was familiar with a few Christian doctrines, like that people go to heaven. But the idea that Jesus is one day soon coming back to earth and that “every eye will see Him” was an entirely new concept. The thought that Jesus knows her personally, that He loves her and that He is preparing a place for her thrilled her heart!

“The sports program is also very different,” says Amanda, “and it is all because of the attitude of the coaches.” During one game when she was at Mountain View, their basketball team was winning by 30 points. “Even so,” she says, “at halftime the coach came in and screamed and swore at us because we were not winning by 60 points!”

“At GSA the coaches want us to have fun,” she explains. “They care more about sportsmanship than they do about winning. And they encourage everyone to participate, even if they don’t have great skill. It is not that way at public school, not at all!”

When asked what she plans to do following graduation, Amanda proudly replies, “I’m going to work at Camp Ida Haven this summer, and while there I’m going to get baptized. I’m also going to be praying about where I should go to college and what to major in.”

Linda Klinger, Gem State Academy communication leader
Elliot Fletcher, a junior from Auburn, Washington, believes that a life lived in God's grace is a life full of meaningful Christian service. Elliot leads by example as Auburn Adventist Academy’s spiritual vice president and campus ministries student chaplain. His year has been full of creating and facilitating spiritual programming on Auburn’s campus. He started a Sabbath afternoon Bible study that is well attended every week, and he plays at the student-led Afterglow program, during which students gather after vespers around a piano or a guitar to sing hymns and praise music.

Auburn students often visit local churches, participating in their worship service for the day, and Elliot is the “go-to” preacher for such trips. His sermons are Bible-based and full of heart, and leave church members wondering how he is only a junior in high school.

Elliot is often asked if he sees a future in pastoral ministry, but orthodontics is where he feels called at the moment. He is academically driven, with a heart that believes in being kind to everyone. He pursues a meaningful and personal relationship with his heavenly Father by opening up conver-
sations with his peers in the campus ministries office, by attending Bible studies in the guys’ dorm, and by seeking out the answers to his questions from the Bible and the mentors in his life.

Elliot is an asset to the Auburn campus as an academic, spiritual and musical leader. A “Caring Heart” describes him perfectly. His parents are Kevin and Amy Fletcher.

KEITH MATSUMURA
Cascade Christian Academy

At Cascade Christian Academy our mission is to “Educate students to LIVE for Christ.” We want our students to Love like Jesus; have Integrity in all areas of their life; show the Virtues of forgiveness, peacefulness and thankfulness; and finally to show Excellence in everything to which they put their hand. This is all done to the glory of Christ!

Our Caring Heart Award winner, Keith Matsumura, consistently shows these attributes here at Cascade Christian Academy and in our community. Keith routinely gets “caught” living his life for Christ, which is Cascade Christian Academy’s equivalent to a student of the week. He has served as a member of the student association and as a class chaplain during his high school career and takes this attitude of service outside the walls of the school as well.

One such community event took place last summer when Keith participated in a trip with the organization People to People, whose mission is to strengthen the community by providing quality human services.

He is always quick with a smile and kind word to brighten someone’s day. Keith truly shows both in big and small ways every day that he has a caring heart by living for Him! His parents are James and Heidi Matsumura.

KIRA THORNTON
Columbia Adventist Academy

Kira Thornton, Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) senior, has been chosen as CAA’s recipient of the 2012 Caring Heart Award. Kira is known at Columbia for her concern for the well-being of others around her. She is perceptive to the feelings of other people and offers a listening ear and a helping hand. Kira has used supportive notes, texts and hugs to try to make the day better for everyone. She has shown her caring attitude by initiating tutoring with students who need help with their schoolwork.

Throughout her high school years, Kira has been involved in CAA service activities and has always been a diligent worker on service projects while encouraging her classmates to keep working and do a quality job, especially when conditions were difficult. This attitude of support and encouragement has been visible in her involvement with class activities as well as in sports on the volleyball team, where Kira always looks out for new teammates and makes sure they have someone to care for them.

Recently we have had five Japanese students studying English on the campus. Kira has befriended them and tried to help them as they made the adjustment to our English-speaking, Christian environment. Kira has participated in mission outreach, such our 2010 Mexico mission trip to El Oasis in Baja, Mexico. While there Kira worked with enthusiasm to help paint and repair some of the house in which the children live. She was kind and affectionate with the children and loved to spend time with them and give them the attention they so need.

Columbia Adventist Academy’s staff and students are proud to see Kira win this award and feel grateful that she has been a part of our lives. We wish God’s blessings for Kira and are confident that her caring heart will continue to share God’s live to others. Her parents are Mike and Shelly Thornton.

RUTH MARTINEZ
Livingstone Adventist Academy

Ruth Martinez was a fairly typical teenager. She went to church every week and attended Adventist school, but she still felt like something was missing.

One day some recruiters for Youth Rush came to Livingstone and spoke about their literature evangelism program and how one summer of service can be life-changing. Ruth thought, I never do anything exciting for God. But while the program sounded intriguing, Ruth was nervous. She had no idea if she would be successful...
and going door-to-door was definitely out of her comfort zone. However, after hearing a fellow student talk about her summer experience in the Youth Rush program, Ruth decided this was God’s calling.

The experience proved to be a turning point in Ruth’s relationship with God. “It taught me that I need to trust God,” she says. “My prayer life came alive as I developed a connection with God.” Since then, Ruth has turned her life around in other ways as well. Her grades have gone from barely passing to As and Bs. Her outlook on life is different. Instead of a negative attitude, she now sees life as full of possibilities. She has a deeper passion for her church and working with Vacation Bible School, service projects and future mission opportunities. Her mother is Maria Martinez.

**STERLING CORNWELL**
Milo Adventist Academy

Sterling has coordinated a student-led Bible study group in the cafeteria for the past two years. He genuinely cares about everyone and lives a life of service and faithfulness to God in his daily routine, even in the most humble things. He is always thoughtful in class discussions. He serves his classmates, encourages, uplifts and always does his best. His parents are Kevin and Madeleine Cornwell.

KENDALL JONES
Mount Ellis Academy

For those of us who have had the pleasure of interacting with Kendall Jones during the past four years at Mount Ellis Academy, it comes as no surprise that she is the recipient of this year’s Caring Heart Award. Kendall is a young woman whose caring personality is exhibited 365 days a year. She’s always quick to give a much-needed hug, take time out of her day for a hurting friend and, if you’re really lucky, she’ll bring you some of her delicious homemade cookies. With a busy life and school, Kendall is eager to volunteer to help in whatever capacity she can. If she hasn’t volunteered already, when you ask, she’s ready with a refreshing “yes.” This year she started her own cell group in the hope of making a difference for her classmates. Her actions truly display her desire to be a servant of our Savior. As her phone signature says, she’s “God’s girl!” Her parents are Randall and Khristina Jones.

AUSTIN ZIRKLE
Portland Adventist Academy

Austin Zirkle was recognized by Portland Adventist Academy’s administrative committee with the 2012 Caring Heart Award.

Austin’s four-year volunteering career at Adventist Medical Center (AMC), in Portland, Oregon, was a major factor in the decision. His 818 total volunteer hours reflect his empathetic heart and his love for others.

OMAR ZARABIA
Puget Sound Adventist Academy

Omar is a senior at Puget Sound Adventist Academy (PSAA). He has many interests, including photography, soccer, rock climbing and spending time with friends. Along with being a great athlete and student, Omar is known as a caring and helpful person who is always willing to lend a hand if something needs to be done.

Omar uses his talents and helpful personality as well as his leadership skills in many extracurricular school activities. He was a captain of the soccer team, yearbook editor and senior class historian.

He has also been involved in outreach while at PSAA. He has been a regular participant in the Seattle Outreach program, providing food and warm clothing to the homeless. He also participated in community service projects and several churches, as well as with Hope-link. During his junior year, Omar was part of a mission trip to Belize, where he helped build three classrooms, helped conduct a Vacation Bible School and participated in an evening radio program.

Donna Lester, AMC volunteer services assistant, says Zirkle’s commitment is exceptional. “We’ve never seen a young volunteer with such a faithful record of volunteering,” she says. “He’s been one of our top volunteers for so long. He’s motivated, driven and has great customer service skills. We know he’ll be a success wherever life takes him.”

Austin says volunteering at the AMC is great for teens. “It’s a fun and relaxing environment where you get to know a lot of interesting people,” he says. “There is usually free food, and it’s a good way to get experience for any future jobs you might apply for.” His parents are Ron and Sherri Zirkle.

Some of Omar’s fondest memories while at PSAA include the mission trip to Belize, winning the soccer tournament at Walla Walla University (WWU) three years in a row, senior survival and the junior/senior banquet. Omar is planning on attending WWU in the fall with pre-dentistry as his focus. His parents are Armando and Carmen Zarabia.

ERIC KATZENBACH
Rogue Valley Adventist Academy

Eric began his educational experience at the Shady Point School in Eagle Point, Oregon. With the wonderful foundation he received there, his transition to a larger school was almost seamless. Since his arrival at
Rogue Valley Adventist Academy his freshman year, Eric has displayed effective leadership qualities. He has served as Student Association religious vice president and as class pastor for most of his high school experience. He has been instrumental in starting a young men’s Bible-study program.

When faced with difficult life lessons, Eric has shown courage and persevered, keeping his focus on God, his family and his goals for the future. With his willingness to lend a hand to staff and students alike, Eric will be greatly missed when he leaves Rogue Valley Adventist Academy to pursue his college education plans. His parents are Gerald and Kathleen Katzenbach.

**LARESSA FARNSWORTH**

Skagit Adventist Academy

Skagit Adventist Academy is proud to name one of its seniors, Laressa Farnsworth, as this year’s Caring Heart Award recipient. Laressa possesses a cheerful personality and was selected by this year’s student body to serve as student body spiritual vice president, as well as by her class to serve in the parallel role. In addition to coordinating music groups and worship opportunities, she led out in additional opportunities, such as a student fast and secret prayer partners. The students also selected her to be one of five speakers for the student-led Week of Prayer. She joined in the academy mission trip to the Dominican Republic during spring break, where she requested to be involved in all three aspects of ministry (church construction, Vacation Bible School and medical outreach).

Outside of school, Laressa has spent two summers participating in Washington Conference’s youth literature evangelism program, Youth Rush, and plans to return for a third year. She’s shared many stories with the student body about the ways she experienced God’s presence and direction by door-to-door witnessing. She’s active in community service and in youth activities, both those targeted at her age group and in playing music for the younger children’s Sabbath School classes at her home church, the North Cascade Church, in Burlington, Washington.

Her plans for next year are as yet undecided between Walla Walla University and one of the Bible training schools associated with the Adventist Church. Her primary desire is to pursue opportunities that will allow her to strengthen her personal walk with God while equipping herself with tools to serve Him in whatever ministry opportunities to which He calls her in the future. Her parents are Dave and Tressa Farnsworth.

**GABRIELLE WARREN**

Upper Columbia Academy

Gabrielle Warren is a junior at Upper Columbia Academy (UCA). You will often see her pitching in and helping when others are in need of assistance, most of the time without even being asked. The 16-year-old native of Spokane, Washington, is the type of person who enjoys assisting others no matter what the circumstances. “Being helpful is who she is,” says Troy Patzer, UCA principal.

Assisting others in her community is not the only way that Gabrielle keeps busy. She is also a teen leader in training in the Wheatland Coyotes Pathfinder Club. “Gabby does everything asked of her and more,” says Cindy Williams, the club’s director. “She teaches honors, acts as a junior counselor and does worship too.” Currently, Gabrielle is working on becoming a Master Guide. In and out of Pathfinders she always enjoys having a good time but will speak up when she doesn’t believe something is honorable.

A high point during her junior year was a mission trip to the Yakama Indian Reservation in Washington State. Her volunteer work has ranged from canned food drives to teaching honors classes in Pathfinders and placing encouraging notes in students’ lockers.

After graduation, Gabrielle is planning on going to college to major in chemistry and education. In the short term, she is excited about going on a mission trip next year.

Sometimes it is just her smile and kind personality that can make a person’s day. Patzer says that there is one thing that really makes Gabrielle stand out: “She is always the first to volunteer to help no matter what the job is.” Her parents are Stephen Warren and Joyce Soper Warren.

**LAUREN SPICKELMIER**

Walla Walla Valley Academy

Lauren Spickelmier joined Walla Walla Valley Academy for her junior year and graduated this June. It quickly became apparent this young lady from Henderson, Nevada, not only shared a smile that would melt ice but consistently demonstrates a genuine spirit of helpfulness and encouragement for all.

A high point during her junior year was a mission trip to the Dominican Republic during spring break, where she requested to be involved in all three aspects of ministry (church construction, Vacation Bible School and medical outreach).

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Conferencia de Upper Columbia Retiro de Mujeres Hispanas MiVoden 2012

“Sembrando Amor” fue el lema del 4to Retiro de la Mujer Hispana en la Asociación de Upper Columbia que se dio cita del 20–23 de Abril en el campamento de MiVoden, situado en Hayden Lake, Idaho.

Cerca de trescientas mujeres se congregaron para adorar a su buen Dios cuya presencia se hizo sentir desde el comienzo del evento. La asistencia superó el número de participantes de los años anteriores, muchas personas quedaron con el deseo de asistir ya que el cupo se llenó rápidamente.

Múltiples oradoras enriquecieron las presentaciones con sus consejos y enseñanzas; entre ellas, la hermana Sara Bullón, quien disertó sobre cómo mitigar los desafíos de la vida familiar, matrimonial y la educación de los hijos persistiendo en sembrar amor y aprendiendo a responder con amor en todas las circunstancias.

Por otro lado la hermana María José Ronquillo (Salud Desde la Cocina en 3ABN), remarcó principios prácticos de salud en relación con la cocina y desarrolló un seminario de cocina práctica durante el sábado de noche esbozando algunos de los detalles que ayudan a producir salud desde la cocina. Nohelia Peteron fue la solista invitada quien elevó a las oyentes al trono de la gracia en cada una de sus participaciones.

Simultáneamente, tuvo lugar el retiro de adolescentes bajo el lema “Singing in the Rain”; más de medio centenar de jovencitas se dieron cita para disfrutar de dicho evento con la oradora Kathy Hernández, especialista y consejera de jóvenes, quien al presente, sirve como secretaria y coordinadora de eventos del ministerio Hispano en la Asociación de Oregón.

Robert Amaya nació en Medellín, Colombia, está casado con Mónica Luján y junto educan tres hijos, Juan, Camila y Santiago de 21, 12 y 9 años de edad respectivamente.

Actualmente Amaya cursa el doctorado en ministerios con especialización en predicación en la Universidad de Andrews. El ha servido como pastor de iglesia y de jóvenes en los Estados Unidos y Colombia; ha servido en los departamentos de ADRA Colombia, libertad religiosa y relaciones públicas en la Unión de Colombia y como rector de la facultad de educación y profesor de teología en la Universidad Adventista de Colombia.

Claudio Díaz nació en Córdoba, Argentina, y está casado con Elivette Potter y educan feliz y exitosamente a dos niños, Franco y Natasha, de 8 y 6 años de edad respectivamente.

Dos Pastores Nuevos en UCC

Walter Pintos-Schmidt, coordinador Hispano de la Conferencia de Upper Columbia

La familia Díaz (de la izquierda): Claudio, Elivette, Natasha y Franco.

Diaz reside con su familia en Yakima, Washington, donde pastorea el distrito de las iglesias de Tres Ángeles y Yakima 26th. Claudio y Elivette son líderes destacados de jóvenes y desde su posición ayudan a desarrollar los ministerios de primera, segunda y tercera generación de jóvenes Adventistas.

Walter Pintos-Schmidt, coordinador Hispano de la Conferencia de Upper Columbia

Familia Amaya (de la izquierda): Roberto, Santiago, Juan, Mónica y Camila.
CHIP Graduates 31 in Homer

The seventh Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) class was graduated on March 6 in Homer, Alaska, celebrating in CHIP style with an immense table full of healthy-for-life food, including steamed local nettles, local berry punch, chili, cucumbers stuffed with sprouted quinoa, and pumpkin pie.

Heartfelt testimonies were given of lost weight, normalized blood sugar and plunging cholesterol, as gratitude was expressed for new friendships and team support. At the close, participants were favored with a song by a noted Homer musician and his wife — both newly minted graduates.

Several lost more than 10 pounds, and two lost 14 pounds. Of particular note was a participant whose blood glucose went from 137 to 107 without mediation. Another participant, who had familial hypercholesterolemia, began class with total cholesterol of 357, ended at 227 and now may safely avoid cholesterol-lowering medication. Another person began the program with blood pressure of 172/111 and took it down to 111/79. She expects to have her blood pressure medication lowered soon.

This was the church’s largest class to date, with 31 participants graduating. The group was one of the most enthusiastic too, as most followed the dietary principles right from the first. They were so excited about the program, members insisted on forming a new class right away. With nearly half the class committed to helping, how could the church say no? So the Homer CHIP program held a health screening for another 17 participants on March 29 and started the seminars on April 2, a mere three weeks after the last graduation.

All the members can do is praise God for what He is doing in Homer and ask Him for strength and wisdom to take up the task. They are finding it thrilling to watch doors open as the health message goes out both locally and farther away.

They recently received an email from the hospital in Sitka, Alaska, saying the hospital’s CEO noticed an article in the Homer newspaper about CHIP and wondered how the hospital could offer the program. Since Sitka is 600 miles from Homer and accessible only by air or water, Homer members put the CEO in contact with the Sitka Church — and so the light of the health message continues to spread in Alaska.

Judith James, Homer CHIP director

Valdez Church Creates ‘Bags of Love’ for Domestic Violence Victims

The Valdez (Alaska) Church women’s ministries department adopted the local community’s Advocate for Victims of Domestic Violence Agency and is working with the agency to reach out by providing hand-quilted blankets to children and women who are victims of domestic violence.

In 2010, Jean Gobah, Alaska Conference women’s ministries director, met with the agency’s director, along with Deb Campbell and Sharon Mills, Valdez Church members. Campbell and Mills had contacted Gobah for help in starting the project. Thanks to contributions from the annual North American Division July women’s ministries offering the project got started.

“This is my vision to help out in the community,” Mills says. The women meet once a week to quilt blankets by hand. The blankets, called “It’s My Very Own,” and other personal items fill “Bags of Love” given to mothers and children seeking safety in the local shelter.

In addition, “Bags of Care,” complete with toiletries and personal items, are given to the women. “Bags of Comfort,” is a joint effort with Alaska Adventist Community Services and the Alaska Conference women’s ministries departments, providing fleece, no-stitch blankets to victims of community disasters, like fires or floods, which force them to leave their homes.

Items made by the Valdez women are also sent to the neighboring community of Cordova, Alaska. A Valdez radio station contacted women after hearing about their efforts, and is planning to provide ads requesting donations for the project.

Jean Francis-Gobah, Alaska women’s ministries director

Homer, Alaska, graduates enjoy healthy CHIP fare in celebration of their graduation from the health improvement program.
Caldwell Adventist Elementary School (CAES) was one of 27 schools in Idaho which was recently awarded funds through the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation’s Go On Schools initiative, aimed at resourcing and supporting Idaho schools committed to helping students “go on” beyond high school.

“We are so excited to be working with the Go On campaign and the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation. Our students are already brainstorming new and creative ways to explore within our science, math and language arts curriculum,” says Bonny Smith, CAES principal. “Education beyond high school is something our students hear about across the curriculum as a part of our normal routine. We are eager to re-emphasize that goal with greater precision, thanks to the grant funds for next year.”

Middle-school students will benefit from this $26,100 grant in various ways, such as new technology for software, interactive electronic textbooks in math and science, and a new high-tech circuitry engineering lab. The school will participate with Idaho Career Information Systems, an organization that provides online resources for student self-awareness, educational programs, scholarships and career planning.

CAES students will also be supported and mentored in planning higher education, selecting a career and setting goals. The school plans to launch a new literature book club program focused on reading, literary analysis and writing skills.

The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation is a private family foundation committed to the vision of a world-class education that prepares Idaho’s citizens for the 21st century and beyond. The Go On campaign was created by the foundation to bring new awareness and understanding to the challenges required for every Idahoan to succeed and prosper in the 21st century. For more information about the Go On campaign, visit www.Go-On-Idaho.org.

Bonny Smith, CAES principal
Happenings Improve Idaho Falls Church

Inside and Out

Idaho Falls Church has been busy improving their church inside and out.

A garden party and luncheon on May 20 brought together ladies from the church, who planted flowers and plants outside.

Inside, a new 16-by-10-foot screen in the sanctuary allows hymns, announcements and PowerPoint slides to be projected. This aids those with vision problems and helps visitors participate in services more easily. The mothers’ room baby furniture has been upgraded with a cherry-wood crib, attached changing table and new animal-themed bedding. A matching glider and footrest will arrive soon.

As teacher Brendy Brehm leaves to join her future husband in Walla Walla, Wash., the church looks forward to choosing a new teacher for the coming year. Several new ministry heads, a new elder, junior deacons and deaconesses are beginning their duties, and the new position of communication leader has been filled.

More activities for the church and the community are planned for this summer as well.

Lori Elverud, Idaho Falls Church communication leader

Desert View Christian School is a grade 1–8 fully accredited school located in Mountain Home, Idaho. The classroom is a family like atmosphere where students care and respect each other, while learning to make good life choices. For further information, the school can be reached at 208-580-0512 or desvuschool@msn.

www.desertviewchristianschool.org
MEA Seniors Project the Mission

For seniors at Mount El- lis Academy (MEA) in Bozeman, Mont., much of the second semester is focused on a senior project that requires students to apply four years’ worth of academic studies while using personal gifts to solve real-world problems. Here are four student projects that have made a difference in the world:

- Mackenzie Dixson, whose younger brother is autistic, did in-depth research on how autism impacts families as well as its causes and treatments. She went a step further and organized a 5K race that raised more than $1,800 for the scientific search for both the prevention and cure of autism.

- Sarah Ojeda has a burden for students from low-income families to be able to attend MEA. She did extensive research on both the level of need and the sources of help. She applied her significant talent as a vocalist to raise money for the MEA student aid fund. During alumni weekend in April, Ojeda shared her musical talents by performing a benefit concert. Weaving together music, testimony and heartfelt appeal, Ojeda inspired alumni to continue their already strong support for student aid at MEA.

- Alix Harris, Emily Jones and Jonathan Lehman have a passion for strong science instruction in elementary schools. During their own elementary years in small Adventist schools, they remembered that there were lab activities at the end of each chapter in their science books. They didn't always get to conduct the labs. So they decided to record lab demonstrations on video for those rarely used elementary lab activities. The result is Kaboom, a DVD of quality science lab demonstrations provided to Montana Adventist elementary schools.

- Darren Wilkins, MEA principal

The MEA mission statement calls for all to: Discover the reality of our Creator; Develop our God-given gifts; Serve in His Kingdom. Senior projects help students live this mission in the world.

Darren Wilkins, MEA principal

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Matthew 5:6

July 25–29, 2012
Eureka, Montana

To register, visit www.mtycweb.org
Meadow Glade Raises $1,300 for Girl With Leukemia

Students at Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School (MGAES) in Battle Ground, Wash., burst into applause as the physical education teacher and principal presented a $1,300 check to a very surprised 14-year-old girl and her family.

“It is so amazing that you care so much about me and what I am going through,” exclaimed Ashley Rogers after receiving the donation. “I just can’t believe it!”

Last summer, Rogers became inexplicably ill while visiting the Battle Ground area from Mississippi. She was eventually diagnosed with leukemia.

“We were totally shocked,” says Melissa Rogers, Ashley’s mother.

The Rogers, who are still staying with their relatives in Battle Ground, put their lives on hold to concentrate on their daughter’s health. As she improved, Rogers began working out at a local gym, where Josh MacLachlan, MGAES physical education teacher, met her.

“After hearing her story, I really wanted the kids to meet her to help them understand how this disease affects people,” says MacLachlan.

Rogers shared her journey during a student assembly, which motivated the school to help. The community also became involved.

“Even the kindergarten kids were bringing in their pennies and dimes to help Ashley,” says Brian Allison, MGAES principal.

These dimes, pennies and dollars ended up totaling $1,300 to help the family with their expenses. But more importantly the money raised will give encouragement to Rogers.

“I wanted to help,” says Abbie Ross, MGAES fifth grader, “so she would know she isn’t alone.”

Brenda Ermshar, Meadow Glade Church member

Josh MacLachlan, Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School (MGAES) physical education teacher, and Ashley Rogers hold a check that represents the money raised by the MGAES community to support Rogers’ fight against cancer.
Hood View Junior Academy Expands Spanish Classes

Habla español? The students at Hood View Junior Academy (Boring, Ore.) do! Or, at least they will by next year. Nohemi Marquez has been donating her time this year to teach Spanish for the seventh and eighth grades. She has offered to teach Spanish next year to the whole school, from preschool through eighth grade. The school is excited to offer this class in addition to its regular curriculum and other educational opportunities.

Holley Bryant, HVJA principal

Grants Pass Students Put ‘SPIRIT’ into Community Service

There’s been plenty of “SPIRIT” this year during Grants Pass (Ore.) Adventist School’s monthly community service activities. Students incorporated SPIRIT into their pledge at school:

• Show love to others;
• Perform my best at school;
• Integrate the gifts God has given me to bless others;
• Respect the people God has placed over me;
• Initiate caring for the property around me;
• Take care of any problems they cause.

To put this pledge to work, students first put on a special ceremony to honor local military, police and firefighters on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The names of all who perished that day were written on replicas of the buildings and planes involved, and students gave gifts to some of their local military and public safety personnel.

Students glean organic produce from the school garden for local needy families and elderly church members.

Students also gleaned organic produce from the school garden for local needy families and elderly church members. Last October, students also participated in the local CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) Walk to help end world hunger.

Before Thanksgiving break, the entire school gathered for a Thanksgiving luncheon and program. Widowers from local churches were invited for a fresh Thanksgiving meal.

Students responded to a food shortage at the local food pantry in December by collecting canned food directly and as admission to the Christmas program. They also filled stockings for soldiers overseas and filled 52 shoe boxes with toys and necessities for children in the Philippines.

In February, students delivered stuffed bears and love notes on Valentine’s Day to local nursing homes. They also teamed up with the local Bureau of Land Management and planted more than 200 trees on Earth Day.

Committed to their mission statement, “soaring to new heights in education by educating the whole person for a life of useful service to the world,” the staff will continue to pursue opportunities for students to show their SPIRIT.

Angela White, Grants Pass Adventist School teacher, and Jennifer Burkes, Grants Pass Church member
The blacksmith's hammer struck the anvil with a resounding ping as the craftsman fashioned a simple tool, tucking the metal in the forge then bringing it out glowing reddish-orange and sending a small shower of sparks to the ground as he pounded the metal to the delight of the assembled crowd of young onlookers. ...

Thus began the first Roseburg (Ore.) Junior Academy (RJA) Colonial Day. Staff, students and parents donned 18th-century styles, listened to live period music and enjoyed dinner as honored guests at the Williamsburg Governor's Mansion — RJA style.

Each classroom became a “Commonwealth,” and students spent class time studying American Colonial history, developing a period costume and electing representatives for the “House of Burgess.” When the “governor” (Dan Wilbanks, RJA principal) threatened a tax on all desserts in the lunchroom, a crisis was averted by vocal Commonwealth representatives opposing dessert taxes without a proper vote of the people.

A dining hall patterned after the actual Governor's Mansion in Williamsburg, Va., served as the backdrop for a hearty dinner of Virginia vegetable potpie, roasted corn on the cob, and campfire-baked cherry cobbler. A concert of 18th-century fiddle tunes was provided by Dan Clifford, RJA staff member. Blacksmith Jim Rich, also a noted baroque musician, demonstrated 18th-century wind instruments.

At day's end each student was inducted into the Colonial Militia and tasked with “scouting” the school perimeter. Upon returning to the Governor's Mansion each volunteer was paid with a gold (chocolate) coin.

The RJA Williamsburg Dining Hall was also used a few days later as the centerpiece for a scholarship fundraiser breakfast.

Dan Wilbanks, Roseburg Junior Academy principal

Margie Hansen, Roseburg Junior Academy parent, sets the head table for the Colonial Day dinner.

Tanner and Jaylyn, first grade students, dress the part to participate in Colonial Day at Roseburg Junior Academy.

Aaron Mackey, Roseburg Junior Academy seventh-grade student, assists blacksmith Jim Rich.
OREGON CONFERENCE NEWS

PAA Fiji Mission Trip Participants
Become the Hands and Feet of Christ

Portland (Ore.) Adventist Academy (PAA) students recently returned from a 16-day building and medical mission trip to the Fijian island of Rabi. The students worked with the Jabez Humanitarian Foundation (JHF) to complete the first phase of a mission headquarters, which will eventually offer a medical and dental clinic, a large meeting facility with bathrooms and a kitchen, and several cabins to house volunteers.

Students also provided treatment for 627 patients and did more than 2,000 medical procedures in five villages. Water-borne diseases are a reality on Rabi. JHF treats all who test positive for tuberculosis, and the foundation works to educate the islanders on disease prevention.

Mission work is not glamorous. Besides not having the comforts of home, PAA students endured an exhausting 40 hours of travel, extreme heat and humidity, unusually large insects, torrential rains, flooding, and eventually the threat of Cyclone Daphne. But it didn't dampen the joyful spirit of the students, as the smiles and songs of the Fijians brought more than even the comforts of home could offer.

"Jesus said that all of us are brothers and sisters in Him, and I think that's what [the people showed] us," says Vanessa Hernandez, a sophomore.

Students learned that mission trips are about more than hard work and disease prevention. "It's a lot more than just building and doing some medical work," says Andrew Barcenas, a senior. "It's about showing the image of Christ. I want to hold the children He would hold, stack the bricks that He would stack and hug the kids that He would hug, and have the people smile back as if Christ had just smiled at them."

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

NPUC Don Keele Award Funds CAA Field School

When Larry Hiday, Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) biology and chemistry teacher, applied for the North Pacific Union Conference Don Keele Excellence in Education Award this year, he was tempted to use the award to further his personal education. Momentarily, he considered a visit to an exotic biological destination like the Galapagos Islands or Patagonia, a safari in Kenya, or a class in ornithology from Cornell University. Any of these would have fueled his enthusiasm for sharing science with his classes, eventually providing benefits back to students.

But Hiday wished to go beyond this. He wrote the award application so that it could go directly to students as a unique, hands-on learning opportunity. With the award committee's green light, Hiday will conduct a two-week backpacking science class in which CAA will “move” its campus to the Cascade and Olympic mountains.

The class will focus on geology, research methods, biology and photography. No stranger to field schools, Hiday has conducted dozens in locations like the Gulf Coast, the Sierra and the Pacific Coast. He is, however, new to geology, so he will be calling on the expertise of friends and former students and teaming with the Geoscience Research Institute to make this class in the mountains a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"Introducing students to those areas of God’s creative power will be more rewarding in its potential impact and ‘ripple effect’ than my going to Africa on a safari," says Hiday.

The instructors for the CAA field school will include Hiday, Jamey Cooper, Allen Cooper and Randy Givens.

Virlys Moller, CAA English teacher

Larry Hiday, Columbia Adventist Academy teacher, includes photography instruction as part of his off-campus science course this summer.
RVAA Team Repairs Florida Church

Four adults and 11 students departed Rogue Valley Adventist Academy (RVAA) in Medford, Ore., on a spring break mission to help repair, paint and re-carpet the Fort Myers Spanish Church in Florida.

After leading Sabbath School on their first day, the group began their physical labor on Sunday and accomplished three days’ worth of tasks in one day. Though the list of repairs suggested additional help would be needed after the RVAA team left, the team worked so quickly the entire church project was completed with enough time to pay extra attention to the details.

Simultaneously, the students spent their mornings presenting a Week of Prayer for the Port Charlotte (Fla.) Adventist School. After the assembly, the RVAA students were given the opportunity to help teachers in their classrooms, and they even took on the extra task of remodeling a playground structure for the school.

Students worked hard and are excited this church can now continue to be a blessing to the families of Fort Myers.

Larry Aldred, Rogue Valley Adventist Academy principal

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PAES Connects with the Community

The gospel commission to “go into the world and witness for Me” is a challenge that Portland Adventist Elementary School (PAES) in Gresham, Ore., has taken seriously for many years. For the past 10 years, the administration and staff have taken an even more intentional approach to sharing Christ’s love.

PAES joined the Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce and became an active supporter of various community events. Bob McDonald, PAES principal, joined the Chamber Ambassadors and served as that group’s president for two years. He has served on its board of directors for six years, including one year as president.

PAES hosts an annual Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting each May, during which the school has 10 minutes to promote its program of Christian education. As a result, PAES has garnered a high level of understanding and respect throughout the business community, which in turn attracts new students.

The school also sponsors community events such as a golf tournament, a “shop local” campaign and a luncheon to honor community volunteers. The school has hosted athletic events, including 1K runs and a half marathon. The local neighborhood association meets at the school each quarter.

Christ commanded that we love and serve those around us, and PAES continues to seek positive ways to share His love in the community.

Bob McDonald, Portland Adventist Elementary School principal

Sunnyside Church Supports Homeless Outreach

The Sunnyside Church (Portland, Ore.) Kids in Discipleship (KID) ministry project has provided personal care items to more than 3,600 local homeless people since October 2008.

This outreach project has blessed not only the homeless, but also the families participating in this ministry. The homeless have received desperately-needed items, and KID families have gained an understanding of some of the needs of the homeless people in Portland. They know how small items, such as tooth-brushes or socks, can make a person’s day better. The children have increased their understanding of how other people live. The experience has broadened their view of society, and they have learned what effect kindness can have on other people.

This ministry has been going on for three and a half years.

The Sunnyside Church family has provided support in the form of donations of money and useful items. Also at Portland’s O’Bryant Square, Living Hope International provides a free breakfast supported by the Sunnyside Church for the homeless people of Portland.

Zac Miller, KID member, and Phyllis Foster Woods, Sunnyside Church communication leader
Portland Adventist Elementary School offers a unique mix of students, parents, and faculty. The students will find many positive role models among the adults and other students. The community fosters lifelong friendships, encouraging students to thrive in a comfortable, supporting environment.

Come visit PAES and see where Christ is Exalted and Students Excel.

(503) 665-4102 - http://paes.com

3990 NW First St - Gresham, OR 9030
WWVA Visits Belize During Spring Break

The Walla Walla Valley Academy (WWVA) mission trip began with a late-night bus ride in March from the academy in College Place, Wash., to the Portland (Ore.) International Airport in time for a 6 a.m. flight to Belize.

Right on schedule, the MD-80 plane took off. Just as it became airborne, there were three loud pops as flames poured from one engine and the smell of smoke filled the air.

Alarm was immediate as passengers realized the plane was no longer gaining altitude and was flying at a low speed. After about 10 minutes of flying in darkness, the lights of Portland came into view and the pilot announced they would be making an emergency landing.

As the plane landed, the sight of the waiting emergency vehicles made it clear God had just protected that plane and the souls on it.

Once the group finally arrived in Belize, they presented a Vacation Bible School (VBS) in the mornings for nearly 200 children. Additionally, they dug a quarter-mile-long trench and footings through rock and clay for lights at La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital in Santa Elena. Many of the hospital staff and patients commented about how wonderful it will be to not have to walk the long driveway in the dark. The WWVA crew finished the project one day early, and they were able to have a lighting ceremony the night before they returned home.

The mission trip was perfect. When the flight was canceled and students missed a day in Belize, nobody complained. When the bus blew a tire and the flies ate participants while they awaited help, nobody complained. When the replacement bus broke down in the middle of Belize, nobody complained. One couldn't have had a better group of missionaries with whom to work.

Pam Fry, WWVA GLEANER correspondent

ACS of Love Serves Victims of Domestic Violence

Adventist Community Services (ACS) of Love, a ministry of the Moses Lake (Wash.) Church, provides a unique service to the New Hope Domestic Violence Shelter. Most families fleeing domestic violence leave with only the clothes on their back. So the church creates “Bags of Love” to provide love and comfort for children who are feeling displaced and fearful.

“Bags of Love,” produced during monthly sewing bees, are made from material donated to this ministry. Each bag includes a tied-fleece pillow and blanket, a coloring book and crayons, paper tablet and pencil, a pencil sharpener, a book, a toy, a stuffed animal or hand puppet, a doll (for girls’ bags) and a game the family can play together. On every “Bag of Love” is a handwritten message to the child: “God loves you!”

When a mom and family are ready to relocate to a place of their own, much is needed to set up housekeeping again. This is where ACS of Love’s New Beginnings program fits. They provide furnishings, hygiene items, linen, bedding, appliances and housewares to those moms located in Grant County but outside Moses Lake city limits (where they receive assistance through Serve Moses Lake).

“It is a very rewarding experience to walk into a new apartment that has absolutely nothing … [and] bring them everything they need, help them set it all up, take out the rubbish from the boxes and wrapping, and leave them with a hug, a prayer and a blessing, and, of course, in tears,” says Patricia Wride, ACS of Love director. “What a gift of love and a ‘New Beginning.’”

Cheryl Berreth, Moses Lake Church communication leader, with Patricia Wride, ACS of Love director
Going to WWVA has impacted my life. My experiences here have taught me to always be myself and enjoy life. I’ve also gained a new perspective on who God is—that He isn’t just some pious god sitting in Heaven looking down at us. He is with you and me.

—Tyler, Class of 2013
Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash., is celebrating its 20th year of the HOPE (Helping Other People Everywhere) Taskforce. HOPE is a community service program in which all the students and staff go into the community to assist and serve in everything from volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, to working with Habitat for Humanity. There are four days each year during which students and staff take a break from the classroom to make a difference in the community.

When Larry Marsh, now the Upper Columbia Conference vice president for education, was a new principal at UCA in the early 1990s, his goal was to incorporate service as part of the UCA lifestyle. In order to get the program he was envisioning off the ground, he called on Linnea Torkelsen, UCA alumni and development director.

The hardest part of starting HOPE was finding organizations that would be open to having students come and help. “I had to get into my car and drive into Spokane [Wash.] to meet with organizations in person to pitch the idea,” explains Torkelsen.

As is the case with most things, planning the initial HOPE was the toughest. When the word started to get out that UCA was out to serve the community, more and more organizations began to contact them with projects in which students could assist. A couple years into the program, the Spokane, Wash., newspaper, The Spokesman-Review, did a feature on UCA and the HOPE Taskforce program.

Having students simply mark off service hours is not the purpose of HOPE. “From the beginning, our goal was to train students to identify need either within the church or outside the church,” says Torkelsen. “They then can spring into action after they have identified the need.”

Joe Hess, UCA GLEANER correspondent
UCC Sends Warm Blessings to Guatemalan Families

The Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) distributed a bulletin announcement last November about collecting blankets for a Guatemala mission trip, with a goal of gathering about 50 blankets. The blessings of blankets started arriving in January and continued into the spring.

God revealed He had a bigger desire for this project than expected. UCC received 161 blankets and quilts, more than 200 bars of soap, toothbrushes, as well as money. With room enough to send only about half of the blankets down to Guatemala, the conference is storing the rest and working on a way to transport more blankets next year.

The families that received the blankets, soap and toothbrushes are in one of the poorest communities of Poptun. Some consider themselves blessed if they have one toothbrush to share for the whole family. Kisses, hugs and tears of joy poured out when the blankets were given. Visiting and helping these people deeply touched the lives of the youth helping with the village outreach.

With thanks to those who contributed to the project, the UCC staff are looking forward to next year’s mission trip and the additional warm blessings that will make a difference in many people’s lives.

For information about contributing to next year’s project, contact Denise Kinney at denisek@uccsda.org or 509-242-0506.

Denise Kinney, Upper Columbia Conference youth department

Kettle Falls Church Reaches Out to Community

Three successive recent outreach programs brought nearly 100 visitors in contact with ministry from Kettle Falls (Wash.) Church members.

Ron Reeves, the church’s head deacon, organized Dinner with the Doctor, a series for parents and students of the Kettle Falls High School. Six monthly sessions from November to April featured a heart-healthy meal followed by a lecture from local physicians and recipe demonstrations given by Neva Brackett from her third and most recent publication, *The 7 Secrets Cookbook*.

The series was designed to help high-school students avoid obesity and other risky health outcomes. Prizes were awarded to students who had the highest scores in various health practices. Another Kettle Falls member, Judy Martin, taught an after-school cooking class at the local public school.

Beginning March 10, Jim Brackett conducted a five-part series titled “Darwin or Design?” Intelligent design (ID) was contrasted with the challenges facing evolutionary explanations for life on earth. The series featured taped interviews with noted neurosurgeon Ben Carson discussing the astonishing organization of the brain. Also featured were Michael J. Behe, biochemist and author of *Darwin’s Black Box*, the book which “put ID on the radar screen of the world,” and a live interview with optometrist Charles Reeve, who discussed the intricacies and incredible complexity of the human eye.

Following this series, Jim Brackett presented a Bible prophecy seminar illustrating each of 20 lectures with skillfully prepared PowerPoint presentations. The series explored fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church as seen in prophetic passages of Scripture.

Each evening during the prophecy seminar, church members produced live children’s programs covering the same topics as those for the adults. These programs were streamed live via the Internet at www.Discoveries4Children.com, which was visited by at least 300 unique users from more than 25 countries around the world.

Marilyn Morgan, Kettle Falls Church clerk

Students receive prizes for making healthy changes in their lifestyles during the Dinner with the Doctor series.
The Tri-Cities Diaper Bank (TCDB) recently received a $20,000 grant from the North American Division Adventist Community Services (ACS) to support its work. The TCDB, a ministry of ACS, includes volunteers from the Pasco, Richland and Kennewick churches in southeast Washington. The funds received from this grant will be used to buy diapers for needy children in the Tri-Cities (Wash.) area.

“This grant provides a tremendous opportunity,” says Adra Johnson, TCDB executive director, “because in the Tri-Cities there are many families who routinely choose between buying diapers or paying for other necessities.”

As the first of its kind in the region and the first Adventist diaper bank in the United States, this nonprofit organization distributes diapers to needy families in partnership with area churches and social-service agencies.

It doesn’t seem like a lack of diapers would be such a problem in America. “Unfortunately, public awareness has lagged behind the reality of the tremendous need that exists for diapers,” Johnson says.

Most needy families in the U.S. can get basic necessities such as food, clothing and shelter through government assistance, but diapers don’t qualify to be purchased through assistance programs. Because of this, it is not unusual for children to be left in the same wet diaper all day, which not only leads to higher rates of rash and infection, but can lead to higher incidences of child abuse, since these children tend to cry more often.

To compound the problem even further, laundromats and daycare centers discourage the use of reusable cloth diapers. Laundromats often do not allow cloth diapers to be washed in their machines for sanitary reasons. Licensed daycare centers often require parents to provide an adequate supply of disposable diapers for their children. The cost can easily reach $1,200 per child per year — a daunting price tag for families living below the poverty level.

“Without a sufficient supply of disposable diapers and access to licensed daycare, parents living in poverty are trapped,” says Johnson. “They don’t have time or money to take advantage of educational or job opportunities that would help lift their families out of poverty.”

The idea for creating a diaper bank ministry began in November 2010, when Cindy Williams, a volunteer at the Pasco Riverview Church’s community service center, realized the clothes she gave away each week were only meeting part of a need.

“A young mother came in one day and asked for some clothes for her baby,” Williams says. “When she asked if we had any diapers, all I could say was ‘no.’ I felt terrible that I couldn’t help her.”

Williams talked to a few people about the need, and soon Tri-Cities Junior Academy was holding a diaper drive. With 118 energetic students the goal was to bring in about 3,000 diapers in one week. By the end of the drive, more than 12,000 diapers were stacked in the hallway of the school.

Since that time the TCDB has grown to include more than 10 local agencies and churches, which have distributed more than 80,000 diapers to families who live in poverty. The dedication of numerous volunteers enables this ministry’s continued growth.

“We are indebted to our local member churches for providing storage, workspace, office supplies and equipment, and so many other necessary items that go into making our operations successful,” says Johnson. “All of these added benefits allow us to make sure that any funds we receive go to where they can do the most good — straight into buying diapers.”

“The $20,000 is from the Hope for Humanity funds allocated to support Adventist Community Services projects,” says Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference ACS director. “The grant is offered yearly and presents a wonderful opportunity for all ACS organizations to bring forward worthy proposals for review by the North American Division ACS.”

While the grant does give the TCDB a tremendous boost in their program, the need for diapers will continue. The TCDB board is planning to expand the number of churches, community groups and agencies involved in this ministry, and so fulfill the words of Jesus: “For I was naked and you clothed me” (Matthew 25:36).

Jon Dalrymple, Upper Columbia Conference communication assistant
Northwest Christian Joins Geography Bee

If you are in the fourth through eighth grades and know the capital of Azerbaijan, you might be contestant-ready for a geography bee.

Upper-grade students at Northwest Christian School (Puyallup, Wash.) discovered a new learning opportunity this last school year when Allan Sather, interim principal, introduced the school to the National Geography Bee.

Competition began in the classroom with two students advancing to the school-wide bee from each participating grade. The school-wide bee was held on a Friday morning in front of the entire student body.

It was a tough competition with even a fourth grader in the top four, but sixth-grade student Andrew Armstrong pulled through to win the school geography bee.

Armstrong and his mom, Angela, then went to Pacific Lutheran University in Parkland, Wash., on March 30 to compete in the state competition.

“I think the way the state ran the bee was cool,” says Armstrong. “They divided us up and put us into small groups so we wouldn’t feel overwhelmed. Also, I think the experience was amazing, and I definitely think we should do the geography bee in all Adventist schools.”

Although he did not win, Armstrong still walked away with a great experience to remember and new knowledge about the world.

Kelly Bock, Washington Conference vice president for education

LCAS Highlights Learning Styles

Dirty faces and grimy hands were a sign kindergarten and first-grade students were in learning mode at Lewis County Adventist School (LCAS) in Chehalis, Wash.

The younger students, along with their teacher Donna Meador, took part in the Trans-Alta Eco Challenge by starting a school garden and submitting a report on how plants keep oxygen clean, prevent soil erosion and provide food. They tucked strawberry plants into gallon containers at a local farm then enjoyed feeding grass to sheep and goats, gathering chicken eggs, and tempting horses with juicy carrots.

Each quarter, grades nine and 10 work on a group math project to approach math from a different perspective. Dan Baker, LCAS principal and teacher, arranged a studio teaching day, during which nine Lewis County math teachers and one university professor came and observed a group project then debriefed with the students.

Doylene Cook’s sixth-through eighth-graders built a model of the wilderness sanctuary with community member Mark Trethewey. Students are continuing their study of the sanctuary with David Glenn, Chehalis Church pastor.

This year’s study of the body gave Ray Sample, another LCAS teacher, an opportunity to take grades two through five to Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute where they observed an eye surgery in progress.

The teachers at LCAS strive to incorporate many different styles of learning. Sitting quietly and reading from a textbook does happen, but it’s not the only avenue used to promote preparedness for the world and heavenly kingdom.

Earlene Wohlers, LCAS volunteer
Cypress School Partners with Northwest Harvest

Cypress Adventist School in Lynnwood, Wash., has a 15-year partnership with Northwest Harvest (NWH), an organization that supplies food items to food banks across the state of Washington.

Cypress students collect non-perishable items every November, usually bringing in more than 1,000 pounds. Upper-grade students package food each month at the NWH warehouse in Kent, Wash.

NWH has become the students’ favorite community service experience. Listen, as they share what it means to them:

“When I go I feel happy that I’ve made a difference in our community.” — Daniela

“It’s meaningful because it gives me a chance to feed the poor, and I feel good inside because I helped somebody in need.” — Rebecca

“We have fun doing it.” — Mesale

“The love we share goes to people all around Washington.” — Savanna

“I like it that we are helping less fortunate people and we have fun doing it.” — Sarai

“You feel that you just might be saving someone’s life.” — Elizabeth

“I like going because it gives me a chance to help people in need.” — Dakota

“The only part about NWH that I don’t like is leaving.” — Isaak

Every time students go to NWH, they are enacting the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40: “Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to Me.”

Lowell Dunston, Cypress Adventist School principal

Bellingham Integrates Church and School Ministries

Young people at Bellingham (Wash.) Church recently assisted with the Mother’s Day service by presenting “Desperate Housewives of the Bible.”

Three teen girls, including one Baker View Christian School student, dressed in Bible costumes and mimed selected passages from the Bible.

The stories acted out were the stories of Jochebed hiding baby Moses in the river, Abigail loading donkeys to go plead for David’s forgiveness, and Hannah’s pitiful plight in praying and waiting for a son.

“We researched much history from various sources, described the characteristics of each woman, and then brought it down to modern-day desperation — like desperately wanting to protect our kids from drugs, alcohol, explicit media overload and more,” says Diane Vyskocil, Bellingham Church head elder and youth group leader.

The faith-building mime was a hit with the congregation, including a Pentecostal guest, who said, “This was the best sermon I’ve seen.” It wasn’t long until the church asked the youth to develop a “Father Knows Best” presentation.

Baker View Christian School is expecting a record-breaking 60 elementary students for the coming school year thanks to the church community’s integrated approach to ministry between the church, school, daycare center and annual holiday outreach.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director, with Diane Vyskocil, Bellingham Church head elder

The connection between home, school and church is valued in Bellingham, Wash., where the Adventist community is dedicated to supporting and involving students in education and leadership opportunities.
Skagit Mission Trip Is Answer to Prayer

The Skagit Adventist Academy (SAA) mission trip to the Dominican Republic in March was a direct answer to prayer — in two ways.

When plans for a mission trip to Honduras fell through two months before departure, trip planners met for earnest prayer. During the same week, Adventists members in the Dominican Republic prayed for someone to come help them build a church. Plans for SAA to answer that prayer fell into place quickly by midweek.

Twenty-seven SAA students, along with 18 teachers, parents and chaperones, left Burlington, Wash., and departed for the Dominican Republic with a motto to “Rebuild, Repair and Restore.”

Mission trip participants shared their gifts in five areas: building a church; providing dental, medical and wellness care to 500 patients; fitting 2,000 pairs of glasses; removing 49 cataracts; and praising God through a nightly Vacation Bible School (VBS) program.

“It was really cool to see how much the local people appreciated what we had done,” says Kelby Carambot, a student who worked on the building team.

Another student adds, “What was so incredibly special about the VBS we did was that we had a chance to use our Spanish!”

Mission trip participants went home feeling they received more blessings than they gave. Tristen Holbrook, student, sums up his experience: “It was an amazing first ‘out of the country’ experience to help people and do so much good.”

Students Serve School, Community and Church

The first days following spring break were quiet for some high school students at Skagit Adventist Academy (Burlington, Wash.), as many of their classmates were on a school-sponsored Dominican Republic mission trip.

These students soon discovered they could be actively involved in service within their own community.

Monday was dedicated to serving at school. Two groups quickly mastered the art of sod cutting and cleaned up the grass around newly planted trees as well as the two backstops. Another group collected sticks to be chipped, then piles of chips were distributed in the afternoon along the school’s fitness path.

Students served in the community on Tuesday. All 12 students descended on a neglected city park, where a fence along the freeway needed the most help. Students cut away blackberries, picked up trash along the fence line, weeded flower beds and trimmed bushes.

Wednesday was dedicated to helping church members who needed a little extra help. Students were transported to three houses where they weeded, cut brush, mowed lawns, hauled wood and did weed-eating.

Every day, no matter the task, students participated with willing hands and smiles on their faces. Each day they were reminded of the words of Matthew 25:40: “... Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”

Doug White, SAA principal

Read more at skagitadventist.com under the Mission Trip 2012 tab.

Tami Rowe, SAA teacher

A dentist, a pediatrician, a family practice physician and an emergency room nurse provide basic medical services to 500 people during Skagit Adventist Academy’s Dominican Republic mission trip.

TRACEY DOBKINS

Skagit Adventist Academy students in Burlington, Wash., learn they can serve others whether at home or abroad.

DELLA WISDOM
Grow Here.
Grow into your God-given Gifts | Passions | Future
Auburn Adventist Academy

Find out how you fit in at www.auburn.org
Service Project Benefits Local Schoolchildren

What does being a good neighbor mean? For college students living away from home, the phrase had a new meaning this past school year. Through a service project organized by the Associated Students of Walla Walla University (ASWWU), students collected money and books to benefit local schoolchildren.

Students participating in the project, “Coloring Without Lines,” raised nearly $10,000 to help fund after-school programs at nearby Davis Elementary School, Meadow Brook Intermediate School and Sager Middle School, all in College Place, Wash. Funds for the project continue to come in.

In addition, about 100 books were donated through a book donation drive, according to Alisa Oberg, ASWWU’s social vice president for 2011–12.

The initiative was created to help bring the community together. “That’s where the name of the project came from,” says Oberg. “We want to make this a community without lines and barriers and are working with the College Place School District to do that.”

The kickoff event for the service project was Splash for Cash, during which students donated books to dive into the university’s Tausick Memorial Pool and claim money from the bottom of the pool.

One of the most popular events was The Benefit of the Arts, a new event created by Oberg. Students dressed in their best and headed to the local Power House Theatre, where they were serenaded by the university’s big band ensemble while they bid on student art. The benefit raised about $5,000 through ticket sales and the art auction.

For The Amazing Race fundraiser in February, students participated in an Ironman-style competition, which combined running, long boarding and swimming. Registration fees were earmarked for the service project.

During review week, students could relieve stress by smashing an old car with a sledge hammer two times for free and more times with the donation of a book or a dollar.

Students voted with their cash for their favorite band at The Battle of the Bands event, during which five student bands competed for an encore.

Other fundraisers included a yard sale, a swim-a-thon and a gift-matching program.

Every year the university’s student body organization selects a service project, typically to benefit an international cause. This is the first time students have selected a local project.

Rosa Jimenez, WWU University Relations director
Living out Adventist Health’s mission of sharing God’s love through physical, mental and spiritual healing is a commitment that all hospital staff at Tillamook (Ore.) County General Hospital (TCGH) are charged with fulfilling. Because of the nature of their service, nurses are often the face of that mission to patients and their families.

NURSE DIRECTOR HONORED FOR LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Estrella “Teya” Pillar, director of TCGH’s obstetrics and surgical services departments, was recently honored with the Distinguished Career Award by the Northwest Organization of Nurse Executives.

As a forward-thinking nurse since 1969 and a TCGH employee since 1997, Pillar has blazed many trails toward excellence in patient care and safety. She was a member of the design teams for the electronic medical records programs implemented at TCGH and throughout Adventist Health. Through her participation with the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses, she helped develop the nationally recognized “time out” process that ensures the correct patient is about to undergo the correct procedure on the correct site.

Under her leadership, TCGH’s surgical and obstetrics departments have maintained high-quality scores in key measurement areas. Pillar has also encouraged many colleagues to pursue advanced degrees and specialty certifications. This has resulted in higher levels of patient care as well as enhanced employee satisfaction.

“For me, nursing is a calling. My focus is always on the patient and their family who are looking to me for love, care and guidance,” shares Pillar. “Nurses need to always seek the way of the Lord, to stay committed to this calling and to keep our hearts in the right place.”

Pillar, who is known around the hospital as a “praying nurse,” plans to retire in November and will be missed.

TRANSFORMING CARE AT THE BEDSIDE

Front-line nursing staff at TCGH are directly involved in an innovative, nationwide quality project, Aligning Forces for Quality Transforming Care at the Bedside (TCAB). The Oregon Association of Hospitals and Healthcare Systems has brought together several hospital teams from across Oregon to implement improvements in the quality and safety of patient care.

Nurses at patient bedsides often see ways in which they can help improve their patients’ experiences as well as safety. Through the TCAB initiative, nurses are the ones to identify an issue and try solutions in small pilot projects to see the results. Successful projects are then replicated throughout the unit, across the hospital and to other hospitals in Oregon and the Adventist Health system.

COMMUNITY PARTNER-SHIPS FOR NURSING

Since 1999, TCGH has partnered with Tillamook Bay Community College and Clatsop Community College to provide the clinical experience portion of the curriculum for 10 to 14 of the nursing program students annually. More than 30 Tillamook County graduates have become registered nurses through this program. A number of these graduates have continued to live in Tillamook County and are valued members of the nursing team at TCGH.

Melody Ayers, Tillamook County General Hospital development and marketing director
Although he experimented with cocoa and sugar, his candy-making attempts were far from “sweet.” In fact, he had failed so miserably in two candy enterprises, his uncle refused to provide him another loan. Milton S. Hershey was penniless, an elementary school dropout, and a failure twice over.

For a time he served as a printing apprentice, but he was dismissed from this too for lack of attention. By age 29, he returned home to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Eventually he got a third loan and purchased the ingredients to begin a caramel business. Making candy by day and peddling the confections by night, he got a break from an English candy importer, who was impressed with the fresh taste and the quality of his caramels.1

From this, Hershey made enough money to pay off his loan and launch The Lancaster Caramel Company in 1886. Merely four years after his failures in Philadelphia and New York, Hershey became one of Lancaster’s most successful businessmen and a millionaire.1 By 1894, he produced baking chocolate, cocoa and sweet chocolate coating for caramels under the name Hershey Chocolate Company.

As a leading employer, Hershey felt as much concern for his fellow human beings as he did for milk chocolate. Chocolate Capitol, provided a “recipe” for creating more jobs, instilling workers’ pride and providing new, safe havens for workers bringing up families. Hershey Town became a “delicious” assortment of streets with namesakes of sweet candies and dreamy confections: the Cocoa House, Chocolate Avenue and so on. Consequentially, the town drew tourists. Amidst severe economic times, Hershey went on record and stated not one of his employees was laid off; on the contrary, Hershey added to his payroll!

Hershey’s mother raised young Milton in the strict Mennonite faith, instilling in him these thoughts: “Watch every penny, son. God gives us all we have.”2 Hershey remained a faithful tithe-payer throughout his life. Company records display his good-sense frugalities, such as practicing creative buying and utilizing wholesale sugar storage. Additionally, Hershey “practiced extensive philanthropy, supporting many churches and worthwhile causes.”1 On one service spree, he reportedly gave $20,000 to all of the denominations in his community alike. Additionally, in 1910, he and his childless wife, Catherine, established a school for orphaned boys.1 Hershey watched over the boys’ school, and in 1918 he endowed it with the large majority of his fortune.

Those who knew the entrepreneur said, “He always placed the quality of his product and the well-being of his workers ahead of profits.” The Hershey Company continues to reign as the world’s largest chocolate manufacturer, with more than 11,000 employees and almost $5 billion in sales.1 Hershey Town continues to draw tourists, and the Hershey Company generates new brands each year.

Postscript: One could say a dab of chocolate and an honest tithe may go further than we once imagined.

Sources:
Campbell 90th

Fay Campbell celebrated his 90th birthday with family and many friends at a luncheon held at home in Yuma, Ariz. Among the guests was his nephew Greg Bloom, who shares the same Feb. 26 birthday.

Fay was born Feb. 26, 1922, in Gaston, Ore. Fay and Vivian are long-time members of the Yuma Church. His family includes his wife, Vivian; Linda Pickner of Portland, Ore.; Hayley and Dan Brewer of Canby, Ore.; Nancy and Arnold Reed of Scappoose, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Ellett 50th

Family and friends of Elden and Esther Ellett gathered at a senior center in The Dalles, Ore., on July 3, 2011, to celebrate their 50 years together. The couple met when Esther was living with Elden’s mother and sister while she was a secretary at the John Day Dam project. Elden was a secretary at the John Linda University (LLU), and Ben began his training at the UO School of Dentistry and graduated in October 1946.

Soon after getting married in the old College Place Church on Jan. 21, 1947, they headed to Fort Bragg, N.C., where Ben was stationed in the Army. Completing his tour of duty, they returned to the Northwest and settled in the small coastal town of Bandon, Ore. There Ben set up his dental practice, and Carol kept busy raising their three children.

In 1972, Ben accepted an invitation to teach at LLU Dental School, where he soon became a popular teacher with the students. Carol enjoyed working in an ophthalmology office. After retiring, Ben and Carol moved to the Boise, Idaho, area, and later to Crooked River Ranch, where they lived for 10 years. Currently they are living in a retirement complex in Eugene, Ore.

The Grant family includes Kathi and Gayle Wilson of Dallas, Ore.; Brad and Kelly Grant of Atwater, Calif.; Suzanne and Bill Dassenko of Eugene, Ore.; 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Meidell 90th

Blanche Meidell celebrated her 90th birthday with a summer family reunion in southern California, a trip to Illinois for an Adams family reunion in August, and finally in Washington with a party hosted Nov. 19, 2011, by her family and attended by more than 80 of her church family at the Kennewick (Wash.) Church.

Born Blanche Adams in San Francisco, Calif., on Nov. 26, 1921, Blanche was a finalist in a pretty baby contest in Los Angeles when she was 3 years old. Her family was offered a movie contract as a result, but her father vetoed the idea. Since her father worked in construction, the family moved often, and she lived in many different areas in southern California and the Southwest. She got her first sewing machine when she was 9 years old and quickly fell in love with sewing. She used her skills not only for her family but for employment — making blouses at I. Magnin & Company and Bullock’s department stores in the 1940s. Blanche also had a dressmaking business for years in Kennewick.

As a member of the “Greatest Generation,” she lived through the Great Depression and World War II and has kept many of those life lessons learned during those difficult times. She married Frank Meidell in 1939 and worked with him as a welder in the shipyards during WWII. The family moved to Washington in 1946, then to Kennewick in 1952.

She became acquainted as a young mother with Adventism through an Adventist family physician. After moving to Kennewick, a friendship with Dorothy Patchett Eby and others led to becoming a member at the Riverview Church. Then she became a charter member of the Kennewick Church. After being widowed for years, she married Wayne Lingscheit in 1993, and they enjoyed traveling to Alaska, Hawaii, the South Pacific and the East Coast. They were married for seven years before Wayne died.

Blanche has been a tireless supporter of her family and has traveled to her grandchildren’s numerous graduations all over the country. She is a devoted greeter at church and loves her church family. Her love for the Lord and enthusiasm for life have inspired many.

Blanche’s family includes Tomina and Jerry Ward of Kennewick; Nikki and Ray Gonzalez of Grand Terrace, Calif.; and Frank and Marylin Meidell of Rice Lake, Wis.; 7 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild.
**BIRTHS**

**BUSS** — Hudson McCoy was born March 13, 2012, to Matthew and Wendy (Press) Buss, Tillamook, Ore.

**CLAY-REYES** — Iain was born March 5, 2012, to Alberto Reyes and Heather Clay, Everett, Wash.

**CONELY** — Adam Theodore was born April 14, 2012, to David and Esther (Pflugrad) Conely, Tacoma, Wash.

**DOWIE** — Ian Anthony Roman was born March 20, 2012, to Shawn A. and Lara J. (Dixon) Dowie, College Place, Wash.

**HUCKABY** — Lianne Christine Marquart was born April 10, 2012, to David and Silvia Huckaby, Vancouver, Wash.

**KARR** — Alastair Pin-Muo was born March 31, 2012, to Tristan Karr and Chin-Ping Tsai, Lincoln City, Ore.

**MCNALLY** — Abigail Maree was born Jan. 24, 2012, to Brandon and Sydnee (Hulse) McNally, Arlington, Wash.

**RIVINIUS** — Camden Luke was born May 18, 2012, to Kiff J. and Cherith L. (Clark) Rivinius, Tillamook, Ore.

**RUSSELL** — William Luther Lee was born May 7, 2012, to Jonathan T.H. and Jaclyn R. (Dove) Russell, Portland, Ore.

**ST. CLAIR** — Elizabeth Ann was born May 7, 2012, to Jason and Becky (Sevison) St. Clair, Vancouver, Wash.

**COOLEY** — Mary June, 81; born June 16, 1930; died July 5, 2011.

**ERDLE** — Charlotte M. (Steigmann), 92; born May 9, 1919, Ulm, Germany; died Feb. 18, 2012, Albany, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Helga Ridgley, Albany; Lissielette Stark, of Iowa; sister, Claire Ludwig; 3 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.


**SCOTT** — Barbara “Bobbi” L. (Schafer), 47; born April 12, 1964, Carmichael, Calif.; died Feb. 10, 2012, Ruch, Ore. Surviving: husband, Tim; son, Jason, Ruch; daughter, Kaeli Scott, Ruch; father and stepmother, Glenn and Marilyn Schafer, of Arizona; and sister, Shannon Caldwell, Vancouver, Wash.


**WAGNER** — Raymond Elmer, 80; born May 9, 1931, Farmington, Wash.; died Jan. 1, 2012, Farmington. Surviving: wife, Hazel (Jenkins); sons, Randel, Spokane, Wash.; Wes L., Farmington; and 3 grandchildren.


North Pacific Union Conference

Offering

July 7 — Local Church Budget;

July 14 — Women’s Ministries North American Division;

July 21 — Local Church Budget;

July 28 — Local Conference Advance.

Project PATCH: Family Experience Weekend

There are various dates available throughout the year, starting July 20–22. 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 meals made from scratch. 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

July 17 — Alumni Event at Walla Walla Sweets Baseball Game, 509-527-2631;

July 30–Aug. 3 — Hispanic Youth Exploring Engineering and Science;


Oregon

Performing Culinary Arts Program

July 17 — Celebrity chef Mark Anthony will be appearing at the Castle Rock Church at 6:30 p.m. This is an exciting performing culinary arts program featuring plant-based nutrition. Chef Anthony is known for his unique presentations. To register to attend this free event, call Wanda at 360-967-2165 or Ruth at 360-274-7762.

5K Fun Run/Walk

July 20 — Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome to sign up for the annual Gladstone Camp Meeting 5K (3.1 miles) Fun Run/Walk. Pre-register at http://orgcampmeeting.adventistnw.org/camp-meeting-fun-run-2012 by July 2. After you arrive, pick up your number at the InfoCenter and plan to join us on Friday, July 20, at the start line at 7 a.m. Look for the large banner near the InfoCenter in the plaza. The run/walk begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends by 9 a.m. Enjoy the beauty of nature throughout the grounds, get acquainted with new friends, and enjoy delicious snacks at the end of the race. This is a free event coordinated by your Oregon Conference health ministries department.

Union College Alumni Gathering

July 21 — Alumni, family and friends of Union College are invited to Zull Hall at the Gladstone Convention Center during the Oregon Conference Camp Meeting, 5–6:30 p.m. A light meal will be provided. Donations will be accepted to help with expenses. For further information, call Glen or Marybeth Gessele at 503-985-7759.

Looking for you ...

Please contact the University Park Church concerning your membership. We would love to hear from you: John Joya, Ellen Brown, Vicki Brown, Florence Criswell, Florence Fowler, Billy Limmell, Oini and Luscia Maka, the Newsome Family, Fatai Poulivaati, Latai Poulivaati, Fatai Poulivaati Jr., Stephanie Poulivaati, Haloti Poulivaati, and David and Dianna Rowling. Please call Laurie at 503-283-0624.

Washington

Skagit Homecoming

July 7–8 — Skagit Adventist School and Academy in Burlington, Wash., invites past students, parents and alumni to Homecoming Weekend. Attend a special church service and interact with friends at a potluck meal. Participate in a golf tournament on Sunday to benefit student scholarships. Questions? Call the school at 360-755-9261 or email tdillon.sas@gmail.com.

Missing Members

Tacoma Central Church in Tacoma, Wash., is looking for any information on the following missing members: Gretchen Huback, Gina Easterday, Arlene Evans, Patricia Lovell, Jeannine Luken, Angela Matthews, Monica McDaniel, Marsha McDowell, Tammi McKowen, Janic McNinch, J.A. Melton, Larry Melton, Sandra Melton, Veda Melton, Rachelle Minchew, Megan Moffitt, Marian Mundy, Kathy Nickelson, Ken Nickelson, Elizabeth Perrin, Robbyn Peters, Karen Phillips, Julie Huntley, Debra Jenks, Kelly Johnson, Brandon Jones, Guadalupe Jones and Jagnie Jones. If you have any information regarding these missing members, please contact Scott Tyman, pastor, at 253-230-5324 or scotttyman@comcast.net.

World Church

Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend

Sept. 28–29 — All alumni, former faculty and staff are invited to this special reunion weekend. The 2012 honor classes are: 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972 and 1977. Location: Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, IA. Make plans to attend. For more information, contact Mary Dassenko Schwantes, 636-527-0955, or email maryschwantes@sbcglobal.net. We need your email address, as postage is too expensive. Contact Warren Woledge, 402-570-0346 or warrenw2u@gmail.com.
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**PROJECT MANAGER — ONLINE RESOURCES**, creates ads, literature, graphics and other marketing materials through outside resources. Coordinates and maintains company’s websites through outside sources. Must have project management experience, and some marketing experience helpful. Must have excellent PC and communication skills. Previous supervisory experience desirable. Rogue River, OR. Send résumé or information to ewagner@wagnerimeters.com.

**PART-TIME CREATIVE WRITER NEEDED** Writes copy for ads, literature, websites, newsletter and other marketing materials. Some marketing experience could be helpful. Must have good PC and communication skills.

Working from home OK. Rogue River, OR. Send résumé or information to ewagner@wagnerimeters.com.

**GARDENER/GROUNDSKEEPER WANTED** to assist older couple in scenic country acreage. Private 1-bedroom apartment on site, near Roseburg, OR. No smoking, drinking, drugs or pets. Call Shirley 541-643-8011

**LOOKING FOR RETIRED TEACHER/TUTOR**, student missionary or volunteer to teach this fall at Diné Outreach, on the Navajo Reservation in Northern Arizona. Please contact Allen or Kelley Fowler at 928-221-9477.

**UNION COLLEGE** is seeking tenure track faculty member to teach foundational level courses and clinical in BSN program. Prior teaching experience and minimum of MSN in nursing required. Qualified candidates will possess a commitment to Christian Adventist values. Email cover letter and resume/curriculum vitae to thstimson@ucollege.edu.

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**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** is currently searching for a Center for Youth Evangelism director. Qualified candidates must have experience as a youth professional and hold a master’s degree or higher. For additional information and to apply, please visit http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_hourly.cgi.

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** is currently searching for a Coordinator of vocal studies to join our music department. Qualified candidates will have an earned doctoral degree in voice performance. For additional information and to apply, please visit http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** is currently searching for a candidate for the position of Institute of Church Ministry Director. A doctorate degree is preferred plus significant experience in applied research. For additional information and to apply, please visit http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** is currently searching for a qualified candidate for the position of assistant herm manager located at Indiana Academy in Cicero, Ind. For additional information and to apply, please visit http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_hourly.cgi.

**ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER**, Portland, OR. Seeking ICU and CVICU manager, full-time, 80-hours pay period, day shift. Required: Bachelor’s degree and two years’ experience. Salary
If you are interested in this position, send your résumé to careers@adventistrisk.org or call Andrea Ashman at 301-680-6810.

EVENTS

AMATEUR RADIO AND AVIATION PILOT RETREAT
Northwest Adventist Amateur Radio Association members and Adventist pilots will meet near Walla Walla, WA., on July 20–22. 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 www.naara.org for information on classes for new and upgrade amateur radio licenses on July 18 and 19, and lodging, meals and registration information. Or contact Keith at 509-540-0544 or email keithrcarlin@charter.net.

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FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES is seeking a Curriculum Coordinator to work with both the academic departments and faculty on curriculum, mapping and course development in a blended learning environment. Qualifications: Ph.D. in Curriculum Development preferred with 10 years of successful teaching in higher education. Send inquiries to: Dr. Don Williams, Sr. VP Academic Admin., Florida Hospital College, 671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; 407-303-5619; don.williams@fhchs.edu.

FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES is seeking applicants for the position of Program Director for a new Physician Assistant program. A master’s degree is required; doctoral degree is preferred. Florida Hospital College is a faith-based institution which seeks candidates who fit the unique culture and mission of the college. Please email CV to: Dr. Len M. Archer, Associate VP for Academic Administration, len.archer@fhchs.edu.

FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, Orlando, FL, is seeking a physical therapist program director, beginning 2013. The program director will provide overall academic leadership developing this program and salary will be competitive.

Qualifications: Minimum doctoral degree from regionally accredited school; senior faculty status. Understanding of higher education and contemporary clinical. Eligible for Florida PT licensure. PT academic experience. Submit letter of interest, curriculum vitae, three references and/or letters of recommendation to Dr. Don Williams, don.williams@fhchs.edu or fax 407-303-5671.

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Sunset Schedule

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We were just 30 academy students on our spring music tour, dog-tired as we pulled into our destination for the night. The evening’s five-star accommodations had been reserved on the floor of a school gymnasium, but the building was locked tighter than a drum. Fortunately it was a beautiful, clear night, which explains why someone suggested we should roll our sleeping bags out on the lawn in the school’s courtyard. There under the stars became part of school lore forever. Throughout the lush grassy courtyard, where we sprawled in slumbering repose, the automatic sprinklers prompted a surprisingly efficient call to rise and shine.

It was a coming of age experience. Moments earlier we would have been aptly described as wet behind the ears. Now ... well, you get the picture.

This indelible memory is parked with countless others of my journey through Adventist education. I do not recall much of what I was taught. Oh, the knowledge is there all right, down deep in the cerebral cortex. Fuzzy recollections of geometry formulas, molecular biology theorems, sentence diagrams and quadratic equations float just beyond my reach. Such is the nature of a general education. Not knowing where our ultimate course in life will take us, we gorge on a wide menu of subjects, packing them in like sardines, hoping that something in there might someday come in handy. And, often they do.

But far closer to the surface are those recollections of people and experiences that have touched our hearts and tickled our funny bones. These have an emotional shelf-life far greater than mere words from a book. The Revenge of the Sprinklers episode noted earlier is such a memory. A specific band concert also sticks out as an indelible lesson of the importance of attention to detail. Within our repertoire we had two distinctly different pieces — “Hymn of Freedom” adapted from Brahms, and a rip-snorting medley called “Spiritual Festival.” The first began with oh-so-quiet woodwind chords, the other with monumental blasts from the tuba and baritone horn. Ironically, in this particular instance, the only ones to get their music out of order were me on the baritone and my seatmate holding the tuba. So, with the slowly sweeping down stroke of the conductor’s baton in anticipation of Brahms, I leave the rest of that story to your imagination.

The unexpected surprises are the memories that often linger. But in my journey through Adventist education, perhaps the most important lesson goes far beyond mere cognitive recall. It’s of a Man who never let the pursuit of knowledge impede His pursuit of people. The Man who not only talked grace, but lived it.

Should that not be at the core of Adventist education: to train the head, mouth, heart and hands to convey the grace of our Savior to our neighbors and our world?

Methinks the world could use a glimpse of Him right now.

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