Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Psalms 143:10 (NIV)

Source: ThinkStock.com
It’ll be even better... Watch for it!
A special General Conference commission formed in June to consider issues surrounding the consolidation or merger of the Pacific Press Publishing Association (PPPA) and Review and Herald Publishing Association was discontinued abruptly at the end of July. Many Northwest members and leaders, especially those in Idaho, had been concerned with rumors that current Pacific Press operations in Nampa might be potentially affected.

But a statement issued by world church leaders on July 31 said simply, "It is felt in the best interest of the publishing work of the church at this time for there to be no change to the governance of the two institutions."

The GLEANER talked briefly with Dale Galusha, PPPA president, in regard to these recent actions.

**GLEANER:** What was the original intent of the study commission?

**GALUSHA:** As I understand it, this group was to approach two main areas: 1) Should these publishing houses be transferred to work under the North American Division (NAD) leadership instead of the General Conference? and 2) If a merger would truly be considered, what would it look like and how would it affect both institutions?

**GLEANER:** What was your reaction to hearing that the immediate study of this issue had been suspended?

**GALUSHA:** Well, I’m sure employees at both publishing houses breathed a sigh of relief…. No one likes disruption. Rumors had been flying, as you can imagine. It hadn’t been clear if we were going to stay in one place or be merged into another situation. Many felt this decision was an answer to prayer — a reaffirmation of the ministry of both publishing houses and their work for the church.

**GLEANER:** Why do you think the commission was disbanded?

**GALUSHA:** After the committee had been organized, many individuals echoed concerns based on statements from Ellen White, which seemed to discourage any merger or consolidation of publishing houses. I’m sure our world church leaders gave very careful attention to those statements and those concerns.

**GLEANER:** Yet the issues it intended to address are still valid and unresolved.

**GALUSHA:** For the sake of efficiency and good stewardship we do indeed need to evaluate our overall printing capacity, to make sure our presses are actually being used and not just sitting silent. And, in our growing electronic age, what is the best way to get our materials out? How do we balance our brick-and-mortar stores and printed materials with digital delivery? How do we supply the missionary material our churches and conferences need in a manner that covers the cost of producing it? It’s probably inevitable that some committee or discussion will need to explore these issues again at some point. In the meantime, we will be working with the Review and Herald team to explore areas of efficiencies and how to avoid overlap.
Communicating Across Generations

In May 1866, Ellen G. White urged the General Conference to establish a Seventh-day Adventist health institution in Battle Creek, Mich. White advocated to the church leaders that building a health center would fulfill the church’s mission by helping to relieve human suffering. Leaders responded positively to White’s appeal and quickly raised money and purchased land, opening the Health Reform Institute during September of the same year.

These early health care pioneers promoted what were considered very “radical” concepts in their day relating to nutrition, exercise and sanitation. They were dedicated to educating patients and their families about disease prevention and the numerous advantages of living a healthy lifestyle. Countless people flocked to the Health Reform Institute to rest and relax, participate in recreational activities, and dine on food designed for the most health conscious.

John Harvey Kellogg, a doctor, joined the Health Reform Institute staff in 1875 and became the superintendent the following year. Kellogg renamed the facility in 1877 to the Medical Surgical Sanitarium (more commonly known as the Battle Creek Sanitarium). He referenced that using the term “sanitarium” helped fulfill the institute’s vision of a “place for people to learn to stay well.”

On June 7, 1878, a second Seventh-day Adventist hospital opened in the Napa Valley region of California. Originally called the Rural Health Retreat (known today as St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley and the Center for Health), the retreat had 13 bedrooms, a dining room, kitchen, parlor, doctor’s office and treatment rooms. Within one week, all of the 13 beds were occupied, and tents were erected in the yard to house employees and patient overflow. Like the Battle Creek Sanitarium, the Rural Health Retreat sought to provide a place for guests to escape from the pressures of day-to-day life through rest, wholesome dining and other lifestyle enhancements. Today St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley is the oldest Seventh-day Adventist health care center in the world.

This year St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley is celebrating 135 years of medicine. Our Adventist Health hospitals in the Northwest also have a long-standing history, both celebrating their centennials years ago. Adventist Medical Center — Portland opened its doors in 1893, and Walla Walla General Hospital was established in 1899.

The Adventist Health mission statement says this: “To share God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing.” This mission statement clearly articulates the role of our hospitals as an integral part of the gospel commission task of the church. Adventist hospitals are in the forefront of providing whole-person care to everyone who enters the hospital doors, thus providing testimony to the hope and healing that God’s love provides.

Adventist Health’s mission continues to be driven from its heritage. Just as the early health care pioneers presented very “radical” concepts, the United States is now preparing again for a very “radical” change. With reforms in the health care industry on the horizon, Adventist Health must ensure that it sets a clear direction for the future. This will allow Adventist Health to revisit its roots, grounded in prevention and whole-person care, to provide healing in years to come. Our heritage is our advantage.

MAX TORKELSEN
North Pacific Union Conference president and Adventist Health board vice chairman

Adventist Health’s mission continues to be driven from its heritage.
ith health care reform creating a significant change in the health care industry, Adventist Health must ensure that it sets clear direction and executes successful strategies. That’s why we’re focused on our strategic plan to become a more integrated and higher performing health care delivery system. Our disciplined approach has been carefully designed to leverage our heritage and the successes of the past, while building new capabilities — enabling Adventist Health to be even more successful in the future.

This year, we’re celebrating St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley’s 135 years of service, the longest continuously operating Adventist health care hospital in the world. Castle Medical Center, located in Hawaii, celebrated its 50th anniversary of providing care, and the Adventist Health hospital named after Ellen G. White, White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles, California, celebrated its centennial this year. The centennial milestone is a celebration that two of our Northwest hospitals already surpassed more than a decade ago. We’re thankful for the dedicated teams at each location that make these milestones possible.

As we focus on the opportunities ahead, we’re confident that with hard work, dedication and prayer, we can continue delivering the mission-driven, quality health care that Adventist Health has provided to our communities for more than 100 years.

I hope you enjoy this spotlight about the work that is happening throughout Adventist Health. If you wish to know more about us and our services in the North Pacific Union Conference, please visit AnnualReport.ah.org.

Robert G. Carmen, Adventist Health president and CEO

FAST FACTS

- 19 hospitals in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington
- More than 180 rural health clinics, physician clinics and outpatient centers
- 14 home care agencies
- Seven hospice agencies
- Four joint-venture retirement centers
- Workforce of 28,900 — including 21,200 employees, 4,500 medical staff physicians and 3,200 volunteers
- More than 2,700 beds
- Headquartered in Roseville, California

In 2012 there were …

- 126,210 admissions
- 512,932 emergency department visits
- 2,411,632 outpatient visits
- 227,662 home care visits
- 817,900 rural health clinic visits
- More than $350 million provided in free and low-cost services to the community
Ed Klein had just finished rototilling his garden on April 25, 2010, when he collapsed to the ground. Only minutes later, his wife, Beverly, found him in the garden. She immediately called 911 while her daughter and son-in-law began CPR. They continued administering CPR until EMTs arrived and rushed Ed to the hospital.

Once stabilized, the doctor informed Ed that he had experienced a lethal ventricular fibrillation, causing him to suffer a cardiac arrest. After leaving the hospital, Ed soon began the recovery process. During the next several months, Ed continued to gain strength with help from Beverly.

Fifteen months later, Ed began experiencing severe abdominal pain and began feeling sicker each day. After running multiple tests with their primary care physician, Ed was referred to interventional cardiologist Bradley Titus at Northwest Regional Heart and Vascular at Washington’s Walla Walla General Hospital. After performing a right and left heart catheterization, Titus discovered that Ed had experienced constrictive pericarditis, or inflammation to the sac around the heart, from the pressure he encountered during his life-saving CPR.

Titus referred Klein to his partners at Northwest Regional Heart and Vascular on the campus of Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Oregon, to undergo corrective surgery on his heart. On the morning of December 8, 2011, Ed and Beverly drove to Portland. They met with cardiothoracic surgeon Thomas Molloy, who performed an open-chest surgery that same afternoon to restore function to Ed’s constricted heart.

Ed is back on his feet and grateful for the expert care he received from a team he trusted. “Northwest Regional Heart and Vascular is the finest in the world. You’re not going to get better care anywhere than what that team can provide,” says Ed. Today you can find Ed right where his heart truly lies — tending to his small farm amidst acres of plants and trees.

Ed and Beverly Klein have been married for more than 50 years and reside in Milton-Freewater, Oregon, where both were raised. Prior to retirement, Ed was an industrial arts teacher and Beverly was a registered nurse. The Kleins greatly enjoy all the activities that the Walla Walla Valley has to offer, including the many Seventh-day Adventist churches and programs at Walla Walla University.

Amy Alderman, Adventist Health corporate marketing and communication
he roots of Adventist Health date back more than 135 years. The principal philosophy that the whole person is treated — mind, body and spirit — has been pivotal to the organization since the beginning. Today this is shown in the many ways that Adventist Health is dedicated to improving the lives of those we serve within every hospital, clinic or private home.

We’re actively creating programs to ensure that we meet the needs of people in our communities. San Joaquin Community Hospital (SJCH) in Bakersfield, California, is beginning a clinical pastoral education program to help address whole-person care in its community. “At SJCH, we saw the need to reach out to our community clergy and leaders through offering advanced training in meeting a person’s emotional and spiritual needs that have a direct impact on their well-being,” says Tony Andrews, SJCH pastoral care director.

With health care reform in the near future, Adventist Health has dedicated a team to develop and deploy what we’re calling the Mission Model: The Adventist Health Way. The Mission Model embodies the three core care elements contained in Adventist Health’s mission — sharing God’s love through physical, mental and spiritual healing — and seeks to empower our communities to live healthier lives. In the following paragraphs, you can learn more about the Mission Model and how you can get involved.

**What comprises the Adventist Health Mission Model?**

The focus of Adventist Health has always been on whole-person care rooted in Seventh-day Adventist health principles. The Mission Model seeks to define, implement and measure approaches of sharing God’s love by addressing the health needs of the many communities that Adventist Health serves including patients, employees, physicians and church constituents.

**What are the desired outcomes for patients, workforce and the community?**

The Mission Model will create a patient experience focused on the love of God, resulting in enhanced coping and states of well-being. Adventist Health anticipates its workforce will have a sense of purpose, mission engagement and overall well-being physically, mentally and spiritually. Through collaborative partnerships, the workforce and engaged faith leaders, Adventist Health ultimately seeks to make communities healthier.

**How does Adventist Health plan to implement the Mission Model throughout its system?**

There are three important building blocks that support the Mission Model. First, Adventist Health will assess the needs of its populations, leading to support and care planning. Second, Adventist Health will continue to build its mission culture by planning wellness into each business unit. Third, the integration of these elements will result
in greater impact on wholeness and healing, thus fulfilling the Adventist Health mission.

Where does the Mission Model provide the greatest impact?

The Mission Model enables Adventist Health care providers to become partners in a patient’s health very early on. This engagement in loving, compassionate and interactive care will provide an environment that is conducive to health, healing and wellness. By educating and empowering our communities, we provide them with prevention education through personal accountability.

How will a physician assess a patient’s spiritual needs?

Designed to ensure a holistic approach to health across a patient’s life, the Mission Model will allow physicians to ask patients questions during very early stages not only about their physical and mental health but also regarding spiritual health. This will create a more effective health care model as it allows for an even more comprehensive record of a patient’s health. With the belief that religious practices can provide healing, we hope that one day a physician may write a patient a prescription to become more active in a faith-based community.

How will the Affordable Care Act impact Adventist Health’s Mission Model?

The Affordable Care Act allows Adventist Health to revisit its roots in whole-person care. The United States government is mandating that patient care no longer be about services offered but instead be outcomes-oriented through proving positive results for patients. At the core of the Affordable Care Act, the government is ultimately trying to reduce cost by helping people stay well — essentially, they are asking for the Seventh-day Adventist health message to be implemented throughout the nation.

How can church clergy and leadership engage in the Mission Model?

Seventh-day Adventist church clergy and leadership can help Adventist Health lay the foundation for the Mission Model in their congregations. Through collaborative efforts and partnerships with Adventist Health institutions, clergy will be able to enhance the health of their congregation and communities. Adventist Health will also seek to empower clergy to be champions of their own health through continuing education on the core principles of wellness. Finally, churches have the opportunity to serve as wellness centers in their communities where people may turn for guidance and support.

How can we get our congregations, education facilities and communities involved in the Mission Model?

Adventist Health hopes to empower churches to become advocates of their congregation’s health and for churches to become beacons of wellness in their communities. Congregants can serve as volunteers in church wellness centers by providing education, guidance and support. Additionally, Adventist Health is looking for creative ways to strengthen our partnerships with our churches and education facilities. Through further development of these partnerships, Adventist Health seeks to be an extension of Christ’s healing ministry in all of the communities we serve to hasten Christ’s Second Coming.

Amy Alderman, Adventist Health corporate marketing and communication, interviewing Paul Crampton, Adventist Health assistant vice president of mission and spiritual care.
S
ome call it a job, others refer to it as their calling, and some view it as a sacred work. Every day physicians, nurses and clinical staff go to work at Adventist Health — be it a hospital, clinic, home care or hospice agency. Their mission is to provide physical, mental and spiritual healing to patients. Creating a culture of safety is just one of the ways Adventist Health is working to ensure the best possible care environments for patients.

For more than 100 years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been a pioneer in health care. This tradition continues as Adventist Health’s hospitals blaze another trail through its development of adding a spirituality component to its participation in the “Safety Attitude Questionnaire” (SAQ). The SAQ is a reliable and validated tool that has been administered in more than 1,800 hospitals in the United States and around the world, identifying key areas where action can be taken to improve patient safety and care.

Adventist Health partnered with Bryan Sexton of Duke University (formerly from Johns Hopkins University) in 2008 to administer the survey and assess staff perceptions of teamwork and safety practices to provide safe and reliable care. Physicians, nurses and other clinical staff were asked to fill out a survey every 18 months reviewing nine key areas: teamwork, safety climate, job satisfaction, stress awareness, working conditions, perceptions of senior management, perception of unit management, resilience (burnout) and spirituality in the workplace. The survey provides Adventist Health with insight into focused areas where actions can be taken to improve patient safety and care.

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“Adventist Health believes that our mission statement — sharing God’s love through physical, mental and spiritual healing — applies not only to patient care but to caregiver care,” says Keith Doram, Adventist Health chief medical officer and vice president of clinical effectiveness.

Adventist Health is the first health care system in the United States to include questions about spirituality in its survey. Since spirituality-based questions were added to the survey in 2009, three rounds of the survey have been administered. Under Doram’s leadership, Sexton is currently analyzing the data from the past three surveys looking for associations between spirituality and increased patient safety. Preliminary data has shown a connection between higher spirituality scores and better teamwork and resilience in the workplace.

“We are involved in an exciting and unique research study looking at how our spiritual climate is affecting health care and wellness outcomes,” says Doram. “Enhancing our spiritual climate in all of our facilities can result in improved wellness not only for patients but for our workforce as well.”

The spirituality-based survey asks care providers if they are encouraged to express spirituality in their department, if their spiritual views are accepted and respected, and if they feel comfortable talking about God. The earlier survey results showed that if employees feel accepted and respected, they feel more empowered to share their beliefs with patients and co-workers.

“Our leadership and staff have a commitment to spirituality and faith, which I believe provides a strong foundation for a culture of safety and teamwork,” says Richard Huse, assistant vice president of quality and a registered nurse at Feather River Hospital in Paradise, California. “Organizations with a strong culture of safety and teamwork are recognized as being safer organizations in which to receive patient care.”

Feather River Hospital has consistently ranked high in the categories of teamwork and safety. Huse attributes that to the culture of teamwork, compassion and spirituality found at the hospital. Visitors and patients find it common to see employees praying with patients and fellow employees.

In an effort to encourage the culture of safety at Adventist Health hospitals, leadership teams from each facility visit the clinical units on a regular basis to talk with employees and gain a better understanding of ways they can improve teamwork and safety. While all Adventist Health facilities strive to make these a priority, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits, California, was the top-ranked hospital in the system for teamwork climate in the 2012 survey.
The simple act of holding a patient’s hand is one way Adventist Health clinical staff show compassion for their patients.

Leadership visits are one way the same day services outpatient (SDSO) department team at Feather River Hospital saw a dramatic improvement in its culture of safety score. The department had a score of 50 percent in 2008. By identifying a few key areas of improvement, the SDSO department was reorganized and restructured. By 2012, the teamwork climate results from the survey were up to 100 percent.

Adventist Health’s Central Valley Network (CVN), comprised of Adventist Medical Center — Hanford, Adventist Medical Center — Reedley, Adventist Medical Center — Selma and Central Valley General Hospital, uses the survey to develop action plans for clinical units. Diane Hoyt, CVN vice president of quality and patient safety, and Nancy Troxel, CVN patient safety officer, attribute the strong spiritual culture with the ability to have a more resilient staff. The team at CVN uses the motto, “Patient safety is everyone’s job.”

As researchers continue to better understand the correlations between spirituality and patient care, Adventist Health continues to explore its heritage of whole-person care — mind, body and spirit.

Jenni Glass, Adventist Health corporate marketing and communication specialist
Entonces el Señor dijo a Pablo en visión de noche, ‘No temas, sino habla, y no calles. Porque yo estoy contigo … porque yo tengo mucho pueblo en esta ciudad’” (Hechos 18:9, 10).

Nada más cierto para las ciudades limítrofes del estado de Oregon con Idaho como Ontario, Vale y Nyssa, porque Dios tiene “mucho pueblo” por salvar entre sus habitantes.

UN PUEBLO QUE BUSCA …

Frente a su computadora, Sósimo Solano, entonces miembro de la iglesia Capilla del Calvario en Ontario, buscaba respuestas a sus inquietudes relacionadas con el último libro de la Biblia, El Apocalipsis. Afuera de su vivienda era de noche cuando adentro de su corazón estaba a punto de rayar el alba de un nuevo amanecer espiritual. Desde su teclado se lanzó a la sorpresa que nos cuenta en la siguiente entrevista:

Juan Francisco Altamirano: Sósimo, cuéntanos cómo fue tu contacto inicial con el mensaje de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día.

Solano: La conocí a través de un mensaje que escuché en la Internet, en un sermón que alguien había puesto en YouTube.

Altamirano: ¿Y de qué trataba aquel mensaje que cambió tu vida y la de tu familia?

Solano: El mensaje hablaba de los días finales, y su enseñanza plantó la semilla de la esperanza en mi corazón. En realidad, fueron varios mensajes los que escuché, todos impartidos por un pastor que después supe su nombre, Eddie Canales.

Altamirano: ¿Y qué pasaba a medida que ibas escuchando los mensajes del pastor Canales? (El pastor se desempeña como vice presidente y director de varios ministerios en la Unión del Suroeste.)

Solano: Sentía la necesidad de compartir lo que aprendía, y no tuve más que reunir a mi esposa, Angélica, y a nuestra hija Yolanda para impartirles día a día con mis apuntes la nueva luz que recibía de las profecías. Y días después, empecé un grupo pequeño todos los martes para estudiar la Palabra de Dios en mi hogar.

Altamirano: ¿Y cuál es tu sueño ahora bautizado?

Solano: Predicar el evangelio y fundar una iglesia en Ontario.

Solano, con su familia, fue bautizado en ocasión del campamento familiar de la Iglesia Adventista Hispana de Nampa, Idaho, en las frescas aguas del South Fork Boise River bajo la sincera mirada de un sol en pleno verano, el pasado 3 de agosto de 2013.

Juan Francisco Altamirano, coordinador de las iglesias Hispas de la Asociación de Idaho

La hermandad rodea a los nuevos miembros para orar por ellos antes del bautismo.
Southeast Camp Meeting Features Alaska Style

More than 80 percent of Alaska’s towns and villages are only accessible by air or boat, and Southeast Camp Meeting’s location is no exception. This is the last of Alaska Conference’s five annual regional camp meetings.

After a three-hour ride in a 737 jet from Seattle, Wash., we touched down in Wrangell and were taken on a one-hour boat ride on the mirror-like Inside Passage. We arrived at beautiful Camp Lorraine on Vank Island where camp meeting was already underway, with seminars being conducted and the aroma of food and sweet pine needles in the air. The main meetings were held in the camp’s A-frame gym with a massive and very old shake-shingle roof.

Alaska is large in size but small in membership, so every camp meeting has a family-like atmosphere, and this was no exception. Families were housed in tiny cabins and/or in the four-story lodge. Camp staff were there preparing for the next youth camp, so they were helpful and fun to be around. When you live and attend the small, remote churches around Alaska, camp meetings are special times of spiritual food and great fellowship.

The highlight was a Sabbath afternoon baptism in the ocean. Howard Williams, Wrangell Church pastor, had been studying with Bruce and Regina Sarff for almost a year. The couple gave an emotional testimonial before their moving baptism. All in all, it was a blessing from beginning to end.

Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president

Alaska ACS Responds to Galena Flood

Ice jammed the Yukon River on May 27, flooding the village of Galena. Along with the rising water, huge floating ice chunks smashed trees, homes and businesses. Nearly half the population of 675 had to evacuate, and more than 100 homes were damaged or destroyed.

In addition the clinic and the post office were destroyed. The school was badly damaged, and the flooded sewer lagoon spread contamination.

It took an entire month for many residents to return to work on rebuilding their shattered lives. As of June 19, children still weren’t allowed to return because of the sewage contamination.

Galena has received clothing donations from surrounding villages coordinated by the Tanana Chiefs Corporation. Two donations operations employees, Carrie Fenimore and Alyson Esmailka, were hired by the local city government to manage donations.

Alaska Adventist Community Services (ACS) volunteer Ruth deGraaff spent two days in Galena training the new employees in ACS warehouse and distribution management using ACS donation operations manuals provided by Larry Mays, North Pacific Union Conference disaster response coordinator, via the Internet and printed by the State of Alaska Office of Emergency Management.

A distribution center was set up in an already available empty building that had running water, electricity and office space. Shelving has been ordered to store donations, and tables were available to start sorting and organizing donations right away.

For the most part, a positive spirit of cooperation prevails throughout the village, and residents are working together on the overwhelming job of rebuilding their homes and community.

Read online the news article reported by Fairbanks’ Daily News-Miner at http://glnr.in/galenaflooding.

Ruth deGraaff, Alaska ACS volunteer and donations manager
Don Klinger Retires  
*After 14 Years in Idaho*

After 14 years in the Idaho Conference and more than 41 years working for the Adventist Church, Don Klinger has retired and moved with his wife, Linda, to Post Falls, where he is enjoying time with two of his grandchildren and planning to complete coursework as a certified specialist in planned giving (CSPG).

The Klingers began their ministry as a pastoral couple in Indiana, then moved on to serve in the Chesapeake and New York conferences. He was elected to the position of vice president for administration in Idaho Conference in 1999. He also served as director of the communication and planned giving/trust services departments. Under his leadership, the planned giving/trust services program has maintained Level A accreditation with the Adventist Church, which helps to ensure that members who leave a portion of their estate to the conference can be certain of a high level of professionalism and competency.

Klinger was very involved in the planning of this year’s evangelistic camp meeting with Dwight Nelson. When he announced his retirement plans, David Prest Jr., Idaho Conference president, asked him to stay until camp meeting was over.

An outdoor reception was held on Sabbath afternoon, June 15, during camp meeting to give church members an opportunity to say farewell. More than 100 attended and enjoyed visiting with the Klingers under the shade of the trees.

A few weeks earlier, Brian Yeager, Barefoot Media Ministries (radio ministry of KTSY, KTFY and KTSJ) president, along with the staff and operating board, which Klinger chaired, honored Klinger for his service and support.

Eve Rusk, Idaho Conference assistant communication director

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Nampa VBS  
*Brings Kids to Sabbath School*

The Nampa Church presented its fourth annual Vacation Bible School program, “Answers in Genesis Kingdom Chronicles,” in June.

During the week, 103 kids walked into a medieval castle and started learning right away about two different kingdoms … good and evil. They were taught how they could be a part of the good kingdom by putting on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6). Through drama, testimonials, songs, crafts, snacks and Bible stories they learned about “The Battle for Truth.” Forty-four percent received perfect attendance “Armor of God” pins, which encouraged the kids to come back each night.

Forty-nine percent of the attendees came from non-church backgrounds; 20 percent were from other denominations. Attendance averaged about 72 children per night, and those from the community, along with their parents, commented that they have been coming every year and look forward to participating.

Pam Day, VBS leader, along with 56 adults and teens, helped the program to be a hit. In the four years of presenting the VBS programs, some of the children have returned to Sabbath School and have asked their parents to bring them to church.

All enjoyed the grand finale on Sabbath morning, June 29, which included a timely message from David Prest Jr., Idaho Conference president, and culminated with a delicious potluck.

Shirley Maxwell, Nampa Church communication leader
Mount Ellis Academy Welcomes New Staff

After several months of rigorous searching the Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) operating board has hired Bruce Lane as interim principal. Lane has a background of more than 40 years in Adventist education, both as an administrator and instructor, including seven years teaching science at MEA in Bozeman.

MEA board chairman Merlin Knowles has confidence in the decision. “I am grateful to God for leading us to Bruce,” he says. “We considered a number of qualified candidates, but for right now we feel impressed Bruce is the person God has in mind for Mount Ellis.”

The positive spirit was echoed by former principal Darren Wilkins. “Bruce was the science teacher at MEA when I first joined the team, and he has a deep love for this school and a tremendous ability to lead students and staff spiritually and academically,” says Wilkins.

Lane’s career spans time at Greater Miami Academy and two schools in Hawaii, plus seven years as administrator of the Adventist school system in the Marshall Islands.

MEA welcomed Lane and his family the first time in 1996. During his seven years at MEA, Lane observed something different. “The desire and commitment of the staff and community to support the school and produce a quality Adventist education product made a lasting impression,” says Lane.

Coming out of retirement to answer the call to MEA was a relatively easy decision for Lane. “In my experience MEA is unique. I love what MEA did for my girls (both of whom are MEA alums — Noel in ’99 and Wendy in ’10), and I am appreciative of this opportunity to return and be a part of the MEA family once more.”

MEA has also hired Chad Moffit as the new athletic director. Moffit grew up in Michigan and graduated from what is now Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn., where he obtained his bachelor’s degree in health, physical education and recreation. He and his wife, Noelle, have two daughters.

Additionally MEA has hired five part-time and task force employees, including Jaime Woodall as assistant girls’ dean, Ian Bilinowich and Matt Price as assistant boys’ deans, Sarah Holloway as assistant maintenance director, and Carolyn Beardsley, who will be assisting in the cafeteria. Three of these new assistants are MEA alumni.

Bruce Lane traded in warmer climates and suspended retirement for a return to Mount Ellis Academy, this time as principal.

Havre Church Holds Worship Outdoors

The annual Havre Church campout occurred July 19–21, in beautiful Beaver Creek Park in the stunning Bear Paw Mountains. The perfect weather and accompaniment of bird songs added to the worship atmosphere. Brandon Law taught the Sabbath School lesson, and Phillip Neuharth, pastor, presented the sermon. A potluck lunch and an afternoon of fellowship followed the services. What can be greater than worshiping the Creator in the midst of His beautiful creation?

Leo Beardsley, Havre Church communication leader
Living Word Church youth spend a day in Portland’s Pioneer Courthouse Square to offer free hugs, books and blood-pressure checks.

The main attraction was a booth with the heading “Book of the Year — Free,” which offered free copies of The Great Controversy. Beside it was a booth that was doing free blood-pressure checks, also organized and run by the youth group. All around the booths other members of the youth group held signs that read “I love Portland,” “Smile” and “Free Hugs.” The day was at first chilly and void of people, but near lunchtime the sun came out and the people came out smiling. Almost all passersby were up for a free hug, and many of the elderly people were keeping the blood pressure booth busy. Although they were distributed for free, the books were only given to the people that specifically asked for a copy.

The youth group ended up staying at Pioneer Square from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It was a huge success. Everyone was tired, but everyone was also smiling. They all brightened up Pioneer Square and Portland that day, handing out nearly 140 copies of The Great Controversy. It was a miraculous day, and the youth closed with a prayer of thanks and request that the people who took the book would be especially blessed by it. It was a great day of witnessing and sharing how awesome God’s love is and how it fills everyone with joy.

Mark Paraschuk, Living Word Church member

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LATEST GLEANER ENEWSLETTER FREE TO YOUR EMAIL INBOX EACH WEEK.
Ministry is a focus of the Grants Pass Church, especially in recent months. This was highlighted on Aug. 3, when the foyer became the scene of Ministry Expo. Four-teen tables were set up, and 28 of the many ministries within the church were represented.

At this Ministry Expo, members were able to connect with various ministry leaders and ask questions. What exactly does the motorcycle ministry do? When does the new Pathfinder year start? How may ladies serve in women’s ministries? Members were encouraged to sign up and get involved in ministry.

The sermon by Christian Martin, Grants Pass Church pastor, led into the expo, emphasizing the importance of serving in a ministry. He spoke of Jeremiah and his reluctance to serve because of his age (at first). God is precise when He calls us to serve though. Jeremiah was just the person to bring attention to the incredible sins of the people. We are not called to be prophets as Jeremiah was; however, we are all called to serve.

Martin stressed that each member has a role to fill in the body of Christ, His church. Martin told the congregation that his role was to help equip each person for ministry. He then dismissed the congregation to explore Ministry Expo and get involved.

Jennifer Burkes, Grants Pass Church communication leader

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The “Son Surf” beach-bash Vacation Bible School was held at the Gladstone Park Church during the afternoons of Aug. 5–9 for children ages 3–12. VBS leader Connie Durbin says 36–40 children attended — some who don’t normally attend church and others from the local Adventist community.

When the children registered, they were each given an identification name card and colored hat that told in which group, labeled by animals like starfish and dolphins, they would be. Every day a pin was issued for attendance.

Group leaders wearing white marine hats took the groups into the church sanctuary for group worship. Daily songs and skits were led by Grace Dow and “Admiral” Connie Durbin, VBS leader.

After worship all the young people went to a scene on the beach where Bob Uhrig, Gladstone Park Church pastor, led out in teaching Bible lessons. One day he taught about foot washing, and all the children and their parents participated.

Then the leaders took the children to crafts and games. The 3- and 4-year-olds headed to the cradle room. Sheri Uhrig led out. In crafts, children made take-home projects like sand art, sun catchers, kites, sock seals and memory boxes under Lori Azrak’s supervision. Games leader Dean Ringering taught the children about good health by enjoying races and games outside in God’s nature.

At the end of each day, the groups returned to the sanctuary to review what they had learned, learn memory verses and sing songs.

Richard Cook, Gladstone Park Church communication leader
Sunnyside Church Presents Living Last Supper

Portland's Sunnyside Church presented *The Living Last Supper* during its worship services on June 22. This beautiful reenactment of the Lord's Last Supper as depicted in the painting by Leonardo da Vinci was written and arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram.

Thirteen actors from Sunnyside and other area churches brought this inspiring presentation to life. The event included 31 additional participants, including a stage crew, a vocal ensemble and the Sunnyside Chamber Orchestra.

In the past, this performance at Sunnyside has been presented on the eve of Easter. This year it was reenacted during a Sabbath worship service for the first time as the culmination of the spiritual series, The Seven Sayings at the Cross. During the series’ nearly two months, the pastoral staff brought to life Jesus’ sacrifice at Calvary with sermons that provided a humbling journey of love, compassion, forgiveness and sacrifice.

Ivonne Allen, Sunnyside Church communication leader

Milo Welcomes New Staff

Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek has started the new school year with the theme, “MILO: Ministering in Love to Others,” based on Romans 12:10, “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.”

Among Milo’s seven new staff members are Burney and Jennifer Culpepper, who come from Bass Memorial Academy in Mississippi. As athletic director, Burney teaches PE, health, government and economics, with the goal of representing Christ. Jennifer is the head girls’ dean. She, like Burney, is convinced that God has led them and their four children to Milo.

A pastor with a master’s degree in theology, Joel Navarro is serving as assistant boys’ dean. His experience pastoring two churches will serve him well in creating a spiritual atmosphere in the dorm and meeting his goal of leaving the place better than he found it. Like her husband, Martha Navarro is serving as an assistant dean. She too felt a calling from God to continue her ministry at Milo while gaining experience working with young people.

Chad Reisig, new Milo Church pastor, comes from South Salem Church and feels that God has been training him for such a place as this. He anticipates watching the whole student body and staff get lit up by the Holy Spirit this year.

Dale Milam is not a new face on campus; students and staff are delighted to welcome him back after a two-year hiatus. He is glad to return to this setting where he can experience the joy and meaningfulness of working directly with the students. He sees that time is short, and he wants to do all he can on this frontline in the ministry of reaching kids for Jesus.

Coral Donavan began directing the horse program in January. She has overseen the transformation of the old Thunderbird Wood Products building into a new horse barn. A riding arena and new stables were created over the summer. See pictures of the beautiful new facility by visiting the Milo Horse Program Facebook page.

Nancy Starr, Milo Adventist Academy GLEANER correspondent
New Teachers Join PAA Staff

Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) introduces three new teachers.

Steve Lemke joins the PAA religion department from East Salem Church, where he was associate pastor as well as youth pastor for a combined 10 years. Lemke received his Master of Divinity from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., and a Bachelor of Science in education from Walla Walla University. He is married to Laurel (Duffield) Lemke, a PAA graduate.

Kelli Rosenquist is teaching advanced placement calculus. Rosenquist received her master's degree in mathematics education from Syracuse (N.Y.) University. She taught math for many years before taking time off to raise her three children. She graduated from PAA in 1993.

Tony Nakashima will be teaching individualized algebra, algebra 1 and integrated science classes. Nakashima is already a familiar face to PAA students. He was on staff two years ago and has served as a substitute teacher for several years. He graduated from PAA in 2005.

Rivergate Welcomes New Teachers

Rivergate Adventist Elementary School in Gladstone began the school year under new leadership and with two new teachers.

The school community welcomed Chris Tait as principal, replacing Ann Campbell, who is now principal of Rogue Valley Adventist School in Medford. Tait is transitioning from his role as principal of Emerald Christian Academy (ECA) in Pleasant Hill.

Tait, who was also the main teacher for grades six through 10 during his three years at ECA, is teaching sixth grade at Rivergate, in addition to his leadership role. “I am so excited about the family atmosphere here at Rivergate. I have heard about it since the day I was introduced to the school,” says Tait. “We are all part of God’s family, and for that to be present in a school is how it should be.”

The fifth-grade classroom also has a new face, as Kristina Nagele joins the Rivergate team from Scappoose Adventist School, where she taught everything from kindergarten to fifth grade during her eight years there. “I am looking forward to learning new techniques and gaining fresh ideas about teaching,” Nagele says.

The school family is just as excited. “We are pleased that Chris and Kristina are joining our school. They both represent the character and dedication to Christian education that Rivergate has displayed over the years,” says Robert Kramer, school board chairman. “We are excited to add them to our family and look forward to the passion they bring in teaching and leading Rivergate in educational excellence.”
His Travelers Share the Forgotten Son

A sober little Native American girl sat alone, looking down. After His Traveler team member Rachel Rogers discovered a bee sting was the cause of the girl’s tears, she sat down beside her and asked, “Would you like me to tell you a story?” The little girl brightened and her pain paled as she heard for the first time the story of David and Goliath. “Is this story true?” she asked. “Oh, yes,” Rachel assured her. “This story is from the Bible, God’s Word.”

In a small, depressed community in Oregon with a local Adventist church attendance under 15, a young mother with four children confided to a Vacation Bible School team member, “I must begin bringing my children to this church.” Each evening in Benton City, Wash., a community without an Adventist church, 17 children eagerly gathered for music, good food, stories from God’s Word and crafts. Each morning team members launched into a project to benefit the community or homes of older residents including weeding and landscaping the Lion’s Club hall.

“Our guest speaker for Sabbath had to cancel at the last minute (his wife broke both legs),” explains one church member, “so I asked the His Travelers team if they could ‘do church.’ They did — and a good job too.” Creation Daycamp brought 70-plus children to Rathdrum, Idaho, and 30 to Otis Orchards, Wash., for breakfast, a puppet show and daily animal guests including a yak and wolves. Most of the children attending have no religious training in their homes.

Welcome to the world of His Travelers 2013. This summer three His Travelers teams comprised of three young adults each journeyed to 21 communities in Washington, Idaho and Oregon to provide a week’s support to VBS/day camps, community outreach, and pre-teen and teen mentoring. In most areas the church leaders carefully plan the children’s program, provide room and board for the team, and organize outreach projects. Surprising adventures await these teams as they share their musical and artistic talents, energy, organizational and decorating skills, and most importantly love of Jesus.

Veteran His Traveler Raimona White encouraged one Sunnyside, Wash., VBS attendee to share a memory verse up front. With a microphone close to her lips the little girl clearly recited, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only ‘forgotten’ Son.”

Ask any His Travelers team member, and you’ll be assured the privilege was theirs to share this “forgotten Son” with hundreds of children, teens and families this summer.

For more information about His Travelers, contact Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference children’s ministries director, at Pattym@uccsda.org or like His Travelers on Facebook.

Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference children’s ministries coordinator
KEEH-FM Hosts ‘All About Jesus’
at Spokane’s Riverfront Park

Spokane’s largest park may be government property, but for eight evenings this past August it was again God’s property and a place where praise music and presentations “All About Jesus” were heard.

From Aug. 2–9, local praise leaders from different denominations led music while being joined by Lee Venden, Adventist pastor and speaker, who presented an evening series based on his testimony of the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually knowing Jesus.

Spearheaded by Upper Columbia Conference-housed radio station KEEH-FM, the event planning began more than a year in advance as permission was sought to hold the Christian event on city property. Radio station organizers had their faith tested the first night as, in spite of it being one of the driest summers on record, a storm blew rain into town hours before kickoff.

Undeterred, praise leader Bruce Christensen from Camp MiVoden in Hayden, Idaho, opened with “Give Me Jesus,” and the event went forward with a small crowd. By the next evening perfect summer weather had returned. With the sun, the attendance also rose to an average of 200 visitors a night and peaked at 350 as many passersby enticed by free ice cream stopped and heard about Jesus.

Ultimately, God knows best, as the rain turned out to be a blessing when the park director decided to move the event from a soggy, corner “bowl” to the main meadow — a high foot-traffic and beautiful setting perfect for praising God next to the Spokane River and clock tower.

After the event, one of the attendees called Positive Life Radio with his testimony. “I want to share with you what your meetings in Riverfront Park meant to me,” the man said. “After being at All About Jesus at Riverfront I decided to open up and try praying in a personal way, not just with my usual list of requests. I experi-

enced the Holy Spirit and felt a new peace.”

At the conclusion of the eight nights, one visiting church member remarked, “When evangelism is held at a church, it is often 90 percent members attending. This event held at the park had about 90 percent visitors attending.” The KEEH-FM staff hopes this event served as a unique and new avenue to spread the good news of Jesus to their “neck of the woods.”

KEEH, heard at 104.9 FM, is a listener-supported radio ministry and a member of the station partnership called Positive Life Radio. KEEH has been recently ranked as high as the third station overall and first among women in its market, reaching both the Spokane, Wash., and the Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, regions with contemporary Christian music uplifting Jesus.

Darin Patzer, KEEH-FM manager

This was the first series in a public park for Lee Venden, who normally gives All About Jesus seminars at churches throughout the Northwest.
UCC Hispanic Camp Meeting
Held at Walla Walla Valley

“Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”
Phil. 2:11

More than 1,200 people attend the Upper Columbia Conference Hispanic Camp Meeting at Walla Walla Valley Academy in College Place, Wash.

More than 1,200 church members attended the Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) Hispanic Camp Meeting held at Walla Walla Valley Academy in College Place, Wash., June 26–29. The guest speaker was Hermes Tavera-Bueno, a writer and pastor, who spoke about prosperity in Christ.

Five speakers ministered to the youth, who camped on the grounds of the academy and enjoyed the exciting sports, social and spiritual activities. Hugo Yin provided vocal music for the event.

In addition to the devotionals and worship services, there were training seminars to help with the spiritual growth of the attendees. David Paczka, Oregon Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, presented the More Than Rich seminar, based on the book of the same title, which he wrote in collaboration with Roger Hernández. Tavera-Bueno presented Christ: Believe Him, Experience Him, Enjoy Him, while Gerizín De Peña presented the Lay Evangelists seminar and Alvin Payne taught the Sons in the Faith workshop.

At the conclusion of the Sabbath, attendees enjoyed recreational activities in the academy gym.

The camp meeting was organized by Walter Pintos-Schmidt, UCC Hispanic ministries coordinator. Paul Hoover, UCC president, visited during the Sabbath morning meetings. Pintos-Schmidt depended on the help of other contributors, including Vania Schimpf, administrative assistant; Claudio Díaz and Austin Nystrom, pastors; and the eight UCC Hispanic pastors.

Alfredo Campechano, Spokane/Othello (Wash.) Hispanic churches district pastor
Students Share Faith in Seattle Area

The sun was beating down on Amir Davis as he walked along the roads of Olympia with his canvassing bag slung over his shoulder. Like many other young people, he had devoted his summer to sharing his faith through literature evangelism.

He knocked on a door and was greeted by a young woman named Brigid who seemed eager to look at the books Davis showed her. Unbeknownst to him, an hour before, she and her husband, Brian, had just been praying that God would somehow help them draw closer to Him. Suddenly, Davis was there with Christian books and an offer to sign up for personal Bible studies.

As the interest coordinator for the program, my job was to make sure all the study interests were followed up. The next week I spent more than an hour sitting in their living room, answering questions about how to understand the Bible and how we know God is with us.

A month or so later, I texted Brigid asking how things were going and if she was able to start studies. She responded, “Oh, yes, seriously you and God couldn’t of picked a better couple to help us. I’m so grateful for you and them.”

Reflecting on the experience, Davis says, “God brings us to His sheep that are looking for Him.” We have seen this over and over this summer as God has brought us in contact with so many people who are hungering for truth.

The team of 20 students visited 105,000 homes, distributing 13,382 books and collecting donations of more than $118,000. Approximately 60,000 GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tracts were shared, and 197 Bible study interests are being followed up.

Joel Sutherland, Youth Rush interest coordinator

Students in Washington Youth Rush knock on doors in western Washington to share Christian literature, talk about Jesus, pray with new friends and earn scholarship money.

Join us in praying for 64 churches who are presenting 100 Bible prophecy seminars for Reach Seattle Metro beginning Oct. 4.

DISCOVER MORE: WASHINGTONCONFERENCE.ORG
Auburn Graduate Receives Gates Millennium Scholarship

Joseph Englehart discovered his passion in high school: engineering. He excelled in math and science, maintained a high grade point average and worked hard.

While a senior at Auburn Adventist Academy, Englehart applied for the Bill Gates Millennium Scholarship. He hoped to focus on his studies in college instead of working and having his self-employed mother work more to pay for his education.

Out of the 54,000 students who applied, Englehart was one of the 1,000 students who were selected for scholarship. This full scholarship provides for tuition, room and board, travel, and a monthly stipend for living expenses.

"I enjoy applying myself to practical learning," writes Englehart in one of his application essays. "I excel in subjects such as math, science and various practical arts. I tend to clearly understand subjects that can be used in real-life situations."

Englehart loves physics and engineering because he found that they were applicable to his life and he could easily comprehend their foundations. This path was something he finds to be practical and interesting in life.

As he was growing up, Englehart remembers working with his role-model grandfather who was a craftsman and handyman. His grandfather’s memory now motivates Englehart to pursue his passion.

"Joe was a living example of what a teenage Christian should be: honest," says Tom Allen, teacher and mentor. "He didn't try to look like others; he was his own original copy."

With the aid of the scholarship, Englehart plans to double major in engineering and aviation as he begins his studies at Walla Walla University.

Ashley Choi, Auburn Adventist Academy student

Drama Shares Gospel Powerfully at Sunset Lake Camp

After a day full of fun, campers at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson made their way to the horse barn to see the drama unfold in a four-night play. With horses grazing and the sun about to set, they learned the age-old story of Ruth, set during America’s Wild West.

This year’s play, The Beautiful Outlaw, is the 14th play written by David Yeagley, camp director. “Drama is a powerful means of sharing the gospel in the camp setting,” Yeagley says.

“Each night the campers are drawn into the story while their hearts are naturally opened to the working of God’s Spirit.”

The four-night play was just a small part of what happened at camp this year. More than $27,000 was donated to the Worthy Camper Scholarship Fund, an amazing blessing that gave more than 100 additional kids the opportunity to come to camp.

One camper, Ka'dee Comerford, wrote this in her letter of thanks: "The theme this year was ‘Wanted,’ and for the first time in my life I finally felt God for real … . I am truly enjoying studying the Bible and learning more about who God is."

“Thank you for your continual support of the evangelism done at Sunset Lake,” says Yeagley. “Let it be our continual goal to show others how wanted they are by God.”

Sunset Lake Camp welcomes more than 1,000 campers each summer. This year, 225 young people made decisions for baptism.

Christine Betz, Sunset Lake Camp marketing and reservations coordinator

Hayden Cox
Filipino Church Gives Back to Neighborhood

Members of the Greater Seattle Filipino American Church joined hands together to serve their neighborhood through community outreach events this summer.

“The people in our community need to know that we care about them and their needs before our message becomes appealing to them,” says Eddie General, pastor. “These community outreach events are great ways for our church members to connect with the people in our neighborhood.”

The church members offered a free car wash on July 14. They also offered a free oil change on Aug. 11. While people were waiting for their cars, they were also offered a free health screening. Other church members talked to the people from the community and offered support through prayers.

“This is a great way to show God’s love to our neighbors,” says Rene Capiendo, church outreach community leader. This is the first year the local church has done a free car wash and oil change for the community. The church will definitely continue these community outreach events. The church is also exploring other ways to serve the community’s needs in the following months.

“What a blessing to be used by God to touch the lives of people who live right here in our community,” says Grace Gamponia, community services leader.

Lynnwood Members Distribute *The Great Controversy*

Lynnwood Church members spent several weeks this summer distributing books door to door in their local community.

The plan was to get copies of *The Great Controversy* into every household within two zip codes. The church decided to mail books to the larger of the two areas and then hand-deliver to the other. Initially 12,000 copies were mailed, then during the months of June, July and August the members hand-delivered 9,000 additional copies.

The participation was heartfelt and enthusiastic. Quite a number of youth were involved as well. Among them was Kirsten Clark, who found the project to be an exciting learning experience while a bit intimidating. “I learned how to talk to strangers, pray with people and have the excitement of going to scary places,” says Clark. “It was awesome.”

Project leader Ron Reeves later commented, “As we walked the neighborhoods, it gave us a sense of who the people are that we are to be serving. It also was great fellowship as we worked together. We believe the community around us is now better off for having the books. We know that as a church group we are healthier and happier for doing the work the Lord has invited us to share in.”

The project was completed in late August. After a short break to catch their breath, the members earnestly resumed their work for the Lord in planning and preparing for an evangelistic series their church will host this fall.

Rena Erickson, Lynnwood Church member
Introducing
THE NEW GRA

Children's Sabbath School Resource Gets a Makeover

Ministering to our children is an awesome and happy privilege. Every Sabbath morning, excited voices of children learning about God can be heard in churches all across the Northwest. They are engaging in the Bible story, developing a strong foundation in the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church — their church.

One widely used and respected resource for children's ministry leaders has been GraceLink, a Sabbath School curriculum of 624 lessons firmly grounded in Scripture.

A Sabbath School teacher from Tillamook, Ore., shares, “GraceLink is a great resource to make it easy to be a leader in children's ministries. I have been using it for the past eight years and find it gives me exactly what I need to be well prepared in sharing Jesus with the precious kids and their families.”

And a Sabbath School teacher from Beaverton, Ore., says, “I love the ideas in the GraceLink lessons. They always spark my imagination to expand on their ideas.”

AN INNOVATIVE IDEA

Oregon Conference is not the only area within the Northwest that values this innovative ministry resource. In churches throughout North America and beyond, few innovations over the years have had as much impact on children's ministries as GraceLink.

Introduced in the late 1990s, this comprehensive curriculum was designed to provide a more contemporary approach to children's Sabbath School.

The curriculum itself was new, focusing on leading our children into a grace-filled grasp of spiritual life and preparing them to be lifelong members of the church.

The design was new as well,
and a number of tools were developed, including a new website to provide support materials for teachers and to enable parents and children to access the new materials online.

NEW AND IMPROVED INNOVATION

Nothing, however, can be expected to be innovative forever. Now GraceLink has been completely rethought and refreshed in terms of modern end-users.

The following guidelines shaped the update:

1. A commitment to make the product visibly stronger, while losing none of the familiar texture and character. The intent was to make the program more flexible and current, but with the least possible disruption to a beloved product that was meeting the needs of our churches.

2. A determination to strengthen the networking aspects of GraceLink, with a renewed emphasis on parents and teachers. It is important to create new ways for the entire community to interact and benefit one another.

3. An intentional effort to maintain a sharp focus on the largest mission goals of the church. GraceLink isn’t just about children’s Sabbath School; ultimately it is about leading our children to the foot of the cross and helping them become lifelong Adventists.

A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT CHANGES

Out of this careful process came a number of important changes to meet the needs of our children:

- A new graphic approach for PowerPoint presentations: One change is a return to a more traditional graphics style in the illustrations for PowerPoint presentations — the junior-level part of the curriculum — with a stronger representational approach and a creative cross-generational appeal.

- A distinctive parents’ page: The intent is to provide content stated in adult terms, reminding teachers and parents that their gifts of time and effort are recognized as they work with children.

- A more obvious biblical chronology: Graphic symbols enable the participants to identify where the story fits into the biblical chronology.

- A more intentional focus on biblical prophecy: The distinctive Adventist emphasis on prophecy and the end times has been amplified and enhanced.

- Identification of fundamental Adventist beliefs: A new feature identifies which of the 28 fundamental beliefs of the church each particular lesson supports.

The new GraceLink adds a group of product augmentations that take into account our changing world and new forms of social interaction. It builds on what has gone before, without losing any of the richness that characterized the initial phase of the program.

Sherri Uhrig, Oregon Conference children’s ministries director
Walla Walla University (WWU) is proud to welcome eight new instructors for the 2013–14 academic school year. These instructors bring both academic and industry experience to the classroom and will help encourage excellence in thought at WWU.

Conna Bond is joining the School of Business as an assistant professor of business. Bond taught a class on business ethics last year with excellent student reviews. Previously, Bond served as editorial and marketing director at Bond Communication and Design, in addition to serving as communication director for Adventist-Laymen’s Services & Industries. Bond is a Whitman College graduate with a law degree from the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law.

Emilie Butler joins the School of Nursing’s Portland, Ore., campus as an instructor in nursing. A 2010 WWU graduate, Butler previously worked as a staff nurse at Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Karen Clausen-Brown is joining the English department as an assistant professor of English after completing her doctoral studies at the University of Notre Dame. Clausen-Brown is a 2007 WWU graduate.

Denise Dunzweiler comes to WWU from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines, where she was the dean of graduate studies. Dunzweiler joins the School of Education and Psychology as a professor of education. She obtained her master’s degree at Sonoma State University and a doctoral degree at Andrews University.

John Foster is a 2007 WWU graduate joining the mathematics department as an assistant professor of mathematics. He comes to WWU after completing doctoral studies at the University of Oregon.

Gerry Larson is the new athletic director and an instructor in health and physical education. Larson is finishing his Master of Education degree at University of Idaho. Previously, he worked in WWU’s marketing and enrollment department.

Joel Libby is a 2004 WWU graduate joining the art department as an instructor. Libby’s artwork has focused on portraiture and the human form, though he has woodworking and sculpture experience as well.

Kirt Onthank comes to WWU as an assistant professor of biology after completing his doctoral studies at Washington State University. Onthank obtained his undergraduate and master’s degrees from WWU.
Dick 65th
All five of Warren and Becky Dick's children and their children's families converged during a recent weekend to celebrate the couple's 65 years of marriage.

Warren and Becky were married on Sept. 14, 1948, in College Place, Wash. Among other things, Warren worked 32 years in conference treasury positions for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Becky is a registered nurse.

The Dicks have been retired for 25 years and live in Oregon City, Ore., where two of their daughters also live. The other three children, a daughter and two sons, live in Idaho, Colorado and California. Four grandchildren of academy and college age complete the family.

Pullen 90th
Florence "June" Colson was born June 30, 1923, in Glens Ferry, Idaho. Her father, James Boyd Colson, was a section foreman for the Union Pacific Railroad. June's family always lived in a house provided by the railroad. The floor plan was the same in every house, with the outside painted yellow with brown trim. June attended grades one through eight in Orchard, Idaho.

The family of six moved to Rogerson, Idaho, when June was about 9 years old, and she attended school through the eighth grade. It wasn't long before she was playing the piano every Sunday at the community church. She attended high school in Holister, Idaho.

June studied at Albion (Idaho) State Normal School and obtained teaching credentials. At the end of the first year, she returned home, this time to Nampa, where her father had been transferred.

James G. and Sherry (Crump) Pullen of Wichita, Kan.; Colleen M. (Pullen) and Ray Shaver of Medford, Ore.; 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Wade 50th
Bill Wade asked Lou Lou Scully, "What are you doing for the next 50 years? Would you like to spend them with me?" So here they are, 50 years later.

September was a big month for the Wades, not only because it was their anniversary but also because it is a miracle that Bill is still here. Four years ago (in September) Bill was diagnosed with an "incurable" brain cancer with a prognosis of six to 18 months to live. He came so close to dying that hospice and medical people thought he only had hours … but he is still here, four years later, thanks to God.

The Wades, who live in Lewiston, Idaho, have three great kids and three wonderful grandchildren. Their family includes Don Wade of Clarkston, Wash.; Lori Rock of Des Moines, Wash.; and Edie and Melissa (Clay) Wirtz, Liberty Lake, Wash.

ADAMS — Grizzly Paul was born June 13, 2013, to Michale and Twinkle (Schutt) Adams, Liberty Lake, Wash.

CAMPBELL-JACKSON — Madelyn Jeanine was born June 20, 2013, to Patty Campbell and Candice Jackson, Battle Ground, Wash.

CONNER — Ry'elle Imani Alejandra was born June 28, 2013, to Jordan and Kata-lina (Betancourt) Conner, Wenatchee, Wash.

CONSTABLE — Theodore Peter was born Nov. 10, 2012, to Monte and Katy Constable, Vancouver, Wash.

FERTIG — Brielle Ann-Marie was born July 27, 2013, to Devin and Alisha (Heinrich) Fertig, Bakersfield, Calif.

JELLISON — Lucus Craig was born May 29, 2013, to Forrest and Karina (Burotto) Jellison, Santa Monica, Calif.

JELLISON — Roman Addicus was born May 29, 2013, to Forrest and Karina (Burotto) Jellison, Santa Monica, Calif.

WIRTZ — Noah Elisha was born Aug. 16, 2013, to Jonathan and Melissa (Clay) Wirtz, Kirkland, Wash.

BROWN — Catherine Isabella (Balderston) Bettis, 88; born Dec. 19, 1924, Deer Park, Wash.; died April 1, 2013, La Mesa, Calif. Surviving: daughter, Susan Shultz, La Mesa; sister, Dorothy Rogers, Medford, Ore.; 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.


CULVER — Herman Clayton, 84; born Sept. 3, 1928, Great Falls, Mont.; died March 9, 2013, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Helen, Eagle, Idaho; son, William, Eagle; daughter, Sherry LaMott, Boise; sisters, Virginia Zimmerman, Pacific Palisades, Calif.; Cheryl Lindeman, Corpus Cristi, Texas; and Mary Culver, Caldwell, Idaho.


FLETCHER — Preston W., 62; born May 21, 1951, Memphis, Tenn.; died May 22, 2013, Concord, Calif. Surviving: wife, Rose (Pope), Pittsburg, Calif.; adopted son, Huridis Fortuna, Bonao, Dominican Republic; daughters, Melinda Fletcher and Hannah Joy Fletcher, both of San Jose, Calif.; mother, Evelyn Rost, Terre Haute, Ind.; brothers, Greg, Gladstone, Ore.; Jon, Portage, Wis.; and Chris, Oak Forest, Ill.


HEFFEL — Bonnie Jane, 88; born March 4, 1924, Council Bluffs, Iowa; died March 1, 2013, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: son, Donald Jr., Boise; daughter, Becky Bowker, Eagle, Idaho; 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

KEIGHTLEY — Karen Anne (Baker), 70; born March 18, 1943, McMinnville, Ore.; died June 14, 2013, McMinnville. Surviving: husband, Melvin, Dayton, Ore.; sons, John, Dayton; Tim, Twin Valley, Minn.; David, Newberg, Ore.; Philip, Dover, Fla.; Joe, of British Columbia, Canada; daughter, Lisa Austin, Big Sky, Mont.; brother, Marvin Baker, Tigard, Ore.; sister, Sue Trent, McMinnville; 9 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.


KRUEGER — Duane A., 76; born March 9, 1937, Heaton, N.D.; died June 14, 2013, Clackamas, Ore. Surviving: wife, Angie (Vietz); son, Kevin, College Place, Wash.; daughter, Tracey Krueger-Blehm, Clackamas; brother, Larry, Bismarck, N.D.; sister, Delores Gedrose, Beaverton, Ore.; 4 grandchildren.

LABIANCA — Olav, 89; born July 29, 1923, Oslo, Norway; died March 13, 2013, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: wife, Kirsten; sons, Oystein, Berrien Springs, Mich.; Tormod, Copenhagen, Denmark; daughter Anne Marie LaBianca, South Bend, Ind.; 8 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.


UUECK — Kurt, 73; born Jan. 10, 1940, Wautoma, Wis.; died June 15, 2013, Yuma, Ariz. Surviving: wife, Lorraine (Alder); sons, Darryl, Delta Junction, Alaska; Mark, Meadow Vista, Calif.; and 2 grandchildren.

North Pacific Union Conference

Offering
Oct. 5 — Local Church Budget;
Oct. 12 — Voice of Prophecy;
Oct. 19 — Local Church Budget;
Oct. 26 — Local Conference Advance.

North Pacific Union Conference Association
Official notice is hereby given that a Regular Membership Meeting of the North Pacific Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists is called for 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013, at Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash. The membership is comprised of the members of the North Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee. The purpose of the Regular Membership Meeting is to hear reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Max Torkelsen II, president
Kimberley Schroeder, secretary

More upcoming events listed at gleaneronline.org/events.

Walla Walla University

Oct. 7-12 — Week of Worship, The One Project speakers;
Oct. 10-12 — Fall Classic, academy soccer and volleyball tournament, wallawalla.edu/fallclassic;
Oct. 16 — Service Day, students, faculty, staff join community service projects;
Oct 25-27 — Families of current Walla Walla University students are invited to the WWU main campus for Family Weekend. Come participate in class visits, student missions vespers, Sabbath seminars, music events, and a complimentary Sabbath dinner with John and Pam McVay. For more information, see wallawalla.edu/family-weekend or call the Office of Advancement at 800-377-2586;
Oct. 27 — AGA Breast Cancer Run, raise support for local cancer center.

Oregon

Simply Cooking
Oct. 10 — Simply Cooking, a plant-based cooking series presented by Ronni Reinecke, will feature all things gravy. Good Gravy is the title of her presentation, which starts at 6:30 p.m. This free class includes demonstrations, vegan recipe handouts, samples and cooking tips. Please join us and share your plant-based cooking tips. Location: 7531 Old Pacific Hwy. N., Castle Rock, Wash. Reserve your spot by calling Wanda at 360-967-2165.

Oregon Milo Alumni Weekend

Sharon Church Second Annual Homecoming Celebration
Oct. 26-27 — Connecting people to the promise with speaker Terry Johnson. At the Sharon Church, 5209 NE 22nd Ave., Portland, Ore. For more information, call 503-287-7649 or email sharonhomecoming2013@gmail.com.

Upper Columbia

Upper Columbia Academy Alumni Homecoming
Oct. 4-5 — All former staff and students and their families are invited back to enjoy a weekend of fellowship, food and fun. Honored classes end in 3 and 8. Contact the alumni office for further information at 509-245-3692 or alumni@ucaaa.org.

Washington

LeMay Car Museum
Nov. 10 — SAGE will ride down memory lane at the new LeMay-America’s Car Museum in Tacoma on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. More than 350 vehicles are displayed at one time. The new museum campus is located adjacent to the Tacoma Dome alongside Interstate 5. Group tickets are $10 each. SAGE will meet as a group at 1:30 p.m. at the group check-in counter.

SAGE Reunion Day Sabbath
Jan. 25, 2014 — You are invited to attend a delightfully special SAGE Sabbath for a wonderful time of worship, mission stories, fellowship, food, singing and reminiscing. Bring your favorite salad and/or dessert, and SAGE will provide the rest. The Sabbath program will be held at the Washington Conference Auditorium at 32229 Weyerhaeuser Way South, Federal Way, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our featured speaker, Maranatha missions storyteller Dick Duerksen, will bring to life amazing, true Bible stories that will keep you listening — and then keep you talking about God.

SAGE China Tour
April 15-30, 2014 — Outstanding 15-day itinerary that includes Beijing, Xi’an, Yangtze River, Wuhan, Guilin and Shanghai, airline passage, deluxe hotels and transportation, professional guides, two meals per day. Only 25 spots available. Call Joan at 253-681-6018 for more in-depth details on the exciting tour itinerary.
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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a faculty member for a clinical director for speech-language pathology and audiology. Qualified candidates should have a master’s degree in speech-language pathology. For more information and to apply, visit andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

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John McVay; Bob Cushman, v.p. for academic administration; Steven G. Rose, v.p. for financial administration; David Richardson Jr., v.p. for student life and mission; Jodeene Wagner, v.p. for university relations and advancement, 204 S. College Ave., College Place WA 99324-1198; (509) 527-2066; www.wallawalla.edu.

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STEPS OF PAUL IN GREECE TOUR, July 7-17, 2014, with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Rediscover the gospel following the steps of Paul in Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth and more. For more information, visit wallawalla.edu/bibletour or email carl.cosaert@wallawalla.edu.

It should have been a simple task, but approaching strangers has never been my strong point. So when I finally made the effort, and she turned in my direction, all intelligent thought abandoned ship.

Now, such thought often abandons my ship at the most inconvenient times. In my experience, cogent cognizance can seldom be reserved ahead of time. And this time I had no such reservation.

It was in fact a work assignment, and I was rapidly mucking it up. In my first career out of college as a public relations assistant for Glendale Adventist Medical Center, I often scouted for photo and story opportunities. On this particular day I was at our affiliate hospital. With a relatively low patient count, it was nirvana for any Hollywood producer who wished to build a movie set without disrupting IVs or endangering patients. The scheduled shoot for the day included several well-known celebrities in hospital scenes for the movie *Nine to Five*. This was indeed a very long time ago.

My mission was to take photographs of the action without creating a disturbance in the force, the director, the actors or hospital staff. I decided to approach one of the famous folk to introduce myself and purpose for being on the set. So it was that I approached the person I deemed to be the friendliest, most outgoing member of the cast — Dolly Parton. Yet as she turned toward me, the glib script I had mentally practiced vanished. Overcome by star power my mind went blank. She patiently listened to a few seconds of my verbal flailing until it was obvious my thoughts had little hope of arriving at a conclusion anytime soon. In her characteristic Southern cadence, she broke in and patted me maternally on the shoulder: “Well, you just go ahead and do whatever it is you do. I won’t bite.” I let my camera do the talking for the rest of the afternoon.

I have since learned I’m not alone in an inability to consistently have brilliant pearls dropping off the tongue. The vestiges of my early struggles with stuttering, when the effort to say “please pass the peas” at the table was uncomfortably akin to attempting a 100-yard dash in four feet of water, are still with me.

Decades later, my hesitancy to join a heated debate or one-up someone with a punch line stems from a lingering tendency to stumble out of the gate. By the time I’ve come up with the words, the opportune moment has passed. Perhaps I am in some small, insignificant way a compatriot of Moses, who resisted the very call of God due to his verbal insecurity.

But God sometimes works just as well or, strangely enough, even better with our insecurities and weaknesses than in our areas of self-assured competency. The Bible assures us that “His strength is made perfect in our weakness.” And even in our most intimate moments with God, in prayer, the “Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Rom. 8:26).


You may respond to any GLEANER topic by sending an email to: talk@gleaneronline.org.
The **GLEANER** 2014 Images of Creation nature photo contest rules are:

1. **Vertical** photos (up to 15 digital entries) may be submitted for consideration to be featured on page two of the **GLEANER** magazine. Winning entries for the print edition of the **GLEANER** will receive $200 per photo. Each winning photo will also appear online within the corresponding archived issue of the magazine.

2. **Horizontal** photos (up to 15 digital entries) may be submitted for consideration to be featured on the new **GLEANER** website as Photo of the Week. The photographer's name and a link to his/her website (optional) will be displayed with the Photo of the Week. After the photo is featured, a version of the image will be archived on the **GLEANER** website.

3. Only images of nature scenes taken within the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington will be considered.

4. Winning entries from past years are no longer eligible for submission.

5. Photos should be at least 2000px x 2600px (or 2600px x 2000px), approximately 2MB or larger.

6. Photos should be submitted as JPG or TIFF files.

7. All entries must be in high resolution digital format. Slides will no longer be accepted as valid entries. Professionally scanned digital files from slide originals may be considered.

8. Include with your entries a typewritten letter with the following information: full name, mailing address, day and evening phone numbers, email address, website, each photo's file name, corresponding photo title and photo location.

9. Photographers should be prepared to supply model releases for any recognizable people appearing in winning entries.

10. Entries may be submitted via CD/DVD or a Dropbox link:

    - The disk should be clearly labeled with "2014 Images of Creation Photo Contest" and the photographer's name. Mail or deliver it to 5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642. Disks will be destroyed once the contest is complete unless indicated they should be returned.

    - Or email a Dropbox link to gleaner@nw.npuc.org.

The deadline for entries is 5 p.m., Thursday, **Nov. 7, 2013**.
Pray for Seattle

Northwest Day of Prayer
Sabbath, September 28

Imagine nearly 100,000 Northwest Adventists praying together for one purpose. You are invited to join the Northwest Prayer Team on September 28 to pray for the blessing of the Holy Spirit on Reach Seattle Metro and its guests, speakers, volunteers and churches.

The effort to reach our largest Northwest city for Jesus is underway. More than 1.2 million handbills entered Seattle-area homes this fall. More than 60 churches throughout the city and neighboring communities will begin 100-plus Bible prophecy meetings on October 4. Your prayers are valued!

Let's join together in prayer for Reach Seattle Metro on September 28 and throughout October. Discover more at npuc.org/prayer.