The Pathfinder Bible Experience

The Gospel of Matthew

2015 NPUC Pathfinders Delve Into Scripture
“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.”

Matt. 6:28
hat picture comes to your mind when you see the word “church”? For many of us, we see a picture of the local church building where we worship on a weekly basis. Or we may think of the office buildings where the various levels of church governance are located. But in fact what should come to mind is the members of the church — the people with whom we worship and others who are part of the larger fellowship of believers around the world.

The word “church” is the English translation of the word “ekklesia,” which literally means “called out ones.” We who are members of the church are the “called out ones” who faithfully love and serve our Master, Jesus Christ.

Providentially, every one of us has been blessed with spiritual gifts that are given “… for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:12–13; see also 1 Cor. 12:1–31).

As I have opportunity to travel around the Pacific Northwest, I am always blessed to discover church members who are in unique and special ways exercising their spiritual gifts to the glory of God. I want to share with you briefly the story of four of these special people.

**ROD AND BRENDA RAU** have been serving the people of Alaska for nearly 20 years. Rod is the principal/teacher of our church school in Dillingham. They have gained the confidence of this community, where it takes a kind of rugged individualism to survive the harsh climate and challenging living conditions. The school has prospered, with a current enrollment of 25, and everyone is rejoicing with the completion of a new gymnasium that is a welcome option for getting physical exercise during the many wintry days. Rod and Brenda are representative of the hundreds of denominational employees who faithfully serve the church across our union.

**TYLI WRIGHT** is a young woman who grew up in a rural part of the Montana Conference. She had the opportunity to attend a series of meetings held by our North Pacific Union Conference evangelist, Brian McMahon. McMahon said, “No matter who we are, no matter what we are, the words of Scripture were given by God and written down for the purpose of finding a home in our hearts and minds.” Tyli has assembled a beautiful collection of Bible texts that will aid in fortifying the mind for the days in which we are living. It is a collection of 390 full-color Scripture memory cards that fit easily into pocket or purse. They can make it possible for you to “be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). Her website is [FaithCache.com](http://www.FaithCache.com).

**DAVID RONK** is a bivocational pastor working with the New Plymouth Church in Ontario, Ore., which is part of the Idaho Conference. For 20 years he has been doing prison ministry at the Snake River Correctional Facility (the largest prison in the state of Oregon, with more than 3,000 inmates) on Wednesday evenings and Sabbath afternoons. During this time he has seen more than 160 individuals baptized as a result of his efforts and to the glory of God.

What is your spiritual gift? Are you actively engaged in using those gifts to reach the world for Jesus? Thank you for your dedication to the ministry and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in these last days of Earth’s history.

Max Torkelsen, North Pacific Union Conference president
WANTED: COUNTERCULTURE YOUTH

[Regarding “Millennials and the Church,” March 2015] You say that today’s youth are disinclined toward your church. The reason is obvious. This culture has turned more and more away from Christianity — especially Bible-based Protestantism — for almost a century. And during those times when it temporarily returned, such as during the early Cold War or when it had joined in the publicizing of the rapture cult, it has been because it was wanted for some immediate political purpose by those in power. Instead of trying to be relevant, why not appeal to those youths who reject this culture, its leaders, its heroes, etc.? This is a minority to be sure, but altogether their numbers must be great. The present culture only wants to destroy you.

Peter Erickson, Vancouver, Wash.

THE GOSPEL NEEDS MILLENNIALS

[Regarding “Oregon Churches on a Millennial Mission,” March 2015] A hundred years ago, my wife’s parents landed on the island of Cebu in the Philippines. He was 24, a self-supporting colporteur, and she was 20, a recent high school graduate. He was very successful in selling his Adventist books. Within a couple of years he was training Filipino colporteurs and conducting colporteur institutes. For over a hundred years, printed literature has been one of our primary tools for spreading the gospel. Today we live in a digital age; the printed page is rapidly disappearing. It is being replaced with smartphones, iPods and iPads, on which users can be instantly be connected to much of the information in the world. After a vision in 1848, Ellen White said to her husband, “I have a message for you. You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people . . . . From this small beginning, it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world.” We do not know what she actually saw in the vision; she had to describe it in terms of what she knew. But could it be that the streams of light that she saw were fiber optics? or streams of digital information being transmitted by laser beams? Incidentally, Ellen White was 21 and James was 27 when she gave him this message. At that time, writing/printing and the spoken word were the only means of communication. Radio came into use 70 years after this statement was made, and television about a 100 years after. The public use of the Internet started about 1995 — that is only 20 years ago. If ISIS can successfully use the Internet and social media to get recruits, why not the church? We have a far greater message. The millennial generation is desperately needed by the church to generate new ideas and develop the new ways needed to finish the work of spreading the gospel around the world. To do this, we need them on our committees and boards at all levels of the church so that their ideas can be heard and implemented. I am a member of a church in the Portland area that is participating in Millennial Matrix 2, and I fully support the activity.

Harold Lang, Portland, Ore.
An NPUC-wide Pathfinder Bible Experience.
Who’s behind the woodpile in Brewster?

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Volunteering music for health care.

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A new focus on citywide ministries.

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS HAVE LONG AIMED TO BE ‘PEOPLE OF THE WORD.’ PATHFINDER CLUBS HAVE TAKEN THAT THEME TO HEART.

The “final judgment” room, where each club’s answers are finalized and scores are tabulated, is constantly abuzz with action during the event.
SIXTEEN EAGER PATHFINDER TEAMS FROM CLUBS AROUND THE NORTHWEST RAISED THEIR HANDS FOR THE PATHFINDER PLEDGE. THEY WERE READY FOR AN INTENSE AFTERNOON IN GLADSTONE, OREGON, ON SABBATH, MARCH 14 — THE 2015 NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE (NPUC) PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE.

For those unaccustomed to this annual excitement, here’s what it’s all about. Bible Experience teams in local Pathfinder clubs across North America work together to strengthen their knowledge of Bible truth. The events are focused each year on a specific portion of Scripture — usually an entire book of the Bible. The 2015 focus was the Gospel of Matthew.

There are four levels in the Bible Experience program. Teams are tested by regional areas in January and February and by conference in February. Those that correctly answer 90 percent of the questions at the conference level are eligible to participate in the NPUC-level exercise. In turn, those that achieve the first-place level there can take part in the final NAD-level event. Sponsors
work hard to minimize any sense of team-versus-team competition. Each group is issued an award commensurate with their efforts in understanding the Bible.

This year’s NPUC event featured 90 questions, such as, “According to Matthew 16:4, how did Jesus describe the generation that seeks a sign?” The answer? “Wicked and adulterous.” Or this one: “According to Matthew 23:12, what will happen to he who humbles himself? Be specific.” Those who answered “will be exalted” got it right.

Seventh-day Adventists have long desired to be “people of the Word.” Pathfinder clubs have taken that theme to heart. The annual Pathfinder Bible Experience events held throughout the Northwest are exercises that enable Adventist young people to delve into Scripture. The passionate interaction seen in the faces of these Northwest teams as they participated this year shows that more than rote knowledge is happening. Parents and Pathfinder leaders alike pray that this annual emphasis will allow many young people to plant a love for the Word of God down deep in their hearts.
The Wind Valley Arrows team receives congratulations for their first-place award.

Alphonso McCarthy, North Pacific Union Conference youth director, congratulates each team.

Wayne Hicks, longtime Pathfinder director for Upper Columbia Conference, is given special recognition ahead of his pending retirement.

Fort Vancouver Team B smiles about their first-place award.
El Dios a quien yo sirvo, fue el título del canto temática entonado por más de 2,500 personas cada noche durante la gran celebración evangelística: “Esperanza para mi Ciudad,” en Santiago de Cuba el pasado mes de diciembre. Con lágrimas en los ojos uno de los pastores participantes me comentó: “Este es un sueño hecho realidad. Por muchos años hemos estado orando para que Dios haga algo grande en esta ciudad. Lo que ha ocurrido esta semana es algo maravilloso. Estas reuniones han hecho un tremendo impacto, no solo en la hermandad adventista, sino también en la comunidad.”

Este evento se realizó mediante el esfuerzo de este pastor y otros colaboradores que impresionados por Dios y pensando en grande decidieron hacer un impacto en cuanto al desarrollo de la obra de Dios en Cuba. El pastor continuó diciendo, “El mensaje de los tres ángeles de Apocalipsis 14 debe llegar a todo rincón de la isla. Debemos aprovechar esta oportunidad que Dios nos ofrece.” ¿Pero qué fue lo que ocurrió en Cuba que hizo que este pastor estuviese tan emocionado?

Lo que ocurrió fue nada más y nada menos que un milagro del Dios a quien yo sirvo. Por primera vez en la historia de la Iglesia Adventista en Santiago de Cuba desde que entro el comunismo, se reunieron cerca de 3,000 personas en un solo lugar para adorar a Dios. Esta fue la primera vez que una iglesia cristiana pudo hacer uso de las instalaciones del Teatro Heredia y utilizarlo por esta ocasión para asuntos religiosos. Debemos aclarar que el Teatro Heredia es la sede de convenciones del partido comunista. O sea, que el evangelio de Cristo fue predicado desde el mismo pulpite de donde se promueve el ateísmo. ¿Es esto un milagro? Fue una bendición presenciar cada noche a más de 150 personas que pasaban al llamado para entregar su vida a Jesús y ser bautizadas. Además, cerca de 2,600 personas quedaron interesadas en seguir estudiando la Biblia. Personas que nunca habían tenido la oportunidad de poner un pie en una iglesia adventista, asistieron al Teatro Heredia, incluyendo líderes prominentes del partido comunista.

Uno de ellos, el ministro de religión del partido comunista en Santiago, Robert Noa, quien planeaba venir al evento solo a saludar a los presentes por unos cuantos minutos, al llegar decidió quedarse hasta el final de la reunión. Canceló todos sus compromisos y estuvo presente en todas las reuniones, incluso presenció el bautismo de más de 350 almas para Cristo. Dicho bautismo fue llevado a cabo en un hotel del gobierno el sábado de mañana en espacio de tiempo de una hora y quince minutos, donde aproximadamente 25 pastores simultáneamente bautizaban.

No cabe duda de que Dios está obrando maravillosamente en Cuba. A pesar de que casi toda una generación del pueblo cubano creció en un sistema de gobierno ateo y secular, hay un gran deseo de conocer a Dios. La gente en Cuba tiene hambre de la Palabra de Dios. Debemos orar para que la iglesia continúe aprovechando las oportunidades que Dios nos ofrece para predicar el evangelio en Cuba.

Ramon Canals, Conferencia de la Unión del Pacífico Norte vicepresidente de ministerios hispanos
One of the most remote Adventist churches is located in Gambell, Alaska, located on the western tip of St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea, about 200 miles southwest of Nome and 35 miles from Russia. It sits just below a treeless bluff and is home to about 700 people. There has been an Adventist group meeting on the island since the early 1940s.

Throughout the years, there have been mission families, student missionaries from Walla Walla, Wash., and often no one except the pastor from Nome to visit members once every month or two. Currently, Bible worker Viola Kaiser is living in the apartment attached to the church and leading the group in Gambell. Wendell Downs, Nome Church pastor, flies in about once a month.

At the end of February, Elden Ramirez, North American Division volunteer ministries executive director, and Jim Jensen, Alaska Conference vice president of finance, along with Jensen’s wife, Teresa, and children, had the opportunity to visit Gambell for Native Camp Meeting. Another group was going to the town of Savoonga, also located on St. Lawrence Island.

Travel to and from Gambell has always been challenging; this year was no exception. The Jensen family had planned to arrive Thursday morning. They finally landed at about 4 p.m. Friday afternoon and learned they were the first to get to either town. They had flights diverted from their original route, a missed approach on landing in Nome and delays due to volcanoes in Siberia.

The people of Gambell made the visitors feel very welcome, from the waiting room at the airport in Nome to getting acquainted aboard the 10-passenger plane landing at Gambell. The guests had invitations to attend the high school basketball game before they even got off the plane.

The airport at Gambell has one building. It is used to house the snow plow and equipment for the runway. When you get off the plane, you wait for someone to pick you up on their snow machine or four-wheel ATV. However, you may be surprised to see a small wind farm. It is expensive to haul fuel to generate electricity, and there always seems to be a strong wind.

Camp meeting built upon the work Kaiser has been doing in visiting with many of the people of Gambell. The visitors enjoyed a time of singing and telling stories of how each of them came to know the Lord. And everyone was inspired by Ramirez when he arrived Sabbath afternoon with his ukulele (much easier to transport than a guitar). Teresa Jensen held programs for the kids. Before the first meeting was over, kids were pulling out their cell phones to call other kids to come. By the end of the weekend, those in the kids’ classes outnumbered the adults.

Jim Jensen, Alaska Conference vice president of finance
SCANDALOUS Grace

JUNE 9–13, 2015 (ENGLISH AND SPANISH)
Gem State Adventist Academy
IDAHO CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING

Join Pastor Mike Tucker each evening and Sabbath morning as he explores the parables of Jesus. Discover the “Scandalous Grace” God wants to share with you.

SEMINAR SPEAKERS: Mike Tucker, Don Hall, Dick Hanson, Ramon Canals and Randy Maxwell.

MUSICAL GUEST: The King’s Heralds, Sabbath June 13 at 3:30 p.m.

See facebook.com/idahocampmeeting or IdahoAdventist.org for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nominating Committee for Idaho Conference Constituency Session
May 3 at 10 a.m.
Meridian Church

Elementary Track and Field Day
May 5
Gem State Adventist Academy

GSAA Art Show, Awards and Spring Concert
May 15
Gem State Adventist Academy

53rd Quadrennial Constituency Session
May 17
Gem State Adventist Academy

Conference Office Closed
May 18

Graduation Weekend
May 29–31
Gem State Adventist Academy
For more information, go to gemstate.org

Conference Office Closed
June 15

North American Division Pastors’ Convention: CALLED
June 28–July 1
Austin, Texas

General Conference Session
July 2–11
San Antonio, Texas

Conference Office Closed, July Fourth Observance
July 6

Teen Rafting
July 12
For more information, contact patrick.frey@idconf.org

PRAayer REQUESTS

» Teachers and students in our schools as the year winds down.
» The Idaho Conference Nominating Committee on May 3.
» The 53rd Quadrennial Constituency Session on May 17.
» Gem State Adventist Academy Gardens — the second season.

» Third annual evangelistic Idaho Conference Camp Meeting.
» Continuing 100 Days of Prayer for the upcoming General Conference Session, July 2–11.
» Revival, to energize us for the work God has given us to do.
IDAHORE CONFERENCE HOLDS TOWN HALL CIRCUIT

In preparation for the 53rd Quadrennial Constituency Session coming on May 17, 2015, 11 Town Hall meetings were held from Feb. 25 to March 18 in Idaho Conference. David Prest Jr., Idaho Conference president; John Rogers, Idaho Conference vice president/finance; Patrick Frey, Idaho Conference education superintendent; and Wayne Wentland, Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA) principal, visited 11 churches throughout the conference to share reports on finances, elementary education, GSAA, proposed changes to the conference’s bylaws and creating a vision for the Idaho Conference. Over the course of the 11 meetings, the men drove nearly 2,000 miles, crisscrossing the conference from John Day, Ore., to Salmon and Idaho Falls, Idaho, and back to Enterprise, Ore.

With a “Let’s Go Home!” theme for the Town Halls and Constituency Session, reports and plans focused on how God has blessed church members this far and how they can anticipate continued blessings as they move forward with Him into the future. Prest shared the mission statement the conference staff are bringing to the delegates at the session — the reason we exist: “Raise up people across southern Idaho and eastern Oregon who are so in love with Jesus that they share the fullness of His love as expressed in the Three Angels’ Messages of Revelation 14.” Rogers presented the details of Idaho Conference finances, ending with Luke 18:1: “…they ought always to pray and not lose heart.” God has blessed and is blessing the faithfulness of Idaho Conference church members.

Frey shared how the elementary schools are a mission field. Wentland shared some of the amazing, only-God-could-do-this happenings at Gem State Adventist Academy, from volunteers providing hours of service to a new GSAA Gardens greenhouse and construction savings.

Idaho schools and churches also have challenges. In spite of the challenges, it is evident that God is at work. The excitement is spreading, as evidenced by comments from members who came to the meetings. “I am feeling good about the direction we seem to be going,” one attendee shared.

Prest says the grueling Town Hall schedule was worth the time and effort to share the good news, to hear what is important to church members and to see God at work in an abundance of ways. “It is good to be a part of God’s work in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon,” he says. “I can’t wait to see what He will do next.”

Eve Rusk, Idaho Conference communication director

Test scores verify conclusions from Cognitive Genesis that the longer students are in Adventist schools, the better they do. These 10th-graders tested at college level in all subjects.

Boise Valley Adventist School (BVAS) participated in National School Choice Week on Friday, Jan. 23, as a positive way to raise awareness about the school and the benefits of providing children with an effective education. Staff recognized students for outstanding character traits, and students showed appreciation to teachers for their commitment to mission. All students were given matching scarves to commemorate the event. Read more online at glnr.in/110-05-id_BVAS.

Melanie Lawson, Boise Valley Adventist School teacher

Matching scarves bond the students of Boise Valley Adventist School during National School Choice Week.
Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) in Bozeman recently announced that Brian Schaffner will be the vice principal for finance, starting with the 2015–2016 school year. He replaces Nancy Lee, who is retiring after serving 26 years at MEA, including 17 years in that position.

Schaffner brings a wealth of experience to the position. Since graduating from Walla Walla University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in business administration/accounting and obtaining his MBA in 1997, Schaffner has had a successful career in financial administration, most recently as the finance director at Family Help and Wellness in Salem, Ore.

“We’re very excited to have him on board,” says Michael Lee, MEA principal. “Nancy has worked here for a long time, and she will be missed. But I am confident Brian is the right man for the job. God knows exactly what we need and when we need it, and He always comes through.”

Schaffner says he and his wife, Linda, are “truly blessed to be joining the Mount Ellis team and extremely grateful for God’s grace and leading.” The Schaffners have two sons, Samuel and Johnathan, and will be making the transition to the Gallatin Valley midsummer.

Kevin Emmerson, MEA development director

MEA HIRES NEW VP FOR FINANCE

Montana Conference Camp Meeting
June 17–20, 2015
Mount Ellis Academy, Bozeman, MT

Guest Speakers: Dan Jackson
North American Division President
Ken Denslow
North American Division Assistant to the President

Seminar Leaders: Topics Include:
John McVay Islam & Christianity
Tim Roosenberg Three Angels’ Messages
Ephesians-The Church: A User’s Guide

For registration and information, call 406-587-3101

Angels’ Voices Today
(Based on the Study of the Three Angels’ Messages)
Do you know someone who thinks differently than you? Could you name someone who has never experienced life without a cell phone or known a world without the Internet? What about someone who doesn’t seem to value what you hold important? They should be pretty easy to find. That’s the world we live in. What if they’re not just the people across town or down the road though — what if they’re family? Does that change how you see them?

Who am I referring to? They’re likely the youth and young adults in your life or your church. They’re the children you taught in Sabbath School, but they might not attend your church anymore. They’re your kids in academy, high school or college.

Millennials are an interesting and diverse group of people born between 1980 and 2000. They include students still in academy and newlyweds beginning the first, of possibly several, careers. Most have never known a time when dialing a number with a bunch of zeros could cause hand fatigue. In fact, instant communication, like texting, has been a given, not a novel idea. Travel has been limited only by the depth of their wallets, so their worldview is way beyond the experiences of their parents. Their experience with church as described by the research organization Barna Labs is that they love a cathedral and enjoy contemporary worship. They want to be married but, more importantly, want to provide a healthy parenting environment for their children.

Demographics tell us that it’s the largest population segment since the baby boomers. In fact, 16 percent of our church membership is composed of young adults while our communities have more than 32 percent. Though 16 percent of our membership are millennials, this group isn’t well-represented each Sabbath. Does this mean we should focus our attention only on millennials? Instead, I think that our mission is to all people, which includes an understanding and a vision for how to open our doors to each group, including this missing segment.

Late last fall, some of our pastors began dreaming of what it would look like to have churches that reach out, accept and love as Christ did. As the vision grew, six of our churches indicated an interest in beginning this journey of learning to understand the millennial generation and providing a loving climate where all generations can grow.

As a result, a group of young adults and leaders from our conference spent a couple days in California — not on the beach, but in sessions focused on beginning that journey. The intent of these sessions was not to generate a new program or drive a new initiative but to understand how to provide a healthy, loving climate where millennials and everyone else can experience the love of Christ.

Those six churches along with our conference have taken on this vision of healthy, loving “bodies of Christ” reaching and embracing the whole family, including millennials.

I think I hear Jesus saying, “Suffer the little children, the millennials, the Gen Xers, the baby boomers and the elders to come unto me. For of such is the kingdom of Heaven.” Do you hear Him too?

Al Reimche, Oregon Conference president
This year, a few brave parents of Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School (MGAES) in Battle Ground, Wash., took the reins of a program that would prove to be a phenomenal experience for those who participated. Michael and Stephanie Mowry, Peter and Heidi Schmalenberg, and Jonathan Erich headed up the program that consisted of biweekly classes for several months during which fifth- and sixth-grade students learned to assemble and program robots. The program was sponsored, in part, by Murr Elektronik.

Preston Schafer, part of the team that placed first in the Lego Robotics Showcase on March 12, says, “It was really fun learning about robotics. I also liked spending more time with my friends. At the showcase, our robot performed the best it ever had.”

Each week the students attended one class after school and an elective class on Sunday. Working in pairs, students took turns programming, assembling and testing the robots.

“There was design, engineering, programming and strategy involved,” says instructor Heidi Schmalenberg. “Most importantly, it was about teamwork.”

Every year, Lego provides a theme for participants. This year’s Lego theme was “Green City Challenge.” Robots were programmed to turn a Lego city “green” by releasing energy cells located inside different Lego buildings. Once enough energy cells were collected, they would be inserted into a Lego house that was then operating on a more efficient, “greener” level.

Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) allowed the MGAES class to use their robots and space on campus for the year. Working together, principals Jeff Jackson, of CAA, and Ric Peinado, of MGAES, were hopeful that the program could begin at the elementary school level and continue to build into a program at the high school level.

The culminating showcase, which featured each team’s robots attempting to release energy cells and activate the “green” house, took place in CAA’s Ad Building and was attended by CAA and MGAES faculty along with parents, grandparents and friends of the participants. Peinado says, “It was a great night to not only showcase our kids’ skills and talents in STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] education, but also to show our students and community that science and fun can go together.”

Following the class, an anonymous donor provided funding so MGAES can purchase new robots and software and participate in the Lego Robotics Invitational April 2016 at Walla Walla University with other schools in the Adventist Robotics League (ARL), which is comprised of schools across the North Pacific Union Conference. The ARL includes instruction and demonstration in project management and presentation as well as robot building and programming.

Malaika Childers, Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School fifth- and sixth-grade teacher
Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) senior and Spanish IV student Jack Blashchishen was recently awarded a prestigious scholarship for his achievement in the Spanish language.

The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (National Spanish Honor Society) recognizes only 60 students in the nation for Spanish achievement. Of the 60, the top 12 students, including Blashchishen, were recognized for proficiency and awarded $2,000 to be used in the fall of 2015 at any college or university.

The NSHS evaluates applicants on many criteria. Rita Barrett, PAA’s Spanish teacher, says the application process was intense. “Besides submitting the application, reference letters and a transcript, Jack also had to submit a 500-word essay in Spanish and a five-minute video interview with me.”

“The NSHS committee said Jack’s submission was ‘sobresaliente,’ which means outstanding,” says Barrett. “I have been proud to watch Jack progress from an absolute beginner his freshman year to a fluent speaker as a senior and am thrilled he received this recognition.”

“I am proud of all my students who have embraced Spanish,” says Barrett, “not as just an academic requirement, but as a language that will open doors to many opportunities for them. I have many ‘sobresaliente’ students this year who are reaching high levels of fluency, driven by their passion for the language. I want to support their continued growth and encourage them to become lifelong language learners and lovers.”

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent

PAA student wins prestigious scholarship

PAA Spanish student Jack Blashchishen wins an important scholarship for his proficiency in Spanish.
Scott Trottier was a bit apprehensive when his church’s head elder approached him. But instead of carrying bad news, the elder hit with a request to build a radio station for the Cascade Church in Bend, Ore. The church family had long wanted to retransmit 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network) radio to the local residents. They already had a frequency available and some money set aside, but they didn’t know how to go about setting up the station. Having no previous experience at this but always looking to play with new toys, Trottier agreed.

That was July of last year. In the months that followed, Trottier found an existing tower and climate-controlled building on top of Awbrey Butte near downtown Bend. Having been a radioman in the Navy many years before, Trottier knew that the butte would allow the signal to carry well. Since the FCC only allowed the church to transmit at 2.3 watts, they needed all the help they could get.

With help from 3ABN radio and the tower owner and a lot of help from God, Trottier was able to get the right equipment and make it work. The coverage for central Oregon is much better than expected. This was truly God’s will that the Cascade Church should reach out to its neighbors in the community with the truth via KEGB-LP 102.1 FM rebroadcasting 3ABN all day, every day.

Scott Trottier, Cascade Church member

For the first time in Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) history, a student-to-teacher ratio of two to one was achieved when a variety of people with different careers flooded the halls of CAA.

The day began with Todd Gessele, Totally Inspired Media founder and producer, presenting the keynote address about the great adventure of using your career for Christ. Students then chose one of nine different presentations to attend for each of the next six periods.

Fifty-four careers were represented, ranging from bronze sculptor and underwater welder to anesthesiologist and periodontist. “I loved how many options we had, but it was so hard to choose only six,” says Marijke Kuiper, a CAA junior.

Students learned about the education needed, the day-to-day activities, and the rewards and challenges of their selected professions. Volunteers provided snacks and refreshments for students and presenters.

For the students, the day’s success was found in the opportunity to explore a variety of careers and network with professionals. Carly Ford, a junior, reports, “My favorite presentation was the labor and delivery nurse because I got to hear a real baby’s heartbeat.”

From engineering fields to culinary arts and from computer science to social work, CAA’s career day had it all. While this was a first for CAA, based on the responses by presenters and the student evaluations, it will not be the last time that CAA experiences this special student-to-teacher ratio.

Larry Hiday, CAA Gleaner correspondent, with assistance from CAA chemistry students

Read more online at glmr.in/110-05-or_careerday
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MILLENNIAL MATRIX 
PROJECT KICKS OFF AT 
SUNNYSIDE

If any of you has a hundred sheep, and one of them gets lost, what will you do? Won’t you leave the ninety-nine in the field and go look for the lost sheep until you find it?” (Luke 15:4 CEV). Well, consider this: first, 60 percent or more of Seventh-day Adventist youth and young adults will grow up and leave the church; and, second, the dropout problem is a faith-development (disciple-making) problem according to research outlined in You Lost Me by David Kinnaman, the book that fuels a new project to reach the millennial generation. Are you concerned? What will you do?

The Sunnyside Church in Portland, Ore., held its Sabbath kickoff for the 99One Project on Feb. 21. This is part of Millennial Matrix, a collaborative effort through which six Oregon Conference churches in the Portland and Vancouver, Wash., area share ideas and resources aimed at creating a church community where people of all ages are loved equally and feel at home — all the while drawing ever closer to Jesus.

Several steps helped prepare for the kickoff. An 11-member team was formed to guide the project, consisting of members in the millennial generation and others. Copies of the book You Lost Me were given to all church members who wanted one (and promised to read it). The team spent several days in California attending lectures and workshops to thoroughly educate themselves and build team rapport.

The kickoff was a full day of activities that began with a potluck continental breakfast. Next, a Sabbath School panel of team members responded to questions from Jonathan Russell, Sunnyside Church associate pastor. During the church service, Russell presented sermon goals to inspire the community to emulate the attitudes of the Shepherd and the Father from Luke 15 and to embrace and connect with millennials and others who have lost contact with the church community.

Church was followed by a haystack lunch and an afternoon of two presentations and a question-and-answer period. In the afternoon, team member Jeremy Barber gave attendees a look at today’s chaotic social media environment, where millennials live. It was an eye-opening talk for many. Afternoon child care was arranged by 14-year-old team member Adoniah Simon.

Sunnyside Church is embarking on a discussion on the future of its mission as a church family. Many times over the years, members have spoken of foreign missions and home missions. But this will be a church family mission. This Sabbath was designed to be a family fireside chat and a time to ask questions, hear from others and share thoughts about where members want to see Sunnyside go in the years to come.

Warren Rushold, Sunnyside Church communication team leader
More than 10 years ago, nearly a dozen people felt led to plant a church in the small town of Stanfield, Ore. They church-hopped, renting Saturday spaces in Sunday churches and growing in size as they went. At times, there were as many “unchurched” seekers as there were member believers.

After years of trying to avoid church ownership and having become known as Anchor Point Adventist Church, the group finally purchased an old, long-abandoned elementary school in Stanfield — only because “the signs were too bold to ignore,” says JoAnn Rincker, longtime elder and pastoral assistant. “All the other options disappeared behind closing doors.”

Money was thin to turn the 1950s school into a 21st-century place of worship, though a food bank was firmly established on the grounds more than 10 years ago. Years passed while waiting for permits and funds, and attendance waned. But the dreams never disappeared completely for what the converted old school could be for the community — a place to find faith, direction and God.

The dreams included a day shelter for homeless and elder care, the gymnasium opened for the local teens to play basketball, and classrooms for community education, meetings and activities. Members hoped to provide space for AA/NA meetings, counseling services, health education, and a dental and medical clinic. They dreamed of a thrift store, youth activities and after-school tutoring.

At last these dreams began to turn into reality when an anonymous giver donated a generous sum toward this project, allowing plans and permits to begin in a material way.

By the time the contractor was hired and work had begun, the costs began revealing themselves to be greater than anticipated. This came as “no surprise for God,” says Toni Eddy, board member. Various events have made it evident the community is interested and eager to see the revitalizing of the old building.

The project is still moving ahead as members eagerly wait to see how and when God will provide the more than $300,000 needed to finish the first phase. “He will provide out of His riches, and in His time,” acknowledges Mike Botti, building committee chairman.

Claudia Flaiz, Anchor Point Church member
Everyone helped the new Brewster Adventist Christian School principal, John McCombs, move the majority of his family’s stored items into his new home.

Hi, I’m Jake from State Farm, and God is always with us!” This is how Irvin Morales introduced himself Sabbath at the Brewster (Wash.) Church. Morales was part of the Teen Mission Adventure (TMA) in Brewster, which consisted of 112 teen Pathfinders and staff fanning out over the area during spring break to assist with cleanup from the damaging fires that destroyed many homes and acreage the size of Connecticut last fall.

As the week began, Morales did not want to be there. He had come only because his parents wanted him to do something besides watching TV and playing games during spring break. He is a member of Hermiston Faithful Ones Pathfinder Club. On Monday morning after worship, all the teens set out to be helpful. All but the kitchen crew helped the new Brewster Adventist Christian School principal, John McCombs, move the majority of his family’s stored items from the storage facility to his new home. The McCombs family had been looking for a home since the Central Complex Fire burned the one they were about to get in July when they first moved to Brewster.

Throughout the week, teams of Pathfinders and staff members did a variety of tasks. They helped split wood, stack it and deliver it to needy folks in Brewster and Pateros. They cleaned windows, re-sided, painted and hung a ceiling for the Brewster Spanish Church. Some working around Lake Alta helping clean up the land. They engaged in trash removal, delimbing felled trees and cutting those trees into rounds. They helped two families clear the burnt trees and debris from their land and also assisted Cindy Cook with sorting clothes at the Pateros warehouse.

At the end of the week, the teens and staff converged on the Brewster Church. The TMA participants filled the church. Morales and other team participants shared about their week. When it was his turn, Morales shared his complete turnaround. “I am now glad I came,” he admitted. “I made new friends and enjoyed working for others.”

The week was a win-win for the teens and for those who received their assistance. Seven Pathfinders requested baptism. The TMA program in Upper Columbia Conference has been a strong force for good in the lives of hundreds of teens. This year is the 19th year during which teens could experience a mission trip and pay just $100 for food and lodging. Not a bad spring break, according to “Jake.”

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant

More photos online at glnr.in/110-05-uc_brewsterteens
Join us for an old-fashioned camp meeting under the big tent at Upper Columbia Academy. Bring your friends and family to this time of spiritual fellowship and renewal.

Get all the details and register for lodging at uccsda.org/campmeeting.

Additional Upper Columbia Conference Camp Meetings

Northern Idaho, Bonners Ferry
June 10-13, 2015, Call: 208-267-0616
http://campmeeting.bfsda.org

Sheridan Meadows, Republic
July 21-25, 2015, Call: 509-775-3019
http://campmeeting.webs.com/

Walla Walla Camp Meeting
July 29 - Aug 1, 2015

Wenatchee Camp Meeting
September 18-19, 2015

Native American Camp Meeting
September 25-26, 2015
AAA Community Renew Adventist Education Support

About half of the students in the congregation were attending an Adventist school when Tacoma Central Church took a quick survey last summer.

The biggest obstacle for families interested in Adventist Christian education: transportation. Thirty or so minutes from Auburn Adventist Academy and Buena Vista Adventist Elementary School, parents in Tacoma and Gig Harbor struggled with the road commitment.

“The story changes when the church gets involved,” says Brent Kimura, Tacoma Central associate pastor. “Last year our church had six kids in Adventist schools. This year we have 20. Next year our goal is to have 25 kids in Adventist education.”

The church set up a van pool system to transport 13 of 20 students. Three drivers — Brent Kimura, Darlene Ali and Carla Lopez — drive students to campus every morning and pick them up every afternoon or evening.

As Washington Conference examines, evaluates and envisions secondary Adventist Christian education, one of the most common questions is, “What’s the interest level of churches and parents in supporting our schools and particularly Auburn Adventist Academy?”

Examples like Tacoma Central are just the beginning of the story of passionate support for Adventist Christian education. Auburn City Church knows where every student in their congregation attends school and includes these students in a church-published prayer list.

“We consider Auburn to be our school,” says Gary Fogelquist, Auburn City senior pastor. “We pray for our students, offer a triple-match subsidy, attend school events, host an Educational Sabbath, support mission trips and feed students when they visit our church.”

When the boys basketball team, through hard work, good sportsmanship and a focus on a Christian approach to sports, attended the state championship for the first time in school history, community members rallied. They raised funds, arranged transportation, designed a commemorative sweatshirt, traveled to Spokane to take pictures, and prayed for God to protect and bless the team as they witnessed for God in their actions on the court.

The team did not advance through the championship, but they shared a noted witness of good sportsmanship.

Hearts of Gold, the academy’s annual benefit auction, is another indicator of school support. The committee is developing plans to keep the academy’s residential program open long-term.

One of the key growth and development activities includes actively dreaming about a marketing and recruiting solution for the academy. Representatives are placing phone calls to parents; listening to and addressing families’ needs, concerns and questions; and visiting with donors to seek funding for a new community-funded marketing and recruitment department.

Community support: yes, it is there and growing stronger every day by the grace of God. Seeing the challenges of sister academies across North America is serving as a motivating wake-up call to take renewed action to support primary, secondary and tertiary Adventist Christian education.

What about you? How are you giving back to Adventist Christian education? What ideas do you have for ways volunteers can support our school campuses? Share your stories and ideas by emailing education@washingtonconference.org.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director
FAMILIES FIND REFRESHMENT AROUND GOD’S WORD

The Re-Fresh Retreat held each March in the beautiful treed landscape of Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson allows attendees to listen to spiritually enriching presentations and interact with Adventist friends they may only see once a year at camp meeting.

“Re-Fresh offers a refreshing of our souls,” says David Yeagley, Sunset Lake Camp director. “We want to get our lives back into perspective and find spring cleaning for our spiritual journey.” Yeagley led 65 participants through a creative prayer time.

The family-friendly worship service involved youth worship leaders from Auburn Adventist Academy, Auburn’s Sylvan Chorale and the ukulele choir from Buena Vista Adventist Elementary School’s fourth-grade class.

Keynote speaker Bill Knott, Adventist Review and Adventist World editor, introduced the audience to an interactive format of preaching. Knott presented two initial questions to consider during the main presentation: What did you hear? What did it mean?

Knott shared stories about the crippled woman in Luke 13:10–17 who was healed on Sabbath, blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46–50 who received his sight and the betrayal of Judas Iscariot in John 13. When he finished, Knott began a dialogue with the audience about the application of the stories to life, ministry, the church and the community.

“This is what it means to gather around God’s Word,” Knott explains about the format. “Open the Bible, see what lessons God brings to mind and be amazed at what you discover.”

The Re-Fresh Retreat will feature Karl Haffner in 2016 and Randy Roberts in 2017.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

For the regional bee, in association with the Scripps National Spelling Bee, 72 students from public, private and home schools in King and Snohomish counties participated. The bee coordinator accommodates Jewish and Adventist participants by scheduling the regional bee on a Sunday instead of a Saturday.

“Buena Vista is the only Adventist school to participate in this regional spelling bee,” says Vicki Rutherford, Buena Vista seventh-grade teacher. “Vegetarianism has its advantages even at a spelling bee!”

He went on to correctly spell credential, magpie and equilateral before misplacing a vowel in ionosphere. By the fifth round, when Monterrosa was eliminated, only 17 of the 72 students remained.

Read more online at gleanr.in/110-05-wa_refresh

Joel Monterrosa (blue plaid) represents Buena Vista at the regional spelling bee.

Fourth grade students from Buena Vista Adventist Elementary School play their ukuleles and lead the Re-Fresh Retreat audience in worship songs and Scripture reflections.

The family-friendly worship service involved youth worship leaders from Auburn Adventist Academy, Auburn’s Sylvan Chorale and the ukulele choir from Buena Vista.
Adventist Church co-founder and prolific writer Ellen White wrote extensively about city and country living. In much of her writing, she urged Adventists to pursue country living. But she didn’t forget ministry to the cities. She, in fact, urged Adventists to live in the city with purpose. What, then, are the best ways to live and minister with purpose in urban settings? This question served as a central point for a three-day Urban Ministries Conference in mid-March.

“We need to understand the landscape of our cities,” says Marc Woodson, who shared about Bridges to Health, a San Francisco Bay Area health initiative. Woodson, along with fellow presenters, outlined the need to identify problems, pray for communities, find solutions, and build bridges between churches, conferences and communities.

The training conference attracted 80 local and regional community service leaders, pastors and church leaders with a few national and international guests who desire to better serve the needs of their communities.

The practical keynote presentations, workshops and ministry consultations featured urban ministry experts such as Gaspar Colón, May-Ellen Colón, Katia Reinert, Keith Goodman, Gerson Santos, Will and Peggy James, and Rico Hill. The presenters shared how to assess community needs, create centers of influence, pray for communities and mobilize the church for ministry.

“Our cities in the world are in crisis and experiencing a global revolution,” says David Jamieson, a senior pastor from Aldergrove, British Columbia, Canada, in his keynote address. “There is an unprecedented desire in our cities for change. What the world needs is not a revolution but a ‘servolution’ to break down barriers, open hearts and love people.”

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director.

Gaspar Colón gives an overview of the opportunities and challenges of urban ministry to ministry leaders attending the first-ever Urban Ministries Conference in western Washington.

Keith Goodman, a pastor from Philadelphia, shares how he pastors his parish with purpose by balancing ministry and evangelism to meet the needs of his community.

Byron Dulan, Washington Conference outreach ministries director and convener, encourages church representatives to pursue Christ’s model of mingling with people, meeting their needs and inviting them to follow Jesus.
Forty-five ministry leaders and five facilitators gather in Federal Way to learn how to effectively minister in their local communities. The certification program equips leaders with practical skills and biblical perspectives to effectively lead the social dimension of evangelism.

MINISTRY LEADERS LEARN TO ASSESS COMMUNITY NEEDS

Fundraising coach Lilya Wagner told her class of 45 ministry leaders gathered in Federal Way that the first five people to raise their hand could present their ministry funding opportunity. The class would then vote for which of the five real-life fundraising scenarios would receive a personal donation from Wagner.

Gayle Lasher, New Life Adventist Ministry pastor, instinctively raised her hand. She would have two minutes to share her funding need. Nervous about the task, she prayed with New Life member and fellow training classmate Charsanaa Johnny.

When her turn arrived, Lasher stepped forward for the role-playing exercise, introduced herself to Wagner like she had been trained and passionately shared how New Life leaders had assessed the needs in their community. They had uncovered a need for a transitional house for women who had been victims of sex trafficking and needed overall funding of $20,000.

Before long, the votes were tallied, and Lasher’s community project was selected. “We signed up for this training to discover how to more effectively minister in Fife,” Lasher says, adding that the first funding gift for a portion of the project provided affirmation of the congregation’s new project.

This fundraising training was a unit in the Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program (NLCP) to train nonprofit ministry leaders in community assessment, strategic planning, organizational leadership, team development, cross-cultural ministry, financial accountability, fundraising, risk management and principles of effective ministry.

The first NLCP session in the Pacific Northwest was held March 23–26 in Federal Way. It attracted participants from Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii, Kansas, Michigan, Massachusetts, England and Myanmar. The second NLCP session in the Pacific Northwest will be held Sept. 14–17 in Federal Way.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director
Nine Walla Walla University undergraduate biology students presented their research findings last November at the Murdock College Science Research (MCSR) Conference in Vancouver, Wash.

“Calling Doctor Cucumber: Association of Sea Cucumbers With a Reduction in Tropical Coral Diseases,” a poster presentation by Leah Dann and Carly Leggitt, senior biology majors, summarized their research conducted in the Philippines, which examined sea cucumbers and coral reef health.

“It was so much fun to attend the conference and was so exciting to talk about research that I worked hard on and am passionate about,” says Dann.

The students were assisted in their research and accompanied at the conference by Jim Nestler, professor of biology; Kirt Onthank, assistant professor of biology; and Janice McKenzie, associate professor of biology.

Nestler says that one of the most enjoyable things about attending the conference was “seeing all of the incredibly interesting research that undergraduate students from a variety of colleges and universities are involved in.”

Christopher Lindsey, senior biology major, presented a poster titled “AprA Effects on Dictyostelium Pseudopods.” His research determined the chemorepellant protein AprA dispersed Dictyostelium colonies in low food conditions. Previous research by Lindsey specifically looked at pseudopod and filopod formation — key “fake feet” used by Dictyostelium cells to migrate away from AprA.

“The enthusiasm of presenters at the conference was quite contagious,” says Lindsey. “Attending the conference gave me the ability to meet some passionate people and talk science with them.”

Lydia Kore, senior biochemistry major, gave an oral presentation on the effect ocean acidification could have on octopus physiology. “We found that at a lower pH the octopuses experienced an increase in their critical oxygen pressure, so would not be able to handle lower oxygen levels as well,” says Kore.

She says the conference showed her how valuable research is and how so much of what we know comes from people who have devoted their lives to conducting research.

Rachel Wood, Walla Walla University's Office of University Relations writer

Data recently released by the National Science Foundation shows that from 2002 to 2011, WWU ranked third in the state of Washington for the percent of graduates obtaining a bachelor’s degree who went on to obtain a doctorate in science or engineering. Walla Walla University ranked first among all Adventist colleges and universities.
Volunteers are the heart and soul of an organization — people who give freely of their time working for the betterment of the community because they believe it is the right thing to do. Volunteers are very often the most cheerful people in our midst. They contribute not only time and talents, but also love and joy. They carry forth the Adventist Health mission and demonstrate Christ’s healing ministry.

Adventist Health celebrated National Volunteer Appreciation Week in April. The Adventist Health hospitals in the Northwest are blessed by volunteers and their generous hearts, giving spirits and myriad efforts to be of service.

The spirit of volunteer service is alive and well at Walla Walla General Hospital (WWGH) in an extraordinary way. The hospital Auxiliary, with the help of two generous donors, recently purchased a grand piano for the lobby. The vision for the beautiful instrument is that visitors and employees alike will be blessed by the calming and healing sounds of music.

“Music has the ability to affect moods and impact stress levels,” says Karen Kellar, WWGH vice president of patient care. “Providing a calm environment has been shown to effect healing by decreasing stress. Several patients have already commented on the music and mentioned that the music makes them feel as though WWGH cares about them and their experience — and we do.”

The piano was purchased and donated through the gifts and efforts of volunteers and continues to be utilized by volunteers who fill the lobby and halls of the hospital with healing music. The hospital is welcoming pianists to share music that creates an atmosphere of peace, hope and health. WWGH has also extended an invitation for evening recitals to provide an opportunity for the community to enjoy the gift of music.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT: SHAUN HEUBLEIN

Walla Walla General Hospital has a new volunteer with his head in the clouds and his feet firmly on the ground. Shaun Heublein is a full-time airline pilot; he works for Ameriflight, a company that subcontracts for UPS. Heublein’s route brings him to Walla Walla about four days per week. “I arrive at about 9 a.m., and I don’t have anything to do until 4 p.m.” he explains. “Some of the other pilots who have flown this route have played golf and worked out at the gym all day, but that didn’t really appeal to me. I wanted to do something useful.”

Heublein applied to volunteer at WWGH, where he thought he could make a difference. He can be found several days per week escorting guests and patients to their destinations in the hospital."It’s fun," he says. “It makes the day go fast, and I meet lots of nice people. I really appreciate the flexibility the hospital offers me, and I love having something constructive to do with my time.”

Mary Faith Bell, Tillamook Regional Medical Center marketing and communications director
Barrett 70th
Floyd and Lois Barrett celebrated their 70th anniversary on Jan. 1, 2015.
Floyd Barrett and Lois Nielsen were married on Jan. 1, 1945, in Springfield, Ore.
To this union were born two daughters, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.
Floyd served his country as a medic in the U.S. Navy. Following the service, he spent most of his working years as a body and fender repairman on large trucks. He would remove the dents from wrecked trucks, paint them and make them look like new again.

Lois worked in various banks as a loan officer. Throughout the years they have lived in several places, including Goshen, Ore., and Caldwell and Nampa, Idaho, and currently are residing in the Portland, Ore., area in the CherryWood Retirement Center. Floyd celebrated his 90th birthday in November 2014, and Lois celebrated her 89th birthday in December 2014.

Davis 50th
Ben Davis and Charlene MacKenzie met in February 1963 in the licensed practical nurse class at Portland Sanitarium and Hospital. Charlene knew from the first day of class she wanted to marry Ben. They were married Nov. 25, 1964.
One month before their first anniversary, Ben was drafted, and he served two years at Fort Sam in Texas teaching the medics. He was discharged in December 1967, and the pair moved to Auburn, Wash., where their son Timothy was born in January 1968.
Ben worked for Boeing and went to night school to get ready to go to Loma Linda University to study physical therapy. Their second son, Kevin, was born in February 1971, and Ben graduated that May and interned for six months.
They moved back to Auburn in May 1982 for Tim to go to Auburn Adventist Academy. Both boys are third-generation graduates. Ben has worked in various therapies from hospitals, clinics and home health until he retired in 2013. Charlene retired in 2006 after working 19 years as a medical receptionist.
Ben and Charlene have held many church offices, including elder, deacon, Pathfinder directors, deaconesses and church treasurer, and have worked in the children’s divisions. They are the SAGE (Seniors in Action with God for Excellence) representatives for Auburn Adventist Academy Church.
They renewed their same vows of 50 years ago at a reception on Nov. 23, 2014, at the Auburn City Church, with Jay Coon presiding over the ceremony and many family and friends present.
Their family includes Timothy Davis of Auburn; Kevin and Heather (Kohl) Davis of Buckley, Wash.; 3 grandchildren and a step-great-grandchild.

Taysom 100th
The Pocatello Church honored the 100th birthday of Avis Taysom on Jan. 10. Avis celebrated with her church family, her son, and several of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren at the small event.
Avis Grenfell was born in Hillsboro, Ore., but grew up in Bellevue, Idaho, just south of Ketchum. After attending Walla Walla College, Avis moved to Pocatello, Idaho, where she worked as a nurse at the Pocatello General Hospital. She married Eli Taysom, the son of one of her patients, in 1937. They lived worked in Reno and Ely, Nev., and Rigby, Idaho, before settling again in Pocatello.
Avis has long been an active member of the Adventist Church. She was an active elder, worked in women’s ministry and, even at 80 years old, was the weekend cook for a Pathfinder Club campout.
Avis still lives in the house that Eli built, doesn’t take any regular medication, spends time exploring yard sales and grocery stores, cooks her own meals, and is always ready to partake of her favorite hobby, fishing.
Avis’ family includes her children Wayne and Elaine, 6 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren, and the family is still growing.

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FAMILY WEDDINGS

ALLEN-SCHLAMAN
Jessica Marie Allen and Travis Ryan Schlaman were married Oct. 19, 2014, in Yakima, Wash. They are making their home in Seattle, Wash.

BUNNELL-ARBASSETTI
C. Leanne Bunnell and Nino Peter Arbasetti were married Dec. 1, 2013, in Eugene, Ore., where they are making their home. Leanne is the daughter of Carl Bunnell III and Lynette (Strom) Bunnell. Nino is the son of Wayne and Nileen Arbasetti.

OUR FAMILY MILESTONES

Allen-Schlaman
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Bunnell-Arbassetti
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BAKER — Forrest Leroy, 82; born Aug. 28, 1932, Pendleton, Ore.; died Feb. 10, 2015, Pendleton. Surviving: wife, Patricia Lee (Mangan); son, Forrest R., Walla Walla, Wash.; daughters, Katherine Baker-Blair, Pendleton; Michelle Colligan, Walla Walla; Diana Hall, Hermiston, Ore.; 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.


FRISTAD — Beulah “Berkie” Caroline (Bergquist), 92; born March 26, 1922, Fresno, Calif.; died Jan. 6, 2015, Chehalis, Wash. Surviving: son, Ned, Kalama, Wash.; daughters, Lynda Schreiner and Bev Fristad, both of Salem, Ore.; Nancy Merickel, Chehalis; 14 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

GAMMON — Shirley Grace (Cooksey), 92; born April 9, 1922, Lavern, Alberta, Canada; died Nov. 29, 2014, Pendleton, Ore. Surviving: sons, Glenn, Vista, Calif.; Hugh, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada; daughter, Nancy All, Pendleton; 4 grandchildren, a step-grandchild, a great-grandchild and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

GILLETTE — Helen Alvena (Carpenter), 93; born May 24, 1921, Wakeeney, Kan.; died Aug. 8, 2014, Hilo, Hawaii. Surviving: sons, Brian, Anchorage, Alaska; Lance, Fairbanks, Alaska; daughter, Maia Cummings, Anchorage; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.


HIGGINS — Gary Dean, 71; born March 25, 1943, Caldwell, Idaho; died Feb. 24, 2015, Penrose, Colo. Surviving: wife, Elaine (Epperson); sons, Tad, Wichita, Kan.; Shane, Parma, Idaho; daughters, Pamela Matthews, Penrose; April Moller, Houston, Texas; and 8 grandchildren.


JACKSON — Katherine I. (Warren), 89; born Sept. 19, 1925, Iola, Kan.; died March 8, 2015, Falls City, Ore. Surviving: husband, Ben; son, Charles, Falls City; and 2 grandchildren.


KLASS — David Lee, 87; born Oct. 10, 1927, Cambridge, Ohio; died Feb. 11, 2015, McMinnville, Ore. Surviving: wife, Dorothy (Ankrum), Dayton, Ore.; sons, Steven, Dayton; Michael, Keizer, Ore.; daughter, Cheryl Gendusa, Dayton; brothers, James Klass and Richard Hewson, both of Cambridge, Ohio; 5 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.


OurFamily

Submit an Announcement Today!
The Gleaner now also accepts expanded obituary announcements with short bio and photo. For submission and cost info, contact info@gleanernow.com or call 360-857-7043.
LAYMAN — Phyllis (May) Finch, 93; born Sept. 3, 1921, Upton, Wy.; died Nov. 26, 2014, Happy Valley, Ore. Surviving: sons, Bruce Finch, Days Creek, Ore.; Tony Finch, Happy Valley; daughter, Connie Holloway, Eagle River, Alaska; 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

LEMKE — Helen Marie (Sorensen), 96; born April 10, 1918, Papillion, Neb.; died Aug. 28, 2014, Salem, Ore. Surviving: sons, Hal, Salem; Robert, Beaverton, Ore.; Joel, Hillsboro, Ore.; Steve, Wilsonville, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.


MCHAN — James Albert, 83; born March 17, 1931, Takoma Park, Md.; died Jan. 31, 2014, Eugene, Ore. Surviving: wife, Carolyn (Boyer); son, Steve, Loma Linda, Calif.; daughters, Kathy McMillan, Yucaipa, Calif.; Nancy Wolfe, Loma Linda; and 6 grandchildren.


PULLEN — Florence June (Colson), 91; born Glenns Ferry, Idaho; died Jan. 24, 2015, Medford, Ore. Surviving: son, James, Wichita, Kan.; daughter, Colleen Shaver, Medford; 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

REED — Wayne, 80; born Oct. 7, 1934, Norton, Kan.; died Jan. 12, 2015, Medford, Ore. Surviving: wife, Winone Charleen (Walser) Reed, Central Point, Ore.; sons, Randy Lawson Reed, Central Point; daughter, Rhonda Roberta Milhoan, Central Point; 6 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.


SCHMECHEL — Chester Russell, 95; born May 2, 1919, McClusky, N.D.; died Sept. 23, 2014, Newberg, Ore. Surviving: wife, Kathryn (Boopple); daughters, Joanne Piper, Quartzsite, Ariz.; Penny Ausmus and Suzi Feierfeil, both of Newberg; 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.


SNOOK — Evelyn “Jeanne” (Schneidau), 88; born July 13, 1926, Gold Beach, Ore.; died Jan. 15, 2015, Brookings, Ore. Surviving: son, Lee, Gold Beach; and daughter, Lisa Strickland, Gold Beach.


VERSTAPPEN — Joseph M., 84; born Sept. 11, 1930, St. Oedenrode, The Netherlands; died Jan. 11, 2015, Grants Pass, Ore. Surviving: wife, Elizabeth (Kerens); daughters, Geri Wytcherley, Milwaukee, Ore.; Rosanne Wehrens, The Netherlands; brothers, Peter, Dunedin, Fla.; Henry, Kingston, Ontario, Canada; sister, Maria Steenbakkers, Kingston; half-brothers, Wil and Jan, both of The Netherlands; 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

WAGNER — Catherine LaVerne (Gibson), 97; born Sept. 10, 1917, Austin, Texas; died Jan. 25, 2015, Federal Way, Wash. Surviving: sons, Alonzo S. III, Seattle, Wash.; Jose, Chester, Penn.; Andre, Nashville, Tenn.; daughter, Jan-Rachelle Wagner, Paris, France; sister, Barbara Hundley, Loma Linda, Calif.; 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.


NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering
May 2 — Local Church Budget;
May 9 — Disaster and Famine Relief;
May 16 — Local Church Budget;
May 23 — Local Conference Advance;
May 30 — North American Division Evangelism.

More events listed at GleanerNow.com/events.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY
June 7 — Missoula MSW Hooding Ceremony/Graduation at 2 p.m.;
June 12 — Consecration, Walla Walla University Church at 8 p.m.;
June 13 — Baccalaureate, Walla Walla University Church at 11:45 a.m.;
June 13 — Teacher Dedication, Fine Arts Center at 3 p.m.;
June 13 — Nurses Pinning, Walla Walla University Church at 4 p.m.;
June 13 — BSW Pinning, Winter Education Complex at 5 p.m.;
June 13 — Theology Senior Dedication at 5 p.m.;
June 13 — Master’s Degree Hooding at 7 p.m.;
June 14 — Commencement, Centennial Green at 8:30 a.m.

OREGON

‘Reversing Diabesity’ Health Weekend
May 1–5 — The Whipple Creek Church is hosting a weekend seminar designed to identify the leading causes of diabetes and obesity and give easy, natural and cost-effective steps you can take to prevent or even reverse this common condition. Diabetes and obesity can lead to hypoglycemia, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, stroke and heart disease, blindness, amputation, and other serious health conditions. Health educator Jack McIntosh will share how to tune up your health, have more energy and get better rest with simple changes anyone can follow. The weekend includes health lectures, an optional low-cost health screening, question-and-answer sessions, and vegetarian cooking demonstrations with great recipes and free food sampling. Whipple Creek Church, 302 NW 179th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642. For more information, visit whipplecreekadventist.org or call 360-574-2540.

Spring Concert
May 30 — Spring concert at 6 p.m., featuring Shannon and Jeanine Goodwin, Craig King, Carl Parker, and the Tsikirai Family at the Stone Tower Church, 3010 NE Holladay St., just off Sandy Blvd. For more information, call the church at 503-574-2540.

UPPER COLUMBIA

Upper Columbia Conference Constituency Session
Notice is hereby given that the quadrennial session of the Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at the Upper Columbia Academy convocation center in Spangle, Wash., on Sunday, May 31, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to receive from the officers and department directors of the Conference reports pertaining to the work carried on within its territory since the last quadrennial session; to elect for the ensuing term officers, department directors, and the Conference Executive Committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session. Each church shall be represented at the sessions of the Conference by two delegates for the church organization and one delegate for each 75 members, or major fraction thereof, each of whom shall be a Seventh-day Adventist member in good and regular standing of the local church which he or she represents.

Paul Hoover, President
Doug R. Johnson, Vice President for Administration

WASHINGTON

Missing Members

WORLD CHURCH

Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend
Sept. 18–19 — All alumni, former faculty and staff are invited to this special reunion weekend. The 2015 honor classes are: 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975 and 1980. Location: Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, Iowa. Make plans to attend. For more information, contact Alayne Petersen Martsching at 401-312-7368 or allaynemartsching@gmail.com.

Greater New York Academy 95th Anniversary Reunion
Oct. 9–11 — Save the date! Honoring classes ending in 0 and 5. Events include vespers and Welcome Table Friday night; worship service, lunch and “Music and Memories” on Sabbath; breakfast and basketball on Sunday. Send your name and contact information to alumni@gnyacademy.org. Friend us at Greater Nya (group page Greater N Y Academy Official Alumni). Write to GNY Academy, 41-32 58th St., Woodside, NY 11377 or call 718-639-1752.
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JOIN US FOR RESTORATION INTERNATIONAL’S NW Family Retreat held at Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Wash., July 15–19, 2015. Visit restoration-international.org. Contact Vernon and Karina Pettey at 406-890-1195 or Host@NWFamilyRetreat.org.

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gleaner | 41 | may 2015
Ast year when Barely Adventist informed the digital world that beloved televangelist Doug Batchelor would be making his debut on Dancing With the Stars, a passionate diatribe on the holiness of humor erupted on social media comments sections.

During the literary melee, a theme emerged among those on the faithful but frowning side of Adventism. “You think in a dying world with three angels message to preach and seven plagues about to drop it’s time for joke?” asked one Sadventist.

Echoing the sentiments, another lachrymose truth-lover asked, “Do you understand how serious it is to know that there is a judgment happening and it involves the entire world … ?”

One user, self-named simply “Adventist” and no doubt representing a large demographic of the church, writes, “What about sober and composed and calm and a right mind do you think is something you would call a stick in the mud? Perhaps you would be more comfortable at a comedy club than you would before the judgment seat of God.”

Judgment and humor don’t mix — or do they?

While space constraints prevent us from delving into the mechanics, styles and definitions of humor, it is important to explore the simple idea of laughter in the context of judgment lest we find ourselves misrepresenting our own eschatology like the conscientious but sadly mistaken humor-haters responding to yesteryear’s satirical post.

Let’s begin with a basic truth — Adventists are an apocalyptic people. “We Have This Hope” is a common Adventist hymn sung around the world — especially at official church gatherings. Historian George Knight says, “If Adventism loses its apocalyptic vision, it has lost its reason for existing as either a church or a system of education.”

Adventist identity is rooted in books like Daniel and Revelation pointing forward to the moment when Jesus is revealed (apocalypse) to the world and the earth is made new.

Which leads us to the crucial point — of all the Christian traditions on Earth, Adventists should appreciate a robust sense of
humor because humor is apocalyptic. One scholar points out, “Whether in righteous judgment, putting self-deifying mortals in their proper place (Psalm 2) or in crushing our despair at the foot of the cross, God always gets the last laugh. Gospel-grounded hope is the foundation of Christian laughter. This laughter springs from belief in God’s ability to bring radical reversals of fortune within this badly fallen world.”

Within our denominational name is the hope of looking forward to seeing Jesus, and within our fundamental beliefs is the knowledge that the earth will be made new — free from all sickness, death and suffering (Rev. 21:1–7 and belief number 28).

We may dwell alongside the world’s darkness, but the Spirit of God dwells inside us with the light of heaven — meaning that, like God, we can laugh with “He who sits in the heavens” (Psalm 2:4) because “heaven is all joy” and the end of the story written by the One in the heavens is happy. If we are unable to laugh, and cite the judgment as a reason, perhaps we have either forgotten the hope we profess to have, or we have fallen into a pattern of teaching the apocalypse in such a way as to emphasize last plagues rather than the parousia.

Charles Schultz, creator of the Peanuts comic strip, says, “Humor is proof that everything is going to be all right with God nevertheless.” Adventist theology’s end result is proclaiming that all will be right with God in the end. Laughter reminds us of that — it’s an expression of hope and a tool that can help us focus on that hope when we forget.

While we are free to debate what constitutes humor and when it is appropriate, to excoriate humor and laughter itself on the basis of God’s impending judgment betrays a bleak vision of the apocalypse that has lost sight of the Savior. That vision will not inspire holiness or healthy churches. The Adventist apocalypse is different from the disaster-oriented productions Hollywood cranks out almost every year. We have grace, we have hope, we have joy, and so we have laughter.

May our apocalyptic vision include apocalaughter as we wait for the judgment that is always in the favor of God’s people (Daniel 7:22).

4. Ellen White, Counsels for the Church, p. 22.
5. Theological term for the Second Coming literally meaning “presence.”

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor

Gospel-grounded hope is the foundation of Christian laughter.
ome of the devil’s most devoted disciples are among the best-behaved people on Earth. The most deceived of them experience victory over sin. Some are longtime church members devoted to doing the will of God but are servants of satanic delusions.

Should it surprise us that demons can deceive and empower well-intentioned people? New Agers exchange cigarettes for carrot sticks through the power of Hindu-style meditation. The pagan power channeled to them in neopagan meditation chambers certainly isn’t the Holy Spirit.

Rejoicing in victory over sinful habits, they know not that their spiritual state is worse than before they became overcomers.

Well, why would the devil bestow victory over sin? Before addressing this, let’s reaffirm that God has plentiful power over sin for us in the resurrection life of Jesus received through His Spirit. But the devil also has power to transform lives.

You see, our crafty foe wants to seize our souls through his deceptions. Thus for all that God offers, the devil has a counterfeit — even a counterfeit victory over sin, to lure us away from the cross so we trust in our own character attainments and thus forfeit salvation by grace.

All true believers yearn for total victory over sin, and the devil knows it. As we reach out for Jesus to pull us out of one gutter, Satan tries to drag us into another. Bad as it is to be snared in the slime of sinful indulgence, the ultimate deception is the opposite ditch off the gospel freeway: legalism.

People imagine they are following God when in reality another force is empowering them.

Remember the Pharisees, those paragons of piety. They had conquered the flesh and its lusts to the point that they fasted twice a week. But Jesus said these trophies
of self-discipline and the disciples of their zealous evangelism were actually sons of hell (see Matt. 23:15).

“Lord, I thank Thee for what Thou art doing in my life,” prayed the Pharisee in the sanctuary as he scorned the struggling soul who cast himself upon God’s mercy. That model of self-mastery knew not that his own soul was in bondage to demons — not demons of self-indulgence but demons of self-righteousness!

DEMONS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Demons of righteousness? Yes! The Bible warns of spiritual zealots who preach Christ but not Christ as our only hope. They preach a gospel, but one of merit rather than mercy (see 2 Cor. 11:2–4). This false gospel brings them “into bondage” (verse 20) — bondage to demons of righteousness: “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness” (verses 13–15).

Satan’s wolf-in-sheep’s-clothing strategy multiplies his power to deceive. Take witchcraft, for example. According to the Encyclopedia Americana, “magic to cause harm is often called black magic or sorcery, and magic intended to help or cure is frequently termed white magic.” Do you see the deception? For those eager to indulge in evil, the devil has black magic. (I lament the racial overtones of that term, but such are the terms used in the world of witchcraft.) And for those who admire the miracles of blessing Jesus performed, Satan has white magic. Black magic or white magic — he doesn’t care whether people do evil or do good as long as he is in control.

In Christ’s day, Herod by the demons of indulgence killed John the Baptist for the sake of lust, while the Pharisees by demons of righteousness killed Jesus for the sake of law. In succeeding centuries, the emperors of Rome were playboys in their palaces, as bishops of Rome venerated monastics in the desert and promoted perfectionism (with purgatory as a fire escape for those not yet worthy of heaven).

In these last days, may God save us from both the demons of indulgence with their carnal liberalism and the demons of righteousness with their legalism. The final time of trouble is soon to burst upon us, with the world entrapped in Satan’s deceptions. But there will be a remnant people who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12). By keeping God’s commandments, the final remnant people overcome the demons of indulgence. And by cherishing faith in Jesus, they overcome the demons of righteousness.

So let us beware and be wise. Amid the worldliness around us, God offers His church victory over sin, but so does the devil. Resist his temptation to jump from the frying pan with the demons of indulgence into the fire with the demons of righteousness.


Martin Weber, Adventist product manager for Faithlife, maker of Logos Bible Software
During a warm snap back in February, I had a talk with a clump of daffodils stubbornly pushing up through the dirt in our front yard. “What are you doing?” I exclaimed. “It’s the middle of winter. You shouldn’t be up yet.” “What do you know,” their spokesflower retorted. “You’ve never been a flower.”

Disgruntled by their disregard, I trudged down the driveway to where a maple tree showed leaf buds just beginning to turn green. “Not you too!” I cried. “I depend on you to unfurl those leaves on schedule, and you’re way ahead of the game.” “Have you ever been a tree?” it asked. “Ever felt the sap start to rise?” “No,” I replied. “But you lost all your leaves in the fall, and I’d like to see them come back — on schedule.” “I’ve got it covered,” said the tree, with a glance at my shiny head. “That’s more than I can say about you.” “Another touché,” said I. I walked back toward the house, only to pause at the familiar call of a robin. “I just put the Christmas tree away. You’re supposed to be hunkered down for the winter like the rest of us. Save your singing for the spring.”

Of course that was eons ago, and spring has officially been here for more than a month, at least according to the calendar. The flowering bushes are just fine. The tree along the driveway looks no worse for the experience. The robin and his friends are singing up a storm. Global warming or not, all my feathered friends, indeed most of nature, seem to be in better shape than I and some of my two-legged cohorts.

I can check out the latest weather radar on my computer screen, scan supermarket bar codes on my mobile phone and play Frisbee golf on my television at home. It’s a cinch to sniff the political wind on CNN, navigate the city with a GPS and make plane reservations online. But when it comes to responding to the Creator, I have a lot to learn from flora and fauna.

It’s a message echoed in the words of Jer. 8:7: “Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the LORD.”

Honest old Jeremiah rates our spiritual IQ even lower than “birdbrains.” With traits and tastes curated through years of practice, the tendencies of cultural Adventists may respond more readily to the fickle whims of society than the simple Word of God. Perhaps it’s why His children are so often referred to as sheep.

Yet there is always hope. If a flower, tree or bird can faithfully answer the call of the Creator, certainly our “little flock” can rediscover an urgency to listen to the Spirit and once again seek the voice of the Shepherd.

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor
Enter “Ellen White” in a Google search, and 302,000,000 results pop up in less than a second — many of which misrepresent reality and influence people who do not have adequate information or appreciation of her writings.

Understanding Ellen White provides a thoughtful look at her prophetic ministry and explores the two themes that were foundational to her life and work. “Basic to any understanding of Ellen White is her own walk with God,” writes Merlin D. Burt. “Everything she did must be understood and interpreted within this context. Readers need to know her passions that weave like two golden threads through her entire life and experience are central to who she was and what she accomplished: the love of God in Christ and a focus on Scripture.”

Written by 16 well-respected theologians, including Jon Paulien, Alberto R. Timm and Herbert Douglass, Understanding Ellen White explores chapters such as “Ellen White and Science,” “The Development of SDA Doctrines” and “The Plagiarism Debate.”

While it doesn’t try to offer a final answer on every issue, this book provides answers to specific questions regarding Ellen White and her prophetic ministry. It opens a window to her heart that allows us to discover her passion for her Savior and for the Word of God.

Ellen White for Teens
Seth J. Pierce

Ellen White for Teens is the latest title in Seth J. Pierce’s best-selling series, What We Believe for Teens. When he posed the question, “What do you know about Ellen White?” to a group of teenagers in a Bible class one day, he received a torrent of wild answers that included: “Cheese is poison” … “She wrote a lot of books” … “She was a bazillion years old” … “She didn’t like tea” … “She was hit by a rock.”

Pierce is gifted in being able to take difficult-to-understand concepts and explaining them in a way that makes them easy to grasp. He does it with great insight, wisdom and humor — in a language teens readily understand.

Some of the topics covered include:
» Did Ellen Ever Make Mistakes?
» What’s the Difference Between Her Books and the Bible?
» Are You Gonna Eat That?

Pierce writes, “My prayer is that you will become a friend of Ellen’s. Above all I hope you hear a voice that will point you to Jesus. Her voice matters, and I hope you can begin to hear it in the pages of Ellen White for Teens.”
or for the very first time, the beauty of Ellen G. White’s writings, her life, and her ministry.

**Understanding Ellen White • Merlin D. Burt, editor**

*Understanding Ellen White* was written to build a foundation for interpreting her experience with God and her life and ministry. Two golden threads weave throughout Ellen White’s life and experience and are central to who she was and what she accomplished: the love of God in Christ and a focus on Scripture.


**Ellen White for Teens**

*Seth J. Pierce*

Seth Pierce does it again! In *Ellen White for Teens*, he takes a challenging topic and explores it with insight, wisdom, and humor—in a language that teens will understand.

Seth writes, “My prayer is that you will become a friend of Ellen’s. You may find her challenging, aggravating, beautiful, confusing, or inspiring—or all of these at the same time—but that’s true of anybody we have a close relationship with. Above all, I hope you hear a voice that will point you to Jesus.” “Her voice matters, and I hope you can begin to hear it in the pages of this book.”


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