McVay Visits the Capitol
John McVay, Walla Walla University (WWU) president, visited the office of Washington State Senator Mike Hewitt this week in Olympia, Wash. Along with the senator, he found two WWU students there. Zach Santos, once an intern in the office, is now serving as session assistant, while Lauren Resler has joined the team as intern.

Don Gray Leaves a Legacy
Don Gray, whose influence equipped thousands for evangelistic work around the world, died Sat., Jan. 11. Gray, who led innovative efforts throughout the North American Division and beyond, was instrumental in developing evangelistic support materials and graphics used by many in short-term mission trips. Even during his retirement years in Portland, Ore., Gray was active in promoting outreach, working with It Is Written and the Voice of Prophecy on reclamation projects. Visit
Memorial services have been tentatively set for 3 p.m. on Feb. 8 at the Rockwood Adventist Church in Portland, Ore.

**Hope Channel Expands Middle East Audience**

A new satellite contract for the Seventh-day Adventist television channel in Beirut significantly expands the footprint of church media in Northern Africa and the Middle East. Hope Channel Al Waad this month entered a five-year contract with satellite Eutelsat 7 West A, a move network officials say introduces a message of hope to a wider audience of Arabic, Turkish and Farsi speakers in the region. Al Waad programs address topics such as health, education and family. The channel derives its name from the Arabic word for “promise,” offering what Amir Ghali, Al Waad director, calls “the promise of hope” to the region. [Read more from the Adventist News Network.](#)

**Monteiro Released from Prison**

After spending nearly 22-months in jail, Antonio Monteiro, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor in Togo, has been released from prison. Monteiro was acquitted in a court verdict and released early this week. On March 15, 2012, he was arrested after being accused of leading a crime ring, and for the past 22-months has been awaiting formal charges and a trial. His case has been the focus of prayer vigils, social media campaigns and diplomacy efforts from world church leaders. While Monteiro is now reunited with his family, the verdict was mixed, leaving another church member, Bruno Amah, convicted and facing life in prison. "The acquittal of Pastor Monteiro is good news and we are happy for him and his family. We are surprised and very sad about the condemnation of Amah," said John Graz, Adventist world church public affairs and religious liberty director. [Read more about Monteiro's story from Adventist News Network.](#)
New EGW Encyclopedia

Long-time Adventists as well as new members might equally gain from a newly published reference work, *The Ellen G. White Encyclopedia*. This resource, available in hardcover book or ebook formats, can be ordered now from your local Adventist Book Center or online. It helps to clarify long-held questions and debunk common myths about White and her ministry to the growing Adventist movement. Watch a short video as Adventist historian, George Knight, reviews the encyclopedia.

Nominate Your Favorite Teacher

The Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF) is gearing up for the 2014 Excellence in Teaching Awards. You can help them make the right choice by nominating your favorite teacher. Every year up to 10 teachers from the North American Division (NAD) are selected to receive the AAF Excellence in Teaching Award. These honored teachers are each awarded a $2,000 cash grant and recognized in various media outlets. This year nominations for the Excellence in Teaching Awards are online! Nominations and required documents are accepted only at alumniawards.org/nominate. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 10, so respond quickly.

Alaska Needs Pastor Who Can Really Fly

Adventist World Aviation and the Alaska Conference are urgently in need of a pastor/pilot, with a unique combination of talents to serve the Bristol Bay region of Alaska. In addition to pastoral duties for the Dillingham, Aleknagik and Togiak congregations, the successful applicant should be a USA certified pilot with commercial and instrument ratings and a current second class medical certificate. In addition, they must have a minimum of 500 total flight hours. Applicant would be the lead pilot among several volunteer pilots in the local church. For further information and to apply, please contact either Adventist World Aviation at 414-226-5195 (Ric Swaningson) or the Alaska Conference at 907-346-1004 (Ken Crawford).
Currently at

- Monroe Church Succeeds Using Acts 2 Ministry Model
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Jan 16: McVay Visits the Capitol
Donald Leroy Gray: An exceptional life of service to God

1926 to 2014

Don Gray, long-time evangelistic visionary for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, died Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014, in Portland, Ore. He was 87. Memorial services have been scheduled for the Rockwood Adventist Church in Portland, Ore., on Feb. 8 at 3 p.m.

Gray, Northwest born, raised and educated, was well-known throughout the Adventist world church for his tireless work in soul-winning and evangelism.

He was born in Klamath Falls, Ore., on March 19, 1926, to Irving Ellsworth Gray, and Ethel Rhodes. Ethel died of cancer when Don was only seven. At age 13, Don went with his two younger brothers, Bucky and Herby, to live with their uncle Herbert Rhodes in Portland, Ore. Herbert and his wife Edith, raised Don, Bucky and Herby as their own children. Don graduated from Portland Union Academy in only three years, and went on to Walla Walla College, in College Place, Wash., where he thrived as a straight-A student. In just three more years he earned a bachelor’s degree in theology.

While at Walla Walla College, Don met Marjorie Mason in the library, and it was love at first sight. Don and Marjorie were married shortly after he graduated from college and spent the next 65 years of their life together doing the Lord's work.

Don was ordained as a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist church — the youngest man at that time to be ordained as a minister in the Oregon Conference. During the next few years Don pastored a number of small churches in rural Oregon. A number of these churches needed new structures, or physical improvements, which Don, with the help of the members, undertook with the sort of zeal and enthusiasm he carried throughout his life.

Don and Marjorie welcomed a daughter, Donna, in 1950, followed soon after in 1953 by a son, Randy.

Don developed into an excellent public speaker, and the desire to expand his ministry toward soul-winning took him into the next phase of his life. Desiring to reach larger groups of people, he began to hold evangelistic meetings in air tents, due to the lack of adequate auditorium space. Don incorporated visual media with his sermons and found it was a very effective tool in capturing the minds and hearts of those in search of a better life.

Throughout the next few decades Don’s zeal for public speaking and evangelism grew. The hope of eternal life became the main focus of his life. Don and Marjorie wrote seven books on witnessing and the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. But the development of their most effective tool began in the early 1960s when they wrote a set of 24 Bible lessons. During the next few decades these lessons were translated into more than 76 languages, eventually produced as CDs and DVDs with animation and graphic illustrations. These sets were distributed throughout the world, reaching millions of lives with one simple message: Jesus love you and me, and is the way to salvation.

Don and Marjorie traveled the world promoting evangelism for the Seventh-day Adventist church in Russia, China and Europe. They worked closely with George Vandeman and It Is Written, the Voice of Prophecy, Mark Finley, Pacific Publishing Press, and many of the church’s organizations in a worldwide witnessing, and evangelistic effort. Don was one of the pioneers in multimedia approach to communication and witnessing, at one point overseeing the It Is Written Advent Digital Media project to produce cutting edge evangelistic graphics.

At all times, Don’s tireless dedication to soul-winning was paramount. The North Pacific Union and Oregon conferences once mutually awarded him a plaque of accomplishment in which they referred to him as “the unstoppable Don Gray.”

Don is responsible for the origination and establishment of a number of Seventh-day Adventist churches. Perhaps one of the most notable such projects began in collaboration with Dr. Robert Nutter in Grand Terrace, California. They purchased a bankrupt country club and its nine-hole golf course, and turned it into a church complex.

In June 2010, Marjorie passed away from complications of Alzheimer's. Heartbroken, Don lived on with his continuing passion for witnessing, but health issues began to erode his physical stamina and mobility. His son Randy remembers clearly a conversation a few months before his father’s death when Don said he needed to get out of his care home so that he would be able to help others. His heart was bigger than his strength. Don closed his eyes for the last time Sabbath morning, Jan. 11. There is no doubt that Jesus will say to him “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”
Randy says, “he was a devoted husband, loving father, and a true witness for Christ. I am proud to call him my father. He was truly a great man.”

Don is survived by his son, Randy, of Chico, Calif.; sister, Helen Winkle, of Ukiah, Calif.; and one granddaughter, Mindy Stannard, of Portland, Ore. His daughter, Donna Stannard, died in 2007.

Details provided by Randy Gray.

+ Read more from North Pacific Union
New satellite contract expands reach of Adventist television

Hope Channel Al Waad now widely available across Middle East, Northern Africa

January 14, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | ANN staff

A new satellite contract for the Seventh-day Adventist television channel in Beirut significantly expands the footprint of church media in Northern Africa and the Middle East. Hope Channel Al Waad this month entered a five-year contract with satellite Eutelsat 7 West A, a move network officials say introduces a message of hope to a wider audience of Arabic, Turkish and Farsi speakers in the region.

“This new contract is a fantastic opportunity for the advancement of God’s work, and a major step for urban outreach,” said Hope Channel President Brad Thorp. “We can now provide Al Waad to any of the cities in this region, opening up millions and millions of homes to God’s good news for a better life today and for eternity.”

The French-based satellite provider Eutelsat operates Eutelsat 7 West A in close cooperation with the Egyptian satellite provider Nilesat, the largest satellite provider in the Middle East. The 2011 launch of Eutelsat 7 West A marked part of the provider’s efforts to boost broadcasting in the Middle East, Gulf States, North Africa and Northwest Africa.

Viewers using the Nilesat satellite can now reset their channel lineup to receive Adventist television in their homes. Satellite is the most common broadcast distribution method in the Middle East.

“We have been praying for this development for many years,” said Al Waad Director Amir Ghali, adding that the channel’s “peaceful, non-partisan programming” has been well received in the region since its launch in 2010.

Al Waad programs address topics such as health, education and family. The channel derives its name from the Arabic word for “promise,” offering what Ghali called “the promise of hope” to the region.
Seventh-day Adventist Pastor Antonio Monteiro is back home with his family today after being released from prison after a nearly 22-month detainment. The case has been widely followed by the Adventist world church.

Ends nearly 22-month detainment; others still in jail after being convicted

January 13, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | ANN staff

Seventh-day Adventist Pastor Antonio Monteiro was released from prison this afternoon in Lomé, Togo, ending a nearly two-year ordeal that kept him and four others detained on charges of conspiracy to commit murder in a case that captured the attention of the Adventist world church.

Monteiro was released from the Lomé Civil Prison at 4:30 p.m. today after being acquitted in a court verdict yesterday. Still in prison is Adventist Church member Bruno Amah, who was convicted by a jury and sentenced to life in prison. He is considering his legal options, including appealing the decision.

Monteiro today was greeted outside of prison by his legal team and officials from the denomination’s Sahel Union Mission, where Monteiro had worked since 2009 as the Family Ministries director. Monteiro is a native of the island nation of Cape Verde, and it’s expected that he will return there soon.

Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson spoke to Monteiro by phone. Wilson said Monteiro thanked the world church for its support. Millions of Seventh-day Adventists worldwide had held prayer vigils, launched social media campaigns, sponsored letter-writing initiatives to government officials and diplomats, held press conferences and led a signature drive for a petition calling for the release of Monteiro and others involved in the case.

Church officials expressed “mixed feelings” over yesterday’s court ruling, which acquitted some and convicted others.

“The acquittal of Pastor Monteiro is good news and we are happy for him and his family. We are surprised and very sad about the condemnation of Amah,” John Graz, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Adventist world church, said yesterday. The arrests and detentions unfolded following a string of homicides in September of 2011. Five men, including Monteiro and Amah, were detained in March of 2012 and held without a trial and solely on the accusation of one man who was described as a “pathological liar” in a court-ordered psychiatric exam. That man, Kpatcha Simliya, who was also detained, was also convicted in yesterday’s ruling and sentenced to life in prison.

Depending on different newspaper and police accounts, more than a dozen bodies of women between the ages of 12 and 36 had been found in the northern Lomé suburb of Agoué in 2011. The bodies had stab wounds and some sexual organs had been removed. Blood and organs are often used in ceremonies of Voodoo, which is widely practiced in Togo.

When no arrests were made, the public demanded justice for the killings, church leaders said.

Simliya was later shown on television surrounded by police guards, telling the story of the series of murders he said that he organized and naming accomplices who collected blood and organs. But much of the story proved unlikely, including the number of victims and the methods used, according to Simliya’s medical examiner.

“Any informed and reasonable man would have doubts regarding his incredible outpouring or the feasibility of his crimes or supposed
crimes,” a September 9, 2012, court-ordered psychiatric exam stated, which was viewed by ANN.

Simliya would later recant his accusation, saying he was beaten by police and forced to give names of people he supposedly knew were co-conspirators in a blood trafficking network, according to the psychiatric exam.

Still, his testimony—the only evidence in the case—was enough to bring convictions in yesterday’s ruling.

Church officials for the denomination’s West-Central African Division, based in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, said Monteiro will receive appropriate care back in his home in Cape Verde.
Monroe Church Succeeds Using Acts 2 Ministry Model

Monroe Church members feel like they are winners with the numbers 78, 268 and 8 because they see how God is giving them victory. The numbers are merely a reminder that Christ’s method of ministry still works.

In Acts, Luke wrote down two prominent ministry numbers: 11 and 3,000. The first number, an amazing statistic, is found in Acts 1:13–14. The 11 disciples united in purpose and were so filled with Jesus that it caused a great conviction to come among some of the church members (Acts 2:41). In fact, the total number of church members who received a new experience — Christ inside of me — was 3,000 in a single day.

How did that happen? It occurred because 11 regular people gained a better understanding of the cross, which molded them into living advertisements.

Like the early Christian church, practicing the ministry model found in Acts 2 (evangelism, prayer, Bible study, faith, unity and fellowship) is giving shape and direction to Monroe Church. Let's unpack the numbers. The number 78 represents the average score Monroe members get on the natural church development test for holistic small groups. The number 268 is the average number of people attending Monroe's ministry groups during the week — which is double the Sabbath church service attendance. The number 8 is the percentage of baptisms the church has averaged over the last four years, and by God’s grace they have retained more than 85 percent.

Church leaders believe Monroe members are getting results by putting Jesus at the center of their lives. Jesus said in John 12:32, "If I am lifted up, I will draw people to Myself." Monroe Church has ministry groups every day of the week ranging from prison ministries, finance ministries and marriage ministries to health ministries and small group Bible studies. About every three months, they have a big push at church to encourage people to join a ministry group and invite their friends too.

It took the disciples almost four years to see outward results, and Monroe is finding similar results. Beyond the numbers, Monroe Church members are seeing lives changed as new and established disciples focus on the cross of Christ. Their progress flows from time spent with Jesus and being committed and united disciples.

+ Read more from Washington Conference

Coming in the February 2014 issue

Marc Lien

Monroe Church pastor
Relationship Ministry Extends Beyond Prison Walls

When Steve Steenmeyer accepted the call to lead the Hillside O’Malley Church’s correctional ministry in Anchorage, Alaska, he did so with the intent of instituting correspondence Bible studies in association with the Alaska Conference Discover Bible School (DBS), Voice of Prophecy’s Bible study guides. Christ’s call in Matt. 28:19–20 instructs us to make disciples and to teach all things. This requires relationships. DBS became an avenue for opening up those opportunities. Several personal victories have begun to bear that out.

In the fall of 2012, Jesse enrolled in DBS at the Anchorage Jail. Transferred to Colorado he continued with the studies. Jesse was then transferred to a facility in Alaska. Frequently, new requests for DBS studies were received because of Jesse’s testimony. He influenced his fiancée, Jeena, to attend Bible studies at Hillside O’Malley. Jesse was transferred to a treatment center in Anchorage and then to a halfway house, which happened to be walking distance to the Northside Church, and they began attending Sabbath services. Jesse was released on Dec. 7, 2013. On that very morning Jesse and Jeena walked into Sabbath class at the O’Malley Church. They are meeting with the pastor in preparation for their marriage. Jeena is requesting baptism.

In 2012, Tina Steenmeyer journeyed with a friend, Jayne, to Colorado to meet with Jayne’s incarcerated son, Isaac, who had enrolled in DBS and accepted Jesus. Jayne had weekly visits with her son via online video. Jayne’s heart melted as her son shared what Jesus was doing in his life, and how he was witnessing to inmates. Isaac led Jayne to Christ during an online chat. Jayne now attends Hillside O’Malley Church and continues to experience life-changing miracles. Isaac was transferred back to Alaska, where he is to be released in 2017, and he desires a future in evangelism.

In the fall of 2012, Will enrolled in DBS at the Anchorage Jail. He was transferred to halfway houses and frequently wrote letters concerning doctrinal beliefs. He was released in November 2013 and that very week attended the O’Malley Church, where he is also a regular on Wednesday evening. With extensive experience as an audio/visual technician in the rock music industry, he now desires to utilize his background with Christian evangelism tours.

Steenmeyer was recently asked by the Alaska Conference to lead out in expanding this Spirit-empowered ministry. With more than 800 enrollees, an average of 10 new students weekly and 80 to 100 lessons processed weekly, Alaska is grateful for having been led to a means that allows the convicting power of the Holy Spirit and the truth of God’s powerful Word to do the work.

Read more from Alaska Conference
Coming in the February 2014 issue

Steven Steenmeyer

Alaska Conference correctional ministries coordinator
Columbia Adventist Academy Pursues Full-Time Philanthropy

One of Webster’s definitions of philanthropy is “the desire to promote the welfare of others.” And that makes the activities of this past fall at Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) in Battle Ground, Wash., a full-time philanthropic endeavor.

One focus of the CAA’s mission statement is that “at Columbia, students, staff and community work together to help each individual become an active, caring servant leader.” To that end, CAA has planned several outreach activities with the intent of promoting the welfare of others.

Time and energy were contributed early in the school year as CAA had an all-school community service day with students helping others from Yacolt, Wash., through Vancouver, Wash., and down to Oregon City, Ore. This was followed by the seniors working at the Clark County Food Bank and the juniors taking a day away from classes to help the Adventist Community Services Center.

Music groups are also responding philanthropically as they annually share songs of Christmas and the holidays at two locations for customers at Chuck’s Produce, local food markets, and Follow the Star in Gladstone, Ore. More time and energy was gifted as first- and second-graders from neighboring Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School worked with academy students to decorate cookies, sing songs and listen to stories.

CAA students are learning and practicing the use of their own monetary resources, in addition to time and energy, to help others. Examples were seen during a sock drive initiated after a chapel talk by Marshall Snyder from Bridgetown Ministries in Portland, Ore. More than 390 pair were donated to help the homeless. And had you walked through the CAA halls this past holiday season you would have also seen boxes — some filled with toys, others overflowing with food for holiday food baskets to give to families in need.

CAA’s administration has modeled the philanthropic use of resources, as well as thanking their supportive community by sponsoring Bravo! Vancouver’s free performance of Handel’s Messiah. The enjoyment of the evening was made even greater as Steve Hokett, a local dentist and parent of a CAA junior, conducted the "Hallelujah Chorus."

With all that has happened with philanthropy as a goal, it was best observed culminating in the Celebration of Harmonious Holidays dinner, during which students, staff and community members combined forces to raise more than $100,000 for the worthy student fund. Students gave the devotional, performed music, served guests and contributed financially. Faculty and staff members worked together as a team to pull the pieces together and added to the dollar count. Community members invited guests, decorated the tables, gave the keynote address and made the big push to see that the evening was fun and successful.

Mackenzie Wood, a senior and devotional speaker, said it best: “God takes the gifts people give and stretches them into ways they are needed. Thank you for investing in me and my classmates. Thank you for making an investment with great returns that will last throughout eternity.”

Matthew says, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” May we all live philanthropically from the heart.
Moses Lake Tumbleweeds Spread Seeds for Jesus


A chilly night in October found tumbleweeds scattered over the streets of Moses Lake, Wash. — not spiky, prickly plants, of course, but cheerful, energetic Adventurers spreading seeds of love for Jesus. Carrying sacks and pulling wagons they eagerly knocked on doors and asked for canned food contributions for the Moses Lake Food Bank and the Moses Lake Church’s Thanksgiving basket outreach.

“The kids were very excited to help collect food for people who don’t have enough. Even the little three- and four-year-olds wanted to be the ones to talk at the door,” says Joanne Thomas, Adventurer instructor. “People responded very positively to kids wanting to help other people.” Several groups didn’t have a single house turn them away empty-handed.

It was hard to get the kids to stop, and leaders had to drag them back to the cars because they kept wanting to do “just one more street.” The 14 Adventurers and seven adult helpers collected more than 250 cans of food in about an hour. “It was great,” says Louise Olmstead, Adventurer instructor. “The Adventure club members were the leaders, knocking on the doors and letting the members of our community know the purpose of our mission.”

The following week several Adventurers asked, “Can we go collect cans again? Please?”

Marta Beaubien, Moses Lake Adventurer Club director
Walter Dietz picked up the mail one day and found a flyer for an interesting Bible prophecy meeting. He came to every meeting at Greater Seattle Filipino-American Church, took comprehensive notes and filled a big binder with his notes and seminar materials.

Dietz, you see, is a pastor/trainer for Christian pastors in the United States and abroad.

Before he retired and entered ministry, Dietz worked at Boeing and helped other Christians found a lunchtime Bible study group. After the Bible prophecy seminar at the Filipino church, Dietz asked to be rebaptized because of the impact of the biblical truth he learned from the seminar.

The stories continue from this seminar site, one of 135 Bible prophecy seminar locations in western Washington during October and November 2013. These meetings were offered in English, Spanish, Korean, Russian and Indonesian.

When your 6-year-old nephew invites you to go to his church’s Amazing Prophecies meeting, it’s hard to refuse. This is what happened to Rex Simbre.

Simbre, a seaman working on cargo ships with international destinations, stays with his Adventist family members in Renton during his time off.

One week after the series began, Simbre was scheduled to leave for work in Hawaii, but severe pain from a kidney stone grounded him and kept him longer in Seattle. He attended the rest of the seminar series and felt convicted by God on the last Friday night to be baptized. God showed him blessings in disguise.

A couple named Nick and Susan Nuezca came to the Filipino-American Bible prophecy meeting because of a last-minute invitation from Eddie General, Filipino-American Greater Seattle Church pastor, who felt impressed to distribute his last 200 handbills at SeaFood Center in Tukwila to people sitting outside at round tables.

The couple later told General that they had come because of the invitation outside of SeaFood Center. Nick Nuezca explained how he and his wife were praying to find someone or a group where they could study the Bible. The couple attended every meeting and decided to follow the Holy Spirit’s prompting to be baptized.

“These are just three of the stories about how God was at work at our meetings,” says General.

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+ Read more from January 2014

**Heidi Baumgartner**

Washington Conference communication director

Heidi Baumgartner serves as communication director for Washington Conference.