This Week: Seattle Hosts The One Project; Ronan Hosts Soup-er Bowl; and more!

Seattle Hosts The One Project
The One Project drew more than 700 Adventist pastors, students, teachers and other interested individuals to its gathering in Seattle this week, Feb. 10 and 11. The project, an affiliated effort of Adventist collegiate chaplains and pastors, seeks to revive urgency among church leaders and members to focus on the centrality of Jesus in spiritual life. During the meetings, participants listened to short presentations and videos, shared their own dreams for the church and also joined in small group discussions. Young college students rubbed shoulders and compared notes with iconic personalities such as Dwight Nelson, Bill Knott and Randy Roberts. The gathering will be held in Riverside, Calif., this fall, San Diego in February 2015, and return to Seattle in 2016. Read more from The One Project online or log in to your Facebook account to view a gallery of Northwest faces at the Seattle gathering.

Ronan Hosts Soup-er Bowl
Adventist members in Ronan, Mont., figured they could do something more productive than simply watch the annual football championship on television. They held their 5th Annual Soup-er Bowl Challenge, with two teams attempting to collect and donate the most cans of soup to local food banks. During January the teams collected more than double the number of cans compared with last year’s results, with a total of 4,004 cans of soup, according to Russ Jenkins, church community outreach coordinator. This donation is especially helpful to this area of Montana, where an estimated 18 percent of adults and 30 percent of...
Feb 13: Seattle Hosts The One Project

children do not regularly receive adequate nutrition. Read the full account of this great community outreach event online from the Valley Journal.

European Coalition Seeks Work-Free Sundays

The European Sunday Alliance continues to push for the European Union (EU) parliament to promote legislation for work-free Sundays, with the acknowledgement of a collective day of rest. Behind the movement is an effort to promote decent working hours and safeguard the health and well-being of families across the continent. Adventists and other groups, however, are speaking out with concerns. "Millions of European citizens belonging to religious minorities could be affected by [the] EU Sunday law aspirations," said Liviu Olteanu, Inter-European Division director of public affairs and religious liberty. Read more on this story from the Adventist News Network.

Northwest Showings for The Record Keeper

Members near Walla Walla, Wash., and Portland, Ore., will have an opportunity for a firsthand look at The Record Keeper. Filmed primarily in the Northwest by local Adventist filmmaker Jason Satterlund, The Record Keeper was commissioned by the world church as a resource to begin a conversation with unchurched people about issues of good and evil addressed more fully in The Great Controversy. While church leaders finalize how this web series will be used, here are two chances for you to see it for yourself. Portions of the series will be shown at Walla Walla University’s Village Hall from 7–9 p.m. this evening, Feb. 13, with Satterlund on hand for questions. For those near Hillsboro, Ore., Sunset Christian Fellowship will hold a premier showing of the entire film on Sat., Feb. 15, at 2 p.m., including Q&A time with Satterlund.

Does Sitting Shorten Your Life?

In a report featured on KGW television in Portland, Ore., David Hall, a physician at Adventist Health Occupational Medicine, says Americans who sit too much are compromising their health. "Americans are gaining weight and getting more out of shape because we spend so much of our life sitting down," Hall says. "If you sit 11 hours or more a day, you may have a 30 to 40 percent chance of dying early." Between sitting for work at meals, in the car and in
front of the TV, Americans spend an average of 7.7 hours off their feet per day, according to Hall. He advises the average office worker to stand up a few minutes at least every hour, make phone calls standing up, and instead of sending an internal office email take a walk to a co-worker's office. Watch the KGW report online.

Jeopardy Features Oakwood Student
This week featured a unique Jeopardy program on television as Kenesha Bennet from Oakwood University joined students from Berkeley and Princeton on the College Champions show. In response to questions from the host, she shared why the religious influence on the Adventist campus is a blessing to her. Watch a video clip of her response on the show via Facebook.

In-Step for Life Winners
At this week's North American Division Health Summit in Orlando, Fla., awards were presented for church entities which excelled in the 2013 In Step for Life initiative to encourage regular exercise. Within the North Pacific Union, the Washington Conference was noted for top aggregate miles. Alaska Conference featured the highest participation rate.

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And More!

Looking Ahead
February
- 13: The Record Keeper, WWU
- 14: Islam and Christianity in the Bible
- 15: The Record Keeper, Hillsboro, OR
- 15: Derrol Sawyer Concert, Startup, WA
InPrint
February

Across the Northwest, Adventist church members gather each week for worship, even in prison. This month, the Gleaner features church members who organize services each week for inmates in local prisons and how lives have been changed through prison ministries.

Read the February issue online.
Soup-er Bowl Challenge provides much needed food

While Americans watched an anti-climatic blowout that concluded the season of the nation’s favorite sport on Feb. 2, Ronan’s Seventh Day Adventist Church crossed their fingers in a nail-biting ending to a charitable event that parodies the sporting event and brings food to families who might otherwise go hungry.

The 5th annual Soup-er Bowl Challenge ended with 4,004 cans of soup collected and donated by the church’s parishioners to the Ronan Bread Basket and Polson Loaves and Fish. The number was more than double the number of cans collected last year, and 10 times as many cans collected the first year, said Russ Jenkins, community outreach coordinator for the church.

The church split into two teams during the month of January, the Jackson Jackals and Adams Anteaters. Each team collected 2,002 units of soup each.

“It was a dead tie,” Jenkins said.

Dale Jackson was captain of the Jackals, and attributed success of the drive to Jenkins’ enthusiasm, charitable church members, and the generosity of Walmart Supercenter in Polson. The store gave 3,200 units of Campbell’s chicken noodle soup to split between the teams.

“I didn’t have to do much,” Jackson said. “Russ just stands up and talks to people and things get done … And Walmart, they gave us the stuff for less than it cost them.”

Soup is especially helpful for families with children, Sherri McDonald of the Ronan Bread Basket said.

“Kids can make it by themselves if mom or dad isn’t home,” McDonald said.

Merle Parise and Bryan River of the Polson Loaves and Fishes food pantry said the donation of soup is appreciated because the supply of canned beans and soup from the Montana Food Bank Network has dried up in recent months.

“We’ve had to cut way back on cans of soup,” Parise said. “We’ve been forced to buy some of it. We used to give a family of four four cans. Now we only give them two.”

Each family will receive one more can because of the donation. The soup will likely last about three months, Parise said.

Brent Weisgram, chief operations manager of the Montana Food Bank Network said the pantries will likely see a shipment of soup soon. Last week the Montana Food Bank Network, which supplements almost 200 member pantries in the state, landed a shipment from Campbell’s. Each day the network and other major food banks across the country compete in a fierce battle for resources. Members of the national nonprofit Feeding America network are entered into a computer that uses a complex formula that includes poverty levels, populations, average income, unemployment numbers and other economic indicators to spit out a number of “shares” given to each bank. The “shares” are used to bid on shipments of food donated by some of America’s biggest retailers. The entire state of Montana is pitted against densely populated cities for the resources, including Chicago and Los Angeles, Weisgram said.

Once the Montana Food Bank Network lands a bid, it must pay for transportation of the food to Montana. A recent shipment based in Pennsylvania cost $4,000 to transport, but it was a sweet deal for the $38,000 in goods that fed hungry Montanans, Weisgram said.

Although Montana produces tons of beef and wheat every year, most of the food has to be trucked in.

“One thing Montana doesn’t have is major food processing plants,” Weisgram said.

All of the food that comes through the state’s food bank network comes from major retailers. The group does not hold food drives in individual communities primarily because it doesn’t want to take food out of those communities that may need them, Weisgram said.

“People often ask me if they should give to their local food bank or our network,” Weisgram said. “I tell them both.”

The Montana Food Bank Network is a major player in supplementing community food banks, but it’s not the bread and butter of the
organizations which run predominantly on donations. People can find out what is needed in their individual communities, like soup and beans, by staying in touch with the pantries.

McDonald is amazed by the generosity of people.

“We’re not a rich town, but people give,” McDonald said. “We’re eternally grateful to the Mission Valley when they contribute to help our needy families.”

In August, Polson Loaves and Fish had seen a 15 percent increase in numbers of people frequenting the food bank from the previous year. Ronan Bread Basket reported a similar increase, with an unexplained surge of single male patrons.

Lake County has the state’s fifth highest rate of food insecurity with 18 percent of adults and 30 percent of children not receiving enough nutrition, according to data released by the Montana Food Bank Network in 2013.

“Food insecurity is when someone doesn’t know where their next meal will come from,” explained Diane Mathews of the Montana Food Bank Network in a July 31 meeting with local organizations.

The numbers are expected to increase again. Congress cut the food stamp program, known as the SNAP program, by $8.6 billion dollars last week.

“We haven’t seen (more people) yet, but I’m sure we will,” McDonald said.

**Tags**

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In Europe, Adventists call on Sunday Alliance not to discriminate

An alliance promoting work-life balance in Europe is lobbying members of the European Parliament to endorse work-free Sundays in the continent. Above, a committee room of the European Union in Brussels, Belgium. [photo: Wikimedia Commons]

Goal of promoting work-life balance could backfire against religious minorities, experts say

February 11, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | ANN staff

An alliance promoting work-life balance and social cohesion in Europe reiterated its call for work-free Sundays at a conference in Brussels, Belgium last month.

The European Sunday Alliance, a coalition of national Sunday alliances, trade unions, civil society organizations and faith communities established in 2011, is gaining some traction in the European Parliament but continues to trouble religious liberty advocates.

At the Second Conference on Work-Free Sundays and Decent Work, the alliance launched a pledge targeting current and future members of the European Parliament, asking lawmakers to promote legislation that “respects” Sunday as a “day of rest” and guarantees fair work hours.

“A work-free Sunday and decent working hours are of paramount importance for citizens and workers throughout Europe,” a document distributed by the alliance said, adding that extending the workweek to “late evenings, nights, bank holidays and Sundays” is jeopardizing the health, safety, family and private lives of employees.

The alliance also argues that a longer workweek with fewer holidays isn’t the answer to Europe’s entrenched financial woes—instead it favors job creation and competitiveness.

“Competitiveness needs innovation, innovation needs creativity and creativity needs recreation,” the document states.

Economic arguments aside, religious minorities in Europe—among them Muslims, Jews and Seventh-day Adventists—worry the proposal could infringe on free expression of religious beliefs, despite its seemingly well-intentioned goals of reducing stress and overwork.

“Millions of European citizens belonging to religious minorities could be affected by [the] EU Sunday Law aspirations,” said Liviu Olteanu, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Adventist Church’s Inter-European Division (EUD).

In a January 21 news release, the EUD endorsed the position of Hannu Takkula, a Finnish member of the European Parliament who has spoken out against work-free Sundays.

“Legislation must never discriminate on religious grounds. A law setting up Sunday as the universal work-free day would do just that,” Takkula said in a recent news release.

“Freedom of religion and belief is a core European value. … The European Union must guarantee everyone equal rights and freedoms to celebrate the rest day of their convictions,” he added.

John Graz, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Adventist world church, said he was pleased that Takkula and other Parliament members are taking a clear stand against work-free Sundays.

“We encourage all lawmakers in Europe to protect the rights of all people of faith, including those who do not observe Sunday as a day of rest,” Graz said.
Adventists in Europe have questioned the effects of work-free Sundays since the European Sunday Alliance was established.

In 2011, Raafat Kamal, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Adventist Church in Northern Europe, said Adventists “support the notion that people need a day of rest to achieve a work-life balance,” but “at the same time, we want to be sure that those who don’t observe Sunday as a designated religious day of rest will be respected.”

Now, Olteanu is directly calling on members of the European Parliament “not to interfere in matters relating to religious liberty and freedom of conscience, proposing or accepting laws that affect the religious liberty of religious minorities.”

Olteanu encouraged Adventist Church members in Europe to pray for the situation and contact their respective Members of Parliament or MEP candidate to lobby for their religious liberties.

“We should commit ourselves with wisdom, balance and [a] positive attitude to be ambassadors of liberty, hope and peace, loving others but looking always to promote and defend religious liberty for all people,” Olteanu said.
Rivergate Students Deliver Half Ton of Food

Kids from families of Rivergate Adventist Elementary School in Gladstone, Ore., delivered 1,000 pounds of food to the Gladstone Park Community Services (GPCS) on Nov. 22, 2013. Chris Binder, local leader, reports an average of 440 low-income individuals among 140 families were helped by GPCS last year.

Every other Tuesday and Wednesday, trucks from the Oregon USDA Food Bank and Shop the Docks were unloaded, unpacked and distributed by Gladstone Park Church volunteers who showed up on a regular basis.

Coming in the March 2014 issue

Richard Cook

Gladstone Park Church communication leader
Hurlbert Retires, Plubell Steps In

With the recent retirement of Alan “Lanny” Hurlbert as North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) vice president for education, Dennis Plubell has been selected to fill this important role for Northwest schools.

Plubell returns to the NPUC, where he served as Hurlbert’s associate for secondary education from 1997–2007. Since then he has worked as the director of secondary education and accreditation for the North American Division. Plubell holds a Master of Arts in teaching from Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., and also an additional professional degree in educational administration and leadership from La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif. His 14 years of experience in secondary teaching and administration along with two decades of conference, union and division leadership equips him well for his new NPUC role. His wife, Barbara, is the principal of Portland Adventist Elementary School in Portland, Ore.

Hurlbert leaves for retirement following more than two decades of educational leadership with the NPUC. He began as associate director of education in 1991, stepping into the director role in 1996 after the unexpected death of former director Don Keele. Before coming to the NPUC, Hurlbert served as principal of Walla Walla Valley Academy in College Place, Wash., and Garden State Academy in New Jersey. He also taught at Shenandoah Valley Academy in Virginia and South Lancaster Academy in Massachusetts. He and his wife, Duska, will be enjoying a well-earned retirement.

+ Read more from Intersections

Coming in the March 2014 issue
PAA’s Land Development Begins

gleanernow.com/news/2014/02/paa’s-land-development-begins

A property lease and development means visible progress toward a new school building for Portland Adventist Academy (PAA).

A busy construction site is leaving a mark on the east side of PAA’s 25-acre property. Builders Jerry Erwin and Associates are constructing a 50-bed skilled nursing facility to face east toward Adventist Medical Center. The building plan is on schedule for completion this summer.

The property lease of the skilled nursing facility will help to fund PAA’s new school building. The facility construction is visible progress toward a future PAA.

Coming in the March 2014 issue

Liesl Vistaunet

PAA Gleaner correspondent
Fall Creek Opens Event Center

The Event Center at Fall Creek, operated by the Fall Creek Church, opened on Sabbath, Nov. 30, 2013, to serve East Lane County communities in rural Oregon.

Sponsored, built and operated by the 85-member congregation of the Fall Creek Church, the 4,000-square-foot building is commissioned as a venue for uplifting concerts and programs, family activities, community events, ministerial retreats, and evangelism.

The building was designed under the guidance of former Fall Creek Church member Ronna Hayden, a professional interior designer, and built by Cedric R. Hayden, current Fall Creek Church member and deacon, a dentist and general contractor. David McCoy, district pastor, provided constant encouragement and support during the seven-year project. The center reflects the architecture of the adjacent 109-year-old Adventist Sanctuary, which was historically, in the early 1900s, known as the Fall Creek Unity Methodist Church. Both structures stand on the beautiful six-acre church campus adjacent to scenic Fall Creek, site of many baptisms.

Prior to the opening exercises, former Lowell Mayor Warren Weathers toured the building, and stated, "It will be a fine addition to the community."

Faye Stewart, Lane County commissioner, also toured the facility during the Christmas season and said, "The building is a beauty and will be a gem of an addition to our community."

Head elder and current scheduler Randy Meyer engaged the Weimar Quintet for the first concert in the Event Center and has confirmed a number of events to be held in the near future. The event schedule and other news can be seen on the Fall Creek SDA Facebook page.

Coming in the March 2014 issue

Cedric Hayden

Fall Creek Church member
Soonago Youth Rally 2014

“There is nothing like walking in the front door and coming home,” says David Yeagley, Washington Conference youth director. “Our goal with youth rally this year is to show a new picture of Jesus, a new perspective on the church, so teenagers see that they are welcome to come home to Jesus and that there is a place in God’s house for them.” Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

David Yeagley, Washington Conference youth director, warms up the crowd of 350 teenagers with a quote quiz: “Is It Leviticus or Taylor Swift?” Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

The youth rally musicians lead teenagers in music sets about worshipping God. Selections included "Blessed Be Your Name," "Our God is Greater," and "How Great is Our God." Teenagers had their cell phones out to capture video music clips! Credit: Todd Gessele

Dan Jackson, North American Division president, is here to talk with teenagers about their place in the home of Jesus. “I’m never discouraged [about the church’s future] when I interact with youth,” says Jackson who goes on to share a series of stories, examples, Bible verses and invitations. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

“You need to be part of God’s house,” says Dan Jackson, NAD president to Washington youth. “The home needs to be expanded; the fellowship needs to be increased.” Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

Dan Jackson, NAD president, explains on how youth can be a part of God’s house: be a minister, mediate God’s grace and tell the world about Jesus. “Every one of us accepts a responsibility to minister when we accept Jesus into our lives,” Jackson says. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

The teenagers from through western Washington participated in five afternoon breakout sessions including a Bible study, mass choir, community building exercises, a prayer room and a Q&A session with Dan Jackson. Here, youth participate in a Bible study led by Pastor Mika Devoux. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

A key question in an afternoon Q&A: How can we as young adults fulfill the Gospel Commission? “Every day when you wake up,” responds Dan Jackson, “commit yourself to God and pray for God to bring you to the right people. This is how the Gospel Commission will be fulfilled.” Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

For His Glory, a popular singing group in western Washington, share musical number at Youth Rally 2014. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

A group of teenagers participate in a mass choir and sing "Our God is Awesome." Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

“The church is in good hands,” says Dan Jackson, NAD president, during his afternoon presentation. “I see this when I look at you. Don’t live your life without God’s word. When it comes to making decisions, look to the Bible.” Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

Dan Jackson closes his presentation with an appeal for young people to be ministers for God in their lives. The teenagers come forward to the cross to make a commitment to find a home in Jesus and finish the Youth Rally by singing, “Jesus at the Center of it All.” Credit: Todd Gessele

Picture a worship setting with a room full of teenagers. Are they checked in? Checked out?

Come look inside the Soonago Youth Rally hosted each year by Washington Conference!

This is a time of worship, interaction, Bible study, spiritual growth training, and faith sharing. It is designed for teenagers to grow in their spiritual walk and start a new year on the right note.

Soonago, a Greek working meaning "a coming together," is illustrated by the disciples coming together in the upper room when the Holy Spirit fell on them. Washington Conference calls its youth rallies "Soonago" because youth come from different schools and walks of life to be filled with the Holy Spirit.