World Church Shelves The Record Keeper

General Conference leadership decided last week to suspend the release of an upcoming 11-episode web series, The Record Keeper. As featured in the September 2013 Gleaner, the series promised to reach an untapped segment of the world’s population with themes of the ultimate struggle between good and evil. Last week’s action took into account a list of theological concerns about the production drafted by the church’s Biblical Research Institute (BRI). A public version of this list will be available at GleanerNow.com when it’s available. Approximately $1 million was earmarked for this project, with half of the funds coming from a private donor, and the rest from non-tithe money. The vote to shelve the series has understandably been met with a variety of passionate responses, including this post by Adventist young people, as members around the globe seek to find appropriate ways to creatively express the Adventist mission and message. Visit GleanerNow.com to read the full BRI report when it becomes available.

Church Challenges Parsonage Ruling

The Adventist News Network reports that the Adventist world church has joined a coalition of more than 30 denominations challenging a November ruling that the customary parsonage exemption for pastors is unconstitutional. The parsonage exclusion gives pastors the ability to deduct their housing expenses from taxable income. If not reversed, the November decision by U.S.
district judge Barbara Crabb, has the potential to dramatically impact how religious groups compensate their ministers. “This exemption in fact serves to strengthen the separation between church and state by keeping the government out of church decisions, ecclesiastical matters, and treats all churches and religions the same,” says Todd McFarland, world church associate general counsel. Read the full story on Adventist News Network.

The 10/40 Window Moves Next Door

During the recent spring gathering of Adventist world church leaders in Silver Spring, Md., Dan Jackson, North American Division president, shared a new perspective on the 10/40 Window. This description has traditionally included a region spanning Northern Africa, Middle East and Asia where less than 2 percent of the population is Christian. But Jackson offered another view. “[The 10/40 Window] just moved next door,” Jackson said, referring to a massive influx of immigrants and refugees to some American cities. One Adventist church in southern California includes members from 51 nationalities. What about your church? How are you reaching out to the different people groups in your community? Read the full report from the Council on Evangelism and Witness at AdventistReview.com.

Tri-Cities Robot Team Wins Champion Award

Walla Walla University (WWU) hosted the “2014 FIRST LEGO League Regional Robotics Challenge,” with 18 teams from around the Northwest. The contest, sponsored by the WWU Edward F. Cross School of Engineering, featured the theme of "Nature’s Fury" and challenged teams to build a LEGO robot that could respond to natural disasters. Winning the contest were the Plastique Bots of Pasco, Wash., who took home the Champion’s Award. “Congratulations to all the teams who participated,” says Doug Logan, School of Engineering dean. “It was exciting to see the creativity and skills the teams invested in their projects.” Four other awards were given out at the event. Read more at WallaWalla.edu.

Wenatchee Members Volunteer in Belize

In early March, 34 students and adults from Cascade Christian Academy and the Wenatchee Church in Wenatchee, Wash., traveled to Belize. The goal was build a security fence, and assist with installing wireless internet, at an Adventist-run orphanage. Each morning, the students worked on the fence, but each day at 3 p.m., students put
April 17: World Church Shelves The Record Keeper

down their tools and spent time with the 84 kids at the orphanage. The kids enjoyed the extra attention, building friendships and last memories. Read more about their trip at UCCsda.org.

Camporee InStep 3-day Challenge

Is your Pathfinder club headed to the Pathfinder Camporee this summer? Adventist’s InStep for Life is sponsoring a 3-day fitness challenge with a 5K Race, a Boot-Camp Strength Challenge and a 1-mile Run. Clubs must register before May 31 and the event will take place Aug. 13–15 at the camporee. The top 10 clubs to place in the challenge will receive a $500 prize and trophy, with additional prizes to all who participate. Get more information and register today at the In-Step website.

Currently at

gleanernow

- Professor's Expertise Benefits Online Mathematics Platform
- Athena Members Reach Out to Reservation
- Oregon Pathfinders Hold 'Calling on Jesus' TLT Convention
- Bible Experience Comes to Spokane
- Nampa Man Is Finally Home
- PAA Emphasizes Service and Mission

And More!

Looking Ahead

April

- 17–20: Journey to the Cross, Spokane, WA.
- 18–20: Journey to the Cross, Auburn, WA.
- 18–20: Journey to the Cross, Kelso, WA.
- 18–20: Annual Singles Retreat at Sunset Lake
- 24–27: WWU Alumni Homecoming

May
InPrint
April
One of the benchmarks of the Seventh-day Adventist name and mission is a focus on worshipping the Creator. God is the Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic account of His creative activity. This month, the Gleaner celebrates creation and the creativity of the Creator with a special issue feature. Read the April issue online.

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The Adventist Church has joined an amicus brief for a case at Chicago's Seventh Circuit federal court to challenge a lower court's ruling that the United States' "parsonage allowance" for ministers' housing is unconstitutional. Above, the Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse, home of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago, Illinois, United States, last week. [photo copyright for ANN by Andrew Nelles]

**Challenges ruling that clergy tax-exempt housing allowance is unconstitutional**

April 09, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Ansel Oliver/ANN

The Seventh-day Adventist Church joined an amicus brief filed today in a United States Federal Court of Appeals challenging a November ruling that the "parsonage exemption" is unconstitutional.

The Adventist Church joined in the “friend-of-the-court” brief to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, said Todd McFarland, an associate general counsel for the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters.

The brief was led by Church Alliance, which is a coalition of more than 30 denominations that work together on common legislative and legal issues, primarily dealing with employee benefits, McFarland said.

The group is challenging a November ruling by a U.S. district judge that the clergy exemption for paying taxes on income designated for housing is unconstitutional.

Adventist Church leaders say that pastors may make a decent living wage on a "base pay" basis, but depending on where they live, their cost of living adjustments are usually drastically behind and not commensurate. The parsonage exclusion gives them the ability to deduct their housing expenses from their taxable income.

In her ruling, Judge Barbara Crabb said the parsonage exemption violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, which prohibits Congress from making a law "respecting an establishment of religion."

The parsonage exemption, Crabb said, benefits “religious persons and no one else, even though doing so is not necessary to alleviate a special burden on religious exercise.”

In an interview, McFarland said the religious coalition doesn’t believe the exemption violates the Establishment Clause, noting that the tax code contains other similar exemptions.

“This exemption in fact serves to strengthen the separation between church and state by keeping the government out of church decisions, ecclesiastical matters, and treats all churches and religions the same,” McFarland said.
Other exemptions, McFarland said, include teachers and professors working for educational institutions, military personnel, employee lodging for the convenience of the employer, as well as certain tax-payers living abroad.

Judge Crabb’s November decision was the result of a suit brought by the Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation, which advocates for the separation of church and state. The foundation sued the U.S. Treasury secretary and Internal Revenue Service commissioner over the exemption, which was passed by Congress in 1954. Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a “minister of the gospel” to designate some compensation as a housing allowance and exempt it from income tax.

Her ruling, which she said would not be enforced pending appeal, has the potential to dramatically impact how religious groups compensate their ministers. Many have long depended on the tax benefit for the compensation package for their clergy in the United States.

Adventist Church officials in North America said the parsonage allowance significantly helps pastors to be able to live and minister in the large urban centers where the most people live.

“Not having this benefit would drastically impact ministry, especially for the pastors living in these large people centers, which are high cost of living areas,” said Ivan Williams, director of the Ministerial Department for the Adventist Church’s North American Division.

McFarland, the denomination’s attorney, estimated the after-tax benefit to Adventist ministers is between 5 and 10 percent of their total compensation package.

McFarland said he didn’t think the matter was likely to end with the 7th Circuit’s decision.

“We anticipate this case to potentially end up in the U.S. Supreme Court,” he said. “Both sides have too much at stake and are too invested in this. Whoever loses is going to want to see it reviewed at a higher level.”
Creative Outreach Projects Highlighted at Council on Evangelism and Witness

Emphasis on results, accountability; pizza restaurant doubles as a church for growing community of Sabbath-keepers

Posted April 9, 2014

By Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

Top regional leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist world church heard urban evangelism updates and examples of creative outreach yesterday during the Council on Evangelism and Witness report to Spring Meeting.

During a presentation led by Mike Ryan, a general vice president of the Adventist world church, and David Trim, director of the church’s Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, several division presidents offered updates on the Mission to the Cities initiative.

Trim noted that there are 396 people per Adventist worldwide. That ratio, he said, jumps to 547 people per Adventist in urban regions. Some cities of a million or more fare much worse, while Lusaka, Zambia is a bright spot, with the best population-to-member ratio of any large city worldwide—one Adventist per 19 people.

Paul Ratsara, president of the church’s Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, which oversees Zambia, said small groups are the key to evangelism in the region. “If we are not reaching the grassroots, then we are just talking to ourselves,” he said.

The church’s South American Division, under the leadership of President Erton Kohler, is taking a similar approach. The region’s goal is to plant an Adventist church in every one of nearly 7,000 neighborhoods in major cities. Currently there are 2,000 Adventist churches established in these neighborhoods.

In Europe, the Adventist Church is focusing on Geneva. While the city isn’t home to millions, it is influential in the eyes of the international community, said Bruno Vertallier, president of the church’s Inter-European Division. A team of Adventist young people is working in Geneva in what Vertallier said he hopes becomes a model of outreach for the region. The group has already planted a church attended by 60 new believers and former Adventists.

Ryan steered many of the presentations toward planning and accountability. The Adventist world church, he said, pledged to carry out an evangelism plan in every city with a population of over a million, and results are mandatory. “We want to track progress intentionally,” he said.

Blasious Ruguri, president of the church’s East-Central Africa Division, told the story of an Adventist pastor in the region who was beaten for his faith and hospitalized. The pastor’s first move post-recovery, Ruguri said, was to visit the man responsible for the attack and forgive him. The man, then a clergy member of another faith, was so impressed by the pastor’s spirit of reconciliation that he accepted an invitation to study the Bible. Later the man accepted the Adventist faith. He now directs an inter-faith ministry in Nairobi, Kenya, Ruguri said.

In Korea, a growing number of Adventist churches are launching nearby vegetarian restaurants—ideal settings to spur conversations about health, wellness and ultimately spiritual wholeness, said Jairong Lee, president of the church’s Northern Asia-Pacific Division.
Elsewhere in the region, Lee said, a fledgling chain of pizza restaurants is doubling as a gathering place for Adventist believers. “During the week, this is a pizza restaurant, but on Sabbath, this is a church,” he said, gesturing to a picture of the flagship restaurant. The restaurants employ Adventist young people and serve as centers of influence. At least 50 people worship in one location every Saturday.

Dan Jackson, president of the church’s North American Division, offered a new perspective on the 10/40 Window, a region spanning Northern Africa, Middle East and Asia where less than 2 percent of the population is Christian. “[The 10/40 Window] just moved next door,” Jackson said, referring to a massive influx of immigrants and refugees to some American cities. Now home to 90,000 refugees, the southern California city of San Diego is considered the refugee capital of the world, Jackson said.

There, the Paradise Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church counts members from 51 nationalities. While worship services are conducted in English, headset translations and Sabbath School classes are available in Arabic, Laotian, Tagalog, Nepalese, Swahili, French and Spanish. The church’s refugee ministry also serves food to some 500 people every week, at church and through a delivery service led by a former Buddhist priest who accepted Adventism. A bus from Paradise Valley makes Saturday morning stops in local refugee communities to pick up residents who want to attend church but don’t have a means of transportation.

Will James, senior pastor of the church, said refugees often battle feelings of isolation and loneliness. “Our church has become the loving, caring community that they crave,” he said.

Spring Meeting delegates also watched the trailer for a film that dramatizes the life of evangelical theologian Edward Fudge and debunks misconceptions about the character of God and the eternal destiny of unbelievers.

Top church administrators endorsed “Hell and Mr. Fudge” (LLT Productions) and called on regional church leaders to distribute DVDs of the film, host church-sponsored screenings in public venues and share copies with family and friends.

“This is a powerful evangelistic tool,” said Mark Finley, special assistant for evangelism to Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson.

Another resource church leaders plan to use for outreach—especially in 2015—is a book on comprehensive health outreach edited by Finley and Peter Landless, director of the Adventist world church’s Health Ministries department. “Health and Wellness: Secrets That Will Change Your Life” (Review & Herald Publishing Association) offers simple ways to avoid chronic diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

But “resources without the Source are not enough,” Landless said, referring to the spiritual component of wholeness. With chapters on topics such as forgiveness, relationships and mental health, the book covers the spectrum of holistic living.

Wilson closed today’s Council on Evangelism and Witness with a call for outreach that finds expression beyond the margins of plans and PowerPoint presentations.

“I want to encourage all of you not to just talk about evangelism, but to participate in it,” Wilson said. “Be a visible leader in evangelism in your church and in your community.”
Tri-Cities Team Earns Champion’s Award

LEGO Tournament Draws 18 Teams

WWU graduate Lance Irvine coaches the Plastique Bots team.

The Plastique Bots of Pasco, Wash., took home the Champion’s Award at Sunday’s 2014 FIRST LEGO League Regional Robotics Challenge. Team members include Luke Irvine, Andrew Irvine, Isaac Baik, Joe Thompson, Christian Lebold, and coaches Lance Irvine and Rosa Mitchell.

The event, sponsored by the Edward F. Cross School of Engineering, brought together 18 teams from across the Northwest for the annual competition.

This year’s theme, “Nature’s Fury,” challenged teams to focus on natural disasters, and create a LEGO robot and game to respond to a natural natural disaster simulation.

The following team also won awards:

Core Values Award: ChesseBytes (Tillamook Adventist School)  Robot Design Award: Lavabots (Lupine Springs Academy)  Project Award: MEE TechnoBears (Mt. Ellis Elementary School)  Robot Performance Award: Phantom Brickkeepers (Trestle Homeschool)

“Congratulations to all the teams who participated,” says Doug Logan, dean of the School of Engineering. “It was exciting to see the creativity and skills the teams invested in their projects.”

The WWU event was held during National Robotics Week, April 5-13, which is organized to celebrate the U.S. as a leader in robotic technology development, educate the public about how robotics technology impacts society, and inspire students of all ages to pursue careers in robotics and other science, technology, engineering, and math-related fields.
There were 34 students and adults from Cascade Christian Academy and the Wenatchee Church who participated in the mission trip to Belize.

The orphans craved attention and the high school students enjoyed giving it.

Wenatchee, Wash., April 15, 2014 - Thirty-four students and adults from Cascade Christian Academy (CCA) and the Wenatchee (Wash.) Church flew to Belize on March 9, 2014. Their mission: to build a security fence around the King’s Children’s Home (KCH), an Adventist orphanage managed by “Mama Leonie” Herrera-Gillham who was a former teacher with a big heart for children, abandoned, abused, or neglected by their parents. The 19 high school students from CCA who participated in the mission trip never bargained for what they saw or experienced. The 84 babies, children and teens living at KCH captured their hearts, and they will never be the same again.

The CCA students involved in the “fence crew” worked each day until about 3 p.m. at which time, they would quickly clean up and head over to the orphanage to interact with the resident children by playing games, tutoring, reading, and just hanging out. The orphans craved attention and the CCA high school students enjoyed giving it, building friendships and memories.

During their evening worships, the KCH children enjoy a lively worship of songs and scripture recitation in their very large living room. The CCA students were amazed at the length of the children’s memory verses, some of which were 22 verses long! Watching the children climb on the CCA teens’ laps with joy, and some actually curling up and falling asleep in their arms, was priceless.

Besides raising money for the security fence, the group was able to assist KCH technology staff by installing a wireless internet system. Richard Davis, IT specialist from the Wenatchee Church, spent many long-hour days running wire and installing equipment to provide the much needed system for the staff and students at KCH. Surplus funds allowed the purchase of a new washer and dryer as well as seed money for other future projects the orphanage directors have determined.

When the Mission Trip group left Belize on March 19 to return to Wenatchee, it was with mixed emotions. Tears flowed for having to leave the children so soon, but there was the hope of returning again in the near future. Glenn Fisher, the group’s leader, intends to make the King’s Children’s Home in Belize a mission trip destination every other...
year. Brenda Mendalis and Garth Comm from the East Wenatchee (Wash.) Church are great supporters of KCH. Their expertise and knowledge of their program was instrumental in making the trip a success.

Providing service opportunities for students in our Adventist schools, like Cascade Christian Academy, broadens our students’ global and economic knowledge as well as giving them a glimpse of the work that continues to be done to win hearts for Jesus around the world. Perhaps one day some of these students will find themselves serving God in Belize or locations where the need is great.
Students often take grading for granted. Professors sometimes must sift through hundreds of assignments per week. On top of their lectures and open office hours, they must take time to grade each assignment quickly and fairly. Jonathan Duncan, a mathematics professor, is making homework easier for teachers and fair for students through WeBWorK, a software platform for homework. For the past seven years he has been part of its software development and contributing to the coursework library.

WeBWorK is a homework platform for creating and distributing personalized assignments on the Web. In the past, students waited weeks to receive grades, but now their results are immediate. WeBWorK keeps students accountable by generating different homework problems for each student; there is no temptation to cheat when students’ assignments are unique.

Professors can access grade books and course statistics in Moodle, an open-source course management system. It also provides discussion forums where students and teachers can post properly formatted math equations. Moodle allows teachers and students to check grades and organize classes, while WeBWorK provides the link between homework and grades. By automating the tedium of paperwork, teachers focus more on the student learning experience.

Walla Walla University's Mathematics Department started using WeBWorK in 2007. Today, WWU hosts WeBWorK for institutions like La Sierra University and many high schools in the western United States.

Duncan, a WWU mathematics graduate and now Mathematics Department chair, has been the primary source of development for the Moodle-WeBWorK bridge. Though he began contributing problems during his graduate studies at Indiana University in 2000, it wasn’t until 2007 that he began the software development. Duncan now provides ongoing service to keep up with the frequent updates to the learning platforms. For more than a decade, he has been contributing hundreds of free math and computer science problems to WeBWorK. These assignments are useful complements to the Mathematical Association of America's official library of coursework.

For more information about this service, send an email to Duncan at jonathan.duncan@wallawalla.edu.

Taylor Sarrafian

Walla Walla University relations writer
Athena Members Reach Out to Reservation

The Blue Mountain Valley Mission Church outreach team from Athena, Ore., believes God will do a mighty work on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and team members are excited to be a small part of it.

As members were visiting people door to door to pass out invitations to a health seminar, they met Kathleen. She was looking for a church to attend and was happy they stopped by. She was new to the area and had been looking for a place to attend church on Sabbath. She will be a new passenger on the church bus, making it a full bus going to church each Sabbath.

Not only are more coming to church each week, but more are taking Bible studies. “I met a young man named Shane last fall,” says Mitch Hayes, Mission Church outreach coordinator. "He was interested in studies, and when we dropped off studies to him, he would take them and go back inside very quickly. One day he came out and had a big smile on his face so I asked him how he was doing."

Shane answered, “I'm doing a lot better.”

When Hayes asked him what he meant, Shane said, “First I quit smoking cigarettes, then I quit drinking alcohol, and then I quit smoking marijuana, and it's all thanks to God.” Shane praised God for sending the team out to his door to share the good news with him. Shane and his brother plan to visit the Mission Church soon and are continuing to study the Bible.

Hayes, along with Monte Church and Paul Vivier, held a Native New Day seminar in April. They have been praying for the people from Mission and the surrounding areas, that God will continue to do a mighty work in Mission.

Kathy Marson

Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant
Oregon Pathfinders Hold 'Calling on Jesus' TLT Convention

Teen Pathfinders in grades 9–12 attended the Oregon Conference Teen Leadership Training (TLT) Convention Jan. 31–Feb. 2 at Camp Adams in Molalla, Ore. It was expected to be a wet weekend throughout, but on Sabbath morning the rain stopped. Following Sabbath morning worship everyone went outside for a hike in the forest. The sun shone through the trees as the teens participated in a spiritual leadership scavenger hunt activity written and facilitated by Rachel Scribner, a mentor from the Riverside Pathfinders in Washougal, Wash. The weekend was filled with leadership training workshops for TLTs and mentors alike. There were 46 TLTs learning, 31 mentors modeling, 16 clubs attending, 20 instructors teaching, 18 convention staff participating and our three-in-one God guiding.

TLTs from throughout the Oregon Conference attended, along with three clubs from the Washington Conference and one club from the Nevada-Utah Conference. Angie Gardner, TLT coordinator for Lake Region Conference in the upper Midwest, and Marcia John, TLT coordinator from the South England Conference in the United Kingdom, came to observe and learn concepts of TLT ministry to take back with them to their conferences.

Some of the concepts piloted at the convention will be included in the revised TLT Manual, which is scheduled for release by the North American Division Pathfinder ministries this summer.

Plans are already developing for next year’s TLT Convention, scheduled for Jan. 30–Feb. 1, 2015. TLTs and mentors, along with conference TLT coordinators and directors, are already planning to attend. Jesus is using the TLT ministry to create a powerful impact in the lives of teen Pathfinders.

Tracy Wood
Oregon Conference youth ministries director
Nine Pathfinder teams from around the Northwest gathered at the Upper Columbia Conference office in Spokane, Wash., on March 8 for the North Pacific Union Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) event.

Teams of four to six young people were asked 90 questions from the book of 2 Samuel. Questions ranged from troop numbers to specific names of people and locations to specific wording for verses. These were not basic Bible trivia questions, but illustrated just how well the Pathfinders had studied Scripture.

To prepare, many Pathfinders study the featured Bible book on their own free time, for up to 13 months. Most memorize between four and six chapters. They get together with their coach once or twice during the week to quiz each other. In addition, the young people raise money to travel to the union or North American PBE events.

“These Pathfinders inspire me,” says Wayne Hicks, Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder director, “and God blesses them by hiding His Word in their hearts.”

This year’s book was a particularly difficult book to memorize but the Pathfinders rose to the challenge. One young participant said, “My favorite part about studying 2 Samuel was how God forgave David, even when he messed up so many times.”

Seven of the nine teams that participated in the North Pacific Union event became eligible for the division event held in Maryland on April 12.

“I was so incredibly impressed by each Pathfinder,” says Paul Hoover, Upper Columbia Conference president. “They’ve worked so hard studying a challenging book of the Bible, and everyone did so well.”

The results from the regional North Pacific Union PBE event included:

**Idaho Conference**

3 – Baker Valley Mountaineers

**Oregon Conference**

1 – Fort Vancouver

1 – Castle Rock

1 – Pleasant Valley Panthers

**Upper Columbia Conference**

2 – Pend Oreille Valley Wildcats

1 – Ponderosa Pathfinders

1 – Walla Walla City Church Sunrise

1 – Wind Valley Arrows

**Washington Conference**

1 – Cascade Eagles
Nampa Man Is Finally Home

Tom Teague's baptism on March 1 by Chris Evenson, Nampa Church pastor, marked the end of a long spiritual search and the beginning of a new life in Christ. Teague was raised in the Catholic church but left that fellowship after graduating from high school. For 12 years he chose not to embrace any other religious body. After meeting two brothers who were members of Christ's Church, he was baptized and remained a member for six years.

Sometime later, he became a member of another church, only to leave once again. He and others who also left that congregation attempted to hold worship services in various homes; however, their numbers dwindled until no one was left. After trying to do his own personal study and finding that unfulfilling, once again he was spiritually adrift.

Teague says, “Being a tech enthusiast, I began regularly listening to various podcasts on subjects that interested me.” One day he felt the need to begin his search anew for spiritual enlightenment and started searching the podcast libraries for spiritual topics. He stumbled onto Amazing Facts with Doug Batchelor and decided to listen only because Batchelor reminded him of the two brothers he had fellowshipped with years before. Eventually, in addition to Batchelor’s online sermons, he discovered 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network) and other Adventist preachers. He watched these sermons for several years and began reading the Bible daily and praying on a regular basis.

Each media pastor stressed the importance of attending a church to fellowship with like-minded Christians. Teague resisted this idea but eventually decided that he needed to become more active. He parked across the street from the Nampa Church in May 2012 and observed the people coming and going and the greeters outside shaking hands and generally being friendly with all who entered. Almost a year later, in March 2013, he finally decided to attend the services and is now a baptized member of that fellowship.

There’s so much more to this story, but Teague gives all the credit to the Holy Spirit and how He has guided and worked with him over the years, never losing patience with him. Welcome home, Tom.

Shirley Maxwell

Communication Leader
PAA Emphasizes Service and Mission

Emphasis on service at Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) was demonstrated during a dedication chapel for the many staff and students participating in five different missions during spring break.

“Your PAA staff and teachers have a goal,” said Stephen Lundquist, head of PAA’s religion department, during the assembly. “It is our goal to see every student, during their time at PAA, experience at least one mission trip before they graduate. We want you to know what it’s like to be the ‘hands and feet of Christ.’”

That goal is the reason the school takes a two-week spring break that accommodates the time needed for the many students and staff to take the time to travel the globe.

This year students and staff joined five different missions. One group traveled to Peru with the North Pacific Union Conference to do evangelism work. Another joined the Jabez Humanitarian Foundation for a third year of bringing health service and education to the people of Fiji. Others journeyed to the Bahamas, where students sailed from one island to another to help communities maintain homes, schools and other infrastructures. Two different groups stayed in the Portland area — one to serve at nonprofits and churches actively involved with homeless ministries and the other to volunteer with International Children’s Care.

“I think this generation really recognizes that following Christ is more than just talking about Him or studying about Him,” says Lundquist, “but actually doing the things He did to make an impact in our community, in our city and in our world. These students are ambassadors.”

Liesl Vistaunet

PAA Gleaner correspondent