2015 Images of Creation Now Online

The annual Gleaner nature photo contest has been a staple of Northwest members for years. More than 1,200 entries made selecting this year’s winners a challenge. But the list is out, and the image gallery is now online. The winning photos for the print edition will be seen on the inside front cover of each issue this year. The online gallery reveals the 52 images to be featured each week at GleanerNow.com. Take a look for yourself at these wonderful photographs that point us to a loving Creator God. And, keep your eyes open for creative scenes so you can enter some in the next contest this fall. (Photo: Christina G. Angquico)

Camp Hope Suffers Ice Damage

Camp Hope in British Columbia, just north of the Washington state border, is digging out after a slow-moving ice storm downed trees and telephone poles throughout the camp on Jan. 5 and 6. The severe conditions also broke the stained glass windows of the camp’s chapel, slightly damaged the roofs of six small cabins and other buildings, and caused the loss of more than $3,000 worth of food when the power went out. According to Bill Gerber, camp director, the estimated cost of replacing 40 power line poles, the biggest expense, will reach $200,000. Read more from the Adventist Review.
**Supreme Court Ponders Religious Signs**

Can a city require that a sign for a religious event must be smaller than a sign promoting a political candidate? According to a report from the Adventist News Network, that's one of the questions examined this week by the U.S. Supreme Court. Several years ago a local church lost its case against local zoning laws. In response, the Adventist Church has joined others in filing an amicus brief noting that restricting religious speech is a violation of the U.S. Constitution’s First Amendment and the Equal Protection clause in the 14th Amendment. A decision is expected by July. Read more online at Adventist News Network.

**Woman of Faith Takes on Arctic Ministry**

After working for more than 18 years with the native population on Washington’s Yakama Reservation, Viola Kaiser answered the call of the Lord to be a spiritual leader among the native population in the last frontier — Alaska. Kaiser is a trained chaplain who spent the last eight years working for Weimar Institute in California, but she never anticipated where her prayers might lead. Read her story online at GleanerNow.com.

**Where Does the Money Go?**

The recently announced 2015 world church budget includes: $47.6 million for operating costs, salaries and programs of the world headquarters building, $45.1 million in appropriations to the fields outside of North America, $30.2 million for missionaries and employees serving in other divisions other than their own, $23.8 million in subsidies to institutions, $14.5 million in headquarters administered funds for programs in divisions, $10.5 million in subsidies for institutional services, and $12.4 million for General Conference Auditing Service. According to Juan Prestol-Puesán, world church undertreasurer (pictured here), operating costs for the denomination’s headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., are limited to 2 percent of world tithe, and it are again expected to operate significantly under that cap. Read more online from Adventist News Network.

**Speaking of Money ... Do You Have $14 Million Handy?**

The Simi Valley, Calif., studio and production facility formerly used as the Adventist Media Center is finally on the market for $14.3 million according to media reports. The space is available because all Adventist media ministries such as It Is Written and The Voice of Prophecy, which formerly occupied the space, relocated to different locations last year. The seven-acre property includes two floors of offices, two studio production sound stages, editing

**Something to Consider**

If you are an Adventist creative soul, you might be interested in an inSpire event, Peacemakers... Creativity Through the Lens of Peace, Jan. 23–24 at the La Sierra University Church in Riverside, Calif. More information is available online.

Do you enjoy GleanerWeekly? Don't keep it to yourself. Forward it to a friend and share!

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- Oregon Churches Help Operation Christmas Child
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And More!

**Looking Ahead**

**January**

- 7–17: Ten Days of Prayer
- 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (NPUC office closed)
- 30–31: Center for Bible, Faith, and Mission Seminar, Portland, OR

**February**

- 7–17: Young Adult Day of Worship, Portland, OR

More Events Online
In Print

January

School is about more than just gaining book-knowledge. Walla Walla University and the University Church are partnering to train and equip students with practical skills that will help them become integral members of NPUC churches when they graduate. Find out more in the January issue of the Gleaner.
Adventist Camp Resembles 'War Zone' After Canadian Ice Storm

Camp Hope's chapel is seen behind a toppled, ice-coated tree after a severe ice storm last week. Photo: Bill Gerber

Andrew McChesney News editor, Adventist Review

Camp Hope suffers more than $200,000 in damages after a devastating two days.

Posted January 12, 2015

A two-day ice storm has left an Adventist-owned camp in Canada looking like a "war zone," but camp leaders are praising God that no one was injured and that the buildings suffered only minimal damage.

The creeping storm brought freezing rain and snowfall to Camp Hope in the province of British Columbia in the early hours of Jan. 5 and lasted through Jan. 6, splitting hundreds of trees and cutting power lines.

The storm also broke the stained glass windows of the camp's chapel, slightly damaged the roofs of six small cabins and other buildings, and caused the loss of more than $3,000 worth of food when the power went out.

The estimated cost of replacing 40 power line poles, the biggest expense, will reach $200,000, camp director Bill Gerber said late Sunday.

"The storm was not wild and windy. It was a slow insidious thing," Gerber said. "The freezing rain just kept adding to the weight of the trees. On Monday morning, in the wee hours, they started breaking, and they just kept on breaking and breaking through Tuesday as well."
REAL-LIFE SNAP, CRACKLE AND POP: Camp Hope director Bill Gerber dodging falling tree limbs as he examines a road to the camp during a slow-moving, severe ice storm on Jan. 5, 2015.

Thousands of homes in British Columbia’s Fraser Valley lost power during the storm, but Global News, a national news website, reported that no place appeared to have been as badly damaged as Camp Hope.

“Everybody that comes out here just can’t believe it,” a senior camp staff member, Todd Schafer, told Global News. “They think it’s bad, but then they get here and they’re shocked. It’s like a war zone.”

When the storm hit, about 12 guests from Fountainview Academy were staying at Camp Hope, which hosts conference, camping and wedding facilities. No one was injured, and the 12 guests left on Monday morning, Jan. 5. A group of 50 other people were expected to arrive that day from Fountainview, an independently operated Adventist boarding school in British Columbia, but they canceled their plans because of the weather, Gerber said.

“We thank God that no one was hurt and damage to our buildings and structures were minimal,” Gerber said in a separate statement.

He expressed hope that power would be restored in a few days. In the meantime, an emergency power generator is being used, and the only heat source in the lodge is a small wood stove.

“The staff have continued to work uncomplainingly and valiantly despite the cold,” Gerber said.

Read camp director Bill Gerber’s full statement

Staff spirits are bolstered by a growing number of volunteers who are offering to help clean up the mess. About 30 volunteers cleared a patch of the camp on Sunday.

“It was two very discouraging days,” Gerber said of the storm. “But as pictures were posted online and word got out, first one phone call offering help, then another and another.

“When the sun came out on Wednesday,” the day after the storm, “and the sky was bright blue, amidst the destruction there was still beauty,” he said. “Our spirits were lifted and the task of cleaning up suddenly started to feel doable.”

The camp was insured, but Gerber said he was still sorting out financial issues.

“We already have an excavator clearing away trees along our access road and a professional faller clearing away potential danger trees that could repeat this power line problem in another storm,” he said. “Restoring power is going to be expensive, and of course there will be other expenses as well.

He said the camp, as a private entity owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, could not call on the Canadian army for clean-up help.

“But we have the army of you, our brothers and sisters here in BC, Yukon and beyond,” he said. “We will need many, many helping hands in the weeks and months to follow. If you can lend us a hand, please let us know as we continue to formulate our clean-up plans.”
CAMP CLEANUP: Volunteers clearing the damage at Camp Hope on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2015, with a backhoe removing branches and a man cutting down a tree that didn't survive the ice storm. Video by Bill Gerber.
Related links

British Columbia Conference, Jan. 9, 2015: "Camp Hope Hit By Ice Storm!" a statement by camp director Bill Gerbert

Global News, Jan. 10, 2015: "Camp Hope Picks Up the Pieces After Massive Damage From Ice Storm"

We reserve the right to approve and disapprove comments accordingly and will not be able to respond to inquiries regarding that. Please keep all comments respectful and courteous to
authors and fellow readers.
A temporary sign announces church services of the Good News Community Church in Gilbert, Arizona. The U.S. Supreme Court today will hear oral argument on whether a city can mandate that such signs containing religious speech must be smaller than signs containing political or ideological speech. [photo courtesy Alliance Defending Freedom]

Adventist Church filed amicus brief on behalf of petitioner

January 12, 2015 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Ansel Oliver/ANN

Can a United States city mandate that a sign announcing a religious event must be smaller than a sign promoting a political candidate?

That’s the issue the U.S. Supreme Court will examine in oral argument today in a case addressing content-based speech restrictions of a city ordinance. Critics say the ordinance conflicts with freedom of speech protections offered by the U.S. Constitution.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in September filed an amicus brief, or “friend of the court” brief, on behalf of the petitioner in the case, “Reed v. Town of Gilbert.” Church legal counselors said local municipalities could unfairly restrict religious speech on signs or in door-to-door book sales if the Supreme Court doesn’t overrule a lower court’s decision on the matter.

The case stems from an incident in which Clyde Reed, pastor of the Good News Community Church in Gilbert, Arizona, placed temporary signs announcing worship services at an elementary school, where the congregation rented space.

Reed received notice from town officials saying his signs violated a local ordinance stating that temporary signs must be no larger than six square feet and stand no longer than 14 hours. Other types of signs, including political and ideological signs, can be up to 32 square feet in size and stand for many months.

In 2007, Reed filed a lawsuit claiming the ordinance was unconstitutional, but the ordinance was upheld by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, California.

Todd McFarland, an associate general counsel for the Adventist Church, said speech on religious matters is entitled to as much constitutional protection as any other kind of speech under the U.S. Constitution.
“If a local government wants to implement speech restrictions on time, place and manner, those can be acceptable, but they need to treat all kinds of speech the same,” he said.

“We were concerned about the Ninth Circuit interpretation about what is and is not a content-based restriction,” McFarland added. “It could limit religious speech in favor of other types of speech, such as political speech and public service announcements.”

Church leaders say the legal precedent, if not challenged, could embolden more cities to limit religious speech. In some cities, religious groups, such as Adventists, are required to obtain a permit to sell religious books door-to-door, while other groups, such as the Boy Scouts of America, are under no such obligation when soliciting donations.

The Adventist Church is one of numerous organizations that filed an amicus brief noting that restricting religious speech is a violation of the U.S. Constitution’s First Amendment and the Equal Protection clause in the 14th Amendment.

A decision on the case is expected by the end of June.
After working for more than 18 years with the native population on Washington's Yakama Reservation, Viola Kaiser answered the call of the Lord to be a spiritual leader among the native population in the last frontier — Alaska. Kaiser is a trained chaplain who spent the last eight years working for Weimar Institute in California, but she never anticipated where her prayers might lead.

Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president, and his wife, Colleen, escorted Kaiser in November to her new assignment in Gambell on St. Lawrence Island, but they first stopped in Savoonga to provide a celebration dinner for the members there. Kaiser was originally scheduled to be in Savoonga and had sent 25 boxes of her personal belongings there by mail, but, by the time she arrived, the postmaster had quit and the post office was permanently closed. Kaiser was confident God would take care of it and took it to the Lord in prayer.

On Thanksgiving Day, Kaiser and the Crawfords were walking by the Savoonga post office and saw a light on in the back. They knocked on the door, and a man answered and said, "I am from Barrow. I am only here today trying to sort through this backlog of mail. I'm leaving on a flight back to Barrow in the morning." They were able to pick up all of Kaiser's boxes and take them to Gambell on the next flight.

The remoteness of arctic Alaska was a bit more of a climate shock than Kaiser expected, but she saw so many answers to prayer that she knew God was leading. She has settled into her tiny one-bedroom apartment attached to the Gambell Church, 35 miles off the coast of Siberia and just below the Arctic Circle. The members have been kind and hospitable, and she is excited to see what her ministry will be like in one of the most remote churches in North America.

Coming in the February 2015 issue

Colleen Crawford
Arctic Mission Adventure Coordinator
2015 Adventist World Budget funds mission, administrative support

In an interview, Adventist Church Undertreasurer Juan R. Prestol-Puesán gave an overview of the 2015 General Conference World Budget. Above, he addresses the denomination’s Executive Committee in October. This is the sixth consecutive year ANN has made the full budget available for readers to review. [ANN file photo by Ansel Oliver]

Highlights of headquarters budget of $184 million; full budget upon request

January 07, 2015 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Ansel Oliver/ANN

The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s 2015 General Conference World Budget funds mission work and administrative support, as well as funding operation of the denomination’s world headquarters building.

The 2015 General Conference World Budget this year of more than $184 million allocates:

- $47.6 million for operating costs, salaries and programs of the world headquarters building.
- $45.1 million in appropriations to the fields outside of North America.
- $30.2 million for missionaries and employees serving in other divisions other than their own.
- $23.8 million in subsidies to institutions.
- $14.5 million in headquarters administered funds for programs in divisions.
- $10.5 million in subsidies for institutional services.
- $12.4 million for General Conference Auditing Service.

An Adventist Church finance officer underscored that the 2015 General Conference World Budget only includes items relating to the denomination’s world headquarters and appropriations to world fields. The World Budget does not include the reported incomes or budgets for its 13 divisions or respective local administrative units and congregations (The Adventist world church receives more than $2 billion in tithe annually). Many local administrative units may choose to report their own budget in a similar way.

Operating costs for the denomination’s headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States, is limited to 2 percent of world tithe, and it is again expected to operate significantly under that cap.

“We have been running under that cap for decades, making more resources available for world fields,” said Juan R. Prestol-Puesán, undertreasurer for the Adventist world church.
Prestol said this year’s World Budget highlights the continuing adjustment in tithe percentages from North America, a decision that was approved by the denomination’s Executive Committee in 2012.

Until 2012, the North American Division contributed 8 percent of its tithe to the World Budget, while the other 12 divisions each contributed 2 percent. The 2012 vote reduced North America’s tithe percentage contribution down to 6 percent, which would be implemented over several years. North America’s tithe is approximately $1 billion, and the 2015 continuing adjustment means a reduction of $10 million to the World Budget from North America, Prestol said.

“We are carefully threading through the process of the time of reduction without affecting existing programs,” Prestol said.

Recipient divisions other than North America are allocated appropriations between $1.3 million and $5 million.

More than one-third of appropriations to divisions are located in the 10/40 Window, a geographical rectangle in the eastern hemisphere between the 10 and 40 northern lines of latitude. The region is home to more than 60 percent of the world’s population and less than 2 percent are Christian.

This year, for the second year in a row, the North American Division will receive an appropriation—$295,000, mostly to help administrate the Guam-Micronesia Mission, which until three years ago was part of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

Prestol also said the Adventist Church this year will spend most of the funds allocated for the 2015 General Conference Session. Church finance officers have set aside $1.4 million each year for the past five years for the 2015 GC Session. Prestol said the GC Session fund from 2010 ended with nearly $1.5 million in unspent funds.

Other appropriations over $1 million identified in the 2015 General Conference World Budget are:

- $7.8 million for Loma Linda University
- $5.5 million for Adventist World magazine
- $5.4 million for Andrews University
- $5 million for Hope Channel
- $2.6 million for the Ellen G. White Estate
- $2.6 million for Adventist World Radio
- $1.6 million for subsidies to publications
- $1.4 million for the 2015 General Conference Session
- $1.3 million for Adventist Mission
- $1.2 million for the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies
- $1.2 million for the Geoscience Research Institute
- $1.1 million for the Adventist University of Africa

To see a complete copy of the 2015 General Conference World Budget, please send a request to the ANN editor at adventistnews@gc.adventist.org.
Adventist Media Center hits market for $14.3M

Complex is within 30-mile studio zone

By Jonathan Andrade

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HIGH-TECH—The 120,000-square-foot studio and production facility at 101 W. Cochran St. features stateof the art post-production bays and audio studios. Courtesy of Charles Dunn Company

A 120,000-square-foot studio and production facility in Simi Valley formerly occupied by the Seventh-day Adventist church is on the market for $14.3 million.

“It’s a really state-of-the-art facility,” said Stacy Vierheilig- Fraser, senior managing director with Los Angeles-based Charles Dunn Company, Inc., which is marketing the studio.

Located in the western end of Simi Valley at 101 W. Cochran St. and sitting on just over seven acres, the facility was used by Adventist Media Productions to produce and edit multiple radio and television programs for broadcast around the world.

The former Adventist Media Center property consists of two floors of offices, two studio production sound stages, editing suites, and warehouse space. Numerous satellites are also located throughout the property.

GREEN SCREENS—Two studio stages are located within the complex at 101 W. Cochran St., both featuring attached digital and audio control booths. The entire studio and production complex is on the market for $14.3 million. Courtesy of Charles Dunn Company

“Along with the stages, there’s sections for green rooms, main star areas, a supporting cast area, beauty area to have hair and makeup done and a catering kitchen,” Vierheilig-Fraser said. “There are also several vocal booths.”

She said the church also rented out space for other productions, including filming for “The Jim Rome Show,” a well-known sports talk show.

The largest studio was designed to have a live audience and includes a side entrance for viewing patrons.

The “state-of-the-art” claim stems from the studio’s extraordinary amenities.

“The studios have a De Sisti motorized lighting hoist instead of having a catwalk,” Vierheilig- Fraser said, referring to the hydraulic system that allows overhead lights to drop to ground level for any lighting maintenance or changes. “They did everything in there top-notch.”

The property, which sits in the 30-mile studio zone for use by union and nonunion film projects on site, has garnered interest from potential buyers in the film, music and television industry.

“We had one music group that was really interested that wanted to use it for music production,” she said. “We’ve even
had some government entities look at it strictly for the offices."

According to Vierheilig-Fraser, the interest stems from the growing entertainment business in Simi Valley.

Eric Levitt, Simi Valley city manager, said entertainment business in the city saw a slight increase in 2014.

City officials handed out 82 film permits in 2014, compared to 80 last year. The permits equated to nearly 36 full-time jobs, an increase from the 33 equivalent jobs in 2013.

"We’re in the entertainment zone, which does make it easier to attract certain types of entertainment as far as filming," Levitt said. "I think the cost of doing business in Simi Valley is to (the entertainment industry’s) advantage."

According to the Adventist Media Center’s website, the center, originally established by the Adventist world church headquarters in 1972 in Newbury Park, relocated to Simi Valley in 1995.

The sale comes after the media group’s board voted to sell the property and relocate its media ministries elsewhere.

The largest studio on the property measures 5,700 square feet while the smaller studio is more suited for small- to medium-sized productions. Both have a digital and audio control booth connected to the satellite transmission room.

The property also features post-productions bays, audio studios and sound-mixing studios, which include editing programs such as Final Cut and Pro Tools.

“Nothing like this highlyimproved entertainment complex is currently on the market,” Vierheilig-Fraser said. “This is truly a rare offering to acquire a world-class production facility for a fraction of the cost of competitive facilities in Los Angeles.”