This Week: An Early-Bird Camp Meeting; Threatened Academy Closure a Wake Up Call; and more.

An Early-Bird Camp Meeting

Nearly 2,000 members from all over Upper Columbia Conference gathered in Pasco, Wash., last weekend for the annual Hispanic camp meeting. The event was held early this year to avoid scheduling conflicts with the world church General Conference Session this summer. Featured speakers this year included Jose Cortez Jr. from the North American Division, Jose Rojas of Movementum, and Eliseo Lozano from Changing People’s Lives Ministries. During the event, pastors introduced Multi-G 20/20, a vision which challenges members to plant four new churches and start 40 new groups with at least 400 members before the year 2020. Read more at GleanerNow.com.

Threatened Academy Closure a Wake Up Call

Constituents of Ohio’s Mount Vernon Academy, the oldest Adventist boarding academy, decided last week to close the school if $3 million in needed funds could not be raised by March 10. A statement issued later by the local conference said: “Together we need to figure out how to make Adventist education viable — now and in the future.” Some have observed that while Adventist secondary schools are growing worldwide, U.S. boarding academies are fading away. Is it an indictment of Adventist education, or simply the evidence of a needed adjustment? Robert Lemon, world church treasurer, examines the issues in a recent Adventist Review article. Read the story online.

CNN Visits Loma Linda

Sanjay Gupta, chief medical correspondent for CNN, visited Loma Linda University Health on Jan. 14. During Gupta’s visit, he dialoged with Richard H. Hart, Loma Linda
University Health president, who shared his thoughts about wholeness and how living a whole life contributes to longevity. Gupta also interviewed Gary E. Fraser, principal investigator for the Adventist Health Study, and Ellsworth Wareham, who practiced cardiothoracic surgery until he was 95 years old. Gupta’s interview with Hart took place in front of a sculpture commemorating the place where Ellen White first recognized the setting as one she had first witnessed in vision.

Adventist Health News Notes
Three Adventist Health hospitals in the Northwest have achieved a milestone: Adventist Medical Center-Portland, Tillamook Regional Medical Center and Walla Walla General Hospital. They are among just 16 percent of all hospitals nationally to reach stage six of implementing electronic medical records. The next step is the final stage, when the hospitals will no longer use paper charts to deliver and manage patient care. Walla Walla General Hospital (WWGH) also recently announced its 2014 Mission Achievement Award recipients: Miki Uren, clinical education director, and Janet Waggoner, home medical equipment manager. Robert Bradshaw was also recognized for his 40 years of dedication serving on the WWGH governing board.

What Kind of Adventist Are You?
Are there different kinds of Adventists? Are there good Adventists and bad Adventists; real or fake Adventists; progressive or regressive Adventists? If someone asked, "What kind of Adventist are you?" How would you answer? Jim Wibberding is pastor of the Journey Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kelso, Wash. Read his response to the question and then ponder your own.
Does Bloodshed Really Matter?
With so many news stories of senseless violence and hatred in the news headlines and social media streams, has life lost its value? Have we become so used to violence and death that we think nothing of it? What of those who lose their lives when no one is watching? Garrett Caldwell, Adventist Church director of Public Relations, tackles the value of life and how it affects God. Watch the video of Facebook.

An Inside Look at Humanitarian Work
The Hope Channel will debut a new program produced by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to give viewers a real world look at what humanitarian aid work is like in difficult circumstances. The nine-part documentary series, A Closer Walk, begins tomorrow, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m. Pacific Time. "In every country we visited, I was blown away by the warmth and generosity of the community," says Sanjay Thomas, program host. "And despite their various unfortunate situations, the children were full of life and happiness. It definitely made me reevaluate my outlook on life." Read more from ADRA online. Hope Channel programs are also available via live streaming from the organization’s website.

Religious Liberty Offering
Whether we realize it or not, all of us have been blessed by the values of religious liberty. Our church’s Liberty magazine has been a beacon of those values, sent to many government officials, judges, attorneys and civic leaders. Religious liberty is a tenuous gift — dependent on our country’s Constitution and those who interpret it. This Sabbath we have an opportunity to continue to support lifting up this important principle and practice to our regional and national leaders. As you contribute to the mission of our church this Sabbath, add a generous offering for Liberty magazine. Watch the 2015 Religious Liberty Campaign video online.
An Early-Bird Camp Meeting

- Students Engage in Anti-Bullying Conversation
- Community Service Visit Leads to Three Baptisms
- Prayer Conference Connects Attendees With God
- Coquille, Bandon Churches Help Operation Christmas Child
- Images of Creation 2015 Winners

And More!

Looking Ahead

January

- 30–31: Center for Bible, Faith, and Mission Seminar, Portland, OR

February

- 7: Young Adult Day of Worship, Portland, OR
- 9: UCC Town Hall Meeting, Wenatchee, WA
- 10: UCC Town Hall Meeting, Yakima, WA
- 11: UCC Town Hall Meeting, Richland, WA
- 12: UCC Town Hall Meeting, Walla Walla, WA

More Events Online

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InPrint

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.
Hispanic Camp Meeting Brings Members Together

Northwest Adventists in Action
North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

José Rojas shared personal stories of sharing as he encouraged listeners to do the same with love.

José Rojas spoke to young adults, encouraging them to share Christ from their own experience.

The young adult music team lead out in an inspiring time of worship.

Felipe Garibo shared his musical talents throughout the day.

Eliseo Lozano inspired listeners with his stories of gospel efforts in communist countries.

Ramon Canals, North Pacific Union Conference hispanic ministries coordinator.

Gerizin de Peña led the worship and praise times throughout the day.

Pathfinders participated in the church service.

Pathfinders salute during the law and pledge.

José Rojas
José Rojas
Allan Machado, Florida Conference, sharing from the word.

Allan Machado, Florida Conference

The worship team sharing praises to our Lord.

The worship team did an outstanding lifting hearts to the throne of heaven.

Roman soldiers shared stories of the apostle Paul.

Children were transported back to the time of the early church.

José Cortes Jr., North American Division

José Cortes Jr., North American Division

Claudio Diaz and a young Pathfinder pose to show their attitude for Jesus.


Traditionally held in early summer, this annual festive gathering moved to January this year to accommodate the upcoming Adventist church business meeting in San Antonio, Texas in July. In spite of the the chilly weather outdoors, the smiling Pathfinder greeters cheered all who attended.

The Pathfinders were a new addition to camp meeting this year. Over the past several years, four new Hispanic Pathfinder clubs organized in Upper Columbia Conference, including one last year. The kids proudly greeted guests and marched into the sanctuary at the beginning of the church service. They confidently took the microphone and shared what made Pathfinders meaningful to them.

As is always the case, powerful preaching accompanied the elevating music and joyful fellowship. This year, Hispanic camp meeting featured four main speakers; José Cortez Jr. from the North American Division, Allan Machado from Florida Conference, José Rojas of Movementum, and Eliseo Lozano from Changing People's Lives Ministries.
Members were deeply blessed as the speakers touched on the four key areas of this year’s theme: Gifted to serve, share, heal and disciple. The four speakers alternated between the adult and youth meetings, sharing age-appropriate messages that inspired and encouraged young and old alike.

Not to be left out, the children enjoyed an amazing set of programs that transported them back to ancient Rome, complete with visits from the apostle Paul. In addition to the Bible stories, children participated in Roman games, crafts and snacks. They eagerly rotated from room to room to immerse themselves in life as an early Christian.

During the event, pastors took the opportunity to cast a vision for the next five years. The vision, called Multi-G 20/20, challenges members to plant four new churches and start 40 new groups with at least 400 members before the year 2020.

The camp meeting dates may have been changed this year, but it doesn’t appear to have affected attendance. Nearly 2,000 people packed the Pasco venue. Pastor Walter Pintos, Upper Columbia Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, says “Plans are already underway for next year. With our attendance numbers continuing to grow, we’ve already made arrangements for next year.” Next year a larger facility with even more capacity for the
Hispanic Camp Meeting Brings Members Together | GleanerNOW

February 26, 2015 / Upper Columbia Conference

Hispanic Camp Meeting Brings Members Together | GleanerNOW

January 21, 2015 / Upper Columbia Conference
+ Read more from Upper Columbia Conference

multi-generational activities is booked in Kennewick, Wash.
Hispanic Camp Meeting Brings Members Together | GleanerNOW

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Coming in the March 2015 issue

**Jay Wintermeyer**

Upper Columbia Conference assistant to the president for communication
Follow

Jay Wintermeyer has been writing and sharing stories about God's work for more than 20 years.

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Threatened Closure of Adventist Academy Serves as a Wake-Up Call

News commentary: The world has changed drastically over the past century, and Adventist boarding schools need to adapt.

Posted January 16, 2015

By Robert E. Lemon, General Conference treasurer

The oldest Adventist boarding academy decided this week that it must raise $3 million or shut down, making a painful ultimatum that should serve as a wake-up call on the future of these schools in the U.S.

The world has changed drastically since the school, Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio, opened on Ellen G. White's advice in 1893, and we need to adapt accordingly.

The 340 constituents of the indebted Mount Vernon Academy agreed at a special meeting on Sunday, Jan. 11, to accept a recommendation from the Adventist Church’s Ohio Conference, which operates the academy, to seek the $3 million by March 10 or close at the end of the current school year. The $3 million represents the size of the academy’s annual budget, and securing the amount would allow the school to start the 2015-16 school year debt-free.

After Sunday's meeting, the Ohio Conference called on local church members to engage in “more prayer, study, idea sharing and conversations” on the future of Adventist education.

"Together we need to figure out how to make Adventist education viable—now and in the future," the conference said in a statement.

Perhaps local church leaders wonder what Adventist Church co-founder Ellen White would say today. In 1893, White wrote in a letter that the church should open the academy in buildings once used by Mount Vernon Sanitarium, which closed in 1891.

"Let the building be converted into a seminary to educate our youth in the place of enlarging the college at Battle Creek," she wrote. "I have been shown that there should … be located, school buildings in Ohio which would give character to the work."

Adventist Education Is Worth It

It hurts deeply every time I hear about an Adventist boarding academy closing or finding itself in serious financial trouble. Adventist schools are not perfect, and no amount of Christian influence can save all our children. After all, Christ in a perfect world lost Adam and Eve and one third of His angels because He valued freedom of choice so much.

But when it comes to the only thing that really matters—our eternal destiny and that of our children and those we love—the worst Adventist school is better than the best the world has to offer.

I am a proud product of our Adventist education system. Back when I was in academy in the 1960s, most of our boarding academies had enrollments of 200 to 400 students and the dormitories were full. For many Adventist families, life centered around academies and colleges. Giving children an Adventist education was of utmost importance. Parents sacrificed current wants for the most important things in life, the salvation of their children.
These days, Adventist secondary schools are experiencing significant growth worldwide, with 522,596 students studying at 1,969 schools in 2012, according to the latest figures from the church’s Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research. That's in comparison with 257,937 students in 1,126 schools in 2000 and 60,952 students in 398 schools in 1970, around the time I graduated from academy.

But U.S. boarding academies are fading away. Enrollment has dropped steadily over the years, dorms are emptying out, and several academies have closed.

Adventist education as a whole faces many challenges, but the challenges facing boarding academies are unique. There was a time when the majority of Adventists in the U.S. lived in the countryside or in small towns, and the boarding academy was the only option for their children. But, as with the general U.S. population, this has changed, and the majority of Adventists now live in cities. Day academies should be thriving.

Although schools are still needed for academy-age students, we probably don’t require as many boarding academies as we once did. The current situation is basically one boarding academy per U.S. conference. However, one boarding academy per union or trio of conferences probably would be sufficient.

It is difficult to consider change because we have such emotional ties to the conference-operated academies where we went to school. Still we need to look at the new reality and find a way to once again maintain a system of thriving boarding academies.

A Lesson From the Postal Service

The U.S. postal system faces a similar challenge of needing to adapt to reality. The sprawling network was built on revenue from letters, bills, and other first-class mail. The revenue has all but disappeared with the emergence of e-mail and electronic bills. Without a change in its business model, the postal system will not survive on its own. But it insists on keeping numerous small local post offices and daily delivery to every home rather than restructure to focus on post offices that serve larger territories and maybe deliver mail three days a week rather than daily.

Adventist education is expensive, but it always has been. It will remain that way as long as education is based on a low student-teacher ratio, which is best for learning. The average cost of a new car in 1967, when I was in academy, was $2,000 compared to $20,000 now. The average new house cost $25,000 compared to more than $250,000 now. Boarding academies, however, have always remained very expensive compared to the average income. Still, Adventist parents put needs above wants and found a way to keep us in Adventist schools.

Boarding academies are owned and operated by conferences, and this is important for the sense of ownership and commitment of the conference constituency to the school. But changing U.S. demographics have left fewer Adventists in rural areas who require boarding academies. Would it not be better to look at having two or three conferences operate and support a boarding academy, leaving one or two strong boarding academies per union?

As a church, we don’t have a good record of jointly operating institutions. The perception lingers that the institution basically serves the territory where it is located and that other territories are not well served.

But when it comes to boarding academies, none of us are well served by declining or failing schools. Having served as a conference and a union treasurer, I know the financial pressures and the difficulty of getting constituency agreement and long-term support of jointly operated institutions. But it can be done. The real expense of running a boarding academy is the operating cost and not the cost of the physical plant. As with any other business, the overhead costs will eat you up unless you have a sufficient number of students.

The size of Adventist families has shrunk, but overall church membership has grown. So the church still has plenty of academy-age young people to fill Adventist schools.

Options are available to us. I believe that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with good planning, we can
establish a robust and thriving boarding academy system if we are willing to work together.

Related link

Ohio Conference statement on Mount Vernon Academy

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.
CNN’s chief medical correspondent visits campus

Nancy Yuen

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GuptaHart1-web.jpg

President Richard Hart (right) shares his thoughts on wholeness and health with Sanjay Gupta, MD.

Sanjay Gupta, MD, chief medical correspondent for CNN, visited Loma Linda University Health on Jan. 14. During Gupta’s visit, Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, president, Loma Linda University Health, shared with Gupta his thoughts about wholeness and how living a whole life contributes to healthy aging and longevity.

The interview took place under a crystal blue sky in front of the “This is the Very Place” sculpture, which commemorates the moment when Ellen White, the institution’s founder, first visited Loma Linda and recognized that she had seen this very setting in a vision several years before. She had selected Loma Linda for a daring new type of health care institution and professional training center, in direct contrast to the practices of the day.

Gupta, a practicing neurosurgeon, plays an integral role in CNN’s reporting on health and medical news. While on campus he also interviewed Gary E. Fraser, MD, PhD, principal investigator, Adventist Health Study and Ellsworth Wareham, MD, who practiced cardiothoracic surgery until he was 95 years old. Wareham, who graduated from the Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 1942, just celebrated his 100th birthday.
He was dean of the faculty at the local theological seminary near my home in Pennsylvania. Over lunch, we were discussing my wish to teach a few classes at his school. After expressing his openness to having an Adventist teach for him, his gaze focused and he said, "I don't know how best to ask this . . . but what kind of Adventist are you?" I did my best to define my approach to Scripture and tradition and spirituality. In the five years since then, I have often contemplated his question: What kind of Adventist am I?

More recently, the question was pressed again. My family and I had just caught a connecting flight by the skin of our teeth. In the rush, I plunked down beside a familiar-looking guy about my age, with baby Jack in my arms. After we both worked to calm Jack, we struck up a conversation. I learned that he was the author of several best-selling books and worked as a Christian motivational speaker at major events. He was traveling to one such event at Northwest Nazarene University. When he learned that I was an Adventist pastor, he asked, "Is the Adventist church kind of a closed circle?" I asked what he meant. He explained that in all his travels to major Christian events, I was the first Seventh-day Adventist he had talked to. We are a movement with a message for the world and he hadn't heard from us.

What kind of Adventist am I anyway? I ask myself this question when faced with the pressing issues of our time: racism, Islam, Christian political movements, etc. I think the answer matters a great deal, because it is a question of relevance and potency.

In answer to the question, I will share what I have so far. I hope it encourages you toward similarly productive introspection, if you need it . . .

I aspire to be an Adventist who is insistent on biblical principles over both trends and traditions. A truth movement such as ours cannot afford to be anything other than insistent on truth; anything other is something less.

The historic Adventists insist on returning to the way things were in 1863 (which actually ends up being closer to 1920s fundamentalism). The cultural Adventists push to keep things the way they are, whatever that happens to be in their sphere. The progressive Adventists fight to move the church into better graces with the sensitivities of current culture.

None of these motivators is a good replacement for the pursuit of truth, though each could contribute to that pursuit. I am committed to the relentless pursuit of truth and its redemptive application to human lives in my time and place. That is the kind of Adventist that I aspire to be.

 Posted 4th September 2013 by James Wibberding

Labels: Biblical Issues

Andrew Boydston  September 7, 2013 at 8:30 PM

I started a response several days ago, and then lost it somehow without saving it. Peace and blessings for your ministry that you provide us. I can't capture all the thoughts I lost, so I will keep it to the my point. What kind of an Adventist was I, and what kind of an Adventist am I? A very complex response that would fill a book. The closet is confinement not always found as a place for prayers. one proceed to the professional workplace. To hold respect and esteem one treads lightly as if in some kind of incognito from the un-trusting co-workers that come from various dispositions of faith or non faith. Making my closet tighter was the fact that I was a supervisor and a subject matter expert in my field requiring travel and participation infringing on the boundaries of my faith. Code talk for if they knew what I believe they would be forced to act artificially and make allowances in my presence. I know this because that is what always happen in prior experiences at work and advancement in an organization.
suffers because my faith is tested in those situations, so avoidance behavior towards Adventist Faith is kept in the closet at work. Partly because religion topics are discouraged at work and partly because as a supervisor it would affect how people would act towards authority. That was my circle that I was entrapped in by all others outside my belief, I call it the world's circle. The perception is that Adventist are a special and distinct group where other religions mistake them as being an odd special cult not like our own Sunday "circle". Thus confining us in some sort of closet called the Adventist circle and therefore accusing Adventist as being out of the mainstream in its own private world. Then something happened to me at work. I died at work and God brought me back 2 and a half hours with a heart beat. 17 days after my said good bye to me when she grabbed my foot and God gave me a beep on the heart tracking machine I left the hospital. The Adventist that I am is born into truth and light. I have shed the closet and am only concerned with what is right what is true and what is love that God has for people. I am now in God's circle and that's it. If people feel that I am in a private place then great, please join our place with God. he is love he is real and he is what the Bible documents, not what man proposes from theological renderings, manipulating power from God through man's own beliefs. I was a Closeted Adventist and now God gives me a seeing Adventist nature where its more important to reveal God than put him under a bushel.

Reply

James Wibberding  September 8, 2013 at 7:58 PM
Thank you for sharing your thoughts. It sounds like God has been leading you in good directions.

Reply

Matt Fisher  September 9, 2013 at 1:33 PM
I enjoy reading about people inspired by the Holy Spirit. Andrew and James you both are clearly being shaped to carry out God's work. The goal is and always has been for God's people to be equipped and empowered to lead as many people as possible to Christ. People, all people. Why does God choose misfits to do His work? Because that is all He has to work with. The work or our assignment if you will is simple take the Gospel to all the nations. So get busy and lets get er done so Christ can return. Amen

Reply
Students Engage in Anti-Bullying Conversation

Ventriloquist Daryl Trowbridge and Lenord the Kindly Monster share with Mountain View Christian students about how to respect one another and not be bullies. Credit: Doug Allison

Lenord the Kindly Monster visited grades one through eight at Mountain View Christian School in Sequim, Wash., on Dec. 5 to talk about bullying.

Lenord is one of the many puppets that belong to Daryl Trowbridge, ventriloquist and head elder at Sequim Church. Lenord and Trowbridge talked with students about respecting each other and how to not have bullying at school.

The students were spellbound by the conversation between the two.

“I didn’t know that girls could be bullies,” says one first-grader. “I thought it was only boys.”

Several of the seventh- and eighth-grade students said they wanted Lenord and Trowbridge to come back and talk about other things because they were funny and at the same time serious about important things for students to know.

“The students were totally focused and came away with a better understanding on how to treat one another kindly,” says Doug Allison, principal. “They were given tools to positively talk to others about how their words and actions might be hurting someone else.”

January 19, 2015 / Washington Conference

John Gatchet
Sequim Church communication director

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Community Service Visit Leads to Three Baptisms

Northwest Adventists in Action
North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Desperately needing food for her family, Tanya Uvay came to the Caldwell Community Services for the first time in early December 2013. Uvay was thrilled to find free clothing, which she took home, laundered, ironed and wrapped as Christmas gifts for her children. She also received a three-day supply of much-needed food from the food pantry.

Myrna Long, a Caldwell Church member and volunteer in the office, heard the Uvay family’s story of losing their jobs in a microchip company, losing their home and other problems. Feeling impressed by the Holy Spirit to contact the family, Long visited their home three days later. They told her they had enough food for one more day, and they would then have to pawn the title to their only vehicle. Long urged them to wait and let her find food for them.

When she returned home, Long spoke with her son. They agreed to pool their resources and buy a two-week supply of food. She returned to the family’s home two hours later with the trunk and the back seat of her car loaded with food and paper supplies. Uvay and her husband stood by the car and wept as they realized everything was for their family. Before Long left, they asked her to come back and tell them about the Adventist Church.

A few days later, Long returned to their home and was welcomed with open arms. Uvay mentioned during the visit that her family needed “to get back to church.” The Christmas service was the next Sabbath, and the family agreed to come. They were impressed with the church service and friendliness of the people. Uvay then asked Long if she
would study the Bible with her, and they agreed to start in early January.

Uvay loved the weekly Bible studies that often lasted two hours or more. During this time, Uvay and Long became good friends. The Bible studies were frequently canceled or rescheduled due to family needs, but Uvay's interest and commitment never wavered.

Uvay's two sons, Gabe and Nino, began studying the Bible with Caldwell's youth pastor, Shelina Bonjour, and were baptized in the Caldwell Church on Aug. 23, 2014. Gabe worked in the local Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA) gardens during the summer and is now a freshman at GSAA. Nino is in the sixth grade at the Caldwell Adventist Elementary School.

Uvay was baptized in the Caldwell Church pastor, Jim Berglund, on Nov. 15, 2014. Members rejoiced as she made her public commitment to the Lord. It was also a special day for the Caldwell Community Services volunteers who have kept this family in prayer. Those volunteers look forward to more baptisms in the future.

January 19, 2015 / Idaho Conference
+ Read more from Idaho Conference
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Coming in the February 2015 issue

**Myrna Long**

Volunteer, Caldwell Church ACS

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Prayer Conference Connects Attendees With God

Northwest Adventists in Action
North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

This year’s prayer conference was held in two locations, including at Glacier View School in Ronan.

Corleen and Paul Johnson

The Montana Prayer Conference was held at two locations this past fall — Oct. 18, 2014, in Ronan at Glacier View School and Nov. 8, 2014, at the Billings Church. The speakers were Paul and Corleen Johnson from Portland, Ore.

The topics included connecting with God in prayer, God revealing His thoughts, how to pass inspiration to your home church and intercessory prayer. The Johnsons provided visuals on the screen, handouts, websites and personal stories of God answering prayers.

One story was about God asking a lady to stop at a designated place, go in and stand on her head in front of the pop machine. She reluctantly obeyed, hoping no one would see her. Upon reaching the door to leave, the man behind the counter asked her why she did that. She finally told him, and he shared with her that earlier he had had a gun pointed to his head, ready to end his life, but something kept him from doing it. He said to God, “If there is a God, and You really do love me, send a lady in here to stand on her head in front of the pop machine. Then I will know You love me.”

What if she had ignored the Lord and His promptings? How often do we brush aside God speaking to us because of various reasons/excuses? We don’t want to miss a chance to save someone’s soul (including our own) for Christ. We want to be ready and willing at every opportunity to work for Him.

They had an anointing service after the last meeting for those who wanted to be anointed for healing or for service to others. Two people went forward for the anointing.

In the past, the conference was only held in Bozeman. This year’s change gave some people a chance to attend for the first time.
January 12, 2015 / Montana Conference
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Coming in the February 2015 issue

**Sonia Birnel**

Billings Member

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The Coquille Church put together 195 shoeboxes and the Bandon Church 30. As a collection point, the Coquille Church collected 514 boxes — up from 305 in 2012.

Darwin Knight and Sally McSherry from the Coquille Church join Samaritan's Purse in gathering boxes in November for Operation Christmas Child.

Next >

Operation Christmas Child is a worldwide children's project that uses simple gift-filled shoeboxes containing school supplies, toys, necessity items and notes of encouragement to let hurting children know God loves them.

For the third year, Darwin Knight and Sally McSherry from the Coquille Church joined Samaritan's Purse in gathering boxes in November for this worthwhile purpose.

The difference this year was the offer of a personal shopper to gather the items for the shoeboxes. McSherry prepared more than 165 boxes.

Operation Christmas Child reached a major milestone in 2014 — delivering shoeboxes to more than 113 million children since the project began in 1993.

Millions of hurting children who are victims of poverty, natural disaster, war, terrorism and famine receive Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. For some of these boys and girls, it is the first gift they have ever received. Through the power of a simple gift and the message of hope through Jesus Christ, these children learn that they are loved and not forgotten.

Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts will be hand-delivered to children in more than 150 countries on six
continents. Most of the 16,902 boxes collected from the Roseburg District will be going to the Philippines.

The Coquille Church put together 195 shoeboxes and the Bandon Church 30. As a collection point, the Coquille Church collected 514 boxes — up from 305 in 2012.

January 12, 2015 / Oregon Conference
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Coming in the February 2015 issue

**Sally McSherry**

Coquille church communication secretary

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Images of Creation 2015 Winners

Red Foxes at Play,
Kalispell, Mont. Credit: Adam Cornwell

Hummingbird, Gresham, Ore. Credit: John L. Corban

Mt. Hood Orchard Credit: Christina G. Angquico

From more than 1,200 entries, the following individuals submitted photographs selected to be featured in the print Gleaner or in the Images of Creation 2015 gallery at GleanerNow.com.

Online

Enjoy the beauty of the Northwest as portrayed by the hand of our Creator and captured by some of our very own photography buffs. Throughout this year, take some of your own photographs and prepare to enter the 2016 Images of Creation contest, to be formally announced in October.

According to contest guidelines, an award of $200 corresponds with each photo selected for the print issue. There is no monetary award for those selected as photo of the week for the website, but each can be viewed in a special online gallery at GleanerNow.com. Those who wish to acquire a high-resolution version of any of the featured photos may contact the Gleaner and we will forward those requests to the photographers for a direct response.

January 12, 2015 / North Pacific Union
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