NAD Statement on Regional Conferences

The North American Division (NAD) issued a statement last week in response to ongoing questions about the role of regional (African-American) conferences within the church mission and structure. The statement says in part: "We vote to affirm that the historical establishment and current role and function of regional conferences are structurally essential, mission effective, and relevant in reaching the diverse populations and urban centers within our division. The administration of the North American Division and the administrations of our regional conferences are deeply committed to continuing our mission focus and evangelistic unity."

Read more about this statement online.

New AMC Hire Will Enhance Spiritual Mission

Terry Johnsson, who currently serves as a popular on-air personality and chaplain at WGTS 91.9 in Washington, D.C., will be joining the Adventist Medical Center (AMC) team in Portland, Ore., as executive director for mission integration beginning May 1. An AMC release says Johnsson will help the hospital deliver its spiritual mission, treat the whole-person needs of patients and team members, and increase engagement in the local faith community. Johnsson grew up in Portland and later served three presidents as a member of the U.S. Air Force White House Honor Guard.

Read more from Adventist Health online.
WWU Engineers Without Borders Gala Raises $20K

The Walla Walla University (WWU) chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) held a gala in March to highlight their latest project: a new water system for the village of Pampa Chiri in Peru. More than 130 supporters attended the event, which raised more than $20,000 from ticket sales and an auction. “The evening was a success in many ways,” says Katie Sweezey, WWU EWB coordinator. “We had a record attendance.” Read more from WWU online.

Revised Cyclone Toll: 53 Churches Destroyed

The number of Seventh-day Adventist churches destroyed by Tropical Cyclone Pam has risen from 18 to 53 as church leaders count the cost of the March 14 storm on the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu. In addition, multiple buildings were destroyed at six Adventist schools, and hundreds of church members lost their homes, including 20 pastors and 100 teachers. Tithes and offerings will be significantly reduced for some time because 80 percent to 90 percent of church members are subsistence farmers who operate on a cash crop economy. The Vanuatu Mission only had insurance for its head office in the local capital, Port Vila. Nos Terry Mailalong, mission president, has called for groups able to fly in for short visits to build new churches. Those interested should e-mail NMMailalong@adventist.org.vu. Read more from the Adventist Review online.

SOULS Northwest is Going Strong

For 10 weeks each winter quarter, SOULS Northwest students and staff disperse across the Northwest. Second year students intern in local churches where they learn to put into practice the personal ministry concepts learned in class, especially how to give personal Bible studies. Meanwhile, first year students help families commit to bettering their physical and spiritual health. Read some of their stories online from a recent newsletter now.

Good Salt or Bad Salt?

Sodium is necessary for good health. It's the primary electrolyte (mineral) in the fluid-part of the blood and around body cells. The body uses sodium to stay properly hydrated and to regulate plasma volume, nerve impulses, and muscle contraction. But too much sodium can lead to high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease, and kidney disease. It even contributes to osteoporosis by preventing your body from absorbing calcium needed for strong bones. What's a good balance? Read more online from Dr. Don Hall and Wellsource.
Currently at

- Cuba Opens a Gospel Window
- Mythbuster Series Breaks Myths in Christianity
- Nature Photo Gallery
- BVAS and National School Choice Week

And More!

Looking Ahead

April

- 3: Gem State Academy Homecoming, Caldwell, ID
- 3–5: Journey to the Cross, Kelso, WA
- 3–5: Old-Fashioned Tent Revival, Des Moines, WA
- 4: Easter Cantata, Boring, OR
- 10–11: SEEDS Church Planting Conference, Vancouver, WA
- 10–11: Longevity Plus Seminar, Twin Falls, ID
- 10–12: CAA Alumni Weekend, Battle Ground, WA
- 12–13: Milo Academy Days, Days Creek, OR

More Events Online

Want to advertise in GleanerWeekly?

Forward to Friend

InPrint

April

The April Gleaner includes:
Evangelism in Cuba, provocative reader letters, "Highlighting Heresy"
with Seth Pierce, "The Investigative Judgment" with Martin Weber, and Let's Talk about "Tribes." Take a moment now to flip through the latest issue at GleanerNow.com.
3-25-15 Affirmation of the ‘Mission’ Role of North American Division Regional Conferences

Responding to requests, the North American Division Administration voted the following action concerning Regional Conferences:

The North American Division has been given a mandate by both God and its constituency to serve one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the world. Since a request has been formally made to clarify the history and present role of its Regional Conferences, which have been a valued and integral part of our North American Division governance structure since 1944, we resolve that:

Whereas the North American Division is one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the world…

Whereas the North American Division is presently ministering in a racially-charged society…

Whereas, the effectiveness, challenges, and history of our Regional Conferences need to be better understood…

Whereas, there is a growing number of requests for the NAD leadership to clarify the history, mission effectiveness, and cultural relevance of Regional Conferences…

We vote, to affirm that the historical establishment and current role and function of Regional Conferences are structurally essential, mission effective, and relevant in reaching the diverse populations and urban centers within our division.

The Administration of the North American Division and the Administrations of our Regional Conferences are deeply committed to continuing our mission focus and evangelistic unity as we seek to fulfill God's commission within our territory.

Throughout our division we will continue to seek ways and means to further racial cooperation, understanding, and growth.
Adventist Medical Center is pleased to welcome a dedicated and talented spiritual leader who will help our team better deliver our spiritual mission, treat the whole-person needs of our patients and team members and increase our engagement in the local faith community. Dr. Terry Lyndon Johnsson, who currently serves as a popular on-air personality and chaplain at WGTS 91.9 in Washington, DC, will be joining the Adventist Health team in Portland as executive director for mission integration beginning May 1, 2015.

Johnsson will be the featured presenter at the medical center’s annual Week of Spiritual Emphasis March 30-April 2 where he will speak multiple times each day and meet Adventist Health team members and the community. More information is under Classes and Events at AdventistHealth.org/NW.

This transition is a homecoming for Johnsson, who grew up in the area and whose mother still lives in Portland. In fact, Johnsson volunteered as a candy striper at Adventist Medical Center more than 30 years ago.

Most recently, Johnson has served as the senior radio chaplain and operational manager for WGTS 91.9, a major market contemporary Christian music station in Washington, DC and the second most listened to, non-commercial Christian radio station in America. Previously, Johnsson has served three U.S. presidents as part of U.S. Air Force White House Honor Guard. He has worked as a hospital chaplain, senior pastor, and youth and young adult pastor in Oregon, California and in the Washington, DC area.
The WWU chapter of Engineers Without Borders raises more than $20,000 for Peruvian project

By: Libby Knapp

Taken in September 2014 in Pucutuni, Peru, during work on the first water project

The Walla Walla University chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) held a gala in March to raise money for their latest project to create a new water system for the village of Pampa Chiri in Peru. More than 130 supporters attended the event, which raised over $20,000 from ticket sales and an auction.

“The evening was a success in many ways,” says Katie Sweezey, WWU EWB coordinator. “We had a record attendance. Not only did we extend our reach in the community by the increase in attendance, but the program and auction went well.”

Engineering students presented information at the gala about their 2014 EWB project in Pucutuni, Peru; about their project at the Walla Walla Children’s Museum; and presented highlights from their latest project in Pampa Chiri.

A variety of items were sold at the auction including a photograph from Gary Hamburgh, former WWU professor of Health and Physical Education, and a bottle of grape juice from Tom Thompson, WWU professor emeritus of mathematics. Donations were also made by Dessert Dash and other restaurants in Walla Walla.

“The amount of support shown during the auction was amazing. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be
a part of such a rewarding event," says Sweezey.

Published on March 31, 2015.
53 Adventist Churches Destroyed by Cyclone Pam

The Loukaru Church suffered extensive damage in the cyclone. Photo: Adventist Record

The full impact of the tropical storm becomes clearer as church leaders count the cost on Vanuatu.

Posted April 2, 2015

By Jarrod Stackelroth, South Pacific Adventist Record

The number of Seventh-day Adventist churches destroyed by Tropical Cyclone Pam has risen from 18 to 53 as church leaders count the cost of the March 14 storm on the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu.

In addition, multiple buildings were destroyed at six Adventist schools, and hundreds of church members lost their homes, including 20 pastors and 100 teachers.

Tithes and offerings will be significantly reduced for some time because 80 percent to 90 percent of church members are subsistence farmers who operate on a cash crop economy. For many, their crops and livelihoods have been wiped out and are expected to take some time to recover.

"Many churches, both permanent, semi-permanent and temporary, have all been destroyed — some partly, some complete destruction," said Nos Terry Mailalong, president of the Adventist Church’s Vanuatu Mission.

Read "Vanuatu Cyclone Takes Serious Toll on Adventist Church"

While the government may provide support to rebuild the schools and agencies like ADRA are working to keep people fed and sheltered, there is no money to rebuild the churches that have been destroyed.

Terry has called for groups who want to do “fly ‘n’ builds” — to fly in for short visits to build new churches — to e-mail him at NMailalong@adventist.org.vu.

The Vanuatu Mission only had insurance for its head office in the local capital, Port Vila.

Adventist Church leaders around the Pacific are calling for prayer and support for the church in Vanuatu as it starts to rebuild.

"We would need our brothers and sisters to help to rebuild our churches and schools at least, not to mention our homes," Terry said. “The extent of the damage is beyond our capabilities.”

Pastors through the ministerial associations of the South Pacific Division and Australian Union Conference are helping provide Bibles and books for those pastors who have lost their resources and Adventist schools throughout Australia are hoping to do the same for teachers and schools.

Click here to download an updated report on the damages to church properties

Click here to download a photo report on some of the damaged churches and pastors' houses
A special fund, held in trust by the South Pacific Division, is being set up to help with the reconstruction of Adventist churches and schools that have been damaged. These donations will not be tax deductible and can be made through the Adventist eGIVING website under the option labeled “Vanuatu Cyclone Pam Assistance.”

ADRA also has established a Vanuatu Disaster fund, but money donated to this fund will be used to support ADRA projects throughout Vanuatu and not to rebuild churches.

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 Look Back
Praising God for His leadership in the 2015 practicums!

w.t.l.
“Do you have any questions as we wrap up our study?”

Ruejeina Tamua and Cheyenne Hubbard were at their last Bible study with Uncle Thom and Aunty Betty. The four sat around a table set with crepes, jam, and Bibles – hints of a delicious breakfast followed by spiritual dessert. The silence didn’t last long. Drawing in his breath and easing his furrowed brow, Uncle Thom began. “No, but I want to thank you so much for coming over and spending all this time with me. I understand things a whole lot better and I feel like I’m prepared for this now,” he said, referring to his upcoming baptism on March 28, 2015.

The four studied together for three weeks before Ruejeina and Cheyenne’s term ended. Each day they reviewed what they had just learned at the prophecy seminar, where the couple and the Bible workers first met. And each day their understanding of the Bible grew. Even Betty, who had been raised Adventist, was seeing old truths from a new perspective!

On their last evening together, Thom told the girls that he had become so used to studying with them at 10am that he plans to continue setting aside that hour to study his Bible or read his Sabbath school lesson. Then he did something that blew them all away, especially his wife – he prayed! As Ruejeina says, “At the end of his prayer, Betty was in tears because out of their 23 years of marriage, that was the first prayer that she ever heard him pray!”

For ten weeks each winter quarter, SOULS Northwest students and staff disperse across the Northwest. Second year students intern in local churches where they learn to put into practice the personal ministry concepts learned in class, especially how to give personal Bible studies. Meanwhile, first year students help families commit to bettering their physical and spiritual health. These students share literature sets such as *The Bible Reference Library* (the *Conflict of the Ages* series), *Uncle Arthur’s Bible Stories*, *My Bible Friends*, and an array of health materials. Away from the continual group camaraderie that the SOULS program affords, the winter practicum is often a time of spiritual growth for students in both years as well.

When asked how she had grown spiritually or personally through the practicum, first year student Tabitha Lee replied, “I learned how to be more independent. I get lonely very easily and often times depend on others to motivate me, but this practicum taught me the importance of being able to be my own leader and that instead of looking to friends for motivation, Jesus should be the reason that I do what I do!”

And Tabitha was not alone. Lizette Gutierrez noted how she came face-to-face with herself, the side she didn’t want to see, but how God proved faithful to her even when she felt lukewarm to Him. Her partner, Faatasiga Matau put it this way, “Training, worships, and personal devotions were surrounded by one word, TRUST.”

47 health sets, 8 Bible Reference Libraries, 18 Bible Stories, and 11 My Bible Friends later, first year students came away understanding that it is God – not man – that touches the soul.
I paused for a moment before getting out of my car. It was the fifth night of Bonney Lake's prophecy seminar and I'd come to visit the two students interning at their church. I thought about the family who had seemed so excited to study the Bible but then shied away. I thought about the man who told us how much of an encouragement we'd been to him, but who still struggled to believe that God could forgive his past. I thought about the fliers we had passed out and wondered which had been thrown aside and which had been cherished. I wondered how the meetings had been going so far, and how the church family felt this practicum had been from their perspective. My last question was answered as soon as I reached the front door. By the time I passed through the lobby, four people expressed their appreciation for the student interns and the work they had done. I was elated! “Not only do we have Bible studies in progress, we also have some of our laypeople motivated to reach out into our community,” said elder Phil Proctor. Smiling from ear to ear, I took my seat and silently praised God for the work He had done.

It truly was a blessed ten weeks.

You can help us continue to be a blessing throughout the North Pacific Union by praying for our students. You can find their names at www.soulsnorthwest.org/train/students/. If you would like to support SOULS Northwest financially please visit www.soulsnorthwest.org/give/. You can also "Like" us on Facebook and keep up-to-date with where we are and read more stories of God's leading: www.fb.com/soulsnorthwest.
Cut Back on Sodium to Improve Your Health
Aim to eat no more than 1,500 mg of sodium a day

If your diet includes a lot of high-sodium foods, you're at risk for a long list of health issues. It's a problem for many Americans who regularly eat pizza, French fries, fast food burgers, canned soup, TV dinners, and many other processed foods. Too much sodium can lead to high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease, and kidney disease. It even contributes to osteoporosis by preventing your body from absorbing calcium needed for strong bones.

Sodium is the primary electrolyte (mineral) in the fluid-part of the blood and around body cells. The body uses sodium to stay properly hydrated and to regulate plasma volume, nerve impulses, and muscle contraction. But sodium is not hard to get in the diet with all the food choices available today.

Most Americans eat twice as much salt than recommended for good health. The typical American eats about 3,000 to 5,000 mg of sodium daily (salt-lovers may get even more). The minimum requirement for sodium is about 500 mg per day. Yet, people generally eat far too much sodium and need to cut back to less than what's recommended – no more than 1,500 mg of sodium per day. This is especially important if you already have high blood pressure or have an increased risk for high blood pressure (such as African Americans and adults over 50).

Consuming too much sodium is a primary reason one out of three adults in the United States has high blood pressure. It's also been linked to early heart attacks, stroke, and early death. But it doesn't have to be that way.

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found that if sodium consumption were reduced by half, it would dramatically impact the health of millions of people. They found that if people followed the recommendations for sodium intake:

- New cases of coronary heart disease would decrease by 60,000 per year.
- Strokes would decrease by 32,000 per year.
- Heart attacks would decrease by 54,000 per year.
- Deaths from any cause would decrease by 44,000 every year.

These are conservative estimates. Actual increases in health improvements could be twice as high, according to the study. A small shift in sodium consumption in the American diet could save thousands of lives and have a major impact on healthcare costs.

Taking the salt shaker off the table isn't enough, although that would be a good start. The real problem is that 75 percent of the sodium that people consume is added by food manufacturers. If we want to solve this problem globally, food manufacturers should gradually decrease the amount of salt added to food. If it were done gradually, most people would never know the difference because salt is an acquired taste, and your tastes change when the intake is reduced gradually.

Many food manufacturers aren't likely to get on board with lowering sodium levels in processed foods any time soon. But that doesn't mean you can't make changes to your own diet. Start by reading food labels, and looking for low-sodium options. Eating more plant-based, unprocessed foods will also help because these foods are naturally very low in sodium.

Cutting back on the amount of sodium you consume is a simple dietary change you can make that can have a big impact on your health and longevity.

Source:
Cuba Opens a Gospel Window

Cuba may not regularly be on the personal radar of most Northwest Adventists, but worldwide evangelism has long been an active value within our members. When a unique window for gospel ministry opened there recently, one of our leaders, representing the North Pacific Union Conference's commitment to global mission, was there ready for action.

One week before the United States and Cuba announced intentions to restore diplomatic ties in December, Ramon Canals, North Pacific Union Conference vice president for Hispanic ministries, stepped onto the stage of a Cuban auditorium. He faced a sea of faces in seats often occupied by communist government leaders. But this was no political moment. Canals recognized this as an amazing opportunity for the gospel in one of the unlikeliest places.

Local Adventists from the country’s second largest city, Santiago de Cuba, had become familiar with Canals 15 years before when he presented meetings in the two existing churches. When the East Cuban Mission determined to join the world church’s mission to big cities with a major event in Santiago de Cuba, local leaders requested that Canals be the featured speaker. CPL (Changing People’s Lives) Ministries based in Loma Linda, California, agreed to help with funding to attract public awareness.

The Heredia Theater in Santiago de Cuba seemed like the ideal spot — well-known and with capacity for up to 3,000 people. Obtaining permission from communist government leaders, though, proved to be lengthy and less than certain. Rules typically prohibit any overt proselytizing through public meetings. The government office initially agreed to only one night, whereas local church leaders lobbied for a weeklong series. Negotiations began more than a year in advance, but less than three weeks from the announced start of the meetings no contract had been signed.

Santiago de Cuba is the second largest city in Cuba.

Large trucks served as buses. Some people rode as long as two hours to attend.

Crowds grew each night, filling the Heredia Theater in Santiago de Cuba to near capacity.

Each night, a praise team led the audience in several songs.
Ramon Canals, North Pacific Union conference vice president for Hispanic ministries, was the featured speaker each evening for Esperanza Para Mi Ciudad — Hope for My City.

Each evening, 150 to 200 people came forward, crowding the stage in response to the call for personal commitments.

Signs were created, giving public thanks to donors who helped make this evangelistic effort possible.

Each evening, 150 to 200 people came forward, crowding the stage in response to the call for personal commitments.

Robert Noa (left), the regional minister of religion who attended every meeting, is pictured here with one of the local church elders and Ramon Canals (right).

People of all ages came from miles around for the meetings and the following baptisms. They were hungry for the gospel.
To baptize 350 individuals in less than two hours, 24 pastors stood in the pool with lines of candidates waiting their turn.

Ramon Canals (left) surveys the baptismal site along with Robert Noa, the regional minister of religion who helped the meetings go forward in Santiago de Cuba.

Ramon Canals prepares to enter the pool to help during the baptism.

The local pastors who joined together for the mass baptism gather in the pool for a moment of consecration.

(From left) Jenaro Jimenez de Castro, East Cuban Mission president; Ramon Canals, North Pacific Union Conference vice president for Hispanic ministries; Robert Noa, regional minister of religion; Eliseo Lozano, CPL president; and Eduardo Lorenzo, East Cuban Mission ministerial director.
Thousands of eager Cuban nationals respond to the meetings at the Heredia Theater in Santiago de Cuba.

Next >

CPL, the project sponsor, wondered if the event should be canceled. Even at home in Northwest, roadblocks appeared. Canals and his wife were in a serious accident. It would have been easy to pull the plug — to say, “God must be closing the door.” But instead Canals convinced project leaders to persevere. “There were more than 1,000 people taking Bible studies and 300 or so Bible workers giving 50 to 100 studies per month,” he recalls. “I could see a lot of signs that God was leading and that we should move forward in faith.”

The event was scheduled for the week of December 7–13, 2014. Canals arrived in the city on December 5. He was shocked to discover that, still, no agreement had been finalized and signed. Last-minute, urgent negotiations finally secured an agreement to use the auditorium mere hours before doors were to open. An additional two meetings were arranged to be held in local churches, filling out the weeklong series.

Cuba is making progress towards religious freedom as we understand it in this country. There is tolerance to a point, as long as certain parameters are in place. In conjunction with CPL and the local church leaders, Canals had designed his presentations around a theme that passed muster with the authorities. It carried a focus of good citizenship and personal growth: Esperanza Para Mi Ciudad, or Hope for My City.

And so, on December 8, Canals brushed his dark suit, polished his shoes and got ready to step out onto the stage to see what God would bring in this second largest city in Cuba. He didn’t have long to wait.

Trucks began arriving at the site, filled with hundreds of people who had ridden for one to two hours, jostling with their fellow travelers. But they were excited to come to such a prominent venue to hear a speaker from the United States. Communist guards served as gatekeepers, making sure that people had a sticker that granted them permission to enter the building.

When Canals stepped out on the stage, more than 2,000 were in their seats. The communist minister of religion intended to greet the audience and stay for 10 minutes, but he stayed for the entire meeting, right in the front row. Canals chose his words carefully but led the audience in a gospel-centered message. The next night even more seats were full — and the communist leader was back for more. He came to every meeting. On Thursday evening, the night that was supposed to be just a concert, he was on the front row and 21 of his fellow communist officials were in the audience. After listening to three songs, he said, “That's enough. Everyone is waiting for the sermon!”

Each night, the attendance grew toward the hall’s capacity of 3,000. Each night, Canals invited those who wished to follow Jesus (and be positive citizens of their country) to come forward and join him on the stage for special prayer. Each night, 150 to 200 gathered for that personal commitment.

By the final day, Saturday, December 13, hundreds were ready for baptism. Where could such a large baptism take place? Once again, the provincial minister of religion stepped in to help. He arranged for a local hotel swimming pool to be available for two hours.

After a final meeting at the hotel, 24 local pastors, with Canals included, jumped into the pool. Baptismal candidates began lining up beside each pastor. In one hour, more than 350 new converts were baptized in that pool. The minister of religion stood in the crowd, witnessing the area’s largest Adventist baptism in nearly 60 years.
The event has inspired a greater awareness of the Adventist Church and the gospel message. More than 2,600 people have indicated a desire to study further and be baptized later this year.

Canals says he was impressed with the hunger the Cuban people showed for the Word of God even though they have been steeped in communism and atheism for decades. He hopes there will be more opportunities for a people so open to truth. "The challenge for us as Northwest members and our church as a whole," he observes, "is to continue to reach out to Cuba while the people are still hungry. Remember Russia. Doors that are open for a while can shut just as quickly."
MythBuster Series Breaks Myths in Christianity

The Let’s Talk About It time brought people together for small-group discussions.

Laressa Farnsworth and James Valdez lead the theme song, "Ancient Words."

Jason Worf preaches the Word at Gladstone Park Church.

“All right! Let’s break into our small groups now for discussion.” All around the room, church members and nonmembers alike turn to face each other. Round tables scattered throughout the room create a friendly environment as groups discuss and question various aspects of what was presented that night at the MythBuster Evangelistic Series.

The MythBuster Series itself began Feb. 6 and ended Feb. 28, but it all started in September when Gladstone Park Church welcomed their new Bible worker, Laressa Farnsworth, a graduate of SOULS West. In preparation for the evangelistic series, she went door to door in the community to find Bible study interests. The church members were enthusiastic helpers in this process, with many of them going with her as she made her rounds of the neighborhoods.

The team expanded in January with the arrival of three more Bible workers — SOULS Northwest students interning for their Bible work practicum. Ethan Peterson, Joel LeClair and James Valdez worked faithfully to find more people in the community with open hearts. They passed out flyers and led out in Sabbath afternoon outreach in the final weeks of preparation for MythBuster.
Jason Worf, SOULS Northwest and North Pacific Union Conference literature ministries director, joined the team in February. His innovative ideas and vast knowledge definitely spiced things up as team members worked to make a unique series.

As a result, MythBuster was a slightly new approach to the classic evangelistic series. Starting off, Bob Uhrig, Gladstone Park Church pastor, would give the welcome each night and invite Worf up to answer questions that had been submitted the night prior. Either special music or the theme song, "Ancient Words," followed.

Then Worf would speak for about a half hour before dividing attendees into small groups of six or so. A group leader helped facilitate as each group discussed a list of the concepts taught that evening. The purpose was threefold: connect on a personal level, reinforce the message and learn where a person was in his or her understanding.

One attendee shared that she was initially nervous about the small groups for fear of being the odd one out. She was very pleased to find that even those who have been church members for years were willing to ask questions and explore answers with her.

So far, five guests have asked for baptism, two have asked to join the church on profession of faith, and a number of other friends have been made in the community — friendships that will continue to be nurtured.

Uhrig is thrilled and wants to make sure you know that if you would be interested in SOULS Northwest being a part of evangelism in your church, you can email Jason Worf or call 360-857-7062.

Laressa Farnsworth, Gladstone Park Church Bible worker
MythBuster Series Breaks Myths in Christianity | GleanerNOW

http://gleanernow.com/news/2015/03/mythbuster-series-breaks-myths-chr...
Images of Creation 2015

February 6, 2015:
Mountain Lion, Kalispell, Mont. More Information
Credit: Adam Cornwell

February 13, 2015: Ice Age, More Information
Credit: Christina G. Angquico

February 20, 2015: Red Foxes at Play, Kalispell, Mont. More Information
Credit: Adam Cornwell

February 27, 2015: Dew Drops in Suspension, More Information Credit: Jeffry Seldomridge

March 6, 2015: Mt. Hood Orchard, More Information
Credit: Christina G. Angquico

March 13, 2015: Fairy slippers had touch of snow, Credit: Jeff A. Whiteouse

Credit: Renae E. Smith

March 27, 2015:
Lavender"s Sweet Descent, Hulda Klager Lilac Garden, Woodland WA More Information Credit: Renae E. Smith

April 3, 2015: Once Upon a Time, More Information Credit: Christina G. Angquico

April 10, 2015: Mine!, Vancouver, Wash. Credit: Lynne McClure

April 17, 2015: Spring Rain, Vancouver, Wash. Credit: Lynne McClure

April 24, 2015: Fox kits at play, Kalispell, Mont. More Information Credit: Adam Cornwell

May 8, 2015: Emerging Signs of Spring, More Information Credit: Jeffry Seldomridge

May 15, 2015: Hummingbird, Gresham, Ore. Credit: John L. Corban

May 22, 2015: Pretty in Pink, Vancouver, Wash. Credit: Lynne McClure


June 5, 2015: Cape Kiwanda, More Information Credit: Christina G. Angquico


June 19, 2015: Natures Family Outing, More Information Credit: Jeffry Seldomridge

June 26, 2015: Eunice Lake, Eunice Lake, Wash. Credit: Ulrich Tutsch


July 17, 2015: St. Mary’s Lake Sunrise, St. Mary’s Lake, Mont. Credit: Mary Lane Anderson


July 31, 2015: Hydrangea with Frog, Vancouver, Wash. Credit: Lynne McClure

August 7, 2015: Ladybug With Morning Dew, Vancouver, Wash. Credit: Lynne McClure


August 21, 2015: Heron With Fish, Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge, near Rickreall, Ore. More
August 28, 2015: Charity, Swan Island Dahlia Farm, Canby, Ore. More Information Credit: Renae E. Smith

September 11, 2015: Bald Eagle, Alaska   Credit: Cherelyn Y. Strickland


September 25, 2015: Canola Road, Eastern Washington More Information Credit: Cindy A. Kassab

October 2, 2015: Two great horned owlets, Washington More Information Credit: Cindy A. Kassab

October 9, 2015: Egret in the Sun, Ridgefield, Wash.  Credit: Lynne McClure

October 16, 2015: Harbor Seal, Alaska   Credit: Cherelyn Y. Strickland

October 30, 2015: Mt. Rainier Bench Lake, Mt. Rainier Bench Lake, Wash. Credit: Gene Heinrich

November 6, 2015: Boardman, Ore. Credit: Mary Lane Anderson

November 13, 2015: Visitor from the North, Ocean Shores, Wash. More Information Credit: Cindy A. Kassab


November 27, 2015: Sunset Afterglow, Oregon Credit: Mary Lane Anderson

December 4, 2015: His Eye is on the Sparrow, Credit: Jeff A. Whiteouse
December 11, 2015: Glowing Maple, Japanese Gardens, Portland, Ore.  Credit: Scott Swetnam
December 18, 2015: Mt. Adams,  More Information Credit: Christina G. Angquico

December 25, 2015: Bobcat, Kalispell, Mont. More Information Credit: Adam Cornwell
January 1, 2016: One Cone, Andies Prairie, Tollgate, Ore.  Credit: Curtis R. Lund

January 8, 2016: Mountain Lion, Kalispell, Mont. More Information Credit: Adam Cornwell


February 5, 2016: Red Fox, Kalispell, Mont. More Information Credit: Adam Cornwell
Each year, the *Gleaner* holds a photo contest. This year's 2015 winners for the online *Photo of the Week* are included in this gallery.

January 12, 2015
Matching scarves bond the students of Boise Valley Adventist School during National School Choice Week.

Boise Valley Adventist School (BVAS) participated in National School Choice Week on Friday, Jan. 23, as a positive way to raise awareness about the school and the benefits of providing children with an effective education.

The purpose of National School Choice Week is to empower parents to choose the best type of education for their children. During the week, participants planned events that highlighted their school and advanced their own message of educational opportunity.

Throughout National School Choice Week, 5,500 schools participated across the country and featured thousands of unique events and activities. The staff at BVAS chose to celebrate this day by recognizing students who displayed outstanding character traits. Although academic preparation is extremely important at BVAS, the focus was on students who are making positive choices; encouraging fellow students, going out of their way to help others, maintaining a positive attitude and reflecting Christ’s character through their actions.

In return, the teachers were also recognized for their tireless dedication to upholding the school mission and helping students achieve their potential and their dreams. To that end students were given the opportunity to write "warm fuzzies" (notes of recognition and thanks) to the teachers for their dedication and service.

The event was commemorated by distributing matching scarves to the entire student body as a way to bond the students together.

National School Choice Week was the perfect opportunity to highlight BVAS and the good things that are happening in addition to recognizing student and teachers for outstanding effort. However, the true reward comes when a student makes a life decision to follow God.
Boise Valley Adventist School teacher