Longtime Evangelist Ron Halvorsen Sr. Dies

Ron Halvorsen Sr., a New York gang member who gave his heart to Jesus at age 17 and became a Seventh-day Adventist evangelist who led thousands of people to baptism, died on Friday after a long battle with cancer. He was 76. Halvorsen was born Jan. 18, 1938, in a tough neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, and joined a gang as a teenager. But his life changed drastically when a teenage friend, Jim Londis, helped lead Halvorsen to Jesus. After accepting Jesus, Halvorsen went on to serve as a pastor and evangelist. He once estimated that he had held an evangelistic meeting every year of his life since being converted. A memorial will be live-streamed June 13 on the Forest Lake Church website, forestlakechurch.org. Read more from the Adventist Review online.
Idaho Conference Re-elects Leadership Team

During the Idaho Conference Constituency Session held Sunday, May 17, delegates reinstated the conference leadership for the next four-year term. David Prest Jr., was re-elected president and director of church ministries, Sabbath school, personal ministries and evangelism. John Rogers will continue as vice president of administration and finance, director of ASI and stewardship. Patrick Frey was re-elected as superintendent of education and director of senior youth ministries. Eve Rusk, will direct the planned giving, trust services and communication departments. For a gallery of event photos and a list of new executive committee and board of education members, go online to GleanerNow.com.

New Auburn Adventist Academy Principal

Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) has a new principal: John Soule, 1979 AAA alumnus. Soule has 25 years of experience in education both in the classroom at Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash., and more recently in administration at Sacramento Adventist Academy in Carmichael, Calif. “My vision is for students that attend AAA to have a stronger relationship with Jesus Christ when they graduate,” Soule says. Soule earned a Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical education from Walla Walla University (WWU) in June 1990. He obtained a Master of Arts in teaching with an emphasis in educational leadership from WWU in June 2008. “My mission is to empower faculty and staff so that they are well equipped to mentor students for Christ,” says Soule. Read more about Soule on the AAA website.

PLR Day of Compassion Sponsors 261 Children

Positive Life Radio's (PLR) annual Days of Compassion fundraiser reaped enough response to sponsor 261 children, far surpassing this year’s goal of 200. It is the highest number of children sponsored in the 10-year history of the event. PLR’s team partnered with individuals from Compassion International, who joined in the on-air promotion. Funds raised will go to help children in Nuevo San Lorenzo, Ecuador, a city which suffers from significant poverty and disease. Those who wish to know more about helping to sponsor a child through this program can find more details at plr.org.
NPUC Annual Regional Convocation

The 39th Annual North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) Regional Convocation was held at Camp Berachah in Auburn, Wash., May 14–17. The theme of the event was: "Will Your Anchor Hold?" Guest speakers and presenters included Calvin Watkins, Norman Miles, Alonzo Wagner, Baron Dovory, Carmela Monk Crawford and Terry Johnsson. There were special musical performances from the Ken Burton Trio and Jillian Monêt Lawrence. Click here to view photos from the event and visit npuc.org to watch Sabbath's programs.

UCC Job: Moving Van Driver

The Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) has an opening for a moving van driver. The position is available immediately. For a complete job description please click here. Contact the Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Human Resources Department for more information. Email athr@uccsda.org or richardp@uccsda.org, or call 509-242-0431. Applications accepted until May 29, 2015.

NW Adventist Couple Featured on Oregon Public Broadcasting

Your Bible Speaks Seventh-day Adventist Church members Ed and Sara Johnson spent last weekend participating in Oregon Public Broadcasting's (OPB) "Living Off Your Quake Kit" event May 15–17. The event tests how prepared one is for a disaster and how well they can live off their emergency supplies. Visit OPB's website for more about their experience and to view photos of them living off their emergency supplies.

View photos of Oregon Conference's 2015 Pathfinder Fair
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- Adventurers Learn About Following Jesus
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Looking Ahead

May

- May 28: PAA Spring Concert, Portland, OR
- May 29: Hood View Church 50th Anniversary Celebration, Boring, OR
- May 31: Upper Columbia Conference Constituency Session, Spangle, WA

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In this increasingly litigious culture, the Adventist Church must work within careful parameters. In this month’s Gleaner interview, Andre Wang, new legal counsel for the North Pacific Union Conference, shares how the church can carry its legacy of mission and service forward in spite of these challenges. Take a moment now to flip through the latest issue at GleanerNow.com.
Halvorsen is a former New York gang member who led thousands of people to baptism.

Posted May 16, 2015

Updated Monday, May 18, 2015, to include funeral information in 21st paragraph, new quotes throughout

By Andrew McChesney, news editor, Adventist Review

Ron Halvorsen Sr., a New York gang member who gave his heart to Jesus at age 17 and became a Seventh-day Adventist evangelist who led thousands of people to baptism, died on Friday after a lengthy illness. He was 76.

His son, Ron Halvorsen Jr., announced the death on Facebook late Friday evening and asked for prayers for his family, especially his mother, Carrol, and sister, Diane.

“I’m in transit to dad and mom. Just before they closed the door to the plane in Dayton, I received news that my dad has passed away,” Halvorsen Jr. wrote.

Ron Halvorsen Sr. was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer that starts in the bone marrow's plasma cells and affects the whole body, in November 2014.

He had successfully fought off three previous bouts with cancer and believed that he would land on his feet again, making plans to travel to Norway and engage in other evangelistic activities, said Ruthie Jacobson, who prayed with Halvorsen just hours before he died.

“He was still working for the Lord,” she said, adding that he had recently told her that he still had a lot of work to do.

Condolences poured in from around the world, with friends describing Halvorsen as humble, approachable, and gracious.

“Elder Halvorsen was one of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s great evangelists, and he preached the straight truth of the Bible,” said Ted N.C. Wilson, leader of the Adventist Church. “It hit home to those who listened attentively.”

“A giant has fallen. A true giant,” said John Bradshaw, director and speaker for It Is Written, where Halvorsen worked for more than a decade as an evangelist and prayer coordinator after he retired.

“Ron believed in preaching the power of the gospel,” Bradshaw said. “It had changed him, and he knew it could change others. And as God worked through Ron, it did so many times.”

Evangelist Mark Finley said Halvorsen left an enduring legacy as a Christ-centered, fearless biblical preacher who loved people and had a passion for evangelism that was undimmed through the years.

“He was consumed with the overwhelming desire to see men and women, boys and girls won for Christ,” said Finley, who called Halvorsen a dear friend whose life was intertwined with the Finley family for decades. “He was
one of a kind but would to God we had 1,000 preachers like him whose whole life was consumed with winning the lost.”

He Prayed to the End

Jacobson, prayer ministry leader for the North American Division who worked with Halvorsen for the past two decades, praised him for the way he merged evangelism and prayer.

“He would not do evangelism without a lot of prayer,” she said.

He prayed to the end, she said. Jacobson prayed with Halvorsen often in the months after she attended a special anointing for him in November.

Halvorsen called her last Sabbath morning and said, “Please pray. I cannot breathe.”

After Jacobson prayed, he said, “Wonderful, I can breathe. God is so good.”

He called her again for prayer on Friday morning, but his voice was weak.

“He had been going downhill all week,” Jacobson said.

She prayed and promised to visit him in the hospital where he was staying in a suburb of Orlando, Florida. She arrived five minutes after he died.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. June 13 at the Forest Lake Church in Florida, the Florida Conference announced on Twitter on Monday. It will be live-streamed on the church’s website, forestlakechurch.org. Well-wishers can leave a comment for the family on a tribute wall on the website of the DeGusipe Funeral Home.

Watch Ron Halvorsen Sr. share how he went from gangs to God in an interview with John Bradshaw on It Is Written.

Over 10,000 Baptisms

Halvorsen was born on Jan. 18, 1938, in a tough neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, and joined a gang as a teenager. But his life changed drastically when a teenage friend, Jim Londis, helped lead him to Jesus when he was 17. (The video above tells the story.)

Halvorsen and Londis remained lifelong friends. Londis, a former pastor of Sligo Church and former president of Atlantic Union College, is now retired and living near Collegedale, Tennessee. He was traveling abroad and could not be reached immediately.

After accepting Jesus, Halvorsen went on to serve as a pastor in churches in Connecticut, Tennessee, and Takoma Park, Maryland, as well as at Southwestern Adventist University in Texas.
But he will no doubt be best remembered as a powerful evangelist with a remarkable personal testimony and an active prayer life. He never forgot how God changed his life as a young gang member on the streets of Brooklyn.

“I’ve held an evangelistic meeting every year of my life ever since” being converted at the age of 17, Halvorsen said in an interview on It Is Written about two years ago. “I told my wife, ‘Honey, if I die before Jesus comes, put a pulpit in my casket because I’ll come up preaching.”

He acknowledged to friends that he had lost count of how many people he had baptized. His best estimate put the figure at more than 10,000.

**A Thrilling Story**

A favorite story that Halvorsen told about evangelism and baptisms occurred after he passed the 6,000 mark. As the story went, he approached a church leader and said, “Elder, I understand that series you held in New York City some years ago was a great success!”

The church leader looked not only puzzled, but embarrassed.

“No, I think you’re mistaken,” he replied. “That meeting didn’t turn out nearly as well as we had hoped.”

Halvorsen smiled. “Well, I think the number I’m hearing is that there were at least 6,000 baptisms in that meeting,” he said.

The pastor looked truly confused. Halvorsen had to have his facts terribly mixed up.

Halvorsen continued: “You see, elder, there was a woman at that meeting who was baptized along with her son. Her son was my friend and brought me to the Lord. I was baptized, and so far I’ve baptized more than 6,000 people in my ministry. So it seems to me you’ve had over 6,000 baptisms for that series you held.”

“Oh, thank you for telling me that,” the church leader said, tears welling up in his eyes.

They both shed tears as they thought about the amazing ways that God works.

‘Relentlessly Lifting Up Jesus’

Among the people whom Halvorsen baptized were Finley’s mother and sister.

“He was our local pastor in Norwich, Connecticut, when I was a college student,” Finley said. “I looked forward to coming home to hear his powerful Christ-centered sermons.”

Years later, Finley and Halvorsen held evangelism series together.

“One of my fondest ministry memories is holding an evangelistic meeting with Ron in San Diego, California, alternating preaching and baptizing hundreds of seeking people,” Finley said.

Halvorsen worked as an evangelist for the Carolina Conference, Faith For Today, and the General Conference in New York. He also taught homiletics at various colleges and was ministerial director of the Mid-America Union. Before retiring, he worked as church growth director for the Southern Union. He wrote two books, “From Gangs to God” and “Prayer Warriors.”

In retirement, he conducted prayer seminars for the North American Division and worked at It Is Written.

Bradshaw said the last evangelistic series that Halvorsen held was for It Is Written in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 2013.
“It was vintage Ron, relentlessly lifting up Jesus,” Bradshaw said. “If there was one thing Ron loved to emphasize, it was God’s love and grace, God’s willingness and ability to save the worst of sinners. What an amazing thing to be remembered for.”

He said Halvorsen’s legacy would be the countless lives that he had influenced with the gospel.

“The first person I told of Ron’s death told me how her sister — who been away from God for 35 years — returned to faith in Jesus after hearing Ron lift up Jesus,” Bradshaw said. “And that has happened countless times. … All he wanted to do was tell people about the love of God; that they had hope in Jesus.”

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.
Idaho Re-elects Leadership Team

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The re-elected Idaho Conference officers are (from left) John Rogers, vice president of administration and finance; Eve Rusk, communication and trust services director; David Prest Jr., president; and Patrick Frey, superintendent of education. Credit: Anthony J. White

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More than 300 Idaho Conference delegates gathered Sunday, May 17, on the campus of Gem State Adventist Academy in Caldwell for the 53rd conference constituency session. In addition to routine actions, they re-elected the conference leadership team for a new four-year term.

David Prest Jr. was re-elected president and director of church ministries, Sabbath school, personal ministries and evangelism. John Rogers will continue as vice president of administration and finance, director of ASI and stewardship. Patrick Frey was re-elected as superintendent of education and director of senior youth ministries. Eve Rusk, along with her administrative assistant duties, will direct the planned giving, trust services and communication departments.

In addition to the core leadership team, delegates also elected a new conference board of directors/executive committee and board of education.

View more photos of the constituency session here.

Executive Committee

- David Prest
- John Rogers
- Marvin Thorman
- Patrick Frey
- Brian Yarborough
- Francisco Altamarino
Dean Lifshay
Stewart Lewis
Craig Bonson
Ryan Tachenko
Yvonne Iwasa
Jerry Nickell
Jeremy Griffen
Felix Castro
Hudson Logan
Sue Duncan
Dan McKey
Carmen Mayes
Carolyn Curtis
Barbara Lankford
Cristina Ionescu
Dalena Waring

Board of Education

David Prest
Patrick Frey
John Rogers
Marvin Thorman
Dennis Plubell
Bob Atteberry
Melanie Lawson
Cristina Ionescu
Joy Johnson
Mildred Hidalgo
Ted Edmister Sr.
Dennis Clayville
Gary Schnell
Rena Glubay

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Coming in the July 2015 issue
Auburn Adventist Academy : Meet Principal John Soule

Meet Principal John Soule

John and Teresa Soule (provided photo)

AAA Announces John Soule as New Principal

Auburn, Wash. (May 14, 2015) - The Board of Trustees would like to introduce (or perhaps reintroduce) you to John Soule, an education administrator and alumnus from 1979, who accepted an invitation to serve as principal for Auburn Adventist Academy.

"It has been 36 years of living outside the Auburn area and feels right to be coming back to where my Christ experience started," Soule says. He, his two brothers, his sister and his father all graduated from AAA. His mother attended Auburn and his grandmother was a teacher at Auburn.

Soule has 25 years of experience in education both in the classroom at Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash., and more recently in administration at Sacramento Adventist Academy in Carmichael, Calif.

"My vision is for students that attend AAA to have a stronger relationship with Jesus Christ when they graduate," Soule says. "Students through their educational experience at Auburn need to be equipped to make the right life choices."

The Board spent two months working through a "Vision for Growth" that included a section outlining the intent to hire a principal who desired to join this vision for growing a school of excellence.

"We searched across the country to find the right candidates to consider for leading the Academy," says Archie Harris, Washington Conference vice president for education. "The Board interviewed a list of candidates to find the right principal to lead this institution."

Soule earned a Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical education from Walla Walla University in June 1990. He also earned a Master of Arts in teaching with an emphasis in educational leadership from Walla Walla University in June 2008.

"My mission is to empower faculty and staff so that they are well equipped to mentor students for Christ," says Soule. "I love the challenges that come at the administrative level and the opportunities for mentoring."
Soule and his wife, Teresa, have three adult children: Brad has two sons, Kari has a daughter, and James is studying to become a history teacher. Soule enjoys teaching students, spending time with his grandchildren, reading, sports and camping.

The transition in leadership will officially happen this summer. Before then, Soule will work with the Board to fill the remaining teaching and staff positions at the academy. Soule will also be working with the board in the long-term strategic planning process to compliment the visioning work the board addressed this spring.

"As I look at the young people in our schools, I have great hope for the future," Soule says. "With quality students that have a positive relationship with Christ, nothing is impossible."
Living Off Your Quake Kit: Family And Faith-Oriented Couple Study Prep To Help Community

John Rosman

Ed and Sara Johnson of Southeast Portland say their biggest reason for participating in the "Living Off Your Quake Kit" project is to learn more about how they need to be prepared for natural disaster and to spread that information to others.

Alan Sylvestre / OPB

Faith brought Ed and Sara Johnson together.

They went to separate Seventh-day Adventist colleges and were introduced through a mutual friend, Sara's former roommate. They were married in 2012 and their spirituality is a pillar in their lives.

The Southeast Portland couple is one of the households participating in OPB's “Living Off Your Quake Kit” event May 15-17. They'll be testing their disaster preparedness and how well they can live off of their emergency supplies.

Johnson Family Supplies

While the Ed and Sara Johnson don't feel like they're fully prepared for a natural disaster, they were able to gather items around their home that could be used in the days and weeks after an earthquake.
• Propane stove with two small propane tanks
• Extra cat food for their cat, Baby K
• A flashlight in each room
• A battery-powered lantern
• Three gallons of water
• Extra toilet paper
• A first-aid kit
• Nonperishable food, including canned beans, canned soups, pasta and peanut butter

The Johnsons are active members at Your Bible Speaks Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northeast Portland, where 35-year-old Ed is the assistant treasurer and Sara, 33, is one of the counters — someone who verifies weekly offerings from congregation members.

For the past few months, Ed has been predominately going to a Russian Adventist church down the street.

“Faith transcends race and culture,” he says about being the only non-white, non-Russian speaking member of the congregation. “You’re part of a family.”

Ed is trying to understand Russian language and culture better because his job — dental operation supervisor at the East Multnomah County Dental Clinic — has many Russian clients.

“It’s a harder language than Spanish,” he says.

Sara laughs, agreeing. She is fluent in Spanish and works as a medical interpreter.

Sara and her family have been talking about preparedness for years. Her large family — uncles, aunts, brothers — all come together regularly to talk about what they could do better as a group.

One topic that has comes up among her family is how they would reunite in the event of a disaster.

“We talked about Powell Butte as a meeting place for an emergency,” says Sara. Turning to Ed, they talk about it as a potential meeting place for the whole family.

“It was never decided on,” he says.

Learn more and join in OPB’s “Living Off Your Quake Kit” weekend. On May 15-17, OPB will follow Oregon families as they try to live off their emergency supplies. You can follow along on social media with #UnpreparedNW.
Walla Walla University students (from left) Jesse Churchill and Erik Edstrom won top honors at the SONScreen Film Festival for their modern retelling of Saul’s conversion.

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The Way, a short film created by Walla Walla University (WWU) students Erik Edstrom and Jesse Churchill, won Best in Festival and Best Dramatic Short at the annual SONScreen Film Festival. The Way is a modern retelling of the biblical story of Saul’s conversion on the road to Damascus.

“The award for Best in Festival is the highest award given at the SONScreen Festival and represents exceptional merit in both content and technical quality,” says David Bullock, WWU communications department chair. “The competition this year included more than 15 entries in the Documentary Short category, and quality was exceptionally high among entries.”

Churchill, a senior theology major, says, “The film is filled with biblical references and parallels. For instance, the Jesus character in the film is named Soteras, which in Greek means ‘Savior,’ and the title of the film, The Way, is a reference to what the early church called themselves in the book of Acts.”

Edstrom, a senior industrial design major, says he and Churchill were inspired to make a film that could be enjoyed by both Christians and non-Christians. “We don’t state that this is biblical until the end of the film,” he explains, “so we hoped that anyone who didn’t recognize the story could get to the end and be inspired to think of the Bible in a more relatable way.”

Edstrom says he hopes The Way will inspire other filmmakers to tell biblical stories in an original way and that it will inspire viewers to pick up a Bible and read it from a different perspective.
Making *The Way* was a faith-building project for both Churchill and Edstrom. "I truly believe that God brought the right people to us that we needed to make this project a reality," says Edstrom. "Every time we faced a hurdle in production, God gave us the people or resources that we needed."

A second film by WWU students, *Student Story/Stephen Farr*, was a finalist in the documentary category. Three WWU students also contributed to two winning mini movies created by teams of students from WWU and other universities. In this category, Edstrom won first place as cinematographer; Cloud Tsai, a junior communications major, won first place for audio and acting; and Micah Hall, a sophomore communications major, won second place as director of *Stay*.

The SONScreen Festival was created in 2002 by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists to nurture Christian filmmakers. It has become a destination for filmmakers to share their creative work and to network with other media and film professionals.

Click here to watch *The Way*.

May 20, 2015 / Walla Walla University
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**Katelyn Swager**

Walla Walla University Marketing and University Relations writer
Adventist UW Students Find Spiritual R & R

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Adventist students attending public universities in Seattle participate in a spiritual-growth retreat held in the San Juan Islands.

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The University of Washington (UW) Seattle holds an impressive 44,700 students on campus, including a segment of Adventist students.

As a Seventh-day Adventist college student, it isn’t easy integrating a busy class schedule with spiritual life. In fact, it’s hard enough just getting to the next class located a mile across campus within the allotted 10-minute passing period.

This is why Adventist students are grateful for the dedicated leaders who created Seattle Adventist Student Association — a group of 60 undergraduate and graduate students who share life together through weekly meetings, vespers and student retreats.

On the weekend of April 10–12, the group held its annual Orcas Island retreat. Students from UW Seattle, UW Bothell, Cascadia College, Bastyr University and Seattle Pacific University — a total of 18 young adults — made the three-hour drive to the beautiful San Juan Islands off the Washington coast.

Friday night vespers and Sabbath church service were held at the Orcas Island Church and led by fellow students. They spent the rest of the weekend going on hikes along the picturesque island, making new friends, enjoying each other’s company and working together to pull off a sunset proposal for a couple in the group.

Surrounded by the beautiful scenery at the peak of Mount Constitution, they reveled in God’s glory, His creation and the blessings He abundantly pours over us.

These are moments the students will never forget. They are reminders that regardless of however hectic life may be, God’s love is there through it all — giving direction and peace when needed most.

May 18, 2015 / Washington Conference
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Kelly Lin

University of Washington student
Linda Hanratty from Oregon's Tillamook Regional Medical Center gave a testimony about living the mission by caring for the wounds of homebound patients.

Adventist Health’s mission focuses on whole-person care, which means “sharing God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing.” To help promote care that includes a spiritual, mission focus, Adventist Health hosted its second annual Mission Day in Roseville, Calif., for the system’s leaders.

“One of the greatest deficiencies in the U.S. workforce today is that people are not finding meaning and purpose in what they do. Our mission environment, predicated on sharing God’s love, fosters and nurtures one’s search for meaning and purpose,” says Paul Crampton, Adventist Health assistant vice president of mission and spiritual care.

The more than 150 attendees, including chief executive officers, chief financial officers, patient care executives and chaplaincy directors, as well as representatives from strategic partners Cerner and Jones Lang LaSalle, gathered to discuss spirituality in the workplace and staying grounded.

The event featured many speakers from across the system and Louis (Jody) Fry from International Institute for Spiritual Leadership. Fry spoke to the group about maximizing the triple bottom line (people, planet and performance excellence) through spiritual leadership.

Linda Hanratty, a nurse from Tillamook Regional Medical Center in Oregon, gave a testimony about living the mission by caring for the wounds of homebound patients. She shared how she and others are ambassadors of care and explained she is blessed to be able to visit and work in the patient’s home. Hanratty presented photos that
helped tell her story and showed how Adventist Health providers work as a team to build what God has intended for each patient.

During her presentation, Hanratty summed up the Adventist Health mission: “Our mission and values provide a commission, and we are missionaries in our communities.” She continued, “We value each person, and sometimes we get to bring them to the throne of grace.”

The daylong event culminated with a special recommitment ceremony and blessing of the hands by Adventist Health chaplains who anointed each attendee’s hands as Ricardo Graham, Adventist Health board chairman, led prayer.

“A spiritual environment and providing spiritual care services are not the same,” says Crampton. “Anyone can provide spiritual care services. We believe God dwells among us because we actively and intentionally invite Him to be here. Ours is truly a healing environment because it cares for the whole person: body, mind and spirit.”

May 20, 2015 / Adventist Health
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Jenni Glass

Adventist Health communications coordinator
Adventurers Learn About Following Jesus

Daniel Perrin kept 170 kids' attention during Adventurer Family Fun Day.

Picture 170 Adventurer kids enjoying a 45-minute worship talk without getting bored. It was Adventurer Family Fun Day at the Walla Walla (Wash.) City Church, and the kids were not just listening to the speaker for worship time. These kids were copying everything the speaker did, repeating his words and saying things like "no brownies please; I want more peas."

As the speaker and hundreds of kids were jumping like monkeys, the speaker suddenly disappeared off the edge of the stage. He ran around to the other side of the stage and asked the kids why they stopped copying him. They answered, "We can't see you!" There was a reason for all the fun and laughter. He was teaching them how to become a disciple, a follower, of Jesus.

The speaker was Daniel Perrin, a teacher at Rogers Elementary School in nearby College Place. He wanted the Adventurers to know that even when they cannot see Jesus, they can still follow him by reading the Bible and through prayer. It was a lesson on discipleship the kids, staff and parents will not forget.

Throughout the day, Adventurers enjoyed playing games, learning songs, creating prayer journals and visiting the nine booths that all focused on one ingredient of being a disciple of Jesus.

“Daniel was amazing,” says Lita Fenton, Adventurers head coordinator. “He connected with the kids and held their attention to the end of worship.” Fenton’s team that helps with Adventurer clubs and planning Adventurer Family Fun Day includes Wayne Hicks, Upper Columbia Conference director; Anita Lebold and Everly Batuik, South District coordinators; and Arlita Parr, North District coordinator.

Adventurers can look forward to next year’s theme, “Tell Me the Story of Jesus.” The Adventurer program is designed to support parents in assisting children with the challenging task of developing fully as followers of Christ in today’s world. Children in grades one through four are eligible to join. There are more than 17 clubs in Upper Columbia Conference. For more information, go to uccsda.org/Adventurers.

May 18, 2015 / Upper Columbia Conference

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

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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

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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