60th GC Session Kicks Off

Thousands of Adventists have descended upon San Antonio for the 60th world church business session. Some have characterized this meeting as the largest and longest ever held in the city's history. More than 60,000 are expected to attend during the 10-day event. Twenty-one delegates represent the North Pacific Union. Two of those delegates, Max Torkelsen and Gene Heinrich, have been placed on the General Conference nominating committee that will recommend names for all world church and division leadership throughout the course of the session. Stay in touch with all current news from the session at gleanerweekly.com or at "NPUC Gleaner" on Facebook.
Today's Highlights

- A delegation of leaders of a breakaway group of Adventists in Hungary that separated from the main body of the church 40 years ago, was formally welcomed at this morning’s business session.

- GC leaders also made "an appeal to all 2015 General Conference session delegates and attendees to accept each other as brothers and sisters in Christ regardless of some differences of opinion that may be evident on certain subjects." Read the whole appeal online.

- In addition, delegates approved an unprecedented 35 new union conferences to the Adventist world church.

WWU Says 'Hi'
Voting Technology a Work in Progress

Delegates during the first business session on Thursday morning learned firsthand about the challenges of technology. During repeated tests announced from the platform, delegates tried their handheld voting remotes to affirm that they were being received and registered in the official tally. When the results showed many were not successfully connecting, session staff were sent scrambling to determine what could be done to fix the balky technology. A solution is still pending that gives delegates and session leaders confidence that votes on important issues will be accurate.

Watch the Session at Home

GC Session will be broadcast straight from the Alamodome in San Antonio to your home or church: morning and evening worship, a series on the Adventist heritage by Jim Nix, Sabbath School, divine service, Adventist News Network, In Perspective with Mark Finley, and World of Hope. Watch it all on Hope Channel Church, Hope Channel app, or Glorystar 124. The broadcast schedule is online.
GC Session Podcast

Listen to 15-minute daily podcasts from the 60th General Conference Session. The daily podcasts will provide insight into the world church by explaining issues that the church is discussing and describing the votes taken on those issues. It will also discuss activities at the conference including the parade of nations and the 5k health run, as well as reports and music from various continents. Subscribe and listen to the podcasts on the GC Session website.

Adventist Church Responds to U.S. Same-Sex Marriage Ruling

The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday, June 26, released its decision legalizing same-sex marriage across the United States. Even with the Supreme Court's decision, the Adventist Church maintains its fundamental belief that
marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman. While the church respects the opinions of those who may differ, it will continue to teach and promote its biblically based belief of marriage between a man and a woman. The Seventh-day Adventist Church believes that all people, regardless of race, gender, and sexual orientation are God’s children and should be treated with civility, compassion, and Christ-like love. More information on the Adventist Church’s belief on marriage can be found on the church’s official website.

Recalibrating What Matters—Mission or Method

By: Dwight Nelson

You can be a united global faith community and practice very diverse methods in your shared mission to “seek and save the lost.”
Upcoming Camp Meetings

Below is a list of the upcoming camp meetings in the Northwest this summer.

- **Alaska Conference Camp Meeting**: July 21–25, Palmer, AK
- **Oregon Conference Camp Meeting**: July 21–25, Gladstone, OR
- **UCC Sheridan Meadows Camp Meeting**: July 21–25, Republic, WA
- **UCC Walla Walla Camp Meeting**: July 29–Aug. 1, College Place, WA
- **Alaska Southeast Camp Meeting**: July 30–Aug. 2, Wrangell, AK

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Currently at [gleanernow](gleanernow.com)

- **Together as One for the Sake of the Gospel**
- **LIDGTT FTATIM**
- **Why Choose WWU?**
- **Bold Beginnings, Bright Futures**
- **Nature Photo Gallery**

*And More!*
Looking Ahead

July

- **July 2–11**: General Conference Session, San Antonio, TX
- **July 15**: Restoration International's NW Family Retreat, Spangle, WA
- **July 17**: NAARA Annual Retreat, Lillooet, British Columbia, Canada
- **July 21–25**: UCC Sheridan Meadows Camp Meeting, Republic, WA

More Events Online

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InPrint

July

Changes are coming to Adventist education in the Northwest — many of them good and all of them challenging. Through it all, educational leaders are committed to continuing the unique mission of...
Adventist schools. What does the future hold for our students? Read more in the July *Gleaner* at [GleanerNow.com](http://GleanerNow.com).
Delegates to the world church session meeting in San Antonio, Texas, July 2, welcomed a delegation of leaders of a breakaway group of Seventh-day Adventists in Hungary, a group of believers separated from the main body of the church for 40 years. Raafat Kamal, president of the Trans-European Division presented a delegation to the world body and said that “God blessed the process” to bring the believers in Hungary together. Kamal invited the delegates to “embrace these brothers and sisters here.”

The Hungarian church split in 1975 amid a protest by several pastors and laity over local church leaders’ collaboration with the Council of Free Churches, a body established by a state under communist government to represent the common interests of small Hungarian Protestant denominations.

On April 23, Tamás Ócsai, president of the Hungarian Union Conference, signed a document titled “Joint Declaration on Settling the Past and Building a Common Future” with János Cserbik, leader of KERAK, as the splinter group is known. The Adventist Church in Hungary has 4,629 members worshiping in 104 churches, while KERAK has perhaps as many as 1,800 members, according to local church leaders.

Since signing of the joint reconciliation document, perhaps as many as 600 members rejoined the church and others are anticipated to follow.

Over the four decades multiple attempts to reconcile the differences have been attempted with a most recent involvement of the world and division church leaders participating in the process.

Following the signing ceremony, Benjamin D. Schoun, a general vice president of the Adventist world church, who played a key role in bringing the two sides toward reconciliation commented that this historic moment “is a testimony to the use of biblical methods for reconciliation and the willingness on the part of both sides to step out toward each other.”
Commenting on the developments, which culminated in the April declaration, Raafat Kamal, president of the Trans-European Division, said “I praise God for His grace in bringing both communities to the foot of the cross where Christ-like forgiveness, healing, and love have taken over minds and hearts.”

“Over the past two years I personally witnessed first-hand genuine expressions of reconciliation by members and leaders alike,” he also added. [Rajmund Dabrowski, with reporting from the Adventist Review]
GC Delegates Pledge Christlike Attitude

Church leaders ask the delegates to do all in their power to strengthen the church.

Posted July 2, 2015

By Andrew McChesney, Adventist Review / ANN

Delegates at the General Conference session knelt down with the Adventist Church’s top officers as they promised to show “Christ-likeness and humble respect for each other in our words and actions” during the 10 days of the meetings in San Antonio, Texas, and beyond.

The church’s top officers, a group of about 60 people including General Conference leadership and division presidents, had previously approved a 120-word appeal to the General Conference session that General Conference president Ted N. C. Wilson read to the delegates on Thursday and asked them to support.

“The most important thing that we must carry from this General Conference session when we leave . . . is that we are united in mission,” Wilson said. “Today we will make an appeal to you along with all of us: Humble your hearts before the Lord.”

The full text of the appeal reads:

“We, General Conference and division officers, appeal to all 2015 General Conference session delegates and attendees to accept each other as brothers and sisters in Christ regardless of some differences of opinion that may be evident on certain subjects. We ask for Christ-likeness and humble respect for each other in our words and activities during the General Conference session and beyond. Our humble demeanor and attitudes, through God's power, will speak volumes to those who are watching. We earnestly appeal that we do all in our power to strengthen the church—this precious Advent movement. We lean completely on Christ for the unifying spirit that we need in proclaiming the three angels' messages in these last days of Earth's history.”

At Wilson’s request, the some 2,000 delegates stood to acknowledge that they accepted the appeal. They then divided in groups of two or three to seal their commitment in prayer. The 60 church officers knelt on stage, and the delegates knelt on the main floor of the Alamodome stadium, the site of the General Conference session.

General Conference leadership has made a special effort to encourage humility and a Christlike attitude at key business meetings in the run-up to the General Conference session, where delegates will vote on much-discussed issues such as wording revisions to the church’s fundamental beliefs and women’s ordination.

Wilson prefaced his reading of the statement with a screening of What Might Have Been, a short film produced by the General Conference Ministerial Association about the General Conference session in 1901. The film, based on a vision that church cofounder Ellen G. White had, portrays how God had planned to carry out a deep spiritual renewal as delegates were reconciled through humility and the confession of sins at the 1901 session.

“One hundred fourteen years, and we are still here on Earth,” Armando Miranda, a general vice president of the General Conference, told delegates Thursday.

“We need the presence of the Holy Spirit,” he said. “We need the anointing of the Holy Spirit in a special way. And the Lord is willing to do this for us.”
Wilson urged delegates to “press together as God has instructed us” and “to put away every contention.”

“This General Conference session could be our last if we act according to God’s will,” he said.

He noted that Adventists around the world have been praying for the 2015 General Conference session and for the delegates as part of 100 Days of Prayer, a Ministerial Association initiative that ends at this session.

“For the past 100 days, God’s people around the world have been praying for you [and] for me,” he said. “Let’s not disappoint them, or God, or the angels who are in our midst today. What might have been, can be.”

Wilson added: “I earnestly ask that the Holy Spirit will be in our midst this morning, this afternoon, tonight, and throughout the session as we look forward to the Lord’s soon return. We want to go home!”

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.
The expansion seeks to more efficiently nurture the church’s fast-growing membership.

Posted July 2, 2015

By Andrew McChesney, *Adventist Review* / ANN

Moving to streamline the church’s work at a time of rapid growth, delegates opened the General Conference session on Thursday by officially approving the addition of an unprecedented 35 new union conferences to the Adventist world church.

The delegates easily approved the administrative units—most of which are located in Africa, Central America, and South America—by holding up yellow cards in a vote in the cavernous Alamodome stadium in San Antonio, Texas.

The vote was needed to officially confirm unions that have been organized since the last General Conference session in 2010 or are slated to be organized in the near future.

“The high number of new unions is unprecedented in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” G. T. Ng, executive secretary of the General Conference, told the *Adventist Review* earlier. “It is a reflection of the church growing with breakneck speed around the world.”

Most of the new unions came as a result of rapid church growth. The Adventist world church has a membership of 18.5 million, compared to the 16.3 million reported at the 2010 General Conference session.

In order to more efficiently nurture growing membership, it has become necessary to divide existing unions, establishing two new entities instead, church leaders said. Zambia, whose membership passed 1 million in April 2015, is an example of this, and its Zambia Union Conference will split into two unions during a meeting on September 20 to 23.

Other regions have advanced from union mission to union conference, indicating maturity in finance and leadership.

The 35 unions surpass the previous record of 22 unions added in 2010 and 22 unions added in 2005. Only 9 unions were added in 2000.

The new unions were presented to the delegates on the opening morning of the 10-day General Conference session, which runs through July 11. The respective division secretaries introduced the respective union presidents on the Alamodome’s stage.

The majority of the new unions —22— are in the three church divisions in Africa, Rosa Banks, a General Conference undersecretary and liaison to the three African divisions, told delegates.

Among the new unions is the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission, which was formed in 2012 with the intention of strengthening the focus of reaching the Middle East and North Africa.

“By uniting the former Trans Mediterranean Field and the former Middle East Union into a new union directly
attached to the General Conference, it has been possible to enhance the efforts to reach the population in this part of the 10/40 window,” said Harald Wollan, associate secretary for the General Conference who serves as liaison to the Middle East and North Africa Mission. “Under the able leadership of the current administration, wonderful things are happening in this challenging part of the world.”

Homer Trecartin, president of the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission, said it was a challenge to unite pieces of various divisions into the new union, but the result is worth the effort.

“It takes primarily Muslim countries, puts them in one group, and allows us to focus on one part of the world,” he said on the sidelines of the General Conference session.

The Trans-European Division also has a new union in Finland. The constituency in the Finland Union decided to reorganize the church’s work in that country for efficiency sake, transforming from a union conference to a union of churches conference, Wollan said.

“By eliminating administrative entities, it becomes possible to operate with fewer administrative positions, thus getting more pastors out in the field,” he said.

Wollan said the establishment of new unions matters to every church member because it helps the church better fulfill its mission of preparing people for Jesus’ return.

“The church was organized for mission. The more streamlined and efficient the leadership of the church, the better membership care and the more efficient it can become in evangelism,” he said. “We all share a responsibility in witnessing about the soon-coming Savior.”

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.
# General Conference Session

**Broadcast Schedule**

**Start Time:** 8:00AM CDT

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**Broadcasting Live**

- **Watch it on**
  - General Conference Session streaming online at hopetv.org/church
  - Glorystar Channel 124 | Hope Channel Apps

**BROADCAST SCHEDULE**

**2015**

- Programs for sale at hopechannelstore.com
Morning Worship

Begin each day with inspirational prayers, worship music, and devotional thoughts on the return of Jesus. Presented by church leaders, scholars, and evangelists from around the world, each day’s message features a unique facet of the Second Advent and of living as faithful witnesses through trying times until finally we’re home.

90 minutes – Live

Our Inspiring Heritage and Division Reports

Hear Jim Nix, Director of the Ellen G White Estate, recount the fascinating history of the men and women who started the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Relive their sacrifice and commitment. Every night hear inspiring stories from around the world of the extraordinary work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

120 minutes – Live

Sabbath School

Sabbath July 4 and 11, 8:30 am Central Time

With a focus on mission and missionaries, each week’s Sabbath School explores the biblical foundation for evangelism. For these two weeks Sabbath School will feature ministry to special need populations including those who are deaf and blind. Listen to the Brazilian deaf quartet and hear an inspiring testimony from fellow Seventh-day Adventist Floyd Morris, the first visually impaired Senate President from Jamaica.

120 minutes – Live

Divine Service

Sabbath July 4 and 11, 10:30 am Central Time

Experience powerful GC Session 2015 worship services with more than 70,000 others in the Texas Alamo dome. Enjoy the best Seventh-day Adventist mass choirs, orchestras, brass ensembles, and soloists from around the world including Montemorelos University’s Handel Choir, Washington Adventist University’s choir and New England Youth Ensemble, 7th Element, and Jennifer La Mountain. Sermons from the GC president and Secretary with emphasis on the unique mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Second Coming of Jesus.

G.T. Ng, The Church in Mission.

120 minutes – Live

Adventist News Network (ANN)

A daily summary of news, events, and highlights of the 2015 General Conference Session prepared by Adventist News Network, the official news source of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

30 minutes

In Perspective with Mark Finley

Mark Finley, together with newly elected General Conference officers and directors, shares a spiritual perspective on the impact of each day’s decisions and events for the Seventh-day Adventist Church globally. Keeping in mind the mission of the church to prepare people for the coming of Jesus, this daily program will help you understand how this divinely inspired movement continues to advance God’s last message in the many actions taken by the General Conference Session.

30 minutes

World of Hope

Enjoy intriguing stories of the lives changed by the outreach of Hope Channel as well as the miraculous ways God has opened doors for Hope Channel to reach new audiences around the world. See how Hope Channel is advancing God’s work. Discover how you can be part of this frontline ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

30 minutes
Marriage

Issues related to marriage can be seen in their true light only as they are viewed against the background of the divine ideal for marriage. Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus Christ to be both monogamous and heterosexual, a lifelong union of loving companionship between a man and a woman. In the culmination of His creative activity, God fashioned humankind as male and female in His own image; and He instituted marriage, a covenant-based union of the two genders physically, emotionally, and spiritually, spoken of in Scripture as "one flesh."

Arising from the diversity of the two human genders, the oneness of marriage images in a singular way the unity within diversity of the Godhead. Throughout Scripture, the heterosexual union in marriage is elevated as a symbol of the bond between Deity and humanity. It is a human witness to God's self-giving love and covenant with His people. The harmonious affiliation of a man and a woman in marriage provides a microcosm of social unity that is time-honored as a core ingredient of stable societies. Further, the Creator intended married sexuality not only to serve a unitive purpose, but to provide for the propagation and perpetuation of the human family. In the divine purpose, procreation springs from and is entwined with the same process whereby husband and wife may find joy, pleasure and physical completeness. It is to a husband and wife whose love has enabled them to know each other in a deep sexual bond that a child may be entrusted. Their child is a living embodiment of their oneness. The growing child thrives in the atmosphere of married love and unity in which he or she was conceived and has the benefit of a relationship with each of the natural parents.

The monogamous union in marriage of a man and a woman is affirmed as the divinely ordained foundation of the family and social life and the only morally appropriate locus of genital or related intimate sexual expression. However, the estate of marriage is not God's only plan for the meeting of human relational needs or for knowing the experience of family. Singleness and the friendship of singles are within the divine design as well. The companionship and support of friends looms in importance in both biblical testaments. The fellowship of the Church, the household of God, is available to all regardless of their married state. Scripture, however, places a solid demarcation socially and sexually between such friendship relations and marriage.

To this biblical view of marriage the Seventh-day Adventist Church adheres without reservation, believing that any lowering of this high view is to that extent a lowering of the heavenly ideal. Because marriage has been corrupted by sin, the purity and beauty of marriage as it was designed by God needs to be restored. Through an appreciation of the redemptive work of Christ and the work of His Spirit in human hearts, the original purpose of marriage may be recovered and the delightful and wholesome experience of marriage realized by a man and a woman who join their lives in the marriage covenant.

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) on April 23, 1996.
These students attended Milo Adventist Academy because of a generous donor’s scholarship fund.
Credit: Peter Hernandez

Taleigha Schnoor is baptized after attending an Adventist academy on a specially funded scholarship. Credit: Kathy Hernandez
Riverside Adventist School personnel react with elation to the news that their debt has been paid.

God is painting a new picture of ministry within the Oregon Conference. He is uncovering a long-held truth for the success of His mission through our church.

Delegates at the 1901 General Conference session concluded that the primary purpose of Adventist schools was to "serve the mission of the church — spreading the good news of redemption." They realized that our schools could reach a wider audience and establish a presence in some communities not effectively reached by traditional evangelism. In 1880, Ellen White had declared they "would be one of the greatest means ordained of God for the salvation of souls."

What happens when a local church wakes up to this vision — that they are in possession of the best possible evangelistic tool, their local school? Many within the Oregon Conference have recently had such an awakening.

When Al Reimche originally became Oregon Conference president, he was impressed with a dire need for churches and schools to build partnerships in ministry. Some of our churches had begun to resent the cost of their local schools. Some schools had lost sight of their primary purpose. However, God's hand began to peel back some old varnish. His new splashes of color are starting to appear in many corners on the canvas.

Conference administrators and a team of pastors and teachers are pursuing a new vision: "Together as One." Here are some of the new colors of this vision beginning to radiate throughout Oregon.

### Every Child Deserves to Know Christ

The water was a bit brisk on Valentine's Day in February, but Taleigha Schnoor only felt the warmth of committing her life to her new best friend, Jesus Christ. After receiving a full scholarship to come to Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, Oregon, Taleigha's heart had been consistently impacted day after day as she was exposed to friendships, worships, biblically centered classes and caring staff members.

Taleigha was not the only one to receive this rare opportunity of a full-ride scholarship. Shortly after beginning this school year, the education department was approached by a local donor with a passion to provide more opportunities for children to receive an Adventist education. This generous person offered to fully fund any kindergarten, first-grade or ninth-grade student who had not previously attended an Adventist school. This wonderful offer helped 39 students to join Oregon Adventist schools this year. Thirty-nine more hearts were given the opportunity to be daily impacted with the hope of living forever with Jesus in a world made new.

This continued needs-based scholarship is being offered again this coming school year to new incoming kindergarten, first-grade or ninth-grade children to attend our Adventist schools. Along with that, the donor will...
continue to sponsor this year's 39 students as needed. You may contact your local principal or pastor for more details.

**School Debts Paid in Full to Pursue Ministry**

Complete shock radiated from the faces of the principal, pastor and board chair as the reality of the presentation registered. During the April board of education meeting, Riverside Adventist School in Washougal, Washington, was informed that their entire school debt had been paid. "This changes everything!" cried Heidi Kruger, Riverside's principal. "This money will allow us to focus on the mission of teaching with the purpose of getting our students ready for heaven."

Riverside was not the only school. In March, the Oregon Conference received an amazing donation that paid in full the debt from any school that owed money to the conference. Joan Oksenholt, Lincoln City Adventist School principal, exclaimed, "It is as if our shackles have been taken off." For some schools, this means breathing room to acquire much-needed updated materials. For other schools, it is simply being able to keep their doors open. This relief is also felt in each of the constituent churches, which in many cases give beyond their regular subsidy amount to help keep their schools running.

It all happened because of God’s movement on the heart of an anonymous donor. After much thought and prayer regarding the state of our church across North America, the donor concluded he needed to start in his own backyard. He approached Al Reimche and Gale Crosby, Oregon Conference vice president for education, with an offer impossible to refuse. Paying off debt, giving each school a clean slate, would be the first step in helping churches and schools get back to a vital partnership of church mission.

**Together as One — Ministry Summit**

“This is the most significant movement impacting the work in the Oregon Conference that I've seen in my 18 years of ministry here," shares George Gainer, a pastor and member of the ministry summit team, after listening to Reimche and Crosby share their vision for ministry together. The summit team of pastors, teachers and a student created the following mission statement:

*God has promised! We will not die. We will not give up. We will not grow weary. We will rise TOGETHER AS ONE in boldness and urgency, spreading the good news of redemption.*

To urgently ignite passion for this purpose and initiate team building, a donor is covering the cost of bringing this summit team together August 16–18. It will be the first step taken to unite the ministries of church and school. We covet prayers from around the Northwest and beyond that walls will be broken down, that God’s Spirit will reign supreme, that our Oregon team will emerge as ONE in Christ.

**Ripple Effects and You**

We have seen miracles almost daily. One church in Oregon that had not been supporting its local school recently felt called to do so. They sent a check to the school for $5,000. After asking the pastor why the church gives so much money to their local school, another pastor responded, "Oh, I'm sorry, don't you know? We own a school!"  

What about you? Will you join us in ministry? Will you help build the bridge that can save the eternal life of another child? Pick up a brush, and let God show you what part you can paint.

Angela White

Oregon Conference education associate superintendent

Formerly a Grants Pass Adventist School teacher
Max Torkelsen II, North Pacific Union Conference president.

Next >

These letters are carved in the fireplace mantle at the home of the Hawaiian poet Don Blanding. They are the first letters in the words of a phrase he wanted to be reminded of daily: "Lord I Do Give Thee Thanks For The Abundance That Is Mine." He found it useful in focusing on gratitude, even when discouraging circumstances or overwhelming challenges confronted him.

Let the meaning of the words of this prayer penetrate the fog of self-pity: "I wish ..." or "If only ..." that so easily create dissatisfaction. Think of the assets instead of the liabilities. Focus on the fact that living in this land of freedom, we are abundantly blessed beyond what we need.

There are two "abundance" texts in the New Testament. John 10:10 says, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Not just life, but life "more abundantly." Are you living the abundant life? Eph. 3:20 adds, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end." Abundance above all that we ask or think. Is that your experience?

I recently attended the board meeting of Adventist Health in Roseville, Calif. At that meeting a devotional was given by Joyce Newmyer, CEO of Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore. She introduced us to LIDGTT FTATIM. When I got home, I couldn't stop thinking about it.

Following the advice of my wife's longtime spiritual mentor Barbara Folkenberg, I got a little blank book. I could have used a note pad or even just 26 pieces of lined paper. I wrote one letter of the alphabet at the top of each page. Barbara had told Linnea that "thankfulness cures a multitude of what ails you, so focus your mind on..."
blessings that begin with one of those alphabet letters, and just see if the windows of heaven don't open the floodgates of gratitude and a feeling of abundance." Well, her advice worked for me too!

My A group includes:

- Applesauce — homemade from Gravensteins
- Academies across the North Pacific Union Conference
- Advent — the first and the second
- Angels — my guardians
- Apostles — especially Paul who wrote my favorite, Philippians 4
- Acreage gifted to the North Pacific Union Conference and sold to benefit the Lord's work
- Almonds still warm from roasting in the oven
- Alpine flowers on Mount Rainier and in Switzerland
- Apricots, avocados, artichokes, asparagus

Some of the B group: banana bread, balmy breezes, blueberries, baby boys, beds, butterflies, beets from the garden and brownies. And the Cs like caring compassionate church congregations — extra points, you know, for double, triple or quadruple alliterations! You get the idea.

When you sit down and really think about it, it's Thanksgiving every day. We are indeed abundantly blessed above all that we could ask or think. LIDGTT FTATIM. "Lord, I DO give Thee thanks for the abundance that is mine."

June 27, 2015 / Editorial
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**Max Torkelsen**

North Pacific Union Conference president
Why Choose WWU?

"Before I came to Walla Walla University, I didn’t know how strong of a community the university is. I decided to come here because it’s pretty close to home, and I absolutely loved the environment and how friendly everyone was.”

— Tania Baranov, freshman chemistry major from Loma Linda, Calif.

"Before I came to Walla Walla University, I didn’t know what an amazing experience it would be being among so many Adventists my age. I came from a small town in South Africa where I had met a total of about 30 other Adventists my age over the course of my life. God opened doors for me to attend, and that is why I decided to come here.”

— Ashley Wragg, junior engineering major from Stanmore, Great Britain

"Before I came here, I didn’t know how beautiful fall and spring are at Walla Walla University. Not having to get
student loans was the end game for me deciding to go here."

— Courtney MacPhee, freshman history and international communication majors from Gresham, Ore.

“Before I came to Walla Walla University, I didn’t know what to expect about this school. The beautiful heart of the community and the all-around great school [are] why I decided to come here."

— Libby Knapp, freshman nursing major from Gresham, Ore.
Bold Beginnings, Bright Futures

She gently flips through the pages of the 1937 yearbook, with hands that have borne the remarkable grace of life. Jessie Thomsen, 96, is recounting the experiences of her senior year at Walla Walla College Academy in College Place, Washington.

“What I remember most is how hard on us they were,” she says. “They expected very good work and for us to put effort into it. It wasn’t fun, but at the same time we knew how fortunate we were to be getting an education.” Jessie stops for a moment to read the quote next to her name: “Her voice was ever sweet and low —.”

“Still important,” she says with a twinkle and in an exaggerated low, sweet voice.

Sometimes, the groundbreaking uniqueness of 19-century Adventist education gets lost in the noise of the 21st century. Yet today, more than ever, the principles on which primary and secondary Adventist schools were built are essential to student success.

Sportsmanship was part of the academy culture early on, evidenced here by the 1890–91 Milton Academy ball team.
Staff and students of Milton Academy, predecessor of WWVA, pose in 1892.

The WWVA baseball team prays after a game.

The WWVA orchestra performs during a recent tour. Educating the whole person mentally, physically and spiritually is still at the core of Adventist education.
When Ellen White and her team were struggling to develop an educational institution based on biblical principles, they were part of an American movement of lonely voices crying in the wilderness. Traditionally, an educated person was largely steeped in a classical education that focused on mastery of ancient languages and ideas, rather than practical skills and spiritual values. But White and her colleagues believed that God's plan was to educate the whole person for His work, rather than focus on education as a means for self-aggrandizement and personal success.

That movement carried over to the Northwest. Local churches began to create small primary schools. By 1888, two boarding academies were operating in Oregon: Milton Academy in Milton and North Pacific Academy in Portland. Both of these academies did well, but as Walla Walla College was in development, the decision was made to close the academies to support the new regional school.

Milton Academy became affiliated with the new college in 1892 as Walla Walla College Academy. As the college grew, however, it became clear that once again the academy should be an independent institution. In 1965, with a new building near the college campus, it became Walla Walla Valley Academy (WWVA) where it stands today. Many consider it to be the longest consecutively operating academy in the Northwest.

In 2005, 68 years after Jessie's graduation, her granddaughter, Kelsey Remboldt Lieuallen, graduated from WWVA. “Grammy and I are incredibly close, so much so that we often joke we are more like sisters than a grandmother and granddaughter,” Kelsey says. “I loved walking the halls and pointing out her picture to people. It is something that connects us further, knowing her legacy was with me every day and allowing our family heritage to not be a thing forgotten.”

So what makes our church's investment in Adventist education such a unique and valuable opportunity for our kids?
The biblical principles that were laid out then are the same principles that guide us today: “To restore the image of Christ in those placed under their care.” To restore the broken relationship between God and the student. This is the primary purpose.3

Kelsey believes this is absolutely true. “The most significant thing WWVA gave me was a sense of security and belonging. The teachers are deeply invested in our success and well-being. To this day, I keep in close contact with almost all my former classmates. I feel WWVA truly embodied the love and acceptance Jesus has for us.”

In 2010, Elissa Kido of La Sierra University in California and director of the CognitiveGenesis research project explained this long-standing success: “We believe it lies in the holistic approach these schools take — a commitment to education, mind, body and spirit. Some of the biggest predictors for student achievement, according to statistical models we developed, include whether students have positive spiritual outlook, have a healthy relationship to their parents and take care of their own health. These are all attitudes that can be cultivated, and they point to the importance of the holistic approach.”4

Today, this remains the primary mission for educators and families across the Northwest. We are confident of the success of these principles and have seen the success they provide our students. However, as we head deeper into the 21st century and face a change in culture and demographic realities, continued success requires us to reassess the context of our principles and to bravely face new and difficult challenges.

We have a rich and successful product to offer not only children within our own denomination, but students from every walk of life seeking the kingdom of God. And God’s plan for our children has, and will continue to, yield fruit. Our responsibility is to tend the field and to remain committed to growing strong, connected children.

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

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 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 Information Credit: Ron Kuest

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