Bethlehem Burns Down

The Bethlehem village created by the Journey Adventist Church in Kelso, Wash., was significantly damaged by fire early Wednesday. The extensive outdoor set was used for the church’s annual Journey to Bethlehem community program each Christmas season. Props and costumes collected over the years were also destroyed in this week’s fire. Jim Wibberding, church pastor, says the fire is cause for much prayer and discussion among members about the annual community outreach, which has been produced by the church for nearly two decades. Church member Annette Koelsch who has worked with the event planning for many years says citizens from the community have already contacted the church, asking how they can help. For more information on how you can help, email the church.
Adventists Ranked Most Racially Diverse Religious Group in U.S.

According to the Pew Research Center, Seventh-day Adventists are the most racially diverse group in the U.S. The study included 29 groups, including Protestants and other religious groups and subsets of religious unaffiliated. After collating the data, Pew gave Seventh-day Adventists a score of 9.1 in the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index, well above the national average of 6.6, where 66 percent of church membership is white. The Pew report defines a denomination as diverse if no racial or ethnic group amounts to more than 40 percent of its adult membership. The report includes three subsets of people who are unaffiliated religiously: atheists, agnostics and “nothing in particular.” Read more at the Adventist Review online and from the Pew Research Center website.

NPUC Children's Leadership Conference

If you interact with children from birth to earliteens, you’ll want to attend the Children’s Leadership Conference scheduled for Sept. 24–27, 2015, at the Doubletree by Hilton in Portland, Ore. The event will not only feature 90 seminar training options, but also general sessions, network support building and an environment that fosters further ideas. Children’s ministry leaders, elementary teachers, parents, pastors, VBS leaders, or Adventurer leaders will find topics of interest here. Presentations will be conducted by Brenda Walsh, Tina Houser, Dan Linrud, Terry Johnsson, Aunt Bessie, Sherri Uhrig, Lisa and Brad Gary and many more. Registration is $99/person through Sept. 1. Lodging is discounted through Aug. 31. For registration information, visit the NPUC website or call 360-857-7033.

How Racially Diverse Are U.S. Religious Groups?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Group</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Native American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seventh-day Adventist</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jehovah’s Witnesses</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Nothing in particular”</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Blacks, whites, Asians and others “mixed” include only those who are not Latino. Latinos include people of all races.

Pew Research Center
141 Children Request Baptism at Sunset Lake Camp

With summer two-thirds over, Sunset Lake Camp in the Washington Conference and camp director David Yeagley are bursting with joy. After four weeks of camp, 112 children and teens have accepted Jesus for the first time, and 141 campers have requested baptism. Additionally, enrollment at the camp has increased to an 11-year high of 642 young campers, compared to 579 last summer, and the numbers are expected to grow as registrations roll in for the last two weeks of camp. Forty percent of campers come from non-Adventist backgrounds, which Yeagley says gives the camp tremendous outreach potential. Yeagley shares some of the incredible things happening at Sunset Lake, which you can read on the Washington Conference website.

GC Session Exhibit Hall Was a Big Deal

Planning for each General Conference (GC) Session begins 10 years in advance of each event. Plans for the exhibition hall alone take three years of work. Exhibits at the session are a big deal. This year’s gathering featured three expo halls covering more than 325,000 square feet and 385 unique exhibits. More than 3,800 staff and volunteers helped set up and maintain those booths during 11 days. GC Session management set up a 13,000-sq.-ft. warehouse inside the convention center to house one million pounds of material from forty 53-foot trailers of freight. Even more boxes were currier shipped or carried to the session by exhibitors. Read more from the North American Division.
Free Mega-Clinic in Spokane Next Week

Some 1,500 volunteers — nearly twice as many as organizers had sought — are gearing up to provide free healthcare to an expected 3,000 patients at a two-day mega-clinic in Spokane, Wash. next week. The "Your Best Pathway to Health" event — the third mega-clinic over the past two years in the United States — will be held Aug. 3 and 4 at the Spokane County Fairgrounds. Next week's *GleanerWeekly* newsletter will focus on the event.

Adventist Health Among 10 Largest Nonprofit Hospital Systems

Adventist Health is among the "10 largest nonprofit hospital systems" in the U.S. according to Becker's Hospital Review. Adventist Health placed 10th on the list while Adventist Health Systems, out of Winter Park, Fla., ranked fifth. The rankings total 10, although the list includes ties, which means there are more than 10 individual systems listed. The list is based on data from the American Hospital Directory, which contains information from hospital cost reports submitted to CMS. See the full list on Adventist Health's website.
A Conspiracy in North America

What if our Adventist Churches across North America began a conspiracy? What if we decided in harmony with all the other churches across Bermuda, Canada, United States and the islands of Guam and Micronesia that we are going to love our cities like Jesus did? What do you think would happen if we ventured outside the walls of our churches, asked people about their needs, and did something transformational for individuals and communities? José Cortes Jr., North American Division associate ministerial director, answers these questions by sharing 22 ways to make your church relevant in your community across North America. Read them all on the Adventist Review online.

Upcoming Camp Meetings

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

- **UCC Walla Walla Camp Meeting:** July 29–Aug. 1, College Place, WA
- **Alaska Southeast Camp Meeting:** July 30–Aug. 2, Wrangell, AK

Do you enjoy *GleanerWeekly*? Don’t keep it to yourself. Forward it to a friend and share!
• Three Angels Featured at Montana Conference Camp Meeting
• A Statement from Northwest Adventist Church Leaders
• 2015 NPUC Regional Convocation
• Fermata
• Nature Photo Gallery

And More!

Looking Ahead

July

• July 29–Aug. 1: UCC Walla Walla Camp Meeting, College Place, WA
• July 30–Aug. 2: Alaska Southeast Camp Meeting, Wrangell, AK

August

• Aug. 3–4: Your Best Pathway to Health, Spokane, WA
• Aug. 5–8: ASI International Convention, Spokane, WA

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August
Each year, African-American Adventists from around the Northwest and beyond gather for the North Pacific Union Conference Regional Convocation. Our August *Gleaner* highlights this year’s event with a gallery of photos which capture the essence of this special camp meeting. Read more in the August *Gleaner* at [GleanerNow.com](http://GleanerNow.com).