NPUC Executive Committee Decides Against Special Constituency Session

In its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 19, the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive committee voted to cancel its previous decision to call a special constituency session on the topic of ordination. Committee members, however, made it clear their decision should not be construed as a lack of support for women in pastoral ministry throughout the Northwest and beyond. An additional motion passed by the committee stresses their belief in the priesthood of all believers and a clear intention to foster increased opportunities for women in pastoral and leadership roles within the NPUC by the next regular constituency meeting in September 2016. Read the full statement on Wednesday’s actions online at GleanerNow.com.
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.

New Digital Resources for Children

The Inter-American Division (IAD) has released five game apps, five animated shorts, and audio and interactive online books to reinforce character building and Christian values among children. Many of these online resources are available at no cost to anyone around the world on the IAD website. Children can also watch five animated short stories on values. The two-minute stories showcase character traits that are good to possess and reinforce. In addition, online coloring pages are available for children to draw on, as well as songs that children can play at home. The five game apps are available for iOS and Android. See the Adventist Review online for links and more information.

Non-Profit Leadership Certification

The North American Division Non-profit Leadership Certification Program, sponsored by Adventist Community Services, (Session 2) will be held Sept. 14–17 at the Washington Conference office in Federal Way, Wash. This is a powerful, leadership development program that equips pastors and lay leaders with the latest strategies and professional skills to successfully lead in non-profit management and community outreach ministries. You may take session 2 before session 1. Registration is $150/attendee through Aug. 27. For more details and to register, visit the Adventist Community Services website.
WWU Construction Project Update

College Avenue in College Place, Wash., which runs right through the campus of Walla Walla University (WWU), is getting a facelift. The project, College Avenue/Rose Street (CARS), is being done by the City of College Place. The project has several phases, all of which are geared at making the city and WWU more beautiful and safer for students. Take a look at this short video of the current progress from a unique view. Additional information and photos of the progress are on the WWU website.

Do you enjoy GleanerWeekly? Don't keep it to yourself. Forward it to a friend and share!
• ‘A Time to Forgive’
• Auburn ABC Makes New Connection
• Tongues of Fire
• Silverton Church Enjoys High Day of Baptisms
• Nature Photo Gallery

And More!

Looking Ahead

August

• Aug. 23: Healthy, Vegan, Gluten-free Cooking Class, Eugene, OR
• Aug. 24: Adventist Health Annual Golf Benefit
• Aug. 28–30: Northwest Motorcycle Camp Meeting Gladstone, OR

More Events Online

Want to advertise in GleanerWeekly?
InPrint

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.
NPUC Executive Committee Decides Against Special Constituency Session

In its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, August 19, the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive committee voted 26-4 on the following motion:

“We do not believe that convening a special constituency meeting about the ordination of women as pastors would be productive at this time for the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC). Therefore, we rescind our earlier action, (agenda item #43-14).”

The previous action on November 12, 2014, had called for such a session to convene within 120 days after the fall 2015 North American Division year-end meetings. By constitutional mandate the motion to rescind required a two-thirds majority of the voting delegates present.

In this week’s action, however, the NPUC executive committee members made it clear that their decision should not be construed as a lack of support for women in pastoral ministry throughout the Northwest and beyond. An additional motion passed by the committee stresses their belief in the priesthood of all believers and a clear intention to foster increased opportunities for women in pastoral and leadership roles within the NPUC.

That motion was worded as follows:

“We wish to acknowledge that the support in the NPUC for women in professional and lay ministry is very strong and to state the following shared convictions:

- We affirm Christ as the sole Head of the church and the priesthood of all believers
- We affirm the appropriateness and value of women serving as elders in local congregations
- We affirm the appropriateness and value of women serving as pastors and in other professional leadership roles within the church
- In line with the majority of members of the recent North American Division (NAD) Ordination Study Committee and the General Conference Theology of Ordination Study Committee, we believe that there is no biblical or theological barrier to the ordination of women for professional ministry
- We commit ourselves, in line with the current NAD strategic plan, to grow the number of women in professional ministry and to value, affirm and foster their leadership gifts. Our constituency will expect this commitment to be judged by actions and we look forward to reporting on progress at the constituency meeting scheduled for September 25, 2016.”

The discussion of these topics filled much of the committee’s afternoon agenda. There was great diversity of opinion expressed in comments by committee members. The discussion was robust yet respectful, and representative of
varied concerns throughout the Northwest.

Max Torkelsen, NPUC president, says union leadership will follow this directive from the committee and seek to make measurable progress toward fostering opportunities for women leaders in all levels of church mission and ministry.
North Pacific Union Conference

Children's Ministry Leadership Conference

This is it! The Children's Ministry Leadership Conference you have been waiting for. You will experience dynamic training, powerful general sessions, deeper learning, network support building, ideas to take home, partnering with presenters and a warm friendly environment to grow as a Children's Ministry Leader. Our goal is "Christ-led leaders - Christ-loving children!"

Everyone who ministers to children including Sabbath school teachers and leaders, Adventurer leaders and teachers, VBS and children's church leaders, church school teachers, children’s pastors, senior pastor’s and parents of children in elementary school are invited to attend.

**NPUC teachers with standard and professional certification that attend the NPUC Children's Ministry Conference can receive 15 PAC hours and must report on annual PAC form.**

INFORMATION

- **Date & Location:** September 24-27, 2015. DoubleTree by Hilton Portland, 1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, OR 97232.
- **Featured Speakers:** Brenda Walsh, Tina Houser, Dan Linrud and Terry Johnsson.
- **Breakout Session Presenters:** Aunt Bessie, Sherri Uhrig, Lisa and Brad Gary plus many others.

*Deadline September 1*

*Deadline August 31*

SCHEDULE

**Thursday, September 24, 2015**
10:00 am-3:00 pm - Pre-Convention Tour to Three Churches
3:00 pm-6:00 pm - Event Check-in
1:00 pm-7:00 pm - Resource Center
7:00 pm-9:00 pm - General Session 1

**Friday, September 25, 2015**
7:30 am-8:30 am - Breakfast on Your Own
8:30 am-9:45 am - General Session 2
10:00 am-11:00 am - Breakout 1
11:15 am-12:15 pm - Breakout 2
11:45 am-5:00 pm - Resource Center
12:30 pm-2:00 pm - Lunch Provided
2:15 pm-3:15 pm - Breakout 3
3:30 pm-4:30 pm - Breakout 4
4:30 pm-7:00 pm - Dinner Provided
7:00 pm-8:30 pm - General Session 3
Sabbath, September 26, 2015
7:30 am-8:30 am - Breakfast on Your Own
8:30 am-9:45 am - General Session 4
10:00 am-11:00 am - Breakouts 5
11:15 am-12:15 pm - Breakout 6
12:30 pm-2:00 pm - Lunch Provided
2:15 pm-3:15 pm - Breakout 7
3:30 pm-4:30 pm - Breakout 8
4:30 pm-7:00 pm - Light Snack Provided
7:00 pm-8:30 pm - Worship/Saturday-night Party

Sunday, September 27, 2015
8:00 am-9:00 am - Brunch Provided
9:30 am-11:00 am - General Session 5

Workshop Topics

Session 1
- Meet the Needs of Today's Kids - Sherri Uhrig
- Understanding Grace - Jackie Bishop
- The Children's Ministry Coordinator - Jana Lee
- Prayer & The Christian Leader - Ginny Allen
- What If - Visionary Thinking about Children's Ministry - Patty Marsh
- Enseñando La lección de Jardín De infantes (Teaching Kindergarten Sabbath School) - Liza Vila
- Adv Club Ministries-Where's it Coming from & where's it going? - Brad & Lisa Gary
- Faith Development in Adventurers - David Yeagley
- Propósito y Metas de los Aventureros (Purpose & Goals of Adventurers) - Hiram Ruiz
- Trabajando con Niños con Necesidades Especiales (Working with Special needs children) - Sany Rangel

Session 2
- Memorization without tears - Gloria Beerman
- Serving with Passion - Brenda Walsh
- Making budgets & board work for you - Jackee Duvall
- Decorating on a budget - Suzette McCrary
- Big Events Open Doors - Tina Houser
- Memorizando sin Lagrimas (Memorization without tears) - Juan Pacheco
- It's All About Family - Jaci Russell
- Managing Projects & Events - Linda Dayen
- Club de liderazgo & Organización (Club Leadership & Organization) - Hiram Ruiz
- Enseñando Las 28 Creencias Fundamentales a los niños (Teaching the 28 Fundamental Beliefs to Children) - Samuel Castro

Session 3
Bible Learning Activities - Jackie Bishop
Teaching Gracelink in small churches - Faith Hunter
Great Ideas for Children's Church - Jana Lee
Communication that Raises Spiritual Giants - Dr. Saustin Mfune
Turning Children's Ministry into Family Ministry - Jaclyn Russell
Como Iniciar y Planear una Iglesia de Niños (How to start and plan a children's church) - Edwin Vargas
Club Leadership and Organization - Brad & Lisa Gary
Teaching Christian Values - Sherri Uhrig
Trabajando y entendiendo niños de aventureros (Understanding & Working with Adventurer Children) - Sany Rangel
Enseñando a los Niños a Predicar (Teaching Children to Preach) - Enoch Marquez

Session 4

Jesus & the 28 Fundamental Beliefs - Jerry Thomas
Understanding Multiple Intelligences - Tina Houser
Vacation Bible School Follow-up programs - Jackie Bishop
Go Fish/Spiritual Gifts - Sherri Uhrig
Teaching children to sing - Elise Hilde
Enseñando Creativament/Motivando Creatividad (Teaching Creatively/Encouraging Creativity) - Abby Pozo
Adventurer Club Programming - David Yeagley
Introducing Adventurers to Outreach Activities - Jackie Duvall
Plan de Estudios de Aventureros (Adventurer Curriculum) - Samuel Castro
Creando un Club que los Niños Amen (Creating a Club Kids Love) - Belinda Castro

Session 5

Positive Class Discipline - April & Ryan Burville
Creative arts ministry - Andy Roy
Helping children with grief - Dr. Christine Gillan Byrne
Communication & committee styles for leaders - Jackee Duvall
Interactive storytelling! Going Live in 3... 2... 1... With Creative Storytelling Techniques - Tina Houser
Enseñando La lección de Jardín De infantes (Teaching Primary Sabbath School) - Abby Pozo
Understanding & Working with Adventurer Age Children - Dr. Lucille Ball
Creating an Active Learning Curriculum - Leslie Cairns
Disciplina Positiva (Positive Discipline) - Ann Freedman
Como guiar a un niño a Cristo (How to Lead a Child to Christ) - Hiram Ruiz

Session 6

Teaching GraceLink - Jackie Bishop
- It's Kids Time to Share Jesus - Brenda Walsh
- Volunteer Management - Lisanette Cubelo
- Styles for successful leadership - Dave Allen
- How Do Children Grow Spiritually - Dr. Christine Gillan Byrne
- Como guiar a un niño a Cristo (How to decorate your space on a budget) - Belinda Rodriguez
- A Hands-on Approach to Adventurer Awards - Linda Dayen
- Involving Parents & Caregivers - Brad & Lisa Gary
- Programación del club de Aventureros (Adventurer Club Programming) - Evelyn Mota
- Resolución de conflictos (Conflict Resolution) - Sany Rangel

Session 7

- Teaching Primary Sabbath School - Linda Dayen
- Protecting children from abuse - Dr. Christine Gillan Byrne
- Ten Commandments for Raising Godly Kids - Dr. Saustin Mfune
- Teaching Beginners Sabbath School - Suzette McCrary
- What works for Teaching Juniors - Susan Aldridge
- Enseñando la Lección de Cuna (Teaching Beginners) - Belinda Castro
- Adventurer Curriculum - Brad & Lisa Gary
- Building Self-Esteem & Fostering Resilience - Dr. Lucille Ball
- Ideas para enseñar los Parches de los Aventureros (Ideas for Teaching Adventurer Awards) - Hiram Ruiz
- Estilos de Aprendizaje (Learning Styles) - Nohemi Marquez

Session 8

- Learning Styles, Learning Cycle & Modes of Learning - Sherri Uhrig
- Resources for Gracelink Curriculum - Falvo Fowler
- How to effectively teach scriptures to children - Dr. Saustin Mfune
- Idea Smorgasbord - Tina Houser
- Maximizando la enseñanza por edades y etapas de los niños (Maximizing teaching to the ages and stages of your children.) - Sany Rangel
- Club Safety - Angelina Wood
- Embracing Diversity - Marco Quarteroli
- Seguridad del Club (Club Safety) - Angelina Woods/Desiree' Rinza
- Construyendo un Super Equipo (Building a Great Team) - Enoch Marquez

Brochure
A world division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has released five game apps, five animated shorts, and audio and interactive online books to reinforce character building and Christian values among children.

Many of the online resources, available in English and Spanish, with French editions in the works, are available at no cost to anyone around the world on the website of the Inter-American Division.

Dinorah Rivera, who spearheaded the project as the director of the division’s children and adolescents ministries, said this is the first time in decades that so many resources have been produced and introduced at once by the division.

“It is very exciting to have additional tools available to our most precious resources in the church — our young members,” Rivera said.

Dinorah Rivera, director of children and adolescents ministries for the Inter-American Division. (IAD)

Well over 1 million children and teens attend Adventist churches and other programs in the division, Rivera said. The Inter-American Division covers the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico, and part of South America.

“We strive to instill in our children wonderful character building traits that will last a lifetime,” Rivera said.

The new resources were introduced to go along with Vacation Bible School programs this summer but are appropriate for children to use at home, at church, in the car, or anywhere, she said.

“The games stretch and fortify kids’ minds by helping them make quick decisions while instilling good values,” she said.

The five game apps can be downloaded for iPhones and Android phones and include:

- “Caribe Runner,” a game about a runner (the player) who races through an obstacle course collecting coconuts. It teaches patience.
- “Cristal,” a game in which the player goes on a submarine mission to collect special shells. It teaches how to make good choices.
- “Odisea Memo,” a memory game that teaches patience and perseverance.
- “Pocket Pet Dog,” a game where the player takes care of a pet dog. It teaches responsibility and care for pets.
- “Tree of Life,” a game where the player collects fruit and deals with making good choices.
Children also can watch five animated short stories on values. The two-minute stories showcase character traits that are good to possess and reinforce, Rivera said.

In addition, online coloring pages are available for children to draw on, as well as songs that children can play at home.

The initial reaction of children at Vacation Bible School was positive, Rivera said.

More than 300,000 children participate in the one-week programs in the division every year.

Rivera said it was important for the church to continue reinforcing Christian values and offering resources that are accessible to children.

“We must offer an alternative to what is available at their fingertips in this fast-paced world,” she said.

To find the video resources in English and Spanish, visit here.

For audio and coloring pages, visit here.

The game apps are available on the iTunes and Google Play online stores.

“Faithful” is among the new short animated films released by the Inter-American Division. Click on the "Playlist" at the top of the screen to view other films.

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.
2015 Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program

Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program (NLCP) is designed to equip pastors, church administration and nonprofit leaders with strategies and professional skills to successfully lead. NLCP focuses on three major learning outcomes; a) leadership skills, b) improvement of management knowledge, and c) changes in attitude of social dimensions of evangelism.

This intensive two session program is taught by a group of professionals who teach participants how to operate and minister effectively.

This training is provided by North American Division (NAD) Adventist Community Services, in partnership with Washington Adventist University Center for Metropolitan Ministry, Andrews University, Philanthropic Services for Institutions, General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries, Adventist World Radio and Adventist Risk Management.

Participants will learn:

Leadership:
To improve participants' abilities to affect individual, organization, and community changes.

Management:
To improve participants' abilities to effectively handle the administrative responsibilities of nonprofit management.

Social Dimensions of Evangelism:
To improve participants' abilities through biblical concepts of holistic ministry to minister in dynamic environments.

Schedule

Course Descriptions
Monday, June 17, 1996, began as a beautiful, sunny day in College Place, Wash., for Darold and Barbara Bigger.

Darold worked in his office in the Theology department at what was then Walla Walla College, preparing to fill in as dean of the School of Theology for the summer. His work was interrupted by the relentless ringing of the phone in his office. Upon answering, the voice of the college chaplain, John Cress, came through, insisting that Darold come to his office right away.

That morning in June, Cress shared the unbelievable news with Darold and Barbara that their 25-year-old daughter — Shannon — had been brutally murdered in her Maryland apartment.

Emotionless from the shock of the news, Darold and Barbara shared the news of Shannon’s death with friends and family, including their foster daughter, Rosemary, and their daughter, Hilary.

Emotions gradually arose through the shock. Grief lasted for several months. Anger at the man who took Shannon’s life came the following year.

Several months after the perpetrator pled guilty and was sentenced to a double life sentence in prison, he wanted to change his plea to not guilty and to have his sentences reduced.

“That infuriated me,” says Darold. “It triggered intense anger and flaming resentment. For weeks I tried many techniques to do away with those feelings, but nothing worked. Not the physical, mental, not even the spiritual exercises helped me.”

Yet, the Biggers decided to do the unimaginable — they forgave Shannon’s killer.

Darold’s recently released book, A Time to Forgive, tells the story of Shannon’s death and how he forgave her
murderer. It begins with a glimpse into Darold's heart, tells the story of that day in June, and details his emotional struggle and how he carried on.

“God rescued me,” says Darold, who is now WWU assistant to the president and professor of religion.

The book shows how God provided the tools needed to find peace and forgiveness. It provides an in-depth look at forgiveness, God’s request that we forgive our enemies, the significance behind His request and the tools God has given all of us to complete what can be a very difficult task.

“A Time to Forgive … is a critically important work, graciously shared out of deep, personal pain. Brutally honest, it is therefore authentic in its focus on the struggle to be Christ-like, while living through the massive trauma of life’s darkest moments,” says Robert A. Seiple, former president of World Vision and former United States ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom.

*A Time to Forgive* can be purchased at your local Adventist Book Center or online at [AdventistBookCenter.com](http://AdventistBookCenter.com).

August 12, 2015 / Walla Walla University

Katelyn Swager

Walla Walla University Marketing and University Relations writer
Auburn ABC Makes New Connections

Dennis Carlson (left), from Washington Conference, hands off the Auburn ABC business to Alex Lingas (right). Lingas plans to work with Herman Schreven, Spokane Adventist Book Center representative, to fulfill ABC-specific services like online orders and subscriptions. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

Ed and Lila Lindsay are "coming home" to Auburn to manage the Auburn ABC. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

You'll find more healthful food items in the independently owned Auburn ABC store. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

The Auburn ABC staff are working hard to make sure the store's ownership transition happens seamlessly. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

Auburn ABC has a new owner and new products. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

Ed Lindsay remembers when Adventist books were sold from a tennis court tent at Washington Adventist Camp Meeting.

"It rained just before camp meeting that year," Lindsay recalls. "One of my chores was to tighten the ropes as things dried out." Lindsay’s experience in working for the Adventist Book Center as an assistant manager in the early
1970s would translate into a career in the Christian book industry. During the past 19 years, Lindsay served as an Adventist Book Center manager in northern California.

Just before Lindsay attended his class' 50th reunion at Auburn Adventist Academy, he called his vegetarian food product vendor, Alex Lingas. They discovered they would both be in the Seattle area about the same time as Lingas prepared to purchase Auburn Adventist Book Center (currently called Auburn ABC, but may have another name in the near future).

“In jest, Alex said that I should come work for him,” Lindsay recalls. “That planted a seed-thought. My wife and I prayed about it and felt a connection here.”

Lindsay, as the new manager for the newly independent bookstore, and his wife, Lila Sumrall-Lindsay, like the changes in book selection and food products they are seeing in the store and constant factors like friendly staff.

As the store moves forward, it plans to add new features such as organic produce, fresh bakery items and everyday market essentials.

“We would like to expand the role of the store to not just be operated as a typical retail store, but also to be a place where the community can learn more about how they can take better care of their body,” says Lingas.

August 12, 2015 / Washington Conference
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Heidi Baumgartner

Washington Conference communication director

Follow

Heidi Baumgartner serves as communication director for Washington Conference.
Tongues of Fire

This year the powerful planners of camp meeting called upon me to teach a class on the Holy Spirit. This subject fascinates me as a former Adventist preacher’s kid, turned Pentecostal, turned Adventist pastor. My background creates morbid fascination for a lot of Adventists who become titillated when they discovered I spoke in tongues during my time in a charismatic church. Their reaction is usually widened eyes, a nervous smile and a shifty gaze around the room before leaning in and asking me, “What was it like?”

I tend not to answer that question for people who aren’t in my class or who haven’t tracked down my first book, *Pride and Seek* (now out of print), where I share my story. If you want me to tell you, you will have to wait for me to republish my book or attend a class or make a generous donation to my schooling … please?

However, what I will speak to here is the counterfeit tongues that concern many people in the evangelical world. Evangelist Doug Batchelor suggests that the charismatic phenomenon is rooted in the unclean frog spirits found in Rev. 16:13. He notes “the fact that a frog's main weapon is its tongue.”

Hank Hanegraaf of the Christian Research Institute suggests “… socio–psychological manipulation tactics such as peer pressure or the subtle power of suggestion can induce ecstatic utterances wholly apart from the Spirit.”

Apparently Hank doesn’t have a hankering for the church to make the current Pentecostal practice of tongues evidence of the Holy Spirit.

Alma White, a contemporary of William Seymour (the preacher who launched American Pentecostalism), had some scathing things to say. In her lovingly titled *Demons and Tongues*, she opens with:

“'There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death' (Prov. 14:12). This Scripture came to mind as we thought of the condition of backsliders, and others, who have been caught in the satanic “Tongues” delusion, which, during the past few years, has swept like a pestilence over the globe … . Of all the calamites that could possibly befall a person this side of eternity, this appeals to us as being the worst” (p. 5).

Alma was a bitter rival of Seymour, and she branched off to start the Pillar of Fire Church that entered into partnerships with the Ku Klux Klan. Sometimes demonizing others creates blind spots in our own spiritual vision.

Kinda reminds me of Jesus' whole “take the plank out of your own eye” thing, which leads me back to a counterfeit
tongue described in Scripture.

In the second chapter of Acts we read, "When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1–4).

As you continue through the passage you discover that Jews from "every nation" were present in Jerusalem at this event. They all "came together" because they heard the story of Jesus being spoken "in his own language" (a phenomenon called xenolalia). Many scholars see this occurrence as a reversal of Babel (Genesis 11) and a renewing of the covenant.

So let's recap: We have tongues of fire sent from heaven, to share truth that brings people together from a diverse background in order to create a new community of people who follow Christ. However beautiful this picture may be, the Bible talks about other tongues of fire.

The little book of James says, "And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell … no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing …" (James 3:6–10).

Here we have a tongue dividing, not uniting. This tongue is not kindled from heaven, but set ablaze by hell. The word for hell used here is "gehenna" — the place where, according to Hebrew Scripture, pagan religions sacrificed their children into the fire (2 Chron. 28:3, 33:6).

There may be counterfeit tongues operating in other churches — but what about the one operating in ours? How many souls have we sacrificed because of our gossip, harsh words and critical spirits? How many church divisions have been created, and how many faith communities destroyed, because our tongues cannot be tamed? How many positive, interfaith dialogues that could potentially witness to the truth don't happen because we are too busy calling them demon-possessed or apostate?

We need a new Pentecost, not to witness the supernatural phenomena of xenolalia but to enable our words to represent the character of heaven.

Silverton Church Enjoys High Day of Baptisms

(From left) Deb Harroun, Arlene Scruggs and Nevaeh celebrate their new church membership with Jose Galvez, Silverton Church pastor.

What a joyous and long-to-be-remembered Sabbath May 16 was for the Silverton Community Seventh-day Adventist Church as three people were added to church membership: Arlene Scruggs; her granddaughter, Nevaeh, a fifth-generation Adventist; and Deborah “Deb” Harroun, by profession of faith (she had been previously baptized in the Jordan River). Jose Galvez, Silverton Church pastor, made this a truly innovative, touching service, and it was indeed a heartwarming “High Day.”

Scruggs had kept it a surprise that she would be baptized. Her many relatives and friends in attendance had come to witness Nevaeh’s baptism, so they were totally surprised as Scruggs entered the baptismal font.

“I’ve always considered myself an Adventist,” Scruggs said afterwards, “but I lost my way. Now I feel like I have just come home.”

Thirteen-year-old Nevaeh (“heaven” spelled backward) said she felt she had been walking with Jesus at her side, and it was great to be welcomed into a church that loved kids so much.

Deb expressed her gratitude for the mentors who had been her source of guidance. She is relying on the Lord to reveal what is next in her new walk with Him. She said she felt deeply honored hearing the pastor’s and members’ hearty “welcome to the family.”

Galvez stressed that Silverton Church Adventists are family. “We love one another and are kind to one another,” he said. “John, present yourself to each of these precious souls sometime in the future. Tell her, ‘I’m a farmer. When...
"you need corn or something from the farm, come to me.' Pete, you say, ‘I have bees. If you need honey, come see me.’"

With the Lord’s continued guidance and Galvez’s leadership, members are confident they will see many more taking their stand for the Lord at the Silverton Church.

August 12, 2015 / Oregon Conference
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**Enid Hands**

Silverton Community Church communication leader
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 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


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


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