NAD ACS Launches Relief Efforts in Saipan

A team from North American Division (NAD) Adventist Community Services (ACS) Disaster Response has been working in Saipan the past few weeks helping with the relief efforts after Typhoon Soudelor hit the island on Aug. 2. More than 1,000 homes were destroyed by the storm, and over 8,000 families filed damage claims with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to completely rebuild, or repair major or minor damage. FEMA and the members of the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) invited ACS to set up and manage a warehouse in Saipan to help with the distribution of materials to those affected by the storm. Saipan has been part of the NAD territory since 2012. Watch a video explaining the relief work on the island.
New UCC Pathfinder/Family Life Director

Jeff Wines has accepted the invitation of the Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) to serve as director of Pathfinders, Adventurers and Family Life. Wines will replace Wayne Hicks who is retiring this month. For the past five and a half years Wines has worked in the Minnesota Conference directing youth, Pathfinder, Adventurer and communication departments. His passion is to see the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America again as a movement with young people leading the way. He is excited to be part of a youth ministry team in UCC. The Wines family will relocate to UCC in October. Read more from the UCC.

Adventists Help Rename A Square In Rome After Martin Luther

With the approaching 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Italy successfully led a petition for the city of Rome to recognize Martin Luther, who sparked the Reformation. In 2009, the Adventist Church submitted an application, asking to name a square of the city for Martin Luther. At the end of 2014 they were told that the request had been granted pending final approval by the city council. The official naming of the square in Colle Oppio Park, which is near the Coliseum, will take place on Sept. 16, in order to allow the Mayor of Rome, Ignazio Roberto Marino, to be present. Representatives of various Christian denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church and non-Christian religions, are
planning to attend the ceremony. Read more from Adventist News Network.

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**Missionaries Needed**

The North American Division Office of Volunteer Ministries is seeking volunteers between the ages of 18 to 70. Guam-Micronesia Mission has 54 positions to fill in their eight island schools as they begin their school year. The islands of Ebeye, Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae currently have the greatest needs, and may be unable to begin their school year unless teachers arrive soon. The mission school will provide volunteers with accommodations, a modest living allowance, and accident/illness travel insurance. Available positions include elementary and high school classes. Volunteer teachers are expected to commit to a full school-year of teaching (approximately 10 months). For more information, email Andrea Keele or call 301-680-6493. View urgent volunteer positions and application information on HeSaidGo.org.

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**Sunset Lake Camp Festival of Arts**

Check out this amazing video the music production class did at Sunset Lake's Festival of the Arts this summer.
Job Opening: UCC HR Director

The Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) has an opening for a Human Resources Director. The position is available beginning in October 2015. For a complete job description, visit the UCC website. Please contact the UCC Human Resources department for more information at hr@uccsda.org or stephanieb@uccsda.org or call 509-242-0431. Applications will be accepted until Oct. 1, 2015.

Assessing the Session

Delegates to the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, in July elected a global leadership team, updated church policies and clarified doctrinal statements. In the minds of many, though, the main agenda item was ordination of women pastors — specifically, whether to empower the 13 divisions of the world field to determine
what is best for their own territories. What if some divisions then ordained women and others didn’t — would that sacrifice global church unity? Continue reading Martin Weber's perspective of GC Session on GleanerNow.com.

Street Smarts: Crosswalk Safety 101

Road traffic injury is one of the top four causes of death for children older than five years and is the number one cause of death for ages 15–17. These accidents occur most often during the hours before and after school and peaking in September when the school year starts. Here are 10 pedestrian safety tips to practice year-round and review with your children for a safer school year.

1. Look left, right, then left again before crossing the street
2. Cross only at designated crosswalks
3. Never dart out into traffic mid-block or from between parked cars
4. Always walk on the sidewalk, if one is available
5. If you must walk on the street, walk facing oncoming traffic and wear reflective or bright colored clothing
6. Be aware of your surroundings, especially in congested areas
7. Do not walk with headphones in your ears
8. Never walk while texting or talking on the phone
9. Be extra alert when walking during dusk and dawn hours. Glare from the setting/rising sun can limit visibility of both pedestrians and approaching vehicles
10. Young children should hold an adult's hand while crossing the street or walking to school

For more information visit Adventist Risk Management’s website.

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September

- Sept. 5: The 13th Annual Bobby McGhee and Friends Vespers, Portland, OR
- Sept. 13–26: Fall Revival, Portland, OR
- Sept. 14–17: Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program (Part 2), Federal Way, WA
- Sept. 18: Wenatchee Camp Meeting, Wenatchee, WA

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gleanerweekly
The diversity of the Seventh-day Adventist world church was on dramatic display at this summer’s General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas. Read a Northwest report on the session and link to an extensive gallery of images via the September Gleaner at GleanerNow.com.
by Kathy Marson

One of Jeff's hobbies is photography. Here is a recent "selfie" with his family. Jeff and Cathy in the back with their sons, Zakary, age 12, and Elijah, age 9.

SPOKANE, Wash., August 25, 2015 - We are happy to introduce Jeff Wines as our newest addition to the Upper Columbia Conference. Jeff comes to us from the Minnesota Conference where he served as Youth Director. He will be filling the position of Pathfinder, Adventurer and Family Life Director. Wayne Hicks who is currently in this position will be retiring in September.

For the past 5 and a half years Jeff has worked in the Minnesota Conference as both the youth director Pathfinder and Adventurer director and part of the time as communications director. He was also the North Star Summer Camp Director.

It is Jeff’s passion and vision to see the Seventh-day Adventist church in North America again as a movement and to see young people leading the way. He is excited to be part of a youth ministry team in UCC. He says, "I am excited to collaborate with the children’s ministry and family life teams to reach young people with the gospel and to provide tools to help local churches and families."

“Elder Jeff Wines was interviewed by the Personnel Committee and was unanimously voted to recommend his appointment to the position,” says UCC president, Paul Hoover. "Jeff has an incredible heart and passion for kids and is so excited to be returning to the northwest with his wife Cathy and their two boys,"

The Wines family will relocate to UCC this October. Please welcome him into our conference family!
Adventists help rename a square in Rome after Martin Luther

The street where the dedication ceremony will take place. [photo courtesy of Corrado Cozzi]

For more than 6 years the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Italy played an instrumental role in the official recognition.

September 02, 2015 | Rome, Italy | Corrado Cozzi/EUD News, ANN Staff

With the approaching 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Italy successfully led a petition for Rome, Italy to recognize Martin Luther, who sparked the Protestant Reformation.

On October 31, 1517, Luther, a German monk, affixed 95 theses to a church door in Wittenberg, and in doing so, laid the foundation of the greatest schism that has ever shaken western Christianity.

On January 3, 1521, Luther received the papal bull of excommunication, issued by Pope Leo X. And now, nearly half a century after the revolutionary action, an official recognition will be granted to Luther by the city of Rome.

"In 2009, unbeknownst to each other, the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Lutheran Church issued an application to the City of Rome, asking to name a square of the city 'Martin Luther,'" said Dora Bognandi, former director of public affairs and religious liberty of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Italy, based in Rome.

Bognandi tenaciously fought for the recognition. "Thanks to the commitment of Dora Bognandi, a major Italian newspaper ‘La Repubblica’ recently attributed to the Adventists the whole initiative," said David Romano, current director of public affairs and religious liberty in Italy.

Early in the process, the office in charge of the urban road structure in Rome responded positively but failed to move the process forward.

"The State Council of all Churches in the Roman territory, in which Adventists are strong members and wise promoters, took the situation in hand," said Bognandi. "We met several times with the municipal councilors, with the office in charge. We wrote several letters, until at the end of the year 2014 when we were told that the request had been granted and had to be finally approved by the City Council."

Six years have passed since the first request “advanced to the Capitol by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, made in June 2009, to the dedicated Committee of Rome, in view of the 500th anniversary of the historic visit to Rome made by Luther," according to ‘La Repubblica’.

The official naming of the square in Colle Oppio Park, which is near the Coliseum, will take place on September 16, in order to allow to the Mayor of Rome, Ignazio Roberto Marino, to be present and to honor the event.

"I think it will be a place where evangelicals and Protestants will feel at home and will promote important activities," said Bognandi.

Representatives of various Christian denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church, and representatives of
non-Christian religions are planning to attend the ceremony. “Because this is an important moment for all minorities,” said Romano. “We will present ourselves, and I hope also many members of our Adventist church will be there with me.”

Back to list
Assessing the Session

Kathymarson

Delegates to the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, in July elected a global leadership team, updated church policies and clarified doctrinal statements. In the minds of many, though, the main agenda item was ordination of women pastors — specifically, whether to empower the 13 divisions of the world field to determine what is best for their own territories. What if some divisions then ordained women and others didn’t — would that sacrifice global church unity?

First-century Christians faced a similar dilemma and also held a church council to resolve it. As recorded in Acts 15, the major issue at that Jerusalem session was circumcision. Were non-Jewish believers allowed to decide for themselves whether to perform that spiritual rite? And could the global church maintain unity without requiring uniformity among the various cultures of the world field?

In Jerusalem, the apostles decided yes. In San Antonio, delegates voted no.

The most striking difference between Jerusalem and San Antonio was the spirit of the discussion. Acts 15 records mutual respect among the apostles, despite their disagreements. San Antonio was different. Although General Conference leaders diligently devoted nearly an entire morning to spiritual preparation and clear explanations, some delegates persisted in partisan applause. They continually interrupted meaningful discussion with endless “points of order.”

Even more hurtful was the general mistrust of brothers and sisters with differing convictions. Character denigration began during the months leading up to the session. Some who favored a women’s ordination option denounced those who did not as being chauvinistic and out-of-touch with Western culture. One parody website mocked Doug Batchelor, a pastor and an outspoken opponent of women’s ordination. Portraying him disrespectfully was supposedly in good fun. But fun is when you are laughing with someone; it gets nasty when you laugh at them.

Nastier yet was the outright character assassination by one side against the other. Ty Gibson, for decades one of the Northwest’s most respected Adventist thought leaders, published a compelling article endorsing women’s ordination. Some who previously supported Ty immediately denounced him as a rebel against church leadership and a cultural compromiser.
During the July 8 discussion in San Antonio, delegates continually expressed fears and allegations of cultural compromise and rejection of the biblical order of authority. Biblical counsel should always be central to our spiritual DNA. But the Holy Scriptures speak as much to our attitudes and behavior as they do to our beliefs.

Therefore, the low point of the day for me was the shameful treatment of Jan Paulsen, retired General Conference president. Our current world president Ted Wilson, in a gracious gesture, invited his predecessor to share his convictions — knowing full well that Paulsen disagreed with him on this particular issue. Indeed, Paulsen politely yet passionately pleaded with delegates to follow the Acts 15 model — trusting each region’s leaders to know what is best for their own territory. Having been a missionary to Africa, he reminded those delegations that he had lived as one of them and understood their culture.

At that, several delegates audibly jeered their former leader and world president. More incredibly, they were not rebuked as delegate after delegate arose to complain that Jan Paulsen was allowed to speak two minutes longer than a normal delegate could.

The scene was disheartening — I’ve never seen a world church leader, active or retired, publicly treated with such disrespect. Paulsen, clearly grieved, left the meeting early. I witnessed the sad sight of him slipping out of the building shortly before the vote was taken.

There were many wonderful things too that occurred during the session. But often we learn best from instances that seem to be roadblocks or failures. Often they are the crucible for lessons learned, the catalyst for positive change. Here are two of the top lessons I have considered in reflecting upon San Antonio.

1) God’s people show they are His by their love.

Being nice is Kindergarten 101, but biblical love, Christ-like love, goes far beyond nice. Jesus’ love was extended to all — not just those who agreed with Him. That’s a good lesson for me and those of us who seek to represent our Lord. How we act toward each other says volumes about who we follow. The apostle Paul said that religion is a sham without love in action. (See 1 Corinthians 13.)

2) Cultural sensitivity matters.

Our world church is becoming so culturally diverse that we ignore these differences at our peril. True love isn’t loud. It doesn’t demand its own way. It listens to understand another’s heart. Each of us in our own corners of the world must listen, learn to respect the unique cultural challenges of the others and trust leaders there to apply the work of our church to unify us in mission within the culture of God’s kingdom.

Self-righteous pontification should never be welcome among us. Jesus once told the stubborn people of Galilee that the citizens of Sodom would fare better in the judgment than they would.

Does His warning apply today as well?

September 01, 2015 / Perspective

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Martin Weber

Adventist product manager for Faithlife, maker of Logos Bible Software
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Martin Weber, DMin, served as pastor, editor, author, evangelist and police chaplain across North America and taught pastors on five continents with the General Conference Ministerial Association.
Red and white lights flashed from the ambulance and fire truck as a form was lifted from the crosswalk and laid on a gurney. Another student had been hit in the crosswalk.

Every four minutes a child dies because of an accident on a road.

Road traffic injury is one of the top four causes of death for children older than five years and is the number one cause of death for ages 15-17. According to a study by SafeKids.org, a global organization dedicated to preventing injuries to children, every day 61 children are struck by vehicles in the United States. These accidents occur most often during the hours before and after school and peaking in September when the school year starts.

But children are not the only ones at risk.

The reason a teenager is more likely to be hit by a car is theorized to be caused by distracted walking due to cell phone use. The 2013 study “Ambulatory cell phone injuries in the United States—An emerging national concern” estimated that between 2000 and 2011, more than 11,000 injuries resulted from phone-caused distraction while walking.

According to the Pew Research Center, 90 percent of American adults own a cell phone.

Cell phone use lessens the user’s awareness of their surroundings because the user’s attention is directed to his/her phone. The National Safety Council reports about 6,100 pedestrian deaths and 170,000 injuries occurred in 2012. Just as driving distracted can result in tragic loss, walking without paying attention in crosswalks and near roadways is an extremely unsafe practice.

CROSSWALK SAFETY 101

Here are 10 pedestrian safety tips to practice year-round and review with your children for a safer school year.

1. Look left, right, then left again before crossing the street
2. Cross only at designated crosswalks
3. Never dart out into traffic mid-block or from between parked cars
4. Always walk on the sidewalk, if one is available
5. If you must walk on the street, walk facing oncoming traffic and wear reflective or bright colored clothing
6. Be aware of your surroundings, especially in congested areas
7. Do not walk with headphones in your ears
8. Never walk while texting or talking on the phone
9. Be extra alert when walking during dusk and dawn hours. Glare from the setting/rising sun can limit visibility of both pedestrians and approaching vehicles
10. Young children should hold an adult's hand while crossing the street or walking to school

Preventing Slips Trips & Falls Related to Distracted Walking⁷

by: Anna Bartlett
WRITER AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST
Adventist Risk Management, Inc.

References:
http://www.nsc.org/NSCDocuments_Corporate/First-Student/Distracted-walking.pdf
Youth Rush Summer Changes Lives

“Youth Rush has changed my life completely,” says Emilie Carr, a high school senior from Yakima, Wash., who was participating in her first summer of the annual student colporteur program in Upper Columbia Conference (UCC). “I now understand how important our lives are to God, and as His followers we need to bring others to Him as well.” She and the 17 other young people shared nearly 1.3 million pages of Bible-based literature with people throughout the conference territory.

One of those people was Dan, from Richland, Wash. “He looked like some guy from Duck Dynasty,” admits Joseph Talavera. “I showed him the cookbook first, and after showing The Great Controversy he said he really wasn’t interested.” After giving up quickly, Talavera kept going down the street. Before he could cross the street, Dan came out and called him back, asking again what The Great Controversy was about.

After a short explanation, Dan was disappointed. “I thought it was by Ellen G. White,” he said. To his delight, Talavera told him that it was.

“He told me that his family has been a Sabbath-keeping family for 10 years now but are not Seventh-day Adventist,”
Talavera explains. "He had seen The Great Controversy on TV and had been wanting to read it." Dan's opportunity found him that day, as he gave a donation for it as well as the book Messiah. This summer, about 650 copies of The Great Controversy were distributed, along with more than 700 Christ's Object Lessons and nearly 3,000 copies of Steps to Christ. In all, more than 13,000 books were left in the 90,000-plus homes visited by Youth Rush students. More than $105,000 was donated, providing more than $70,000 in outside funding for Adventist education.*

These youth also generated interests for Bible studies, VBS programs, health courses and Revelation seminars. "I found that you really need a strong connection with God doing this work," says Theron King, a student from the Walla Walla, Wash., area.

Kiley Johnson, from Lenore, Idaho, echoed that idea. "This summer I learned to really put my trust in God," she says. "Whenever I felt like I couldn't do it on my own anymore, I would start praying. I found that God would give me strength."

While canvassing in Kennewick, Wash., Betty Crawford met an elderly lady also with the name Betty. In the course of their conversation, the older Betty mentioned that she and a friend had been studying the Bible together and couldn't make any sense of the book of Revelation. "These DVDs and books will help you unlock the mysteries of prophecy," responded the younger Betty, as she shared the Theodicy DVD, Daniel Chronicles DVD and The Great Controversy. The older lady gave a donation for the materials and shared her desire to attend a prophecy seminar.
During his third summer as a student in UCC Youth Rush, Michael Ghillarducci has experienced God’s working in many ways. When asked about his favorite story from this summer, he responded. "A Muslim lady who donated for a Great Controversy and Daniel Chronicles DVD."

Melina Maniscalco, from Hayden, Idaho, joined Youth Rush for her fourth summer and her third as one of the team leaders. "I have seen God working through the students in the way they respond to spiritual conversation and speak up in spiritual situations," she says.

This summer, God has worked powerfully through the young people who dedicated their summer to reaching the world through the printed page. They have seen why Ellen White shared in Colporteur Ministry, "If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the scriptures" (p. 7). Whether young or old, student or professional, we can all do something to reach the lost by sharing literature with those we meet.

*For final statistics and more stories, visit uccsda.org/youthrush/report.*

August 27, 2015 / Upper Columbia Conference
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The Livingstone Academy building committee has been working hard drawing plans and carefully looking at all the logistic challenges of building a new school.

Livingstone Academy had to resort to the only source of strength: prayer. Everybody prayed.

Sometimes it's hard to believe. You know how it goes. We all believe God can do anything. “Nothing is impossible to God,” we say, yet deep inside we filter our own belief influenced by our personal experience.

A story in the book of Mark comes to mind, in which a father brings his epileptic boy to Jesus. This man loves his boy, and there is nothing he would not do to see his boy laughing and running around like any other normal boy. He has tried everything, but nothing has worked. Even the disciples had failed to drive the evil forces from this boy’s life. The father had finally come to the terminal conclusion that there was nothing anybody could do for his beloved child. Oh what a fatal condition to be in! In chapter 9, verse 21, the father says to Jesus, “… if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

“If you can?” Sometimes the struggles of life are so debilitating that faith fades away and reasonable skepticism takes over. For the last few years, Livingstone Adventist Academy (LAA) in Salem has struggled under the weight of a growing debt. It came to the point where drastic changes had to be made. This past school year, the staff operated under a new project of financial responsibility, including paying the debt that had accumulated.
This could not be done without deep and painful cuts to all programs. Like many schools around this union, LAA has a very aged campus, and major repairs are needed. As rain began to fall, soon after school started, the staff realized their challenges were larger than imagined. They needed a new roof for the gym, then the roof in the cafeteria followed. One day the staff had six large trash cans strategically placed in various locations around the cafeteria, and each can was collecting large amounts of rain. Then in November a windstorm tore a section of the roof in the library. Then the staff discovered that two of the large water heaters serving the gym and cafeteria had critical cracks and could blow up at any moment.

The staff knew there was no money allocated in the budget for any of these repairs. The repairs were not optional however, if they wanted to continue operating a school. The staff began to get estimates for all the imperative repairs. The projected cost was astronomical, nothing close to what school resources could provide.

The principal sat in the solitude of his office late in the evening after students and staff had gone home. "This is too much," he thought. "It cannot be done." The staff resorted to the only source of strength: prayer. They prayed as a staff. They prayed as a board. They prayed as a community of churches. The students prayed. Everybody prayed. Then the sea opened.

In early April, the school had begun drawing projections for the following school year, mostly by faith because the reality wasn't too bright. But collective faith can be an extremely powerful tool in the hand of the weak. It was then that the Lord sent the help they had been praying for. Often we pray for solutions to our immediate needs. We pray for drops of blessings, unaware of the flood the Lord is willing to unleash if we will only believe. As the staff were collectively praying and grappling with the reality of their facility, they were not aware that the Lord had already sent a savior for their school. But the Lord’s plans for Livingstone Adventist Academy went even farther than the most faithful had been able to envision. Not only was the entire debt (which was not small by any measure) completely paid off, but a plan is now in full swing to replace the old, rotting structure. No more does the school family need to worry about crumbling structures and leaky roofs.

This was a summer at LAA, but the staff could not be happier. The building committee has been working hard drawing plans and carefully looking at all the logistic challenges of building a new school. Livingstone Adventist Academy staff have seen the Red Sea open before their very eyes. They can yell from the mountaintop, “We believe! Yes, Lord, we know You can.”

August 27, 2015 / Oregon Conference
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Gladstone Camp Meeting Goers Are Called to Love

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Kids ages 3–10 were encouraged to “Imagine God's Universe” and spent one evening after the program exploring the beautiful night sky through telescopes. Credit: Ben Dalusong, jr.

Fun Run/Walk participant Franklin Gearhart crosses the finish line with a high-five and a smile. Credit: Samuel Newell

Many spoke of the new insight they gained from Lee Venden’s thought-provoking evening presentations in the Plaza Pavilion. Credit: Ben Dalusong, jr.

Next >

The tents are down and the benches are all put away, but the memories will long remain of this year’s Gladstone Camp Meeting, which was held July 21–25.

After a momentous General Conference Session the beginning of July, many expected heated debates and tension with camp meeting so close on the heels of the decisions made in San Antonio. That didn’t prove to be the case, however, as instead a climate of renewed mission, hope and encouragement prevailed, all further encouraged by this year’s theme, “Called to Love … Members in Ministry.”

Many spoke of the new insight they gained from Lee Venden’s thought-provoking evening presentations in the Plaza Pavilion. They also spoke of the exceptionally friendly atmosphere of this year’s camp meeting attendees, staff and volunteers. People were regularly heard thanking and encouraging each other as they recognized the value of those around them.
In addition to the evening presentations, the daytime seminars and events drew sometimes standing-room-only crowds. With the Cascadia Subduction Zone having received a great deal of media coverage during the two weeks before camp meeting, the seminars on earthquake preparedness were popular, and interest exceeded the room’s capacity. Fortunately, recordings of the two presentations (along with most of the other seminars) are available through the local Adventist Book Center.

For the younger generations, the activities ranged from crafts to obstacle courses and from community service projects to a trip to the beach. Kids ages 3–10 were encouraged to “Imagine God’s Universe” and spent one evening after the program exploring the beautiful night sky through telescopes.

Among the community service aspects of camp meeting, this year’s annual blood drive exceeded the two-day goal, giving 345 patients the gift of life through blood. The Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS-DR) team distributed “flood buckets” at their booth in the Exhibit Tent. Attendees will take the bright yellow buckets home, fill with cleaning supplies (from the provided list) and return the filled buckets to their local ACS center for distribution to families who experience a flood or similar disaster. One person, who teaches nursing at a public college, took 21 of them so she could assign the project to her nursing students. On Friday morning, this year’s Fun Run/Walk was enjoyed by more than 200 participants of all ages, including 88-year-old Franklin Gearhart, who crossed the line with a smile on his face.

If you weren’t able to attend this year’s Gladstone Camp Meeting, you can still get a taste of the experience by watching each evening’s program, viewing Sabbath morning’s services and reading the daily newspaper, the Gladstone Gazette, on the Oregon Conference website at OregonConference.org.

Next year’s Gladstone Camp Meeting will begin with Spanish Camp Meeting, July 14–16, and follow with English Camp Meeting, July 19–23. Hope to see you there.
Education and Engineering Students Kick Off Summer Program for Kids

The WWU chapter of Engineers Without Borders worked at the Children's Museum of Walla Walla during spring quarter to help prepare the museum for the summer children's program.

Expectant faces look up with smiles stretched ear to ear. Many carry backpacks they received at their last visit that are full of treasures they created themselves. Their outstretched hands reach forward, preparing for their turn with the magnets. The magnets are powerful and must be handled with care. Adults urge them to listen carefully, and the children look intently, expectantly to the front. A magnet is placed in the center of each upturned palm, and the children walk single file throughout the room exploring what the magnets can do.

These children from Washington's Walla Walla Valley are enjoying the benefits of a $16,000 grant from Versacare Inc. awarded to Walla Walla University (WWU) to implement a 2015 summer program for children at the Children's Museum of Walla Walla (CMWW).

The grant enables WWU and the university's community partners to provide educational workshops for low-income immigrant children in Walla Walla. Workshops explore themes of science, health care and recycling. The program is managed by the WWU School of Education and School of Engineering. Community partners include nonprofit organizations that have worked closely with WWU for years, including the Children's Home Society of Walla Walla (CHSWW), CMWW and Walla Walla General Hospital (WWGH).

Four full days of workshops are held throughout the summer at the Children's Museum with nine workshops per day. Eighty-seven children gather in three age groups for three workshops that occur simultaneously so everyone gets a turn.

A CMWW employee gives the children an opportunity to express their creativity by giving them wooden dolls, which they paint and bring to life by telling their dolls' stories.

To teach the importance of putting trash in the proper place, Tammy Randolph, WWU professor of education, has the children pretend to swim their way to a "Chinese junk" — a boat in the backyard of the Children's Museum —
while picking up trash as they swim along.

Randolph explains that the summer program at the Children’s Museum is the realization of her dream to see WWU and the Walla Walla community serve children with a Jesus-like love.

This urging on her heart prompted her to bring the idea of a summer program at the Children’s Museum to the School of Engineering, CHSWW, CMWW and WWGH. Together, they applied for the Versafund grant through Versacare Inc. to make the program possible. The grant was awarded to WWU in January. Versacare Inc. is a Southern California-based company that awards grants primarily to Seventh-day Adventist organizations that have a reasonable plan for implementing programs that support and educate children, especially in the fields of health and science.

WWU and its community partners plan to apply for the Versafund grant again next year in order to continue providing summer programs for immigrant and other disadvantaged children during the summer months.

September 01, 2015 / Walla Walla University
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**Katelyn Swager**

Walla Walla University Marketing and University Relations writer
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

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, [More Information]
Credit: Jeff A. Whiteouse

Credit: Renae E. Smith

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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


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

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


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


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

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


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

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


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

October 2, 2015: Two great horned owelets, 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


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