Lundquist Commissioned to Gospel Ministry

Stephen Lundquist, Oregon Conference pastor and Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) Bible teacher, was commissioned as a minister during a special service held Sabbath, Sept. 12, at PAA. Al Reimche, Oregon Conference president, led out in the commissioning service. Lundquist had requested to receive the same “commissioned” credentials provided to women pastors within the conference, an accommodation allowed and granted under current church policy.
It's Constitution Day!

Today, Sept. 17, is Constitution Day. It's an opportunity to review our stance on the separation of church and state, which is critical to religious freedom. During the political campaigns of the coming months Adventists should carefully examine candidates’ philosophies on legislating religion. World history proves that efforts to mandate religious views and practices are coercive and counterproductive. Read an interesting article from the Baptist Joint Committee on the [Top Five Myths of the Separation of Church and State online](link). And … test your constitutional savvy with a short quiz.

WA Conference Hosts Nonprofit Leadership Training

Forty-five Adventist Community Services (ACS) leaders from Washington, Oregon, Upper Columbia, California, Hawaii, Lake Region, and Central States conferences (and even a representative from Myanmar!) are wrapping up a three-day seminar at the Washington Conference office in Federal Way, Wash. They have been learning about human resources, risk management, marketing and communication, and budgeting as part of the North American Division ACS Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program. The program is designed to equip pastors, church administration and nonprofit leaders with strategies and professional skills to successfully lead.

Celebrating a Gift

During this 100th year since the death of Ellen G. White, her life and ministry will be highlighted Nov. 13–14 at the Walla Walla University Church in College Place, Wash. Presenters Cindy Tutsch and Jonathan Thompson will discuss topics such as: 21st century application of her counsels, the role of behavior in salvation, social justice and the roles of women. Presentations will be given for Friday evening vespers, Sabbath divine services and Sabbath afternoon. Divine services will be streamed live at...
wwwchurch.org  This special weekend is being co-sponsored by the North Pacific Union Conference and Walla Walla University.

AUC is Back in Action

Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass., began classes again in late August. It had been closed while facing growing debt and loss of accreditation in 2011. Currently the class options are limited, with degree programs offered in health sciences, biology, religion and theology. Certification programs will begin later this month in bookkeeping, information technology, culinary arts, office management and evangelism.

God’s Hands and Feet

MaKayla Hample, Walla Walla University student missionary, wrote these thoughts during her year in Micronesia. “‘God, what are you up to?’ is becoming less of a question and more of a reassurance … that He is guiding me through this year as a student missionary, and that I can rely on Him each and every step of the way. He has a purpose for me here in Kosrae. I’m here to be His hands and feet. There is no greater feeling.” Read more from MaKayla’s thoughts and those of other student missionaries at wallawalla.edu online.

Auburn Rejoices in a Rebound

After a year of uncertainty, faculty, staff and students at Auburn Adventist Academy in Auburn, Wash., are experiencing a resurgence of optimism. Enrollment is up, a new leadership team is in place, and the current freshman class will become the academy’s 100th graduating class in four years. Read more about this Adventist secondary school with new hopes and dreams online at GleanerNow.com.
Seven Lifestyle Habits for a Healthy Brain

How healthy is your brain? You might not think about it much, but over time your lifestyle habits can have an impact on your brain. What you eat and drink and the activities you engage in make a difference. We have eight lifestyle habits, things you can do regularly to keep your brain healthy. If you don’t consciously make a decision to live according to these good rules, you may be jeopardizing your long-term mental health. Take a look at these eight tips now.

Do you enjoy GleanerWeekly? Don't keep it to yourself. Forward it to a friend and share!

Currently at gleanernow

- Church and School Team Up for VBS
- Evangelism at Sandy Church
- Ketchikan Couple Celebrates Marriage and Baptism
- Relieve the Suffering of 1,000
- Nature Photo Gallery

And More!
Looking Ahead

September

- 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
- Sept. 19: Minot, N.D., Church 100th Anniversary

More Events Online

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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.
Top 5 myths of separation of church and state

By J. Brent Walker
Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director

The United States of America is one of the most religious and certainly the most religiously diverse nation on the face of the earth. Despite our country’s religiosity, many of us were surprised by a recent poll released by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life about how little we know about other religions and even our own religion. What’s more, despite pride in our democracy, the Constitution and Bill of Rights that guarantee our fundamental liberties, we are similarly misinformed about our rights under the First Amendment generally and religious liberty in particular.

Myth #1: We don't have separation of church and state in America because those words are not in the Constitution.

True, the words are not there, but the principle surely is. It is much too glib an argument to say that constitutional principles depend on the use of certain words. Who would deny that “federalism,” “separation of powers” and the “right to a fair trial” are constitutional principles? But those words do not appear in the Constitution either. The separation of church and state, or the “wall of separation,” is simply a metaphor, a shorthand way of expressing a deeper truth that religious liberty is best protected when church and state are institutionally separated and neither tries to perform or interfere with the essential mission and work of the other.

We Baptists often hold up Roger Williams’ “hedge or wall of separation between the garden of the church and the wilderness of the world,” and point to Thomas Jefferson’s 1802 Letter to the Danbury Connecticut Baptist Association where he talked about his “sovereign reverence” for the “wall of separation.”

But we sometimes overlook the writings of the father of our Constitution, James Madison, who observed that “the number, the industry and the morality of the priesthood and the devotion of the people have been manifestly increased by the total separation of church and state.”

Even Alexis de Tocqueville, in his famed 19th-century “Democracy in America,” a work often cited by those who would disparage separation, writes favorably of it:

“In France, I had seen the spirits of religion and freedom almost always marching in opposite directions. In America I found them intimately linked together in joint reign over the same land … [A]I thought that the main reason for the quiet sway of religion over their country was the complete separation of church and state. I have no hesitation in stating that throughout my stay in America I met nobody, lay or cleric, who did not agree about that.”

The Constitution may not have those words — church-state separation — in it, but those who wrote the Constitution and other early observers had the words in them.

Myth #2: We do not need or want separation of church and state because the United States is a Christian nation.

Depending upon the poll, a little more than half the American people agree with this statement. But it is not true. The United States of America is not a Christian nation, legally and constitutionally.
Yes, most of our founders were religious folk of some ilk, but they did not want to impose their own religion by law on others. And they certainly thought that a religious citizenry was important to good government; but they did not intend to set up a Christian regime under our founding documents. Our civil compact, the Constitution, is a decidedly secular document. It never mentions “Christianity.” Even the word “religious” is used only once in Article VI to ban religious tests for public office. And then two years later the Bill of Rights starts off “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” This language dispelled any lingering doubt whether America was intended to be a Christian nation when it prevented the federal government from advancing or inhibiting any religious tradition.

Today, no one can deny that Americans are a very religious people. A 2007 Pew Forum poll showed that about 75 percent claims to be Christian. So, yes, demographically speaking, we may be Christian, but we do not have anything approaching a theocracy, Christian or otherwise. We have a constitutional democracy in which all religious beliefs are protected. The same Constitution that refuses to privilege any religion, including Christianity, protects all religions and the right of other American citizens to claim no religious beliefs at all. As a result, we are a nation of Christians sociologically because we are not a Christian nation constitutionally.

Myth #3: We have freedom of religion but not freedom from religion.

No, this is not true. We have freedom of and from. If we don’t have both, then we have neither. Forced religion is simply a violation of conscience, not a voluntary response to God.

To be sure, one does not have freedom from religion in the sense of insisting that your neighbor not preach a sermon on the street corner, or that religious programming be banned from television or the radio, or that our culture secularize itself to suit one’s worldview. But one most certainly has the right to insist upon freedom from state-sponsored religion.

That’s what the First Amendment is all about. Freedom from religion and freedom of religion parallel the two religion clauses: no establishment (freedom from religion), and free exercise (freedom of religion). It also parallels the coming together in history of Enlightenment thought and religious piety conspiring in colonial times to ensconce protections for religious liberty in the Constitution. Forrest Church writes:

“The revolution was powered by two very different engines: one driven by eighteenth-century Enlightenment values, the other guided by Christian imperatives that grew out of the Great Awakening. … The former movement, emphasizing freedom of conscience … stressed freedom from the dictates of organized religion. The latter, stemming from a devout reading of the Gospels … demanded freedom for religion. … Together, these seemingly opposite world-views collaborated brilliantly and effectively to establish the separation of church and state in America.”3

We must have both, or else we have neither!

Myth #4: Church-state separation only keeps the government from setting up a single national church or showing preference among faith groups, but not from aiding all religions equally.

If all the Founders wanted to do was simply to ban a single, official national church, they did not do a very good job of saying so in the First Amendment. An early draft of the Amendment read in part: “The civil rights of none shall be abridged on account of religious belief or worship, nor shall any national religion be established ....” This draft was passed over. And the founders had ample opportunity to state that the government should be allowed to promote all religion on an even-handed, non-preferential basis.

But the Congress repeatedly rejected versions of the First Amendment that would have explicitly permitted such non-preferential aid. For example, the Senate rejected this proposed language: “Congress shall make no law establishing one religious sect or society in preference to others ....” It rejected two more proposals with provisions embodying similar language.
No, the Founders approved much more expansive language to keep the new federal government from making laws even "respecting an establishment of religion." Religion generally — not a religion or a national religion, but no religion at all, period. They did not merely want to keep the federal government from setting up an official national church or to ban denominational discrimination.

In addition to constitutional history, there are practical reasons to reject the attempts of government to aid all religion on a non-preferential basis. In our pluralistic country with its amazing diversity, it would be impossible to aid all religions evenhandedly. Inevitably, government will pick and choose a preferred religion, and it almost always will select the majority, politically-powerful religious tradition for preferred treatment.

Myth #5: The separation of church and state has resulted in God being kicked out of the public schools and banished from the public square.

What a thing to say — to presume that God can be kicked out of anywhere. No, as James Dunn has said, "God Almighty has a perfect attendance record." It is only state-sponsored religion that has been banned from the public schools. Voluntary student religious expression is not only not prohibited, it is protected — as long as it does not disrupt the educational process and respects other students’ rights not to participate.

A partial listing of the religious activities that are permitted in the public schools — voluntary prayer, teaching about religion, studying religious holidays, Bible clubs before and after school, wearing religious garb — proves the point. There are numerous national consensus statements by religious and education organizations that outline the avenues of permissible religious expression.

Yes, educators still get it wrong sometimes. Some principals want to return to the "sacred public schools" of yesteryear and others are ready to overreact and create "naked public schools" where every vestige of religion is stripped away. But the model that most are using, consistent with constitutional standards, is the "civil public schools" where the government does not promote religion but takes religion seriously in the curriculum and, where possible, accommodates the free exercise needs of students.

To say God has been banished from the public square is also a huge misconception. The institutional separation of church and state does not mean the segregation of religion from politics or God from government or strip the right of people of faith to speak forcefully in the public square. It only means government cannot pass laws that have the primary purpose or effect that advances religion.

Religious speech in public places is common place. From bumper stickers, to billboards, to post-football-game prayer huddles, and on and on. It seems like every month new cover stories on religion and religious themes appear in national news magazines in addition to religious programming on television, radio and the Internet. Religious themes pervade movies. Some seminaries nowadays even have courses on theology in the cinema. John Grisham's new novel, "The Confession," has religion in it at every twist and turn. (He is a Baptist, you know.) "God Bless America" is sung during the seventh inning stretch in almost every major league baseball park and is an obligatory conclusion to the speeches of every politician who wants to keep on being a politician.

"Civil religion" in public places is alive and well. In a culture as religious as ours, we should not be surprised that references to God pop up in our pledge, our mottos, our songs and our civil ceremonies and public rituals. These brief governmental expressions of religion (sometimes called "ceremonial deism") will usually pass constitutional muster as long as they do not mandate religious worship, single out a particular religion for favored treatment or compel religious conformity. Some of us may have theological concerns about civil religion because it can be abused for political gain, morph into an idolatry of nationalism or result in the trivialization of religion. But the constitutional doctrine of church-state separation does not prohibit various expressions of civil religion.

Before retiring, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's last church-state opinion reminds us why we should defeat the myths:
“[T]he goal of the [Religion] Clauses is clear: to carry out the Founders’ plan of preserving religious liberty to the fullest extent possible in a pluralistic society. By enforcing the Clauses, we have kept religion a matter for the individual conscience, not for the prosecutor or bureaucrat. At a time when we see around the world the violent consequences of the assumption of religious authority by government, Americans may count themselves fortunate: Our regard for constitutional boundaries has protected us from similar travails, while allowing private religious exercise to flourish. … Those who would renegotiate the boundaries between church and state must therefore answer a difficult question: Why would we trade a system that has served us so well for one that has served others so poorly?”

Justice O’Connor is right. The separation of church and state is good for both!

Endnotes:
1. Madison’s letter to Robert Walsh in 1819.
3. Church, Forrest. Separation of Church and State, p. x-xi.
4. McCreary County, Ky., et al. v. ACLU of Ky. et al., 545 U.S. 844, 882 [2005] [O’Connor, J., concurring]
As Auburn faculty and staff arrive on campus for a new academic year, they are working together in their plans for instructing students in how to apply their God-given gifts and abilities in the community and with local churches.

AAA administrators are outlining to parents, students and alumni what to expect with a new school year.
There is a new excitement on campus with several reasons why!

**Milestone Class:** Auburn Adventist Academy is enrolling a freshmen class this year who will become, in four years, the 100th graduating class.

**New Leadership Team:** Auburn Adventist Academy has a new leadership team including John Soulé, principal, who brings 25 years of education leadership; Marko Oksanen, business manager; and Roxanne Wickward, registrar.

**Revived Dorm Program:** Auburn’s community of friends and alumni have rallied together to revive and strengthen its dormitory program. Teresa Soulé, girls’ dean, and Nathan Klingstrand, boys’ dean, are joining the administrative team. They both have a strong spiritual dorm program planned, utilizing their combined 27 years of residential experience. Their goal is to mentor young men and young women to follow God in spiritual, social, physical and academic activities, creating an atmosphere of growth for both students and parents.

Students have two options with the dorm: a **five-day dorm program** allows students to participate in all campus activities throughout the week and then return home to their local community every weekend. The **seven-day dorm program** allows students to participate in all campus activities throughout the week and the weekend with scheduled home leaves.

**Focus on Servant Leadership Training:** Through its curriculum and programs, Auburn will be showing its students how to practice their God-given gifts and abilities in the community and with local churches. This service training will be backed up with a solid academic and a strong Christ-centered campus ministries program.

**Academic Program:** Auburn’s teaching staff is a blend of both familiar and new names who are working together in a cooperative approach to create an academic program of excellence. Complementing the cooperative curriculum is a new academic tracking program to monitor students’ learning progression.

New teaching staff members include Karyle Barnes, chaplain and Bible teacher; Stacy Tejel, English and Spanish teacher; Logan Adams, athletics director; Keith Rodman, math teacher; and Joe Underhill, history teacher. Auburn has the same buildings you love, but it is a new school.

**Digital Connections:** The academy launched a mobile-friendly website at auburnacademy.org and continues to connect with students, parents, alumni and the church community via Facebook and Instagram.

**Community Involvement:** God is working on this campus through all the volunteers, parents, staff and students. Miracles are happening on this campus because this community and this conference are pulling together to make this school the top choice in Adventist Christian education in this area and to cooperate with our education partners.

Auburn has a vision that God is revealing to us. Our job is to follow His lead. Our prayer is that you will feel the presence of God here and join us in God’s work.

*John Soulé, AAA principal, and Roxanne Wickward, AAA registrar*
Lifestyle Habits to Keep Your Brain Healthy

8 tips to give your brain a boost

How healthy is your brain? You might not think about it much, but over time your lifestyle habits can have an impact on your brain. What you eat and drink and the activities you engage in make a difference. Here's what you can do to keep your brain healthy.

1. **Sleep well.** Getting regular and restful sleep is essential for brain health. Studies suggest that the process of sleep actually restores and repairs the brain and helps it to function better. The National Sleep Foundation recommends that adults get 7 to 9 hours of sleep each night. Brief naps in the afternoon can help too.

2. **Eat a whole foods, plant-based diet.** Studies suggest that food choices significantly impact brain health. Both specific nutrients and overall dietary patterns have long-term effects on memory function as you age. Research suggests that a whole foods, plant-based diet low in saturated fat and processed foods is best for your brain and overall health.

3. **Exercise your body for brain health.** Exercising on a regular basis can improve memory, learning ability, and prevent or delay mental decline that comes with aging. New research suggests that both aerobic exercise and resistance training performed regularly can help maintain your ability to think and remember as you age.

4. **Combine healthy behaviors.** Adopting one healthy habit is a good start to protect your brain. Combining multiple healthy behaviors like a healthy diet, regular exercise, and adequate sleep does more for your brain than just one of these alone. If you need help with developing healthy habits, a healthcare professional such as a physician, nurse, or wellness coach can help.

5. **Stimulate the brain.** Your brain likes to have fun. Make time to play board games, do crossword puzzles, dance, read, and be social. Studies show that activities like these help keep the brain stimulated, improve recall, and prevent age-related memory loss.

6. **Spend time in nature.** Getting out in the great outdoors can benefit mood, health, and overall well-being. Studies show that too much time indoors can prevent you from enjoying the benefits breathing fresh air and spending time in natural settings. Get outside for at least a few hours a week for a brisk walk, fresh air, and a quiet, natural environment.

7. **What to leave out.** While there are many things you can do to keep your brain healthy, there are some things you should avoid. Don't smoke. Limit or avoid alcohol. Tobacco use and alcohol have both been linked to dementia and age-related memory loss.

8. **See a doctor.** Regular check-ups are important for mental and physical health. See a doctor to discuss preventive measures for brain health.

While there are many things in life that you can't control, you can choose to eat healthy, exercise regularly, get enough sleep, and practice other healthy habits that will protect your brain.

Sources:
- Nature Reviews Neuroscience.
- National Sleep Foundation.
- Journal of Applied Physiology.

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Newsletter Issue

The FREE Making Healthy Choices™ newsletter is available as a complementary resource to clients of Wellsource and other organizations involved in promoting health, and brings you the latest health guidelines and information to enhance your health promotion plans.

READ NOW
Church and School Team Up for VBS

Each day 60-80 kids came to "The Creator is my Friend" vacation Bible school, a joint venture for Cascade Christian Academy and the Wenatchee Adventist Church.

For the second summer now, Cascade Christian Academy (CCA) and the Wenatchee (Wash.) Church have teamed up to provide a Vacation Bible School program for the local community. This year's theme was "The Creator Is My Friend."
The Wenatchee Church members rallied to donate supplies and funds for the VBS program. A staff of more than 20 adults and CCA teens worked together to create an enjoyable gospel-filled experience for the 60–80 smiling children that came each day to learn about our Creator. Joe Savino, Wenatchee Church pastor, played his guitar for the opening songs, and Stephanie Gates, CCA principal, led out in the theme talks and prayer each morning before the children divided by age groups for rotations through Bible stories, health nuggets, crafts and physical activities that complemented the theme.

During the closing exercises, CCA’s new science teacher, Jeremiah Rich, performed science demonstrations as object lessons to reinforce each day’s message. He and his wife, Kristi, and their young son, Carson, have just moved to Wenatchee from Bozeman, Mont. Rich will be teaching junior and senior high school science classes and replacing Diana Hernandez, who retired this summer.

What a wonderful opportunity for church and school to work together to spread the gospel of Christ. Planting seeds of Jesus’ love to children will someday bring a great harvest for His kingdom.

September 14, 2015 / Upper Columbia Conference
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Julie Savino

Cascade Christian Academy chaplain
The Sandy Church welcomed 14 new members through baptism following an evangelistic series this past winter.

Debbie and Tom Marlow are baptized together.

"There is never a perfect time to do public evangelism," someone once said. "The reason is the devil will compete..."
with you every single time."

The Sandy Church is no stranger to unexpected trials. Though experiencing setbacks, the church decided the best way to meet the trial was to continue to do the work of proclaiming the gospel to the local community.

As the invitations were mailed out, many families and individuals attended the church's evangelistic meetings in the local Sandy High School this past winter. Though the room was small, the meetings were packed each night with more than 50 people from the local community eager to hear the gospel through the symbols of Revelation.

After the first week, the series transitioned to the local church. Many people did not hesitate to come as they had never heard such amazing fulfillments of Bible prophecy before.

Kevin Weeks attend the seminar from the first night. Arriving 35 minutes early every night, Weeks was intrigued to see so many things fall into place as he took notes of the fast fulfilling signs of the times. On one occasion, when arriving early, the evangelist asked Weeks how he was doing. Weeks responded, "Not too well."

Weeks went on to explain, "I'm not too happy with you right now. I just disposed of $50 worth of alcohol from my kitchen." He was overwhelmed with joy that the Lord had given him complete victory over his addiction to alcohol. Weeks was baptized and takes joy in becoming part of his new church family.

Brian wasn't able to catch the first week of the seminar but started coming after he heard about the ongoing series. He attended as many night as he could. Brian had been under the addiction of marijuana and nicotine for 30 years. He often tried to find a way out of his addiction only to meet with failure. Brian recalls falling under great depression until the power of the Word literally transformed his life from the inside out. Since the seminar, Brian has experienced complete victory over his drug and nicotine addiction. With tears in his eyes, Brian says, "The freedom I now have I want forever. I thank God for His grace in my life today." It was a joy to see Brian go down into the waters of baptism to show his new love for Jesus.

Tom and Debbie Marlow attended every night. Debbie mentioned she and Tom had been praying for God to lead them to the truth. "Right then," Debbie says, "we received the handbill in the mail and knew God may be answering our prayers."

The Marlows finished the series and asked, "Can we become a part of this church family? We believe God has led us here." They decided to be baptized together and become a part of God's remnant church family.

There are many other miraculous and life-changing stories than can be told from this series. God blessed the Sandy Church with 14 baptisms. Eight more people are in a pastor's follow-up class in preparation for potential baptism.

We are all born on a battlefield. Whatever trials come our way only test our resilience on the call God has given to us in proclaiming the everlasting gospel. We can choose to retreat or press forward in the power of God. The members of the Sandy Church made their decision. What about you?

September 14, 2015 / Oregon Conference
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Jason Morgan

North Pacific Union Conference evangelist
Ketchikan Couple Celebrates New Marriage, Baptisms

Debbie Schmelling and Tom Paul are joined in baptism and in marriage.

Tom Paul and Debbie Schmelling celebrate their wedding the day after their baptisms.

Tom Paul and Debbie Schmelling were baptized on April 10 into the Ketchikan Church. Schmelling had been an Adventist but had become discouraged. Paul had been raised a Catholic from childhood, but he’d never given his
beliefs a lot of thought. However, when in his adult years he became more personally interested in studying the Bible, he began questioning some of the beliefs he’d been taught.

While working on board the Alaska Marine Lines ferry Columbia, Paul became acquainted with Schmelling. They both had gone through some hard times. As they shared their past experiences, Schmelling also shared her beliefs in the Lord. Although she had quit going to the Adventist church long ago, she still believed it had the truth.

With Schmelling’s help, Paul gained a clearer understanding of some of the beliefs that had troubled him in his former church. In time, they were attracted to each other and started attending the Ketchikan Church when their ship was in dock.

They decided to unite their lives in marriage and wanted to have God in their union. They started Bible studies and premarital counseling in November. On April 11, the day after their baptisms, they were united in marriage. They want to serve God wherever He leads them, but it is Paul’s sincere desire, at some point in the future, to go to Andrews University and train to be a lay pastor.

Robert and Alma Stauffer, Ketchikan Church interim pastoral couple

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A mobile dental clinic will visit the seven local Adventist churches after the event to continue to provide free dental care.

Dave McCoy, the Fall Creek and Pleasant Hill churches pastor, is working with members and other churches to plan a free health care event for the Eugene area.

Dave McCoy, the Fall Creek and Pleasant Hill churches pastor, has been working with his members and other area churches to offer a large-scale medical evangelism event in the Eugene, Ore., area. McCoy was selected to present the event at the North American Division Pastoral Convention, held in Texas in July, and he obtained $3,000 that will be used to rent the facilities for the event at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

This event, which will be held Sept. 26–27, is being coordinated by seven Eugene-area churches, Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN), Light Bearers Ministries/ARISE and Caring Hands Worldwide/International Caring Hands (ASI ministry). The first goal of Impact Your Health Eugene is for 1,000 people to see Jesus Christ working through the volunteers. The second goal allows church members to provide 1,000 hours of volunteer time modeling the love of Jesus Christ. The third goal aims to help 1,000 people receive physical healing in a spiritual environment.
There are eye care businesses across the state of Oregon that have already agreed to provide eye exams, reading glasses, prescription glasses and even cataract surgery. Dentists and dental hygienists have also started to sign up for the event to provide dental exams, digital X-rays, cleanings, extractions and fillings.

People will be blessed by being able to see clearly, both spiritually and physically, they will be relieved of dental pain, and they will learn to reverse diabetes. The community will see the love of Jesus through selfless volunteers providing health care without expecting to be paid. This will allow them to freely ask spiritual questions and then connect with the local churches during the follow-up services at the local churches.

International Caring Hands (ASI Ministry) and its foundation Caring Hands Worldwide have already provided more than $1 million in free dental care at Adventist churches in Zambia and Micronesia. They have worked with ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) International and have established a mobile dental clinic in Madagascar. This ASI ministry has agreed to use its $250,000 state-of-the-art mobile clinic to deliver free dental care at the local Seventh-day Adventist churches after the event on a monthly basis as part of this initiative to relieve the pain of 1,000 people. The estimated free dental care to be provided will be well over $250,000 in 2015 and 2016.

If you would like to join this large medical evangelism event and help relieve the suffering of 1,000, you can sign up at the AMEN website impactyourhealth.eugene.org.

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Randy Meyer

Fall Creek Church head elder
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 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 Cornwall


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