In the aftermath of the Oso, Wash. landslide, March 22, the death toll has risen to 29, according to the New York Times, and the search continues for the 20 more still missing. First responders and search-and-rescue teams are continuing to respond to needs and sift through tons of debris while anxious loved ones wait and try to assist in any way they can. Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) is on call waiting to see how they can be utilized in responding to this disaster.

Please keep the workers, the bereaved and those still waiting in your daily and group prayers. We will notify you if and when ACS DR is activated and how you can help.

A news video has been added to the NAD website story about the winners of the recent SONscreen Festival. News video - Courtesy of Adventist News Network

Adventists in the News

Local faith-based school excels at all levels

Highland Adventist students learn survival skills

Columbia Woman Elected Mid-Atlantic Adventist Church Vice President

Ministry will move its headquarters to Loveland

Compassion Annual Rally converges in Portland

Announcements

Adventist photographers in the NAD are invited to participate in inSpire’s 2014 Facebook Photo Contest. Both amateur and professional photographers may enter. The idea is to spotlight God’s creative power and to provide opportunities for His people to share their gifts. Prizes range from $100 to an iPad Mini. Winners will be selected based on a combination of how many people like the photos on Facebook, and the rankings that will be given by inSpire’s photography judges. The contest ends at midnight on May 15. MORE
Don't forget to join the NAD Prayer Ministry team for the all-night Prayer Call. Join at any time between 10 p.m. Thursday, April 3 and 5 a.m. ET, Friday. Call 712-432-0031; access code is 435650#. There will be a different leader for each half hour. MORE

Correction: The March 19 issue of NewsPoints incorrectly stated that JOY-FM's radio in Guam is part of the Adventist World Radio (AWR). It isn't. But AWR generously contributed more than 100 skilled man-hours to help them repair their transmitter. We regret any confusion this error might have created.

The NAD Facebook (FB) page can help you keep in touch. During the last two and a half weeks it has enjoyed a surge of more than 13,000 likes and is still climbing. In the last three reports, it has had an average weekly reach of 141,148. The “Happy Sabbath” updates are usually the most popular. One lists a reach of 99,648 people. Another is at 76,544. Those numbers are still climbing. On the NAD FB page we also share posts from the My Way to Jesus FB page which links to the NAD seeker site. When people share these, they take friends back to the My Way to Jesus FB page, not the NAD page.

We also post updates about news and resources that are not all shared in NewsPoints. Please take a look at www.facebook.com/nadadventist and click on the “Like” button for inspiration, news, resources, and more, and then start sharing.

Did you know we will live with God in our new home forever?
Fundamental Beliefs #28 from My Way to Jesus

Just "Click" to share your beliefs: The Fundamental Beliefs videos and other updates are shared on the My Way to Jesus Facebook page and from there onto the NAD Facebook page. Both updates link back to www.MyWaytoJesus.com, NAD's "seeker site." The site offers options such as sending a prayer request, enrolling in the Discover Bible Course, or watching a beliefs video, and provides a connection to Adventist Information Ministry where people can chat with someone about spiritual issues or things that are troubling them. "Like" the above-mentioned Facebook pages and then share the updates with your friends.

You can share the Beliefs videos on your own website: Just go to www.vimeo.com/channels/didyouknow for the entire video series and click on the "Share" button in the upper right corner of a specific video for the embed code, or to share on social media or email it to a friend.
REACH: Community Outreach and Evangelism
Providing "Critical Support" to Thousands – Pacific Union Conference

Today when a survival-of-the-fittest attitude seems to prompt many to not care about the needs others, Jesus calls His followers to go against the flow – to initiate a counter-cultural way of thinking and living that compels them to act on His behalf. Every week scores of members within the Pacific Union Conference provide "critical support" to thousands. Here are four churches that have committed their energies to doing what they can to bless and serve.

NOTE: If you know of a story that could be used for REACH that addresses Revival and Transformation, Education for Discipleship, Alignment within the Church, Community Outreach and Evangelism or Health Leadership and Management, please send it to newspoints@nad.adventist.org with a photo or two and a link to more information.

Apr 6-12, Please pray for the Lake Region Conference with 105 churches and 30,609 members.

Share This Newsletter

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I wish to share my experiences with one of the best-kept school secrets in Napa: Napa Christian Campus of Education.

I discovered Napa Christian last year when I was researching high school options for my son who had attended Stonebridge School for eight years. My son’s freshman year at Napa Christian has been fabulous.

Napa Christian, not to be confused with First Christian School, is a K-12 Seventh-day Adventist School located at 2201 Pine St., near Fuller Park in Napa. The campus is beautifully landscaped with many trees, stonework, flowers and a bubbling rock fountain. There is a huge gym, soccer field, garden and kid’s play area. A remodeling project of many of the student areas has just been completed.

Initially, I thought that you had to be of the Seventh-day Adventist faith to attend, but that is not the case. All faiths are welcome. My son, who has had little religious exposure prior to attending Napa Christian, is truly enjoying his religion classes. One such class, religion lab, focuses on community service, personal awareness, character building, and responsible behavior.

The high school program offers two education tracks: “General High School Diploma” and “Advanced College Preparatory Diploma.” Many of the classes are in block format in which classes meet for longer periods each school day, but only for half the school year. For example, my son completed geometry last semester, whereas most students at other schools are enrolled in this class for the entire year.

The teachers at Napa Christian are incredible. They are very supportive, approachable, caring and dedicated to providing the best education to the students. They make learning interesting, experiential and fun.

For example, my son’s biology class will be going on a week-long field trip to Catalina Island, the Los Angeles Natural History Museum, the California Science Center and Six Flags Magic Mountain. My son is especially looking forward to going to Washington, D.C. for his U.S. history and American government classes.

The high teacher to student ratio allows for one-on-one assistance and individualized programming when needed. Communication between parents and teachers is ongoing, personable and collaborative. Recently, I received a phone call from the school principal who shared with me a positive moment that my son experienced in a class.

There is a strong Home and School Association for parents and teachers to collaborate on special events fundraisers and educational programming. On Sunday, April 13, the biggest fundraiser of the year, the Spring Fling and Auction, will be taking place.

It is a requirement at Napa Christian for families to provide 40 hours per year of service time to the school. This is not difficult to achieve, since there are so many service opportunities available for parent involvement. In March, I chaperoned and drove students to Lake Tahoe for the annual school ski trip.

In addition to academics, extracurricular activities such as student leadership, choir and a varsity athletics program (soccer, basketball and volleyball) are available. The choir program participates in school performances, programs and tours. A recent past destination for choir included a trip to New York City, where the choir sang at Carnegie Hall. Mission service projects to Puerto Rico and Holbrook, Ariz., have been past destinations for further educational and spiritual enrichment.
The student body is a very cohesive and close-knit group that is very accepting, kind and caring towards one another. Bullying, thievery, drugs and aggressive behaviors are not tolerated at Napa Christian. Many of the students view Napa Christian as an extension of their families. When students are provided a safe and supportive learning environment, the sky is the limit.

In closing, Napa Christian is a small school with a big heart that provides a faith-based K-12 education with a strong academic program and teachers who deeply care about the students they are teaching. It is a place for students to reach their fullest academic potential and to develop into confident, responsible and caring young adults who are prepared for life challenges and future endeavors.

Novak lives in Napa.

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Highland Adventist students learn survival skills

Students from Highland Adventist School braved a late spring snow storm to travel into the forest to learn about survival.

The school's annual survival campout, which focuses on teaching students various tasks such as creating shelters from natural materials and building a fire with tools other than matches, was canceled due to a storm front. However, as soon as the snow slowed down, an adventurous group of students and staff headed into the forest for a day trip to practice their survival skills.

"Everything was soggy, but we got a fire going and cooked our supper. We also made good progress on building an emergency shelter using materials we found in the forest," said Cheryl Jacko, principal. "We hope our students are never in a perilous situation, but it is gratifying to know they have some knowledge to help them in an emergency."

Outdoor Skills training is a regular part of the curriculum of Highland Adventist School. For more information, contact the school at www.highlandadventistschool.org or call 304-636-4274.
Columbia resident Celeste Ryan Blyden was promoted to vice president for strategic communication and public relations at the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists recently.

Blyden previously served as assistant to the president of the union, the church’s Mid-Atlantic headquarters, also located in Columbia.

“We appreciate the contributions you have made to the mission of the church here in the Columbia Union. We applaud your dedication and service,” said Dave Weigley, union president, following the unanimous board vote of Blyden’s appointment.

“It was one of those decisions where you could catch and feel the electricity in the room. It was time to do this. This is the right thing to do. It is the first time, to my knowledge, that the Columbia Union has had a woman vice president,” he said as the room exploded with a standing ovation.

In addition to her new duties, she will continue to lead the communication department and serve as publisher of the union’s monthly news magazine, the Visitor. During her tenure, Blyden and her team grew the Visitor brand to include a weekly email newsletter, videos, websites, the popular annual calendar, social media and other platforms.

Blyden has a Bachelor of Science in Communication and Counseling Psychology from Washington Adventist University and a Master of Arts in Organizational Communication from Bowie State University.

She lives in Columbia with her husband, Austin, and two daughters.
Ministry will move its headquarters to Loveland

A worker carries discarded materials Thursday out of the south end of the Chase Bank building at Sixth Street and Lincoln Avenue in downtown Loveland. The Seventh-day Adventist Church's Voice of Prophecy ministry has leased the building and will move its headquarters to Loveland in the fall. (Jenny Sparks / Loveland Reporter-Herald)

LOVELAND -- A Christian ministry whose founder grew up in the Loveland area is moving its headquarters here.

Voice of Prophecy, the international radio voice of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, on Wednesday leased an office building in downtown Loveland.

"From a downtown perspective, I think this deal is huge for us," said Patrick O'Donnell, the Realtec broker who arranged the multiyear lease on the south end of the Chase Bank building. "It's bringing over 40 jobs to downtown.

"For the first time in a long, long time, that Chase Bank building is 100 percent full," he said.

Voice of Prophecy will use all 23,800 square feet in the south end of the building, at the northwest corner of Sixth Street and Lincoln Avenue, he said.

The building — two stories above ground and one below — has been vacant since Colorado vNet moved out in 2008.

O'Donnell isn't the only one happy about the move.

"We're very excited," said Jean Boonstra, associate speaker for Voice of Prophecy and wife of speaker/director Shawn Boonstra.

Moving from California

Since its launch in 1929 in Los Angeles, the ministry has maintained its headquarters in California, most recently in Simi Valley.

Boonstra said the North American division of the Seventh-day Adventists owns a large media center there, which is
home to several church ministries. But the organization recently decided to sell its facilities.

"Some of the other ministries are staying in California, and we chose to do something different and restart the ministry and take everything to Colorado," she said.

Voice of Prophecy will make the move in the fall, she said, and will stay in downtown Loveland for at least five years. Eventually, though, the ministry plans to build a new facility in the Campion community south of Loveland, where the church owns property.

Moving the ministry to Colorado brings it back to the roots of its founder, H.M.S. Richards. In 1914, he was an early graduate of Campion Academy, an Adventist school founded in 1907. Campion also is the site of an elementary school named after H.M.S. Richards.

While serving as a pastor in Canada, Richards saw the potential of the brand-new medium of radio, according to the ministry's website. After moving to California, he started broadcasting the "Tabernacle of the Air" program. He was the man behind the Voice of Prophecy microphone for 40 years and then assisted with the ministry for another 16 years until his death in 1985.

"Emotional and Sentimental Pull to Loveland"

"We felt, of course, an emotional and sentimental pull to Loveland because of our founder's roots there," Boonstra said. But there were practical reasons for the choice as well.

The church-owned property will allow Voice of Prophecy to "eventually create a real media hub there," she said. And Campion's relative proximity to Denver International Airport will make the ministry's team's frequent travel convenient.

Boonstra said only 12 to 15 of the ministry's employees will make the move. "As we rebuild our team, we'll have up to 40 people," she said.

The building in Loveland will provide office and recording studio space for the radio ministry and its Discover Bible School — an international distance-learning program offered around the world in more than 50 languages.

Voice of Prophecy is moving into new media, Boonstra said, but maintaining its original purpose.

"Our goal is to connect people to Jesus Christ and help people who are seeking him to find him," she said.

Harold Alomia, senior pastor at the Campion Seventh-day Adventist Church, said he first heard about the move in January.

"We're happy for the possibility of interaction ... and the opportunity of being part of that ministry and them being part of our church community," he said.

"It's a very exciting opportunity for our high school kids," he added. "It gives them the possibility of expanding their education."

Contact Reporter-Herald Staff Writer Craig Young at 970-635-3634 or cyoung@reporter-herald.com. Follow him at twitter.com/CraigYoungRH.
A Compassion Annual Rally in Portland and Compassion Prayer March Against Domestic Violence over the Casco Bay Bridge brought hundreds of marchers from South Portland into Portland Saturday.

Organizers counted more than 80 groups from all over the Atlantic Union Conference and beyond, some all the way from Orlando, Fla., and Atlanta, Ga., according to the Adventist Youth Ministries website (http://auyouth.com/compassion-rally-portland-maine-update-1/).

"Though Portland is one of the birthplaces of the Adventist Church, and the home of Ellen G. White and some of our founders, it is also the third most Post-Christian City of the United States, a place where the love of Christ is needed," organizers reported. "... By the end of the weekend, we project to donate between 10,000 — 12,000 hours of community services, acts of kindness and compassion to the inhabitants of Portland and its suburbs."
DID YOU KNOW WE WILL LIVE WITH GOD IN OUR NEW HOME FOREVER?

On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate and inanimate, will declare that God is love; and He shall reign forever. Amen.

2 PETER 3:13

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

ISAIAH 35

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.” Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

ISAIAH 65:17-25

“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. “Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach[a] a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,” says the Lord.

MATTHEW 5:5

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

REVELATION 21:1-7

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God's dwelling place is
now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” 5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

REVELATION 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

REVELATION 11:15

15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”