We read this story in the Mid-America Union’s December issue of the Outlook and thought you’d enjoy reading this amazing story as well!

September 17, 2012 was a day of miraculous deliverance at Johnson Corners Christian Academy (JCCA) near Watford City, North Dakota. An out-of-control semi-truck careened off the highway, smashing into the school facility, causing significant damage. Amazingly no one inside the school was killed or seriously injured.

At the Johnson Corners intersection, the semi was traveling 63 mph when it hit a car that failed to yield, knocking the truck driver unconscious. The semi then “bunny hopped” a ditch, careened up an embankment, plowed through a chain-link fence, hit a school bus and a student's pickup truck, and slammed into the school.

“It was like watching a video game as everything exploded,” reported Devin, a student. He stood up just before a large printer hit him in the midsection. Had he not stood, he might not have lived to tell the story.

Students raced to the chapel for refuge, where they realized that not everyone had made it out of their classroom. Three students were missing: Sandi, Lois and one of the senior guys. Sandi and Lois had been closest to the door where the semi had entered the room. Sandi remembers thinking as the bumper of the truck hit her, “This is going to hurt.” Both girls escaped, white with sheetrock dust. The senior boy had run around to check on the driver of the semi. He smashed a window in the cab and pulled out the driver, still unconscious.

At the time of the accident, sisters Josie and Shelly were sitting in the lunchroom. Olivia, a younger student, was outside on the playground tying her shoe before running off to play. Suddenly she jumped up with a horrified look on her face, giving the others a couple of seconds’ warning before the room exploded. Josie reported, “There was a whooshing sound.” Her chair went flying across the carpet as if on ice. She started screaming...
Hymns and prayers of thanksgiving resonated through the Vancouver Church on November 10, as the Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus (OAMC) celebrated what God did in South Africa this past summer. Five guests from South Africa were on hand to help tell the stories and relate the growth of the church in South Africa as a result of this mission. Live streaming facilitated by the NPUC and Oregon Conference enabled viewers from all over the U.S. and South Africa to participate remotely.

In August, the Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus (OAMC) reunited with Romanian singers in South Africa. The Arise O Man Chorale (AOM) in Johannesburg included choruses and singers from South Africa as well as the countries of Botswana, Zimbabwe and Lesotho. Together these groups prayed, traveled, kept divine appointments, experienced miracles and, yes, created wonderful music! Their first joint appearance was held without rehearsal in the village of Moruleng, in a large tent on bare dirt. Not only was it the first time all the groups had sung together, it was also the first time white and black people had worshipped together in that community.

In one of the greatest miracles, Stephan Moerane was baptized in the hotel swimming pool on the final Sabbath. A church now stands on the property. A school and clinic will soon be built on the site as well. Through contacts made in November, the possibility of staffing the school and clinic with student missionaries from the Northwest is closer to becoming reality.

A 13-hour trip from Johannesburg to Cape Town turned into more than 20 hours, with delays caused by a medical emergency and bus breakdowns. The South African winter dropped temperatures so low the heaters on the buses couldn’t even warm the travellers’ feet.

“I didn’t want to meet the buses when they rolled in,” says Lou Wildman, OAMC conductor. “I heard of the grueling conditions. When the first person came off the bus, I fully expected to get an earful. What I heard was, ‘Lou, you should have been there! It was amazing!’ There were stories of witnessing in a truck stop, in an emergency room, on a broken down bus. Mokale Koapeng, AOM’s conductor, says, “I have never seen God’s hand at work like it has been in this project. There are so many miracles that have taken place. There are so many blessings that have occurred.”

Read more stories, learn where God is leading this ministry, and check the concert schedule at www.oamc.org.

SINGING MISSIONARIES

By Louise Craig

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing, not knowing why it was sliding so fast but realizing she had to quickly evacuate the room.

Meanwhile, Shelly’s chair was pushed into the table by a collapsing wall, pinning her. A friend pulled the sheet rock off her and they ran to the chapel as the ceiling came down. Shelly remembers having to jump over a lot of debris.

Barbara Henderson, longtime staff member, and mother of Josie and Shelly, recalls: "No one did what they usually do that day." Principal Timmons usually takes phone calls or has a one-on-one study course in his office with a student during that time. It was his empty office that was hit first. Another teacher who usually goes to her room to make phone calls decided she was hungry and left her room. It was demolished. Henderson’s daughter, who usually carries her books to the classroom before lunch, decided not to that day. That classroom also was destroyed.

The bus was not usually parked in the spot where it was struck by the truck. The pickup was never parked in that location. Both slowed the momentum of the semi and changed its direction before it slammed into the school, likely saving all the children’s lives. With the pickup in front of the semi, the wall was pushed inward from the bottom first instead of collapsing onto the children from the top, allowing for escape. Even the boy in the bathroom made it out as the semi plowed 60 feet into the school—destroying the principal’s office, three classrooms, the lunchroom, and the boys’ bathroom.

Henderson later told the 19 JCCA students (from five religious affiliations), “I think God has a great work for each one of you. You are going to be witnesses and testify to family and friends because of what happened here.” She also asked Hannah, driver of the pickup, why she had parked where she did that day. Hannah replied, “I never park facing east. I never do that!” Barbara assured her, “God had a plan. He needed you to do that.”

And the whooshing sound? The students believe it was the sound of angels’ wings.

All photos by Ralph Stathem
The Recipe Exchange

This month’s recipe originally was found in the November 2011 issue of Better Homes and Gardens magazine, but has been tweaked and is shared here with you.

This dish is as easy to make as it is tasty! It’s also a great dish to bring to potluck, a family get-together, or just supper at home. High in fiber and protein, and inexpensive to make, this dish is sure to be a winner at your house!

What are you making to keep you warm on the inside this winter? Share your soup, stew, and broth recipes with us and we’ll share them here in the eCommunique! Please send vegetarian or vegan recipes, and be sure to include preparation directions. Email your recipes to krissy.barber@oc.npuc.org.

I Don’t Drive on Sabbath

It was late one evening when Ghennadii arrived in Texas to pick up his next load. He parked the truck in the yard and waited until the next morning for the truck to be loaded. During the wait, he met a fellow truck driver and they struck up a conversation. Ghennadii eventually gave him one of the Steps to Christ books he always carries.

The drivers continued talking. When the second driver found out that Ghennadii was from Portland, Oregon, he commented, “If you get your cargo Thursday morning, you will be home Saturday morning.”

Ghennadii replied, “No, on Saturday, I don’t drive. I rest.” The other driver asked why, and Ghennadii explained, “Because the Ten Commandments in the Bible say to rest.”

The driver (who happened to be Mexican) replied, “I have never heard or read that! What are you talking about? Is this in my Spanish Bible?”

Ghennadii opened his Bible to Exodus 20 and read the verses to him. He could tell the other driver was thinking about the things he was hearing. The man responded, “You must have a special version of the Bible, not just the common Bible. I don’t believe that.” Ghennadii asked the other driver if he had a Bible at home and wrote down where to find the passage in his Bible.

Suddenly, the second driver realized that one of his relatives, who was also a truck driver, was in the yard with his truck, and that he always carried a Spanish Bible with him. They walked over and asked if he had his Bible with him. (Ghennadii took a book to give to him as well.) He pulled the Bible out from under his pillow, and handed it to Ghennadii. Ghennadii looked up Exodus 20 and handed it to the others to read. They read verses 8-11 with surprise. Never before, had they heard the commandment about resting on the Sabbath!

This year, here in the eCommunique we’ve been sharing the stories of Ghennadii Muzica, a man who shares his faith with those God puts in his path each day. While this year is at an end, you will continue to see stories about Ghennadii’s travels occasionally in the eCommunique. You can, as always, find the other stories in this series, in eCommunique Archives on the Oregon Conference website at www.oregonconference.org/ecommunique-archives. We’re glad to have been able to share these stories with you!

Roasted Vegetables and Chickpeas

Ingredients

1 lb carrots, peeled, cut in 2-in pieces
1 lb sweet potatoes, peeled, cubed
1 large red onion, cut in thin wedges
1 lb red or russet potatoes, cubed
6 cloves of garlic, minced
1 16 oz can chickpeas (garbanzos) drained

2-3 tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp. dried rosemary, crushed
1 tsp. packed brown sugar
1/2 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 tsp. pepper

Directions

• Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. • Place all vegetables, garlic, and chickpeas in a large shallow roasting pan or jelly roll pan. • In a small bowl combine the oil, rosemary, brown sugar, salt, and pepper. Drizzle over vegetables, toss well to coat. • Roast, uncovered, about 45 minutes or until vegetables are lightly browned and tender, stirring twice.
NOTE WORTHY...

FRONTIER MISSIONARY KILLED IN ACCIDENT
John Lello, a 1991 Walla Walla University graduate and Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) worker in Papua New Guinea, was tragically killed the end of November in an accident while felling trees near the project site. Working with AFM since 2009, Lello had only recently arrived with his family at a remote village in the island nation’s East Sepik Province to minister to the animist Ana tribe. At the time of the accident, they were felling trees to build a house. Pam Lello, and daughters, Alissa and Abby, were flown to Port Moresby where they were met by another missionary family. In spite of the remote and challenging nature of this work, Lello is the first AFM missionary to die in the field in the ministry’s 27-year history. AFM has set up a website at http://bit.ly/V8XEcA for friends to share stories, memories and support for the Lello family.

SITCOM STAR’S SPIRITUAL JOURNEY
Angus T. Jones, the 19-year-old actor who plays the part of “Jake” in the television show Two and a Half Men, has made public his recent spiritual journey and conversion to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The story went viral when Jones criticized the morality of the sitcom and urged people not to watch. Please keep this young man in your prayers as he begins his walk with God. Jones was interviewed for a recent episode of Turning Point and shown on Hope Channel. An additional interview with Jones is available with Christianity Today at http://bit.ly/UpPZ6v. George Johnson, North American Division (NAD) communication director, says, “We welcome and support for the Lello family.

ADVENTIST PRESIDENT CALLS FOR “DAY OF PRAYER, FASTING” TO SUPPORT FALSELY ACCUSED MEMBERS
Seventh-day Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson called for an International Day of Prayer and Fasting to be held on December 1 to rally support raise awareness of the plight of two Adventists currently imprisoned in the West African country of Togo. Antonio dos Anjos Monteiro, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director for the church’s Sahel Union Mission, headquartered in Lome; and Bruno Amah, an Adventist lay member and businessman in Lome were placed in prison this past spring, and are continuing to be held despite local authorities admitting they are innocent. While the December 1 event has passed, please continue to pray for the release of these men and other members who are wrongfully imprisoned.

TV STATION SURPRISES SPOKANE TEACHER
News anchor Stephanie Vigil, from KHQ, visited Palsades Christian Academy Thursday, November 15 and presented the Teacher of the Month Award to Judy Castrejon for her outstanding work as an educator. Castrejon, who teaches math, science and fifth and sixth grades at PCA, joins a select group of educators in Eastern Washington who’ve received the award from KHQ Television and Eastern Washington University.

ADVENTIST CHURCH IN THE NETHERLANDS ON WOMEN’S ORDINATION
Two hundred delegates representing 56 Adventist Churches across the Netherlands spent considerable time discussing a motion on the ordination of women, which eventually passed with a large majority. The action that was taken seeks to involve the Union in the current study process led by the Trans-European Division. You can read more on this motion at http://bit.ly/V6RmtB.

NPUC OPENS DIALOGUE ON ORDI NATION WITHOUT REGARD TO GENDER
During their regularly-scheduled quarterly meeting held Nov. 14 in Ridgefield, Wash., North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive committee members voted to engage Northwest membership in a discussion on gender-inclusiveness in gospel ministry. They approved a motion to 1) inform and educate Northwest members of the rationale toward biblical church leadership without regard to gender; 2) engage and encourage constituents in structured conversation and discussion on women in ministry; and 3) call a special session of the NPUC constituency to address ministerial ordination without regard to gender. The motion was presented in response to extensive reports provided by an Ad Hoc Committee on Women in Leadership which met during 2012. An online question and answer page about this vote and proposed process is available at http://bit.ly/Qnl54d.

JIMENEZ TO JOIN NAD OFFICE
Ray Jimenez III, currently Montana Conference vice president for administration/finance, will begin a new role Jan. 1, 2013, as an associate administrator for the North American Division (NAD) Adventist Retirement office in Silver Spring, Md. Before coming to the Montana Conference in 2006, Jimenez served as treasurer for the New Jersey Conference.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE PASTOR WINS STEWARDSHIP SERMON AWARD
Winners in a recent Stewardship Sermon contest were announced recently. Out of 100 sermon entered, Robin Song, pastor of the Living Vine Fellowship Church in Washington Conference, was one of 12 awarded. The contest was open to active or retired ministers as well as graduate ministerial students. Sponsored by the North American Division (NAD) stewardship and ministerial departments as well as Ministry magazine, the winning sermons will be published in a book to be made available to pastors and church leaders.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY TO HOLD COMMUNITY BLANKET DRIVE
This fall, volunteers from Walla Walla University (WWU) will be collecting new or gently used blankets, sleeping bags, and cold weather apparel for their fifth annual Blanket Drive. The drive is sponsored by the WWU chaplain’s office and will run from Nov. 12, 2012 – Feb. 8 2013. There are drop off locations around College Place and Walla Walla, Wash., as well as several locations around the WWU campus. Last year students collected more than 400 blankets and nearly 30 sleeping bags. The blankets will be distributed through local service agencies as well as the Portland Rescue Mission. Visit http://bit.ly/V6LVNC for more information and drop-off locations.

ADVENTISTS AID SUPERSTORM RELIEF
While the hurricane winds and sea swells have died down in the Northeast, the disaster left in its wake still remains. Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) is on the scene, along with other agencies, delivering personal care kits and blankets, setting up comfort stations and operating a multi-agency warehouse. During the North American Division (NAD) year-end meetings in Silver Spring, Md. a $500,000 emergency relief grant was voted as well as a special offering that was taken up on Nov. 10. Visit http://bit.ly/UEoTU6 for response reports and to find out how you can help!

FOLKENBERGS CALLED BY GOD
Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) has announced that Elder Bob Folkenberg, Jr., has accepted a call to serve as President of the Chinese Union Mission based in Hong Kong. He will be leaving to assume this new post effective January 1st. Bob has served as president of Upper Columbia conference since early 2009. During that time he implemented groundbreaking evangelism methods that changed how local churches approach outreach. In addition to outreach, Bob also worked to oversee the reconstruction of the UCC headquarters in the wake of the 2008 fire that destroyed much of the previous facility. The North Pacific Union leadership will begin working with the UCC Nominating and Executive Committees to find a new president. In the meantime, Elder Doug Johnson, Vice President for Administration, will serve as interim administrator for the conference.

For additional news visit http://www.oregonconference.org/news_entries
For More announcement & event information please visit www.oregonconference.org/announcements — This page is updated weekly.
Transitions

Jeff Kimmell is scheduled to join the Oregon Conference office as Bible Worker Coordinator in mid-December.

SUNSET CALENDAR

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THE QUIET OF WINTER

By Bruce Forbes

A publication of the Oregon Conference Communication Department • Gary McLain, director • Krissy Barber, administrative assistant
To submit stories, announcements, or to get in touch with us please email us at krissy.barber@oc.npuc.org or call 503.850.3500
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