It was 3:00 am and Ron Davis, manager of Better Life Television (BLTV), was seeking God's will for the television ministry and had not slept all night. As he continued praying, he was strongly impressed by God to "go ye into all of Oregon and further into California, reaching as many as you can as quick as you can, with the saving message of Jesus Christ!" Little did he know what power lay behind that command.

It was soon after this that Ron learned of a pair of TV stations for sale in the areas of Roseburg and Eugene, Oregon. The full-power Roseburg channel would not only broadcast over the air, but by law would also have to be carried on Dish Network, DirecTV and basic cable in Benton, Coos, Douglas, and Lane counties! The stations would have a great reach, but the asking price was a whopping $4 million!

Better Life didn’t have the money for such a big project. However, seeing the impact of television in southern Oregon, coupled with God’s command to go forward, compelled them to try. After consultation with the BLTV board and a lot of prayer, Better Life stepped out in faith and made an offer of $2.7 million.

Amazingly, the sellers accepted, and Better Life began in earnest to raise the funds! Over time they received donations and commitments totaling nearly $1.3 million. Then, right in the middle of fundraising, the unthinkable happened! The seller sold the station to a different buyer!

In disbelief and disappointment, Better Life returned the funds and released those who had made commitments. However, the prayers continued in belief that this station was meant for God’s work, and that God would work it out.

In September 2008, the seller contacted Better Life to say, “The buyer withdrew his offer. Are you still interested?” Needless to say, they were.

GOD MUST LOVE A BARGAIN!

By Marta Davis

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...
ecstatic at this miraculous turn of events! God had indeed answered their prayers! After more prayers and meetings, they decided to offer only $1.9 million for the station ($800,000 less than their original offer!) The seller reluctantly accepted.

Again, fund raising began in an attempt to meet a looming deadline, but the economic downturn had taken its toll and money was tight. Then suddenly and unexpectedly the seller filed for bankruptcy. Better Life was stunned and wondered, "Now what do we do, Lord?"

Better Life was informed they would now be negotiating with the bankruptcy court. Negotiations began and finally a purchase price of $975,000 was agreed upon ($725,000 less than their second offer). They could see God’s fingerprints all over these amazing events!

With only one day left, two church members offered loans totaling $200,000. Better Life asked their attorney to make an offer of $900,000. The attorney felt sure it would be rejected, but went ahead. God had other plans however, and the offer was accepted!

Finally, three years later, in July 2009, they purchased the stations for less than a quarter of the original asking price! Today, God is using KTVC to broadcast the transforming truth of God’s word to over half million potential viewers, & KAMK to broadcast the transforming truth of God’s word to over half million potential viewers, and meetings, they decided to offer only $1.9 million for the station ($800,000 less than their original offer!) The seller reluctantly accepted.

That evening, plans were laid for further 180 Symposiums to continue the vision of young adults actively involved in ministry. But it didn’t end there that night. Just this week I received an email from the parent of one of our youth who had committed to go on a mission trip to hold evangelistic meetings. “Our experience in Costa Rica has been amazing! Nick is at a location 30 min from the school-up in the mountains. 30-40 non believers every night! Last night, 10 asked for baptism. Five meetings left. Praise the Lord and give Him the glory.” Our youth are not the church of tomorrow. They are fully part of our church today and have a passion to share the mission with us. All are “members in ministry” from our youngest to the most senior. The body of Christ needs all the body parts working together. Then we will see His kingdom come.
THE UNEXPECTED GIFT

By Fonda Cox

It came as a unique request, “What are your needs?” Madrone Adventist School’s K-8 teacher, Amy Whitchurch, quietly wrote out a long and extensive list of all the things she needed for her school. The list was expansive as they were on a very tight budget and the needs were great. She assumed that items would be chosen off the list, so she kept on writing.

Then one December day the Madrone Adventist School got an invitation to come visit the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School, 36 miles away. The Madrone students quietly and shyly filed in. The Grants Pass students quickly enveloped the visiting students with heart felt welcomes and “hey, come here and look at all the presents.”

There before their eyes were mountains of gifts, 30 or 40 of them. All were wrapped individually. These weren’t your ordinary gifts of toys and clothes, these were the things listed on Madrone’s wish list of needs. The fact they were used didn’t even matter. Classroom chairs, a music stand, a hot glue gun and a complete set of encyclopedias. It was better than anything they could have dreamed of.

Afterwards the younger students joined together and played table games, while the older students had a rousing game of basketball together. What a treat for the Madrone students to have a larger group to play with.

With smiles still on their faces, the Madrone students and staff loaded the rest of the gifts into their cars, to be opened at their own Christmas party later that month. Squeals of delight were heard as they opened up presents containing things like copy paper, white and colored… enough to last them the rest of the school year.

Amy Whitchurch comments, “it was such a blessing to be reminded that we are all working together and not alone in this work for the Lord!” Thank you, Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School, and Principal Judy Clark, for showing all of us what it means to truly love our neighbor.

THE RECORD KEEPER

By Fonda Cox

Films in Portland

City streets used as film sets aren’t uncommon in Portland. Signs can be seen blocking off a block or two due to the large camera rigs, lighting, and trailers that come with the filming of a TV show or movie. In late January, however, Portland saw a slightly different shoot come to town.

A series began filming in the Portland area of another type—a web series, with a mission. The pilot for The Record Keeper series was shot some time ago. In fact, you may have seen it on Vimeo or YouTube. It portrays the attempt of an angel, working for Heaven’s administration, to record the events following the split in Heaven, and the defection of the human race, without becoming personally involved. Told in a somewhat allegorical manner, utilizing steampunk flavor, the series aims to break preconceived ideas of the involvement of angels in the history of mankind.

The 11-episode web series was designed to correspond to the 11 chapters in new sharing version of The Great Controversy—The Great Hope. Each episode will be 10-15 minutes in length, just right for sharing and discussing in a limited amount of time. The plan for this series includes study and discussion guides to go with each episode for use in Sabbath schools, Bible studies, small groups, or personal study use.

The original plan was to continue filming the series in the same location the pilot was shot—The Governor Hotel in downtown Portland. However, God had other ideas.

The Governor wasn’t available for the length of time needed, so the crew scrambled to find another suitable location. That’s when the producers stumbled across the Wapato Jail. The jail was built in 2004, but was never put into service. The jail’s size and location make it ideal for building sets and housing all the details to create a project such as this.

God also saw to it that the jail was less expensive than The Governor, which made the funds available for higher quality sets, costumes, and special effects.

Using both local and national cast and crew, the series has proven to be quite the witnessing tool, even in its filming. No filming was done on Friday after sundown or on Sabbath, giving the cast and crew time to rest, but also opening the door to more biblical discussions.

Filming in Portland wrapped up in mid March. Look for the release of this series beginning early this fall!

Visit http://on.fb.me/Qx6akI to learn more about this exciting project!
NOTE WORTHY...

MONTANA CONFERENCE FILLS VACANCY
Montana Conference announced that they have hired Phil Hudema to fill the position of Superintendent of Education/Youth, Communication, Health Ministries and National Serviceman's Organization (NSO). The position was left vacant earlier this year when Archie Harris left to become Associate Superintendent of Education for the Washington Conference. Hudema and his wife, Kristie, have a college age son and an academy age daughter. Currently finishing the school year as principal of the Conejo Adventist Elementary School in Newberry Park, Calif., Hudema plans to arrive in Montana in time for camp meeting.

CHURCH CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY
2013 marks the sesquicentennial, or 150th anniversary, of the founding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The world church is marking the event with a theme of “United for Mission” and has launched a website with stories of earlier first’s from the churches history. This anniversary, May 20–21, marks the days delegates from all Seventh-day Adventist congregations met and organized as a church under the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Read the stories and learn more about the early church history at http://bit.ly/14ziyvf.

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY MARKS THE LARGEST ADVENTIST SOCIAL MEDIA EVENT
Hundreds of thousands of Adventist youth from around the world participated March 16 in Global Youth Day. The youth skipped hearing the sermon at church in order to demonstrate the sermon in practical ways in their communities. They served in local nursing homes and hospitals in England, gave blood in Tanzania, and prayed for motorists on a busy street in Puerto Rico. In South Africa, youth made breakfast for local law enforcement officers. More than 80,000 youth were connected to the event through Facebook and Twitter, with updates being broadcast online and on the Hope Channel throughout the day from around the world. Watch some of the archived recordings and pictures on Facebook at http://on.fb.me/ZE9PGk and read the news story from Adventist News Network at http://bit.ly/YWB9sT.

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY NEEDS YOUR VOTE
Oakwood University is in the running for a large improvement grant and needs your vote! The Home Depot is sponsoring a contest between historically black colleges and universities titled “Retool Your School.” The Campus Pride Grant will go to the school with the most votes. The contest will award a total of $195,000 in 14 different grants and will be won by a combination of votes and social media activity. With 75 schools in the running, Oakwood is in a close contest for first place with another university and could use your help! Vote daily till April 15 and share it with your friends on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the hashtag #OakwoodRYS2013. Visit http://bit.ly/WZB9L1 to cast your vote!

PAKISTANI ADVENTISTS AFFECTED BY MOB VIOLENCE
Residents of a Christian community in eastern Pakistan were recently attacked in response to alleged insults against the prophet Muhammad. The unrest, which brought damage to the Adventist church and members’ homes, started after a report circulated that a young Christian man had committed blasphemy against Islam’s prophet. On March 9, thousands of protesters set fire to the property of Christians throughout the community. Adventist pastor Afzal Bhatti’s rented home was destroyed as well as those of 40 Adventist families. Bhatti and his wife, who barely escaped the violence, were back in the neighborhood the next morning ministering to affected community members. Read the complete story at http://bit.ly/YMtXzb.

UPDATE ON IMPRISONED TOGO ADVENTIST PASTOR
Previously, the Gleaner featured the story of Togo Adventist pastor Antonio Monteiro who was imprisoned on unsupported charges. Church lawyers and human rights activists continue to work to secure the release of Monteiro. Despite much lobbying, documented history of the witness’s mental instability and several major public campaigns, the government has refused to release him. “We are disappointed that our request has once again been refused, despite our ongoing efforts,” said Guy Roger, president of the Sahel Union Mission. The pastor is well and “by God’s grace, expecting a miracle.” Read the full story at http://bit.ly/10hPllp.

MARY RICHARDS REMEMBERED
Mary Margaret Richards, wife of H.M.S. Richards Jr., former Voice of Prophecy speaker/director, passed away in late February. Richards, who was 82, died of complications from surgery. A service was held March 9 at the Auburn Adventist Academy Church in Auburn, Wash. The Wedgewood Trio, along with Connie Jeffery, recorded a tribute song to her, “The World is Not My Home” and it is available on YouTube at http://bit.ly/XloyH1. Additionally you can read a tribute from Connie Jeffery at http://bit.ly/13BMxTN.

THE ADVENTISTS 2 TO BE RELEASED SOON
The Adventists 2 is slated to be released soon. The film is the sequel to The Adventists, an award-winning film seen on Public Television stations that became a national success. It examines how Adventists are changing healthcare around the world. The DVD will be distributed by Pacific Press.

HOPE CHANNEL POLAND LAUNCHED
The beginning of 2013 marks a breakthrough in the media ministry of the Polish Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (PUC). A dynamic growth of the Voice of Hope Adventist Media Centre (VoH AMC) resulted in launching the Hope Channel Poland, which extended the worldwide family of the Adventist television channels. Read more by visiting http://bit.ly/XgO1p.

NEW SEMINARY DEAN APPOINTED
Old Testament scholar Jiri Moskala was recently chosen to serve as the new dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He will be replacing outgoing dean Denis Fortin who announced in October 2012, that he will be returning to teaching. Moskala, who has been at the Seminary since 1996, currently serves as professor of Old Testament exegesis and theology and chair of the Department of Old Testament. He will start as dean July 1, 2013.

WILKINS TO LEAVE MOUNT ELLIS ACADEMY
Long-time Mount Ellis Academy principal, Darren S. Wilkins, announced that he will be leaving the Bozeman, Mont., academy in July to become principal of Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, Ohio. Wilkins, who has been at Mount Ellis since 2009, has been instrumental in redefining the image of the school by establishing a variety of new programs. Under his leadership, the academy has seen the addition of a week-long outdoor school, learning trips to Europe, development of a master plan for the campus, a new cafeteria and a $500,000 grant from Kohl’s Cares for Kids. Additionally, the school now has a vibrant international student program.

COLLEGE STUDENTS Raising Money For Wells
Walla Walla University students have joined with Wilkinson Baking Company and other donors to raise money to build up to 10 wells and provide water for as many as 30,000 people. After learning that the average Mozambican is surviving on an average of 8 ounces of water per day, the Associated Students of Walla Walla University chose to take this on as a service project. The students hope to raise $60,000, with the help of generous matching donations, to build and maintain 10 wells. Several fundraisers are planned, including the International Food Festival, April 7, in College Place, Wash. Read more about the project at http://bit.ly/X10o2h.

For additional news visit http://www.oregonconference.org/news_entries
DERROL SAWYER CONCERT
When: April 7, 5:00 pm
Location: Castle Rock Adventist Church
Visit Castle Rock Adventist Church for a special concert by musician and songwriter Derrol Sawyer, April 7. Come at 5:00 pm for a potluck dinner followed by the sacred music concert at 6:30 pm. Castle Rock Adventist Church is located at 7531 Old Pacific Hwy North, Castle Rock, Wash.

THE KING’S HERALDS IN CONCERT
When: April 13, 7:00 pm
Location: Adventist Community Church of Vancouver
Enjoy the sound of The King’s Heralds Quartet in concert at the Adventist Community Church of Vancouver, Saturday, April 13, 7:00 pm. The concert is free. A free-will offering will be taken. The Adventist Community Church of Vancouver is located at 9711 NE St. Johns Rd, Vancouver, Wash.

DINNER WITH A DOCTOR
When: June 25, 6:30 pm
Location: Castle Rock Adventist Church
Dinner with a Doctor was a real success in March! The Castle Rock Adventist Church is delighted to have as the June guest speaker, Joyce Choe, M.D., M.P.H. Joyce is a Cataract Surgeon and Glaucoma Specialist with the Pacific Cataract & Laser Institute. She loves sharing her insights on healthy living. Join us on June 25 at 6:30 pm at the Castle Rock Adventist Church. A light supper will be served. Reserve your place by calling: Wanda 360-967-2165 or Jeanne 360-274-6709

SIMPLY COOKING CLASS
When: May 30, 6:30 pm
Location: Castle Rock Adventist Church
“Simply Cooking” is a free, monthly, vegan class led by Ronni Reinecke at the Castle Rock Adventist Church. We invite anyone interested in plant-based eating to attend on May 30 at 6:30 pm. We are having a delightful time getting to know people from our community. Reserve your place with a call to: Wanda 360-967-2165 or Jeanne 360-274-6709

JEFFREY ROSARIO SPEAKING AT CASCADE
When: April 13, 2013
Location: Cascade Adventist Church, Bend, Ore.
Jeffrey Rosario will be the guest speaker at the Cascade Adventist Church in Bend on Sabbath morning, April 13, for both Sabbath school and the main service. Jeffrey is a young evangelist, revivalist, and trainer. His “down to earth” demeanor and biblically sound preaching have made him a featured and favorite speaker all over the world. Cascade Adventist Church is located at 60670 Brookswood in Bend. For more information visit www.lightbearers.org.

9 WAYS TO PREVENT DIABETES CLASS
When: April 8, 7:00 pm
Location: Pleasant Valley Adventist Church
One out of 10 adults already has diabetes and one out of 3 has pre-diabetes! The good news is that most cases of type 2 diabetes are preventable by making wise lifestyle choices. Founder and Board Chair of Wellnessource, Don Hall, DiPH, CHES, will be presenting “9 Ways to Prevent Diabetes”, April 2 at 7:00 pm. Hall is a fitness, nutrition, coronary health, and health promotion expert. Evidence indicates that as much as 90% of type 2 diabetes is preventable! Learn how you can prevent it! This event will be held at the Pleasant Valley Adventist Church - 11125 SE 172nd Ave. Happy Valley Ore.

GAYS IN THE FAMILY: HOW WOULD JESUS RESPOND
When: April 5-6, 2013
Location: Gladstone Park Conference Center
This event, sponsored by the North Pacific Union Conference, will be held at the Holden Convention Center in Gladstone, Ore., April 5-6. (Friday, 7:00 pm, Sabbath 9:00 am) Speakers include pastors, a family therapist, and a theologian, and three men and two women who will share their testimonies. Cost: $15 per person. Please register ahead of time to ensure a seat – and plan to attend both Friday evening and Sabbath. Cost includes Sabbath lunch. Register by calling 360-857-7033 or by visiting http://bit.ly/XtkxU. Visit http://bit.ly/X4Ulpn more information on this event.

BLACKWOOD LEGACY CONCERT
When: April 27, 5:00 pm
Location: Hood View Adventist Church
Join us at Hood View Adventist Church at 5:00 pm on April 27th for a concert with Blackwood Legacy! This amazing group comes to you directly from Nashville. The Blackwood Legacy is led by 36-year Southern Gospel veteran, Rick Price who spent much of his career with the legendary Blackwood Brothers Quartet, winners of 9 Grammy and 27 Dove Awards. Be prepared for a time of music and ministry that will appeal to all ages. The Hood View Adventist Church is located at 26775 SE Kelso Road, Boring, Ore.

CERTIFIED SENIOR ADVISOR TRAINING
When: June 17-20, 2013
Location: Oregon Conference Headquarters
A Certified Senior Advisor Training (CSA) is coming to Oregon Conference June 17-20. The Member Ministries Department will host this four-day event in the Conference Office Board Room. CSA provides extensive education about the health, financial and social issues that impact seniors such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, nutrition, caregiver stress, grief, etc. Call 1-888-828-9209 or lizg@csa.us.

OAMC SPRING FESTIVAL CONCERT
When: April 27, 7:00 pm
Location: Adventist Community Church of Vancouver
Come hear the Oregon Adventist Mens Chorus’ (OAMC) 19th annual Spring Festival Concert, April 27, at 7:00 pm at the Adventist Community Church of Vancouver! Be inspired by 100 singing men including northwest adventist academy students. Go online to www.oamctickets.eventbrite.com or call 503-410-6970 or to reserve your FREE tickets. Seating is limited - reserved tickets required. The Adventist Community Church of Vancouver is located at 9711 NE St Johns Rd in Vancouver, Wash.

All links are clickable here and elsewhere in the eCommuniqué.
Transitions

Sam Elie – Long-time pastor, and member of Meadow Glade church, passed away in February.

Marshal George (Nazia) – has joined Portland Adventist Medical Center as part-time chaplain.

Richard Beck (Wanda) – has entered full retirement from his position as Transportation Supervisor for the Oregon Conference.

Chastina Ingram (Isaiah) – has resigned her position as administrative assistant for the Oregon Conference Risk Management department to join her husband in North Dakota.

Jillany Wellman – resigning her position as administrative assistant for Big Lake Youth Camp/Youth Department to transition into an internship for marriage and family therapy.

Gena Gibson (Jim) – resigning her position as Human Resources Director to be a full-time mom.

NOTE: Two full-time administrative assistant positions and the HR director position will be opening soon at the Conference Office. For more information on a position, or to print an application, please visit http://bit.ly/JEA7Q9.

Gays in the Family

How would Jesus respond?
April 5 & 6, 2013
Holden Convention Center, Gladstone, Oregon

Information and pre-registration
gaysinthefamily.com
Sponsored by the North Pacific Union Conference Family Ministries

SUNSET CALENDAR

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She’s your daughter...
She’s your sister...
She’s your friend...

She’s gay.