**A SCHOOL FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN**

Have you ever thought about if, or where homeless kids go to school? Learn about this special place in Portland and how it’s changing lives.

**PAGE 3**

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**MARY’S SONG**

Mary was “down and out” when she met Jesus. It’s been a bit of a Job experience so far, but Mary’s been praising Him the whole way!

**PAGE 3**

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**NOTE WORTHY NEWS**

Bits of news from around the Conference and around the world that we thought you might find interesting.

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**EVANGELISM UPDATE**

In October, more than 100 people made decisions to be baptized, join the church, change lifestyle habits, and let God be first in their lives!

**PAGE 2**

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**PAA STUDENTS TAKE SPIRITUAL LEAD**

By Liesl Vistaunet

Student leaders at Portland Adventist Academy have taken initiative to begin a new Chapel program for Small Groups.

Early in the school year, as spiritual direction was being discussed by PAA Student Association co-Chaplains, Josh Bibb and Cherith Lorenson, a new idea was born. Bibb and Lorenson developed a vision to give students a more intimate and diverse kind of worship. The Small Group Chapel was planned and presented to staff before school began.

“We wanted to see a more diverse and close-knit spiritual community,” said Lorenson regarding the origins of the vision. “We want to see students mingling and discussing spiritual topics with people outside of their particular grade level or friendship group.”

PAA teachers and staff embraced the idea. “We’re committed to encouraging students to dream about what they want the spiritual atmosphere on campus to be and then to help them create that environment,” said Monte Torkelsen, PAA chaplain.

PAA staff also recognized the Small Group Chapels as an opportunity to emphasize and discuss the school motto: “Christ-Centered, Character-Driven.”

Small Group Chapels have other great benefits. Because these groups will meet five more times this year, the conversations about PAA’s core character-driven development goals (Courage, Leadership, Belief, Integrity, Concern, Curiosity, and Excellence) can be highlighted throughout the year. Having student leaders facilitate the Small Group Chapel further encourages mentorship.

“What’s also exciting about small groups,” says PAA’s School Guidance Counselor and teacher Mechelle Peinado, “is that over time it can pull students together into a closer, safer, and more accepting environment.”

**Continued on page 2...**
PAA STUDENTS
continued from page 1

There were warm and positive reviews of the first Small Group Chapel.

Freshman Emily Cairns said, “I enjoyed our discussion very much and I’m looking forward to the next one and getting to know the people in my group more.”

Torkelsen said, “I had one staff member tell me that they had been surprised and delighted to hear a very quiet international student making excellent contributions to the conversation. That doesn’t generally happen in larger groups.”

“Some of the group leaders said they were surprised at who spoke up,” added Lorenson, “and that’s the great part. It’s a chance to hear from people we normally wouldn’t. Making new friends and hearing new perspectives is what we want.”

Although the process of coordinating 257 students into 21 locations, with 21 staff sponsors, and student discussion leaders was complicated, the challenge was worth it and it paid off. Torkelsen says students have a lot to be proud of. “This has been a much larger undertaking than many students would tackle,” he says. “But it was a great start and our students are doing a great job.”

“It was wonderful,” says Peinado. “I liked seeing students from different classes, and ages, and interests come together and share and encourage each other. It’s wonderful.”

OVER 100 SOULS MAKE DECISIONS!
Prophecies Decoded and the various evangelistic meetings in the Vancouver, Riverside, Lents, Salem Central, Stone Tower, Whipple Creek, Hockinson Heights, and Romanian churches have ended. The Lord blessed, as He always does when His church is faithful to the Great Commission. People made decisions to be baptized, join the church, change lifestyle habits, and let God be first in their lives!

A total of 106 people made decisions to be baptized or join the church by profession of faith: 55 in Vancouver, 13 in Salem Central, 12 in Riverside, 10 in Stone Tower, 9 in the Romanian church, 3 in Lents, 3 in Whipple Creek, and one in Hockinson Heights. Each decision is a miracle of God! Praise His holy name!

As of the end of October, 42 have been baptized or accepted by profession of faith in Vancouver, and 18 more in the other churches. Pastors and lay soul winners will continue to work with those who made decisions to prepare them for their baptism. Each church is also doing follow-up meetings to ensure new believers and seekers continue to grow in Christ and the study of His work.

A heart-felt thanks to every volunteer in every church who helped as a row host, visitation team member, child care team member, greeter, PA or media tech, provider of refreshments and lunches, student host, baptism assistant, musician, registration team member, resource table worker, and a myriad other ministries of service. Heaven has not missed any one of you!
A SCHOOL FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN
By Gary McLain

Have you ever thought about where homeless children go to school? Do they have a chance to get an education, or are they pre-destined to be caught in a vicious cycle of generation after generation of ignorance?

Portland has a pre-K to 8th grade school that is committed to educating homeless children. It’s called the Community Transitional School (CTS), and it’s specifically for kids who are homeless, or in transition throughout the Portland-metro area.

The school has four small buses that pick up and drop off homeless children within 120 square miles of the school each school day. Their service is door to door. The routes change daily to keep up with moving families in an effort to offer an education to these kids. If the school is notified by noon one day, the kids can be picked up the next at their new location.

This private non-profit school has been in the Portland area for 25 years. Within the last few years they have moved into a brand-new building specifically built for the purpose. They are blessed with three classrooms, a lunch room, and office space. The combined grade classrooms are nicely and appropriately furnished, and each has a computer lab as well. The three full-time teachers and two teachers’ aides provide education for nearly 200 students who come and go each year. Around 80 of those students attend every day, and those that stay within the area have a 96 percent attendance rate. Many volunteers make the project work as well, coming in to work with the kids one-on-one, mostly on reading and math. The majority of these kids’ parents are uninvolved with their kids’ school life.

CTS has a couple after-school programs that older kids can be involved in. The coed volleyball team for the older kids is called the CTS Rockets. The Rockets play in the park organization league with other public high schools. They also have a leadership mentoring program in which the kids get to create their own businesses, like selling popcorn or making cards and selling them to local shops.

The majority of CTS’s financial support is private. Foundations, corporations, church groups, and individuals provide donations of 90 percent of the schools funding. People to People Ministries, a non-profit ministry run by one of our local Adventist members, donates supplies to this school on a quarterly basis. This quarter they donated backpacks.

The combined grade classrooms are nicely and appropriately furnished, and each has a computer lab as well. The three full-time teachers and two teachers’ aides provide education for nearly 200 students who come and go each year. Around 80 of those students attend every day, and those that stay within the area have a 96 percent attendance rate. Many volunteers make the project work as well, coming in to work with the kids one-on-one, mostly on reading and math. The majority of these kids’ parents are uninvolved with their kids’ school life.

One little girl started at Community Transitional School in the second grade. Her family lived in motels and would move 30 or more times each year. Over the years, the girl would take the initiative to call for the school bus when they had moved to a new location. Eventually her three siblings joined her at CTS. She is the first person in her extended family to have graduated from high school, and now she has gone on to college along with her younger sister. She is studying dental technology and her younger sister is studying art. Where do you think these kids would be today if there was no CTS in Portland?

To find out more or learn how you can get involved visit www.TransitionalSchool.org, or call 503-249-8582.

MARY'S SONG

Jesus is my friend. He’s always with me, and He talks to me.” This is Mary’s assessment after being homeless and experiencing a potentially fatal accident last month. This is Mary’s song.

Mary Derr moved up to Portland and found a job as a cashier working at a Jewish shop. Surprisingly, she didn’t learn about Sabbath at work, but because Jesus brought the matter to her mind. She was intrigued.

When she suddenly found herself without a place to live, Mary left Portland and drove to Vancouver to sleep at an interstate rest area. That’s where she met a couple who told her how they had been helped by the Seventh-day Adventist Community Church of Vancouver when they were homeless.

With a detailed map in her hand, Mary found the church, and asked for a possible place to stay. She was told the approval process would take some time, but she was surprised to hear soon after the church would provide her with a place to stay. That was when she discovered the Bible seminar Prophecies Decoded would begin in just days. She decided to come. She owed it to Jesus to learn about the Sabbath.

Mary attended the meetings night after night, her heart connected with the leading of the Spirit in her life. She thanked Jesus for every new truth she learned, and determined to be faithful to Him. When Dr. Ron Clouzet spoke about standing with Jesus and for Jesus in baptism, she responded with an enthusiastic “Yes.” Of the 42 people baptized or accepted by profession of faith to date, Mary was among the first baptized, on Sabbath, September 26. There was joy and peace on her face. She had found the place where Jesus lived.

On the last night of the meetings, October 11, Mary and her new-found friend, Sharon Gutman, who had re-consecrated her life, were driving home when a drunk-driver plunged into them.

"His car looked like it aimed for us, and accelerated before hitting us," said Mary. “Jesus said, ‘Hold on, you’ll be OK.’” The vehicle hit Sharon’s car with such force that it flipped over three times, and the driver’s side collision did not deploy the airbags.

You could expect the worse. “Jesus told me how to get out of the car, through a window,” Mary said. She had only scratches and bruises, no broken bones. Sharon was hurt badly, and the EMTs had to pull her out with the jaws of life before rushing her to the hospital. Sharon has a cracked sternum and skull, but no internal or other injuries. Her spirits are amazingly high, saying, “Jesus saved us from the worst.”

Mary thinks that the enemy tried to snuff them out, now that both of them had surrendered all to Christ. But she’s convinced this near tragedy will serve to bring glory to Him.

And this is Mary’s song.
ANNUAL COUNCIL VOTES ON ORDINATION AND CREATION
During Annual Council meetings in October, world church delegates voted 243 to 44 to place the following question on the agenda of the 2015 General Conference Session in July, which sets policy for the entire church: "Is it acceptable for division executive committees, as they may deem it appropriate in their territories, to make provision for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry? Yes or No." Delegates also voted this week to adjust the language of a key fundamental belief to emphasize that creation was a "recent" event that took place during "six literal days." Read more online at http://bit.ly/1oipqbe.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION TO PROCEED WITH RELOCATION FROM GC BUILDING
Following an afternoon of spirited debate the Executive Committee of the North American Division (NAD) Year-end Meeting approved two motions regarding the potential relocation of the NAD headquarters: 1) to accept the recommendation by the President’s NAD Council and NAD and Union Officers (NADOLP) that the NAD headquarters be moved to someplace within the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, and 2) that the NAD should proceed with the relocation process. A report presented by Tom Evans, treasurer of the NAD, showed data comparing moving expenses and cost recovery if the headquarters moved to Dallas, Denver, Atlanta, or remained in the Washington, D.C. metro area. The report, prepared by JLL, a consulting firm that specializes in corporate real estate, including corporate relocations, led the officers to determine that remaining in the D.C. metro area would be the most prudent move. Learn more at http://bit.ly/1x1VEe7.

COMMUNITY RALLIES TO AID PUYALLUP SCHOOL
Community support has rallied this week to the aid of Adventist education. Early Monday morning, teachers and students of Northwest Christian School in Puyallup, Wash., were shocked to discover that thieves had stolen most of the music equipment and instruments. Their plight quickly made the news. In response, two Seattle area radio stations, STAR 101.5 FM and Talk Radio 570 KVI, asked for donations during their morning shows, garnering a total of $14,000 for the school. Other people have dropped off musical instruments to help the school’s music department continue its program.

CHURCH MANUAL REVISIONS ON DISCIPLINE AND GUEST SPEAKERS
During this month’s Annual Council meetings in Silver Spring, Md., world church delegates adopted several amendments to the church manual. According to a report in the Adventist Review, the proposed amendments included content intended to tighten the wording on who is allowed to address the congregation from the pulpit; clearly define that a marriage is between a “man and a woman” as opposed to the former wording, “husband and wife”; and identify the reasons for discipline to tighten the wording on who is allowed to address the congregation from the pulpit; clearly define that a marriage is between a “man and a woman” as opposed to the former wording, “husband and wife”; and identify the reasons for discipline.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ORDINATION
If the ordination discussion has you concerned and confused, one resource that might be helpful has been newly published. With simple questions and thorough answers, the book Questions and Answers About Women’s Ordination, has been carefully compiled by authors Cindy Tutsch and Martin Hanna. Published by Pacific Press, it’s available through your local Adventist Book Center at http://bit.ly/1x5xgoD or as an e-book at http://bit.ly/1t9C8ER.

ADVENTIST HERITAGE MINISTRY TO BECOME PART OF THE EGW ESTATE
The Ellen G. White Estate board recently approved Adventist Heritage Ministry (AHM) as a more fully recognized entity of the world church. Beginning in January, AHM, which owns four properties related to founders of the Adventist Church, will have a fulltime executive director who will also serve as an associate director of the White Estate, according to church officials. “This is important ministry … to support because once visitors see the consecration, commitment and dedication of the early pioneers, it makes a difference in their own lives,” says James Nix, White Estate director. More than 12,000 people visit AHM’s four properties each year. Read more from Adventist News Network at http://bit.ly/1tFUuZd.

TEEN PATHFINDERS SAIL ON NATIONAL HISTORIC MONUMENT
Nearly 180 Oregon and Washington Pathfinders and leadership staff gathered in Olympia, Wash., over the weekend of Oct. 10-12, for a sailing adventure on the Puget Sound. Organized by Bob Gaede, Oregon Conference teen coordinator, the activities added a spiritual dimension for each participant who gained progress toward a sailing honor. Pathfinders split into three groups that rotated between sailing on a 130-foot schooner, a "Jonah and the whale" experience in an open whaling vessel, and sailing practice on smaller boats. Leaders drew practical lessons from the activities in connection with the stories of Jesus asleep in an open whaling vessel, and sailing practice on smaller boats. Leaders drew practical lessons from the activities in connection with the stories of Jesus asleep. Read more about the adventure and view photos online at http://bit.ly/1s1uk7R.

ONLINE STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE SAVES A BUNDLE
It’s apparently not quite ready yet for Annual Council meetings, but online conferencing may save considerable church funds in the near future. Instead of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to transport people to one location, online meetings can bring people together at a fraction of the cost. The recent World Stewardship Online Conference, sponsored by the Adventist world church Sept. 19-21, registered 2,000 sites in 83 countries. A traditional convention of that scope would likely have cost more than $1 million. The cost for this online event? $20,000. The online event also enabled the presentations to be available in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. Ben Schoun, world church vice president, says "This was a precedent-setting experience because I think it was the first of many more that will take place, in time, for the world church.

THE WRITING’S ON THE WALL
Writing on the wall as an assignment? What? It’s happening at Walla Walla University (WWU) in the engineering department’s new Re-Markable Room. There all of the classroom walls have been modified to be used as a giant white board. Rob Frohne, professor of engineering, says, "I realized I was having all the fun doing the derivations, and the students were bored. I needed to let them have the fun instead." The Re-Markable Room allows students to work together in teams as the instructor watches and helps as needed. The room also provides a convenient review area for students. Read more from WWU online at http://bit.ly/1qok6j1.

For additional news visit http://www.oregonconference.org/news_entries.
Events

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM – BEND
When: December 10-13, 2014
Location: Lents Adventist Church
A can’t miss event! December 10, 11, 12 from 6:00-9:00 pm and 13th from 5:00-9:00 pm, doors open 30 minutes earlier, at the Bend Adventist Church. Join us for this FREE outdoor Journey to Bethlehem, a live, interactive journey culminating at the manger the night of Jesus birth. Invite your friends, family and neighbors.

HELPFUL INFORMATION ON EBOLA
When: Find it now
Location: www.NADHealthMinistries.org
For helpful information on ebola, visit the North American Division Health Ministries website at www.NADHealthMinistries.org. The site includes info on protecting yourself and your community, info for health workers, links to research, and printable handouts along with an attractive info sheet which you can post in your church.

WALLA WALLA NURSING SCHOOL PARENT SABBATH
When: November 8, 2014
Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church
Join John McVay and other administration for Walla Walla University’s Parent Sabbath, November 8, at the Sunnyside Adventist Church. David Richardson, VP of Student Life, will be speaking for both services, and WWU students will be participating. In addition, join us for the nursery dedication at 4:00 pm with guest speaker Trudy Klein, former nursing professor on the main campus.

DAVID SHEARER CONCERT
When: November 8, 4:00 pm
Location: Lents Adventist Church
David Shearer concert, November 8, 4:00 pm at Lents Adventist Church. Come rest a while with us as we share God’s love through acoustic music and song! This concert is free of charge. The Lents Adventist Church is located at 8835 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland, Ore. For more information call 503-774-7290 or visit http://bit.ly/1E48EP.

WIN A WEEKEND AT PROJECT PATCH FOR YOUR FAMILY
When: Submit your videos now
Location: Project PATCH
Help Project Patch spread the word about The Family Experience and you could win a FREE weekend for your family! Be creative! Craft a short video commercial for The Family Center and then enjoy a spectacular winner’s weekend for your family. It can be even be done with a smartphone! Visit our website for more info at www.thefamilyexperience.org/commercial. Winners will be announced on the Project Patch Facebook page in December! Don’t delay — get your creativity on today!

NEW PASTOR SEARCHING FOR PLACE TO RENT NEAR BORING
When: Available now
Location: Within 30 minutes travel of Boring, Ore.
The new associate pastor of the Hoodview Church and his wife are looking for a place to stay for the next few months as they search for a house to buy in the Boring area. Please contact them if you have a guest house or basement suite for rent, or if you are a snowbird going south for the winter and would like someone responsible and clean to house-sit for you. They are willing to live anywhere within 30 minutes of Boring. If you know of a place that you think might work please contact Chantelle Simmons at 509-301-5677 or ccsimmons45@gmail.com.

SEEING JESUS THROUGH MUSLIM EYES
When: November 15, 2014
Location: Rockwood Adventist Church
Pastor Gerald Babanezhad will present “Seeing Jesus through Muslim Eyes” on Sabbath, November 15, at the Rockwood Adventist Church. This seminar will address reaching Muslims for Jesus. Pastor Gerald is the director of Muslim Outreach of the Pacific Union, and an advisor for the North American Division’s Adventist-Muslim Relations Group. He will speak at 11:00 am, followed by a potluck lunch. Pastor Babanezhad will also present a short piano concert at 1:30 pm. His afternoon seminar will start at 2:00 pm. Rockwood is located at 1910 SE 182nd Avenue in Portland.

SUNNYSIDE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
When: December 19, 7:00 pm
Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church
The Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist church will host its 33rd annual family Christmas program on Friday evening December 19th. The program will begin at 7:00 pm and is produced by Sunnyside member Lloyd Wescott. Invite your friends to enjoy a program of music presented by some of Portland’s finest musicians. Please bring your musical score and join in singing the “Hallelujah Chorus” finale. An offering will be collected at the door after the service to help feed the hungry at Portland’s O’Bryant Square.

DOUG SMITH ACOUSTIC GUITAR VESPERS
When: November 8, 5:00 pm
Location: Tabernacle Adventist Church
Come enjoy the beautiful music of Doug Smith, Grammy Award-winning acoustic guitarist. He will close the Sabbath with sacred hymns and then amaze us with more music after dark! This free concert event will start at 5:00 pm on November 8 at Tabernacle Adventist Church. Refreshment reception to follow. Tabernacle Adventist Church is located at 26 SW Condor Way in Portland.

RAISING KIDS IN A HOSTILE WORLD
When: November 15, 2014
Location: McMinnville Adventist Church
A free, 1-day seminar for parents, grandparents, and mentors of children and teens. Raising good kids in today’s media and technology-saturated world seems nearly impossible at times. This seminar, presented by Project PATCH, will teach you that it is possible to raise kids who are responsible, respectful, and who manage risk appropriately. Join us to learn communication, boundaries, discipline, and how to manage technology in your family. Join us Saturday, November 15, at the McMinnville Adventist Church at 1500 SW Old Sheridan Road in McMinnville, Ore. Questions? Call 503-583-1961 or visit www.ProjectPatch.org or http://blog.projectpatch.org/ to learn more. Childcare available up to age 12 for the afternoon session.

All links are clickable here and elsewhere in the eCommunique.

For more announcement & event information please visit www.oregonconference.org/announcements — this page is updated weekly.
### SUNSET CALENDAR

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**Transitions**

Jose Agosto (Zinia) has resigned his position as the pastor of the Bandon and Coquille churches to accept a position with International Children’s Care.

Charles Shultz has taken the position of interim pastor for the Gold Beach and Brookings churches.

Charles Brown is the interim pastor for the Sandy church.

Susan Coberry (Michael) is a new half-time administrative assistant in the Conference Education Department.

Lee Larson (Emo) is transitioning from his interim position at Silverton and Stayton to TurningPoint and Glide.

Robert Roth (Juli) is no longer pastoring the TurningPoint and Glide churches.

Jared Lehman (Jina) has resigned his assistant treasurer position at the Oregon Conference.

Brent Plubell is transitioning from his accountant position to assistant treasurer at the Oregon Conference.

Glen Gessele (Marybeth) is transitioning from the interim director to regular director for the Trust Services and Planned Giving department at the Oregon Conference.

Daniel Park (Mania) has transferred from his pastoral position at the Oregon Central Korean and The Roc congregations to the Southeastern California Conference.

Ivan Cruz (Damaris) has transferred from the Portland Spanish and University Park Spanish congregations to the Florida Conference.

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Visit our website at [www.thefamilyexperience.org/commercial](http://www.thefamilyexperience.org/commercial) for the guidelines. Winners will be announced on the Project Patch Facebook page in December!

Don’t delay – get your creativity on today!