THE SAVOR OF LIFE

Did you know that there is a group of people that do not have the same degree of drive to acquire material things as the rest of our culture? Within this group there has been documented a decline in home and auto purchases when compared to previous groups of similar ages. This same group would rather be good parents and have a successful marriage than have a high paying job or become famous. Who is this group? They are known as Generation Y, Millennials, or those born from 1980 onward.

Just a week or two ago I was blessed by visiting StoryLine Adventist Church, our newest church plant which has started up in Eugene, Ore. While there, I visited with a number of individuals who call this new church their home. I was excited to sense their strong support for the ministry that has begun as a result of this church plant. Statements like, “This is my home,” “These are my friends,” and “I have been afraid of churches but this feels so safe,” “I feel like I have finally come home,” came from people who are not yet baptized. Others shared that they felt safe inviting their friends and had already done so. They were excited to share, and answered my questions before I even had the questions out of my mouth.

I recently attended the North American Division Year-end meetings. In addition to lots of policy wording tweaks and reports from different ministries, was a discussion about a group within our church that has, to a large extent, been missing. They are the graduates from our academies and universities, the Millennials, who move away from the Oregon Conference. They were excited to share and answer my questions before I even had the questions out of my mouth.
our campuses and disappear into our major cities. It was exciting to hear what various conferences have experienced in taking steps toward connecting again with these young adults. It was a blessing to know that our conference is seen as part of this thrust toward reconnecting with these graduates, though there is still much to be done in this area.

One of the statistics that has stuck with me is that only 30 percent of our Adventist academy students attend one of our universities. The other 70 percent are attending universities where we often do not have a focused ministry. One of the presenters talked about starting a secular campus ministry at the University of Michigan. We have that same opportunity here in Oregon and Southwest Washington at a number of universities and community colleges. How can we provide for these students and reach the rest of the student body around them?

If the previous paragraphs seem to be divergent or unconnected thoughts, let me put them together. What I saw a couple of Sabbaths ago was a new church plant focused on reaching the University of Oregon students. That is a difficult challenge as churches need a stable core and universities have a transient community. This new church plant has taken on the task of being a stable community for the students, even more importantly, to be an outlet for the amazing grace Christ wants these Millennials to experience.

The commission of Christ is to go and make disciples of all. From my experience in visiting with a number of our young adults throughout this conference, the need for fellowship and mentoring is very high. The need to be in an authentic (real) church family is enormous. The desire to make a difference in the world is a driving force within Millennials. Could it be that they are onto something? Could it be that it’s not all about acquiring? Could it be that relationships between our families, our spouses, our communities, and our God will be the savor of life to our churches, including our Millennials?

In late October, the 7 and 8th grade class took a two-day field trip to learn more about the marine life we had been studying in science class. We left school in six cars and drove three hours to the Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) in Newport, Ore. We took two classes: one about animal adaptations, and one where we dissected a squid. The teacher walked us through where and how to cut. As we studied the squid, our instructor named each part and explained its purpose. We were encouraged to ask questions, and many of us did. At the end, we opened up the squid’s ink pouch and used the “pen” (the part that provides support inside its body) to write our names. After class, we roamed the aquarium together and learned more about the aquatic wildlife.

Next, we checked into yurts at nearby Beverly Beach State Park. After the three-hour car trip and class time, we enjoyed being outdoors and playing Frisbee. After the sun set, we all gathered in the meeting yurt for a haystack dinner and spent the rest of the evening playing board games before heading down to the beach for a game of tag in the dark. Mr. Christiansen, our teacher, gave us glow-stick necklaces so we’d be able to see each other, and we all paired up with a buddy to make sure no one got lost. The person who was “it” carried a red light. It was tons of fun running and laughing on the beach in the dark with our classmates wearing glow sticks. We had worship before heading to our yurts.

The next day, we were up at seven for morning worship and breakfast before packing up and cleaning out the yurts. We took a last walk down to the beach for group pictures, then climbed back into the cars for a short drive to the Oregon Aquarium.

At the Oregon Aquarium, we were taken into a private classroom with a variety of sea animals in buckets of water on four tables. Again, we divided into our groups and sat down at the tables. There were cards on each table that gave us details about the animals. We spent a few minutes at each table reading the cards and touching the animals. We learned about sea urchins, sea anemones, chitons and mussels. After class, we explored the aquarium. There were a lot more live animals to see than we had seen the day before. We saw sharks, sting rays, otters, seals and many types of fish. One group even got to operate a fish cam inside one of the displays. Using a joystick, they were able to move the camera around to follow fish and get an up-close look. The fish seemed to be used to the camera and weren’t startled when it moved up next to them. We ended our trip with a few minutes in the gift shop before heading back to school, stopping for lunch on the way.
TWO PERSPECTIVES
FROM FALL BIBLE CAMP
By Michael Brackett & April Bigelow

Pastor Michael Brackett
It’s the greatest four days of ministry I’ve ever experienced. Having just returned home from this year’s edition of Fall Bible Camp in Antelope, Ore., I absolutely have to say how blown away I am with the Oregon Conference’s dedication to our youth in putting such an incredible ministry opportunity together. With the level of excellence they have put into this Thursday through Sunday event, how could it not have been a success?

I arrived Thursday with my group of teens including many high school students from Rogue Valley Adventist Academy and others from the Medford, Ore., region. The facility at Washington Family Ranch was enough to boggle my mind, but the enthusiasm from everyone as soon as they stepped foot on the grounds of the camp was even greater. Our theme this year was “Get Jesus, Get Life.” Each night the youth were challenged to have a saving relationship with Jesus now and to let Him transform their life now! The students were open and ready to receive and the Spirit of God was open and ready to deliver.

Saturday night we had an appeal and the level of response was overwhelming. The Holy Spirit moved mightily in our kids and many came forward to pledge their lives to Jesus Christ. Chaplains, pastors, and academy staff worked tirelessly to pray and counsel with our precious young people the rest of the evening. The hours of tears and hugs and afterglow that followed carried us all the way home Sunday evening.

Yes, these four days of ministry were a true highlight for this humbled pastor. All glory and honor and praise go to Jesus Christ and His amazing message of love. May these four days of Bible camp have helped in some small way to carry our youth into eternity. That’s the truest highlight of ministry we are all desperate to experience.

April Bigelow, Rogue Valley Adventist Academy senior
Well, Bible Camp is over for me. Being a senior at Rogue Valley Adventist Academy, there is no chance for me to go back as a student. I have gone to three Bible Camps in my years as a high school student, each and every one of them memorable. My most memorable of all of the Bible Camps is Fall Bible Camp of 2014.

This year, Michael Brackett, Medford Church youth pastor and RVAA junior/senior Bible teacher, was the speaker. I have never been so mesmerized or moved by a speaker than I was when Pastor Michael spoke. He spoke with conviction and I know that the words that came out of his mouth were given to him by God.

On Friday night Pastor Michael shared a heartwarming, awe-inspiring, spirit-moving sermon that moved a lot of young people to Christ. Many who didn’t truly know Christ or had yet to accept him as their Lord and Savior, and even those who already did, were moved to tears by Pastor Michael’s words. After the sermon, many of us went with our schools to sing, praise, worship, or to hold each other and pray for each other. I didn’t join in until later. I stood on the sidelines, and watched my school come together. I witnessed something amazing, something I had never seen before in my life. It moved my heart and added something to me. Through my tears I saw the Holy Spirit moving through the hearts and minds of the young people and even some of the adults. I renewed my acceptance of Jesus as my one and only savior, and to vowed to become further embedded in Him. That night, once again, I gave my heart to the Lord and said, “Take it. It’s yours.” This was the last Bible Camp that I will be able to attend as a student and witness and share as a young person. It is the last time I will see it through the eyes of inexperience. And it may be the last time I see some of the people I met there. However, I can say it will not be the last time I look to God and this certainly will not be the last time I can be a witness for Him. It will not be the last time I accept Him into my heart or cry because I am moved.

It certainly will not be the last time I ask others to encourage young people to go to a place where they will experience something they might never have the chance to experience again.

I want to thank Pastor Michael for giving me such an awesome experience and for being there for me when I am feeling low, and for being a person who is whole heartedly into God and who helps people, young and old, to come to Christ. Thank You.
NOTE WORTHY...

**Wang Accepts NPUC Legal Post**
André Wang has been elected as the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) in-house legal counsel. Although the final date for a transition is not yet determined, he will replace David Duncan who plans to retire at the end of the year. Wang, an Oregon attorney who has specialized in immigration law, has also been closely involved with the Oregon Conference and NPUC. He is active in local civic organization leadership and well-versed in denominational structure issues. Following retirement, Duncan will continue to be available for on-call assignments. He has provided exceptional service for the legal needs of NPUC area members and churches since 1984. Read more at [http://bit.ly/12o455Z](http://bit.ly/12o455Z).

**NPUC Nears 100,000 Member Mark**
Seventh-day Adventist Church members within the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) territory are steadily climbing toward the 100,000 member mark. The latest figures released this week, reflecting statistics of this year’s third quarter at the end of September, show 99,271 NPUC members within Alaska (4%), Idaho (7%), Montana (4%), Oregon (36%), Upper Columbia (26%), and Washington (23%) conferences. Adults 30-59 years of age made up the largest membership segment (45%), with seniors 60+ (30%) and young adults 19-29 (11%) following. In the most “unchurched” area of North America, Adventist members per capita ranged from a ratio of 1 member for every 251 (1:251) persons in Montana to a 1:74 ratio in Upper Columbia Conference — the most favorable ranking across the country.

**Walla Walla University School of Nursing Wins Appeal**
The Walla Walla University (WWU) School of Nursing accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) has been extended. This decision comes following a WWU appeal to an ACEN decision in July 2014 to deny continuing accreditation of the program. "Based on our appeal, our accreditation status has been changed from 'denied' to 'continued accreditation with warning,'" says Lucille Krull, WWU School of Nursing dean. The initial denial was issued when accreditors found that all WWU nursing instructors did not possess a master’s degree. As of January 2015, the nursing faculty will meet that standard. An ACEN site visit is scheduled for February, which will allow them to verify that the university is in compliance with all accreditation requirements. Read more at [http://bit.ly/1vNAD5d](http://bit.ly/1vNAD5d).

**Rebok to Retire From Adventist Health**
Doug Rebok, who began his health care career in Portland, Ore., announced this week that he would retire as senior vice president and chief administrative officer (CAO) of Adventist Health effective December 31, 2014. His retirement will culminate a nearly 40-year career with the health system. While Rebok has served recently in the CAO role overseeing various Adventist Health support services, for most of his lengthy career at the corporate headquarters he was senior vice president and chief financial officer. Rebok began in 1976 at Adventist Medical Center - Portland (AMC-P) where he held the position of budget and reimbursement specialist. From there, he became controller for AMC-P and then vice president of finance. In 1983, he relocated to Roseville, Calif., when Adventist Health established its corporate headquarters. Read more at [http://bit.ly/1vNAZzD](http://bit.ly/1vNAZzD).

**Ellen White Named Among 100 Most Significant Americans**
Smithsonian magazine has named the co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has one of the 100 most significant Americans of all times. The magazine places White in a group that includes the likes of Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and Helen Keller in its Spring 2015 issue. The individuals were chosen with the use of an algorithm that measures data taken from Wikipedia pages and Google book scans. Read the full story on the Adventist Review’s website at [http://bit.ly/1vQF717](http://bit.ly/1vQF717).

**Idaho Church Members Make the News for Lending a Helping Hand**
Adventist pastor Ron Hessel, of Summit Northwest Ministries in Post Falls, Idaho, recently made the front page of the local paper, the Coeur d’Alene Press. The coverage was for all the right reasons, too! Hessel, along with some of his members, volunteered to spend a day helping the local United Methodist church build and install a lighted sign box on the side of their new building. “[Summit Northwest Pastor Ron Hessel] really took our need to heart,” said John Weston, Sky Prairie United Methodist Church pastor. Read the full story from CDAPress at [http://bit.ly/1vNAPBJ](http://bit.ly/1vNAPBJ).

**Pine Forge Academy Dorm Suffers Pre-Thanksgiving Fire**
Northwest schools are no strangers to students being displaced by fire (Auburn Adventist Academy, Tillamook Adventist School), and now it is our turn to pray for a sister institution. Pine Forge Academy in Pennsylvania suffered significant fire damage in November to the girls’ dormitory. Nearly 70 students were displaced by the fire, so students were sent home for an early break and will stay home until repairs or other arrangements can accommodate a normal schedule once again. Read more from Pennsylvania at [http://bit.ly/1pVSvu8](http://bit.ly/1pVSvu8).

**Parsonage Allowance Upheld for Clergy**
A U.S. federal court confirmed last week that clergy can continue to claim the tax benefit for housing allowance, upholding an Adventist Church-backed appeal against a lower court ruling that would have ended the so-called parsonage allowance. The world church joined an amicus brief, or “friend of the court” brief, for the case in April along with more than 30 other denominations and religious organizations. The ruling stops what could have been hundreds of millions of dollars of tax increases on clergy and other individuals with tax-exempt status for housing. Read more from ANN at [http://bit.ly/1yOG170](http://bit.ly/1yOG170).

**NPUC Names GC Session Delegates**
Based on the constitutional requirements of the Adventist world church, 21 delegates have been elected by the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive committee to represent Northwest members at the upcoming General Conference session to be held July 2-11, 2015. In addition to the three NPUC officers and six local conference presidents, six non-administrative church employees and six lay members fill the remaining slots. Of those delegates who are not officers or administrators, requirements state that five are women, three Hispanic and one of African descent. See the complete list of NPUC delegates online at [http://bit.ly/1zX562w](http://bit.ly/1zX562w).

**McVay Responds to Concerns About Spiritual Formation**
John McVay, Walla Walla (WWU) president responded to some pastors and members who contend that negative influences of the “emerging church” and “spiritual formation” have been unchecked by church leaders. In his Nov. 20 statement, McVay says the criticisms “are low on content and high on innuendo, half-truth, and damnation by association.” Furthermore, he says, “we know these people they attack to be godly and faithful Seventh-day Adventists who are working hard to draw others to truth.” McVay offers several important sources where members can go for further study on the topics addressed. Read his statement online at [http://bit.ly/1ysOL55](http://bit.ly/1ysOL55).

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JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM – BEND
When: December 10-13, 2014
Location: Bend 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.NADHealth Ministries.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.

HOOD VIEW CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING
When: May 29 & 30, 2015
Location: Hood View Adventist Church, Boring, Ore.

The Hood View Church is going to be celebrating their 50 Year Anniversary and Homecoming on May 29-30, 2015. A small group of Adventists from Gresham and Sandy first met on April 3, 1965 in what is now the Bell Tower Chapel in Boring. They were formally organized on May 29 of that same year. Save the date and plan to join us as we recognize God’s providence over the years!

FOUNTAINVIEW ACADEMY ORCHESTRA & SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT
When: December 13, 7:00 pm
Location: Adventist Community Church of Vancouver

Fountainview Academy Orchestra & Strings presents “O Holy Night”, a live concert, December 13 at 7:00 pm, at the Adventist Community Church of Vancouver. This concert is free, with seating first-come, first-served. Download the concert poster in PDF or JPG format at http://bit.ly/11Poa4N, or http://bit.ly/1y8mi3P.

YOUNG ADVENTIST WOMAN SEeks room for rent
When: Currently seeking
Location: Portland-area

Young lady, Stephanie McGhee (24), from an Adventist family needs housing, and would love to live with a family that has a spare room. Stephanie would be more than happy to help with domestic duties and rent. She will also be working outside of the home to support herself. A location in or near Portland would be ideal where she can get around using public transit. She has great references. If you know of a possibility for this young woman, please call 828-380-1866.

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 crsimmons45@gmail.com.

FOLLOW THE STAR LIVE NATIVITY
When: December 6-7 & 12-14, 2014
Location: Gladstone, Ore.

Follow the Star is an annual free outdoor live nativity & indoor holiday musical event at the Gladstone Park Conference Center! This year’s dates will be Dec. 5, 6, 7 & 12, 13, 14. This 45-minute walking tour of seven outdoor live action scenes tells the story of the search for the Christ child. Get a free ticket online, while supplies last, or at the door. Limited number of tickets each night. Tours leave every eight minutes. Gates open half-hour before the first performance and close promptly at 8:30 pm. Find out more at www.FollowTheStar.us

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.

THE BLUEPRINT TO BE SHOWN ON PBS
When: Various December dates
Location: PBS channel 21.2 in Medford

The Blueprint: The Story of Adventist Education will be shown on PBS channel KSYS-21.2 W in Medford on the following dates: Dec. 23, 6:00 pm; Dec. 23, 10:00 pm; Dec. 24, 6:00 am; Dec. 24, 12:00 pm; Dec. 30, 2:00 am and Dec. 30, 8:00 am. No dates are yet known for a Portland-area broadcast.

TILLAMOOK ADVENTIST HOSPITAL SEEKING MISSION-MINDED EMPLOYEES
When: Currently hiring
Location: Tillamook, Ore.

Tillamook Regional Medical Center is looking for mission-minded professionals to fill positions in the following areas at the hospital:
• RNs (ICU, OB, Surgery, Care Coordinator)
• Medical Assistants
• Clinical Lab Manager
• EMTs/Paramedics

If you are interested in filling one of these roles, please visit www.TillamookRegionalMC.org/careers, or submit a resume and cover letter to TRMCCareers@ah.org.

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.
Young Adult Day of Worship

Sabbath
February 7 2015

Sunnyside Adventist Church - Featuring: Seth Pierce
10501 SE Market St. Portland, OR 97216
Spaghetti lunch and pizza supper provided

Contact Info.
Office Phone: (503) 850-3585
www.ocyoungadults.com
www.facebook.com/oregonyoungadults
Sponsored by NFUC Young Adult Ministries

| Events con't |

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