CAMP MEETING GOERS are Called to Love

By Krissy Barber

The tents are coming down and the benches are all put away, but the memories of this year’s Gladstone Camp Meeting will long remain.

After a momentous GC session during the beginning of July, many expected heated debates, and tension with camp meeting so close on the heels of the decisions made in San Antonio. That didn’t prove to be the case however. Instead, a climate of renewed mission, hope, and encouragement prevailed in Gladstone, all further encouraged by this year’s theme, “Called to Love… Members in Ministry.”

In addition to the evening presentations, the daytime seminars and events drew sometimes standing-room-only crowds. Having received a great deal of publicity during the two weeks before camp meeting, the seminars on earthquake preparedness, and the anticipated Cascadian event, were VERY popular and interest exceeded the room’s capacity. Fortunately, recordings of these two presentations (along with most of the other seminars) are available through the ABC.
A very significant decision was made on July 8th concerning an issue some see as potentially impacting the unity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. That decision, by the General Conference in business session, was to not allow individual divisions to make their own determination regarding the ordination of women within their territories.

This decision led to a flurry of social media comments, videos, and books, and has caused great concern for the Adventist church in some circles. Let me address a couple of the questions that have been circulating since that decision.

Does this action mean that there are to be no women in pastoral leadership? No. The General Conference in session previously approved women as pastors with commissioned credentials, and approved ordaining women as elders and deaconesses. Nothing in the vote this last General Conference has made changes to those previous decisions.

How does the Oregon Conference respond to women who have been called by God into pastoral ministry? We are not recommending women for ordination at the present time. However, we do believe that God has placed a call for pastoral ministry on both men and women. We will continue commissioning services for women in agreement with the global church, while looking at all possible ways of affirming the Holy Spirit’s plan to unleash God’s whole family in ministry.

What conclusions can be drawn from this discussion and vote? The most obvious result of this vote was that divisions should not make decisions separate from the world church. But maybe the obvious is not the same in God’s eyes as ours. In fact the Bible is clear that God has called all to be functional parts of the body. Could it be that what we thought was a vote against women was rather God keeping us from maintaining a hierarchical concept of ordination? Globally, the church’s view of ordination has continued to be that of a successionary hierarchical model. This cannot be blessed by God. Had it been a “yes” vote, there would be no further need to understand ordination/commissioning and our current thinking would be enshrined.

Beyond the questions which will continue to circulate, please understand that this decision does not detract from being “Called by God to Go...” More important than the events taking place at the General Conference is the fact that God has called us to the mission of sharing Him in our world. We—everyone that He calls to ministry—need to use every resource that God gives us to meet this task. Our task requires that every “member in ministry” is fully engaged. Those who are called by Christ and respond to that call need to be acknowledged by the body of Christ and entrusted to serve.

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Ephesians 4:11-16 states that God gave servant-leadership gifts “so that the body of Christ may be built up... From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

To complete the task given us by God will take every “supporting ligament.” We call each member in the Oregon Conference to pray with Christ in unity (John 17) that God clarifies His call to each member in ministry in the Oregon Conference, that each member knows the motivation of His Spirit and freedom to joyfully serve in and from a supportive congregation, and that today, you will be blessed by God to call others to know and share His love as never before.
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The mission of Sharon Church is this: To welcome with love, and minister to our church, our family and our community. That mission was put into action with this year’s vacation Bible school and promoted the theme ‘Destination Paradise’

During the week of June 15-19, Sharon Church’s simple basement was transformed into a tropical island paradise of underwater animals and monkey pod tree complete with hanging branches and swinging monkeys! There were tropical flowers and plants, as well as decorated stations to add even more adventure to the island tropics.

Each evening, children were welcomed by ‘travel agents’ who guided the children in songs, memory verses, and God’s word.

There were approximately 30 children ranging in age from 3-12. They were given a guided tour throughout the Island, where stations of games (Finn’s Surf Shop), crafts (Conch Cove), and fish (Sun Rise Reef) were presented.

Evenings ended with the roundup of the day’s events, a theme song, memory verses, and a snack.

On Sabbath, parents attended a special presentation by the children where they received certificates, sang songs, and recited the memory verses. It all ended with wonderful fellowship downstairs directly after the presentation for refreshments.
NOTE WORTHY...

MARANATHA’S FIRST US ULTIMATE WORKOUT IMPACTS NW
Maranatha Volunteers International successfully completed their first Ultimate Workout in the United States at Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, Ore. Approximately 90 individuals participated in the mission trip during June, a third of whom were Milo students enrolled in a summer work program. Participants demolished old decks on staff housing and rebuilt new ones; painted the interior of the boys’ and girls’ dorms; and completed various landscaping efforts on campus. In addition, they worked with community outreach projects and cleaned up a local teen shelter in Medford, Ore. This is the 25th year Maranatha has coordinated the Ultimate Workout, a mission trip geared for teenagers in high school. Read more on Maranatha’s website http://bit.ly/1TyLeN6.

NPUC WILL REVIST ORDINATION STANCE
Prior to the 2015 General Conference Session, the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive committee voted to call a special constituency session to address the issue of ordination as it relates to the call of women pastors within the NPUC. The committee voted to hold the special session after the world church vote on whether or not world divisions could make provision for the ordination of women within their own territories. They did so to ensure that any further NPUC actions would be done within the context of the most recent world church decisions. The next scheduled meeting for the NPUC executive committee is Wednesday, August 19. At that meeting, the committee will determine how to proceed in light of the action taken regarding the ordination of women at July’s General Conference Session business meeting.

NEW PLR TRANSLATOR IN COEUR D'ALENE
KEEH 104.9 FM, the Positive Life Radio affiliate serving greater Spokane, Wash., is now heard via a new translator station covering Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, on 103.5 FM. This year marks the 22nd anniversary for KEEH. Recently the station received a nationwide award for its “Truth Street” spots, with person-on-the-street comments about the 52 top spiritual topics from www.Bibleinfo.com. Listen to these audio spots online at http://bit.ly/1Pa@2v or use them at your church or school. And, whenever you are in the Spokane or Coeur d’Alene areas, listen to KEEH/PLR at 104.9 or 103.5 FM.

ADVENTISTS RANKED MOST RACIALLY DIVERSE RELIGIOUS GROUP IN US
According to the Pew Research Center, Seventh-day Adventists are the most racially diverse group in the U.S. The study included 29 groups, including Protestants and other religious groups and subsets of religious unaffiliated. After collating the data, Pew gave Seventh-day Adventists a score of 9.1 in the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index, well above the national average of 6.6, where 66 percent of church membership are white. The Pew report defines a denomination as diverse if no racial or ethnic group amounts to more than 40 percent of its adult membership. The report includes three subsets of people who are unaffiliated religiously: atheists, agnostics and “nothing in particular.” Read more from the Adventist Review online at http://bit.ly/1HJeZs7 and from the Pew Research Center website at http://bit.ly/1L9iBF.

BETHLEHEM BURNS DOWN
The Bethlehem village created by the Journey Adventist Church in Kelso, Wash., was significantly damaged by fire early on the morning of July 29. The extensive outdoor set was used for the church’s annual Journey to Bethlehem community program, each Christmas season. Props and costumes collected over the years were also destroyed in this week’s fire. Jim Wilberding, church pastor, says the fire is cause for much prayer and discussion among members about the annual community outreach, which has been produced by the church for nearly two decades. Church member Annette Koelsch, who has worked with the event planning for many years, says citizens from the community have already contacted the church, asking how they can help. For more information on how you can help, email the church at journeyadventist@gmail.com.

ORLANDO JUNIOR ACADEMY TO RECEIVE KITCHEN HOUSE & CULINARY GARDEN
A new kitchen house & culinary garden will soon be coming to Orlando Jr. Academy, in Orlando, Fla., thanks to generous contributions by the Emeril Lagasse Foundation and Florida Hospital for Children. The facility will include a 2,000 sq. ft. garden, and inside, a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen with four cooking stations. The entryway will be a reception area and retail store that will sell products including as jams and pickles made by the students. It’s expected to open in the spring of 2016. Read more from the NAD at http://bit.ly/1DQPy52.

THOUSANDS LINE UP FOR FREE HEALTH CARE IN SPOKANE
More than 3,100 individuals received free medical and dental care during the Your Best Pathway to Health (YBPTH) event held Aug. 3-4 in Spokane, Wash. More than 1,000 medical and support volunteers provided the free services, including 319 surgical services. The free clinic, patterned after similar events in California and San Antonio, Texas, was a service of Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) in partnership with national and regional Adventist church entities. The community-wide effort was co-sponsored by the Spokane mayor’s office as well as that of the Spokane County commissioner. Read more from the Adventist Review at http://bit.ly/1PhMaOa. Explore the health clinic on the North American Division Flickr at http://bit.ly/1KiT6cS.

NEW WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY CHURCH PASTOR
The Walla Walla University (WWU) Church has welcomed Jennifer Ogden to the pastoral staff. Ogden will be a role model for both young women and young men on the WWU campus, as well as having the primary responsibility of developing ministry for children, families and the local community. She previously served as an associate pastor at the Hinsdale Adventist Church in Hinsdale, Ill., where she worked with young adults and as the pastor for “180,” the contemporary service at the church. Before her time in Hinsdale, she was a youth and associate pastor in Green Bay, Wis., at the Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay and Fish Creek churches. Read more on WWU’s website at http://bit.ly/1Nempmx.

WALLA WALLA SCHOOL OF NURSING ACCREDITATION
The Walla Walla University (WWU) School of Nursing was granted continuing accreditation for the bachelor of science nursing program with removal of warning by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) at a meeting of the ACEN on July 10, 2015. This decision comes following an ACEN site visit and program review in February 2015 after WWU appealed a July 2014 decision by the ACEN to deny continuing accreditation of the program. The nursing program remained accredited throughout the appeal and review process. The initial denial of continued accreditation was issued when the university failed to meet one standard: that all WWU School of Nursing faculty members must possess at least a master’s degree. As of January 2015, 100 percent of the nursing faculty had a master’s degree in nursing. Learn more on WWU’s website at http://bit.ly/1J79ssW.

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

Juan Pacheco (Patricia) has transitioned from the Tillamook Spanish congregation to Tualatin Spanish, but will continue pastoring at the Beaverton Spanish church.

Marco Quarteroli has added a Portland/Tigard area Spanish church plant to his current assignment at Mosaic.

Sam Moreno (Wendy) has returned from seminary, and is pastoring the Keizer Spanish company, as well as helping start a multi-ethnic congregation in the Keizer area.

Sam Tahay (Teresa) has transitioned from the Keizer and Tualatin Spanish congregations to the Canby and Tillamook Spanish congregations.

Edwin Vargas (Lisanette) has transitioned from Remix and Canby Spanish to remix and working with Marco Quarteroli to plant a Portland/Tigard area Spanish congregation.

Lonnie Wibberding (Melanie) has joined the Oregon Conference as the pastor of the Turning Point and Glide congregations.

Terrie Griebel (Del) has joined the Oregon Conference as a part-time women’s ministries field coordinator for the member ministries department.

Laura Pascoe (William) has joined the Oregon Conference as a part-time disaster response field coordinator for the member ministries department.

Benjamin Tello (Hogla) is the interim pastor for the Salem Spanish congregation.

Tyler Martin will be joining the Oregon Conference as a new youth pastor in Bend.

Arthur Ordelheide has moved from his teaching position at the Tillamook Adventist School to a new role as the year-round program director for Big Lake Youth Camp.

Bob Uhrig (Sherri) has transitioned from pastoring at the Gladstone Park church to the Chesapeake Conference.
IMPACT YOUR HEALTH—EUGENE

When: September 26-27, 2015
Location: Lane County Fairgrounds

Impact Your Health — Eugene will be happening September 26-27 at the Lane County Fairgrounds. This large medical evangelism event will need 20 dentists, 10 dental hygienists, and 40 dental assistants, as well as eye care professionals and other volunteers to make it a success! Help relieve the pain and suffering of others by volunteering for this exciting event! Watch the video by Mark Finley (http://bit.ly/1KsmN0X) and share it with your friends and church members to help make this event a success! If you are interested in volunteering you can sign up at http://impactyourhealtheugene.org.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

When: Sundays, Sep. 13-Nov. 15, 2015
Location: Pleasant Valley Adventist Church

Financial Peace University is coming to Pleasant Valley Adventist Church! We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God’s ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you’ve dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! FPU classes meet for around an hour and a half each week for nine weeks. Open to the community! Sign up on-line at meet for around an hour and a half each week for nine weeks. Sign up on-line at meet for around an hour and a half each week for nine weeks. For more information visit http://bit.ly/1j4tmZb.

VESPER CONCERT – BEHIND ENEMY LINES

When: August 29, 7:00 pm
Location: Hood View Adventist Church

Attend a vespers concert by cross generational worship team, Behind Enemy Lines on August 29 at 7:00 pm at Hood View Adventist Church. They will also be performing for the morning worship service at 11:00 am. They share many styles of music, but with one spirit. Come enjoy classics, gospel, Celtic, acappella, and contemporary music. The Hood View Adventist Church is located at 26775 SE Kelso Road, in Boring, Ore.

NPUC CHILDREN’S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

When: September 24-27, 2015
Location: Doubletree by Hilton, Portland, Ore.

If you interact with children from birth to earliteens, you’ll want to attend the Children’s Leadership Conference scheduled for Sept. 24-27 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Portland, Ore. The event will not only feature 90 seminar training options, but also general sessions, network support building and an environment that fosters further ideas. Children’s ministry leaders, elementary teachers, parents, pastors, VBS leaders, or Adventurer leaders will find topics of interest here. Presentations will be conducted by Brenda Walsh, Tina Houser, Dan Linrud, Terry Jonsson, Aunt Bessie, Sherri Uhrig, Lisa and Brad Gary, and many more. Registration is $99/person through Sept. 1. Lodging is discounted through Aug. 31.

NEWSTART HEALTH & WELLNESS SEMINAR/EXPO

When: September 14-20, 2015
Location: Lents Adventist Church

NEWSTART Health. Live well. Naturally. Join us September 14-20 at Lents Adventist Church for a free healthy cooking school and health seminars. Topics including diabetes, heart disease, obesity, weight loss, as well as how to improve your overall health and increase your energy. You’ll also learn how you can lower your health care costs. On September 20, a free health expo will be held from 10:00 am-5:00 pm, including health screenings such as blood pressure reading, glucose reading, lung capacity, and cardiac fitness as well as massage, food demos/samples, live music and more! The Lents Adventist Church is located at 8815 SE Woodstock Blvd in Portland, Ore. Call 503-774-7290 for more information.

VESPER CONCERT AT SUNNYSIDE

When: September 15, 6:00 pm
Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

Close the Sabbath on September 12 at Sunnyside Adventist Church by attending a vesper concert benefitting People to People Ministries’ Weekend Backpack Program. This special concert will feature youth and young adults in music ministry including Allison Cheng, the 300 Watts String Trio, and others. Vespers will begin at 6:00 pm. Sunnyside Adventist Church is located at 10501 SE Market St., in Portland, Ore. Call 503-774-7290 for more information.

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A publication of the Oregon Conference Communication Department • Gary McLain, director • Krissy Barber, administrative assistant

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