

A new way to keep up
with what's going on in
the Oregon Conference
—without wasting paper.

eCOMMUNIQUE

APRIL | 2012 | VOL. NO. 28



JOURNEY TO AFRICA

Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus is on a mission and they've invited some friends to join them!

PAGE 2



PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

Russell Burrill visited the Oregon Conference in March and shared his message in a different location each day!

PAGE 3



THE LONG HAUL MISSIONARY

Ghennadii Muzica is a foreign missionary, but not quite in the way you would imagine.... He's a missionary in America!

PAGE 3



NOTE WORTHY NEWS

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

PAGE 4



THANKFULNESS...

...and the Circle of Giving

By David Freeman

*T*hank you for your faithfulness to God and to His work. We ended 2011 with a gain of just over \$600,000 in tithe compared to 2010. With this gain and numerous cost savings we were also able to meet our budget. As we begin 2012 we remain committed to being fiscally responsible. We have voted a balanced budget and continue to bring our expenses in line with our income. Thanks again for your faithfulness!

Circle of Giving

We are all participating in what I call the 'circle of giving'.

Everything comes from God and God gives us everything we need. As we receive His blessings, we, in turn, give to His church financially through returning His tithe and giving offerings.

These funds are collected and distributed to support ministry both locally and throughout the world. During the year, as we work together as members in ministry, many individuals will have an opportunity to hear the Good News of the Gospel and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. As they join our church, they too have the opportunity to participate in the returning of God's tithe and the giving of offerings as they join us in the blessing of supporting the Lord's work. And thus the cycle begins again.

**EVERYTHING
COMES FROM GOD
AND GOD GIVES
US EVERYTHING
WE NEED.**

The 'circle of giving' continues from generation to generation. Let me illustrate. One day I was given numerous evangelistic brochures. As a result, I attended a full six-week series

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...



THANKFULNESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of evangelistic meetings. I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior and was baptized. My point is this: I received evangelistic brochures that someone paid for; I parked my car in a parking lot and walked into a church that others paid for, the church had lights on and other utilities that others paid for; and I heard the Good News of the Gospel, from a salaried Seventh-day Adventist minister.

In other words, those who were faithful in the returning of their tithes and giving offerings made it possible for me to hear the everlasting Gospel and to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. They gave thousands of dollars, but to me it was priceless!

The pictures you see are people celebrating a new life in Jesus Christ. They had the opportunity to hear the Gospel because of you; because you were faithful in the returning of your tithe and giving offerings.

But these pictures could just as well be of you and your family. Think back to how you first heard the Gospel message. Others were faithfully returning their tithe and giving offerings so you could hear the Good News! You see, we are all part of the 'circle of giving'. What a rich legacy to participate in and to pass on to our children.



JOURNEY TO AFRICA

By Louise Craig

"You have got to be kidding!! On the busiest weekend of the year?"

The words screamed in his head when Ben Purvis, music teacher at Gem State Academy, was told to host the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus (OAMC) on alumni weekend.

Purvis didn't know two things: 1) this was God's timing; and 2) he and his male singers were about to undergo a seismic change placing them on a path leading to Africa.

A year earlier, OAMC leaders met for a weekend prayer retreat. By Sunday, the group knew God mandated three objectives: 1) continue their mission with the Adventist Men's Chorus of Romania; 2) help build men's chorus ministries around the world, beginning at the General Conference session in Atlanta; and 3) involve young men of the church in this ministry.

The mission to Romania had been full of miracles. OAMC had no idea how to reach out to the world, but understood this was a command.

Reaching young men of the church had already been tried. And failed, despite invitations to participate and interest from academy teachers and students.

Then God took over.

OAMC was invited to sing for Gem State's alumni weekend. OAMC director Lou Wildman was impressed to go on one condition: the boys in the academy choir must sing with OAMC.

Not surprisingly, the academy boys didn't want to. Purvis told his students, with a little rebellion of his own, "You must attend the Friday rehearsal. After that, you choose."

"I had no idea what was about to happen," Purvis recalls, "but within minutes of your arrival, I felt a huge weight lifted. You were not only incredibly organized, you wrapped me and my boys in love and blew us away in music." He smiles while describing the boys'

reaction when the music started, as heads turned his way and mouthed "Wow!"

Now, students look forward to rehearsals. Several students joined a tour of the Northwest with OAMC and the Adventist Men's Chorus of Romania. The tour ended in Atlanta, with performances at the General Conference session and Emory University.

One student tearfully called his mother from Georgia, saying "I know what I want to do with my life. I want to teach music in Adventist schools."

God showed his hand again. During the final concert in Atlanta, a GC delegate from South Africa eagerly sought out OAMC staff to invite OAMC to join the men of his country in preaching a message of multicultural, multi-racial unity in Christ through song.

Soon after, OAMC spent a weekend at Milo Academy, with a concert at Jacoby Auditorium, sponsored by churches in and around Roseburg, Ore. The 1,200 seat building was full, with many turned away.

Dwight Morgan, music teacher at Milo, reports, "There is a heightened sense of self, and a deeper spirituality among our students, because OAMC was here."

Steve Behrmann, former pastor of the Milo Church and Bible teacher, said, "Our whole campus was shaken in a positive way. The boys are excited that they could be men and share the gospel in that way." When senior recognition night conflicted with an OAMC concert, several wanted to choose OAMC.

On April 14, OAMC will sing with students from Gem State, Milo, Columbia and Walla Walla Valley Academies, Walla Walla University and others of high-school and college age. The concert will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the Adventist Community Church of Vancouver.

It's the next step on the journey to South Africa in July.

Reserve tickets, follow the OAMC journey, and learn how you can help at www.oamc.org.

THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

By Chuck Burkein & Gary McLain

The Oregon Conference invited Dr. Russell Burrill to speak at eight locations throughout the Conference, talking on "The Priesthood of all Believers".

Dr. Burrill began by outlining God's original plan before sin—speaking face-to-face with Adam and Eve. God's plan after sin is explained in Exodus 19:6, "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation..." After Israel's sin at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 32), God initiated the priestly system through the Levites.

The governing verb of the Old Testament is "come"—come and see God's plan for humanity in the nation of Israel. The governing verb of the New Testament is "go"—go into all the world and preach this Good News. This is the Missional Model of church. Our Adventist churches should be functioning on this Missional Model. Just as God originally planned (before the incident at Mt. Sinai), Jesus proclaimed that every member today is a priest before God. How do you become a priest? You are purchased by the blood of Christ. In 1 Peter 2:9, Peter applies Exodus 19:6 to the chosen ones. How are you chosen? By being purchased by the blood of Christ.

Ministry does not belong only to the pastor. "The work of God in the earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers." (*Gospel Workers*, 351-352). There is no status difference between clergy and lay people—only a functional difference. You became a minister when you were baptized. Ministry is the job of all God's people!

Dr. Burrill shared from the book *Every Believer a Minister*, by Dr. Rex Edwards, "But the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers indicates that for the Christian the climax is what is done in the world during the week! What happens on Sabbath is to prepare him for this ministry in the world during the week (p. 114)" The church should be a training center. Ministry should be a way of life outside the church doors.

We all, as Christians, have a duty to share the Good News with others, using the God-given gifts we were born with. Jesus is coming again soon! Let's get the work done together so we can go home.



THE LONG HAUL MISSIONARY

Chains

The weather was very cold and wintery and Ghennadii was in a hurry to get home to Portland. He was still about 200 miles out of Oregon, and coming up on a mountain pass at about five o'clock in the morning. To make it through the pass, he would need chains, so he found himself stopping to chain up.

Another truck driver stopped in front of Ghennadii and walked back to ask for help with his chains since he had never had to use them before. Ghennadii immediately thought that if he helped the man, maybe he would be able to give him a *Steps to Christ*. Ghennadii agreed to help the other driver put on the chains in the dark, rainy, snowy conditions. As they worked, they chatted. With the job finished, Ghennadii ran back to his truck to grab the book. The truck driver asked Ghennadii how much he owed him for helping with the chains. Ghennadii replied that the man didn't owe him anything. In fact, Ghennadii wanted to give *him* something. The truck driver couldn't see the book cover in the dark so he held it up toward the light from the cab of his truck. When he saw that the title had the word "Christ" in it, he was delighted and thanked Ghennadii for the book, as well as a the help with the chains.

You can read another adventure in Ghennadii's travels each month in the *eCommuniq  *. You can find the beginning of Ghennadii's story in the January 2012 issue of the *eCommuniq  *.



DON'T FORGET TO RESERVE YOUR RV OR TENT SPACE FOR CAMP MEETING!

Visit our website at www.ORCampMeeting.org to reserve your space for camp meeting. If you have questions, just call 503-850-3344 or email Jayne.Johnson@oc.npuc.org.

Camp meeting this year will focus on *Reaching our World... Members in Ministry*. We are honored to have Elizabeth Talbot return as the evening speaker for the main tent! We are also excited to be able to host Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division as our Sabbath morning speaker. In addition, the King's Heralds will be performing over the weekend, including a Sabbath afternoon concert and a joint performance Sabbath evening with the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus. And there's so much more!

We invite you to come reconnect with God, friends, and family while gathering tools to reach your world! Visit www.OregonConference.org to learn more.



EVANGELISTIC OFFERING PROJECT

We would like to strengthen the evangelistic mission of our conference by raising an additional \$100,000 by the time Gladstone Camp Meeting begins. So far, we have received over \$14,000 in cash and pledges!

You can help with this project by giving a monthly gift between now and the end of July, or by giving a one-time gift at camp meeting. To give a monthly gift, use your tithe envelope and write "Camp Meeting 2012 Evangelism" under the Local Conference Fund section. If you are giving through Adventist Giving Online, mark it the same way.

Take a look at some of the recent results of evangelism at <http://bit.ly/H9FtCd!>



NOTE WORTHY...

AMC PORTLAND IN TOP 10% NATIONWIDE

Adventist Medical Center–Portland (AMC–P) is in the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide for consistently beating national guidelines in several important measures for speed and quality of care. In addition, AMC–P has received the American College of Cardiology Foundation’s NCDR ACTION Registry-GWTG Gold Performance Achievement Award for 2011. Adventist Health has nearly 21,000 employees, 18 hospitals, more than 135 clinics (rural health and physician clinics), 14 home care agencies and four joint-venture retirement centers serving communities in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

WWU MISSION PROJECT VOLUNTEERS INJURED

Two members of Walla Walla University’s India Immunizations mission trip group were injured in Meghalaya, India, when a bridge collapsed on March 18. The two India Immunizations team members, a nursing graduate and a current nursing student, were crossing the bridge with local Adventist academy students when it collapsed. They were transported to a hospital in Guwahati, the nearest city, for treatment. They are expected to fully recover. India Immunizations is sponsored by Walla Walla University’s School of Nursing in collaboration with the School of Social Work and Sociology. The group, including students, faculty and medical personnel, traveled to India during the University’s spring break. They administered immunizations, taught health classes for the academy and the community, and conducted Vacation Bible School meetings in the evenings.

NATIVE AMERICAN CAMP MEETING THIS SUMMER

Native American Camp Meeting 2012 for the Upper Columbia Conference will be held at the All Nations Center, in Wapato, Wash. on the Yakama Reservation the weekend of June 29 & 30. Guest speakers will include Monte Church, Northwest Director for Native Affairs; Doug Johnson, Native American Director for Upper Columbia Conference; Paul Vivier from the Sliammon Nation in British Columbia, presently pastoring the Auburn City Church in Auburn, Wash. Also featured in concert will be artist, Lisa Marie Buster. Plan now to join in this spiritual event with the gathering of our native peoples.

NEW SCHOOL PLANNED FOR FLORENCE

According to the *Suislaw News*, in Florence, Ore., church members expect to open a new eight-grade Adventist school this coming September. The current plans are for one classroom, with one instructor teaching grades one through eight. The idea harkens to a simpler time, but according to Sonshine Christian School organizers, students will receive a rigorous, top-rate education. “We felt there was a gap in this community that we would be able to fulfill — Christian education,” says Scott Steward, Sonshine spokesman.

NORTHWEST MISSION INSTITUTE IS NOW READY

Jason Worf, Northwest Mission Institute (NMI) director, is finalizing plans to host the first six-month Bible worker training course, beginning Sept. 23. Held on the campus of Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash., this session will provide all the benefits of a fully-accredited academic program. NMI, sponsored by the North Pacific Union Conference, is also gearing up for this summer’s boot camp training session scheduled for June 18–Sept. 7, in the Tri-Cities (Wash.) area. Worf will attend the Northwest Chapter convention of Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries in Boise, Ida. at the end of April. For more information, contact Jason Worf at info@missioninstitute.org.

GEORGE CHARLES DART PASSES AWAY

George Charles Dart, who served as the principal of Milo Academy and eventually as superintendent of schools for the Oregon Conference, died on March 3 in Loma Linda, Calif. A memorial service was held on March 24 at the Redlands Adventist Church in Calif. Elder Dart served the church for more than 50 years in the capacities of pastor, educator and administrator. Those wishing to send their condolences to the family may address them to Mrs. Jolene Rogers, 517 1/2 So. Juanita Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

LAKE UNION PREPARES TO RELOCATE

The Lake Union is preparing to relocate. In May of 2011, Andrews University purchased the Lake Union Conference (LUC) office complex adjacent to the Andrews campus. This location is now the home for the new School of Distance Education, formerly Griggs University along with other University departments. The sales agreement allows the LUC office staff to temporarily consolidate their offices into the original building on US Hwy 31 until a new office can be constructed. When completed, Andrews University will take full possession of the former LUC buildings and land.

NEW RUSSIAN BIBLE TRANSLATION PLANNED

A new Russian translation of the Bible is planned for publication by 2015. In 2010 Mikhail Kulakov, DPhil, became director and editor-in-chief of the Bible Translation Institute, based at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. Kulakov says that the current Russian translation, authorized by the Russian Orthodox Church, was published in 1875. For most Russians today, it is practically unreadable. The Institute is leading in the translation of the Bible into contemporary Russian language. The New Testament, Psalms and the Pentateuch are already complete and published, and the Institute plans to publish the new translation of the entire Bible by 2015.

ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE ON ADVENTISM TO BE REPLACED

Anecdotal evidence about Adventists will be replaced by “actual data.” Beginning this year, the GC Office of Archives, Statistics and Research (OASR), under the direction of David Trim, will oversee a major research project to survey the opinions, attitudes and spiritual life patterns of Adventist pastors, church members, institutional employees and college and university professors worldwide. OASR has contracted with research teams at Adventist universities in North America, South America, Inter-America, Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and Australia to do a “rigorous” survey. While much of the anonymous polling will take place this year, some surveys may continue into early 2013, with full results due back at world church headquarters by June of 2013.

MINISTRY MAGAZINE SEEKS BEST STEWARDSHIP SERMON

Pastors, your hard work and late nights agonizing over a sermon on stewardship may finally reap a reward. *Ministry Magazine* is inviting all ministers (active and retired) and graduate ministerial students in North America to submit their best stewardship sermons in a special contest. Up to 10 outstanding sermons will be selected and awarded \$1,000 each. Suggested topics include tithe, offerings, the theology of money, tithes and offerings in the Bible, money and eschatology, theology of heart and treasure, and the storehouse. The entry deadline is Aug. 9. For more information on submission guidelines visit <http://bit.ly/HfGp5T>.

A VOTE OF SUPPORT

In March the Executive Committee of the Mid-America Union of Seventh-day Adventists voted “to support the ordination of women in the Mid-America Union.” This “firm and resounding” vote is intended to extend support to “women who have experienced and are pursuing the call to ministry in their own lives.” The Union also hopes to give its conferences freedom to “discuss the matter in an environment of safety and openness.” A more complete description of the vote from the Union President is available on the Union’s website at <http://bit.ly/H9hLkD>.

For additional news visit www.OregonConference.org/news_entries

Events

NORTHWEST MISSION INSTITUTE BOOT CAMP

When: Starts June 17, 2012
Location: Kennewick, Wash.

Northwest Mission Institute (NMI) is a new and innovative training school for Bible Worker Coordinators. NMI is a ministry of the North Pacific Union in cooperation with Walla Walla University, and sponsored by the Oregon Conference. Besides excellent classes, students receive experiential knowledge in outreach ministries and lots of in-the-field, mentored training. Come for our inaugural NMI Boot Camp session beginning June 17, or our NMI Complete program starting September 23. Learn more at www.missioninstitute.org. Like us on [facebook.com/missioninstitute](https://www.facebook.com/missioninstitute).

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE SEEKS DIGITAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

When: Currently taking applications
Location: Ridgefield, Wash.

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC), based in Ridgefield, Wash., is seeking to fill a newly-created Digital Media Coordinator position. This full-time salaried opportunity, which officially opens July 9, 2012, will work as part of the *Gleaner* team to enhance the online and social media presence of the Northwest Adventist mission. Successful applicants should have at least three years of professional experience in online technology and digital media. Contact Steve Vistau-net, NPUC assistant to the president for communication, for a more specific job description or additional information, at steve.vistaunet@nw.npuc.org or 360-857-7045. Resumes will be accepted until May 10.

SPECIAL ISSUE OF MESSAGE MAGAZINE

When: Currently available
Location: Can be purchased through your local ABC

A special summer issue of *Message Magazine* will dovetail into the Adventist church's worldwide effort to share *The Great Controversy*. Titled *Our Great Hope*, the issue includes five key chapters from the Spirit of Prophecy book as well as five articles that cover relevant subjects. Available as low as \$.39 each in bulk quantities. Find it at your Adventist Book Center.

LAKEVIEW WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREAT

When: May 20, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Location: Lakeview Adventist Church

All are welcome to attend the 2nd Annual Women's Retreat in Lakeview, Ore., May 20, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. The theme, "The Gift", will emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit. Kathy Davis and the Klamath Falls Women's Ministries team will lead out. A continental breakfast will be served at 8:00 with the seminar beginning at 9:00. A light lunch will be served at noon and the afternoon session will begin at 1:00. The retreat and meals are free, but RSVP is requested. For information please call 541-947-2413 or 541-417-0403 or e-mail isabelsgandma@yahoo.com. The event will be located at the Lakeview Adventist Church located at 801 S. F. Street, Lakeview, Ore.

FOLLOW THE LAMB

When: April 6-8, 2012
Location: Holden Center, Gladstone, Ore.

Follow the Lamb is a one hour dramatization and musical event focusing on events of the crucifixion and resurrection weekend. Join us as we remember the loving sacrifice and celebrate the miraculous resurrection of the only begotten Son, Savior of the world. Admission is free but seating is limited. If you have enjoyed Follow the Star you will enjoy Follow the Lamb. For more information visit www.followthelamb.us/ or call 503-655-2614. The Holden Convention Center is located on the Gladstone Park Conference Center grounds at 19800 Oatfield Rd., Gladstone, Ore.

SOUTHERN OREGON WOMEN'S RETREAT

When: June 1-3, 2012
Location: Milo Adventist Academy

Ladies, join us for Southern Oregon Women's Retreat June 1-3! Held at Milo Adventist Academy, the main speaker of the weekend will be Risi Rafferty. Workshops will include "Health & Happy for a Holy Purpose" by Rosalie Hurd, "Signed, Sealed, & Delivered" by Tami Milligan, and "The Weight of Our Words" by Tawny Sportsman. Look for registration forms at your church. You can also contact nlhkeh@grtech.com with your mailing information and one will be sent to you.

JAMES RAFFERTY MEETINGS

When: April 6 & 7, 2012
Location: Stone Tower Adventist Church

Please join us as we welcome James Rafferty and "Prophetic Pictures of God." Meetings begin Friday night at 7:00 pm, continuing on Sabbath with an 11:00 am service, and a 2:30 pm meeting. There will be an all church luncheon (potluck) after the church services. Please bring your favorite dish.

OAMC SPRING FESTIVAL CONCERT

When: April 14, 4:30 pm
Location: Vancouver Adventist Community Church

Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus' 18th annual Spring Festival will be held at 4:30 pm, April 14 at the Vancouver Adventist Community Church, located at 9711 NE St Johns Rd, Vancouver, Wash. Be inspired by 100 singing men including northwest academy students. For more information visit www.oamc.org/tickets or call 503-410-6970. Limited seating - reserved tickets recommended.

UPARK OPEN HOUSE

When: April 20 & 21, 2012
Location: University Park Adventist Church

University Park Adventist Church invites you their upcoming open house, April 20 & 21! A special DVD will be shared showing photo's of life experiences at the University Park Church. Friday we will have an Agape Supper. On Sabbath, a message and special afternoon program after potluck. The University Park Church is located at 4007 N Alaska St, Portland, Ore.

OPERATION REACHBACK CELEBRATION

When: April 28, 10:00 am
Location: Your Bible Speaks Adventist Church

The Portland chapter of Operation ReachBack is celebrating its second anniversary on Sabbath, April 28 and you're invited to celebrate with us! Come learn what Operation ReachBack does and see how you can become a part of this thriving community organization.

All links are clickable here and elsewhere in the eCommuniq .



Transitions

Nathan Hellman (Emily) has returned from seminary to pastor the Prineville/Madras district.

Lori Marcoff (Audie) has resigned her position in the Oregon Conference office to move to Medford.

Bob Wytcherley (Geri) will be leaving the Oregon Conference as of April 2.

Debee Givens (Randy) will be leaving the Oregon Conference as of April 2.



THE FIRST BEE OF SPRING

By Phil Kahler

SUNSET CALENDAR

	Apr 7	Apr 14	Apr 21	Apr 28	May 5	May 12
Bend	7:39 PM	7:48 PM	7:56 PM	8:05 PM	8:13 PM	8:21 PM
Eugene	7:47 PM	7:55 PM	8:04 PM	8:12 PM	8:21 PM	8:29 PM
Hood River	7:43 PM	7:52 PM	8:01 PM	8:10 PM	8:18 PM	8:27 PM
Longview	7:49 PM	7:58 PM	8:07 PM	8:17 PM	8:26 PM	8:35 PM
Medford	7:44 PM	7:52 PM	8:00 PM	8:08 PM	8:15 PM	8:23 PM
Newport	7:51 PM	8:00 PM	8:08 PM	8:17 PM	8:26 PM	8:34 PM
Portland	7:47 PM	7:56 PM	8:05 PM	8:14 PM	8:23 PM	8:32 PM

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

To submit stories, announcements, or to get in touch with us please email us at krissy.barber@oc.npuc.org or call 503.850.3500

To subscribe to the eCommuniq   visit www.OregonConference.org. Click on the green "Subscribe to the eCommuniq  " button.