

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

eCOMMUNIQUÉ

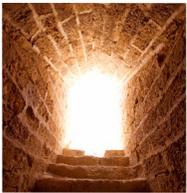
APRIL | 2015 | VOL.NO. 63



LOVE, ACCEPTANCE & GRACE

Wedding in a bedroom? Check!
A surprise baptism? Check!
An unusual love story? Check!

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ONE MOMENT CHANGES EVERYTHING

Read about several instances here in the Oregon Conference where one moment, one decision, changed someone's world.

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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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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events and announcements abound with retreats, concerts, gatherings, and much more! Read about these exciting upcoming occasions

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OREGON YOUNG ADULTS find connection and healing at retreat

By Rachel Scribner

"In Christ alone, my hope is found," sing the young adults around the fireplace. The song leaders crowd around a smart phone, reading music off the screen. The song was an impromptu choice, and the key is a little too high. But the music team just laughs and keeps on singing. This isn't a scene from someone's living room. It's the conference's Collegiate and Young Adult Spring Retreat, with approximately 40 guests singing along. And the informal atmosphere is right on key.

and worship, with plenty of room to hike, light a bonfire, and, for a few, splash into the chilly ocean while others watched from a safe distance.

In line with the weekend theme "Being Real," Pastor Nick Jones of Gateway Adventist Church and SonRise Christian Fellowship opened up about his recent fight with cancer and the very

"This sharing time was deep,... It happens because we feel safe."

real presence of suffering in the world. His testimony lead to group sharing on Saturday night, and a special prayer for healing. "This sharing time was deep," says Oregon

Featuring a relaxed pace for better relationship building, retreats are now a bi-annual event for Oregon Conference young adults. Attendees at the latest retreat, April 10-12, caught some sun and sand at Camp Magruder on the Oregon Coast. Hidden from the main highway and right on the beach, the camp offered a place to socialize, relax,

Conference youth/young adult ministries director, Tracy Wood. "It happens because we feel safe."

For Wood, retreats and other conference young adult events are vital, because church members

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YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

aged 18 to 30+ often miss out on peer interaction in their local congregations. Early on, Wood involved the group in program planning. The young adults even suggested the informal style that now characterizes their retreats. "They said, 'we'll attend if it's like this,'" Wood says. "It creates community that doesn't happen on Sabbath morning." First time retreat guest Amanda Johnson, 20, remarked that she likes the slower pace. "It's nice to have a little freedom to get to know each other," she says.

Wood hopes more young adults will discover the retreats and their peer network will grow. "If we all came together, there's a whole bunch of us," Wood says, his voice rising with excitement. "We could turn this conference upside down!"

"Til he returns, or calls me home," sings the group clustered around the tiny screen, "Here in the love of Christ, I stand."



Andrea Townsend



Benjamin Howkins



Krissy Barber



LOVE ACCEPTANCE & GRACE

By Edwin Lopez & Gary McLain

The small chapel is exquisitely decorated with flowers, an archway, and a mural on the wall. Downstairs, a table for twelve is prepared with everything needed for a banquet. Every detail has been attended to. At the base of the stairs, Josue and Yina wait patiently while the last touches are being made upstairs. From time to time they look at each other and smile.

Their personal stories are radically different. He was born in Peru. She was born in the Dominican Republic. He was raised in an Adventist family. She was not. He came to the United States in 2006 after submitting his name for the annual visa lottery program sponsored by the US government. Though his chances of getting a visa were very thin with millions of people applying, Josue was one of the 50,000 who received a visa. She immigrated to the US with her family at the age of 14. At 18, she enlisted in the US Navy and began her four-year contract which took her around the world while serving on the USS Ronald Reagan, an aircraft carrier.

Their hands are clasped together, their faces adorned with the excitement of the moment. They are absolutely convinced of what they are doing, and want the ceremony to begin right away. Upstairs, Gicela and Juan Carlos Yanguuez hurriedly make sure everything is in place so Josue and Yina's entrance will have all the spiritual and emotional impact they want it to have. After all, this is their home, and the chapel isn't really a chapel, but their bedroom transformed to accommodate this celebration of Josue and Yina's love.

Gicela and Juan Carlos Yanguuez met Josue back in 2008 when he arrived in Portland from Peru. This was a friendship that grew around church life. The Yanguuez family had given their full

support to Josue in his both his high moments and the low moments when his faith seemed to flicker.

The atmosphere is warm, loving, merry, and yet profoundly spiritual in the "chapel." The rest of the wedding attendants are not foreign to Josue and Yina's story. They are the ones who embraced Yina when she came to church for the first time, so today it isn't Josue and Yina's special moment alone. They are sharing this moment with those who have loved and supported them for the last several years.

Josue and Yina's story together began two years ago when they crossed paths one evening at a social gathering in Portland. A common friend introduced them to each other. Though Yina's story was rooted in the empty, always-looking-for-purpose-and-meaning secular culture, she became interested in Josue's faith. Not long after they met, Yina suggested to Josue, "Invite me to your church." That is how, one Sabbath, a shy, soft-spoken young lady, sat for the first time in a Christian Church – the Milwaukie Spanish Adventist Church. For the next two years the couple experienced the loving, unconditional acceptance of this group of believers and friends.

The wedding music plays while Josue and Yina enter the chapel. Edwin Lopez, the congregation's pastor, officiates the ceremony. After Pastor Ramon Canals blesses them with a dedication prayer, Yina

shares an ulterior motive for her wanting to be married that particular day – she wants to be baptized the next Sabbath! She has developed a sense of belonging and communion during her time with the Milwaukie Spanish congregation learning about the Adventist faith. After all, what attracts people to Jesus is His grace manifested through the lives of those who follow Him.





ONE MOMENT CHANGES EVERYTHING

By Al Reimche

Recently a sentence has been circulating on social media which states that "three days changes everything." And as Easter has just reminded us, it is true that from Friday to Sunday the disciples went from devastation to elation. It was not only their world that the resurrection event has changed, but our world completely.

I got to thinking about that sentence and how from even one moment to the next, life can dramatically change for each of us. We recently heard the news about Maddy Baird, one of our own Teen Leaders in Training and Walla Walla University student, who was enjoying a quiet bicycle trip, and next we heard she died after being hit by a truck. Or the family on a spring break trip enjoying the journey, and the next moment dealing with the death of their son. Life is not guaranteed for any of us, and these two experiences in the last couple of months are reminders of the fact. It's not just three days but just a moment can change everything. Sometimes we are afraid to pick up the phone for fear of the bad news that could be waiting for us.

But I want to focus on other dramatic changes that are happening throughout our conference. Recently I attended a meeting where one moment a school struggled under a huge debt, and the next they were in shock as that burden was completely lifted off their shoulders. And this has been repeated throughout a number of our schools. One moment changed everything.

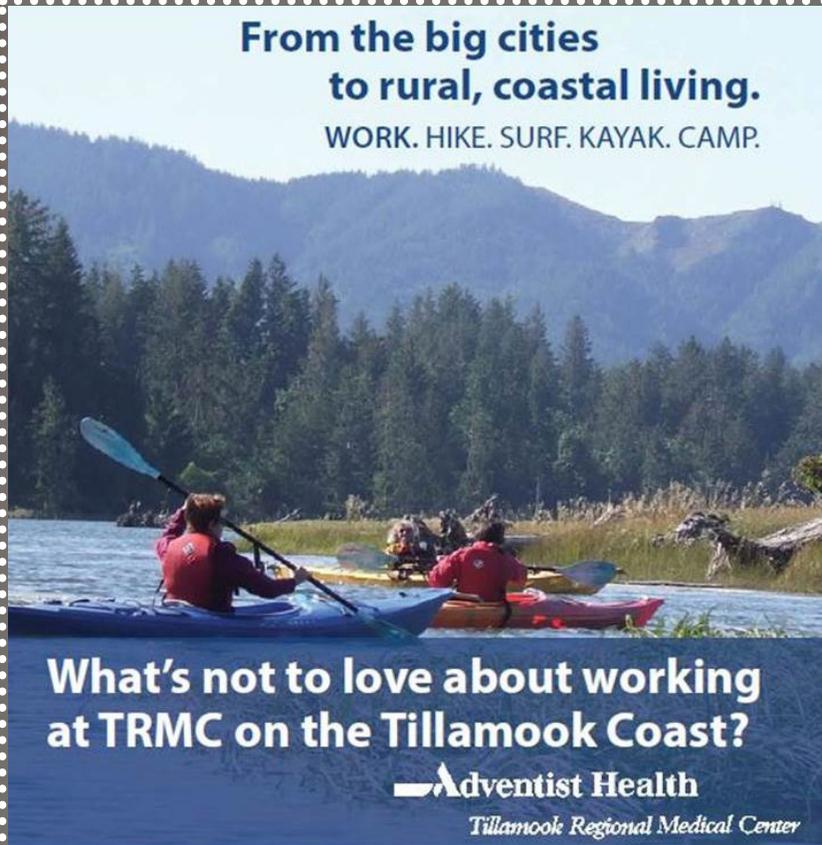
Or for some in our conference a brochure in the mail has led to life changing decisions. Three to four weeks have changed everything. One of our young adults was given the gift of attending our Adventist schools for the

first time and within a few months made a life-changing decision for Jesus as a result. In the past couple months, over 380 new members have been baptized and experienced that moment of change to a new way of life.

Or witnessing the organization of a church that only a few years before had been too divided to ever look toward this moment. I was privileged to enjoy the celebration of the effects of Christ's gift of healing in that church's history.

Or seeing a renewed focus on the power of prayer developing under the name "Called2Pray." A small group of members have been meeting to refocus our emphasis on prayer. I know this will lead to even more exciting things happening throughout our conference moment by moment.

Which leads me to the ultimate change, that moment when life and death as we know them are swallowed up in victory. Yes, one moment changes everything. May that moment come soon! Even so, come, Lord Jesus!



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NOTE WORTHY...

NPUC WELCOMES NEW DIGITAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Anthony White has accepted the invitation to join the NPUC communication team as digital media coordinator. Anthony is a 2013 mass communications graduate of Walla Walla University. Since graduation he has worked as a contract graphic designer for It Is Written international television ministry and as digital director for the Cathy McMorris Rodgers for Congress campaign. Anthony is no stranger to the Northwest. His parents, Phil and Jan White, served for years in the Washington Conference as a pastoral team and department directors.

TEN ADVENTIST VICTIMS IN KENYAN MASSACRE

When gunmen stormed Garissa University College, located in Garissa, Kenya, on April 2, they left nearly 150 people dead. Now local Adventist leaders report that 10 of the murdered students were Adventist members. Reports of the tragedy indicate that members of a terrorist group specifically targeted and killed Christian students. Among the dead was Eric Nyumbuto, leader of the student-led Adventist church on campus. Read more online from the *Adventist Review* at <http://bit.ly/1DpndQP>.

WELCH TO JOIN ADVENTIST HEALTH NW AS CFO

Donald Welch is joining Adventist Health/Northwest Region as regional chief financial officer (CFO). In this role, Welch will provide strategic direction and financial oversight for the three Adventist Health hospitals in the Northwest: Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore., Tillamook Regional Medical Center in Tillamook, Ore., and Walla Walla General Hospital in Walla Walla, Wash. He will also oversee financial operations for Healthcare Resources Northwest, an affiliated provider network, and the system's 49 medical clinics. He will join the organization on April 30. Welch most recently served as vice president and chief operating officer for Florida Hospital Zephyrhills. Read more from Adventist Health online at <http://bit.ly/1Fs9Ply>.

WWU STUDENTS WIN TOP SONSCREEN FILM AWARD

Erik Edstrom and Jesse Churchill, two students at Walla Walla University (WWU), won the Best in Show award during the annual SONscreen film festival held April 2-4 on the campus of La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif. More than 150 students, teachers, and others, including a number from WWU, registered for this year's event. Edstrom and Churchill's film *The Way* is a modern retelling of the apostle Paul's redemption. SONscreen is an annual event organized through affiliation with the North American Division. It exists to encourage college students to excel in using their talents for positive filmmaking. Read a list of all 2015 SONscreen winners online at <http://bit.ly/1GQsy4Q>.

ADVENTIST HEALTH NEWS NOTES

Wesley Rippey, chief medical officer for Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore., is the hospital's 2015 Crystal Angel Award recipient. He was recognized for his inspiring leadership and consistent demonstration of our spiritual mission. Walla Walla General Hospital in Walla Walla, Wash., now owns three of the 12 HD Stryker Towers installed around the nation. These surgical machines combine voice activation, infrared imaging and an HD video platform with the first wireless technology on the market. Tillamook Regional Medical Center health care providers and governing board of directors donated more than 3,200 pounds of citrus fruit to Oregon Food Bank Tillamook County Services.

WORLD CHURCH PRESIDENT MEETS WITH UN CHIEF

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met earlier this week with Ted N.C. Wilson, Adventist world church president. During the private meeting, Ban Ki-moon expressed concerns about growing religious intolerance worldwide and invited Adventists to work with the UN in helping people. Wilson, the first Adventist world church president to meet with a UN chief, noted that the church has long supported religious liberty and said it was willing to team up on initiatives that followed Christ's focus on physical, mental, social and spiritual ministry. Read more from the *Adventist Review* online at <http://bit.ly/1CniBa0>.

NAD STATEMENT ON REGIONAL CONFERENCES

The North American Division (NAD) issued a statement last week in response to ongoing questions about the role of regional (African-American) conferences within the church mission and structure. The statement says in part: "We vote to affirm that the historical establishment and current role and function of regional conferences are structurally essential, mission effective, and relevant in reaching the diverse populations and urban centers within our division. The administration of the North American Division and the administrations of our regional conferences are deeply committed to continuing our mission focus and evangelistic unity." Read more about this statement at <http://bit.ly/1FoExal>.

NEW AMC HIRE WILL ENHANCE SPIRITUAL MISSION

Terry Johnsson, who currently serves as a popular on-air personality and chaplain at WGTS 91.9 in Washington, D.C., will be joining the Adventist Medical Center (AMC) team in Portland, Ore., as executive director for mission integration beginning May 1. An AMC release says Johnsson will help the hospital deliver its spiritual mission, treat the whole-person needs of patients and team members, and increase engagement in the local faith community. Johnsson grew up in Portland and later served three presidents as a member of the U.S. Air Force White House Honor Guard. Read more from Adventist Health at <http://bit.ly/1NgN7g9>.

REVISED CYCLONE TOLL: 53 CHURCHES DESTROYED

The number of Seventh-day Adventist churches destroyed by Cyclone Pam has risen from 18 to 53 as church leaders count the cost of the March 14 storm on the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu. In addition, multiple buildings were destroyed at six Adventist schools, and hundreds of church members lost their homes, including 20 pastors and 100 teachers. Tithes and offerings will be significantly reduced for some time because 80 to 90 percent of church members are subsistence farmers who operate in a cash crop economy. The Vanuatu Mission only had insurance for its head office in the local capital, Port Vila. Nos Terry Mailalong, mission president, has called for groups able to fly in for short visits to build new churches. Those interested should e-mail NMailalong@adventist.org. Read more from the *Adventist Review* at <http://bit.ly/1CAo9g5>.

HOPE CHANNEL NOW AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT LA METRO AREA

Hope Channel is now available in the entire Los Angeles metro area via free-to-air television. LA is the second largest television market in North America. Hope Channel is already on free-to-air television in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Tampa, and other cities. See the complete list at <http://bit.ly/1cfzkkk>.

NAD APPOINTS CHAPLAINCY DIRECTOR

Paul S. Anderson has been appointed as the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) director for the North American Division (NAD). With this position filled, each of the of world church's 13 divisions now has established ACM departments and directors. Previously the ACM direction for the NAD was directed by the General Conference (GC). Mario Ceballos, GC ACM director, says chaplaincy as an expression of ministry is expanding rapidly around the world. "In North America alone, there are more than 430 endorsed Adventist chaplains. With this growth, the appointment of a North American Division director has become necessary."



Transitions

Paul Johnson (Corleen) has returned to retirement after filling the interim pastoral position for the Mt. Tabor congregation.

Rachel Scribner has joined the Oregon Conference as the new creative media assistant for the communication department.

Julius Jones (Joyce) has retired from pastoring the Beaverton congregation.

Shirley Allen (Dave) has resigned from her pastoral position at Sunnyside church to become the children's ministries director for the Oregon Conference.

Marlon Batz (Liz), new pastor for the Portland Spanish and University Park Spanish congregations, has joined the Oregon Conference from Colombia.

Zach Davis (Ashley) is no longer working for the Adventist Book Center (ABC).

Liesl Schnibbe is beginning the transition from administrative assistant for the human resources department to administrative assistant for legal/trust services.

The OC has two full-time openings. Job descriptions and applications are available online at <http://bit.ly/1klioVq>. The application deadline for one of the positions is April 26, so act quickly!



SUN BATHING BUTTERFLY

By Jeremy Barber

CAPTURING GOD'S HANDIWORK...

Share your photos that capture our amazing world for inclusion in an upcoming issue of the *eCommunique*!

Email your photos to krissy.barber@oc.npuc.org. All photos are subject to approval before publishing. Digital high quality (200 dpi or higher), please.

For more announcement
& event information, visit
<http://bit.ly/1eN3VpV>.
This page is updated
each week.

Events

SACRAMENTO ADVENTIST ACADEMY IN CONCERT

When: March 27-29, 2015
Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

Sacramento Adventist Academy will present a music vespers, directed by Bethani King on Friday, April 17, 7:00 pm, at Sunnyside Adventist Church. You won't want to miss this special concert! Sunnyside Adventist Church is located at 10501 SE Market Street, Portland, Ore.

UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY ORCHESTRA VESPERS CONCERT

When: April 17, 7:00 pm
Location: Tabernacle Adventist Church

All are invited to enjoy an evening of beautiful sacred music, performed by talented UCA students. A special invitation goes out to Portland area UCA alumni to reconnect at this gathering, too! Please join us as we welcome the Sabbath at Tabernacle Adventist Church, 26 SW Condor Way, in Portland. Free admission.

ASANTE AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR TO PERFORM MULTIPLE CONCERTS

When: April 15, 22, and 25, 2015
Location: Multiple locations

The Asante African Children's Choir will be performing concerts at the following locations and times: Healing Hope Adventist Fellowship, on April 15 at 6:30 pm; Mt. Tabor Adventist Church, on April 22 at 6:00 pm; and at Hood View Adventist Church, on April 25 at 7:00 pm. The Asante Children's Choir, made up of children from Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi are on their "The Jericho Tour."

OAMC 21ST ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL CONCERT

When: May 2, 3:30 pm
Location: Adventist Community Church of Vancouver

Attend the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus 21st Anniversary Festival concert, Sabbath, May 2 at 3:30 pm at the Adventist Community Church, 9711 NE St Johns Rd., Vancouver, Wash. Free tickets are required, available at www.oamc.org or 503-501-7161.

HANDS-ON GARDENING WORKSHOP

When: April 26, 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Location: Adventist Community Church of Vancouver

Calling all gardeners! Even children are welcome! Learn how to grow the most nutritious, healthful healing, and tasty produce ever! Sunday, April 26, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Adventist Community Church of Vancouver. We will have classroom instruction using material from Lynn Hoag (SunCountryGardens.com) and guest Jon Frank of International Ag Labs via DVD. In addition, we will plant the garden and a fruit tree using methods given by inspiration over 100 years ago. The cost is \$15/person or \$25/family. Bring your own brown bag lunch, garden rake, and shovel. For more information call Marilyn Puccinelli at 360-609-1461.

STONE TOWER SPRING CONCERT

When: May 30, 6:00 pm
Location: Stone Tower Adventist Church

Spring concert featuring Shannon and Jeanine Goodwin, Craig King, Carl Parker and Tsikirai Family. May 30, 6:00 pm at Stone Tower Church, which is located at 3010 NE Holladay St, just off Sandy Blvd. For more information call 503-232-6018.

BIG LAKE SPRING FLING

When: April 26, 2:00 pm
Location: Gladstone Park Conference Center Grounds

Big Lake Youth Camp is excited to invite you to our first annual Big Lake Spring Fling! This 20-hole, par 3, 5-person-team disc golf tournament will take place on Sunday, April 26 on the grounds of the Gladstone Park Conference Center. Come check out the fun, festivities, and the newly designed disc golf course! The tournament starts at 2:00 pm. \$15/person to participate or \$20/person to participate and receive a spiffy new BLYC disc! All proceeds go to support Big Lake Youth Camp. Call or email the Big Lake office at 503-850-3583 or office@biglake.org to register. To learn more, visit www.biglake.org/bl-yc-spring-fling-2015/.

CAMP MEETING VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

When: July 16-25, 2015
Location: Gladstone Park Conference Center Grounds

Oregon Conference is requesting all who are willing and able to volunteer during Camp Meeting this year. We are seeking volunteers for both Hispanic Camp Meeting (July 16-18) and Gladstone Camp Meeting (July 21-25). We need volunteers for Hospitality, Shuttle Drivers, Safety and Security, as well as licensed RNs and EMTs for 8-hour shifts. Whether you would like to work a shift daily or only have time for a single shift, your help would be greatly appreciated! Visit <http://volunteer.oregonconference.org>, email lisa.rodriquez@oc.npuc.org or call at 503-850-3575 to volunteer. Help us make this year a blessing!

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

SUNSET CALENDAR

	Apr 4	Apr 11	Apr 18	Apr 25	May 2	May 9
Bend	7:34 PM	7:43 PM	7:51 PM	8:00 PM	8:08 PM	8:17 PM
Eugene	7:42 PM	7:50 PM	7:59 PM	8:07 PM	8:16 PM	8:24 PM
Hood River	7:37 PM	7:46 PM	7:55 PM	8:04 PM	8:13 PM	8:22 PM
Longview	7:43 PM	7:52 PM	8:01 PM	8:11 PM	8:20 PM	8:29 PM
Medford	7:39 PM	7:47 PM	7:55 PM	8:03 PM	8:11 PM	8:18 PM
Newport	7:46 PM	7:55 PM	8:03 PM	8:12 PM	8:21 PM	8:29 PM
Portland	7:41 PM	7:50 PM	7:59 PM	8:08 PM	8:17 PM	8:26 PM