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the Oregon Conference
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eCOMMUNIQUÉ

FEBRUARY | 2014 | VOL.NO. 50



FINDING JESUS TOGETHER

People find Jesus in many ways, but sometimes finding Him with someone else is the best. Here's the story of one couple's journey.

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TOWN HALLS FINISH THIS MONTH

The annual Oregon Conference Town Hall meetings will finish up in February. Learn where they will be and what you can expect.

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OREGON YOUTH RUSH

Thinking about summer yet? You could make a difference for Jesus. Learn about a great way to earn money for school and share Jesus!

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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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ON THE ROAD: The Challenges and Goals of 2014

By Al Reimche

As I write, I am down in Canyonville, in between our first two town hall meetings. Last night we met with Members in Ministry from the central part of our conference. We were inspired by the Milo Academy musical group One Voice and then spent time discussing the direction the conference will be heading during the next four years.

One of the reports presented shows how God has blessed this past year with an increase in giving throughout our conference that has not been seen in some years. We ended the year showing a 2.17 percent increase over 2012 and expenses that have stayed within budget. Though one-time exceptional gifts are definite

blessings, it is the faithful giving of each of our members that allows us to keep God's mission alive in our conference. *Thank you* for your faithfulness in sharing God's blessings.

**We ended the year showing a
2.17% increase over 2012
and an expense that has
stayed within the budget.**

There are some large visionary plans that we have undertaken for these next four years. One is that we are asking our churches to grow new members in ministry by 5000. We believe it is an attainable but challenging goal. It will take all of us—pastors, leaders and all members—working together to meet this vision and grow God's kingdom.

Another goal comes out of a very concerning statistic. Over the past ten years our schools

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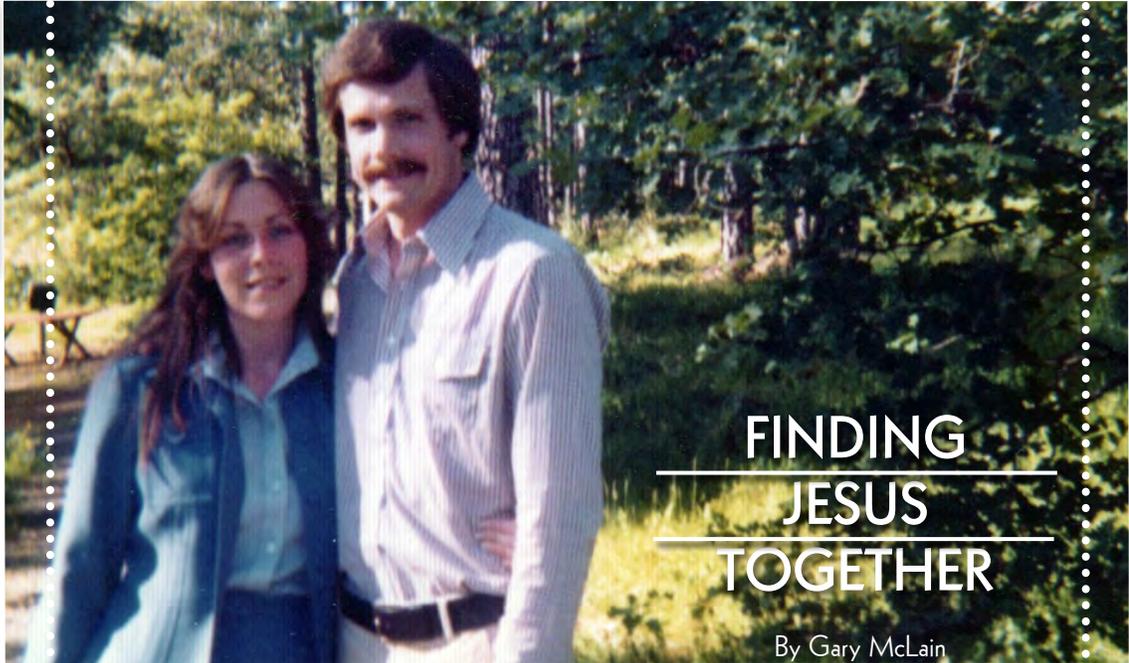
ON THE ROAD

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have gone from just over 3000 students to where today we have around 2000 attending. This has challenged our conference to set a goal of "1,000 in 5." One thousand students added to our schools in the next five years will bring us back to the enrollment we had ten years ago. Again, this is a large goal, but I believe, attainable as we work together with our schools and educators.

As I visit throughout the conference at each of these town hall events, I am blessed because I see God's people discussing, visioning together and sharing stories of the experiences they are having as Members in Ministry. Stories that include new discoveries through study of the great plan of salvation. Stories of friendships developed that result in someone discovering God's love. Stories of reaching out to a discouraged or former member with a God-inspired love. And stories of just being God's smile, which often unknowingly, opens doors for the gospel to be shared.

To each Member in Ministry, thank you for being willing to be used by God as His ambassador!



FINDING JESUS TOGETHER

By Gary McLain

John grew up being an honest, Christian kid attending a Sunday church, singing in the choir and such, but his relationship with the Lord was not foremost in his upbringing. In high school he completed the ROTC program and went on to serve five years in the military during the Vietnam war.

Sharon grew up in a good home, but with no real Christian background or prayer in the family. She sometimes went to church on Christmas and Easter. Her high school years and after were full of "just wanting to have a good time" which included a good deal of partying.

In 1975, John was living in Paradise, California, working for Chrysler, and living the smoking, drinking, bachelor lifestyle. Every once in awhile, he would pass petite, five-foot-tall, 61-year-old, Elsie Brown on the sidewalk of his apartment complex. She always had a smile and a kind greeting. Come to find out, she lived directly below him.

One morning when he was leaving for work, he found a book at the door. *The Desire of the Ages*. "Oh brother!" John thought. "Another religious book." He threw it on his bed as he went out the door.

A couple weeks later he passed Elsie again and she asked if he'd found the book she'd left on his doorstep. John replied that he had and said thank you, though he had not read it yet. A few weeks later John lost his job with Chrysler. With empty time on his hands, he found himself reading *The Desire of the Ages*, and really enjoyed learning about Christ. The next time he saw Elsie he had finished the book and thanked her for sharing it with him. She asked if he would like another book. John said yes, so she gave

him *The Great Controversy*.

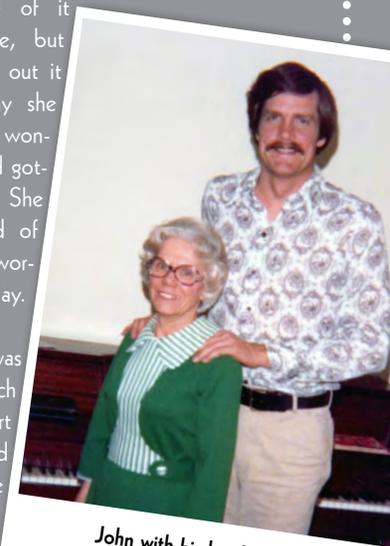
John found a new job in Alameda, California and promised Elsie that he would look up the Adventist church there. It was a tiny little church in a quiet neighborhood. The first time he went in he was met by a retired physician, Homer Wolfsen, and the first thing out of Dr. Wolfsen's mouth was, "Would you like to study the Bible?" John said, "Well sure." So he and Dr. Wolfsen started studying together once a week. His Bible studies continued even when he started working at the Oakland Airport.

Sharon had a friend who also worked at the airport, and suggested that Sharon come down to the airport and meet John. Sharon was not too fond of being set up, but decided to give it a try. They met and chatted a little, and then John asked for her phone number. Sharon gave it to him, and a day or so later, he gave her call.

When they started dating, John asked Sharon if she would like to go to church with him. Sharon agreed, thinking of it more as a date, but when she found out it was on Saturday she really began to wonder what she had gotten herself into. She had never heard of a church that worshiped on Saturday.

So there she was on her "church date," in a short skirt, jewelry, and all made up. The small church accepted

**"Oh brother!
Another religious
book."**



John with his book-sharing neighbor, Elise Brown.

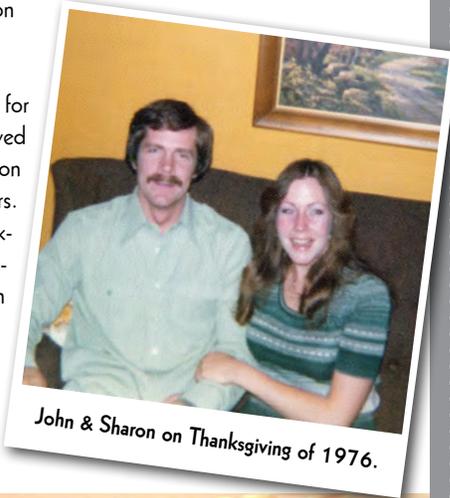
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them right in without saying a word. John invited Sharon to study the Bible with him and Dr. Wolfsen. The church didn't have a pastor at the time, but soon a pastor and his family, Larry & Linell Mays, fresh out of seminary, moved in. They happened to be the same age as John.

The pastor started including the young pair in something every Sabbath to get them involved in the church as well as church outings. They also began Bible studies together. After eight months or so, John & Sharon asked to be baptized. Sharon says it helped to have someone else to experience this dramatic life change in with. "Your life changes for the better when you allow Jesus in."

John and Sharon had started a journey together and hadn't even gotten married yet. Six months after they got baptized, John got a job in Oregon. They got married just before moving and had their honeymoon on their drive to their new home in Oregon.

When they arrived they began searching for a church home and immediately got involved with the Adventist church in Sandy, Oregon where they have now been for 37 years. John is an elder, and Sharon has been working at the Gladstone Adventist Book Center (ABC) for the past 21 years. Sharon prays that God will send people to her in the ABC that she can minister to through books, just like Elsie did with John so many years ago.



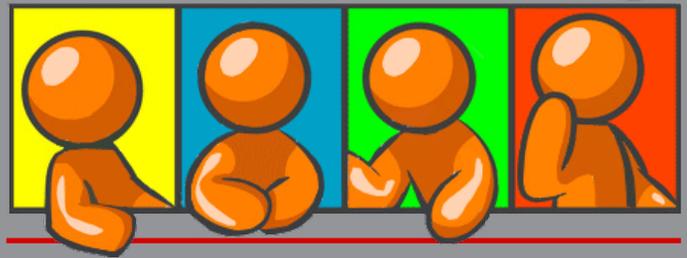
John & Sharon on Thanksgiving of 1976.

March 28-30, 2014



2014 Oregon Prayer Conference

Twin Rocks Camp, Rockaway Beach, Oregon
Learn more at www.OregonConference.org



TOWN HALL MEETINGS

In February you will have the chance to attend the last three of the annual Oregon Conference Town Hall Meetings. Here is what you can expect at the Town Hall meetings this year in your area. After a short worship thought, you will be brought up to speed on what took place in 2013 and what you have to look forward to in 2014. Following these updates, there will be time for you to share your thoughts in several breakout sessions that will originate from the eighteen strategic points presented at September's Constituency Session. These discussions will help Conference Office departments understand how to better assist church leaders throughout the Conference.

They will be held on the following dates:

- February 11 - Bend
- February 12 - Vancouver
- February 13 - Sunnyside

All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

OREGON YOUTH RUSH



Oregon Youth Rush is a 10-week summer adventure that will challenge, inspire, and bless you as you witness through Christ-centered literature door-to-door. You'll learn how to share your faith on a practical level, make lots of friends, and earn money for school! Youth Rush is a great opportunity to learn and apply ministry. This year the program starts June 8 and ends August 14 and is open to ages 16 to 25. Learn more about us at www.OregonYouthRush.com, or give us a call at 503-850-3548!



NOTE WORTHY...

SOUTHERN STUDENTS SAFE AFTER LOCKDOWN

Southern Adventist University (SAU), in Collegedale, Tenn., has reopened after a campus-wide lockdown January 24 after specific and credible threats were received. During the lockdown, students at SAU, as well as the neighboring academy, middle school and grade school, were asked to stay inside and away from the windows as police SWAT teams searched the campus and buildings. After the lockdown was lifted, Collegedale police said a suspect was in custody. During the 2-hour span, students, parents and ministries around the world took to Twitter and Facebook to share information, encouragement and prayers. In a tweet sent from Pohnpei, Karyn Davis said, "You think that SWAT team looks intimidating? Imagine those armies of angels swarming campus right now."

HUNDREDS ATTEND MINISTRIES CONVENTION

More than 500 ministry leaders attended the 2014 North American Division (NAD) Adventist Ministries Convention, held Jan. 12-15, at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey, Calif. This regularly scheduled convention involved workshops on evangelism, ministerial training, community services, communication, technology, children's ministries, stewardship and many more. NAD president, Daniel Jackson welcomed attendees. He spoke in support of the six building blocks that the division has chosen to emphasize during this quinquennium in North America.

THE RECORD KEEPER AWAITS FINAL APPROVAL

An innovative film project sponsored and funded through the General Conference, and featured in the September 2013 *Gleaner*, is awaiting final approval from its sponsors. "The Record Keeper" is an effort to take the message of *The Great Controversy* to an audience which does not normally connect with traditional evangelistic methods. Because of its unorthodox style, some have expressed a desire to alter its approach. Others are concerned a re-edit will damage the outreach potential of the project and miss the intended target audience. It was originally scheduled to be publicly premiered online in February. That is now in question, as is the final version of the project. Read last year's *Gleaner* interview with the project's producers at <http://bit.ly/1jF9s7f>. You can also learn more at "Save the Record Keeper" on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/1lkmbOt>.

LANNY HURLBERT HANGS UP HIS SPURS

Alan "Lanny" Hurlbert has retired as North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) vice president for education following more than two decades of educational leadership with the NPUC. Dennis Plubell, coming from his role as an associate director of education for the North American Division, will step in as Hurlbert's replacement in a few weeks. Hurlbert began as NPUC associate director of education in 1991, moving into the director role in 1996 after the untimely death of former director, Don Keele. Before coming to the NPUC, Hurlbert served as principal of Walla Walla Valley Academy in College Place, Wash. and Garden State Academy in New Jersey. He also taught at Shenandoah Valley Academy in Virginia and South Lancaster Academy in Massachusetts. He and his wife, Duska, will be enjoying a well-earned retirement in a somewhat warmer climate.

NEW EGW ENCYCLOPEDIA

Long-time Adventists as well as new members might equally gain from a newly published reference work, *The Ellen G. White Encyclopedia*. This resource, available in hardcover book or ebook formats, can be ordered now from your local Adventist Book Center or online. Just visit <http://bit.ly/L6HK4k>.

DON SCHNEIDER SHARES HEALTH UPDATE

Former NAD President Don Schneider sent an update on his health after seeing doctors in Washington, D.C. who treated him for the returning cyst on his brain which affected his sight in 2006. He received an MRI and visited with his surgeon and ophthalmologist. Both provided good reports. The ophthalmologist who checked his field of vision said that the results could not be better. The neurosurgeon told him that the MRI shows no evidence of foreign material in the brain, and that he could not have had better results.

MONTEIRO RELEASED FROM PRISON

After spending nearly 22 months in jail, Antonio Monteiro, an Adventist pastor in Togo, has been released from prison. Monteiro was acquitted in a court verdict and released early this week. On March 15, 2012, he was arrested after being accused of leading a crime ring, and for the past 22 months has been awaiting formal charges and a trial. His case has been the focus of prayer vigils, social media campaigns and diplomacy efforts from world church leaders. While Monteiro is now reunited with his family, the verdict was mixed, leaving another church member, Bruno Amah, convicted and facing life in prison. Read more about Monteiro's story from Adventist News Network at <http://bit.ly/1hJxub>.

DON GRAY LEAVES A LEGACY

Don Gray, whose influence equipped thousands for evangelistic work around the world, died Sat., Jan. 11. Gray, who led innovative efforts throughout the North American Division and beyond, was instrumental in developing evangelistic support materials and graphics used by many in short-term mission trips. Even during his retirement years in Portland, Ore., Gray was active in promoting outreach, working with *It Is Written* and the *Voice of Prophecy* on reclamation projects. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/1d6kCtv>. Memorial services have been tentatively set for 3:00 pm on Feb. 8 at the Rockwood Adventist Church in Portland, Ore.

GYC GATHERS IN ORLANDO

Ted N.C. Wilson, world church president, urged thousands of youth this past weekend toward the evangelistic mission of revival and reformation. Wilson spoke to more than 6,000 attending the four-day Generation of Youth for Christ gathering in Orlando, Fla. As part of the convention, GYC attendees joined in a day of city-wide outreach. According to GYC leaders, 2,800 people participated in canvassing. The volunteers knocked on 22,622 doors; left 15,517 tracts; gave out 2,238 copies of *The Great Controversy* to individuals and prayed with 2,089 people, recording 216 requests for follow-up Bible studies.

VOP PLANS RELOCATION TO COLORADO

After 84 years in California, the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) will be moving its ministry headquarters from Simi Valley to temporary offices in Loveland, Colo., this fall. Their long term plans include developing land adjacent to Campion Academy. H.M.S. Richards began regular radio broadcasts in 1929 and the radio ministry was based in Glendale, Calif., from the mid 1930s to 1978 when it moved to Simi Valley. "H.M.S. Richards started his evangelistic ministry in Colorado, and we can't imagine a better place to relocate this ministry," says Shawn Boonstra, VOP speaker/director.

ED BARNETT ACCEPTS CALL TO ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Ed Barnett has accepted a call to become Rocky Mountain Conference president. Previously serving as president of the Minnesota Conference, he replaces Gary Thurber, who recently accepted a call to be the executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference.

RON HALVORSEN JR. MOVING TO OHIO

Ron Halvorsen Jr., has accepted a call to become president of the Ohio Conference. Previously pastor of College View Church at Union College in Lincoln, Neb., he succeeds retiring long-time president, Raj Attiken.

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



Events

LOVE & RELATIONSHIP SEMINAR

When: February 15, 11:00 am & 2:00 pm

Location: Gateway Adventist Church

Have you ever struggled with your relationships? On February 15, Gateway Adventist Church is hosting a free two part seminar lead by Gary Parks on love and relationships. Gary will spend time looking at personalities and how that plays into our interactions in our relationships. Join us at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm with a free lunch provided between sessions.

ASI OREGON RALLY

When: February 22, 11:00 am-3:30 pm

Location: Fall Creek Event Center

Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) would like to invite you to our Oregon Rally February 22 from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Fall Creek Event Center, 39898 Church Road in Fall Creek, Ore. Keynote speaker: James Rafferty. For further information contact Randy Meyer at rm_mp50@hotmail.com.

2014 OREGON PRAYER CONFERENCE

When: March 28-30, 2014

Location: Twin Rocks Camp, Rockaway Beach, Ore.

The 2014 Oregon Prayer Conference, featuring Pastor Pavel Goia, will be held on March 28-30 at the Twin Rocks Friends Camp at Rockaway Beach, Ore. Pastor Goia is a powerful speaker on the subject of prayer, sharing several miracles that God has done in his own life. He is the subject of Greg Budd's book, *One Miracle After Another*. For more info go to <http://bit.ly/1ilavTN>.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH AT SUNNYSIDE

When: February 8, 11:15 am

Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

Come join us for a church service like none other... one just for kids! Once a quarter Sunnyside Adventist Church plans church just for our children, ages 2-10. We have music, a craft, a skit put on by our own Pathfinders, games, and this time, a banquet! It's all happening on February 8th starting at 11:15 am. Our theme is "His Banner Over Me is Love."

THE NEW CHIP PLUS (+)

When: February 11 (Info sessions Jan. 21 & 30)

Location: Portland Adventist Medical Center

The New CHIP Plus begins February 11th at Portland Adventist Medical Center, Education Center A. Free information sessions will be held on January 21 and 30 at 6:30 pm. Regence BCBS and other major health plans may reimburse all or a portion of fees for eligible members. Discover, experience, explore and share CHIP, a journey to better health. For more information call the Hood View CHIP information line at 503-512-9055 or see www.chiphealth.com.

ORGAN CONCERT BY DR. KIMO SMITH

When: February 15, 7:00 pm

Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

February 15 at 7:00 pm, Sunnyside Adventist Church will present an organ concert by Dr. Kimo Smith, Associate Professor of Music at La Sierra University and organist at Loma Linda University Church and First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. Join us for this free concert. The Sunnyside Adventist Church is located at 10501 SE Market Street, Portland in Ore.

WINTER CBFM SEMINAR SERIES

When: January 31-February 1, 2014

Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

Attend the winter Center for Bible Faith and Mission (CBFM) seminar series. Sunnyside Adventist Church hosts the CBFM seminars from Walla Walla University Theology Department. Join us January 31-February 1, for "Conscience, Creed, and Covenant: The Boundaries of Adventism." The weekend will begin Friday, January 31, at 7:00 pm with a presentation by Dr. Alden Thompson. Sabbath services at 8:45 and 11:15 am will be brought to us by Macy McVay, senior theology major, and Natalie Dorland, sophomore theology major. At 2:30 Sabbath afternoon, the seminars continue with the topic "Adventist Young Adults Speak Their Mind." At 5:00 pm Dr. David Thomas will give us the final presentation followed with a discussion. Our monthly fellowship potluck will also be February 1, so plan to bring enough food for your family with a little extra for others, and enjoy the day with us.

CONCERT WITH MATT & JOSIE MINIKUS

When: February 14, 6:00 pm

Location: Woodburn Community Adventist Church

You are invited to join Matt & Josie Minikus on Friday, Feb. 14, at 6:00 pm for an acoustic concert featuring a beautiful blend of vocals, guitar, and piano, as well as many of their original songs. You will be taken with them on a journey through their music and stories and into a deeper understanding of the love, faithfulness, and beauty of God. The concert will be performed at the Woodburn Community Adventist Church (located at 1253 5th Ave. in Woodburn, Ore.). There will be a reception following the concert.

DR. NEIL NEDLEY'S DEPRESSION RECOVERY PROGRAM

When: March 3-April 28, 2014

Location: Whipple Creek Adventist Church

An 8-week program for healing your brain and improving your mood, Dr. Neil Nedley's Depression Recovery Program presents simple self-help, nutritional and lifestyle changes for breaking free from depression. Free introductory session at 7:00 pm, March 3 at Whipple Creek Adventist Church, 302 NW 179th St. in Ridgefield, Wash. The program runs through April 28, Mondays at 7:00 pm. Register online by March 3 to save 10%. For more info call Jon at 503-567-2777 or visit www.whipplecreekadventist.org.

WIDOW'S VALENTINE LUNCHEON

When: February 13, 12:00 pm

Location: Spring Hill Country Club

Are you a widow? If you are, we hope you'll join us for our annual Valentine Luncheon, Thursday, February 13th at 12:00 noon. In addition to a catered lunch, there will be a program designed just for you and if you register by January 31st your name will be entered in a special drawing. This year we are meeting at Spring Hill Country Club located at 155 Country Club Lane, in Albany. For more information, contact Tawny Sportsman at 541-367-4485. Mail your \$15.00 check to her at 4908 Mimosa Circle, Sweet Home, OR 97386. If financial assistance is needed, let Tawny know when you register.

Continued on next page...

Events...continued

AREA 3 WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENT

When: March 16, 2014

Location: Spring Hill Country Club

Join us on March 16 at the Spring Hill Country Club in Albany for a special women's ministry event. The keynote speaker will be Lisa Marie Buster. Lisa has devoted her life to going out into the streets and lanes to see that the poor and crippled of heart find the kind of love and healing that only Jesus can give. Break out presenters and titles forth coming. Register by February 17 and receive the Early Bird Special of \$32 per person. After February 17, cost is \$36 per person. Space is limited. To register for this event, contact Jackie Johnson at macwomensministry@gmail.com. Or you can mail your information to: McMinnville Seventh-day Adventist Church, Attn: Jackie Johnson, PO Box 448, McMinnville, OR 97128.

8 WEEKS TO WELLNESS SEMINAR

When: Dates in February, March, and April 2014

Location: Castle Rock Adventist Church

The "8 Weeks to Wellness" seminar will be presented by Jeanne Norris on February 11, 18, 25, and March 4, continuing weekly through April 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2014. The free classes begin at 6:30 pm and focus on general good health, feeling good, reducing the risk of disease, increasing energy, and weight loss. We are excited to host this new series at the Castle Rock Adventist Church, 7531 Old Pacific Hwy. N. in Castle Rock, Wash. There will be tasty samples, so bring a friend. To register please call Wanda at 360-967-2165 or Jeanne at 360-355-2549.

CERT TEAM TRAINING CLASSES

When: February 9, 16, & 23, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Location: University of Portland Campus

Multnomah County is offering certification classes for CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), also known as NET Neighborhood Emergency Teams. These classes will be conducted on the University of Portland campus, February 9, 16, and 23, from 9:00 am-5:00 pm. They are scheduled on Sundays especially to accommodate Adventists. This training is designed to prepare neighborhoods for emergency situations. The attendees are trained to triage injured individuals, search damaged buildings, learn how to turn off gas or water lines in their communities, and more. Registration is February 9 from 8:30-9:00 am. Location address is 5000 N Willamette Blvd, Portland, Ore.

ARLENE TAYLOR TO SPEAK AT SUNNYSIDE

When: February 8, 2014

Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

On February 8, Sunnyside Adventist Church will host Arlene Taylor, PhD, one of the world's leading speakers on brain function. She will be speaking at the 8:45 worship service on "Be Anxious for Nothing." At 10:00 am "Gender Difference in Approach to Spirituality," and at 11:15 am "The Physiology of Forgiveness." At 2:30 she will present "Cellular Memory – the reason we sometimes do what we don't want to do." There will be a potluck for those who choose to stay through the afternoon. Please plan to bring enough food for your family with a little extra for guests.

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

Transitions

Ron du Preez (Lynda) is no longer pastoring at East Salem; his new pastoral assignment will be announced soon.

Walter Wandersleben (Denise) is retiring from his pastoral position in Lebanon and Sweet Home.

John Rengifo (Denny) is transitioning from the Pennsylvania Conference to pastor at the Shady Point and Central Point churches.

Les Jones (Sharon) is retiring from his pastoral position in Silverton and Stayton.

SUNSET CALENDAR

	Feb 1	Feb 8	Feb 15	Feb 22	Mar 1	Mar 8
Bend	5:14 PM	5:24 PM	5:34 PM	5:43 PM	5:52 PM	6:01 PM
Eugene	5:21 PM	5:31 PM	5:41 PM	5:50 PM	6:00 PM	6:09 PM
Hood River	5:11 PM	5:21 PM	5:31 PM	5:42 PM	5:52 PM	6:01 PM
Longview	5:16 PM	5:26 PM	5:36 PM	5:47 PM	5:57 PM	6:07 PM
Medford	5:24 PM	5:34 PM	5:43 PM	5:51 PM	6:00 PM	6:09 PM
Newport	5:24 PM	5:34 PM	5:44 PM	5:53 PM	6:03 PM	6:12 PM
Portland	5:16 PM	5:26 PM	5:36 PM	5:46 PM	5:56 PM	6:06 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

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