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eCOMMUNIQUE

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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!

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JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Kelso-Longview's *Journey to Bethlehem* saw record crowds this year as they celebrated their 15th anniversary.

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THE RECIPE EXCHANGE

Looking for new recipes for the new year? Check out this new column each month for a great vegetarian or vegan recipe!

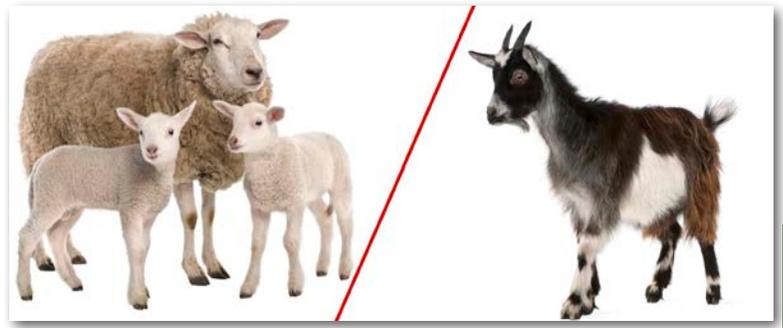
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NOTE WORTHY NEWS

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

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REACH OUR WORLD

Members in Ministry

By Al Reimche

We were tired after finishing a full day at the State Fair in Salem. It was time to head home, and the closest way to our car led through the animal barns where we happened upon a section reserved for miniature goats. It was the enclosure that had four or more baby miniature goats and a small straw bale that captured our attention. All of a sudden “tired” disappeared from our thinking as we watched those baby goats play “king of the castle” on the straw bale. One would jump up and strut around like he owned the world until another would sneak up and bounce him off the bale. It must have been over half an hour that we watched and laughed at the silly antics of those babies playing that game of life — who is the tallest, the smartest, the fastest, who climbs the highest ... the list could go on forever.

But what does this story have to do with the title, and how could “Members in Ministry” ever be equated with goats?

Answering that question now would be getting ahead of myself. Instead, let's look at an experience the disciples had with Jesus just prior to the cross. They had been listening to the religious leaders challenge Jesus about a statement He had made concerning the temple. After finding a quiet place away from the arguing and clamoring crowd, they asked the question, “When

will these things happen and what will be the sign of Your return?” After talking about all the things that would happen in the world, He stated that the real sign would be that “this gospel of the kingdom would be preached in all the world and then

WE DON'T BECOME
MEMBERS IN MINISTRY
SO THAT WE WILL
BE SAVED...

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REACH OUR WORLD

the end would come.” Sometimes we overlook that profound statement as we watch for more dramatic signs like “earthquakes in diverse places.” But then Jesus finished His thoughts by sharing the four preparation parables: the prepared home-owner, the oil-filled lamps, the good stewards, and finally, the judgment of the sheep and the goats.

The last parable reads, “All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’” Matthew 25:32-40 NKJV

We know this parable. We’ve heard it told many times, but maybe we have never seen it in context. Jesus was saying, yes, there will be problems in the world you are living in. Yes, there will be disasters happening everywhere. Yes, signs in the sun, moon, and stars will be happening right before your eyes. So instead of fear, be about my mission. Use the talents I have given you. Fill your souls with the holy oil of the Spirit, and be sheep.

What was the difference between the sheep and the goats? I know the obvious answer is that the sheep were involved in ministry and the goats were not. But just for a moment think of what the goats say to Jesus as they find themselves on the wrong side of judgment. When did we see You and not do the right thing? Listen, had we known it was You, we would have done whatever You needed.

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THE LONG HAUL MISSIONARY



By Gary McLain

Ghennadii Muzica and his family moved to the US about six years ago from Moldova. With four kids at home he didn’t feel as though he could go back to school so he studied for his commercial driver’s license and began providing for his family by doing “long hauls”, driving a semi-truck across the country.

Ghennadii was born into an Adventist family and baptized when he was 16. He always participated in church activities, but in his heart he wanted to do something more than just go to church once a week and return his tithe, especially after reading the Great Controversy. Reading about the reformation and the great people who shared God’s word in such trying times made him feel he needed to do more.

There were times he thought he could be more active in witnessing if he had more money. Maybe someday he would have more money, and then he could witness! Then one day he realized he was thinking about it all wrong. He didn’t need a lot of money! He could work for God now!

Ghennadii is good friends with a pastor in the Ukraine who does evangelistic work, and decided to support him. “Every time I helped him I felt very satisfied.” he says. “I have the great privilege in that my wife supports me in my effort to help others.”

He supported the missionary pastor every year financially. But when he read the Bible, Ghennadii noticed that Jesus paid a lot of attention to personal relationships with people. Ghennadii felt he needed to do more than send money, and came to the conclusion that just financially supporting someone is not enough. You need personal interaction with people! He felt that for him, just giving money for missionary work was the easy way out and that he should sacrifice more. “The Bible says if it is needed we should even sacrifice our life! The basis for our religion is love and if we love then we sacrifice whatever is needed for that. “The biggest sacrifice is our time,” remarks Ghennadii.

Ghennadii began to pray a lot. “God, open the door for me. What can I do to tell people about You?” God impressed him to buy books and share them with people he came in contact with. *Steps to Christ* was his book of choice. He thought it should be easy to just buy a hundred books and hand them out or

leave them in places for people to find. After thinking a bit more, Ghennadii decided he wanted to give these books to people he came in contact with personally. So he purchased 200 Spanish copies of *Steps to Christ*, 200 English copies of *Steps to Christ* and then sent an order to Moldova for *Steps to Christ* in Russian.

On his first long haul, after purchasing the books, he took 35 or so books with him. “I prayed to God that he would send people to me that would accept these books. To my surprise, when I began my trip home, I had no books left! God had sent 35 people across my path. — People that I needed to come in contact with.” The only problem was that he had no books for the way home. As he passed through Idaho he came upon a hitchhiker. The hitchhiker’s sign said “Baker City.” Ghennadii’s first thought was he needed to pick him up so he could give him a book. But then he remembered he was out of books. He went ahead and stopped to pick him up. Ghennadii often picks up hitchhikers so he can talk to them. First off he puts Christian music on, and then he asks them if they are willing to listen to it. As he became acquainted with the hitchhiker he told him that he usually gives books away but that he had run out. So Ghennadii asked if he could mail a book to him. Since Ghennadii was driving, the hitchhiker texted Ghennadii his mailing address. When Ghennadii got home he mailed a *Steps to Christ* to the hitchhiker and several days later got another text from the hitchhiker thanking him for the book.

“I realized that if we want to do something, even if it’s small, God will bless by sending the right people to us.”

Ghennadii doesn’t speak much English or Spanish but he was able to approach people and offer them books and they were happy to receive them. “In my understanding, God can make the stones speak, and I may be one of them!”

This is just the beginning of Ghennadii's story! You can read more stories in *The Long Haul Missionary* series. Just look for the new column in each month's eCommunique!

I believe the greater difference between these two groups was that the sheep followed the Shepherd's approach. It wasn't that they wanted to be noticed or acknowledged, but rather that they shared what God had done for them. They administered God's grace to others, not even knowing that what they were doing was being done directly to Jesus. The goats wanted to play king of the castle. If we had known it was You . . . if we had known where that straw pile was, we would have climbed to the top and not let anyone push us off. We would have looked good. We would have been "king of the castle."

There is a world outside our churches, schools and homes that needs to hear the good news. It is a world that needs to experience the awesome grace of our Savior! It is not for status in God's eyes that we talk about all members in ministry, rather that we have this privilege to administer God's grace in all its various forms through our unique spiritual gifts. We don't become members in ministry so that we will be saved, as the goats thought they were; instead we use our God-given gifts in ministry because we are saved.

Those baby goats were so funny, so human in their game of "king of the castle," each one attempting to reach the ultimate heights of the straw bale. That's where the goats reminded me of all of us. It is not all about me, whether reaching the pinnacle of a straw bale, or bragging that I served Christ.

It is about all of us as members reaching out to our world with the good news—experiencing God's grace and then ministering that grace in its various forms to the world we touch around us.

As you read or hear stories about people being used by God, remember that this is not an attempt to put them on a "straw bale" but rather to show examples of what God is wanting to do in each of our lives to reach our world for Him.



JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM SEES RECORD CROWDS

By Linda Wilson

This year marks the 15th year the Kelso-Longview (Wash.) Church has offered their production of Journey to Bethlehem. This event, which takes community members on a "journey" where they can see, hear, smell, taste, and feel their Bethlehem experience, attracted more than 8,500 people.

This year's production involved nearly 220 volunteers, most of them from the Adventist congregation, but some from other churches. These volunteers work together like a well-oiled machine in areas such as set design and set up, costumes, parking, greeters, directors, animal tenders, fire tenders, security, and parking. The newest cast member this year was Curley the Camel, replacing the church's camel, Gizmo, who died suddenly early last spring.

At the start of their Journey, participants are met by two "cousins," who guide them from Nazareth to Bethlehem. On the way they come across three magi and their camel, spend time in a householders tent, are held up by a Roman guard, experience a Bethlehem marketplace, beg for lodging at an inn, pay their taxes, witness an angel, and find a family huddled together at a manger.

Every person taking the Journey ends the trip at a large lighted wooden cross where they are told, "Tell everyone you see; anyone you meet — that the Messiah, our Savior has been born!"

The Recipe Exchange



This January marks the start of a new year and with it, "new" things. New resolutions, new jobs, new routines, new classes, new challenges. Why not a few new recipes? Welcome to "The Recipe Exchange"! Each month you will find a vegetarian or vegan recipe here that you can add to your culinary arsenal.

But as this is an exchange we'd love to be able share some of your favorite recipes as well! Have a favorite potluck recipe? Send it in! Have a recipe that everyone always asks for? Send it along!

All recipes must be vegetarian or vegan and must come complete with directions for preparation. Send your recipes by email or even snail mail! Email recipes to krissy.barber@oc.npuc.org. Snail mail your recipes to: Oregon Conference Communication Department, 19800 Oatfield Road, Gladstone, OR 97027.

This month we offer a hearty soup. Perfect for those cold rainy days! It's easy and economical. It's also great reheated. Bon appétit!



Vegetarian Lentil Soup

Ingredients

- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 carrots sliced
- 1 stalk celery
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1 cup dry lentils
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1/4 tsp dried thyme
- 2 bay leaves
- dash salt

Directions

In a large pot, sautee the onion, carrots and celery in the vegetable oil for 3-5 minutes until onions turn clear.

Reduce heat to a simmer. Cover and cook until lentils are soft, about 45 minutes.

Remove bay leaves before serving.

Makes 4 servings of lentil soup.

Excellent alone or over rice.



NOTE WORTHY...

REMEMBERING NORM KLAM

Former North Pacific Union Conference treasurer, Norman W. Klam, passed away Sunday evening, January 1, 2012. He was 66. Klam died surrounded by family, at Southwest Washington Medical Center in Vancouver, Washington, where he had been a patient since suffering an auto accident on Monday, December 26. He leaves his wife, Marlene; daughter, Cheri, a physician in Vancouver; son, Jeffrey, assistant treasurer for the Northern California Conference; and several grandchildren.

Canadian by birth (and proud of it), Klam graduated from Walla Walla College in 1968. He began his work for the Seventh-day Adventist Church as assistant auditor for the Canadian Union Conference in 1971. In 1976, he took over the treasurer position for the Alberta Conference, moving to the same role for the Canadian Union Conference in 1981. Klam joined the Oregon Conference as treasurer in 1986, moving to a similar position for the Lake Union Conference in 1992, where he led the treasury for 10 years. Klam moved back to the Northwest in 2002 as North Pacific Union Conference treasurer, working in that capacity until 2008.

Note: A memorial service is planned for January 14. Please see the Announcements page for more information.

NORTHWEST CROWDS FLOCK TO NATIVITY PAGEANTS

Camels, sheep, horses and people are converging all across the Northwest as several Adventist churches present their annual Nativity programs. Programs in Spokane, Wash., Kelso, Wash., Gladstone, Ore. and beyond are attracting thousands of community neighbors with a chance to travel back in time to experience the drama of Bethlehem and Jesus' birth. Record crowds in Gladstone, Ore., lined up hours early to be the first to experience Follow the Star sponsored by area churches. Read more about some of these special seasonal events in the February *Gleaner*.

WILLIAM GEMORA ELECTED NCC ASIAN/PACIFIC MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

William Gemora has accepted the invitation to be the new Northern California Conference Asian/Pacific Ministries coordinator vacated by VicLouis Arreola, III, who was voted Pacific Union Conference Asian/Pacific Ministries director in August. In addition to his new responsibilities, Gemora also serves as district pastor for the East Bay Fil-Am and Stockton Fil-Am churches.

PACIFIC PRESS CELEBRATES A REAL TREASURE

On Dec. 1, Pacific Press Publishing Association celebrated the 25th anniversary of Aileen Sox as editor of *Our Little Friend* and *Primary Treasure*. *Our Little Friend*, first published in 1897, and *Primary Treasure*, established in 1957, is handed out weekly to thousands of children in Sabbath Schools around the world. Since Mrs. Sox, as she is affectionately known, became editor, Pacific Press has produced 97,664,424 copies of the two magazines, or more than a billion pages. If laid end to end they would reach around the earth more than seven times and would stretch between New York City and Los Angeles 66 times!

NEW IPAD APP LETS YOU PLAY WITH FELTS

No longer do your children need a flannel board to play with felts. A free storytelling app is now available for iPad users. Titled "Gracelink," the app is available in the iTunes app store. A default library of virtual "felts" can be used to tell stories from Scripture. The plan is to release weekly graphic packs that relate to that week's study and corresponding animation. "Crayons" are provided so children (and the rest of us) can draw stories, or add "color" to complement the story told with the "felts."

FORMER WWU ADMINISTRATOR HEADS TO THE CARIBBEAN

Clinton A. Valley has been elected president of the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC), an Adventist-owned school in Maracas, St. Joseph, Trinidad. Valley, a Trinidadian, succeeds Trevor Gardner, who has accepted the position as president of the Northern Caribbean University in Mandeville, Jamaica. Valley recently served as Walla Walla University (WWU) associate academic vice president. He currently serves as La Sierra University School of Education dean in Riverside, Calif. Valley has worked in Trinidad, the United Kingdom, and the United States in various capacities, including church pastor, high school principal, university professor and administrator.

NATIONAL ADVENTIST SYMPOSIUM URGES A SIMPLER GOSPEL MESSAGE

Top administrators, evangelists and ministerial secretaries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are reprioritizing the role of God's spirit and simple Bible truths in public evangelism. Rather than complicating the gospel or endlessly repackaging it, leaders are advocating a simpler approach. Speakers such as Ernestine Finley say preaching basic Bible truths is the most compelling way to present the Adventist hope. "This approach requires admitting one's own vulnerability," says Shawn Boonstra, North American Division Ministerial Association associate director. "The world is tired of religious know-it-alls," he says, citing a New Testament story in which the apostle Paul identifies with his audience to make a point. You can read more from the Adventist News Network by visiting <http://bit.ly/wHNpHC>.

HUNGARIAN COURT STRIKES DOWN CONTROVERSIAL RELIGIOUS LAW

A controversial Law of Churches, which was set to de-register all but 14 "historic" religions in Hungary, was struck down on December 19 by the country's Constitutional Court.

The law, which was scheduled to go into effect January 1, 2012, would have forced more than 300 minority faiths, including the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hungary, to undertake an arduous process of reapplying to Parliament for a return of their legal status.

The law, which was passed by a two-thirds majority of Hungary's Parliament, was described by the government as a means to root out fraudulent organizations operating behind the protection of religion. Religious liberty advocates around the world, however, decried the law as one that would have caused hardship for many smaller faith groups.

A YOUNG PASTOR'S "QUICK-MEET" MINISTRY TO AIRPLANE PASSENGERS

A "quick-meet pastor" to air passengers, Jose A. Barrientos Jr. is the youngest and only Hispanic among 18 volunteer chaplains who work at the Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia. Every Thursday he spends several hours ministering to his "flock," scurrying commuters and employees, in one of the nation's largest international airports. He is the go-to guy in offering assistance to Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian-speaking passengers, as well as the maintenance staff, a large majority of whom are Hispanic.



Events

HIS PRAISE MEN'S CHORUS IN CONCERT

When: January 21, 11:00 am

Location: Hood View Adventist Church

His Praise Men's Chorus will be performing during the Sabbath worship hour at Hood View Church on January 21 at 11:00 am. His Praise Men's Chorus is a group of about 30 men from the Portland, Oregon-Vancouver, Washington metropolitan area, who have joined together to sing the Gospel. There will be a vegetarian potluck luncheon following the service. Bring your family and friends and enjoy a wonderful blessing. Hood View Adventist Church is located at 26775 SE Kelso Road, just outside of Boring, Ore.

NORMAN KLAM MEMORIAL SERVICE

When: January 14, 3:30 pm

Location: Meadow Glade Adventist Church

A memorial service for Norm Klam has been scheduled for Sabbath, January 14, at 3:30 pm at Meadow Glade Seventh-day Adventist Church, 11001 NE 189th Street, Battle Ground, Wash. The service will be followed by a reception in the fellowship hall. Messages and cards for Norm's family, can be sent to the Meadow Glade Church Office at the address above.

GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT

When: January 7, 6:00 pm

Location: Beaverton Adventist Church

A little bit country with a whole lot of Gospel soul! Lee Larson will present the Gospel in music at vespers, Saturday, January 7 at 6:00 pm at the Beaverton Adventist Church located at 14645 SW Davis Road, Beaverton, Ore. Email lorrieleno@yahoo.com for more information.

SUNNYSIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

When: February 26, 4:00 pm

Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

Visit Sunnyside Adventist Church for a free concert by the Sunnyside Symphony Orchestra with Travis Hatton, Music Director and Conductor on Sunday, February 26 at 4:00 pm. Sunnyside Adventist Church is located at 10501 SE Market St. Portland, Ore.

RWANDAN ASANTE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

When: January 14, 5:00 pm

Location: Sunset Christian Fellowship

The Asante Children's Choir from Rwanda is coming to Sunset Christian Fellowship on January 14th. This winter be a part of a heart-warming performance of the Asante Children's Choir. Invite your friends and family to share this wonderful experience. These 24 children from Rwanda will dance and sing their way into your heart with a variety of gospel and traditional African music. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to experience worship and performance in a whole new way and to change a life in Rwanda! Sunset Christian Fellowship is located at 3033 SE 59th Court, Hillsboro, Ore.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

When: January 12 - April 19, 2012

Location: Rivers Edge Adventist Church

Start the new year in financial peace! Dave Ramsey's popular program "Financial Peace University" will be taught at the Rivers Edge Adventist Church in McMinnville starting Thursday night, January 12 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. This 13-week seminar will provide you with great financial tools and a straightforward way to budget that applies to any financial situation. The cost is \$99 per family, but there are several half-price scholarships available. For questions, or to register please call 971-237-7362. Childcare is included.

SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF WOMEN PARTY

When: January 22, 9:30 am

Location: Lents Adventist Church

S.N.O.W. Party! Mark your calendars for the annual Women's Ministries Spiritual Needs Of Women Party for Sunday, January 22nd in our LAC. Featured speakers include Cheri Corder, Ginny Allen, Debbie Sundstrom, and others. Invite your female family and friends to the FREE festivities and fabulous food for body & soul. Please call 503-774-7290 to pre-register you and your guests. Lents Adventist Church is located at 8815 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland Ore.

NEW EVENSONG ALBUM RELEASED

When: Available Now

Location: www.SabbathTimeMusic.com

Sabbath Time Music™ Recordings, Mel West and Loren Dickinson, announce the release of Evensong: A Sabbath Sunset Reflection. Recorded during worship at Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church, Portland Oregon, on March 12, 2011, Evensong A Sabbath Sunset Reflection is the same much-loved service of music and narration that Drs. West and Dickinson originated almost 50 years ago at Walla Walla University. Now this continuing tradition is available to you for your own Sabbath times! Order Evensong A Sabbath Sunset Reflection at www.sabbathtimemusic.com.

NEWSTART HEALTH EXPO

When: January 29, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: La Pine Senior Activity Center

La Pine Seventh-day Adventist Church will be holding a health fair on Sunday, January 29 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at the La Pine Senior Activity Center, 51720 Huntington Rd. La Pine, Ore. Speaker guest, Robert Blehm, PA-C from Feather River Hospital will hold seminars throughout the day. Come and join us as we share with our community valuable information for positive lifestyle changes. For more information, call Tobi Pawson at 541-306-8360.

EVERY GOOD GIFT CONCERT

When: January 14, 5:00 pm

Location: Your Bible Speaks Adventist Church

The Portland Chapter of Operation ReachBack, Inc. invites you to enjoy "Every Good Gift," a concert in which the participants honor God by sharing their special gifts, January 14, 5:00 pm at the Your Bible Speaks Community Adventist Church. For more information call 503-775-6577.

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



Transitions

Alejandro Delgado (Noemí Herrera Lugo) joined the Oregon Conference as senior pastor of the Hillsboro Spanish church from the Michigan Conference as of January 1.

Gwynne Richardson (Ione) ended his interim pastoralship at Seaside and returned to retirement as of December 31st.

Cory Wetterlin (Laura), has resigned his pastoral position at the Pleasant Valley church in order to pursue doctoral studies.

Allan Nielsen has resigned his position in the Hood View/Estacada district to continue his studies.

Nathan Hellman (Emily) will be returning from seminary and will be placed in due course.

Jonny Moor has taken the position of pastoral intern at Hood View/Estacada as of January 1.



CANNON BEACH SUNSET

By Jeremy Barber

SUNSET CALENDAR

	Jan 7	Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 28	Feb 4	Feb 11
Bend	4:42 PM	4:50 PM	4:59 PM	5:08 PM	5:18 PM	5:28 PM
Eugene	4:50 PM	4:58 PM	5:06 PM	5:16 PM	5:25 PM	5:35 PM
Hood River	4:39 PM	4:47 PM	4:56 PM	5:06 PM	5:16 PM	5:26 PM
Longview	4:42 PM	4:50 PM	5:00 PM	5:10 PM	5:20 PM	5:31 PM
Medford	4:55 PM	5:02 PM	5:11 PM	5:19 PM	5:29 PM	5:38 PM
Newport	4:51 PM	4:59 PM	5:08 PM	5:18 PM	5:28 PM	5:38 PM
Portland	4:43 PM	4:51 PM	5:00 PM	5:10 PM	5:20 PM	5:31 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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