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the Oregon Conference
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eCOMMUNIQUÉ

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EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD

A Washington church learns there is no such thing as "too big" or "too much" for God.

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108th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED

Recently a local member celebrated her 108th birthday! Learn her secrets to longevity.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WRAPUP

Executive Committee meeting happened February 24th. Read the summary of topics, changes, and decisions.

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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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ADVENTIST EDUCATION IN THE NEWS Cognitive Genesis Project

By John F. Gatchet

In mid-November, Adventist Education received national media attention in the Christian Science Monitor and the Los Angeles Times. Both articles were based on a four-year study by La Sierra University. The L. A. Times article was titled "The Conversation: Pursuing successful education reforms might mean going the way of Adventists."

The study called CognitiveGenesis was not only groundbreaking, but stunning in its results. Over 50,000 students in Seventh-day Adventist schools across North America participated in the study. A Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) was used to measure the student's ability, or as some might say "brain power". Separate tests ITBS and ITED were used at the elementary and high school level to measure achievement.

When the results started coming in, it was clear that students in Adventist schools were achieving almost a half a grade level above their ability. The students were well above the national average in achievement and close to the national average in ability. Even more amazing was the data showing that the longer a student is in an Adventist school, the more their achievement scores grow.

...students in Adventist schools were achieving almost a half grade level above their ability.

An unexpected result of the study was a change in cognitive ability scores. They are supposed to remain at the same level, but instead, a student's ability

scores grew in a significant manner for those students continuing education in our schools. That is not supposed to happen.

What about those students in smaller schools?



IN THE NEWS...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The results showed that they do as well and in some cases better than students in larger schools. What about students in the bottom 25% as far as ability scores? This group showed the biggest gains in achievement. Seventh-day Adventist schools without special education programs have dedicated teachers reaching all the students.

A final result of this study that is extremely noteworthy is that students all across North America score above the national average with regard to achievement in all grades and in all subjects. Those prayers before class begins and the ones teachers pray in private on behalf of students do make a difference.

Parent surveys were also a part of this study as well, and the results were along the lines of what might be expected. Kids who come from homes where there are high expectations, discipline and spiritual emphasis score at a higher level. Reading for pleasure, healthy relationships with parents, exercise, positive friends and spiritual attitudes all show up in students with highest achievement.

Finally, schools with a strong academic climate, good support from the church and fewer discipline problems see the biggest gains in achievement. Not surprisingly higher achievement occurs where teachers use progressive teaching methods, interact with students on a personal basis and give them extra help. Adventist education is an arena where growth is measurable.

With God's presence in our classrooms, may our students, like Jesus as recorded in Luke 2:52, grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and men.



EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD

"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."

-William Carey, missionary to India for 40 years (1793-1833)

Have you ever truly witnessed what God can do by expecting something great, and praying for something great? Seattle Central New Life Adventist Church (the English ministry at the Seattle Central Korean SDA church) has a story to share.

The church had been collecting loose offerings and sending it for missions for some time. They chose Adventist Southeast Asia Projects (ASAP) as the mission project that they would give to. Every third Sabbath when they counted their offering it came to about \$200. The pastor, Martin Kim, was inspired to do more. After listening to some of David Gates inspiring stories, he began praying for the Lord to guide them in what they should do.

As he prayed, "Lord, what do you want us to do?" A special offering for ASAP came to mind. He wanted to challenge his church to pray for a \$500 offering, but decided that \$500 did not require much faith. He finally concluded that it would require a great amount of faith to ask for a \$1,000 offering. The January offering collected had gone to provide rice for the people of Vietnam, so the congregation decided the February offering would go to providing Bibles for the Vietnamese people. The next Sabbath Pastor Kim put this challenge to the members, asking them to pray for an offering of \$1,000 so they could provide two hundred Bibles to the people of Vietnam. In each Sabbath bulletin, from the pulpit, and through e-mail, the congregation was reminded to pray for this special gift.

February came and when the offering was counted, it came to \$4,382! By praying and asking for God's will be done God blessed with an offering much larger than they had even set their goal at! One visitor who came to the church the week before the offering was collected, heard that the church was praying for a \$1,000 offering, he left

a check for \$1,500! On the Sabbath they collected the offering, another visitor gave a check for \$500. The rest of the members also gave generously. This provided 876 Bibles!!

Well, what do you do after you witness the power of prayer and you see God move in a mighty way? They felt that to pray for the same amount would show no faith. They decided to pray that God would bless them with a \$4,500 offering to help with churches for Cambodia in March. At \$550 per church, \$4,500 would provide 8 churches! God blessed with an offering of \$6,684! Once again they witnessed God's power and grace! Many of the members who gave generously in February gave twice as much.

Again they began to pray. This time praying that the April offering would exceed \$7,000. Praise the Lord \$8,470 came in to support the persecuted pastors in Vietnam! They now fully understood this was all "the Lord's doing."

In May they prayed for \$15,000 to support the Cambodian and Vietnamese radio ministries. The Lord blessed with an abundance of \$22,734.

As they thought about the vast needs in Southeast Asia, they decided it was time to "launch out into the deep" (Luke 5:4). They began praying that God would bless them with \$15,000 in May to support the Cambodian and Vietnamese radio ministries and to provide radios. The Lord, in turn, blessed them with an offering of \$22,734!

As they set their next goal of \$25,000, they began asking ASAP where the need was greatest. To make a long story short, they saw over \$120,000 come through their little church in 2006 as they continued setting higher and higher goals. Pastor Kim sums it up this way, "This experience has taught us so much about the need to persevere in prayer. It has strengthened our faith and helped us learn to wait upon the Lord through the longer periods of time required to reach higher monetary goals."

Original story written by Martin Kim.
Edited into a shorter form by Gary McLain and Krissy Barber.

OREGON MEMBER CELEBRATES HER 108TH BIRTHDAY

By Gary McLain

Can you imagine having 108 birthdays? On February 4, Loreen Dinwiddie celebrated her 108th birthday. That means she was born in 1903! Possibly our oldest Adventist in the Oregon Conference.

"When did you become an Adventist?" Loreen answered right back, "When I was born. And I sure love the Lord! When I was five-years-old Jesus always answered my prayers. You know the kind of prayers, like 'I can't find my dolly.' And Jesus would help me find my dolly. He would answer them right away." With tears welling up in her eyes and her voice a little choked she said, "I just love the Lord because He has

been so good to me and we got chummy when I was little."

Loreen headed off to college in College Place, Wash. where she met her first husband who became a teacher and pastor. Frank Steunenberg the son of Governor Steunenberg of Idaho. They were married July 22, 1922.

In 1924 they went to Auburn, Wash. to fill teaching positions. Some of the other places Loreen lived over the years included, Lodi and Yreka, Calif., Mountain View, Roseburg, and Portland, Ore., Washington DC, Caldwell, Idaho, and Billings Mont.

I asked how I might live to 108-years-old and keep close to God as she has. She replied, "Read the Bible. God will tell you. It is all in there. People say to me you don't have any aches or pains and you're feeling great at 108 what do you do? Well, do what God tells you to do. It is all in the Bible."

She went on, "Second is a vegan diet. When my husband and I got married in 1922 we took some classes at the camp grounds and they taught us to eat two meals a day and walk fifteen minutes every two hours. We liked it so well that we decided to be vegan. God knows the best way to eat. If we follow his plans we will feel better and have less aches and pains and not be sick as often."

"What do you enjoy doing at the age of 108?", I asked. Loreen responded with a grin on her face, "SLEEPING!" But don't let that answer fool you. She grabbed her walker and scooted down the hall to her room to show me her paintings. She has seven of her oil paintings in her room and more in other places around the facility where she lives. Back in the day, Loreen always made her own clothes and her daughters clothes as well. Speaking of daughters, Loreen has two girls. One is 82 and the other is 86 years old.

Words of wisdom from someone who has lived 108 years. —"Live like the Bible tells you to."



CLARISSA HUGHES

Clarissa Hughes – Student Leader, Senior Class President, Head RA, Student Association, Public Relations Officer, Four-year Senior.

Heavy responsibilities all, but Clarissa has chosen to take them on as an academy senior, dedicating time and energy even while studying for college prep diplomas.

Why?

Clarissa says, "When I came to Milo as a freshman, I saw the seniors doing some amazing things and I decided then that I wanted to bring those kinds of things to my senior year." She is invested in bringing positive leadership to dorm life and helping her fellow students see that good decisions make a positive difference.

Clarissa's focus on leadership includes caring deeply about her own spiritual relationship and those of her friends. "I don't want anyone to be lost," she says. "It brings me closer to God when I reach out to bring others to Him. I grow through their growth. Besides, if I hide what I believe, then how will they know? What if I'm that last person to show them God?"

For Clarissa, this helping and leading attitude started when her parents made the choice to put her in kindergarten at Kelso-Longview Adventist School, and has continued through 13 years of Adventist education. She plans to continue at an Adventist university.

Clarissa especially appreciates having the healthy atmosphere of Christian education to help her keep focused. She describes her experience in Adventist schools as good, though she feels that good is not a strong enough word. Her time has been happy, she's been sheltered just enough, and she has received clearly transmitted positive values. "One of the things I love about Milo," she says, "is that being around others who want to serve God and being able to go to church every single weekend helps bring me back to the focal point, which is God."

Families, churches and schools working together make a difference.

SRI LANKAN FLOODING

Pastor Lary Brown, formerly in the Oregon Conference, is now serving in Sri Lanka as President of the Sri Lanka Mission. He recently wrote to tell us of the flooding happening in Sri Lanka and how you might help.

"It's been raining far too much in most of the country this year. The Northeast Monsoon, which typically moves out around the beginning of the year, has not yet left the island. The forecast models are showing that it will likely not leave until March. The old timers say they have never seen it rain this much for this long. Trees that have stood for 1,000 years have been washed out in the Kandy area. I saw a 15-ton boulder that washed into the highway along with the landslides. It's being reported that 25% of Sri Lanka is under water. Homes have been destroyed. Up to 40% of the agricultural output is destroyed. Lives too have been lost."

The government is making an effort to head off food shortages. Lary is concerned for those displaced from their homes in the flooded areas. If you want to help the flood affected families in Sri Lanka, please contact: ADRA Sri Lanka - Terence Cole at financedirector@adrasrilanka.org.





OREGON CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WRAP-UP

Thursday was an exciting day in Portland. Winter returned after the robins had decided it was safe to return and not have to eat frozen dinners. But that is not what this report is all about. Our executive committee met to address financial reports from 2010 and look at the projections and budget for 2011. This was the first time we have convened a regular executive committee by phone. Though some elements needed to be shortened we were able to cover the major items on our agenda.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2010

God blessed in very significant ways this past year. God guided our conference membership to faithfully return a tithe that rose 2.61 % from the previous year even though the territory our conference covers was hit by the recession harder than anywhere else in the U.S. We thank God for each one of you and your faithfulness this past year.

We were also blessed that throughout this year we were able to reduce the cost of running the conference from \$111,000 per day to just under \$100,500 per day. This has been God's leading as some of the recurring expenses of running the conference have climbed during this same period, we were able to end the year with a deficit of only \$500,000 of which two exceptional expenses contributed to the total amount in excess of income. Again, we see God's hand in this area as well.

BUDGET 2011

Given the challenges of an economy in these two states that still has not recovered, and costs that continue to escalate, we were still able to bring in a balanced budget for this next year. There are some challenges this year that will continue to stretch the conference financially, one being that medical costs are expected to rise another 8 to 10%. Within this budget we have made salary adjustments to "ERI" which is a method for calculating discrepancies for cost of living in different areas around the territory our conference covers. Our current plan will provide a consistent approach conference wide to all our employees which, with the return of the 5%

salary reduction this past year, will allow us to adjust up some of our salaries and maintain others where the "ERI" has dropped.

Camp Meeting is also included in this new budget. This year's camp meetings will be a spiritual high point for our conference. Hispanic Convocation will begin Thursday evening, July 7, and run through Sabbath evening, July 9. Tuesday evening, July 12, marks the beginning of the traditional Gladstone Camp Meeting. This year's evening speaker will be Dwight Nelson who will speak each evening through Sabbath, July 16. Each morning there will be a special time of study with Herb Larsen Jr. and Sabbath morning we will be blessed by a powerful presentation by Elizabeth Talbot, the associate speaker for Voice of Prophecy. Plan to be there for the whole event!

PERSONNEL DECISIONS

Executive committee dealt with some personnel changes that will take effect very soon. Enoc Marquez has accepted a position as the pastor for Gresham Spanish and Hood River Spanish. He comes to us from the Upper Columbia Conference where he has been serving as the pastor of Moses Lake and Spokane churches. John Jokela from Minnesota has accepted the position of Corporation Treasurer in our Trust Department. He has been in private business and brings a level of expertise in not-for-profit corporations as well as being the financial officer for the city he currently lives in. Two of our chaplains at Adventist Medical Center have been approved for commissioning. Pam Proudfit and Wanda Vaz have given very clear indications of their call to ministry and will be commissioned in a service which will take place at the hospital. The date for their commissioning service has not yet been set. Peggy Fisher is stepping into a new role in our conference. However, this is not new to her as she has been an elementary teacher and will be functioning again in that role.

Again, this is a challenging year for our conference, but in looking back at how God guided in 2010, we have confidence He will lead us this year in accomplishing His plans.

— Al Reimche, Oregon Conference President



Events

THE LAST SUPPER: A LIVING TABLEAU

When: April 23, 7:00 PM

Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

Leonardo da Vinci's magnificent fresco in the dining hall of the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan portrays the dramatic moment during the Passover supper when Jesus tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. In "The Last Supper: A Living Tableau" at Sunnyside Church each disciple, in turn, steps out of the scene to tell the world how he feels about Christ's shocking revelation. We present this scene with a prayer that it will make da Vinci's painting special for you and that it will enrich your understanding of this important event in the life and ministry of the compassionate Christ. Plan to attend this free special event, Sabbath, April 23 at 7:00 pm at the Sunnyside Church, 10501 SE Market Street, Portland, OR

OREGON CONF. SINGLES CONVENTION

When: March 4-6, 2011

Location: Big Lake Youth Camp

Come and enjoy a winter weekend at Big Lake Youth Camp. Bring a snowmobile if you have one, a snow-park permit for the entire weekend, sleeping bag and pillow, Bible, snow clothes and ski equipment. Place all items in a waterproof bag. Snowmobile rides will be available for all. Cost is \$80 per person. This includes the Friday only snow-cat ride in from Ray Benson Snow Park (at 6 pm), five meals and two nights lodging. Your check is your reservation. Send your check to Ron Hempstead, 2747 Nonpareil Rd., Sutherlin, OR 97479. For more information, contact Ron at (541) 760-5278, or Gary at (503) 936-7211.

MINISTRY FEST SOUTH

When: April 9, 3:00 PM

Location: Grants Pass Adventist School

Have you asked, "What can my church do to reach out to others? What can I do?" This is your opportunity! On April 9, come to Ministry Fest South at Grants Pass Adventist School, at 2250 Heidi Lane, Grants Pass, Ore. See live demonstrations, review program materials, and ask questions as you visit dozens of interactive ministry displays and booths. Be sure to enter the drawings, experience the InfoBlitzes, and pick up lots of free resources and handouts. After sundown visit the Adventist Book Center and enjoy veggie hotdogs, salad, brownies and a great Saturday night social. Doors open at 3 PM. Free childcare for ages 0-9!

Continued on the following page...

ON APRIL 1 - 2, THE VOICES OF PALEONTOLOGY, GEOLOGY, BIOLOGY, PHYSICS, AND GENETICS WILL COME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THE CHALLENGES OF "ORIGINS" FROM AN ADVENTIST BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE.

PLANNED...
CREATED...
EVOLVED?

ORIGINS

APRIL 1-2, 2011

VISIT WWW.ORIGINSSUMMIT.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION



Events

PART-TIME MUSIC TEACHER NEEDED

When: Taking applications until March 18, 2011

Location: Scappoose Adventist School

Scappoose Adventist School is searching for a team-oriented, dedicated and evangelistic-minded professional who has a love for music and passion for sharing that love with young people. This job involves teaching elementary music to all grades, the organization of choral and band ensembles for beginning and intermediate/advanced students and planning and working in cooperation with staff for individual and public performances. For further details, or a position job description contact Ricardo Peinado at rpeinado@sasonline.org. Applications will be taken through March 18, 2011.

CALVIN TAYLOR LIVE IN CONCERT

When: March 26, 6:00 PM

Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

Calvin Taylor, pianist and recording artist, will appear in a live concert of sacred music on Saturday, March 26 at the Sunnyside Church, located at 10501 SE Market St., Portland, at 6:00 p.m. Taylor has toured throughout the world, performing in North and South America, Europe, Ukraine, and Asia. He has also authored several music books, including Spirituals for Piano, The Patriotic Piano, and Spiritual Suite for Organ. Movements from his Sunrise Symphony have been performed by several orchestras. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge for admission.

DELIGHT IN HIS WORD SEMINAR

When: April 29-30, 2011

Location: Rockwood Adventist Church

Are you looking for a more rewarding experience in studying the Bible? Would you like to know how to hear God speak to you in His Word? Would you like to know why all Bibles don't read the same and how to choose an accurate one? Then this compelling and practical seminar is for you! **Friday, 7:00pm** - "Getting the Most Out of Your Bible Study" **Sabbath School 9:30am** - "Trusting the Word" **Church Service 10:55am** - "Word of God Speak" **Sabbath 2:00pm** - "Trusting the Translations" Visit <http://bit.ly/3aejAF> for more information.

LINCOLN STEED SPEAKING LOCALLY

When: April 16, 9:10 AM & 11:40 AM

Location: Pleasant Valley Adventist Church

Lincoln Steed, editor of Liberty magazine, will be the worship speaker at Pleasant Valley Church on April 16, 9:10 am and 11:40 am, "Elijah Jones & the Three Angels." You are invited to participate in the potluck that will follow the 11:40 am service and stay for his presentation at 2 pm that afternoon. Liberty magazine is a religious journal that is circulated to nearly 200,000 readers in America and internationally. Pleasant Valley Church is located at 11125 SE 172nd Ave., Happy Valley, Ore. (one mile north of SE Sunnyside Rd.). Call 503-658-2248 for more information.

SWEET HOME MINI-MISSION TRIP

When: April 29-May 1, 2011

Location: Sweet Home, Ore.

The Sweet Home Seventh-day Adventist Church, along with members from our sister Adventist churches will partner together to help meet the needs in the Sweet Home community on April 29, 30 & May 1st. Plans are underway. We will be providing selective free medical services, a military honor board, a free vegetarian banquet, a country gospel concert and do as many things in our community as possible to make an impact for our town. If you can help contact Tawny at (541)367-4485 or (541)401-2521. Small things can make a big difference! Help us impact Sweet Home in a way that will increase the population of Heaven. We can't do it without you!

FINAL EVENSONG CONCERT

When: March 12, 4:30 PM

Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

Dr. Melvin West and Dr. Loren Dickinson have collaborated for the last time to do one more Evensong. This final program will be on Sabbath, March 12, at 4:30 pm, at Sunnyside Church in Portland. You won't want to miss this opportunity to pause and quietly reflect as Sabbath comes to a close. Following the Evensong there will be a reception at the church for Walla Walla University alumni.

JOB OPENING AT ADVENTIST MED. CENTER

When: Currently Open

Location: Portland Adventist Medical Center

The Human Resources Department at Adventist Medical Center is currently seeking a Leave & Database Specialist with Human Resources and database management experience! To learn more about this exciting, full-time opportunity, or to apply, please visit our website at www.adventisthealthnw.com!

TROMBONE CHOIR CONCERT

When: March 19, 4:00 PM

Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

The Advent Trombone Choir will have an afternoon concert at Sunnyside Church in Portland on March 19, 4:00 p.m. The Choir will also feature a brass choir playing dramatic arrangements of some familiar hymns.

MICHAEL HARRIS IN CONCERT

When: March 5, 5:00 PM

Location: Rockwood Adventist Church

Invite a friend to hear the Gospel presented in music and testimony as Michael Harris shares about God's love and mercy. Rockwood Adventist Church is located at 1910 SE 182nd Ave., Portland, OR 97233. Email RockwoodAdventist@gmail.com or call (503) 661-4100 for more information.

SOUTHERN OREGON WOMEN'S RETREAT

When: June 3-5, 2011

Location: Milo Adventist Academy

Our speaker will be Tawny Sportsman from Sweet Home, Ore. Her presentation is called "Out of the Pit, Onto the Rock, Singing a Song". The "Pit" = Depression, discouragement, despair, hopelessness, and pain, but God is ready to reach down into that awful pit and lift you out! You don't want to miss what happens when He rescues you! There will also be 3 workshops, all different presenters. Registration forms will arrive at your church. If not, you may contact Nancy at nlhkeh@grrtech.com with your mailing information and one will be sent to you.



NOTE WORTHY...

IDAHO INVITES BILOFF TO BE PRESIDENT

Neil Biloff, Dakota Conference president, has been invited to be the next president of the Idaho Conference, pending his acceptance. The action was taken by the conference executive committee, on Feb. 20. Their decision came after reviewing résumés and references for six candidates and after several seasons of prayer. The committee voted unanimously to affirm their decision to invite Biloff, who, if he accepts, will fill the position left open upon Steve McPherson's retirement in December 2010. Biloff has an extensive history in the Northwest, as a business owner and pastor. He and his wife, Jacquie, ministered as a pastoral couple in several districts throughout Alaska before moving to the Dakota Conference in 2005. Biloff hopes to visit with Idaho conference staff within a couple weeks before making a final decision.

SALEM ADVENTIST MEN'S CHORUS SUFFERS TRAGIC LOSS

Lou Wildman, SAMC conductor, reports the untimely death of chorus member Herb Kroschel, of Salem, Ore. Kroschel was traveling with his family and other chorus members to a concert in La Pine, Ore., on Saturday, Feb. 19, when a light pickup truck struck the Kroschel's vehicle, sending it over a steep embankment. Herb suffered severe injuries and died Monday morning, Feb. 21. His wife, Peggy, and their two children also sustained injuries but are recovering. The Leland Wilson family vehicle was also hit by the truck. The Wilsons were treated and released from a local hospital that evening.

NPUC TITHE GOES UP IN 2010

Amidst the continued economic challenges, Northwest Adventist members continue to respond with a faithful tithe. Total tithe contributed throughout 2010 increased by 1.35 percent compared with the previous year. Montana Conference tithe showed the largest increase at just above 3 percent. Oregon Conference had an increase of more than 2.6 percent. If you have questions about how tithe is distributed throughout the NPUC and the world church, check out the feature "Your Tithe Dollar: Where in the World Does it Go?" in the February issue of the Gleaner. You can also visit the Gleaner archives at www.gleaneronline.org/archive.html.

TILLAMOOK HOSPITAL PARTNERS WITH CHURCHES

The Tillamook County General Hospital "Faith in Action" program offers respite care. At Wellspring respite day centers, located at four churches around Tillamook County, "Faith in Action" offers a six-hour day of loving care away from home for adults with health and cognitive disabilities. Activities include group games, crafts, music, exercises, stories, guest speakers, good food, and a lot of TLC.

HOPE CHANNEL "AL WAAD" LAUNCHED IN ARABIC

Adventist programming is now available to more than 350 million Arabic-speaking people around the world with the launching of the Al Waad Channel on February 1. The Al Waad Media Center for broadcast programming is on the campus of the church's Middle East University in Beirut, Lebanon. It has adopted a philosophy of respect and understanding toward those who belong to the majority religion of Islam. "It is our intention to build bridges of trust and understanding with our Muslim neighbors," says Basma Muneer, media center content manager. This new outreach is part of the Hope Channel global broadcast network. Read more at <http://bit.ly/fDgszV>.

QUIET HOUR MINISTRIES PLANS TO HELP ALASKA PROJECT

Quiet Hour Ministries, with mission-project experience around the world, has approved a plan to raise money for several Arctic Mission Adventure projects of the Alaska Conference. QHM hopes to raise \$53,000 toward: stipends for project lay workers; FM radio stations; Bibles; evangelism meetings; and workshops, activities and supplies. These specific efforts will be targeted toward five bush villages — Ambler, Gambell, Savoonga, Selawik and Shungnak. The Alaska Conference will seek to generate an additional \$50,000 to complete the initial phase of the project. More information will be forthcoming in future issues of the Gleaner.

ADVENTISTS RESPOND TO NEW ZEALAND QUAKE

In the wake of devastation and death spawned by a magnitude 6.3 earthquake striking Christchurch, New Zealand's city center on Tuesday, Feb. 22, Seventh-day Adventists in the South Pacific are responding with material and spiritual support. Nearly 65 people are known to have been killed, and another 100 are trapped in collapsed buildings. This temblor struck closer to downtown Christchurch, and in midday, when office workers and shoppers were abundantly present. "We're shocked at what's happening in Christchurch," says Barry Oliver, president of church's South Pacific Division. "We want to assure the people of Christchurch and our church community of our support. I invite everyone to pray for safety and a sense of peace." Read more from the Adventist News Network at <http://bit.ly/g6Xpzc>.

OLIVER MCKINNEY PASSES

Elder Oliver J. McKinney died in his sleep Thursday, February 24. McKinney served as director of stewardship, prayer ministries and children's ministries. He was also executive secretary/treasurer of the ASI Southern Union Chapter.

NEW YEARBOOK CITES ADVENTIST GROWTH

On Monday, Feb. 14, the National Council of Churches released its 2011 Yearbook of American & Canadian Churches citing that membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church has seen a 4.31 percent growth since 2008. Many other denominations have experienced a decline during the same period. According to Elder G. Alexander Bryant, secretary for the North American Division, Adventist growth can be attributed to "public evangelism led out by the pastors and members across the division." The Seventh-day Adventist Church is the 24th-largest denomination in North America and Canada.

For additional news visit www.OregonConference.org/news_entries

SUNSET CALENDAR

| | Mar 5 | Mar 12 | Mar 19 | Mar 26 | Apr 2 | Apr 9 |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Bend | 5:57 PM | 6:06 PM | 7:15 PM | 7:24 PM | 7:32 PM | 7:41 PM |
| Eugene | 6:05 PM | 6:14 PM | 7:22 PM | 7:31 PM | 7:40 PM | 7:48 PM |
| Hood River | 5:58 PM | 6:07 PM | 7:16 PM | 7:26 PM | 7:35 PM | 7:44 PM |
| Longview | 6:03 PM | 6:13 PM | 7:22 PM | 7:32 PM | 7:41 PM | 7:50 PM |
| Medford | 6:05 PM | 6:13 PM | 7:21 PM | 7:29 PM | 7:37 PM | 7:45 PM |
| Newport | 6:08 PM | 6:17 PM | 7:26 PM | 7:35 PM | 7:44 PM | 7:52 PM |
| Portland | 6:02 PM | 6:11 PM | 7:21 PM | 7:30 PM | 7:39 PM | 7:48 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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