

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

# eCOMMUNIQUE

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Executive Committee met on February 21st. Learn about the topics discussed, and decisions made on personnel placement.

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## ADVENTIST EDUCATION IN THE OREGON CONFERENCE

How Gale Crosby sees the mission of Adventist education in the Oregon Conference.

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## TOWN HALL MEETING IDEAS

The recent town hall meetings around the Conference netted a wealth of ideas. Read some of them in this report.

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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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## OREGON CONFERENCE PATHFINDERS have been busy this winter!

By Gary McLain with Tracy Woods

Oregon Conference Pathfinders have been busy during the month of February!

### TEEN LEADERSHIP TRAINING (TLT) CONVENTION — FEB. 1-3, 2013

Teens from various Oregon Conference Pathfinder clubs came together at Camp Tadmor near Lebanon, Ore. the first weekend in February to assess their direction of training for the next six months.

The TLT program is a four-year course designed to teach all aspects of club management, including programming and operations, and to encourage teens to explore and develop their talents in leadership, planning and social skills. The program gives each TLT an opportunity to experience Pathfinder leadership under adult supervision. There are six major areas the program concentrates on for training: administrative, finance/clerical, camping/activities, outreach, counseling and AY classwork levels/honors.

These TLT Pathfinders are the Adventist Church's leaders now and in the future.

We held three simultaneous events all happening:

- TLTs, Mentors, and Coordinators from all around the Conference came for TLT training.

- Ambassadors (college age young adults) from around the Conference came for media training provided by our Conference Communications Director, Gary McLain, and his training team of media professionals.

- Conference Pathfinder Directors and TLT Coordinators from Texas and Pennsylvania came to see how they can develop TLT Academic Credit in their conferences.

- Walla Walla University recruiter, Gerry Larson, was present to learn about TLT Academic Credit and how WWU can participate with TLT ministry.

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## PATHFINDERS

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We had a total of 106 people throughout the weekend leading and learning Teen Leadership Training skills – and what an amazing Spirit-filled weekend!

### PATHFINDER SNOW CAMP — FEB. 15-18, 2013

Pathfinders of all ages had the opportunity to experience Big Lake Youth Camp in the winter. The half hour ride in from the Snow Park parking lot to Big Lake was made by snow cat sled. Many enjoyed the ride on one of nine or so tubes pulled behind the snow cat sled where snowballs were flying the entire time.

The weekend schedule included God time, social time, eating time and, of course, snow time. This year's theme was all about taking care of your heart, physically and spiritually. Topics included how angina and plaque build-up affect the heart; how the heart works; and what bypasses and stents do. Ultimately the key to a good heart is to be wise in what you eat, run for your life and, of course, hereditary genes that may help or hinder us in our health and our walk with God.

Outdoor play included building snow forts, tunnels and an igloo as well as snowball fights and sledding. Some brave souls slept in the various tunnels, caves and igloos to experience winter camping one night.

### BIBLE ACHIEVEMENT — HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE?

Bible Achievement is an annual program in which Pathfinders in grades five through ten participate on a six-person team to demonstrate their knowledge of a specific book of the Bible. This year, teams have studied the entire gospel of Mark.

Teams start out studying the book of Mark as club teams. Ways to study include listening to audio recordings of the particular translation NKJV 1990 edition; dramatizing the Bible chapters to bring the them to life, or reading the chapters with different voices to hear the different people talking through the verses; and making up games played by the team to help make the book of Mark stick for quick recall during the competition.

Questions asked may be fill in the blank, multiple choice, or true or false. Answers are usually only

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# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY, THAT SEASON OF ANTICIPATION BETWEEN WINTER COLD AND SPRING COLOR... ASIDE FROM VALENTINES, BLACK HISTORY, AND A FOURTH-YEAR LEAP DAY, FEBRUARY'S MAIN CLAIM TO FAME IS THAT IT IS THE SHORTEST MONTH OF THE YEAR. AND THAT SHORTNESS FEELS GOOD AS WINTER DRAGS ON, BUT THE ANTICIPATION INCREASES AS EACH CROCUS OR DAFFODIL BEGINS TO SHOW ITS PRESENCE.

During this short month we are able to complete the Town Halls throughout our conference. At the beginning of the month we had the privilege of visiting the Bend, Vancouver and Sunnyside churches and discuss our future. I was blessed as different representative groups from our three academies shared their music— from violins and male quartets to choirs. I was also blessed to hear the discussions that were shared in our break-out groups: the excitement of the creative ideas for outreach, the passion for Christian education, the discussions of funding our mission, and the vision for keeping the energy of our youth.

February is also the time we are able to understand the financial results of the previous year and develop a realistic budget for this current year. Last week our executive committee spent time discussing the 2012 financial statement and in turn looking towards the new year. We did see a loss in tithes from the previous year but, when adjusting for less Sabbaths in 2012 and recognizing reductions in expenses throughout the year, our treasury department reported expenses below income. We praise God for the faithfulness of each of our members even through these financially challenging times. The new budget reflects the increased expenses of ministry and the potential giving of our members which allow the mission to continue. Though not as extensive as previous years we will still need to reduce 1½ positions during this budget period.

Additional discussions at executive committee included placing calls to a couple of new pastors. Brent Bru-

sett from Lodi, CA has accepted the call to Bend/Christmas Valley and plans to be here in May. Thomas Bentley from the Minnesota conference has also accepted the call to Roseburg will also be here in May. Two additional confirmations include Ron DuPreez who served as Communications Director in Michigan and has accepted the call to serve the East Salem church, and Greg Phillips who has moved from the chaplain/Bible teacher at PAA to associate pastor of Pleasant Valley. Following a vacancy in our Trust Department we were able to fill the position of Association Treasurer this past week as well. Leslie Cairns, who has served as an auditor for our conference, has accepted the position and is currently picking up the pieces that have resulted from the delay in finding a replacement. Her expertise from previous career experiences is proving to be a blessing to our conference. We praise God for each of these new additions to our family.

One of the major decisions made by the combined Executive Committee and Nominating Committee was to fill the position of Vice President for Education. We have been blessed to have Wayne Wentland do an excellent job of filling that position on an interim basis for the past two years. Following a good discussion and a time for prayer the committee voted to ask Gale Crosby to serve the Oregon Conference in this role. He will officially begin July 1, 2013 there will be some overlap right away. We are excited about the opportunity to bring one of our own successful principals into the conference to direct the department and ask that as he begins the transition from PAA you will join us in praying for his leadership. I have asked Gale to share his vision for our conference which he has done. Within this issue of eCommunique you will find a summation of his thoughts on where from here.

So February, just a quiet month of waiting for the spring colors has been anything but quiet. It has been a month of transition, a month of ideas, and a month of vision for our future. And that future is bright as the Son of righteousness warms our hearts for the spring burst of newness just around the corner!

Al Reimche, Oregon Conference President

ONE OF THE MAJOR  
DECISIONS MADE... WAS  
TO FILL THE POSITION  
OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
EDUCATION.

1-4 words and they answer the questions as a team. An example question would be "From Acts 8:9, what was the name of the sorcerer who boasted that he was someone great?" Answer: Simon.

On Sabbath February 23, the Conference level 2013 Bible Achievement was held at Springfield Adventist Church where 10 teams participated. Riverside Pathfinders and Pleasant Valley Pathfinders received first place awards, and are advancing on to the Union level which will take place March 9, 2013 at Gem State Academy in Caldwell, Ida.

There are four levels of competition: District, Conference, Union, and finally, Division. The first two levels are held here in the Oregon Conference. If a team earns a score high enough to receive a 1st place award, they move up to the next level. The final Division level is held in Berrien Springs, Mich., April 19-20, 2013.

Try attending one of the Bible Achievement events, and you will be amazed at how well these Pathfinders are learning their Bible!

### COLLEGIATE / YOUNG ADULT RETREATS

Over the past year Oregon Conference Collegiate/Young Adult Ministries has hosted four quarterly retreats. The most recent retreat was held in Turner, Ore., February 8-10, and was attended by young adults from both Washington and Oregon Conferences. Pastor Jonny Moor was our week-end speaker and praise and worship music was led by Elise Hilde and friends. Sabbath afternoon, most everyone went on a three-mile hike at Silver Falls State Park where we experienced the beauty of four amazing waterfalls in the forest. Our next Spring Collegiate/Young Adult Retreat is planned to be held near the Portland area in April.



- |                        |                    |             |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Albany Spanish         | Newburg Spanish    | Rogue River |
| Gresham Spanish        | Portland Spanish   | Shady Point |
| Hood River Spanish     | Salem Spanish      | Silverton   |
| Independence Spanish   | The Dalles Spanish |             |
| Keizer Spanish         | Tualatin Spanish   |             |
| Kelso-Longview Spanish | Vancouver Spanish  |             |
| McMinnville Spanish    | Woodburn Spanish   |             |
| Monitor Spanish        | Woodland Spanish   |             |
| Mosaic                 | Coos Bay           |             |
| Mosiac-Salem           | Rockwood           |             |

# A VISION FOR ADVENTIST EDUCATION IN THE OREGON CONFERENCE

By Gale Crosby

**O**ur first and most important goal is to **Connect each Student with Jesus.**

If you take a close look at the ministry of Jesus you will see children constantly around Jesus, interacting with and being blessed by Him. When the disciples of Jesus try to remove children from Him, it is the disciples who receive the rebuke of Jesus. In fact, Jesus has some pretty harsh words for anyone who hurts his children—something about a millstone and water. These are strong words from the Master Teacher. Jesus challenges us that unless we become as little children, we will not be part of His kingdom. Our first and most important goal of Adventist education in Oregon is to share the love that Jesus has for each of us with our children.

Our second goal is to create an atmosphere in our schools where **Academic excellence is expected.**

The Bible says that teaching is a spiritual gift. When we have teachers who are dedicated to their students and clear about their goals for each student, an atmosphere will be created where students are excited about learning and grow in their knowledge of the world around them.

Gallup research tells us that the best way to get students excited about learning is to have a teacher who is excited about their own learning.

Jesus tells us that He has come so we may have life and not an ordinary life, but to have 'life in abundance'. Our second goal is to teach our students to develop their minds to reflect the mind of Jesus.

Our third goal is to **Create a climate where our students flourish.**

Students may not remember the details of what we teach them or perhaps even the words we say, but they will never forget how we treat them, or how we made them feel. I believe we can create a vibrant, growing, supportive education family in Oregon where we value each student as unique and of utmost value, where we realize that each child is created in the very image of God.

The ultimate goal of Adventist education in the Oregon Conference will be realized when we **walk hand in hand into a world made new with each child that we have the privilege and honor of teaching.**





# STEPPING OUT

By Fonda Cox

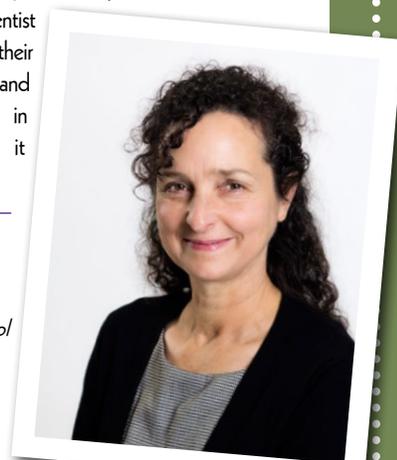
After successfully opening and operating a preschool and childcare program for a year, the Florence Adventist church decided to respond to the request for a grade school. After researching the possibilities, securing the funds and donations needed to remodel their church to accommodate a grade school, they opened their doors in September 2012 as Sonshine Christian School with grades 1-8.

Newly hired teacher, Leisa Buller asked her students to write why they liked their school. These letters were posted on the church bulletin board for the church members to read the next week. Here is one written by one of Mrs. Buller's non-Adventist students.

"I like this school because you have a fun time. The thing I like most about this school is that I have the best teacher in the world! I also have the best schoolmates too. The greatest thing is you get to worship God in any way you want to. I love the Lord and my teacher and schoolmates and my family. My favorite thing to do is draw on Thursday because we have art lessons. One thing we do during the school day is PE. I am here because my family wanted to try something new. My favorite Bible verse is, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (4th grade boy)

With a small church membership, Florence realized that without sharing their school with the community, they would never grow. They currently have 13 students, with just shy of 40% being non-Adventist. They saw the potential to share Jesus and the Adventist message with their community and stepped out in faith to make it happen.

**Leisa Buller,**  
new teacher  
for Sonshine  
Christian School  
in Florence,  
Ore.



# TOWN HALL MEETINGS SEE IDEAS SHARED

What an experience! In just two weeks we had the privilege of connecting with members all around our Conference. We were blessed by our time, both in connecting with our pastoral team in the afternoons, and then spending time at each of the Town Hall meetings. As those of you who were there remember, I stated that all the ideas gleaned would be shared in the *eCommuniq  *. One of our five breakout groups was designed more for information than feedback, and as a result, we do not have a report from the women in leadership discussion. However, I was blessed to read through the comments that came back from the other four groups. Though the scribes in each group may not have captured a word-for-word entry of everything that was shared, I hope you too will be inspired in some way by the comments included below.

## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

- How do you share a relationship with Jesus? We must have one to share one. Teach them to know Him and He will ignite them. We need to turn to God in prayer and show a deep soul need for Jesus. Genuine humbleness demonstrated will blow youth away. Being real and genuine is what our youth really desire. They are tired of the excitement and lies of the world... they want truth and they want the REAL Jesus.
- Let teens think outside the box. Then help them to fulfill their dreams of reaching out with God's help.
- Get youth [involved] in worship teams, not just participating, but [in] leadership. Don't mold them to our way, but be willing to bend and include. We need to show real love, warmth, hugs, and smiles, not just profess [them].
- Kids pregnant in teen year. It is very hard to keep them coming to church because people/kids judge them. I don't believe they are going to church. Although they posted on FB about their belief in God or God's blessings. This is encouraging. I chose to stay in their lives as positive influence and example.
- Better communication from Conference about upcoming meetings.
- Calling members from class when they are absent so that they know they are missed. Are there other meetings like this where leaders get together to discuss what works/doesn't work in their groups?
- Create a relationship with the young people at the church. Accept them as they are.
- Call our missing members. Reunite "the flock." Help each other move up to God's standards. An active youth revives a church, renews vigor in the older generations and motivates all to move forward in God's work and closer to God.
- Sole purpose of associating with non-believers is to affirmatively seek their conversion.
- Church has become a show. The Bible is exciting, interesting, and engaging and can capture the youth. The Bible applies to all generations and all situations if taught appropriately. Teaching youth has to be relevant to them by way of the scriptures, open, honest. Teach the Bible first.
- Bible importance is not to be discounted, but where is common ground if they don't value the Bible initially. Keep focus on God. Beware of compromise. Acceptance of the people in the church can do more than a worship style or entertaining program. Would be good/helpful to hear from students at public or non-Adventist schools.
- There's a difference between judging and condemning. You can't be close-minded. However, you should stick to the Bible and what Jesus says.
- Young people should be given more opportunities to be involved. They should be heard and get their questions answered. Why are the sexual questions being asked? All should be treated in the same loving way. Give youth the opportunity to think about why we believe what we believe. Questions need answers and church should be a place to find them. There is a difference between a "doubt" and a

- question; doubting God's goodness and word is a sin, questioning and looking for answers is not a sin.
- Yes, coming to church is important. Just staying by yourself struggling is not the best. Young people could speak their opinion not just listen. God should be the only one who judges people.
- Young people are our future—just because they are young doesn't mean they can't help; they just need the right inspiration. God is the only one that can judge. If leaders have doubts, don't infect the whole church. It's not their job to confuse people. Instead they should be prayerful and ask God and/or people who are really grounded in their faith.

**Reasons why youth can feel disconnected from church:**

- Church can be impersonal, unreal, unrelevant, boring, and unchallenging.
- Many are getting married later in life and trying to figure out who they are.
- Feelings of judgement, or that their friends might be judged. Discomfort. Not fitting in. Unresolved hurts in the church. Others who can be narrow-minded.
- What they read on the faces of others.
- Youth can be more upfront with themselves, many times adults aren't honest with themselves.
- We pound them with issues such as internet use.
- Missing a huge social gap, interaction.
- Not grounded in the fundamentals. We dilute the message.
- Don't belong. No connection. Need to be involved. Not a part of the church.

**What we can do to connect:**

- It should start with us and how we treat the youth.
- What is our mission in our church... what kind of a reflection do they see?
- Church or home life — focus on God. What is our walk with the Lord?
- Spend time with them, get to know them, listen to them.
- Accept that there will be differences.
- Be a friend, get involved with them and in the church duties.

- Be honest with them. Be honest with ourselves.
- Taking them by the hand and leading them. Share with them.
- Pray for them, pray for our church, pray for each other!!
- Involve them on mission trips.

**CREATIVE IDEAS FOR EVANGELISM**

- Community interest groups such as: remote airplanes, greeting card clubs, gardening class, star gazing
- Bags of Love —Yoncalla
- After-school program for kids.
- Evangelism focus on children first and always — families come and follow.
- CHIP
- Pastor's training class —" Lifting up Jesus" series in Klamath Falls.
- Start/get involved in Community Crises Pregnancy Centers and abstinence/purity programs.
- Use Facebook — use internet: Google AdWords is good tool — Good News Advocates can help your website come to top of Search.
- Community gardens — North Valley
- GLOW tracts, *Great Hope* book distribution.
- Help community with graffiti removal. Develop intentional artwork.
- Put together kits for homeless — work with local agencies.
- Throw a party for the women and children at a shelter (adopt one of the rooms to decorate, etc.)
- Mini mission trip in your local town — Help people by painting, cleaning yards, helping people. Contact city manager for local needs.
- Invite non-members to join your church's mission trip or other community projects.
- Become involved in Neighborhood Watch.
- Spiritual Guardians: Team together new members with other members (1 year minimum)

- Invite neighbors over for Sabbath meal along with others from church.
- Understand the guidelines: 1.What is the Law? 2.What are the Policies? 3.What is Prudent?
- Our own heart preparation — becoming contagious christians.
- Training members to do colporteur work/Youth Rush.
- Lay-led evangelism (ShareHim)
- Mentoring released prisoners — integrating into society and our churches — educate members how to minister to them.
- Community car rally
- Spread door hangers and leaflets from HOPE channel.
- Connect with community events. Give out bottles of water and books at motorcycle rallies and Christmas parades.
- Develop local radio stations
- Conduct smaller series of meetings following major meetings. Incorporate small groups as follow-up to evangelistic meetings.
- Develop the spiritual health of members. Form groups for fellowship and friendship. Pray together in small groups.
- Follow up on Bible studies from visitor cards and visitors. Foyer greeting.
- KBLN TV — Better Life TV. Beams to 82 percent of Oregon. Promote it!
- VBS - Vacation Bible School



- Adventist Youth meetings Sabbath afternoon

## EDUCATION —

### Supporting and Growing our schools...

- There is a waning of interest in our schools and education system. Spiritual experiences need to be shared with stories. Academics can follow as we see in Matthew 6:33.
- Work has to be done to minimize church and school distances that have been on-going.
- We need to engage the congregations and communicate what is going on at the school. Churches want to know what is going on rather than just a call for money.
- Get the school involved in the community — join community groups, service days, local outreach and mission trips. Have our congregations get involved at the schools to create ownership.
- We need to do a better job at marketing our schools. Better communication regarding what is going on at our schools. The financial impact means we need to market better.
- Not a strong support for combining offering concepts into one large encompassing offering that would include two or more entities with Youth Education Fund.
- The church needs more education on the funds for Christian education — what to say (have a script to read and share) etc. Information in the bulletin prior to the offering call. Identify specifics that people can relate to and use students to call for the offering. Create a one minute DVD to share at the time of the call. Have students take up the offering.
- Kids don't have the passion (sense of need) in their hearts for church school. Some churches offer kids assistance to church school and they aren't interested. Parents aren't committed to sending kids to church school.

- Would a larger pool of youth at church/school draw more in?

- It is important to keep our kids in our schools and keep them in the church. We need to instill in them the value of service to others. We need to say more about the good things going on at school.

- There is declining attendance at Sabbath school. Does this correlate to a decline in school attendance?

- Relationship is KEY! Knowing people by name is important. Adults have lost their connection to the youth and don't greet kids by name, etc. One of our churches has a member who specifically engages/invites youth to participate in church. The church needs to involve the youth more. Empower the youth to minister at church.

- The Church is losing its mission to take the gospel to the world. The only denominations growing in the U.S. are Latter-day Saints, Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh-day Adventists.

- There is a need to keep our kids in school and the church. Youth Rush program empowers kids.

- North American society is backwards. They have knowledge but not wisdom. African and Central/South America have it right.

- How do we market to youth and young families? Some factors: economy has driven families out of the area, church schools are too expensive, many see church school as a luxury and not a necessity. Consider marketing through booths at city/county fairs.

- Upper Columbia Academy has capital improvements taking place, shows something is happening. We have members going up to UCA to work as volunteers. We would go to Milo or others schools here at home but we haven't been invited.

- What can we do as a church to help our schools? Create and develop a sense of positivity. Share positive experiences. Talk it up.

- What can we do to work on financial assistance for students? Get youth involved in fund raising. Be a presence and spread the blessings. Let churches know what's happening in our schools. Develop an intentional growth plan.

- How can we consider Christian education more than just an option? Follow Matthew 6:33. Present church programs to build interest in schools and academy. Visit other Christian churches and schools. Create summer

outreach by schools. Set a goal for each student to find one more. You don't have to be a 'cool' school, you can be something more.

- We need to present the Youth Educational Subsidy and Youth Education Fund more clearly to the churches. Have students present the needs.

- How do you get your church involved with Christian education? Establish an educational prayer director and bring a report every two weeks to the churches about the answers to prayer and requests on Sabbath morning.

- Have youth do a prayer and praise part of the Sabbath service, short like a praise singing team. Have the youth call for the offering with real interest and passion. Use slides to show stats and the needs at our schools. Get appeal going before church time by emails, in the previous church bulletins and other reminders.

- Invite a non-Adventist family to share what a blessing our schools are to the community.

- Encourage the young people to reach higher — others will respect and listen to their testimony.

- Door-to-door contacts with small brochures. Hold an education series in the community. Have non-Adventist families help present the school.

- Add a postcard or information sheet to the literature being distributed by the Magabooks focus about Christian education.

- Start recruitment and focus on young church families.

- Have students make 'business cards' for kids to share and spread the word. VistaPrint online. 500 cards are very inexpensive.

- Have the youth tell stories at church with a direct focus on school and what they are doing about the mission of the church.

- How can we thank our churches for the help already given? Have school kids provide church service or a special presentation. Have a conference-wide educational Sabbath. Have adults become student mentors. Speak up and share our ministry to the community.

- Stronger communication with the church is needed.

- Invite the pastor to see your school.

- Lift up the standard. Too much bad news.

- Too much money is going outside of our conference — more needs to go to schools.



Town Hall break out session - Ideas for Dynamic Outreach  
Medford Adventist Church — Jan. 23, 2013

## STEWARDSHIP — Supporting the Vision

- Adding a stewardship leader at the Conference level was not the answer.
- Stewardship resources sent to the churches from the Conference level would be very helpful.
- Stewardship education needs to be handled locally by the pastor and other lay leaders and it needs to be done regularly (not a once a year, hit or miss). It needs to be intentional. From sermons to pamphlets, to PowerPoint slides, to short, but educational calls for offering. It needs to be done weekly with different formats and methods.
- Regularly thank people for their faithfulness. It draws attention to and helps the members understand the importance of regular systematic giving. Steer our people away from emotional giving.
- Emphasize that tithe is the Lord's. Create trust in God to provide for all your needs, not your wants. Educate people on the "test me" of Malachi chapter 3.
- Conference resources for local church: The PowerPoint slides would be welcomed. Short 2-3 minute testimonies on the blessings of giving (like a mission spotlight on stewardship). Stewardship stories should be age, gender and culture inclusive. Everything should be put on our web site to be easily accessed by our local churches. Look at retired pastors and others to be regionally available for stewardship sermons/education. Maybe the Conference can assist with their mileage.
- Provide Conference material on the 'use of tithes and offerings'.
- We need to emphasize offerings as well as tithe. Tithe and offering ratios are deteriorating. Educate people not to always restrict local fund, for one project or another. Utilities and other local expenses need to be paid. Explain how the local budget operates. Be transparent. Build trust in the local church leadership and the Conference too.
- How do we develop ownership with people to assist in financing the local and worldwide church? As people become engaged in church and in ministry buy-in occurs. Somehow, in a confidential and sensitive way, report to the church the percentage of the congregation involved in regular systematic giving, but avoid any specific individuals.
- People must understand being accountable to God. If people are not faithful in the giving of tithe and offerings it is a spiritual problem, not a money problem. The church needs to provide support.
- Develop all possible methods of giving. Online giving is well liked. Look into automatic withdrawals and other methods.
- Local churches should look into Dave Ramsey and other programs. If people aren't loaded with debt they will have more to give. Teach people about family budgets and responsible personal finance. Put emphasis on financing outreach; giving for others takes the focus off of self/selfishness.
- We should be marketing the trust department of the Conference better; what services are available. People need to know how they can

provide for the Lord's work after death. Work on developing endowments or increasing existing ones. Create foundations and annuities.

- Continue a strong outreach program. Use traditional and non-traditional forms of evangelism. Think outside the box.
- All the aforementioned can and will be productive if guided by the Holy Spirit and immersed in prayer.

As you can see, there were many ideas shared— ideas which show the creativity, vision and passion of the members in our conference. To those who attended, thank you. To each of our members in ministry, God's richest blessings as you take these and other ideas and allow the Holy Spirit to inspire and empower you to complete the great commission in our corner of the world.



Milo Adventist Academy Choir special music at Bend Adventist Church Town Hall meeting. – Feb. 5, 2013

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## NOTE WORTHY...

### WALLA WALLA ALUMNI WINS INVENTION AWARD

Bruce Blaser, an engineer at Boeing and Auburn City Church member, was part of a team of six engineers who received Boeing's 2012 Special Invention Award. His team patented a 90-degree interconnect technique between a radiating printed wiring board (PWB) and another circuit board that allows for a more uniform transition. After graduating from Walla Walla University in 1981, Blaser joined Boeing where he was encouraged to generate at least one patent idea each year.

### NAD WELCOMES NEW LEADERS

Elden Ramirez from Central California Conference, where he has served as Youth Ministries director since 2005, is filling the vacancy in the North American Division as Director of Volunteer Ministries. Jose Rojas announced his resignation last November and launched a new ministry called, "MOVEmentum."

### NPUC SEEKS PROGRESS ON ORDINATION

At its regular meeting on Feb. 20, the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive committee voted to confirm its intentions to address ministerial ordination without regard to gender. But in deference to the world church discussion already in process, the NPUC action specifies that a special constituency session on the topic will be convened within 120 days after the world church committee studying the theology of ordination completes its work in 2014. NPUC leadership will advocate for a policy and practice that allows equality for women in all church leadership positions while it invites continued prayer, study and comments on this important topic, and awaits word of a timely world church resolution. Read more information at <http://bit.ly/YLqkO4>.

### MT. ELLIS ACADEMY TO HOST 2013 ALUMNI WEEKEND

Mount Ellis Academy is hosting the 2013 Alumni Weekend on their campus the weekend of April 19-21. Honor classes include 2003, 1993, 1988, 1983, 1973, 1963, 1958, 1953, and 1948 but all alumni and friends are invited to attend. Guest speaker for Sabbath church service is Gene Dotolo, '73. Those attending Sabbath services are invited to bring an item for potluck lunch - especially salads and desserts. For more information, please contact the Alumni office at MEA and speak with Kevin Emmerson at 406-587-5178 x105.

### MORRIS VENDEN PASSES AWAY

Morris L. Venden, well known husband, father, Seventh-day Adventist preacher, teacher, and author, passed to his rest Sunday evening, February 11. Venden was 80 years old and died following a 10-year battle with FTD, a comparatively rare form of dementia. During his life, Venden pastored several large churches including the La Sierra University Church and Pacific Union College Church in California and the Union College Church in Nebraska. Later he pastored the Azure Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church near Loma Linda, California, from which he retired in August 1998. Venden then joined the Voice of Prophecy team as an associate speaker.

Venden's memorial service was held Sunday, March 3 at the Loma Linda University Church. In lieu of flowers, or for those wishing to contribute to a memorial fund, the family requests that gifts be sent (In Memory of Morris L. Venden) to the SonBridge Community Center in College Place, Wash. or to Maranatha Schools and 1-Day Churches.

### LAKE UNION AND FLORIDA CONFERENCES RELOCATING

The Lake Union and Florida Conference offices are relocating! Lake Union began construction for their new building in October 2012. Andrews University purchased the current Lake Union office and several other buildings in order to have room for expansion. Griggs University and International Academy will take over the current main headquarters building.

Last Fall the Florida Department of Transportation approached the Florida Conference Executive Committee with an official proposal to purchase their entire facility/property as part of road expansion work on Interstate 4. That sale was completed on Friday, January 27, 2012. Florida Conference finalized the purchase of the former Robb & Stucky Interiors building in Altamonte Springs on December 7, 2012. They will be focusing on renovation and repair of the building which has been vacant for years.

### RETIREMENT IS NO PICNIC

Illustrating that retirement is no time to be lazy, Bryce Pascoe, former North Pacific Union Conference executive secretary, has expanded his retiree "to-do" list. He has accepted a part-time stipend role as ministerial director for the Dakota Conference, based in Bismarck, N.D. Pascoe will provide support from his home base in Happy Valley, Ore., with only occasional travel required. Former Alaska Conference pastor, Neil Biloff, is the Dakota Conference president.

### CHURCHES MUST PROTECT AGAINST CYBER THREAT

In a recent interview with the Adventist News Network, Bob Kyte, Adventist Risk Management (ARM) president, talked about the growing threats of cyber security and the challenges that the church faces with insuring and protecting its assets. According to the nonprofit Identity Theft Resource Center, 2011 saw 23 million confidential records in North America exposed in 414 security breaches with an average cost of \$3.7 million per breach. As more information is moving online, ARM is working to raise awareness of the dangers and costs of data breaches and insure the church in case something happens. Read more at <http://bit.ly/WuEra>.

For additional news visit [http://www.oregonconference.org/news\\_entries](http://www.oregonconference.org/news_entries)



## NEW YOUTH RUSH PROGRAM

Oregon Youth Rush is a new youth colporteur program in the Oregon Conference that provides an opportunity for young people to be involved in front line ministry while earning money for school! The program will accept approximately twenty young people who will participate in door-to-door ministry starting June 9 and going through August 14. This program is a great place to grow closer to God, make Christian friends, earn money for school, and serve the Lord! The average student earns \$3,000 during the 9.5 week program and many schools give scholarships above earnings. Visit [www.oregonyouthrush.com](http://www.oregonyouthrush.com) to apply and learn more, or call Jeff Kimmel at 503-850-3548



# Events

## OREGON ADVENTIST MEN'S CHORUS SPRING FESTIVAL CONCERT

*When: April 27, 7:00 pm*

*Location: Adventist Community Church of Vancouver*

Come hear the Oregon Adventist Mens Chorus' 19th annual Spring Festival Concert, April 27, at 7:00 pm at the Adventist Community Church of Vancouver! Be inspired by 100 singing men including northwest adventist academy students. Sign up online for your FREE tickets at [www.oamctickets.eventbrite.com](http://www.oamctickets.eventbrite.com), or call 503-410-6970. Seating is limited - reserved tickets required. The Adventist Community Church of Vancouver is located at 9711 NE St Johns Rd.

## "DEPRESSION, THE WAY OUT" SEMINAR INTRODUCTION

*When: March 5, 6:30 pm*

*Location: Castle Rock Adventist Church*

The Castle Rock Adventist Church is offering a free introduction to "Depression the Way Out" authored and presented on DVD by Neil Nedley, M.D. Dr. Nedley is trained in several specialties including Preventive Medicine and Mental Health. His instruction helps to identify depression markers and make positive lifestyle choices. Take advantage of this free introduction on March 5, at 6:30 pm and determine if you want to register for the full 8 classes. Location: 7531 Old Pacific Hwy. N. Castle Rock, Wash. Contact: Wanda 360-967-2165 or Jeanne 360-274-6709 for more information.

## HIS PRAISE MEN'S CHORUS IN CONCERT

*When: March 16, 10:40 am*

*Location: Cedar Creek Adventist Church*

His Praise Men's Chorus will be presenting a concert during the church service, at 10:40 am on Sabbath, March 16, at the Cedar Creek Adventist Church. His Praise is a group of close to 25 men drawn from the northwest Oregon/southwest Washington area, from all walks of life. They all have one thing in common: they love to sing gospel music! For more information, call Willis Christian at 360-263-1630. The Cedar Creek Adventist Church is located at 11111 NE Cedar Creek Road in Woodland, Wash.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED

*When: Position open now*

*Location: Orchards Adventist Church*

Orchards Church's Administrative Assistant is out of the country for about 18 months, so we are needing someone to fill in for her. The job is 20 hours a week, M-Th. If interested, contact Nadine Dower at [orchardschurch@comcast.net](mailto:orchardschurch@comcast.net) for a copy of the job description, or call her 360-828-7146 and leave name, phone number and email address on her voice mail.

## GET TRAINED AT THE NORTHWEST MISSION INSTITUTE

*When: Sessions begin March 30, 2013*

*Location: College Place, Wash.*

The harvest is ripe... the laborers are few... God needs you! Get trained to share your faith and lead others in personal evangelism at Northwest Mission Institute. Upcoming sessions begin March 30 and September 29. To learn more, visit [www.missioninstitute.org](http://www.missioninstitute.org), call 360-857-7062, or email [info@missioninstitute.org](mailto:info@missioninstitute.org).

## SIMPLY COOKING DEMONSTRATION

*When: March 28, 6:30 pm*

*Location: Castle Rock Adventist Church*

"Simply Cooking" is for everyone interested in broadening their plant-based repertoire. Ronni Reinecke will lead us through another enjoyable and educational evening of demonstrations, samples and recipes. The once monthly workshop is free, March 28, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. Location: 7531 Old Pacific Hwy. N. Castle Rock, Wash. For reservations, call Wanda at 360-967-2165 or Jeanne at 360-274-6709

## 2013 OREGON PRAYER RETREAT

*When: March 15-17, 2013*

*Location: Grove Christian Camp*

Come join us for a weekend of powerful spiritual fellowship at Grove Christian Camp in Cottage Grove, Ore. Our presenters this year include Jim Moon, Rocky Mountain Conference Prayer Ministry Coordinator. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/13AaB5z> or email [waldheim1934@hotmail.com](mailto:waldheim1934@hotmail.com). You can register at <http://oregonprayerretreat.eventbrite.com>.

## MARK FOX EVANGELISTIC SERIES

*When: March 8-30, 2013*

*Location: Gladstone Park Conference Center*

Evangelist Mark Fox is coming to the Holden Center at the Gladstone Conference Center in March and you are invited! The series will go from March 8th through March 30th. Each night will feature inspired speaking, music, and fellowship. We will also have children's programming for the kids. All are welcome!

## BIG LAKE REGISTRATION STARTS MARCH 6

*When: Begins March 6, 6:00 pm*

*Location: Register at [www.biglake.org](http://www.biglake.org)*

Registration will be open for Big Lake Youth Camp at 6:00 am, March 6 at [www.biglake.org](http://www.biglake.org). Please consider sending your kids (or helping someone else's kids attend) for a wonderful week of fun, learning, and connecting with God! Camp is staffed by some of the most enthusiastic young Adventists to be found; truly cream of the crop young people! Sign up early to get into the most popular classes and be sure to claim your \$100 Adventist discount. For more information, call 503-850-3583 or visit [www.biglake.org](http://www.biglake.org).

## HIS PRAISE MEN'S CHORUS AT SUNNYSIDE

*When: March 16, 5:00 pm*

*Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church*

His Praise Men's Chorus will be presenting a concert at 5:00 pm on Sabbath, March 16, at the Sunnyside Adventist Church. His Praise is a group of about 25 men drawn from the northwest Oregon/southwest Washington area from all walks of life, currently directed by Finis Johnson. For information for more information call 503-252-8080.

## FILMING LOCATION NEEDED

*When: April 15-18, 2013*

*Location: Needed in Portland/Vancouver area*

Home needed in the greater Portland/Vancouver area to film two short stories for Voice Of Prophecy. Participants will be paid \$300 a day. For more information visit [www.furmanpictures.com/vop.html](http://www.furmanpictures.com/vop.html).

*All links are clickable here and elsewhere in the eCommunique.*

# Transitions

**Greg Phillips (Sandi)** – has transitioned from chaplain of Portland Adventist Academy to the position of associate pastor for Pleasant Valley Church.

**Henry Zollbrecht (Mary Jane)** – retired from his position as pastor for the Tabernacle Church congregation as of February 28th.

**Leslie Cairns (David)** – has transitioned from the position of church/school auditor to that of corporation treasurer for the Oregon Conference.

Registration opens March 6!



Wanna take the Plunge?



[www.biglake.org](http://www.biglake.org)



## SUNSET CALENDAR

	Mar 2	Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 23	Mar 30	Apr 6
Bend	5:54 PM	6:03 PM	7:12 PM	7:20 PM	7:29 PM	7:38 PM
Eugene	6:01 PM	6:10 PM	7:19 PM	7:28 PM	7:36 PM	7:45 PM
Hood River	5:53 PM	6:03 PM	7:12 PM	7:22 PM	7:31 PM	7:40 PM
Longview	5:59 PM	6:08 PM	7:18 PM	7:28 PM	7:37 PM	7:46 PM
Medford	6:02 PM	6:10 PM	7:18 PM	7:26 PM	7:34 PM	7:42 PM
Newport	6:04 PM	6:14 PM	7:23 PM	7:32 PM	7:40 PM	7:49 PM
Portland	5:58 PM	6:08 PM	7:17 PM	7:26 PM	7:35 PM	7:44 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](mailto:krissy.barber@oc.npuc.org) or call 503.850.3500  
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