

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

eCOMMUNIQUÉ

FEBRUARY | 2016 | VOL. NO. 71



GOD'S DOCTOR

God calls from all walks of life and from all corners of the globe. Where is He calling you from?

PAGE 2



WELCOME TO VIVID

Next month an English-speaking church plant will launch in Keizer, Ore., the first of its kind in this young, vibrant community.

PAGE 3



CLEANING UP AFTER THE STORM

Milo is facing many long and expensive months of clean-up after December's heavy snow and rain storms.

PAGE 3



NOTE WORTHY NEWS

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

PAGE 4



"THE BEST DAY EVER..."

By Julie Corson, as told to Al Reimche

This last month a note was passed to me by one of our teachers. I had to share with you the story it told....

I didn't have time to read their journals after school yesterday, but when I came in early this morning and started to read I was brought to tears of joy. My students love Jesus! Here are some examples of what I read....

Yesterday during journaling time I assigned my first and second grade students the project of writing about the best day ever. I gave an example and said, "How would you start your best day ever? Would you start it with pancakes and syrup or scrambled eggs and potatoes? Spend the next thirteen and half minutes writing about what you think the best day ever would be like." The students began writing and surprisingly had the writing stamina to write for most of the time.

...journal entry after journal entry was about starting their best day ever with Jesus...

"The best day ever would start with pancakes for breakfast. Then reading the Bible. After that, I would go in a hot air balloon...."

"The best day ever starts with God and Jesus and love. I like the stories about God. One of my favorites is baby Moses, he obeyed God. I am a Christian...."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...



THE BEST DAY EVER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The best day I think is when Jesus comes because I have friends that I will see again...."

"The best day ever is when I go to heaven. And when I see my dog again. And also to see God...."

"My best day ever is when Jesus comes. Jesus is going to protect everybody in the earth. And nothing can be impossible for him...."

"The best day ever is when Jesus will come! The best day is when I pray to God. The best day for me is when I get to see everybody in heaven. The best day I think for everybody is seeing Jesus...."

"I am writing about when Jesus comes again. So I could see all the animals. I could ride a donkey like Mary and Joseph. Also I want to get on a giraffe so I could go up, up, up...."

This is just a sampling, but journal entry after journal entry was about starting their best day ever with Jesus through prayer, Bible reading, worship or song, or about Jesus coming again. My students have a profound effect on me and I am honored to be their teacher and hang out with such amazing Christians!

Thank you, Julie Corson, for allowing God to work through you and your classroom. I personally want to thank all our ministers of education as they lead children to Jesus every day in our classrooms. I also believe this ministry is like a solid three-legged stool where our pastors and churches work alongside our educators and schools to support our parents and homes. Join me in praying that "Together as One" we will be ready for that great day when Jesus returns again.



GOD'S DOCTOR

By Dick Duerksen

We were far up in the Andes of Ecuador, just below the summer snowfields and right in the middle of hillsides covered with potatoes, squash, wheat, rye, and thousands of brightly-waving sunflowers. Our arrival brought a chorus of alarm from a clutch of tawny dogs.

A once-white schoolhouse squatted on the ridge, its tin roof rattling in the morning breeze, its walls cold, in need of a sweater.

As our Jeeps rattled to a stop, an old man put down his hoe and greeted our driver with thickly-accented Spanish.

"You have brought us the doctors and the dentist, yes?"

"Yes."

The medical team piled out of the vehicles, each person stretching to find feeling in squashed muscles, and then quickly scrambling for their warmest jackets.

"Were you raised here?" I asked.

"Yes. Far back to many parents before my grandparents we have lived on this mountain. This will be the first time I have seen a dentist."

"What crops grow best up here near Heaven?"

"Ground nuts and potatoes. The rest we have to sing to so they will grow tall. Sheep also. They grow well here."

"Where do you worship?"

"We have a small chapel over there beside the mountain. God is good to us up here. We are closer to Him than others. Yes?"

I knelt in the dust to photograph a group of young boys playing marbles, listening as others continued the conversation with Armando the shepherd/farmer. The day was the typical controlled chaos of a moun-

tain clinic. More patients than expected, all talking happily at the greatest social event of the summer, everyone admiring the others' new medicines.

Scores of small boys pushed chairs around back so they could peer through the school windows to see their parents at the dentist or watch a doctor examining Auntie Rosa.

Then I saw him. A well-jacketed young man of about 11, riding a blue-green mountain bike across the fields behind a herd of about 20 sheep. He rode like a national champion, guiding the sheep into their pole pen.

"I have never seen a shepherd ride a mountain bike so well," I greeted him.

"It is nothing," he laughed. "I have been riding for many years. It is much easier than walking behind them with a stick. Would you like to see my house?"

Alejandro took me to his house, introduced me to his grandpa and the family dog. Then he asked if I would also like to see his "old" house.

The old house, where he had been born and where his great-great-grandfather had lived, was made of crumbling dirt bricks capped by a green grass roof. Yet, somehow, he seemed to like it better than the 12x16 cement block house with the glass windows where he now lived.

"It was a warm home," Alejandro said, kicking the black cinders of an old fire.

"Alejandro, what are you planning to do with your life?"

He stared quizzically at me, moved the bike closer and lowered his voice.

"It is very hard to make a living here, and even though it makes my father, Armando, sad, God is calling me to go to the university in Quito and study to be a doctor. Maybe someday I will be the doctor who comes up the road to do a clinic in the schoolhouse. Yes?"



WELCOME TO VIVID!

By Samuel Moreno

Real God, Relevant Church, and Relatable People. That's the foundation of Vivid, because a real God is revealed more effectively through our lives than our lips, a relevant church places more value on people than programs, and relatable people reach before they preach.

It was with this vision in mind that months of planning came together to create a unified mission for the core group of Vivid Adventist Church. After much conversation, Keizer was chosen as the site of a new tri-city initiative to reach millennials and young adults in the Salem, Keizer, and Woodburn areas through a multi-ethnic church plant. Keizer is an ideal location for this type of plant because there are currently no other English-speaking Adventist congregations there, it is saturated with universities and colleges, and is centrally-located. Together with lead pastor, Samuel Moreno, a core leadership team of church members from all three cities have been meeting since August of 2015, planning, praying, and preparing for a launch date this spring.

Key partnerships have been made with local Adventist churches that may have members interested in becoming part of the core group of this church plant. One of those partnerships is Woodburn Spanish Adventist Church with pastor David Merino, who had already been planning the launch of a new church plant in the months to come. It was after sharing a similar vision for church planting that a partnership was formed with the goal of reaching millennials, a demographic the denomination is struggling to connect with in North America. During the months of planning, the core group realized more intensely how important these principals are in reaching millennials and young adults.

Vivid's foundation, "Real God, Relevant Church, and Relatable People" was unpacked more thoroughly during its first open house on February 6 at the Woodburn Spanish church. A real God is revealed more effectively through our lives than with our lips. A church that doesn't practice what it preaches is, in turn,



presenting an image of a plastic God who is not capable of real and meaningful change in people's lives. God is made real in the way that we live our lives. A relevant church is accomplished by prioritizing people over programs. In the story of the paralytic, church members passed him by for 38 years on their way to the temple. If we are unaware of our community's needs, we become an irrelevant church that holds no influence with those it is trying to reach. Finally, relatable people include those who reach before they preach. Jesus first healed the paralytic man, then disappeared, and only later found him to share the message of salvation. Christ's method of meeting the needs of His community before preaching the Gospel should not be forgotten.

That first open house welcomed 115 guests and offered the opportunity for anyone looking for a church family to attend and sample what Vivid is all about. Feedback after the event was positive, and meaningful connections were made that will, God-willing, translate to new members of Vivid. Additional open houses are scheduled in the cities of Salem and Keizer prior to the official launch on Easter.

Follow Vivid on Facebook at www.fb.com/vividadventist, on Instagram (@vividadventist), or Twitter (@vividadventist) for more information, news, and updates. You can also reach pastor Samuel Moreno at pastorsam.m@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to find out how to get involved.



CLEANING UP AFTER THE STORM



By Gary McLain

Christmas break came a bit early to Milo Adventist Academy this past December when heavy snow hit the school, began to thaw, then froze. The process was repeated over the next few days with the addition of heavy rain. The result was great amounts of runoff water trapped on the roofs and in gutters, preventing water from flowing off the roofs as designed, and instead causing it to find its way into seven of the buildings on Milo's campus. Thankfully, no one was injured during the storm, but now many of Milo's roofs are covered in tarps, waiting until summer when repairs can be made.

The academy started school as planned after Christmas break on January 4. Things are a little different on campus, however. Furniture and desks stacked here, no carpet there, and those who didn't have roommates before have roommates now. But school is carrying on. A disaster recovery team has torn out wet sheet rock and carpet. The areas have been dried and sprayed to prevent mold and mildew from forming, but 41 of the 150 dorm rooms are in need of repairs in both girls' and boys' dorms.

Principal Randy Thornton, said that, "Assessed damages now total more than \$1,104,000. Five (5) additional roofs were not covered by insurance, which could cost another \$300,000-\$400,000 to repair, for total damages in excess of \$1.5 million. Adventist Risk Management is covering just under \$1 million in losses. The Oregon Conference has committed more than \$100,000 in support and we have received just over \$46,000 in donations directed to storm damage repairs."

If you can help financially, or volunteer to help with repairs such as drywall, roofing, or flooring, contact Principal Thornton at miloinfo@miloacademy.org or 541-825-3200. You can also donate online at www.miloacademy.net/donate.



NOTE WORTHY...

NPUC OFFERS DIGITAL MEDIA MATCHING GRANTS

Beginning this month, the North Pacific Union Conference is sponsoring a new resource for grassroots ideas. The Digital Media Fund will provide a limited number of matching grants up to \$10,000 for selected projects that initiate creative methods of ministry via new media. Project ideas may involve unique websites, smartphone apps, podcasts, YouTube video series or other creative approaches. Those with digital media ideas should visit the project website at www.npuc.org/digitalmediafund for specific information on how to apply for a matching grant.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The North American Division (NAD), North Pacific Union Conference and Washington Conference is sponsoring a Youth and Young Adult Leadership Conference for March 6-8, at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson, Wash. The conference is designed for pastors, church elders, local youth and young adult leaders and anyone passionate about developing next generation leaders for Jesus. Over two and a half days we will bring together some of the leading experts in youth and young adult ministry to give you inspiration and practical tools to transform your ministry to this emerging generation. The conference will center on four foundational practices of ministry: Lead, Learn, Listen and Love. The keynote speaker will be Dan Jackson, NAD president. Read more and register at <http://bit.ly/1QaS3VA>.

PACIFIC PRESS NAMES NEW GUIDE EDITOR

Pacific Press has announced the appointment of Kathy Beagles as the new editor for *Guide* magazine. Beagles replaces outgoing editor, Randy Fishell, who has served at *Guide* for 26 years, but was unable to make the transition to Idaho last year. Beagles has transitioned to her new role from her position as associate professor, and director of the master's and Ph.D. in religious education programs at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. First published in 1953, *Guide* magazine is a weekly periodical that uses true stories to illustrate biblical truth and is targeted to 10- to 14-year-old youth. Read more from the Pacific Press newsletter at <http://bit.ly/1mvfLOS>.

ALASKA CONFERENCE WELCOMES RETURNING MISSIONARY COUPLE

Missionaries to Selawik, Alaska, Dennis and Judy Skandunas are returning to the Arctic Mission. The Skandunas have spent a significant portion of their lives serving and surviving in the Alaskan Arctic, so they are prepared for the long, cold and dark winters. They have a love for the people in these Arctic villages, and the Alaska Conference is delighted to see them return. Read more of the story at <http://bit.ly/20rc9u6> and for more information about the Arctic mission work in Alaska, go to www.alaskaconference.org, then click on Arctic Mission adventure.

NEW ONLINE ADVENTIST ENCYCLOPEDIA

The editorial team for the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* recently held their inaugural meeting to discuss and fine-tune topics. The five-year project is looking to replace the printed and bound *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia* first published in 1966 with an online format. The new online format will ensure that it is continually updated and amplified. The first 15,000–20,000 articles will start to be published in 2017, with a goal of the full encyclopedia debuting at the 2020 General Conference Session. For more, continue reading on the *Adventist Review* online at <http://bit.ly/1O5lr8>

WWU EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

Walla Walla University (WWU) has been recognized by the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce for their employee wellness program. The Business Award Showcase Health and Wellness Award commended the faculty and staff of WWU for an 85 percent participation rate of the new program, which started in 2015. The new wellness program was developed by the WWU human resources office with help from students and input from employees. The most popular feature of the program focuses on small, regular activities for people who are often busy. Employees say that the new program has enabled them to do more physically, have more energy throughout the day and focus more at work. Read on WWU's website at <http://bit.ly/1Q9ZITj>.

ADVENTISTS HELP IN FLINT, MICHIGAN WATER CRISIS

Adventists, through Adventist Community Services (ACS), are helping the residents of Flint, Mich., deal with a water crisis. Church members are distributing about 10 pallets of bottled water a week to residents. ACS will continue to distribute water for the next five months until the existing toxic pipe-lines are replaced. Read more of how ACS is helping and how you can help on the North American Division ACS website at <http://bit.ly/1QuCm5N>.

NEW NW DENTAL MINISTRY VAN GETS READY TO ROLL

A new mobile dental van is about ready to begin taking appointments for your church. The van will offer free dental care to Northwest communities. This long anticipated ministry is the fulfillment of a dream for Rick and Delray Luce from the Kirkland, Wash. Church. Thanks to generous donations from Adventist businessmen, the Washington Conference, and a matching grant, this \$500,000 project has finally come to fruition. Learn more about this ministry at <http://bit.ly/1XvAM9a>.

VOP REPOSITIONS TO SUPPORT LOCAL CHURCHES

The Voice of Prophecy (VOP), one of the oldest Seventh-day Adventist broadcast ministries, is repositioning itself to promote local congregations as a point of contact for listeners, beginning with a four-day streaming evangelistic series. This reverses the traditional approach to media ministry where local churches support the ministry. Instead, the VOP is looking to support the outreach ministry of the local church. The VOP will host a live-streamed four-part outreach series beginning April 28 designed for viewing in local Adventist churches. The series, "Shadow Empire," will focus on the roots and life of the Roman Emperor Constantine, who married his understanding of the Christian faith to civil society, with far-reaching consequences. Read more from the *Adventist Review* online at <http://bit.ly/1XvAWgH>.

WWU HOSTS POHNPEI STUDENTS

Every year Walla Walla University (WWU) hosts students from around the Northwest and beyond at their annual Friendship Tournament. This year they hosted some special guests from halfway around the world. Kenneth Johnston, a WWU student and former student missionary, returned to Pohnpei a month before the tournament. While visiting, he began to develop a plan to bring the Pohnpei Adventist School's boys and girls basketball teams to WWU for the tournament. Amazingly, the majority of funds needed were raised within two weeks. Soon after that the students were on their way to Walla Walla, Wash. For many of the Pohnpei students it was their first time in the United States. Johnston hopes the trip will encourage the students to reflect on their time at WWU and maybe inspire them to attend. Read more from the WWU website at <http://bit.ly/1TINnvd>.

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



Events

GOODWIN CONCERT

When: March 12, 5:00 pm

Location: Stone Tower Adventist Church

You are invited to attend a special concert, "An Ever-Present Savior," featuring Shannon and Jeanine Goodwin & friends on March 12, 5:00 pm at the Stone Tower Adventist Church. Join the Goodwins as they share their love for the word of God with beautiful sacred music and testimonies. This is a benefit concert to help hungry children through The Weekend Backpack Lunch Program sponsored by People to People Ministries. Stone Tower Adventist Church is located at 3010 NE Holladay Street in Portland, Ore. For information contact Carl Parker at 503-893-9022.

CHRISTIAN HOST FAMILY NEEDED FOR CHINESE PHD STUDENT

When: Starting March 3, 2016

Location: Portland Area

A graduate student from Lanzhou University in China is coming to Portland beginning in March to be in a Ph.D. program at Portland State University, finishing around December 2016. He would like to live with a Christian family in the Portland area. For more information call Charlotte at 503-998-7888.

CBFM WEEKEND AT SUNNYSIDE

When: February 19-20, 2016

Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

The Center for Bible, Faith, and Mission, sponsored by the Walla Walla University School of Theology, is coming to Sunnyside Adventist Church! Join us February 19-20, as our presenter, and Andrews University professor, Darius Jankiewicz, takes a look at "The History of Ordination" and "The Meaning of Ordination." Jankiewicz wrote the definitive paper on the history and meaning of ordination. Friday evening's presentation will begin at 7:00 pm and will continue with the Sabbath afternoon presentation at 2:00 pm. Plan to attend these informative presentations. Sabbath worship services (8:45 and 11:00 am) will be presented by David Thomas of Walla Walla University. Sunnyside Adventist Church is located at 10501 SE Market Street, Portland, Ore.

HIS PRAISE AFTERNOON CONCERT

When: February 20, 5:00 pm

Location: Sunnyside Adventist Church

His Praise Men's Chorus will be presenting a concert at 5:00 pm on Sabbath, Feb. 20, at the Sunnyside Adventist Church, 10501 SE Market Street in Portland, Ore. Directed by Charlie Drury, His Praise is a group of about 30 men from the Portland-metro area and all walks of life who have one thing in common—they love to sing gospel music. For more information call Sunnyside Church at 503-252-8080; John Korb, His Praise scheduling at 971-563-2684; or Wes Wilbur, His Praise president at 360-936-1401.

FREE MUSIC LESSONS AT LENTS

When: Wednesdays at 5:00 pm

Location: Lents Adventist Church Activity Center

Learn to play the hand bells and stringed instruments for *free!* Lessons begin at 5:00 pm and end at 7:00 pm every Wednesday evening. Call 503-774-7290 and leave a message. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

ELDEN WALTER MEMORIAL SERVICE

When: February 27, 4:00 pm

Location: Centralia Adventist Church

Elden K. Walter, pastor for many years in the Oregon Conference, passed to his rest January 9, 2016 at the age of 87. His memorial service has been scheduled for February 27 at 4:00 pm in the Centralia Adventist Church, located at 1607 Military Road in Centralia, Wash.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL YOUTH RALLY

When: February 27, 6:30-8:00 pm

Location: Sharon Adventist Church

Sharon Adventist Church is hosting a Northwest Regional Youth Rally in preparation of the upcoming United Youth Congress. Join us for games, music, food and fellowship, February 27 from 6:30-8:00 pm. Sharon Adventist Church is located at 5209 NE 22nd Ave in Portland, Ore.

ROSARIO SINGLES' RETREAT

When: April 1-3, 2016

Location: Anacortes, Wash.

Rosario Singles' Retreat, will be happening April 1-3 at the Walla Walla Marine Biology Station in Anacortes, Wash. Dick and Brenda Duerksen will be our speakers this year, and we have an extended Sunday schedule with options including whale watching, a Deception Pass jet boat tour, and a driving tour of the tulip fields. For details and registration, email RosarioRetreat@gmail.com. For those without access to email, call our registration line at 360-588-3179. The registration deadline is March 23.

2016 OREGON PRAYER CONFERENCE

When: March 25-27, 2016

Location: Rockaway Beach, Ore.

Attend this year's Oregon Prayer Conference in Rockaway Beach, March 25-27! Our prayer conference this year will feature Randy Maxwell, author of the book "If My People Pray," and 5 other inspiring books on prayer. His topic is "Unprecedented: Praying for Unprecedented Results." Breakout presenters include Oregon Conference VP Dave Allen, and Tony and Sayuri Rodriguez from Grants Pass. For more info call 541-367-4913, or visit <http://bit.ly/1TIVCqU>.

HIS PRAISE MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT

When: February 20, 10:45 am

Location: Riverside Adventist Church

His Praise Men's Chorus will be presenting a concert during the 11:00 am church service on Sabbath, February 20, at the Riverside Adventist Church, located at 463 N Shepherd Road in Washougal, Wash. Directed by Charlie Drury, His Praise is a group of about 30 men from the Portland-metro area and all walks of life who have one thing in common—they love to sing gospel music. Call the Riverside Church at 503-921-6310; John Korb, His Praise scheduling at 971-563-2684; or Wes Wilbur, His Praise president at 360-936-1401 for more information.

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

Transitions

Kara Dale has come from the Australian Union Conference to become associate pastor for Sunnyside Church.

Norm Versteeg (Dorothy) is transitioning from his position as interim pastor to that of regular pastor for the Redmond/Sisters church district.

Angelina Wood (Tracy) has resigned her position as director of Oregon Conference Risk Management to join her husband in Maryland.

Aurora Canals (Ramon) has resigned her position as associate treasurer to join her husband in Maryland.

Belinda Rodriguez (Samuel Castro) has joined the Oregon Conference as associate pastor for the Vancouver Spanish Church. — Also of note is that Belinda is our first female Hispanic church pastor.

It's a Wonderful Life MARRIAGE GETAWAY



Featuring **Richie & Timi Brower** | Music with **Gary & Shelly Parks**

FEBRUARY 26 – 28, 2016

Village Green Resort and Gardens | Cottage Grove, Oregon

No writing assignments. No confrontations or confessions. Just great concepts to explore with great people, great food, great music... and a lot of fun! You'll both be glad you came!

Bonus session: Starting a Marriage Ministry in your church!

Registration through Feb 21: \$225 | Includes all seminars, materials and meals
Lodging is additional – stay wherever you wish | Special resort rates start at \$69 per night!

For more info and to register visit:

OregonConference.org > Departments > Family Ministries

Early Rate:
\$199
per couple
Now - Valentine's Day!

SUNSET CALENDAR

	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Mar 5	Mar 12
Bend	5:20 PM	5:30 PM	5:40 PM	5:49 PM	5:58 PM	6:07 PM
Eugene	5:28 PM	5:37 PM	5:47 PM	5:56 PM	6:05 PM	6:14 PM
Hood River	5:18 PM	5:28 PM	5:38 PM	5:48 PM	5:58 PM	6:07 PM
Longview	5:22 PM	5:33 PM	5:43 PM	5:53 PM	6:03 PM	6:13 PM
Medford	5:30 PM	5:39 PM	5:48 PM	5:57 PM	6:06 PM	6:14 PM
Newport	5:30 PM	5:40 PM	5:50 PM	5:59 PM	6:09 PM	6:18 PM
Portland	5:22 PM	5:33 PM	5:43 PM	5:53 PM	6:02 PM	6:12 PM