



## Elder Max Torkelsen

February 27, 1926 - December 8, 2012

Max C. Torkelsen

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Elder Max Christian Torkelsen, 86, passed away December 8, 2012, in Portland, Ore.

Max was born February 27, 1926, in Ruthven, Iowa, to Leland A. and Goldie Torkelsen. He graduated from Maplewood Academy, Hutchinson, Minn.; received a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Union College, Lincoln, Neb.; and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Western State College, Gunnison, Colo.

Torkelsen, who served in the 1970s as president of the North Pacific Union Conference, based in Ridgefield, Washington, was known to promote successful young pastors to leadership positions, often while still younger than typical church administrators.

“Most satisfying for him was giving people opportunity to expand their abilities, hiring young pastors, or bringing people in,” said his son Max C. Torkelsen II, who now serves as president of the North Pacific Union Conference.

Born in Nebraska to farmers, the elder Torkelsen was drafted into the Army and served as a medic in Germany during World War II. Following the war, he

began his ministry career in North Dakota as a pastor. He later moved into educational work as a principal and superintendent. He continued into conference administrative posts throughout the Western United States.

On February 8, 1947, he and Ardis Carle married in Austin, Minn., and raised a family of three beautiful children. Over the course of his career, he served as a pastor, teacher, school principal and church administrator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including time as Executive Secretary and President of the North Pacific Union Conference here in the Northwest.

Following retirement in 1988, he continued to work part time with Project 90, the Upper Columbia Conference program to raise funds for education scholarships, as well as serving as interim Visitation Pastor at the Village Church before moving from College Place, Wash., to Portland, Ore., in 2003.

Those left to mourn his loss are his wife, Ardis, Portland, Ore.; daughter and son-in-law, Myrna and Roy Smith of Redlands, Calif.; two sons and daughters-in-law: Max II and Linnea Torkelsen of LaCenter, Wash.; and Monte and Darla Torkelsen of Boring, Ore.; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A private graveside service was held at Mount Hope Cemetery in College Place, Wash. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Upper Columbia Conference Worthy Student Scholarship Fund, 3715 S. Grove Rd., Spokane, Wash., 99224 or Abba's Child scholarship fund to aid grieving children attend grief camps, c/o Monte Torkelsen, 17300 SE Bartell Rd., Boring, Ore., 97009.

Friends may share memories or condolences at <http://www.facebook.com/events/257037407757846/>.

Survivors

Ardis M. Carle Torkelsen, Spouse  
Max C. (Linnea) Torkelsen II, Son  
Myrna Kaye (Roy) Smith, Daughter  
Monte Lee (Darla) Torkelsen, Son  
Scott Smith, Grandson  
Stacey Bowen, Granddaughter  
Analisa Kleven, Granddaughter  
Katie Torkelsen-Spoo, Granddaughter  
Brandon Torkelsen, Grandson  
Chad Torkelsen, Grandson  
Trent Torkelsen, Grandson  
Thomas and Emily Bowen, Great-Grandchildren  
Anika Kleven, Great-Granddaughter  
Suzanne Hanson, Niece  
Cathy Keyes, Niece  
Jere Torkelsen, Nephew  
Jon Torkelsen, Nephew  
Pat Torkelsen, Niece  
Ron Torkelsen, Nephew