Anchorage Creates Exciting Weekend
Alaska Conference leaders created a full weekend of activity, Sept. 23–25. The Alaska Youth Summit at the Anchorage Junior Academy featured speaker Ron Whitehead from the Andrews University-based Center for Youth Evangelism. The summit was planned as a multifaceted event with advocacy themes centered on awareness of raising a healthy generation of young people and taking a stand against violence in women. Participants and other members took to the streets on Sunday to kick off the Let’s Move initiative on the streets of Anchorage, carrying a banner to highlight various church ministries.

Maranatha Highlights Patzer Zimbabwe Church Project
During the annual Maranatha Volunteers International Convention on Saturday, Sept. 24, in Tualatin, Ore., Garwin McNeilus, businessman, paid special tribute to a Northwest project to build church and school structures in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. The project will be completed near the site where Jere Patzer, former North Pacific Union Conference president, preached a series of evangelistic meetings in 1998. A dedicatory plaque in honor of Patzer will be placed at the site. Sue Patzer, along with other Northwest leaders, will be in Zimbabwe through the middle of October to conduct an evangelistic series and oversee completion of the project.

Washington Conference Prepares for Boonstra Meetings
One million pieces of mail were sent by the Washington Conference to promote their “Unlocking Revelation” evangelism event with Shawn Boonstra, beginning Sept. 30. More than 80 sites will be offering evangelistic meetings. Joint plans for evangelism allow them to obtain bulk discounts on printing and postage. Conference office staff also worked together packaging Reach Washington materials for churches to pick up at a weekend prayer rally with Shawn Boonstra. View a photo gallery on Facebook. All the event details and locations are available at three websites in three languages: English, Spanish, and Russian.

Eavesdrop on Convention Highlights

Looking Ahead
October
7–9: Mont. Women’s Retreat
7–9: UCA Alumni Weekend
20: Dec. Ad/Article Deadline

November
6: Daylight Saving Time Ends
11: Veterans’ Day
17: Jan. 2012 Ad/Article Deadline
24: Thanksgiving Day

GLEANER Blogs
- Cheri Corder
- Cindy’s Garden Blog
- Dear Counselor
- Let’s Talk
- Mike Jones
- Monthly Archival Photo
- Tip Sheet
Listen to some of the best presentations from the recent Northwest Adventist Leadership Convention, held Sept. 7–10, at Walla Walla University. Audio files are now online for speakers such as Carlton Byrd, John McVay, Bill McClendon, Art Chadwick, Elissa Kiddo, Ron Clouzet, Justin Kim, Alex Bryan and others. Also available is Max Torkelsen’s devotional on “A New Look at the Sabbath.” Download and listen to these presentations online HERE.

College Students Struggle to Connect with a Church
Whether or not college students find time for church during their first two weeks on campus sets the mold for the rest of their college years, according to new research. These findings come from a six-year study of approximately 500 Christian youth-group members, conducted by Fuller Theological Seminary’s Fuller Youth Institute in Pasadena, Calif. The study’s results were released Sept. 17 in Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids. The book examines why, according to a 2006 report by Christian research firm Barna Group, 61 percent of 20-somethings who regularly attended church as teenagers later left the pews. Read more from the Adventist Review HERE.

NET 2011 Begins September 30
Featuring Ron Clouzet as speaker, this nationwide series will originate from Nashville, Tenn., and run through Oct. 29. Opening night will feature Committed, the Adventist group now nationally known for winning NBC’s Sing Off last December. Charles Haugabrooks and Jennifer LaMountain, will also be guest soloists. If your church is not conducting the series, invite your friends and neighbors to watch it in your home. It will be shown on the Hope Church Channel, Hope Channel, DIRECTV (Ch. 368), and streamed live at www.hopetv.org. NET 2011 video-on-demand will be available at PropheciesDecoded.com within 24 hours of each nightly meeting.

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2011 NWALC Audio Files

Audio Files
(in order of presentation)

Wednesday
Evening Program:
  Carl Byrd – Do Something

Thursday
Morning Worship:
  Max Torkelsen II – A New Look at the Sabbath
Plenary Session (1st segment):
  Art Chadwick – Creation vs. Evolution – A Scientist’s Perspective
Plenary Session (2nd segment):
  John T. Baldwin – Creation vs. Evolution – A Theological Perspective
Panel Discussion Q & A: Creation vs. Evolution
  Moderator: John McVay
  Panel: Art Chadwick, John Baldwin, John McVay, Max Torkelsen, Bob Cushman, Stan Hudson
Evening Program:
  John McVay – The Wallpaper of Your Mind: Choosing a Full-screen Jesus

Friday
Morning Worship:
  Elissa Kido – Adventist Education and it’s Added Value
Plenary Session (1st segment):
  Bill McClendon – Why I still believe in Evangelism
Plenary Session (2nd segment):
  Ron Clouzet – Why We keep Doing What We’re Doing (And What to Do About It)
Panel Discussion Q & A: Evangelism – Soul Winning
  Moderator: Ramon Canals
  Panel: Bill McClendon, Roger Hernandez, Ramon Canals, Bob Folkenberg Jr., John Freedman, Ron Clouzet
Evening Program:
  Justin Kim – Adventist Par Excellence: The Final Messages of Moses

Sabbath
Church Service (“FirstServe”):
  Alex Bryan – The One We Worship
Sabbath School:
  Carl Cosaert – Sabbath School Lesson
Church Service (second service):
  Alex Bryan – The One We Worship

Sunday
Darold Bigger and the Parks Family – 911 Tribute

Study Probes Why College Students Leave Church

BY PIET LEVY

Millions of college freshmen are overwhelmed right now trying to make new friends, adjusting to more rigorous school work and learning to live away from home. Whether they also find time for church during their first two weeks on campus will set the mold for the rest of their college years, according to new research.

These findings come from a six-year study of approximately 500 Christian youth group members, conducted by Fuller Theological Seminary's Fuller Youth Institute in Pasadena, California. The study's results were released Sept. 17 in *Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids*. The book examines why, according to a 2006 report by Christian research firm Barna Group, 61 percent of 20-somethings who regularly attended church as teenagers later left the pews.

The study implies that parents and church leaders need to do a better job preparing high school seniors to maintain their faith.

Only one out of every seven students surveyed said they were well equipped for college, and less than 50 percent of seniors with doubts talked about them with others, said Kara Powell, executive director at Fuller Youth Institute, and co-author of "Sticky Faith."

What also hinders students is being too dependent on youth faith group worship. Nearly 60 percent of seniors surveyed attended intergenerational worship and possessed a higher faith maturity in college, Powell said.

Nevertheless, 40 percent of freshman said they had difficulty finding a church in college, Powell said, and students' perception of faith made it all too easy for them to shove it aside.

"Students' view of faith was that it was like a jacket, something they can take on and off if they feel like it," Powell said. "One of the heartbreaking things, and why that two-week window is so influential, is that students feel guilty when they make mistakes and feel hypocritical and so full of remorse that they don't feel like they can then show up at church."

Powell suggested that parents share their own transitional experiences, and discuss their mistakes and good choices, so their kids can trust to share their concerns and struggles with them.

Parents should also go visit churches with their kids near their college campuses, or visit new churches close to home, to prepare them for finding a new place of worship.

Youth pastors should also nudge seniors to think about what they should look for in a new church and how they can be active Christians in college, said Jonathan Morrow, a youth-oriented equipping pastor at Fellowship Bible Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and author of the book *Welcome to College: A Christ-Follower's Guide for the Journey.*