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Gleaner
Northwest adventists in Action

Children's sabbath school: Not just for children

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He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.

Psalm 147:16 (NIV)

Photo by Robert Rouillard, University Park, Washington
FEATURES

Children’s Sabbath School: Not Just for Children

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The Cat’s in the Cradle
When our kids were small, some well-meaning sage would comment to us, “Well, enjoy them now because before you know it, they’ll be gone!” We’d patronizingly nod our assent, realizing that what they said was, in fact, true. But while recalling some of our children’s recent memorable antics, it seemed to be in the far distant, if not welcome, future. In retrospect those years are now almost a blur.

And sure enough, people were right. From an infant to being two, to the lunchpail-carrying first-grader, on to academy, friends, dates, college, grad school, marriage, and even our first grandbaby, all in such an incredibly condensed and compressed period of time.

Now it’s 2004. After 18 consecutive years of having a teenager in our family, our “little girl” is closing that chapter of our life as well. When we dropped her off at college a few months ago and hugged her goodbye, we realized another final chapter was being written.

The words of a popular, old song, “The Cat’s in the Cradle” by Harry Chapin, came to mind:

My child arrived just the other day,
He came to the world in the usual way.
But there were planes to catch, and bills to pay.
He learned to walk while I was away.
And he was talking “for I knew it, and as he grew,
He’d say, “I’m gonna be like you, dad.”
And the cat’s in the cradle and the silver spoon,
Little boy blue and the man in the moon.
“When you coming home, dad?” “I don’t know when,
But we’ll get together then.
You know we’ll have a good time then.”
Did You Know?

Our Worldwide Church

Hospitals – 169
Ministers – 14,500
Sabbath Schools – 112,541
Churches – 51,000

Worldwide tithes and offerings – $1.7 billion per year
Schools – 6,300
with 1.2 million
with 15.3
with 12.3

Did You Know?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church was first officially organized in 1863 with 3,500 members, all within North America.

Today, more than 90 percent of church members reside elsewhere, in 203 different countries around the world.

Adventists speak in more than 725 languages and 1,000 dialects.

While membership is blossoming around the world, the financial support for this world church still comes largely from North America.

With less than 10 percent of the membership, the North American Division provides 64 percent of the total tithes and offerings.

Per capita giving in North America is $1,181 per member, yet only $157 per member worldwide.

Source: www.adventist.org
Children’s Sab

Tyler Conrad enjoyed Sabbath School so much that his enthusiasm encouraged his parents, Chris and Candy, to keep coming back to the Orchards Church. Amanda is the newest member of their family.
bath School: Not Just for Children

One Sabbath morning about three years ago, a little family warily walked through the front doors of the Orchards Church in Vancouver, Washington. They were greeted with smiles and warm handshakes. In the lobby they met the pastor’s wife, Karen Wesslen, who offered to take eight-year-old Tyler to the primary room. “Don’t worry, he’ll be okay,” she assured his parents, Chris and Candy Conrad.

After Sabbath School, Karen met Tyler at the door just to be sure that he would find his parents. She asked him how he liked Sabbath School, and he said, “I really liked it. We’re going to come back here.” Then he added, “My parents have been looking at different churches, but we didn’t like the priest at the last church, so we are going to come here.”

The Conrad family came back the next Sabbath and the next, and Tyler told his parents that he still liked the Sabbath School. “How he enjoyed the class really had a lot to say,” Candy said. “If he had come back from class with the same reaction that he had to the other churches we had visited, we would have probably kept looking for another church.”

Chris and Candy became faithful members, and Tyler says that he wants to be baptized soon—all because of a great Sabbath School and its leaders.

If you were to visit any of the beginners Sabbath Schools virtually anywhere in the Northwest, you would find bulletin boards and backdrops colorfully decorated with that quarter’s theme, little chairs for the youngsters and, behind them, chairs for parents or grandparents. This welcoming atmosphere combines with prayers, songs and activities all geared to help the littlest members focus on the lessons.

▼ Using the GraceLink Sabbath School curriculum on Creation, Francie Davidson, Sunnyside Church beginners leader, plays bird songs for the part of the lesson about the fifth day of creation.
Joan Smith is a lifer. She began teaching in cradle roll (now called beginners) division of the Walla Walla College Church when she was a junior at Walla Walla Valley Academy. As a college junior, she assumed the leadership of the division. And that was just the beginning. Joan has led the beginners of the North Cascades Church in Burlington, Washington, for the last 29 years. “I have kids now whose parents were in my Sabbath School when they were kids,” she says with a wry smile.

Walk into her classroom and you are transported into a very special place with sky-blue walls and wonderful cotton clouds hung from the ceiling. Trees, rivers, bridges and mountains form the backdrop for just about any theme. “While I don’t think it is necessary to have a ‘set’ like I’ve made,” she says, “the kids love it when they’re in an environment that helps their imagination.”

Joan is an avid collector of materials to use in her classroom. She has a collection of battery-powered animals to get the attention of a distracted or crying child, and she regularly checks thrift stores for anything she could use as Sabbath School props. She and her husband, Van, even turned a Goodwill massage chair into Namaan’s chariot for the children to “ride” in. They just turned it upside down and sawed off all unnecessary parts. “I have a massive amount of stuff I’ve collected over the years, and luckily I have a barn to store it all in,” she laughs.

Having an attractive room is important, but when all is said and done, Joan wants the children to know that Jesus is there to help them through life. “The goal is not to entertain the children, but to teach them about Jesus,” she explains. “The props and programs keep their attention, but if they don’t get that message, we’ve wasted our time.”

She believes that Sabbath School exists to teach the children that Jesus is our friend and that He loves us. Even the beginners can begin learning that our God is a loving God. Joan believes we can teach doctrine even to the youngest members—at their level, of course, through songs and activities.
“While the toddlers don’t usually sing much in Sabbath School, they go home and often sing the songs as they play.”

Children’s Sabbath School is also for parents. Though Joan thinks that parents don’t necessarily have to stay with their children during Sabbath School, she believes that busy parents recognize this as quality time they can spend with their children.

Sometimes parents find that something is missing as they try to raise their children in a secular environment. Once they thoughtfully realize that the missing element is faith, they bring their little one to Sabbath School. There these parents can make friends with people who have children the same age as theirs and forge a social bond that helps to connect them with the church. They learn the songs, watch the activities and, as they encourage their child to participate, learn again, maybe for the first time, the fullness of God’s love.

“If you take a child by the hand then you will have the parent by the heart,” says Sheri Uhrig, Oregon Conference associate Sabbath School director. “Any time loving attention is paid to a child, the parent’s heart is drawn into that relationship as well.”

John Stockbower, a truss designer-in-training, and his wife, Holly, live in Burlington, Washington, where they bring their children, T.J. and Katie, to Sabbath School. Baptized just a few years ago, John says that Sabbath School is new territory for him, but he feels that bringing his kids to Sabbath School is fulfilling what God wants him to do. “I think Sabbath School sets a great foundation for kids to learn about Jesus,” he says. “I’m actually going through these lessons with my kids. It is really neat, and I treasure these moments in Sabbath School with them because I know that they don’t last very long.”

Children’s Sabbath Schools along with their songs, crafts, activities and prayers exist to help lay a foundation for the child’s spiritual growth. And perhaps they are important for the parents’ encouragement as they, along with the Sabbath School, teach their little ones spiritual life-skills.

Resources and ideas for Children’s Sabbath School leaders and teachers can be found at: northamerica.adventist.org/cm •

Richard Dower is the GLEANER editor and writes from Vancouver, Washington.

John Stockbower comforts his son, T.J., during Sabbath School at the North Cascade Church. He and his wife, Holly, bring T.J. and their newest addition, Katie, to church because they believe that is what God wants them to do. John’s mother, Candy, enjoys the Sabbath School experience with her grandchildren.

While they sing, “We will drive our little cars to Sabbath School,” kids run their toy cars along the roads and park them next to the church.
There's an intriguing line of research on depression that shows one group in our society as being significantly less affected by this mental illness than any other group. Care to guess what the group might be? Left-handers? Blondes? Psychology majors? Boston Red Sox fans? (Fat chance!) What do you think?

To understand the study, first let me give you a crash course called Depression 101. While this is a gross simplification of a complex subject, there are two major types of depression. First, there is biologically-based depression such as bipolar disorder, which involves both a manic phase and a depressive phase—real highs and real lows. Then there is psychologically-based depression known as reactive disorders. This is triggered more by situations than physiological imbalances.

Disorders like bipolar depression (that are biologically driven) tend to occur at approximately the same frequency for all groups. But reactive depression is more tied to circumstances, environment, upbringing and so on. Thus researchers have identified one group in the United States that experiences significantly less depression of this type than any other. What group?

The Amish. That's right, the buggy-driving folk who have their roots in the early Anabaptist movement in Europe, which took place at the time of the Reformation. The Anabaptists believed that only adults who had confessed their faith should be baptized and that they should remain separate from the larger society. (Incidentally, as Seventh-day Adventists, we can trace our roots to the Anabaptist movement as well).

Why does this select group have one-tenth the risk for depression as other Americans? Social scientists point to their strong sense of community. They have effectively found an antidote for loneliness. Perhaps that helps to explain why 90 percent of Amish teenagers choose to stay in their church. (Compare that to Adventist youth, who leave the church at an alarming rate of roughly 50 percent.)

Why do so many Amish kids stay committed to their church? The documentary Devil’s Playground offers this explanation by describing the Amish: “It is a tight-knit community, and during the years of running about, it is not surprising that the teenagers eventually seek the comfort, security and structure of their close-knit community.”

Let’s face it: We all crave community. We were created in the image of God, who is by nature three in one—Father, Son and Spirit. God is the consummate expression of community. Because we possess His nature, we too cannot live alone. That ought to clue us in as to why the church (and Sabbath School in particular!) is so vital to our well-being. If ever there was a time when the church might step up and offer an answer to the heart cry of a nation, it is now.

Given our world of highly independent overachievers who try to make it on their own, it’s no wonder that one out of six high school students have at least one major bout with depression before graduation. Moreover, 25–30 percent of university students have at least mild symptoms of depression. Although these symptoms may be fueled by more than just loneliness, make no mistake that intimate relationships can counter many of the ailments of depression.

Check out the story in 1 Kings 19 when Elijah was so down he wanted to kill himself. Notice that part of God’s therapy for the pouting prophet in the dungeon of depression involved hooking him up with a close friend, Elisha.

The bottom line is this: We were never intended to journey the lowlands of life alone. Erich Fromm had it right when he said, “The deepest need of man is the need to overcome his separateness, to leave the prison of hisaloneness.”

Karl Haffner writes from College Place, Wash., where he serves as senior pastor of the Walla Walla College Church.
Dental Team Treats 500 in Fiji

When a 26-member interdenominational dental team traveled from Anchorage, Alaska, to Vatuveu, Fiji, in September, “picking out the spiritual campfire songs was the challenge!” according to Pam Libby, trip leader. “[They] all grew up singing different religious songs.” It took quite a bit of scrambling to pick out two songs they had in common. “Kumbaya” and “Amazing Grace” were well-used throughout the eight-day dental service project held at the Vatuveu Adventist School.

Jim and Pam Libby, members of Anchorage’s Hillside-O’Malley Church, soon recognized and honored the fact that the group’s diversity provided a rich variety of spiritual gifts to share with the more than 500 individuals they treated. They also vividly recognized the great blessing each received by being exposed to and joining in with the Fijians as they worked in the clinic, visited their homes and worshipped together. “God calls us to go and serve no matter what,” said Pam. “He gives us opportunity to ‘get out of our comfort zones’ and trust Him to guide us and live through us in any service adventure!”

Pam Libby

Web Site and Telephone Lead to Baptism

Sometimes coming fully to God takes time—15 years in the case of Dale Van Sandt, a new Eagle River Valley Church (Eagle River, Alaska) member. Long ago, his was a lifestyle of selfishness and instant gratification. When he lost Lori, the only woman he ever loved, and his yet-to-be-born son, he returned to his childhood Alaska and there found God.

About 18 months ago, Van Sandt was contacted by Lori, who had returned to the Adventist Church in which she was raised. She wanted to know where Van Sandt stood with God before he finally met his son. Thus began discussions that convinced him he was still missing a complete relationship with God. By telephone, Lori and Van Sandt studied the 27 fundamental Adventist beliefs they found on Anchorage’s Hillside-O’Malley Church Web site.

Once while returning from a hike, Van Sandt was wishing that there was an Adventist church in his area. Just then he looked up and saw the sign for the Eagle River Valley Church. “I had literally been given a sign,” Van Sandt said. “I attended the very next Sabbath and asked to be baptized.”

Today, Van Sandt is actively involved with a number of the church’s ministries, including a recently completed evangelistic series that resulted in four baptisms. Van Sandt seeks to “keep working for the Lord in whatever way I can.”

John Kriegelstein, Alaska Conference communication director
Het buzz of excitement hung in the air as the Gem State Adventist Academy Rangers prepared to load the bus for yet another special operation, this time to help with last minute gift-wrapping at the Nampa Lighthouse Rescue Mission.

The Rangers are students who want to share their faith and help others through hard work and hands-on projects. The Rangers sign up voluntarily and are called up at a moment’s notice. Rangers that are out of classes at the times needed are called up first.

Julia Dawson, a sophomore Ranger, said, “It was fun to wrap gifts for kids who wouldn’t otherwise have had a Christmas. That’s what the Rangers are all about.”

The Rangers are also helping Habitat for Humanity build a house. Different groups of kids have spent time helping with landscaping and other projects as needed.

“We’re excited and proud to have students who care about the community around them and are willing to serve,” said Mike Schwartz, Gem State principal. “The Rangers are a great bunch of kids.”

Debra McCarver, GSAA GLEANER correspondent

Joni Giem, Jennifer Zumwalt, Michael Dewey, Leah Davy, Jina Lanto and Heidi Purvis helped to lay sod with Habitat for Humanity.

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DEBBIE MIRACULOUSLY FOUND HER BIRTH MOTHER AFTER 48 YEARS OF SEPARATION.
Quartet Shares Music, Worship and Fellowship

Only “enthusiastic interaction” can adequately describe the concert presented by the quartet CHOSEN (Children Holding Our Savior Eternally Near) at the Lewistown (Mont.) Church on a Friday evening last fall.

The lively arrangements and heartfelt testimonies offered by the quartet members held the attention of both children and adults. The four members moved around the audience, shaking hands, slapping “five” with children and making direct eye contact with those listening. As one five-year-old said after the concert, “He was smiling at me!” Laughter erupted when Unterseher told his story of maturity, fear and things that went thump in the night. Each singer in turn shared from scripture and experience about God’s love for His children.

CHOSEN was formed during the 2000–01 school year while Lee and Unterseher were students at Mt. Ellis Academy in Bozeman, Mont.

Members of the quartet CHOSEN are, from left: Andrew Cockerham, second tenor; Mike Unterseher, baritone; Tim Browning, first tenor; and Michael Lee, bass.

Sponsored by the Montana Conference summer ministries program, CHOSEN members Andrew Cockerham, Tim Browning, Mike Unterseher and Michael Lee performed at churches across Montana, including Choteau, Big Timber, Billings, Bozeman, Bridger, Butte, Great Falls, Lewistown and Roundup.

At Lewistown, quartet members first dispersed among the audience, getting acquainted with church members and visitors. After a brief introduction, the a cappella music began as Browning stood up in the audience and began the song. Then one by one the rest of CHOSEN stood, joined the song and moved through the audience on their way to the front.

MEA Seniors Survive Week Outdoors

Mount Ellis Academy seniors traveled to the Shields River area in the foot hills of the Crazy Mountains for a week of Senior Survival and camping.

Spiritual survival, plant-Ken Schrock, Crystal Leanza, Amanda Cook and Brandi Drager take time to make notes in their diaries about edible plants. Eating survival and outdoor-living survival are among the classes the seniors participate in during the week in the wilderness. They actually have fun while they are attending class. Of course, the teachers have a lot to do with making it a fun experience for each student along with the opportunity for educational and spiritual renewal.

Juanita Starkbaum, MEA GLEANER correspondent

Johnson Turner, a ninth-grader from Great Falls, Mont., takes a break to relax and enjoy the view from 8,400 feet in the high mountains. It truly is a beautiful place offering a view for miles around.

Students Summit Mt. Ellis

Mt. Ellis Academy students carried out the tradition of climbing Mt. Ellis, the mountain for which the academy was named. Many of this year’s students climbed Mt. Ellis for the first time this year. Paul Curtis, the first boy up, made it in one hour, 11 minutes, and the first girl, Elizabeth Neuharth, followed 13 minutes later. Some years have recorded climbs by students in less than one hour.

Juanita Starkbaum, MEA GLEANER correspondent

Seth Wolken, a freshmen at Beach High School, and Seth Kick, who is a classmate, pose for a photo in front of the large sunflower at the school’s greenhouse. The students have been working on the greenhouse during their agriculture class this year. The flowers are being sold for 50 cents each and will be used to create bouquets for the auction at the school’s spring plant sale. The greenhouse is located in the southwest corner of the school’s campus. The students are using recycled plastic bottles to grow the flowers.

Eating survival and outdoor-living survival are among the classes the seniors participate in during the week in the wilderness. They actually have fun while they are attending class. Of course, the teachers have a lot to do with making it a fun experience for each student along with the opportunity for educational and spiritual renewal.

Juanita Starkbaum, MEA GLEANER correspondent
As Rogue Valley Adventist School (RVAS) seventh and eighth graders progressed through their worship book, *Prayer Warriors* by Celeste Walker, last fall, their prayer time increased. Soon prayer time was infringing on the class time for the next class, so the students asked if a time could be set for prayers.

Their teacher, Michelle Wachter, volunteered to meet with the students during study hall once a week for their newly formed prayer group. About 20 students regularly attend the prayer group each Monday morning.

The first week of school this year, the students began asking to get the prayer group organized. The pastors in the area have been invited to set aside some time on Mondays at 11 a.m. to pray that God will continue to bless and protect RVAS. Kayla Haugen, 10th-grade student, is leading a student Bible study immediately following the prayer group.

Since the prayer group was formed, the students at RVAS have more tolerance and compassion for each other, and Wachter has noticed a more reverent and mature approach to prayer.

*Susan Kergil*

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Michelle Wachter, RVAS technology coordinator, works with Zachary Alcantara on one of the new computer workstations.

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**RVAS Updates Computer Lab**

Rogue Valley Adventist School (RVAS) places a great deal of emphasis on computer education, including keeping technology current. Last year the CPUs were updated and the number of workstations was increased so no student has to share.

With the new CPUs in place, the next step was to upgrade monitors. With 28 monitors to buy, fundraising became very important. Michelle Wachter, technology coordinator, has worked hard to organize fundraising efforts and sponsorships. Papa John's Pizza supplied 400 sheets of coupons, including one free pizza coupon on each, for just 50 cents each. The school, in turn, sells them for $5. The school’s Harvest Festival kicked off the coupon drive, and already funds have been raised for five monitors.

Wachter and Cynthia Ward, RVAS secretary, have also solicited local businesses, which have donated monitors or supplied monitors at a discounted price.

As more monitors are sponsored or funds are raised to buy new monitors, the old monitors are replaced. Larger, newer monitors make all the difference to the students. Every student, from kindergarten through 10th grade, has computer classes, so all are able to benefit from using the new monitors.

RVAS has a sponsor’s page on the school Web site. All businesses who contribute funds, sponsor fundraising endeavors, or discount prices for products or services are listed. Not only is the sponsor’s page a way for RVAS to show appreciation for the contributions, it is also an opportunity to build relationships within the community.

*Susan Kergil*

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The new monitors make it easier for these first- and second-grade students to use the computers.
Unique CAA Student Paraphrases Lord’s Prayer

Vera Gerega may look like any other Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) student, but her journey to the academy began a world away. Born in Belise, Moldova, she and her family moved to Springfield, Mass., when she was two for more freedom, specifically religious freedom. They believed that God wanted the family to be here. She wanted to attend the academy. When school started, she was a little afraid that she would get picked on because she was of a different Christian faith. Her fears were relieved when people respected her for who she was. Gerega really enjoys CAA, especially “chapels, the teachers, the social life, working after school and volleyball.”

Students in David Allen’s freshman Bible class were assigned to write their own paraphrase of the Lord’s Prayer. The following is Vera Gerega’s interpretation:

Dear Heavenly God, Let your name shine among all nations! Whatever you think is best we’re willing to accept to achieve that perfect peace that there is in heaven. Please help us not to worry about tomorrow, but give us strength, wisdom, and everything we need to help us face today. Help us to have the right attitude to forgive others because you don’t hold anything against us. Keep us out of the Devil’s path of destruction. For Jesus, you are the Shining King in Your kingdom and you are almighty and our light through all eternity. •

David Allen, CAA GLEANER correspondent

Klamath Falls Series Brings In New Members

Eighteen new members made decisions to follow Jesus and join with the church, and several others are studying, following the Life Discovery evangelistic series held at the Klamath Falls (Ore.) Church from Oct. 24 through Dec. 6, 2003. After many months of planning, the series began under the direction of Jim Reinking, a pastor from Spokane, Wash., who worked with local pastors Jim Osborne and David Smith.

Prior to the meetings, a prayer ministries group met weekly to pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of the church members, non-members attending Sabbath School and church, and the community. Bible studies were given, and a stop-smoking program was offered. During the series, visitation teams called on those attending. Music for the meetings, coordinated by Shirley Gingery, was provided by church members. Guest artist Janice Renck presented a special weekend concert. Fellowship meals and Saturday evening refreshments offered a chance for people to get better acquainted.

A special pastor’s class has been implemented to help nurture those new to the Adventist faith. •

Marcia Mollenkopf with Marilee Ager, Klamath Falls Church secretary
Milo Students Give Life at Annual Student Association Blood Drive

“I thought that it would hurt a lot, and I would feel blood coming out,” stated Kumi Mimura, also a senior. Students grimaced as the nurse inserted a needle, but it turned out to be “not quite as scary as expected,” according to Spaulding. The nurse then bandaged each arm with orange or green tape, depending on whether the donor was a University of Oregon Ducks or Oregon State University Beavers fan.

When the 15-minute procedure was complete, donors received a sticker and snacks. First-time donors also earned a blood-drop pin to proudly display. According to Scott Rae, student association president, 29 of the 47 participants were first-time donors.

Chris Robison, a senior, explained why he donated blood: “I wanted to know my blood type, I wanted the experience, and I wanted to help people who needed it.”

Brittany Leno, Milo junior

Albany Shares the Bread of Life

But this year they went into the neighborhood with an attitude of giving, not receiving. It says in John 6:35 that Jesus is the bread of life, and this was the message that they wanted to share with the community. When neighbors came to the door expecting to be asked for a contribution, they instead heard that

During the holidays, members of the Albany Church went caroling door to door and gave people loaves of bread.

Jesus is the bread of life and received a bow-topped loaf of bread and a pamphlet from ADRA, which just happened to have a loaf of bread on the last page. The warm reception by the surprised community made it a fantastic experience.

Members still received donations for ADRA because people wanted to give. The neighbors stood outside and listened to the carolers, applauded and wanted more. Albany members ended up handing out more than 150 loaves of bread and truly made friends for Jesus during this happy night of caroling.

John Stitziel
PACS Serves the Needs of Thousands

It’s 8:30 on a weekday morning at Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS) Center, and already a long line of people awaits entrance in a half hour to seek food or other assistance.

When you run out of money and there’s no food to feed your family, you may need the help of an agency. You might feel embarrassed and degraded as you fill out forms and wait in line. You might be given a box containing an uncoordinated mixture of foodstuffs. How do you even begin to make balanced meals out of it? There may be some items you or your family don’t like or can’t eat because of dietary or health reasons.

This, however, doesn’t happen at PACS. As she considered how Jesus would handle the giving of food to the needy, Rhonda Whitney, PACS director, felt it would be with dignity and love. “We wanted the people we help not to feel any humiliation about asking for food,” she said. “They shouldn’t be ashamed to come here.”

Whitney and her staff devised a plan completely different from what had been done before. As people enter, each person or head of family is interviewed by a consultant who determines their situation. Then each entity is given a shopping checklist printed in various languages that points clients to a nutritious, balanced selection. The aim is to provide each household and personal items are available through a thrift store that is open to the general public as well as needy clients, who are given vouchers for purchases. Money from private contributions helps support the store and purchase materials for resale. The thrift store sees more than 300 people daily and brings in $135,000 yearly to subsidize the work of PACS.

Another important facet is the health clinic staffed by volunteer physicians and nurses. More than 1,600 income-eligible patients received medical attention this past year for only a small fee. PACS is no small operation and served 168,000 people in 2002. No other agency combines medical care and a clothing program under one roof. Still, PACS functions on a bare-bones budget geared to glean the most from every dollar donated by using volunteers and only a small, paid staff.

PACS is said to be the largest agency of its kind in Oregon. Whitney explained, “The Oregon Food Bank told us we serve more hungry people than any other agency in southwestern Washington or all of Oregon. That distinction is based purely on the numbers of people we feed each year at one location.”

With its varied ministries PACS is touching the lives of thousands of people each year in the Portland area.

Mort Juberg, PACS volunteer
Oregon Missionaries Build, Heal and Minister in Baja

Under the guidance of veteran Baja travelers Dan and Becky Hershberg, Oregon Conference constituents journeyed to San Quintin, Baja California, for a two-week mission trip in November 2003. The 37-member group included 15 Laurelwood Academy students, a dozen faculty and family members, and a dental delegation led by Cedric Ross Hayden. Many of the participants were from the Fall Creek (Ore.) Church, which provided a van and other support for the trip.

The participants were divided into service squads for various activities in the field. One energetic group added a classroom to and did finishing work on an area church, while others handed out literature and invitations to evangelistic meetings. One student group volunteered to help in the dental clinic held in a mobile dental unit provided by the dental hygienists. A very popular service was the “limpia” or dental cleaning. Boxes of gloves and other supplies unused at the end of the clinic were donated to the local hospital and an area dentist.

After a week of preparatory work, evangelistic meetings were held in a nearby community. The team provided door-to-door transportation for attendees. For one hour before each meeting, a health expo gave individuals a chance to check their body fat, blood sugar, blood pressure and lung volume and have a computerized health analysis done. More than 100 delightful children participated in skits, crafts and story time and attended the evangelistic meetings.

Follow-up reports from San Quintin indicate that the efforts during the trip sprouted into five home campaigns and 95 requests for studies. It also energized local church members, both there and in Fall Creek.

Dan Stemler

Code Blue: Meadow Glade Science Goes Real-World

“Pardon me, but I have to report back to my medical clinic on the latest advances in orthopedic research and development, and I was wondering what you had found in your research,” says a young lady holding a clipboard and sporting a medical identification badge to someone who appears to be a colleague. One might expect this is a meeting between two residents at the local hospital. But it is actually two students in a Meadow Glade Elementary School (MGES) classroom learning about the skeletal system in a new program on body systems called Code Blue.

For this experience, students were divided into six specialty groups, each of which studied one of the body systems and became experts in their field. After passing their board exams, the new “doctors” returned to their clinics to work with specialists.

Maecy Enger, Laura Luther and Nicholas Thornton pose beside the presentation board that details their solution for a patient with severe sunburn.

From other body systems. They shared their new knowledge with the other specialists in their clinic, and then they took a physiology test in preparation for their first patient. Given details about a mock patient, they conferenced, using all their cooperative learning skills to assess, diagnose and develop a plan for the patient.

When they came to a conclusion, the students prepared to present their findings to the MGES students, staff, and community at the biennial science fair. When this much-anticipated day arrived, the excited students donned their medical badges and, with business cards in hand that they had created themselves, prepared to meet the attendees.

Malaika Childers, MGES fifth- and sixth-grade teacher
PAA Hosts Head Start Christmas Party

Most of the students at Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) spent the first day of Christmas vacation as they have for the last several years—by sharing God’s love and blessings with 106 children from the Knott Head Start Center, located near the academy. The children were invited to PAA for the annual Christmas party sponsored by the student association. While on campus, the children saw Santa Claus, received gifts, sang Christmas carols, played games and ate lunch with their sponsoring students.

The children’s names, ages and clothing sizes had been obtained prior to the party so gifts could be provided for each child. PAA students personally selected and bought the gifts at local stores.

Summer Mathis, student association president, estimates that each child was provided with at least $50 worth of presents. This would mean that PAA students provided more than $5,000 of their own money for the gifts. Mathis also estimates that at least 75 percent of PAA’s students participated in the gift-giving.

Following the gift exchange in the gym, the Head Start children could visit with Santa, played by a PAA faculty member, and get their hands and faces painted by art teachers Jim Robertson and Mark Kooy. They also got to fish for candy canes and play other games.

A highlight of this year’s party was the performance of Christmas carols by a quartet dressed in costumes from England’s Dickens era. The quartet also led PAA students that could benefit from their desire to share their love of Jesus Christ. By putting aside personal plans and performing these acts of kindness, students were able to have a good time while showing that today’s academy students do know who their biblical neighbor happens to be.

Jonathan Lovenguth, student association faculty sponsor, stated that the student association is planning to build on this Christmas party with students visiting the Head Start center on a regular basis to read to and identify with the children.

Dan Patchin, PAA GLEANER correspondent
UCA Students “Go MAD!”

Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) just began its second decade of operating their unique community service curriculum, HOPE Task Force, and fresh things are still happening.

Cheri Corder, director of the curriculum, says the goal is “to increase student involvement at the planning level and to give at least some students a more in-depth understanding of the service issues currently in our culture.”

This goal inspired the formation of an experimental one-semester junior/senior Bible class option called, “Go MAD!” (Go Make A Difference!). Taught by Corder, the class used Ellen White’s Christian Service as the main textbook and referred to other materials from organizations such as Lions Clubs International.

In addition to weekly reading assignments, Go MAD students researched and reported on individuals or organizations that have “made a difference.” The bulk of the students’ homework, however, was to develop and be involved with various service opportunities. They helped put on a harvest party for nearly 200 residents of the Union Gospel Mission and Ogden Hall, planned a beautiful Christmas “gala” for residents of a nursing home, helped coordinate the first of two blood drives held on campus this year, planned Sabbath afternoon outreach activities, and continued the weekly Feed the Hungry program on the streets of Spokane, Wash.

Spangle Community Table is another ongoing outreach started by the class. Twice a month, UCA hosts a free supper and story hour in the neighboring farming town. On the first evening, the students set up for 25 people and were thrilled when 42 showed up.

“This class was a wonderful experiment,” smiles Corder. “The students learned a lot about planning and leadership. The school learned more about how to effectively involve our students.” •

Linnea Torkelsen, UCA development director

Kettle Falls Church Dedicated

When a small group began holding church services in a private home in Kettle Falls, Wash., 10 years ago, they hardly dared hope that someday they would have a church of their own. But since then, they’ve become an organized church and grown from 15 to 94 members. And they dedicated a debt-free, 9,000-square-foot building to the Lord on Nov. 15, 2003.

After a prolonged search for a building site, a building was purchased near the center of town that had formerly served as a health club. During the past two years, members have successfully faced the challenge of converting weight rooms into a fellowship hall, racquetball courts into Sabbath School rooms, and the swimming pool area into a sanctuary.

Charter members who have participated in the project from its inception and were present to hear Max Torkelsen, Upper Columbia Conference president, deliver the dedicatory sermon are quick to testify to the Lord’s miraculous leading as He helped them raise the funds to purchase, remodel and furnish their new church.

Best of all, they have also seen the Lord at work as they’ve added new members during the past two years, including 17 by baptism and several inactive families through reconnection.

Lee Roy Holmes, Kettle Falls Church communication leader
Richland Church Gives Birth

Tri-Cities, Wash.—Hanford country. With several churches in the area, why do we need another one?

Growth! That’s why. New people are flooding the area and need to meet their eternal Friend.

About a year ago the Richland (Wash.) Church decided to plant a new church in the area. The existing church had been attracting so many people the pews were getting full. After about seven months of weekly meetings, a core group presented a proposal to the Richland Church and the Upper Columbia Conference. Both approved.

With a mission “to experience and share the heart of God” and a vision “to develop Definitely Devoted Disciples,” the group’s goal is to reach those who are not currently attending any church.

The youth are getting involved, too. Nadia Neil and Eric Kort, Walla Walla College theology students in the pastor-mentoring program, are leading out in Sabbath School and are providing wonderful training programs for the young people. They plan to offer “evangelistic adventures” such as handing out water bottles with a spiritual message on them at outdoor, summer events.

This core group is planning to grow and move soon to a different facility. The immediate goal is to recruit people, either as missionaries or members.

How about you? Do you already live in the area or are you planning on moving here? We would love to have you join us in this awesome adventure. Want to learn more? Visit our Web site at www.richlandchurchplant.com. •

Dale Smith, Richland church plant communication representative

Children Gather Food for Richland Needy

People of all ages can find ways to serve Jesus. The Klahani Pathfinders, Orcas Adventurers and Eager Beavers teamed up for a food drive in support of the Richland (Wash.) Church community services center. The club members, staff and families went door to door in the church’s neighborhood asking for non-perishable food for Thanksgiving food baskets. Pathfinders took leadership in the groups, serving as examples and mentors for the younger Adventurers and Eager Beavers.

The community services director, Susan Giddings, believes that the Lord blessed community members with a giving spirit this season. Neighbors donated enough food to support 20 Thanksgiving baskets plus much of the food needed for Christmas baskets, all to help families that would otherwise not have much for the holidays. Giddings reported that 11 of the food baskets were given to non-church members while nine of them went to families in the church. •

Anita Lebold, Adventurer director

Richland Pathfinders, Adventurers and Eager Beavers sort the food items they collected.
Milton Family Life Series Inspires Youth

“How can we make the most positive impact on families in our community?” we asked at the first meeting of our new family life committee at the Milton-Freewater (Ore.) Church. Our discussion revealed a common conviction: we wanted to help young teens and pre-teens form healthy relationships. Our concerns were founded on reports of record numbers of unwed teenage mothers in our town, on media pleas for an end of bullying and fear in neighborhood schools, and on testimony from the younger members of our committee that Adventist kids needed help with relationships, too. “If we can teach young people to build relationships on solid, godly principles,” we reasoned, “we will effect positive change in families of the future.”

So we asked Karrlayne Beck, counselor at Rogers Elementary School in College Place, Wash., and Joe Galusha, animal behavior specialist and Walla Walla College professor, to facilitate five Friday evening classes. Beck’s topics were “The Power of Respect,” “Bullying and Teasing” and “Anger Management.” Galusha presented his two-part series entitled “Dating, Mating and Relating.” We decided to time our series to coincide with evangelistic meetings our pastors were holding for community adults.

Our target audience included young people from 10 to 14. We sent invitations to recent Vacation Bible School attendees in that age group. Articles in the local newspaper, fliers and posters, and personal invitations to friends and neighbors rounded out our publicity. We were pleased to have 40 very enthusiastic young people attend.

Rachel and Charlie Coleman helped us usher in the Sabbath with contemporary worship songs. Fun icebreakers, bushels of snacks and gallons of icy juice added to the festive atmosphere. The young people seemed hungry to learn about this topic that so vitally affects their lives.

Drawing from extensive experience as teachers and a vast knowledge of both human and animal behavior, Beck and Galusha kept the group totally involved. Well-done videos helped the young people to make personal application of principles they were learning.

Success was evident as we heard attending young people discussing with family and friends what they had learned. As one young man left Galusha’s first lecture, he told his mother, “I have to go right home and call [my girlfriend], Please don’t interrupt me because I’ll be on the telephone a long time. We’re going to have to spend a long time talking this over.” Wow! What could be a greater reward? •

Vonnie Olesen, Milton Church family life committee chair

Milton Pathfinders Celebrate Baptisms

Fully one-third of the club was baptized on Pathfinder Sabbath at the Milton-Freewater (Ore.) Church.

The Pathfinder club had attended and worked in support of the evangelistic series finished only three weeks earlier. The pastors, Ole Olesen and A.J. Grant, performed the seven baptisms after Pathfinders handled all other aspects of the service.

Kevin and Shawn Gates began to bring their children to Pathfinder meetings, eventually assisting themselves. Today they are baptized members of the church.

Pathfinder leaders Devin and Heidi Grabner are much appreciated for the value they bring to their organization and their church. •

F. Del Arnold, Milton Church communication leader
Richland Pastor Challenges Congregation

Keith Hanson is making a career change that is based on conviction and faith. Hanson found that he was being led to additional service focused on ministry to children and youth. He worked with the conference office, local churches and church school to establish a part-time position as the area youth pastor. It took quite a leap of faith to make the change from a full-time position with the conference to a part-time position that is financially supported by the local constituents. But Hanson felt that God was leading him to make this move.

For the last six years Hanson has been the pastor of the Richland (Wash.) Church. In that position he has emphasized the importance of ministering to children and youth. He championed the development of a summer camp program called “Camp Safari” that employed young people and provided a place where children could learn about Jesus in a fun and safe environment. His wife, Linda, focused on organizing family outings such as hikes, canoeing and other activities so that children would have enriching experiences on Sabbath afternoons. He challenged members of the congregation to identify their spiritual gifts and rely on the strength of God to step out in faith and use their gifts in the service of the Lord.

Even though Hanson has changed his ministry focus, his challenge continues to positively impact the Richland Church. Church leaders have been spurred on by his challenge and are moving forward in the strength of the Lord as He leads them in their areas of ministry. 

*Anita Lebold*

Family Fellowship Festival Offers Something for Everyone

Upper Columbia Conference held its annual Family Fellowship Festival at Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash., Nov. 7-8, 2003.

This year’s special guests were Ivan Blazen, Loma Linda University religion professor, who was the keynote speaker of the event, and Steve and Scott Peterson, Christian musicians of Sonora, Calif., who offered special music as well as a saxophone concert on Sabbath afternoon.

Many local pastors and speakers also offered seminars on topics such as health, prayer and Bible study.

But one often-overlooked feature of the Family Fellowship Festival is the children’s programming. During Sabbath School and the afternoon seminars, a full crowd of children filled each level of classes. And each class had several dedicated leaders and teachers who spent hours preparing the program.

In the kindergarten class, the children were taught the story of how Saul became a follower of Christ on the road to Damascus. As the story was being told, the children got to lead the blinded Saul down a life-sized path that represented what roads might have been like in Saul’s time.

In the junior class, the children learned about different reptiles and handled a live, red boa constrictor. The snake was a pet of one of the academy students and was kept in the biology department classroom. There were also many other exciting programs for the beginners, earlisteen, youth and other classes.

It would be impossible to experience everything that happens at a Family Fellowship Festival. But there is definitely something for everyone.

*Jon Dalrymple, Upper Columbia Conference assistant for communication*
Yakima Adventist Christian School Celebrates 100 Years

Yakima (Wash.) Adventist Christian School (YACS) celebrated its 100th birthday with a two-day gathering of alumni, former teachers, church family and other friends in September 2003. Weekend activities included services by conference and union directors as well as children’s programs presented by local churches.

The first Adventist church in the area was established in 1895, and seven years later the church appointed a committee to establish a church-operated school to prepare young workers to spread the gospel message. This led to a two-room school, which opened in 1903. In 1917, the school moved into the church to save expenses while a new church was constructed.

The school continued to grow and, in 1935, began accepting non-Adventist students. Soon a new facility was built, a building that saw several expansions and improvements over the decades. In 1998, the school settled at its current location.

Today, students learn how to use the instructions from the Bible in their everyday life and to develop the habit of daily devotions and prayer. YACS is blessed with caring Christian teachers who strive to share their friend Jesus with their students.

In addition to physical changes, the school has been through several name changes. Originally called the Yakima Seventh-day Adventist Church School, the school was known as Brookside Jr. Academy, Yakima Jr. Academy (when the adjacent brook dried up) and Yakima Adventist Jr. Academy before finally becoming Yakima Adventist Christian School in 1994.

If you went to the Yakima school, we would like to hear your special story or include your pictures or annuals in our school archives. Do you know the name of the teacher at our school during the 1912–13 school year? Contact the school at (509) 966-1933, or write to: 1200 City Reservoir Rd., Yakima, WA 98908. •

Susan Bailey, Yakima Adventist Christian School administrative assistant

The Yakima Adventist Christian School choir performed for the centennial celebration.

TIPS FOR AUTHORS: What Kind of NEWS Stories Are the Gleaner Editors Looking For?

News stories that—
—Share ideas and methods for outreach and nurture that other churches can try.
—Inspire church members to reach out to their friends, neighbors and family members in a way that attracts them to Jesus and His remnant church—conversion stories.
—Illustrate the blessings that result from trusting one’s entire life to God—health, relationships, Sabbath-keeping, freedom from addiction, financial management and many other topics.
—Demonstrate the benefits of a Christian education.
—Show the different kinds of evangelism that can occur when someone who needs the gospel meets someone who has the gospel.
—Make groundbreaking, dedication, anniversary and other church milestones interesting to church members all over the Northwest—people who won’t know each individual mentioned in the story or care about all the minor details. Focus on the big picture.
—Include high-quality photographs accompanied by captions that identify the people or describe the action in complete sentences. See the GLEANER Guidelines in the November 2003 issue for details on how to submit prints or digital photos. If you didn’t save your copy, you can find it online at www.gleaneronline.org.


Nadine Platter Dower, GLEANER managing editor
Day of Prayer Marks New Year

The weather was frightful. The roads were treacherous. The snow was falling. The temperature was frigid. In spite of all the challenges about 400 people braved the elements to attend and be blessed by the Day of Prayer held at Auburn Adventist Academy Church on Jan. 3.

The program began with John Freedman, Washington Conference president, introducing Dave Wolkwitz as a new assistant to the president for spiritual growth. This position has been added to his current responsibility as trust department director. Wolkwitz will be working with and planning revival meetings throughout the conference.

The Day of Prayer continued with a concert by Charles Haugabrooks accompanied by Michael Andrews that truly warmed the hearts of all who attended. Sprinkled throughout the concert were portions of Haugabrooks’ testimony of how the Lord became a part of his life through a series of evangelistic meetings held in Florida.

The most important part of the meeting, however, was prayer. Ample time was given throughout the musical concert to pause and to pray in groups of two or three for several specific prayer focuses that marked the beginning of the new year.

The prayer time was led by Freedman. There were four major items that were the prayer focus for the day. The first was highlighted by Keith Hallam, Auburn Academy principal, who shared miracle stories from the recent dormitory fire. The congregation then prayed for God’s continued guidance as the dormitory is rebuilt. They also prayed for a revival among the students and faculty of the academy as they continue the school year.

The second prayer focus was a seeking of the Holy Spirit and a spirit of revival throughout the Washington Conference. Wolkwitz challenged the congregation to pray for the Holy Spirit and the latter rain to fall. Once again the congregation knelt to pray for God’s Spirit to fall.

The third focus was church growth and church planting. This conference-wide priority can only happen as a result of prayer and God’s Spirit working throughout the conference on each person’s heart. Doug Bing, Washington Conference vice president, highlighted a few of the meetings that will be held in 2004 along with several of the new churches that are being planted this year.

Lon Gruesbeck, Washington education director, challenged the attendees with the final prayer focus, which was our young people and Christian education. Each year 30–40 young people who attend our school system are baptized. Our teachers and students need special prayer as they continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Yes, the weather may have been terrible, yet the Day of Prayer was exactly that, a time to pray and seek God. May the Day of Prayer be an everyday experience for our conference as we go throughout 2004.

Doug Bing, Washington Conference vice president
AAA Students Lead Tutor Program

We like to think of Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) as a family, but the true heart of the students was felt recently as more than 45 volunteered to give their time to a newly organized peer-tutor program led by Brian Kittleson, vice principal. When asked why they were so willing to spend all the hours necessary to both be trained and then to actually tutor fellow students, the volunteers unanimously answered, “We just want to help out our friends.”

Every school has students who struggle. Every class has students with shaky grades. But not every school has such a family environment and such strong student leadership as Auburn.

The tutor program is a rather recent addition to Auburn’s campus life. Sponsored by World Book Encyclopedia, this academic opportunity is actually a program called Tutor Link, in which the school invested last year and excitedly launched in early November 2003. For the more than 20 students who are being tutored, the payoffs have not always been immediate, but the positive habits and long-term benefits are obvious.

The system was started with help from some active community volunteers, Barb Hawkinson and Greg McKown, and its continued success must be attributed to the dedicated teachers, Judy Toop and Stacy Tomlinson, who have devoted countless hours to the task of organizing and supervising the many student participants. “It’s a huge success,” says Kittleson. “It has run very smoothly—thanks to some very talented teachers and extremely generous students.”

Amber Serns, AAA GLEANER correspondent

Auburn Girls Get Blanket “Hugs”

How do you help someone from a distance? This was the problem facing the Washington Conference women’s ministries department after the recent Auburn dormitory fire destroyed many of the earthly possessions of 81 girls. Wilma Bing, women’s ministries director, and her team decided to give warm, snuggly fleece blankets to each of the girls as a way to give them a hug.

The committee contacted women’s ministries directors throughout the conference asking for churches to help support this project. They were overwhelmed with the response that came back. Many who contributed to the project were once students of Auburn who had lived in the dorm and had many fond memories of their academy years. Fleece blanket “hugs” of all different colors came from throughout the conference. On the day the girls returned to campus, they enjoyed a welcome party with yummy treats and a mountain of fleece blankets surrounding the Christmas tree. So many “hugs” came that each girl was able to pick two blankets. The girls have really appreciated all the love and support they have received.

Wilma Bing, Washington Conference women’s ministries director

English Teacher Stacy Tomlinson and students involved in the tutor program use this classroom for tutoring.

These AAA girls display their new blanket “hugs” given to them by the women of the Washington Conference.
Bread of Life Feeds West Seattle Neighbors

Seattle’s Breath of Life Church members saw the recent economic downturn, which struck especially hard in Washington, as an opportunity to reach out to their neighbors. Their new community service ministry, the Bread of Life Community Outreach Program, officially began service in April 2003 when nine people were served a hot meal. Since then, the ministry has experienced explosive growth and has served more than 1,000 meals.

The program took shape in late 2002 after Marcia Sharpener, Breath of Life community services director, learned of the great need for assistance in the West Seattle, White Center and Burien communities. Bread of Life was established to serve hot meals to needy youth, homeless people and seniors. The meals are served at the church once Sunday a month and include a main dish, vegetables, salad, rolls, soup, juice and dessert. The ministry also developed a brown-bag program through which meals are taken into the community and distributed twice a month.

Sharper states that she and the other volunteers are “committed to seeing Bread of Life evolve into a program that provides something more than just food every couple of weeks.” They are also making plans to open a clothing bank. Currently, the community services team is writing grant proposals for additional funding to allow the program to continue and hopefully expand to offer meal delivery and transportation to meals at the church.

Caring for the poor is at the heart of Christ’s social teachings. It is our responsibility to help those who are less fortunate and in so doing, we can make a truly positive impression in our communities. In light of how far this ministry has come in such a short time, Sharpener is optimistic about its future, noting that “God willing, with the little that we do, we hope to reduce hunger and bring people closer together.”

Marcia Sharpener and Darren McPherson

Monroe Rings In Christmas with Baptism

As part of their Christmas celebration, the Monroe (Wash.) Church welcomed into membership Sean Crewse and Danny Morse through baptism. Crewse attends Kirkland Adventist School, and Morse followed his wife, Sandra, who was baptized two years ago in Monroe.

Mike Maldonado, Monroe Church pastor
Students Awarded Scholarships from Independent Colleges of Washington

Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW) has awarded six Walla Walla College students with scholarships for the 2003–04 academic year.

The Washington Mutual Minority Teachers Award was given to Duane Hoori, senior elementary education and Spanish double major from Whangarei, North Island, New Zealand, and Elizabeth Razo, senior elementary education major from Walla Walla, Wash., and a graduate of Walla Walla High School. The scholarships, up to $3,000, are awarded to minority students committed to a teaching career.

The Q13/WB22 Cares Fund Scholarship of $1,000 was granted to one student at each ICW Institution was awarded to Thomas Watson, Milo Adventist Academy alumni and senior automotive technology major of North Bend, Ore.

The Pepsi Scholarship, $1,200 to one student at each ICW member institution, was awarded to Enid Daniel, senior psychology and business double major of College Place, Wash. She is a graduate of Kingsway College Academy.

The UPS Foundation Scholarship, $1,250 to one student at each ICW institution, was awarded to Stephanie Silver, senior elementary education major from Walla Walla. The Washington State Auto Dealers Association Award of $600 to students at five ICW

Alden Thompson, professor of biblical studies, presented Walla Walla College’s 2003–04 Distinguished Faculty Lecture on Nov. 16. Thompson’s lecture, “Driven Away From the Presence of the Lord: The Longing for Community,” addressed the challenges to community in the modern age.

Thompson also addressed opportunities for Adventism to provide an inclusive community, rather than an exclusive one. He discussed his vision for the Adventist community, which includes being a model of how a diverse group can come together in love and learn to live with differences.

Thompson graduated from Walla Walla College in 1965 with majors in theology and biblical languages. He earned a master’s degree in biblical and systematic theology from Andrews University in 1966 and a bachelor of divinity, also from Andrews University, in 1967. He received a doctoral degree in biblical and Judaic studies from the University of Edinburgh in 1975.

Employed by WWC since 1970, Thompson has served as a teacher as well as vice president for academic administration for four years. He has also served as associate pastor and pastor of churches in Redlands, Calif., and Fontana, Calif. Thompson is the author of two books: Who’s Afraid of the Old Testament God? (Paternoster, 1988, reprinted by Pacesetters Bible School, 2000, 2003) and Inspiration: Hard Questions, Honest Answers (Review and Herald, 1991).

Transcripts of Thompson’s lecture and previous distinguished faculty lectures are available at http://www.wwc.edu/about-us/lectures/.

Tara Jeske, WWC GLEANER correspondent
Caring for the Whole Person

At 50 years of age, Quincy wanted to manage on his own. He felt too young for home care. But his condition deteriorated, and soon he could not adequately care for himself. Friends convinced him that hospice was the answer.

Two registered nurses made the initial home visit. Upon arrival, they discovered a horribly messy house. Rolling up their sleeves, they went to work clearing pathways and organizing Quincy’s belongings.

As the two nurses worked, they talked with Quincy. When they learned he had been too embarrassed to tell his sister about his condition, they convinced him to reconnect with her by telephone.

Through simple acts of cleaning and communicating, the nurses opened the doors for visits from friends, medical personnel and family members. Just hours before Quincy died, he received a final visit from his sister. Because of their caring attitude, these nurses broke through the barriers Quincy had built up and helped him have a peaceful end to life.

A Mission of Service

The mission of Adventist Medical Center (AMC) includes delivering health care that nurtures body, mind and spirit through personnel, programs and services. Every job contributes to whole-person care. Each employee plays an important role. “Whole-person care is what sets us apart from other health care organizations,” said Wayne Judd, Adventist Health assistant vice president of mission and planning.

“Adventist Medical Center employees understand that the way they fulfill our mission is by being that mission to our community.”

A Renewed Commitment

All departments are involved in meeting the needs of AMC patients. Recently, each department reviewed what “whole-person care” means to its function and renewed a commitment to provide the highest quality of service to patients and the community. Many employees found new enthusiasm for their work when they fully realized the value of their contribution to patient care.

One such department is plant services, which is responsible for grounds, maintenance, carpentry, electrical, painting and engineering. While these services may not immediately come to mind when thinking about patient care, they contribute in their own way. For example, maintaining a beautifully landscaped campus gives a positive first impression of the hospital and uplifts the spirit. Additionally, since electricity is vital when providing patient care, plant services provides alternate power through back-up generators when normal routes of power are interrupted.

“I was impressed by the comments made by employees at our department meeting,” said Gene Domke, plant services director. “They put into words the commitment and dedication that I see in their daily work. I’ve met with several departments as they discussed their contribution to caring for the whole person. The AMC staff warms my heart as they approach their work with commitment and caring. As the opening paragraph in our mission statement reads, ‘The mission of Adventist Medical Center is to demonstrate the human expression of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.’”

Hannah Clegg

Adventist Medical Center is committed to “whole-person care,” and every employee plays an important role. Groundskeeper Lester Phillips works diligently, regardless of the weather, to make the hospital’s landscape beautiful.

“And when whole-person care is consistently delivered by whole people, Adventist Medical Center’s mission will be fulfilled.” He added,“
Vibrant Life Gets New Editor

Charles Mills, Adventist author and media producer, has taken the helm of Vibrant Life beginning with the January/February 2004 issue as Larry Becker, outgoing editor and eight-year veteran of the health magazine, heads to La Sierra University as public relations director.

Mills, a well-known writer and author, is looking forward to the challenge of editing the official Adventist health journal. “We’re continuing to pump up the volume on the spiritual aspects of health,” he said, noting that most magazines promote physical wellness alone. “We’re giving equal time to the physical health, mental clarity and spiritual balance that every person needs to maintain a happy, robust life. Without God in the equation, optimum health simply isn’t possible.”

According to Mills, Vibrant Life holds a unique place in our church’s history. “We were promoting the Biblical principles of health generations ago. Water treatments, a plant-based diet, daily exercise, abundant fresh air and sunshine, trust in divine power, temperance and proper rest have long formed the foundations of our many worldwide ‘entering wedge’ ministries.”

Readers of the magazine will be happy that, along with some new innovations, old favorites will continue. Mills has also joined forces with Tim Arnott from the Lifestyle Center of America to co-host a live, one-hour call-in radio program called Vibrant Life. The weekly show, aired on LifeTalk Radio Network, is proving popular with people of all faiths.

“It’s gratifying to see how interested people are in learning how to live better naturally,” Mills explains. “What a joy it is to provide answers to their questions using principles straight from God’s word.”

To learn more about Vibrant Life, visit www.vibrantlife.com or call (800) 765-6955.

Sow 1 Billion

Sow 1 Billion is a world-church initiative with an extraordinary goal—to distribute one billion special invitations to study the Bible. Adventist members around the globe of all ages, backgrounds and experiences are being part of this unprecedented effort to connect people with God’s word. A mere one-percent response rate will result in 10 million requests for Bible studies.

Each division of the world church has designed its own brochures in various languages offering ways to request Bible studies through a local Bible Correspondence School or by visiting www.hopetalk.org, a special Web site established to offer online Bible lessons in up to 100 different languages.

Printing and distribution has started in many regions. The church in Inter-America has printed 130 million brochures in five languages. In Northern Asia-Pacific, distribution started on the first week of September 2003 with the goal of sharing more than 58 million brochures in six different languages. Southern Asia-Pacific and South America have also begun distributing brochures, with a goal to reach millions of people in dozens of languages.

For an entire week in mid-September, every employee of the South Philippine office, including janitors, secretaries, department heads and the president, visited 20 major cities and distributed 500,000 Sow 1 Billion brochures. In November, members on the Caribbean island of Grenada handed out 50,000 brochures in one afternoon. Though numbering only 4,000, Taiwan’s Adventists are distributing eight million.

North America is set to begin in early 2004 with a total of 25 million invitations distributed either personally or by mail. To find out more about Sow 1 Billion in your area, contact your local conference.

Bettina Krause, General Conference special assistant to the president
As I walked into the gym, the volume of voices confused and then dismayed me. I had arrived a little late for the church service at an Adventist academy and expected to find worshipers eager to hear the word of God. Instead, the speaker at the microphone couldn’t be heard above the dull roar of people visiting and wandering back and forth on the periphery. One woman chattered loudly to her friend during the prayer and then sat behind me and continued talking to her husband.

I thought back to summer camp when my roommate and I were preparing for the Friday evening service. We came out on the veranda outside our room as the sun was going down, only to be met with a gauntlet of water balloons! It was kind of funny, but it marred the reverence of the Sabbath. My roommate stayed and dealt with the barrage, while I opted to go to the amphitheater in the trees overlooking Hayden Lake to prepare my heart for worship.

And it reminded me of a time when friends visited at my home church years ago. Sadly enough, they remarked that we Adventists aren’t reverent in the sanctuary compared with other denominations. I could only sputter “but, but...” in protest—and then realized there was truth in what was said. What does one answer to such a statement? I wanted to defend my people—God’s people!

However, there is something to be said for the cultural aspect inherent to the Northwest. We are somewhat casual in our dress, and our worship services tend to be less formal than in other regions of the nation. But the lack of formality (or what some would perceive as meaningless rigidity) does not equate to irreverence. It reflects a value system, where props, ritual and fancy trappings do not bespeak matters of the heart.

And whether the worship is stilted and highly organized or very simplistic, attitudes of reverence stem from the level of humility in us. In the story Jesus told of the difference between the worship of the Pharisee and the publican (Luke 18), one prayed boastfully while the other humbly threw himself on the mercy of the Lord. It was the attitude of each that determined if the worship was acceptable to the Father.

Lest we worry that our earthly attempts at reverence and worship are inadequate and unacceptable to God, we are so blessed. When we are truly humble and reaching out to God from the depths of our hearts, the Holy Spirit can (as with our inadequate prayers) take our attempts at worship and make them acceptable in the heavenly courts!

Sometimes in our worship, though, we can get lulled into a sense of God being just a friend, as an equal. This may come from the Protestant theological slant of “grace” clouding the preeminence of God, allowing us in our friendship with Him to just enjoy that camaraderie and not come to Him for help or inspiration. But He is a friend and more—our Creator and Savior who deserves our humble, heartfelt worship.

God does expect homage from us, and He is certainly worthy of that and more! We owe Him everything and really give so little. But it is a comfort to know that even when we are not “doing,” He still loves us, in spite of ourselves.

There are times when I long to be with God, my Father—to speak to Him and to hear His voice. When I come into His sanctuary, I feel as if time stands still while I get in touch with Him. This is the God of the universe that Moses and other saints approached with reverence and awe, with fear and trembling! And yet He is the gentle God who tenderly wipes away our tears and says, “Rest in Me.” Perhaps, as events draw us closer to the time when we can be with our Maker, we each need to reevaluate our connection with Him and reevaluate our “reverence quotient.”
I Heard God’s Voice at Sunset Lake Camp [November 2003]

Wow! 1,077 campers this last summer. That’s great. I spent a good part of the 80s working at Sunset Lake, and just returned in September for a weekend visit. It was my first time up there in about a decade. I am very glad to hear the voice of God is still very loud up there. Keep up the good work!

Vicky—E-MAIL

Venden Leftovers [December 2003]

Thank you for the article “Venden Leftovers.” My husband’s mother was a sister of Dan and Melvin. It seemed incredible that almost everywhere we attended an Adventist church in our various travels, when it became known my husband was related to the Venden brothers, people seemed to come out of the “woodwork” to tell us of their baptism by the uncles! Thank you for sharing their contribution to the growth of our church to my generation.

Alta Axford—BELLEVUE, WASH.

“Letters”

The design for the Gleaner is beautiful. Matthew McVane has always been a very talented young man. What a blessing that he is using his talents to bless the recipients of the GLEANER. The website is also very nice.

My comment is simply that I really miss the letters to the editor section. That’s sort of what keeps it an “NPUC family” magazine. It’s akin to the prayer and praise time we have at church that keeps us aware of joys and needs.

Roberta Buck—E-MAIL

How to Keep Former Members from Ever Coming Back—Does Nagging Ever Work? [January 2004]

I am confused by the article about reclaiming church members. One of the first paragraphs starts with “it’s all about relationships,” but it only goes on to talk about what to do after they leave.

Also there are plenty of people who go through trials without ever leaving the church. Though former members may say the cause was... I believe that the underlying principle goes even further. There are people that leave for reasons which include hurt feelings within the church body and perhaps of a lack of a relationship at all.

If the member or person has a support group or a person that they could go to, to help them work through their problems or trials, then I believe more people would stay than currently do.

You mention several times the fact that “many would return if only asked the right way.” The average person doesn’t know the “right way.” All you mention is the fact that we need to listen. True! But what do you intend for [the members] to do?

Nina—E-MAIL

You make some good points, and I agree with you that, in our increasingly isolated world, the need for relationships is essential both for winning former members and retaining those we already have. Mike Jones

Having read “How to: Keep Former Members from Ever Coming Back,” I wanted to respond. I am one of those who apparently remain on the “books” but do not attend the Adventist church any longer.

We were active in the church throughout our lives as Adventists. Our children have graduated from Adventist colleges. Surprisingly, even though “missed,” we have not been asked why we left the church in the first place. Now that we have attended a non-Adventist church for almost two years, we have been asked why we left the Adventist church.

I tell them that over time I came to believe that there was difference between the “Adventist Message” and the “Gospel Message.” This may be a strange thought to many Adventists but it seemed to me that church members and leaders alike had elevated the unique Adventist doctrines beyond what the New Testament is so clear about when identifying what the Gospel message truly is. I found myself asking “is the simple Gospel Message complete unto itself?” I began to see the “Adventist Message” as a potential gospel-plus approach which lacks the power and universal appeal that is so desperately needed in a dying and profoundly diverse world. I usually conclude by telling fellow believers that I
would not be a part of any denomination that did not share this common ground and believe that communicating the simple Gospel message is the true “mission” of the church, Adventist or otherwise.

David Snowden—Roseburg, Ore.

I agree that the Adventist message includes more than just the gospel. It was so in the early church as well. I am grateful that the Gospel is at the core of our belief system more now than ever. But why leave out the wonderful last truth such as the Sabbath and the imminent return of Jesus? Mike Jones

NPUC Strategic Plan [January 2004]

There are two or three points in this article that every member in this church needs to look at closely.

Regarding the statement: “Teaching that God raised up this remnant church as a fulfillment of prophecy and has inspired its theology—which drives its mission—made possible by its organization.” Yes, God has inspired our theology, “The Bible and the Bible only is our only rule of faith.” It should drive our mission. We should be sharing the message of salvation from sin and a new life of purity and holiness, leading every believer into a victorious walk with the Creator, laying aside every weight and the sins that so easily beset us. The message is walking in righteousness by faith. Are we living it? Are we giving it?

Regarding the statement: “…Before we can impact large numbers of people with the unique understanding we have been given of God’s character and the great controversy, we must have a considerably higher profile.” Brothers and sisters, we must start giving the message everywhere, first in our churches, then in our land. “Repent, turn from your sins and turn to God.” When we do this, we will get the higher profile that so many are saying we need in order to give the message.

Regarding the statement: “We must position Adventism as a mainline, visible and attractive option.” God is eternal. He is not an “option.” If we present Him this way, we will be falsely representing Him! His is the only name given among men whereby you may be saved. In the last days, God’s true people will not be seen as an attractive option. It will be the “mainline” “visible” “attractive options” that are their biggest persecutors. They will be seen as the awful blight that must be destroyed to save the world from the plagues befailing it.

Ramon Mayer—Carlton, Ore.

Brother Patzer upheld God’s distinct banner of Adventism beautifully in his lead article, “…Not Ashamed…” Praise the Lord that God raised up our denomination to repair the enormous breach which had been ripped from His law! “NPUC Strategic Plan’ is also inspiring until we are told that “We must position Adventism as a main-line…. option.” How I hope that ‘main-line’ does not mean that we must remove any of the beautiful truths that we were raised up by God to preach to warn apostate mainline churches. Why would we ever want to ‘position’ our church other than firmly in God’s control as the HEAD, not on a par with others or as the tail? Let us loudly proclaim the last warning message to come out of fallen Babylon! This is the specific work given us by God.

I miss our three angels logo that set us apart from all other churches. I thought of it as our ‘distinct banner’ and was sad to see it removed. Yes, we have been told that some of the flame on the new logo represents angels, but most of our minds are too literal to see them.

Gwen Howard—Glide, Ore.

The use of the term “mainline” is intended to position the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a fully Christian denomination in contrast to the cultic groups with which we have sometimes been mistakenly associated.

The development of BibleInfo.com was specifically designed to position us as Bible-believing Christians following the David Koresh experience in Waco, Texas, a number of years ago. This effective Web-based ministry is just one example of how we can be accessible to millions of people for the cause of Christ. Bryce Pascoe

“Auburn Rebuilds, Restores and Revitalizes” [January 2004]

I was shocked to read about the dormitory fire. I remember that building. It was a very nice building. I lived in Witzel Hall on 2 South for the two years I spent at Auburn. I graduated from Auburn in 1989. As an alumnus of Auburn my heart goes out to the girls for the losses they have sustained. I understand what loss can be like. While attending Walla Walla College a laptop computer was stolen from my dorm room. I know that comes nowhere near the devastation these girls felt. However, I do understand loss and the emotions it can bring up. Please extend my personal sympathies to the girls and to the entire school for their loss.

Anthony Nelson—E-mail
But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not corrupt and thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MATTHEW 6:20 (NKJV)

## Bullis 95th
Leonard Bullis celebrated his 95th birthday on Sabbath, Nov. 29, 2003, at a very special potluck with his Goldendale Church family.

Leonard was born on Nov. 28, 1908, in Los Angeles, Calif. When he was a baby, his parents moved by boat to Tonasket, Wash. When he was 7 years old, a literature evangelist sold the family some books, which brought them to Jesus, and they became Seventh-day Adventists. They moved to Granger, Wash., where Leonard attended Adventist schools until the 10th grade. He worked on a ranch, raised sheep on his own, then moved to Alaska, worked in the woods and built a boat. After some years he read in the GLEANER about some property in Wahkiakus, Wash. He bought it and, through that purchase, met his lifelong mate, Helen. They then moved back to Alaska where he resumed logging and living on his boat. They now live in Goldendale where they keep up their own property, which includes pruning trees on a ladder.

Leonard and Helen have been married more than 50 years. Leonard has two siblings, also in their 90s.

## Heissler 50th
Robert and Maria Heissler recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Gresham, Ore., with their whole family.

They are members of the Sunnyside Church (Portland, Ore).

Robert Heissler married Maria Berndt on Oct. 30, 1953, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where they met after both emigrating from Germany in 1952. They were members of the Bonners Ferry (Idaho) Church for 20 years.

The Heissler family includes Edgar and Gail Heissler, Gresham, Christina and Kevin Schorzman, Albany, Ore., and 3 grandchildren.

## Kegley 60th
Ron and Maybelle Kegley recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Sacramento, Calif., with a family reunion.

Ron Kegley married Maybelle Carlson on June 6, 1943, in Moscow, Idaho. They met when Ron, 12, was playing trumpet for his dad’s evangelistic meeting in Deary, Idaho. Maybelle, 10, was baptized with her family. They both attended Yakima Valley Academy and Walla Walla College, where Ron graduated in 1946. He pastored in the Oregon, Upper Columbia and Central California conferences for more than 40 years.

The Kegley family includes Veronica and Tom Cook, Denver, Colo., Virginia and Perry Rogers, Sacramento, Jon Kegley, Honolulu, Hawaii, Viveca and Dave Clark, Nashville, Tenn., and 6 grandchildren.

## Lutts 50th
Don and Darla Lutts recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at their daughter’s home in Vancouver, Wash. They are members of the Hood View Church in Boring, Ore.

Donald Lutts married Darla Mae Kloss June 28, 1953, in College Place, Wash., where Don was attending Walla Walla College. They lived in Idaho for several years before settling in the Portland area in 1963. Don was a math teacher at Portland Adventist Academy and Hood View Jr. Academy. Darla was employed by Portland Adventist Hospital. She continues to work in the Adventist Medical Center billing office one or two days a week.

The Lutts family includes Cheryl Royce, Victoria and Dan Hitt, all of Portland, Suzanne Lutts, Vancouver, Wash., and a grandchild.

## Correction: Shultz and Seltzer 100th
Muriel (Skeers) Shultz’s name was spelled incorrectly in the January issue, and her photo got switched with Gladys (Carpenter) Seltzer’s on the next page. But that’s not all. She tells us the celebration held for her was on Oct. 26, not 27, and her birthdate was Oct. 24, 1903, not Oct. 25. Our apologies for these errors!
ASH—Lynae M. was born Nov. 12, 2003, to John and Lana (Christensen) Ash, Waitsburg, Wash.

BARTHOLOMEW—Caleb Santos was born Aug. 11, 2003, to Craig and Grace (Santos) Bartholomew, Spokane, Wash.

BIELAS—Joshua Corey was born Nov. 19, 2003, to Joe and Jennifer (Rowland) Bielas, Bellingham, Wash.

BRYANT—Dylan William James was born Nov. 15, 2003, to James and Wendy (Kenner) Bryant, Richland, Wash.

CHENEY—Ryan M. was born April 7, 2003, to Monte and Kari (Guth) Cheney, Bend, Ore.

CHRISTENSEN—Andrew Stephen was born Feb. 22, 2003, to James and Shawna (Moyer) Christensen, Portland, Ore.

COLVIN—Jeremy Elisha was born Aug. 26, 2003, to Larry and Becky (Guth) Colvin, Bend, Ore.

EATON—Erik Mitchell was born Nov. 7, 2003, to Edward and Rita (Chamberlain) Eaton, Aloha, Ore.

ELLIS—Garrett John was born Nov. 25, 2003, to Daniel and Lynelle (Childs) Ellis, College Place, Wash.

GLASSFORD—Mollie Doris was born April 17, 2003, to Tony and Wendy (Rylee) Glassford, Roseburg, Ore.

HARPER—Logan S. was born Oct. 14, 2003, to Tyler and Amber (Sowell) Harper, Fayetteville, N.C.

HIXSON—Enya Mae was born Oct. 26, 2003, to Michael and Natalie (Minnick) Hixson, Boxeman, Mont.

KIST—Sophia Ann Xin-Yun was born Nov. 1, 2002 in Chongqing, China, and adopted into the family of James and Bonnie (Swarm) Kist Oct. 8, 2003, Troutdale, Ore.

LAMBERT—Thomas Christian was born Nov. 18, 2003, to Tom and Lisa (Massena) Lambert, Portland, Ore.

LASSER—Joanna Grace was born Nov. 1, 2003, to Donn and Lori (Barnes) Lasher, Scottsdale, Ariz.

MITCHEL—Emily A. was born Oct. 24, 2003, to Joseph and Robyn (Bryson) Mitchell, Eugene, Ore.

SCHOBER—Jake Everett was born Nov. 13, 2003, to Justin and Amber (Adams) Schober, Brewster, Wash.

SCOLLARD—Aubrey Rose was born July 9, 2003, to Andy and Shonna (Davis) Scollard, Snohomish, Wash.

STEFFANSON—Wyatt E. was born Oct. 24, 2003, to Jesse and Eliesha (Stephens) Steffanson, Sandy, Ore.

YOUNG—Josiah A. was born Nov. 9, 2003 to Joe and Renae (Brockman) Young III, Walla Walla, Wash.


CALL-WOODS—Kim Ann Call, James Woods, Oct. 11, 2003, Sutherlin, Ore. They are making their home in Roseburg, Ore.


ELLER-SUTTON—Fawna Eller, Jeff Sutton, Nov. 19, 2003, Colegdedale, Tenn. They are making their home in Ooltewah, Tenn.


HARWOOD-ASH—Joy E. Harwood, James E. Ash, Dec. 21, 2003, Tillamook, Ore. They are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif.

PARK-AERNI—Linda Park, Douglas Aerni II, Nov. 2, 2003, Cheyenne, South Korea. They are making their home in Seoul, South Korea.

PITNEY-VANDORAN—Jenna Pitney, Erik VanDoran, Nov. 8, 2003, Sunnyside, Wash. They are making their home in Yakima, Wash.

STEPPER-AMMON—Penny Stepper, Ray Ammon, Dec. 5, 2003, Boring, Ore. They are making their home in Portland, Ore.

TERREL-HENDRICK—Tristi Terrell, Gerald Hendrick III, June 21, 2003, McCall, Idaho. They are making their home in Charlotte, N.C.


GILLISPIE—Dorothy Mae, 78; born April 8, 1925, Topeka, Kan.; died Dec. 1, 2003, Grandview, Wash.
Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 THESALONIANS 5:11 (NIV)
ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION

Offerings
- Feb. 7—Local Church Budget;
- Feb. 14—Adventist Television Ministries; Feb. 21—Local Church Budget; Feb. 28—Local Conference Advance; March 6—Local Church Budget.

Special Days
- Feb. 1–7—Black History Week;
- Feb. 8–14—Christian Home and Marriage Week; Feb. 21—Health Ministries Sabbath; March 6—Women’s Day of Prayer.

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE

Events calendar
- Feb. 6—Choral Festival Concert, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center auditorium; Feb. 7—German Sabbath School, 10 a.m., Fine Arts Center room 115; Feb. 14—Evensong, 5 p.m., College Church sanctuary; Guest Recital: Tyler Abbott, bass, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center auditorium; Feb. 21—14th Annual Young Artists’ Night, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center auditorium; Feb. 28—Chamber Concert: Hans Davidson, organ, 7:30 p.m., College Church; Feb. 29—Winter Choral Concert, time TBA, College Church sanctuary; International Food Fair, time TBA, Winter Educational Complex.

IDAHO

Gem State Homecoming
Gem State Academy homecoming celebration, April 2, 3. Alumni and friends want to be present for the Welcome Home Gospel Festival featuring former music faculty and professional alumni musicians. Singers are urged to join the mass choir. Honor classes: ‘34, ’44, ’54, ’64, ’74, ’79, ’84 and ’94. Contact the Alumni Office for more information (208) 459-1627, ext. 158; alumni@gemstate.org.

OREGON

Oregon Retired Workers
The Tuesday, Feb. 3, meeting of the Oregon Retired Workers’ Fellowship will feature “Miracles I Have Seen,” a sharing of experiences by members. This monthly get-together meets in the lower level of the Oregon Conference Office, 13455 S.E. 97th Ave., Clackamas, OR, 97015; by e-mail to cheri.wolcott@oc.npuc.org; by phone to (877) 213-1778.

Sunnday Programs
Feb. 7—Jim Cymbala will speak on “The Power of Prayer” in a video presentation, 2:00 p.m.; Solid Brass Concert, 7:00 p.m.; The Gospel According to Matthew movie will be shown Feb. 14—part one, 2:30–4:30 p.m., and Feb. 21—part two, 3:30–5:30 p.m. See the life of Christ portrayed by Bruce Marchiano, using the exact words of the New International Version of the Bible. These programs will be held at the Sunnyside Church, 10501 S.E. Market St., Portland, OR. For information, call (503) 252-8080.

Musical Vespers in Pendleton
The Pendleton Church will present a musical vespers on Sabbath, Feb. 7, at 4:00 p.m. at the Pendleton Adventist Church, 1401 SW Goodwin Place, Pendleton, Ore. The program will feature sacred vocal and instrumental music with narration. For more information call the church office at (541) 276-0882.

Castle Rock Music Program
Moses Song Ministries presents “The Message of Music,” Feb. 13–14, at the Castle Rock Church, 7531 Old Pacific Hwy N., Castle Rock, WA. Understand the important roll music plays in character building. This is a four-part seminar with a sacred music program following. For more information contact Jeanne at (360) 274-6709; peaceofmindathome@juno.com.

God Through Me Event
Men and women are invited to attend Oregon Conference women’s ministries fourth annual God Through Me…Pass It Forward training event Feb. 20–21. Exciting workshops and Nicole Brise, dynamic speaker and lay evangelist from Orlando, Fla., will equip you to share your Savior in everyday ways as well as public evangelism. You will learn evangelism tips: preparation, greeting, speaking, mentoring new believers and more. Resources will be available to check out. Contact Diane Pesates at (503) 652-2225, ext. 402, for registration price and lodging ideas.

Oregon Singles Events
Feb. 20–22, Big Lake Snowball Express. This full, weekend event is a favorite of Northwest singles. Stay with your single friends at the snowbound Big Lake Youth Camp near Santiam Pass in the Oregon Cascades. From the snowcat ride into the camp to the time spent on cross-country skis and riding snowmobiles, there is sure to be a great time. You must preregister for this event. For more information, contact Randy Yaw at (503) 887-9788 or Sarah Backlund at (503) 686-9285. A printable registration form is available at the OCSM Web site (www.orsingles.org/events.htm and click on the Big Lake link).

Milo Academy Concerts
Feb. 21—The Chamber Singers will be presenting the church service in the Medford Church, 1900 Greenwood St., Medford, Ore.; 541-772-6021.

Missing Oregon Conference Members
The Oregon Conference is looking for addresses for the following people: Becky M. Jackson, Maxine Jacobs, Jennifer Johnson, Nanette Johnson, Stefan Johnson, Buddy A. Joli, Diana R. Joli, Leah E. Joli, Rose E. Joli, Buddy A. Joli Jr, Amiel D. Jones, Linda Jones, Tamara F. Jones, Corrine D. Kern, Gregory Kern, Jan Killion, Jim R. Killion, Suhyun Kim, Keven Kimble, Christopher P. King, Thomas R. King, Floyd J. Koenig, Derek B. Kramer, James Kramer, Therese Kramer, Cindy Kubiak, David A. Kupetz, Elizabeth J. La

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Please contact the membership clerk at (503) 652-2225, ext. 461; maryjane.zollbrecht@oc.npuc.org

Portland Area Theology Seminar
Walla Walla College theology professor Zdravko Stefanovic, along with retired Newbold College professor Gudmundur Olafsson, now of Napa, Calif., will present a theology seminar, “Letting Daniel Speak,” on Feb. 27–29, in the Portland area. The sessions will be held in the Sunnyside Church, 10501 S.E. Market St., Portland, OR, and will convene Friday at 7:30 p.m., Sabbath at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. All are invited to come and participate in lively discussions about a biblical book of tremendous importance to Adventists. This seminar is part of the Institute of Bible, Church & Culture, an outreach program of the School of Theology (www.wwc.edu/ibcc).

Finding Time for What Matters Most
During part of the eighth annual Children’s Worship Festival, Feb. 28, Harvey and Kathy Corwin, family life educators, will present, “Finding Time For What Matters Most.” This parenting seminar will run from 1:30–3:30 p.m. at the Gladstone Park Convention Center in Gladstone, Ore. For more information, call (503) 654-6054.

Hood View Musical Vespers
“Enter His Courts With Praise,” a variety musical vespers, will take place at the Hood View Church in Boring, Ore., at 5:00 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 28. Performers will include Portland-area musicians such as Paul’s Disciples brass group and the Estacada Madrigal Choir. There will also be vocal solos, duets, a string quartet and a woodwind-string ensemble. Potluck to follow with soup provided. Bring your favorite bread.

Rivergate Alumni Gathering
March 6 at 11:00 a.m. at the Gladstone Park Church in Gladstone. All former and current staff, students, and friends of Rivergate are cordially invited to attend. Fellowship to dinner to follow in the gym. Bring your memories, pictures, and other memorabilia to share with others!

Baker City Missing
We would like to reestablish contact with the following people. Can you help us find them? Jacqueline Berk, Myrtle Browne, Jovonna Bunton, Sheila Hoyt, Brenda McDaniel, Kimberlee Spiegelman, Anthony Zasada, Raelene Zasada. Contact Mary Jean Carter, Baker City Church clerk, 19712 S. Airport Ln., Baker City, OR 97814.

UPPER COLUMBIA Missing Spokane Valley Members
If you have any contact information for these missing members please contact us at the address below: Nancy Amos, Sherry Barker, David and Jody Bartlett, Maggie Beck, Mark Carter, Bonnie Churchill, Daryl Cleveland, Christopher Coan, Sheila Hoyt, Tom Davis, Minda Davis, Brenda Dull, Barbara Eastman, Phillip Erickson, Susan Froehlich, Ken and Tami George, Dee Gilbert, Walter Graver, Pablo and Linda Guzman, Sue Harkins, John and Donna Harms, Carl and Sharon Helms, Tami Jensen, Juanita Johnson, Tim Johnson, Kim Kinkel, Denise Lahman, Sherryl Leslie, Shanna Lloyd, Nate Mikesel, John Miller, Lisa Momb, Janna Montalvo, R. Corey Moore, Joe and Myra Ozuna, Joshua Patchen, Lewis Purcell Jr., David Quintasket, Linda Rasmussen, Greg Richards, Angela Sellers, Diana Smith, Eric Stein, Eric Tong, Kimberly Tunnell, Ellen Tupper, Dennis and Rebekah VanBelle, Cory Voorhies, Ruth Whitesell, and Celia Wright. Contact the Spokane Valley Church, 1601 S. Sullivan Rd., Spokane Valley, WA, 99037; (509) 926-5866.

WASHINGTON Chehalis Seminar
Clarence Hodges, North American Division public affairs and religious liberty vice president and director, will speak at the Chehalis Church on Sabbath, Feb. 21, including an afternoon seminar.

WORLD CHURCH
3 ABN
Thursday Night LIVE, 6–8 p.m., PST
Feb. 5—David Asscherick and Nathan Renner; Feb. 12—Don Mackintosh and guests; Feb. 19—Doug Batchelor; Feb. 26—Lyle Albrecht.

Spread the word, help us get 3ABN on cable. We will help you, (618) 627-4651, ext. 3104. Watch 3ABN on www.3abn.org.

Quiet Hour
Watch for The Quiet Hour’s Windows of Hope on Christian satellite and cable channels, as well as Doorways on Christian radio stations. February’s programming includes:

Windows of Hope, week of Feb. 1—A Multitude of Witnesses; Feb. 8—Making Friends with the Judge; Feb. 15—Pillars That Can’t be Shaken; Feb. 22—Decisions for Life; Feb. 29—When Tragedy Strikes.


For more information, visit www.thequiethour.org or call (800) 900-9021 weekdays.

Paradise Valley Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Weekend
All graduates, former students, faculty and their families are invited to attend March 5–7. This is the 100th year for the PV Hospital. Come help us celebrate. The classes of ’44, ’54 and ’64 will be honored. Contact Clariece Schaffner at (619) 267-1803; thschaffner@cox.net; or Joan Peterson at (541) 474-2931; jbpeterco@echoweb.net.
RVS!! Adventist owned and operated RV dealership has been saving Adventist’s money for over 25 years. $8 million inventory—over 30 brands in stock. Courtesy airport pickup and on-site hookups. Satisfied Adventist customer list. Call toll-free 1-888-933-9300, ask for Adventist discount pricing. Lee’s RV City, Oklahoma City; email: LeesRVs@aol.com.

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ROMANS 15:13 (NKJV)
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Procedure to Submit Advertising—The advertiser should contact and submit advertising material directly to the GLEANER office, P.O. Box 671150, Vancouver, WA 98687. Be sure to include full payment, your name and telephone number where you can be reached in case there is a question or problem with your advertisement. Always submit display advertisements according to GLEANER Advertising Specifications. For a copy of GLEANER Advertising Specifications call (360) 816-1400 or email gleaner@npuc.org.

Rates

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Mark 6:31 NIV

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