Northwest Hispanics: A Fertile Field for Christ

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www.GleanerOnline.org
Images of Creation

Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do.
1 Thessalonians 5:18 (CEV)

Red Leaves, photographed by Jane Gilliland of Ridgefield, Washington
Hispanos del Noroeste
Un Campo Fértil para Cristo

Northwest Hispanics:
A Fertile Field for Christ

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Have you ever thought about the extraordinary power of attitude? Emerson once said, “A man is what he thinks about all day long.”

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Making music in the traditional Mexican way, the Oregon Adventist Mariachi Band’s mission is to draw people to attend evangelistic meetings and share Jesus’ love.

GLEANER photo

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In a remarkable report, the Barna Group, a nationally recognized polling/survey organization, recently declared Ellen White to be one of the most influential authors among a cross section of young pastors in the United States.*

Surveyed pastors under 40 years of age, listed her as one of the top authors that impacted them personally in the last three years. This is an amazing finding.

Realizing a golden opportunity, your conference presidents have voted to send a gift copy of The Desire of Ages to every pastor in the Northwest, noting this recognition and offering it as a Christmas gift.

As Adventists, it is easy for us to take her for granted. We know that we would not be the church we are today without her writings.

Two churches trace their roots back to the 1844 Millerite movement—the Advent Christian Church and Seventh-day Adventists. Today the Advent Christian Church, without Ellen G. White’s counsel, has about 75,000 members in 19 countries. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has about 20 million members (including children) in 200 countries, with the guidance of Ellen G. White.

Her contributions to this phenomenal growth are too numerous to mention here, but some of them include:

- **Her “great controversy” theme**, which gives practical answers to the questions many ask after catastrophes like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as to where God was in all that devastation.

- **Her life-long emphasis on the Bible as the Word of God.** At 82 years of age in her last public appearance before the world church, she returned to the pulpit where there was a Bible, and with hands outstretched and trembling with age, she said, “I commend unto you this book.”

Within the church today, we see that her writings are used, misused, and unused in various ways by various individuals. Some say she was a good devotional writer, but her time has passed. These people tend to deny her authority today and ignore her prophetic messages for the future.

The Bible reminds us, however, to believe in the Lord your God, so shall you be established. Believe His prophets, so shall you prosper.

According to the Barna Group, pastors of all denominations are recognizing that promise through Ellen G. White. Again the words of the Hewlett Packard motto, “Do we know what we already know?”

I hope for the sake of a prosperous church made up of growing Christians, we can resoundingly affirm that with the writings of Ellen G. White, we do! •

Hispanic Facts

• One of every seven people in the United States is of Hispanic origin.
• Hispanics are not one race, nor do they represent a single ethnic group. The racial and ethnic composition of Hispanics has three major elements: European, African and Native American.
• The term Latino is another term for Hispanic.
• The word Hispanic was coined by the Romans in 204 B.C. to identify the inhabitants of the Iberian Peninsula, today's Spain and Portugal.
• The term Hispanic was adopted in the United States in the 1970s by the federal government.
• Hispanics are the largest minority in the U.S.
• The U.S. is the fifth largest Hispanic country in the world.
• Seventy percent of the Hispanic population lives in five states: California, Texas, New York, Florida and Illinois.
• The state of California has more Hispanics than any other group.
• There are more than one million Hispanics living in the Northwest.
• Washington state has the highest Hispanic population in the Northwest.
• St. Augustine and Santa Fe were Hispanic cities founded before Plymouth.
• Spanish is the fourth most frequently spoken language in the world after Mandarin, Hindustany and English.
• Twenty countries speak Spanish as their first language.

Source: www.hispanomundo.com and Ramon Canals

Hispanic Statistics in the Northwest

Alaska:
Total population: 626,932
Hispanic population: 25,852
5 percent of the population

Idaho:
Total population: 1,293,953
Hispanic population: 101,690
8 percent of the population

Montana:
Total population: 902,195
Hispanic population: 18,081
2 percent of the population

Oregon:
Total population: 3,421,399
Hispanic population: 275,314
8 percent of the population

Washington:
Total population: 5,894,212
Hispanic population: 441,509
7 percent of the population

Source: PCensus

Alaska Conference
1 church
1 pastor
26 members

Idaho Conference
6 churches
2 pastors
365 members

Montana Conference
1 company
1 pastor
11 members

Oregon Conference
5 churches
6 companies
7 groups
14 pastors
3,325 members

Upper Columbia Conference
11 churches
4 companies
4 groups
7 pastors
2,034 members

Washington Conference
8 churches
1 company
2 groups
4 pastors
1,235 members

Source: Ramon Canals
Ningún grupo étnico está creciendo más rápidamente en los Estados Unidos como el segmento hispano. Con más de 41 millones de hispanos en los Estados Unidos, algunos estiman que para el año 2050 abarcará la tercera parte de la población del país.

El rápido crecimiento de los hispanos en el Noroeste representa tanto una oportunidad como un desafío para la Iglesia Adventista al compartir el mensaje de salvación. Un reporte del Grupo de Investigación Barna, basado en encuestas a más de 4,000 adultos, muestra que la fe de la población hispana está cambiando de sus orígenes tradicionales católicos a una mezcla más diversa de religiones espirituales.

A pesar de que los hispanos están mundialmente afiliados a la Iglesia Católica, Barna encontró basado en sus estudios que este fuerte lazo se está deteriorando rápidamente en los Estados Unidos, dejando a muchos hispanos con una “carencia de
POR RAMON CANALS

fe" porque, a pesar de que están perdiendo su fe católica, muy pocos están asistiendo a iglesias protestantes.

Manuel Vásquez, en su libro, La Historia no Contada, señala que el trabajo hispano en la Unión del Pacífico Norte comenzó en el Valle de Yakima en Washington y en Weiser, Idaho, en 1956. Mientras leyía este libro y reflexionaba en mi propia experiencia con el creciente segmento hispano de la Unión del Pacífico Norte, me pregunté: ¿Por qué tenemos un trabajo hispano en esta unión hoy? ¿Por qué está creciendo tan rápidamente?

Veo la clave a esa pregunta en un denominador común: Gente común aprovechando las oportunidades de compartir el amor de Jesús. Podemos llamar a esta actividad "evangelismo." Evangelismo es pensar como un misionero. Hay un deseo intenso de parte de los miembros de iglesia, profesores, pastores y administradores de alcanzar a las personas donde quiera que estén, quienquiera que sean, cualquiera sea el idioma que hablen y sin importar cómo sea su aspecto.

Estoy feliz de pertenecer a una iglesia que no solo cree en el gran mandato de Jesús y el mensaje de los tres ángeles de Apocalipsis 14, sino que también sus líderes y miembros predicen en sus hogares a sus vecinos y amigos.

A continuación hay algunos ejemplos de personas aprovechando las oportunidades de compartir su amor por Jesús en todo el Noroeste.

ALASKA: LA FRONTERA MISIONERA

Solo un puñado de miembros de iglesia iniciaron el trabajo hispano en Anchorage, Alaska, en los años 80, comenzando una nueva era de evangelismo en la "última frontera" de América. Originalmente se reunían en la iglesia Anglo de O'Malley y luego en la Iglesia de Northside hasta que juntaron los fondos necesarios para comprar su propio edificio en un área denominada por la policía local como "la zona roja." La Iglesia Hispana en Alaska comenzó a ser una iglesia el 5 de febrero de 1994, con 26 miembros.

Según Ricardo Cabero, pastor actual de la Iglesia Hispana de Anchorage, existen varios desafíos que afectan el desarrollo de la iglesia en Alaska, como por ejemplo las condiciones sociales del área que rodea la iglesia, la constante emigración de los hispanos en búsqueda de mejores trabajos, y también que los hispanos están esparcidos por todo el estado. Ricardo también explica que los hispanos en Alaska se han "americanizado," lo cual dificulta aun más la tarea de alcanzarlos con los métodos tradicionales con los que cuenta la iglesia actualmente.

Desde hace ya un año, los miembros de la Iglesia Hispana de Anchorage se han estado reuniendo en un lugar que les ofrece más comodidad y seguridad tanto a los miembros como a los visitantes. La iglesia está creciendo a través de pequeños grupos en casas de familias y por medio del evangelismo personal. Es una obra lenta comparada a los impactantes resultados del evangelismo público, pero Ricardo ve una gran oportunidad de alcanzar a más de 11.000 hispanos que consideran a Alaska su hogar. La llamada "última frontera" es y debe ser un territorio misionero.

UNA COSECHA EN IDAHO

La obra hispana en la Conferencia de Idaho comenzó gracias a la visión de un pastor de habla inglesa que vio la oportunidad de compartir a Jesús con gente diferente a él. En 1956, solo unos pocos...
vestidos con sus trajes negros y dorados y sosteniendo sus instrumentos, quince hombres se dirigen a la plataforma de la iglesia y comienzan a tocar. El sonido es tradiacional, alegra y tiene un mensaje cristiano. Es la Banda Adventista de Mariachis de Oregon, la primera banda de mariachis adventistas en los Estados Unidos. Su misión es darle la bienvenida a las visitas en las campañas evangelísticas con la música de México.

Formar una banda fue la idea de Isaías Hernández y fue organizada en la Iglesia Hispana de Milwaukie en el año 2003, mientras él era pastor allí. Comenzó con cinco hombres y cuando se corrió la voz, otros se unieron a la banda. La banda necesitaba otro violinista, un trompetista y alguien que supiera tocar la vihuela. Como grupo oraron para que otras personas se les unieran para mejorar su ministerio musical.

Dos semanas más tarde, cinco hombres de Chiapas, México, que se habían enterado de la existencia de la banda, vinieron a la iglesia de Woodburn. Ellos eran mariachis adventistas, y podían tocar los instrumentos que se necesitaban. La banda actualmente tiene 15 miembros incluyendo dos cantantes jóvenes, todos desean ganar almas para el Señor Jesús con su ministerio musical.

Banda Adventista de Mariachis de Oregon es ganar almas para Jesús.

El ministerio de la Banda Adventista de Mariachis de Oregon es ganar almas para Jesús.

Miembros adventistas hispanos se reunían en la Iglesia Anglo en Weiser, Idaho, soñando con algún día tener su propia iglesia hispana. Pero no tenían ningún líder hasta que Harry Gray, el pastor de la Iglesia Anglo de Weiser, bautizó en 1961 a Juan Olveda y a su esposa. Juan y su esposa dieron estudios bíblicos por más de una década en Weiser y en áreas vecinas.

Cuando William Morgan, un obrero bíblico, vino al área, contactó a los Olvedas y quedó impresionado de la cantidad de intereses que habían cultivado y llegó a la conclusión de que se necesitaba un pastor de habla hispana para cosechar y desarrollar la obra allí. Y fue así que la obra se desarrolló y creció rápidamente.

**GRANDES PLANES EN EL “ESTADO DEL CIELO GRANDE”**

Por muchos años el estado de Montana era el único estado en la División Norteamericana que no tenía presencia hispana adventista. Eso cambió cuando en el otoño del año 2004 al pastor Roberto Correa se le extendió un llamado para empezar la obra hispana en el estado del “cielo grande” (Big Sky Country). La iglesia de habla inglés de Billings abrió gustosamente sus puertas y su pastor se unió a Roberto para apoyar la obra hispana.

Como la cantidad de hispanos en Montana es pequeña, los líderes de la iglesia han comenzado con una iglesia bilingüe para alcanzar a más personas. Según nos dice Roberto, “La idea es trabajar por los anglos en esa zona de la ciudad y a la vez dar la posibilidad de que los hispanos tengan un lugar de adoración.”

Este cambio ha sido una bendición muy especial para el grupo de Billings. El sueño de Roberto es que muy pronto el grupo llegue a ser una compañía y luego una iglesia organizada. Él cree que esto es posible con la ayuda de Dios.

**UNA OPORTUNIDAD EN OREGON**

La obra hispana en el estado de Oregon comenzó en 1970 cuando el presidente de dicha conferencia, Walt Blehm aprovechó una gran oportunidad evangelística. Centenares de trabajadores agrícolas mexicanos y sus familias comenzaron a emigrar al área de Woodburn para trabajar en los campos y en las huertas. Después de la cosecha, muchos decidían quedarse y criar sus hijos en Oregon.

Walt Blehm, un dirigente visionario y hombre de acción, convenció al comité ejecutivo de su asociación para que el trabajo misionero en favor de los hispanos fuera uno de sus proyectos prioritarios. En 1973, el pastor Frank Ottati fue el primer pastor hispano en Oregon. Frank, junto con otras familias de California, estableció la primera Iglesia Adventista Hispana en la ciudad de Woodburn. Esta iglesia es la madre de casi todas las iglesias hispanas en Oregon. Muchos otros hermanos, pastores, administradores y maestros han seguido el ejemplo de Blehm de aprovechar la oportunidad de compartir a Jesús con otras personas.

**CONECHANDO EN UPPER COLUMBIA**

La historia de la obra hispana en la Asociación del Alto Columbia comenzó en el Valle de Yakima, Washington, en 1956. El presidente C. L. Bond, al comprender el gran potencial para la obra hispana que había entre los miles de trabajadores migratorios de su territorio, le pidió al pastor Kenneth Fleck, quien acababa de regresar de Guatemala como presidente de la Misión, que viniese y iniciase la obra hispana en el área del Valle de Yakima. El pastor Fleck y su esposa, Alecyon, ambos bilingües, se trasladaron a Granger, Washington, donde comenzaron la obra
misionera hispana.

Tremendas conversiones y grandes milagros están ocurriendo en el territorio de la Asociación del Alto Columbia bajo la dirección de Eddie Allen, coordinador hispano, y un excelente grupo de pastores y evangelistas cuyo anhelo es salvar almas para Cristo.

LA OBRA DE DIOS EN WASHINGTON

Los comienzos de la obra hispana en la Conferencia de Washington se remontan a 1968, con solo 20 miembros bautizados.

Según nuestros registros, la primera Iglesia Adventista Hispana fue organizada en el año 1977 en Bellevue con 33 miembros. La iglesia de Bellevue creció hasta contar con unos 60 miembros que se reunían en la iglesia americana.

Bajo el liderazgo del Pastor Manuel Cabral, la obra hispana se extendió a Seattle, Renton, Federal Way y Tacoma. Jesús Padilla, un dedicado trabajador laico, se mudó de Los Ángeles a Bellingham y al notar que no había iglesia hispana en Bellingham, habló con el pastor Cabral para que le ayudase a formar una iglesia en Bellingham. El pastor accedió al desafío sin darse cuenta que en Bellingham solo había un pequeño grupo de 5 personas.

Sin embargo esto no desanimó al pastor Cabral y se reunió con los hermanos, les trazó planes de trabajo y los invitó a orar por el desarrollo de la obra en Bellingham. Como resultado del sano trabajo y en respuesta a las oraciones de hermanos y pastores tenemos una hermosa congregación hispana en la ciudad de Bellingham al noroeste de Washington.

Dios ha bendecido su obra en Washington. La obra hispana allí ha experimentado un crecimiento del 46% en los últimos tres años y tiene una membresía de más de 1.200. El pastor Bing señala que ellos han diseñado planes agresivos para el crecimiento de la obra hispana. Esos planes incluyen establecimiento de nuevas iglesias, y fortalecimiento de las iglesias ya establecidas, así como también el inicio de nueva obra en la península.

Ramón Canals, director del ministerio hispano de la Unión del Pacífico Noroeste, escribe desde Vancouver, Washington.

El Lenguaje del Amor

Cuando Donna Schmidt, maestra de una escuela pública en el área de Salem, alegó de que sus alumnos no se comportaban bien en el salón, se enteró que el hermano mayor de ellos, Colian Mariscal, de 19 años, había tenido un serio accidente en el trabajo. A solo unos minutos de haber empezado su día de trabajo en un aserradero en Turner, Oregon, la moto sierra con la cual estaba acostumbrado a trabajar, le atrapó el brazo derecho y se lo arrancó completamente de su cuerpo.

Colian fue transportado por helicóptero al Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital en Portland donde los médicos lograron colocarle de nuevo su brazo. El padre de Colian oraba al Señor, “Señor solamente te pido que guardes a mi hijo con vida y no importa si pierde su brazo.”

Aunque esta familia no hablaba inglés, Donna estaba determinada a compartir con ellos la esperanza que existe en Jesús. Inmediatamente llamó a Ramón Canals, el director del ministerio hispano de la Unión del Pacífico Noroeste, y le invitó a orar por el desarrollo de la obra hispana.

Donna continuó visitando a la familia en el hospital y llevándoles comida al cuarto de espera. Y aunque la comunicación era difícil, ella siempre se comunicó con ellos por medio del lenguaje del amor.

Los dos meses siguientes fueron los más largos en la vida de la familia Mariscal, pues los médicos no le daban mucha esperanza de vida al joven. Pero al final el Señor obró el milagro esperado, los doctores anunciaron que Colian podría regresar a casa.

Después de regresar a casa, la familia Mariscal empezó a asistir a la iglesia todos los sábados, y Rosalio Gaona, director de la obra misionera de la iglesia, los visitó en su casa para estudiar la Biblia con toda la familia.


El Señor hizo el milagro en la vida de Colian y la familia Mariscal ha cumplido su promesa, no vinieron a rodillas a la iglesia pero le entregaron todo su corazón al Señor Jesús.
No ethnic group is growing faster in America than the Hispanic segment. With more than 41 million Hispanics in the United States, some estimate that they will comprise a third of the country’s population by 2050. Everyone, from politicians to corporations, is trying to capture the Hispanic market.

The rapid growth of Hispanics in the Northwest represents both opportunities and challenges for the Adventist Church as we try to share the message of salvation. A report from the Barna Research Group, based on surveys among more than 4,000 adults, shows that the faith of the Hispanic population is steadily shifting from its traditional Catholic-oriented spirituality to a more diverse spiritual hybrid. Though Hispanics are affiliated with the Catholic Church worldwide, Barna found that the strength of that bond in the U.S. is rapidly deteriorating,
leaving many Hispanics in a "vacuum of faith" because, although they are losing faith in the Catholic Church, very few are attending mainline Protestant churches.

Moreover, church-growth experts suggest that immigrant groups are more receptive to the gospel than indigenous groups. Therefore, sowing in this fertile ground now could be a blessing and salvation for thousands of people who do not know Jesus as a personal Savior.

The late Manuel Vasquez, in his book, The Untold Story, points out that the beginning of the Hispanic work in the North Pacific Union Conference can be traced to Washington’s Yakima Valley and to Weiser, Idaho, in 1956. As I read his book and pondered my own experience with the growing Hispanic segment of the North Pacific Union Conference, I asked myself why we have a Hispanic work in this union today. Why is it growing so fast?

I see a clue to the answer in one common denominator: Ordinary people taking advantage of opportunities to share the love of Jesus. We call this activity “evangelism.” Evangelism is thinking like a missionary. It’s an intense desire on the part of church members, teachers, pastors and administrators to reach out to people wherever they are, whoever they are, whatever language they speak and whatever they look like.

I am happy to belong to a church that not only believes in the great commission of Jesus and the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14, but whose leaders and members actually preach at home, to neighbors and friends. Here are some examples of people capitalizing on opportunities to share the love of Jesus throughout the Northwest.

ALASKA: THE MISSIONARY FRONTIER

Just a handful of church members initiated the Hispanic work in Anchorage, Alaska, in the early 1980s, opening a new era of evangelism in America’s “last frontier.” They originally met in the Anglo O’Malley Church but eventually moved to the Northside Church until they raised funds for their own location in an area called the “Red Zone” by local police. The Hispanic church in Alaska became a company on February 5, 1994, with 26 members.

According to Ricardo Cabero, current Anchorage Spanish Church pastor, various challenges affect the development of the church in Alaska, including the social conditions of the area surrounding the church, constant emigration of Hispanics seeking better jobs, and the geographic sprawl of Alaska’s Hispanic population. Ricardo explains that Alaska’s Hispanics also are “Americanized,” which makes it much more difficult to reach them with the traditional methods that the church currently employs.

Since a year ago, Anchorage Hispanic members have been meeting in a location offering more comfort and security to both members and visitors. The church is growing through in-home small groups and personal evangelism. It is a slow work compared to the amazing results of public evangelism, but Ricardo sees a great opportunity to reach the more than 11,000 Hispanics who call Alaska home today. This last frontier is and must be the “missionary frontier.”

A HARVEST IN IDAHO

The Hispanic work in the Idaho Conference started thanks to the vision of an English-speaking pastor who seized the opportunity to share Jesus with people different from himself. Just a few Hispanic Adventist members gathered in the Anglo church in Weiser, Idaho, in 1956, dreaming of someday having their own Hispanic
Mariachis for Jesus
Oregon Adventist Mariachi Band

Dressed in their black suits decorated with silver bars and holding their instruments, 13 men filed onto the church platform and began to play. The sound was traditional, happy, with a Christian message. These men make up the Oregon Adventist Mariachi Band, the first Adventist mariachi band in the United States. Their mission is to welcome guests to evangelistic meetings with music.

The band was the brain child of Isaías Hernandez and was organized in the Milwaukee Spanish Church in 2003, when Hernandez was the pastor there. It started with five men, and as word got around, others joined. To be complete, the band needed another violin player, a trumpet player and a person who could play the vihuela, a small guitar-shaped instrument. The group prayed that people would be found to enhance their music ministry and the sound of their band.

Two weeks later, five men from Chiapas, Mexico, who heard about the band, came to the Woodburn Church. They were Adventists, Mariachi musicians and could play the instruments that were needed. The band now has 13 members and two young singers. Their music ministry is to help win people for Jesus.

BIG PLANS IN BIG SKY COUNTRY

For several years, Montana was the only state in the North American Division without any Adventist Hispanic presence. That changed when Roberto Correa accepted a call in 2004 to start the Hispanic work in “Big Sky Country.” The Billings English-speaking church gladly opened its doors, and the pastor joined Roberto in support of the Hispanic work.

With few Hispanics in Montana, church leaders suggested starting a bilingual church in order to reach both Spanish and English speakers. According to Roberto, “The idea is to work for the Anglos in that particular area of the city and, at the same time, to give the Hispanics the chance to have a place for worship,” Roberto explains. They now offer services and sermons in both English and Spanish. According to Roberto, they are trying to have only one group to satisfy each person’s spiritual needs.

The change has been a very special blessing for the Billings group. Roberto’s dream is that very soon the group will be able to be a company and then an organized church—a real possibility with God’s help.

AN OREGON OPPORTUNITY

When hundreds of Mexican farm workers, harvesters and families started to immigrate to Woodburn, Oregon, to work in the fields in the 1970s, Walt Blehm, then Oregon Conference president, grasped a great evangelistic opportunity. After the harvest, a lot of these workers decided to stay and raise their families in Oregon.

A visionary leader and a man of action, Walt convinced the conference executive committee to make the Hispanic missionary work a priority. In 1973, Frank Ottati became the first Hispanic pastor in Oregon.

Frank, with other Adventist families from California, established the first Hispanic church in Woodburn, and it in turn became the “mother” of almost all of Oregon’s Hispanic churches. Since those early days, many other members, pastors, administrators and teachers have followed one president’s example of taking advantage of opportunities to share Jesus throughout the Oregon Conference.

REAPING IN UPPER COLUMBIA

Farm workers provided the inspiration for another conference president, C. L. Bond, in the 1950s, who realized the great potential for the Hispanic work in the Upper Columbia Conference. Bond invited Kenneth Fleck, the Guatemala mission president, to initiate the Hispanic work in the Yakima Valley. Kenneth and his wife, Aleyon, both bilingual, moved to Granger, Washington, where they started missionary work with the Hispanic people. The English-speaking church members warmly welcomed the new converts, and through the support and collaboration of several church members, pastors, administrators and leaders, God’s work among Upper Columbia’s Hispanic population has grown rapidly and in a miraculous way.
Conversions and miracles are still taking place in Upper Columbia under the leadership of Eddie Allen, Hispanic coordinator, and an excellent group of pastors and evangelists who are eager to save people for Jesus.

**GOD'S WORK IN WASHINGTON**

According to available records, the Hispanic work in the Washington Conference started in 1968 with only 20 baptized members. The first Hispanic church, which was located in Bellevue, organized in 1977 with 33 members. The Bellevue Church grew to 60 members, gathering in the English-speaking church.

Under Manuel Cabral's leadership, the Hispanic work extended to Seattle, Renton, Federal Way and Tacoma. One dedicated lay worker, Jesus Padilla, moved from Los Angeles to Bellingham and, after finding no Hispanic church there, asked Manuel to help him to create one. Manuel agreed to the challenge without realizing that there was only a group of five people in Bellingham.

Refusing to be discouraged, Manuel told the members, "With God's help, we are going to establish the Hispanic work in this place." He met with the members, made work plans and invited them to pray for the development of the Hispanic work in Bellingham. As a result of the loyal work and prayers of members and pastors, we have a beautiful Hispanic congregation in this northwestern Washington city.

God continues to bless in Washington. The Hispanic work has grown by 46 percent in the last three years and boasts a membership of more than 1,200. Aggressive plans for Washington’s Hispanic work include establishing new churches, strengthening existing churches and starting a new work on the Olympic Peninsula.

*Ramon Canals, North Pacific Union Conference Hispanic Ministries director, writes from Vancouver, Washington.*

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**The Language of Love**

When Donna Schmidt, a Salem-area public school teacher, sought the reason why two of her students were absent, she discovered that their older brother, Colian Mariscal, 19, had been seriously injured at work. Only minutes into Colian’s morning shift at a Turner, Oregon, sawmill, an enormous chainsaw caught his arm and wrenched it from his body.

Colian was airlifted to Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital in Portland, where doctors reattached his arm. "Lord," Colian’s father, Gabriel, prayed, "I only ask you that you save my son’s life. It does not matter if he loses his arm."

Though this family didn’t speak English, Donna was determined to speak with them about the hope we have through Jesus. She immediately called Ramon Canals, then the Oregon Conference Spanish coordinator, and asked his advice. "This is a family that is going through a terrible tragedy, and we need to help them," Donna explained.

The Mariscal family did as promised—by providence, the Salem Spanish Adventist Church.

Donna continued visiting the family at the hospital, even bringing food right to the waiting room. Though communication was difficult, she never lost the chance to share through love—the language of heaven.

The following two months dragged for the Mariscals while Colian’s life remained in jeopardy. But in the end, the Lord granted a miracle, and Colian came home.

After returning home, the Mariscals began attending the Adventist church each Sabbath, and Rosalio Gaona, church missionary director, studied the Bible with them in their home.

God’s ways are mysterious. Who can comprehend them? A public school teacher. A pastor. A member. A loving church. All these God used to bring people to Him in response to a tragedy.

The Lord granted Colian’s miracle, and the Mariscal family did as promised—not with their knees, but with surrendered hearts.
Have you ever thought about the extraordinary power of attitude? Emerson once said, “A man is what he thinks about all day long.” The Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius said, “A man’s life is what his thoughts make of it.” William James put it this way: “The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes.” In the Bible we find this: “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.” Therein is the power of the human mind.

Occasionally I’ve caught a glimpse of this power. For example, during my senior year in college just before job offers were made to theology majors, I reserved a weekend to visit my parents. While I wanted to see my family, I confess that my real motive was not so altruistic. It happened that the Oregon Conference president, Elder Beck, was scheduled to preach in my dad’s church that Sabbath. Since I needed a job, I wondered: “What could it hurt to conveniently position myself at the dinner table and hobnob with the man who holds the fate of my future in his hands?”

As the meal unfolded, it was just as I had schemed. The atmosphere was comfortable. Conversation flowed easily. Overtures of me getting a call to the Oregon Conference were made. The meal was perfect—until dessert.

That’s when Mom offered a choice of blackberry or blueberry pie. I opted for blackberry while Elder Beck chose blueberry. Now get this: my own mother thought it would be funny to substitute the whipped cream on my pie with mayonnaise. Since it looked similar, she figured it humorous to think of me squirming in front of the man that I wanted to impress.

| Blackberry Pie, a la Mayonnaise |

The prank, however, backfired. I downed the dessert and never winced. Since I thought it was cream, it tasted like cream. After all, you don’t expect your own mother to dollop your dessert with mayonnaise. So I gulped without a grimace—much to the bitter disappointment of Mom.

“The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes....”

Finally, Mom couldn’t stand it any longer. With everyone still at the table, she asked: “Didn’t you notice anything different about the whipped cream?”

“Huh?” I responded like a perfect ditz.

“You whipped cream,” Mom continued. “We put mayonnaise on your pie instead of whipped cream.”

In a rare moment of spontaneity, I quipped, “Well, when you were bringing in the desserts from the kitchen, I decided I wanted blueberry instead of blackberry so I swapped with Elder Beck.”

You should have seen my mother’s face. You should have seen Elder Beck’s face. They looked like Casper’s cousins. Unfortunately, I was only fibbing. The joke really was on me. Truth is, I ate a snowball of mayonnaise and never even noticed!

“Impossible!” you say. “How could that be?”

It’s simple. It all goes back to the power of attitude. What your mind tells you is what you believe—even if you are dead wrong. That’s why it is so critical to carefully guard your thinking. Believe me; I know what I’m tasting about.

Karl Haffner, Walla Walla College Church senior pastor, writes from College Place, Washington.
Maranatha Volunteers Build a Chapel at Project PATCH Ranch

An exciting time that began in June at Project PATCH Ranch in Garden Valley, Idaho, culminated on Sept. 10 with the dedication of the new Maranatha Memorial Chapel.

For many years Project PATCH staff members had felt a growing need for a separate building designated specifically as a chapel, a place of solace and worship. During the summer of 2004, Ken Casper from Maranatha Volunteers International was at the PATCH Ranch finalizing the projects they had just completed. Maranatha had been at PATCH for 12 summers and, sometimes, even twice in a summer. Casper mentioned that Maranatha's schedule was getting tighter, and if PATCH wanted anything done during the summer of 2005, PATCH would have to get its request in early.

"We really need a chapel," Tom Sanford, PATCH's executive director, responded. "Great," Casper replied. "We'll put it on the schedule. But, do you have the money for it?"

"No," Tom responded. "But that has always been the last of our worries. If God wants us to have it, then He'll provide the money."

Little did Sanford know that Casper already had a plan in mind. The Caspers, along with other volunteers, had made the chapel a matter of prayer. They made a decision to contact volunteers from past projects, along with other friends of PATCH, to see if funds could be raised. In November of 2004, the fund-raising effort began. By May 2005, $100,000 had been raised—sufficient to build a chapel.

From Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Nevada and Canada, volunteers in campers, motor homes and RV's began converging at the ranch the first week of June, and on June 5, they broke ground for the chapel. Four weeks later, the chapel was entirely framed and roofed with plumbing and electrical roughed in. Commercial sheet rockers then spent a month installing the sheet rock. On Aug. 24, volunteers came back to finish the work.

The Sept. 10 dedication was a testimony to the Lord for all He has done to make PATCH possible. The addition of the chapel completes the overall comprehensive plan for the ranch and will greatly enhance PATCH's philosophy of encouraging personal change from the inside out that can only come about through a personal experience with Jesus Christ.

Project PATCH is a fully accredited Christian residential treatment facility with accreditations from Northwest Association of Accredited Schools, State of Idaho Department of Education, and Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Project PATCH Ranch is also licensed through the State of Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Nancy Rader, Project PATCH administrative assistant

Maranatha volunteers traveled to the Garden Valley Ranch of Project PATCH to help build the new chapel.
My Summertime Project

Last May, my family received a video from Maranatha on the work that's being done in India. People there have so little, and we have so much, but take it for granted. While we were watching the video, a little voice came inside of me that said, "Help the people in India, help the people in India."

After the video, I told my mom I needed to find a way to help the people in India. She suggested that I start raising money for a church. I decided to give $30, which was most of my savings. I asked other people to match me. I wrote a letter and sent it to the people on our family Christmas letter list, asking them for donations. When I received a donation, I sent a thank-you card and a tax-deductible receipt. (My mom is the church treasurer.)

One Sabbath during mission time, I got up and asked people in our small, mission-minded Delta Junction Church to donate. Every once in a while I got up in church to tell them how close we were to our goal.

In three months, we had reached our goal and collected $5,000, which was enough to build a small church in India. I would like to challenge other 10-year-olds to do the same or get together with your Sabbath School class or your school and raise even more. $11,000 can build a large church in India.

Maranatha has their $10 church program. Our family gives to it each month. I like to call this the $30 church. •

Heather Ueck, Delta Junction Sabbath School member

These Adventist members are planting a new church in the Ninilchik area.

Planting a New Church in Ninilchik

A new church group is being started in Ninilchik, a small community 188 miles south of Anchorage and halfway between Homer and Soldotna on the Sterling Highway. Located on Cook Inlet, across from four majestic volcanoes, Ninilchik is nestled between the Deep Creek and Ninilchik rivers. It thrives on tourism during the summer months.

At present, the members are meeting on Sabbaths at "St. Peters," the local Methodist church. Brad Traxler, from the Kenai Church, stops once a month on his way to the Homer Church to preach.

Pray for us that we can grow and serve the Lord in spreading His Word. •

Jamie James, Ninilchik Church member

Andrew Kim Ordained

On Sabbath afternoon, July 9, Andrew Kim was ordained to the gospel ministry in Anchorage. Kim has pastored the Anchorage Korean Church since 1999, when he moved from Marietta, Georgia. While at Marietta, Kim planted a new church that grew into a large congregation. When Kim moved to Anchorage, he continued that drive to grow congregations. He has led his congregation of 85 through the process of building a new $1.5 million church, which the congregation took occupancy of in September.

Kim and his wife, Audrey, have one son, Isaac, who is the young-adult pastor of the Calimesa Adventist Church in California. •

John Kriegelstein, Alaska Conference communication director

Following his ordination in July, from left: (front) Andrew and Audrey Kim stand with Colleen and Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president; (back) Jacki and Neil Biloff, ministerial director; and Janelle and Harold Dixon, treasurer.
Christian Women’s Retreat

The threat of rain didn’t dampen the spirits of the 110 women in attendance at the Idaho Conference Christian Women’s Retreat, held at beautiful Camp Ida-Haven, Sept. 9–11.

Jennifer Jill Schwirzer—a gifted musician, song writer and author—brought a wonderful mix of music and message throughout the weekend, that perfectly complemented the theme, A Most Precious Message. Schwirzer shared her personal journey, what she calls a “radical” conversion from New Age philosophy and practice to Christianity, and then to Adventist Christianity.

Our mission emphasis this year was building churches in India. Susan Winchester from Caldwell, Idaho, and Joan Green from Meridian, Idaho, teamed up to share an inspiring report from their short-term mission trips to Andhra Pradesh, India, earlier this year.

The weekend included inspiring worship services, a Sabbath evening Pacific Press book and music give-away, and the annual talent show.

As always, the food and fellowship were fabulous. •

Joan Green, Idaho Conference church ministries secretary

Education: The Ark of Safety
Featured in Vale Parade

For the small farming town of Vale, Ore., the annual Fourth of July parade is one of the biggest events of the year. The Vale Church and the Timberline Elementary School collaborated to enter a “Noah’s Ark” float, entitled “Education—the Ark of Safety.” The back of the float read: “Vale Seventh-day Adventist Church and Timberline Elementary School.”

The smaller children dressed in animal costumes and masks, while some of the older children played the parts of Noah’s three sons and their wives. Noah and his wife, Daniel and Cheri DeLaRosa, accompanied the ark, walking, on each side, dressed in biblical-style robes.

As the float proceeded down the road, the children threw candy to observers, and some older children handed out invitations to the Vacation Bible School, which was held three weeks later. •

Sylvia M. Ellis, Vale Church communication leader

"Noah" (Daniel DeLaRosa) accompanies his "ark" down the street, with children depicting animals and Noah’s sons and daughters-in-law, in the Vale, Ore., Fourth of July parade. The float was sponsored by the Vale Adventist Church and Timberline Elementary School.

A Grand Opening
New Gym at Boise Valley Adventist School

Boise Valley Adventist School opened its new 17,175-square-foot gymnasium—complete with commons area for hot lunch and social gatherings, two classrooms, two restrooms, and a music room—after 15 years of waiting to replace the one lost in a tragic fire.

The school broke ground in the spring of 2004, and on the weekend of Aug. 27, 2005, the school celebrated the building’s completion. Friday evening, Allan Sather, principal; Arne Nielsen, Idaho Conference education superintendent; Steve McPherson, Idaho Conference president; Raul Castanon, building committee chair; Ann Blackman, school board chair; and students Jason Christensen and Tori Yeager cut the ribbon and dedicated the facility to God’s service.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was followed by a Good News singers concert.

On Sabbath, more than 300 members from the Cloverdale and other Treasure Valley Adventist churches attended church in the gymnasium. Speaker Douglas Roe, from Camp Ida-Haven, challenged the staff, parents, students, and congregation to use the facility for God’s glory.

Saturday night, after a short vespers, the gym was open for volleyball and table games. The school board provided popcorn and water bottles to round out the event.

On Aug. 29, the first day of school, students could not contain their enthusiasm and excitement. They are looking forward to basketball season! •

Ann Blackman, BVAS board chair

Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony were, from left: Jason Christensen, Tori Yeager, Ann Blackman, Raul Castanon, Allan Sather, Arne Nielsen, and Steve McPherson.
Couple Finds Acceptance and Love in the Butte Church

One week after Debbie and Tate Ferda were married and baptized, they gave their testimony at the Montana camp meeting. From left: Ed and Marty Tysko, Debbie and Tate Ferda, and Ron Dorchuck, Butte Church pastor.

Ed Tysko surveyed the tattooed man, adorned with dreadlocks. “Are you a westside Ferda?”

As Ferda nodded, Tysko asked names of parents and grandparents. Discovery after discovery! Ferda’s grandfather had saved Tysko’s life when Tysko was just a kid. They had mutual friends, neighbors, acquaintances.

“Well, kid,” Tysko paused, “come on over. I could use a good carpenter.”

The weeks passed. Ferda did good work. The friendship grew. Ferda and his wife, Debbie, were invited to share Ed and Marty’s home and their church.

Tysko helped Ferda get his contractor’s license and a place to live. Marty taught culinary arts, gave household hints, and shopped sales racks and thrift stores. They saw to it that Debbie received the medical care she needed. But most of all, they loved and accepted Debbie and Tate.

The first Sabbath they came to church, we all loved them. It’s been about a year since they first came. Now they are well-loved members of the Butte Church—miracles of love and grace.

Ron Dorchuck, Butte Church pastor

MEA Senior Survival
More Than Just a Camping Trip

Twenty-four Mt. Ellis Academy seniors piled into various vehicles and headed up to Montana’s Crazy Mountains in August. Leaving behind all civilization and unnecessary possessions, we were all aware that the next week would be what even Montana people call “roughing it.” Under the instruction of Ed Starkebaum, MEA Bible teacher, bivouacs were constructed for sleeping. Each bivouac was made simply out of black painter’s plastic, excluding the few that were held together by rolls of duct tape.

Every morning we woke up to the crisp autumn air and “family” groups made their own breakfast. After breakfast we read and discussed a chapter of The Great Controversy in small groups. Then we all joined together as one big group to discuss it further.

“Our daily studies of The Great Controversy really inspired me to learn more about God,” said Beth Jutzy, MEA senior.

Each morning after worship, Larry Unterseher, Montana conference youth director, described a goal that we had to accomplish together. The goal included an obstacle that challenged us and required everyone’s teamwork and participation.

“I love how close our class became, and I felt like I had been in the class for four years instead of one week,” said Anji Pineda, MEA senior.

In the afternoon we learned about wild edibles and took a water and shelter class. After a long day of survival training, all the senior class and counselors gathered around the campfire to praise God and review the day.

“Senior Survival impacted me in a way that I will remember for the rest of my life. It amazes me how dedicated the staff are to spiritually equip the seniors,” said Paul Curtis, MEA senior.

Anna Berg, MEA senior

Mt. Ellis seniors learn to work together as they attempt to travel across a hilltop on two beams.
Oregon Conference Constituency Report

More than 500 delegates from western Oregon and southwestern Washington gathered at Portland Adventist Academy's gymnasium, on Sunday, Sept. 18, for the Oregon Conference's quadrennial constituency session. Delegates, by a majority of 95 percent or more, re-elected officers past four years. Last year 27 churches had growth figures by baptism or profession of faith of 5 to 18 percent.

Big Lake has continued to operate the largest summer camp ministry in the North American Division, and the Gladstone campground campus has received ongoing improvements, with more than 500 RV sites renovated this year.

Conference leaders also acknowledged ongoing challenges. They are actively seeking ways to contain dramatically increasing medical and retirement costs for pastors, teachers and other employees. Education is a major part of the conference budget, yet Youth Education Fund contributions from members have steadily declined over the past four years. Yet, even with these financial challenges, conference reserves seem to have stabilized for the present.

Delegates heard a report on the status of three areas approved at the 2001 constituency session for capital projects: academy support, Big Lake improvement and Gladstone campground campus development.

Academy support has begun with the proposed new administration and classroom buildings at Columbia Adventist Academy. Big Lake improvements, including a new lodge building, are awaiting the submission of a master plan to the U.S. Forest Service for approval. In 2001, the sale of the present conference office building seemed imminent, and plans to build a downsized office on the Gladstone campus were approved. The pending sale was never consummated, and no adequate offers have since been received. Officers are currently exploring options.

Don Livesay, newly re-elected president, responding to the overwhelming support of the delegates, pledged that each officer would work for the Oregon constituency "in a way that honors God." He outlined several ongoing and new initiatives as part of a conference-wide strategic plan for the coming four years (see sidebar).•

Questions or comments about these initiatives or the 2005 constituency session can be directed to the office of Al Reimche by calling (503) 645-2225, ext. 440, or e-mailing info@oc.npuc.org.

Strategic Initiatives

In addition to continuing goals initiated in 2001, Don Livesay, Oregon Conference president, outlined the following new initiatives for the next four years.

• Reaching the greater Portland area with training, community connections and reaping events
• Exploration of church plants in West Linn/Lake Oswego, King City, Sherwood and North Salem
• Pilot project with Walla Walla College to positively connect recent graduates with a local church
• Increase member understanding of the role of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in history, including Ellen G. White, the remnant concept, the Sabbath and the Apocalypse
• Defining effective and efficient ways to address local church needs
• Defining long-term education strategies

Don Livesay, Oregon Conference president, officially recognized the contribution of Dr. and Mrs. William B. Holden, who provided the funds in 1929 to purchase the land for what is now Gladstone Park Conference Center. The recently completed Holden Convention Center was named in their honor. Accepting the acknowledgement was Dr. William Rippey (right).
Prison Ministry  

at Columbia River State Correctional Institution

When David Pritchard, of the Stone Tower Church in Portland, Ore., and Len Bierlein, of the Hoodview Church also in Portland, drive past an Oregon State prison, they don’t see steel fences with razor wire, or guard towers, or massive doors with multiple layers of security. They see individuals with a desire to learn more about their Lord.

For the last 11 years, Pritchard has spent nearly every Sabbath evening, and Bierlein has spent nearly every Sunday evening within the walls of the Columbia River State Correctional Institution, presenting Christian truths to from four to 20 inmates. Recently, they saw the earthly results of their work, when nine inmates were baptized, publicly proclaiming their love for God and accepting the sacrifice of Jesus for them.

This baptism, conducted by Pritchard, was witnessed by an inmate’s wife, the mother of a second inmate, and six other inmates who had been previously baptized. The baptism was conducted in a horse-watering trough mounted on a four-wheel dolly in the prison loading-dock area. Although the environment lacked the dignity of a church sanctuary or the beauty of a baptism in one of Oregon’s beautiful rivers, the personal dedication and commitment of these men made it a beautiful, solemn event.

Paul Scheer, Stone Tower member, played Amazing Grace on his bagpipe as a fitting finale to the occasion. Those in attendance joined in singing this meaningful song.

One of the previously baptized inmates states that he has been incarcerated since 1980. He was raised in an Adventist home in the southeastern United States. He has been very active in giving Bible studies and serving as a resource person for other inmates interested in learning more about God. In one instance, he tells of giving a copy of The Great Controversy to a fellow inmate who read it and wants to get another copy for his mother. Another inmate has read Bill Stringfeller’s book, All in the Mind of the Lord.

The inmate that has served as the resource person says it is easy to think that prisoners are society’s throwaways, but there are many prisoners earnestly searching for the meaning that only a belief in and commitment to God can provide. He is to be paroled within the next 30 days and plans on returning to his home state and continuing his active pursuit of those whose lives will be more complete in a fuller knowledge of Jesus.

Pritchard and Bierlein are joined on most evenings by Stone Tower members Anna Anderson and Francis Smith, who have been involved in this ministry for the last four years.

While Pritchard’s and Bierlein’s programming varies, Pritchard has just finished showing Doug Batchelor’s video series entitled, Historicals of Prophecy. It was the call to baptism in this video series that resulted in the decision of these nine men to follow their Lord and be baptized. •

Dan Patchin, Hoodview Church member
Livingstone Student's Poster
WINS NAD Health Poster Contest

Jim Mayne, a junior at Livingstone Adventist Academy in Salem, Ore., takes health to heart. "Physical health is important to me," says Mayne, who can often be found playing his favorite sport, baseball. Mayne's interest in health became a winning formula in June when he won the 2005 North American Division's health poster contest.

Mayne, then a sophomore at Livingstone, created the poster in May as a project for his health class. His poster design, drawn in ink and colored pencil, features several facets of physical health balancing on a scale. On one side is a mound of fruits and vegetables, showing good nutrition. On the other side is the element of physical exercise, symbolized by a baseball player.

Mayne, who is from McMinnville, Ore., and attends the Newberg Church, says he was not expecting the news when he heard that he had won the contest. "I was pretty happy and surprised," says Mayne. "After I entered, I'd pretty much forgotten about it."

Less surprised, though, was Mayne's teacher, Chris Sequeira, who gave him the assignment. "I knew he could do it," said Sequeira, Livingstone's math and health teacher. "This is especially impressive since he didn't have an art teacher last year."

Lorin Koch, LAA GLEANER correspondent

Elvera Blake
Commissioned to Gospel Ministry

On a warm summer evening in August, friends and family of Elvera Blake gathered to support her official commissioning to ministry. Ivan Blake, Sunnyside Church senior pastor and husband to Elvera, presented the candidate in an emotion-filled, heartfelt speech. "Elvera has always been in the environment of ministry," he said. "She loves pointing people to Jesus."

On a warm summer evening in August, friends and family of Elvera Blake gathered to support her official commissioning to ministry. Ivan Blake, Sunnyside Church senior pastor and husband to Elvera, presented the candidate in an emotion-filled, heartfelt speech. "Elvera has always been in the environment of ministry," he said. "She loves pointing people to Jesus."

Al Reimche, Oregon Conference vice president for administration, confirmed Elvera's calling to ministry. "Commissioning is God's people acknowledging what God and you have already discovered," said Reimche. "We have seen God use your voice. He has spoken through you."

While accepting her commissioning to pastoral ministry, Elvera Blake said, "This ceremony confirms my picture of the New Testament church with men and women working side by side in ministry. It is such a joy to serve the Lord."

Amy L. Schrader, Oregon Conference communication director
Milo Senior Survival
An Exercise in Trust

An average day at Senior Survival included many new, exciting experiences, but one day stood out above the rest. It was the day of friendship, the day of faith, the day of trust. Seniors had to mount a log about six feet off the ground, turn their backs on fear, and fall into the arms of their peers.

"When I was standing on the ground, it was easy to judge the people falling and think they were wimpy for being afraid and hesitant, but when I got up there and looked down at the skinny, little arms that were meant to catch me from crashing to the ground, it really was scary," admits Emily Smith. "What made me decide to fall? I looked at their faces, not their arms. When I concentrated on the fact that these were the people that I love and who, I assume, love me, fear was no issue."

Several seniors readily acknowledged the fact that if the trust fall had taken place at the beginning of the week, they wouldn’t have participated. The preceding activities built the loyalty and faith needed.

"It was awesome to see everyone in my group mature from the first day to the last," remembers Nate Barrett. "We started off arguing and getting angry and ended taking turns and working together for the success of the group as a whole."

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Madrone Adventist School Float
Wins First Place in Labor Day Parade

The Madrone Adventist School float won first place in the children’s division at the Illinois Valley–Cave Junction Labor Day Parade. Students and their parents rode on the patriotic themed float, which was constructed on a 18-wheeler flatbed truck. The school board members marched beside the float, giving out gift bags that contained pencils, erasers, candies, and an announcement for the opening of the Madrone Adventist School.

A church friend, Russell Baker, who has been seriously ill for several months, was invited to ride in the cab of the truck with his oxygen tank. Russ was truly elated and enjoyed frequently blowing the air horns. He was a true grand marshall for the parade!

Patty Hyland, Cave Junction communication representative

Everyone on the float joyously waved American flags.

Fair Booth Fares Well

The Adventist booth at the Oregon State Fair in Salem has been representing the Oregon Conference for the past several years. The main focus this year was health: obesity and diabetes. The booth was open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. for 10 days—Aug. 27 through Labor Day. One hundred volunteers from churches such as South Salem, East Salem, Salem Central, Salem Spanish, Dallas, Silverton and Stayton operated it.

Visitors to the booth were able to sign up for prizes such as cookbooks, health-related books, BibleInfo CDs, and Amazing Facts’ Final Events DVD. Twenty-five people signed up for Bible studies, and more than 500 pieces of literature were distributed, including 25 copies of The Great Controversy and 100 Steps to Christ. They also distributed fliers for It’s Written’s The Appearing.

Gary McLain, Oregon Conference assistant communication director

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Health-related displays on the walls caused viewers to consider what they actually eat and drink every day.

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Shaun Wilkens relies on his classmates and his father's guidance to stop him from hitting the ground during the trust fall.

Brenda Beenken, Milo senior

Am bure Siaca celebrates the success of her team as they finish passing her through the spider web.

Nestled in her homey bivouac, Kristen Henderson takes a quick rest.
Oregon Youth Challenge 2005

A drip of sweat falls slowly down my brow and splashes onto my hands, tightly gripping five books, 17 magazines, a pad of community programs, and a Happiness Digest. I take a deep breath, say a quick prayer, walk up the last step, and knock on the door. After moving and hours of intense training, which culminated with an anointing ceremony, I arrived at their door step; walked up a long cemetery road to find a little house with a lonely lady who needed a hug; gave a Steps to Christ to a couple of teenagers playing drums in their garage; was asked by a little girl why Jesus died for us; got to pray with a brother in Christ for the first time in his life; laughed with strangers; was yelled at, then given ice cream by the same lady; and was told by someone that I reflected Christ’s presence. All this was made possible by my loving Heavenly Father.

I was one of 12 young people and four team leaders who answered the call to canvass for the Lord through Oregon Youth Challenge. From June 23 through Aug. 10, this consecrated group of young people knocked on more than 35,000 doors, prayed with more than 2,000 people, and put more than $31,000 worth of books in homes in the Troutdale, Gresham, Glendoveer, and Amboy areas. As a result of these contacts, Columbia Gorge now has seven Bible studies started with more ready to begin.

If you would like to see what God can accomplish through dedicated young people, I challenge you to have Oregon Youth Challenge come to your area and work. Miracles and blessings are sure to follow.

Sharon M. Partmann, OYC team member

Outdoor Church in Cedar Creek

In the midst of a cool cedar grove, the Woodland and Cedar Creek churches enjoyed their annual "camp meeting" tradition Aug. 19-20. This year the featured speaker was Joy Matthews, dog trainer and author, and Zion, a Giant Schnauzer. Together Joy and Zion presented unforgettable lessons about how Christians can train for heaven. "As we follow God's direction," said Matthews, "we will end up with the blessings God has in mind for us."*

If you would like to see what God can accomplish through dedicated young people, I challenge you to have Oregon Youth Challenge come to your area and work. Miracles and blessings are sure to follow.

Sharon M. Partmann, OYC team member

Jesus
Our Forever Friend

The Cave Junction Church held a two-week Vacation Bible School in August, staffed by 35 church members. Fifty-four children from every part of the Illinois Valley attended. At 8:30 a.m. the staff joined hands for special prayer for the day. Promptly at 8:45 breakfast was served to all the children. Opening exercises in the church brought many surprises as the staff and students acted out Bible skits in lovely costumes. Pastor Verne Hyland brought the students to the edge of their seats with nature stories. The students also enjoyed Bible classes, crafts and games.

Closing night filled the church with family and friends.

Connor Woolfe, a primary student at VBS, is now a student at the Madrone Adventist School in Cave Junction.

Conner Woolfe, a primary student at VBS, is now a student at the Madrone Adventist School in Cave Junction.

Patty Hyland, Cave Junction Church communication leader
La Iglesia Hispana de Kennewick
Se Traslada a un Nuevo Edificio

Hace menos de un año que la Iglesia Hispana de Pasco celebró su libertad de ya no hacer pagos mensuales de hipoteca y dedicó su edificio. Ahora su iglesia hija, la Iglesia Hispana de Kennewick, ha comprado su propio edificio y se ha trasladado.

A solo unos meses de la dedicación de la Iglesia Hispana de Pasco, la Iglesia Hispana de Kennewick, que se reunió los sábados por la tarde en la Iglesia Anglo de Kennewick, comenzó a orar y a buscar un edificio para comprar y poder tener finalmente su propia iglesia. Encontraron una iglesia en venta en la parte este de Kennewick, un área poblada por muchos hispanos. Un santuario grande, un espacioso salón multiusos, y una ubicación ideal, han hecho que esta propiedad sea perfecta para los miembros hispanos de la iglesia de Kennewick.

Este edificio de 11.737 pies cuadrados, situado en 1,23 acres en una calle principal, tenía un precio muy bueno de $325,000. Pero, ¿cómo podría una pequeña iglesia hispana con solo $8,500 llegar a hacer una oferta seria? La respuesta se encuentra en Romanos 8:31,32. “¿Qué, pues, diremos a esto? Si Dios es por nosotros, ¿quién contra nosotros? El que no escatimó ni a su propio Hijo, sino que lo entregó por todos nosotros, ¿cómo no nos dará también con él todas las cosas?”

Evidentemente, Dios estaba bendiciendo a la Iglesia Hispana de Kennewick en esta misión. Comenzaron a llegar donaciones y promesas de ayudas de todas partes. Los miembros de la Iglesia Hispana de Kennewick y Pasco reunieron un total de $85,000 en promesas. La Conferencia de Upper Columbia también apoyó este proyecto. Se recibieron fondos de acciones de la UCC y una donación adicional también de la UCC. Luego de un par de meses, la congregación ya tenía suficiente dinero para hacer el pago inicial y se hizo una oferta de $299,900, la cual fue aceptada. El primer servicio en la nueva iglesia se llevó a cabo el 6 de agosto. Fue un momento lleno de gozo con mucha música y adoración, una representación por el grupo de jóvenes de la iglesia y un mensaje inspirador por Ramón Canals, director del ministerio hispano en la Unión del Pacífico Norte, quien predicó acerca del reavivamiento en la iglesia.

Mary Dengerud-Au, miembro de la Iglesia Hispana de Pasco

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De Miembro de una Pandilla a Miembro de Iglesia

Se llevó a cabo una serie evangelística en la Iglesia Hispana de la ciudad de Pasco, Wash., que resultó en 18 bautismos. Danny Delgado es una de aquellas personas que fueron bautizadas. Luego de varios eventos decepcionantes en su vida, Delgado comenzó a pasar cada vez más tiempo con pandillas. Eventualmente, terminaron ejerciendo una gran influencia en él y comenzó a usar drogas y a consumir alcohol. “No quería sentir nada,” expresó.

Luego de casi ser asesinado en varias ocasiones por otros pandilleros, Delgado sabía que debía cambiar. Incluso durante tiempos difíciles, él dijo, “Sabía que Dios estaba cuidándome.” Ahora, Delgado sabe que está aquí por una razón, y ya no siente más miedo o vacío en su interior. “Afuera es un mundo temible sin Dios.”

Cuando le preguntaron que le gustaría decirle a aquellos jóvenes que todavía no conocen a Dios, él dijo, “Si quieres cambiar tu corazón, Dios se encargará del resto por ti.”

Mary Dengerud-Au
Kennewick Spanish Church Moves to New Facility

Sabbath School members enjoy the lesson time in the spacious sanctuary of their new church.

Less than a year after the Pasco Spanish Church celebrated its freedom from a monthly mortgage payment and dedicated its building, its daughter church, Kennewick Spanish, purchased and moved into its own building. Only a few months after the Pasco Church's exciting dedication Sabbath, the Kennewick Spanish Church, which was meeting Sabbath afternoons at the Kennewick (English) Church, started praying and searching for a building to purchase and call their own. They found a church building for sale in east Kennewick, an area heavily populated by Hispanics. The large sanctuary, spacious fellowship hall and ideal location made it perfect for the Kennewick Spanish members.

This 11,737-square-foot church facility, situated on 1.23 acres on a main thoroughfare, was a bargain at $325,000. But how could a small Spanish church with only $8,500 ever hope to make a serious offer on this property? The answer is in Romans 8:31,32. "If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

God was evidently with the Kennewick Spanish Church in this endeavor. Donations and pledges poured in from everywhere. Kennewick and Pasco Spanish members pledged a total of $85,000. The Upper Columbia Conference and Corporation supported this project with UCC Share Funds and an appropriation. After a couple of months, the congregation had enough money to make a down payment, and made an offer of $299,900, which was accepted.

The first service in the new church was held on Aug. 6.

It was a joyful occasion with lots of music and prayer, a skit by the church's youth group, and an inspiring message by Ramón Canals, North Pacific Union Conference Hispanic ministries director, who spoke about revival in the church.

Mary Dengerud-Au, Pasco Spanish Church member

From Gang Member to Church Member in the Pasco Spanish Church

A unique evangelistic series at the Pasco (Wash.) Spanish Church resulted in 18 baptisms. Danny Delgado was one of those who was baptized.

After several disappointing events in his life, Delgado began to hang out with gangs. Eventually they influenced him, and he became involved with drugs and alcohol. "I didn't want to feel anything," he said.

After nearly being killed several times by other gang members, Delgado knew he needed to change. Even during the difficult times, he said, "I knew that God was watching over me." Now, Delgado knows he is here for a reason, and he no longer feels afraid or empty inside. "It's a scary world out there without God."

When asked what he would like to say to other young people that don't know God, he said, "If you want to change your heart, God will handle the rest for you."

Mary Dengerud-Au
Cada miércoles, durante el mes de abril, nuestras reuniones de oración y evangélicas estuvieron a cargo de algunos niños de nuestra Iglesia Hispana de Willow, en Yakima, Washington. Estos niños predicaron la palabra de Dios con tal entusiasmo que sorprendió grandemente a nuestros miembros.

"Tuvimos la oportunidad de ver el futuro de nuestra iglesia en las manos de nuestros valientes niños," exclamaron algunos padres y miembros de nuestra iglesia.

La serie evangélica "Las Siete Palabras de Jesús," inició la primera predicación hecha por los niños en nuestra iglesia. Estos niños se han esforzado en gran manera ya que requirió una gran valentía pasar al púlpito y predicar desde allí la Palabra de Dios a toda la iglesia.

Estas predicaciones han sido parte de un programa de capacitación para líderes misioneros—tanto adultos como niños—en nuestra iglesia. Hoy, con la ayuda de cada padre y el pastor local, ya hay cinco predicadores y ocho diáconos en las iglesias de Willow y Tres Ángeles, todos ellos menores de 15 años. •

Pablo Maldonado Cervantes

Every Wednesday during the month of April at the Yakima, Wash., Willow Adventist Hispanic Church, our prayer and evangélistic meetings were led by children. These children preached God's Word with an enthusiasm that amazed our members.

"We were able to envision the future of our church in the hands of our brave children," exclaimed some of the parents and members of our church.

Titled "The Seven Words of Jesus," this series marked the first time that children have preached in our church. It took great effort and bravery for the children to go to the pulpit and preach the Word of God in front of an audience.

This series of meetings was part of a training program for missionary leaders—both adults and children—in our church. Today, with the help of each parent and the local pastor, there are already five preachers and eight deacons at the Willow and Three Angel's churches, and all of them are younger than 15 years old. •

Pablo Maldonado Cervantes, Yakima Spanish district pastor
Upper Columbia Academy Seniors
Come Together During Senior Survival

"There were people I'd never really talked with or hung out with before, even though we've been in school together since we were freshmen," says Adriel Salinas. "But now we actually know each other, and we're friends. It's like we're finally 'the class of 2006' instead of a bunch of individuals who all happen to be in one class."

As Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) has been doing for many years, they took their entire senior class to the "wilderness" behind Camp MiVoden for nearly a week. Students took their own sleeping bags and pads, but each group had to build their own tents from the plastic provided. The groups also cooked much of their own food and dug their own latrines. Showering in the icy water was a chilling experience.

Along with learning wilderness survival skills, groups participated in a series of team-building initiatives. For example, they would have to get their entire group across the creek using a rope swing or they'd have to get everyone over a wall. The culmination was the traditional trust fall, where all team members take their turns falling backwards from a platform into the locked arms of their teammates. All of these adventures added together created a very bonding experience for the seniors.

Seniors studied The Great Controversy chapters that deal with end-time events. "It really helped us realize the nearness of God's coming," says Crystal Kablanow. "With time being so short, our focus shouldn't be on worldly things but on our relationship with God and on helping others to know Him better. It helped us see that the way we've been living our lives has been shallow in comparison to what God has planned for us."

Cheri Corder, UCA GLEANER correspondent

Christmas Brunch
a Sabbath School Outreach

I have to admit that I was a bit reluctant to plan a Christmas brunch instead of having a regular Sabbath School. But now, I feel very secure and I am anxious to do it again.

Last Christmas, the Eastgate Sabbath School decided to reach out to missing members, friends and neighbors by inviting them to a Christmas brunch at the church. The Sabbath School classes contributed fruit, festive breads, and hot and cold drinks. A Tater Tot casserole was catered by a local hospital. Tables were decorated with seasonal decorations, and the church youth served the guests.

As people arrived at 9:30 a.m., they went directly to the brunch. After the brunch, the group went quietly to the sanctuary for a program presented by the children's divisions. Many of our non-attending members were present, and the church was crowded. This was one of the best outreach activities our church has participated in.

Shirley Peterson, Eastgate Church Sabbath School superintendent

The children's divisions put on a Christmas play during the church service.
New Faces at Walla Walla Valley Academy

Walla Walla Valley Academy (WWVA) welcomed three new faculty members this year: Cliff Dolph, Angela Oetman, and Keith Wells. Cliff Dolph teaches English, filling Rose Marie Walter’s vacated position. He has previously taught at Cascade Christian Academy, Walla Walla College and Walla Walla Community College. His most recent employment was at Coffey Communications as a copy editor and writer. He loves English because he believes that the ability to communicate is central to life. “Teaching English,” he says, “is opening new worlds and ideas.”

Angela Oetman is replacing Cheryl Wren as development and alumni relations director. Among various other jobs, she has worked at Walla Walla College as a recruiter for two years. An alumnus of WWVA herself, she says the best part of her job will be “getting to know alumni and hearing their stories.” Her enthusiasm is evident as she exclaims, “This year I’m excited to see what God will do at WWVA. There are so many amazing possibilities.”

Keith Wells is joining our WWVA team as math teacher, replacing Roman Hintz. He and his wife, Jolene, and their two children have relocated from Prosser, Wash., where Wells taught for 10 years. He hopes to inspire knowledge of and respect for the power of math in his students. He explains, “I want them to see the greatness of the universe and how it all works.”

Here at WWVA, the school year will be full of new adventures and challenges, and we are excited to face them because, as Oetman says, “There are so many amazing possibilities.”

Jaci Toews, student correspondent

African Themed VBS
a Success in Pendleton

Scenes of the African savanna greeted youngsters at Vacation Bible School in Pendleton, Ore., the week of June 20–24, making the church an exciting learning environment. Of 67 total children registered, 27 had some kind of Adventist affiliation. Attendance averaged 55.

Leader Suzette McCrary, with assistants Sandra Hendrickson and Dana Martin, used the “Serengeti Trek” program materials. Andrew McCrary, Pendleton pastor, dressed in safari attire as “Serengeti Eddie,” the goofy world-class wildlife photographer, provided skits with important lessons. Altogether, more than 30 helpers worked on various aspects of the program throughout the week.

On Sabbath, June 25, leaders invited the kids and their families to the Serengeti Trek open house, followed by a grand finale program. For the open house the kids took their parents on tours through the prison where Paul and Silas were in jail, the Garden of Gethsemane with Jesus’ tomb in it, the Critter Craft room, and the Watering Hole where each day’s tasty snacks were made.

VBS kids carefully assemble their projects in the Critter Craft room during the Segengeti Trek program.

Approximately 245 attended the open house/grand finale program. Parents saw the daily lessons their children had learned, sang their songs, and watched a skit, featuring “Serengeti Eddie,” who wanted to pet the wild animals. Andrew McCrary concluded the program with a short talk, including a story about Herbert the Hippo, telling how wonderful heaven will be.

Suzette McCrary, Pendleton Church VBS director, with Nadine Messer, communication leader
Adventurer Family Campout

Travelers from Athens, a reluctant disciple, and a jailbreaking cat kept children spellbound at the 10th annual Adventurer Family Campout. This year’s campout, held at Sunset Lake Sept. 23–25, was attended by 138 Adventurers and their parents from across the conference and as far away as Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

The weekend, themed “My Bible Friends,” featured the storytelling and costuming talents of Lucy Neuharth. Neuharth is a professional seamstress and has designed Bible costumes for the 3ABN program, “Kid’s Time.” Her stories, told in costume, were a favorite of both children and parents. Also assisting her with a series of dramatic monologues on the disciples was David Yeagley, Washington Conference youth director.

Because Adventurer clubs are based on parent involvement, a wide variety of activities were scheduled to give clubs and families opportunities for fun and fellowship. Hayrides, bonfires, games, a treasure hunt, crafts, and canoeing were just some of the options to choose from. For parents, it was a great weekend to create memories with their children. “It’s been a long time since I’ve been able to spend so much one-on-one time with my child,” one parent enthusiastically remarked.

Elizabeth Lake, Washington Conference Adventurer coordinator, is enthusiastic about the growth of the organization within Washington. “Because of the recent training events held in the area by the North American Division and the conference, interest in Adventurers is at an all-time high,” she said. “This year alone, we have welcomed five new clubs to the Adventurer family.”

For more information on Adventurer clubs in the Washington Conference, or if you are interested in starting a club in your church, contact David Yeagley at (253) 681-6008.

David Yeagley, Washington Conference youth director

Pathfinder Camporee
Hot Rods, Geocaching and Much More

Hot dogs and hot rods were the order of the day as nearly 400 Pathfinders from across the Washington Conference gathered in Packwood, Wash., for their annual camporee Sept. 16–18. The weekend of camping and fellowship helped to kick off a new Pathfinder year.

This year’s theme, “Experience the Victory,” was chosen to point Pathfinders to the ultimate victory that is found in Jesus. Tobin Dodge, Bremerton Church youth pastor, was the featured speaker for the weekend. His interactive presentations brought young people together in a unique way, leading them to the foot of the cross. A highlight of this year’s camporee was a special appearance by the Adventist Rodder’s Club. Members of the club brought nine cars for the Pathfinders to see and shared both their love of cars and their love of Jesus.

Other activities for the weekend included a compass course, geocaching, and a series of Sunday morning games with a DNR fire crew. In addition, clubs were given time to enjoy the rich natural beauty of the area with trips to Mt. Rainier National Park and Mt. St. Helens.

This year’s camporee provided the 20 clubs that attended with a great time to network and encourage one another. “I’m excited about the future of Pathfinders in the Washington Conference,” said Jim Field, area coordinator and camporee director. “With three new clubs and a strong group of coordinators and directors, we are positioned for growth in the coming year.”

For more information on Pathfinders in the Washington Conference or if you are interested in starting a club in your church, contact David Yeagley at (253) 681-6008.

David Yeagley
Walk Through Bethlehem
in Lynden, Washington

Can a small church dream big? Open Door Fellowship in Lynden, Wash., thinks so. Three years ago, this small group set out to share the true meaning of Christmas with their community.

For four days, Dec. 8–11, Open Door will be hosting their third annual Walk Through Bethlehem. This more than 300-foot replica of the streets of Bethlehem during Jesus’ time boasts shepherds, a tax collector, Roman guards, shops and crafters’ booths, and even a temple. Visitors are greeted by a tour guide, supplied with coins to pay their taxes, and taken on a tour of the city. They can experience the sounds, smells, and tastes that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus might have experienced.

Our goal is to help visitors sense the reality of Christmas physically, emotionally, and spiritually by being transported back in time to the place where it all began. This family event is free of charge, refreshments are provided, and donations are gladly accepted.

For more information or driving directions, call (360) 354-1447; or visit the Open Door Fellowship’s Web site at www.myopendoor.org.

Sara O’Connor, Open Door Fellowship development committee member

Giving the Gift of Life

Give life. Give hope. Give blood. This is the motto of the Puget Sound Blood Center as it encourages community members to give blood. It is this same challenge that the students and faculty of Auburn Adventist Academy took on as they rolled up their sleeves to save lives. Sept. 22 marked the first school blood drive at AAA in almost seven years.

“Our goal was to get 50 people from the academy to donate blood,” said Kelly Kraus, AAA health services director and organizer of the blood drive. “In the end, we actually had 103 people sign up!”

Throughout the day a steady stream of students and faculty headed to the gymnasium, where the blood drive was being held. By the end of the blood drive, nearly one-third of the student body had participated. For a few, the motivation to give blood was aided by extra credit in class and the promise of cookies and juice afterward. However, most were motivated by the desire to make a difference in the community.

Senior Sarah Higman gave blood, although she doesn’t like needles.

Senior Sarah Higman gave blood, although she doesn’t like needles.

Kelly Kraus, AAA health services director, organized the blood drive.

The blood given by Auburn Adventist Academy will stay in western Washington and serve more than 70 hospitals and clinics in the 14-county region.

Jondelle McGhee, AAA GLEANER correspondent
Northwest Marriage Retreat

a Success

Fifty-five couples attended the one-day marriage retreat held at PSAA, which was held Sept. 17 at the Bellevue Hyatt Regency. Sponsored by the North Pacific Union and the Washington Conference, and planned by the North American Division family life department, this special retreat featured Willie Oliver, North American Division family ministries director, as the event moderator. Allan and Deirdre Martin, Celebration (Fla.) Church pastoral couple, and Mike and Gayle Tucker, Arlington (Texas) Church pastors, were the session presenters. Mike Tucker is also the speaker for Faith for Today. Both couples have a rich history of both pastoral ministry and family therapy.

The presentations were informational, personal and humorous as couples were drawn in by the presenters and given a picture of how to tune up and strengthen their marriages. Couples were also given exercises that enabled them to put into practice what they had just learned. Many of the couples expressed appreciation for the opportunity to come and focus on their marriages and God’s plan for their lives.

Doug Bing, Washington Conference vice president

Washington Conference Session

AUBURN ACADEMY CHURCH
5010 AUBURN WAY S.
AUBURN, WA 98092-7204
APRIL 9, 2006

In accordance with our constitution and bylaws, notice is hereby given that the Washington Conference will hold its regular quadrennial conference session on Sunday, April 9, 2006. We are inviting all churches to submit suggested session agenda items to the conference by Jan. 9, 2006. All recommendations should be processed through the local church board.

They will be reviewed by the Lay Advisory Council and then sent as recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will establish the recommended agenda for the constituency session.

John Freedman, president
Doug Bing, vice president
Changing the System
A WWC Social Work Student with an Inside View

Jeff Lawson grew up in the foster-care system. Or perhaps more accurately, Jeff Lawson grew up despite the foster-care system. Now the Walla Walla College senior social work and religion major is determined to keep what happened to him from happening to other children.

Lawson recently joined Republican Congressman Tom DeLay and other notable politicians at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a one-of-a-kind foster-care community in Texas called Oaks of Rio Bend, spearheaded by DeLay. "I have personally seen the good, the bad, and the ugly in this system, and can say I would have given my right arm for a place like Rio Bend," Lawson said to a standing ovation from the crowd gathered for the grand opening.

His first six years were spent with an abusive mother before he was placed into the foster-care system where he spent the next 12 years shuttling between 40 to 50 different group homes. When he was released from the system at 18, Lawson describes himself as "ill-prepared for adult life." He received his GED, then joined the Job Corps in Kentucky where he became acquainted with Seventh-day Adventists and decided to attend an Adventist college.

Lawson chose Walla Walla College, but was forced to postpone his enrollment for financial reasons related to his foster-care records. Around that time, a random e-mail led to his involvement with DeLay, his wife, Christine, and his senior policy adviser Cassie Bevan, who has since become Lawson's godmother and who also helped obtain those needed records.

Lawson hopes to intern with DeLay, inspired by DeLay's commitment to foster children. The DeLays have been foster parents for many years, and the opening of the Rio Bend community is the fulfillment of a dream for the couple. The community, built and maintained by money raised by the DeLay Foundation for Kids, will serve as permanent, caring homes for the children, so they don't have to move from place to place. It will also provide a home for them to return to after "graduating" from the foster-care system. Eventually Rio Bend will house a total of 192 children in what DeLay describes as a "faith-based community."

Being involved with the project has been inspirational for Lawson. He's now seen both sides of the foster-care system and plans to use his personal experience, education, and political contacts to change it from within.

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Welcome Back Bash
Kicks Off New Year at WWC

Walla Walla College recently welcomed its students back to campus for the new academic year.

Fall quarter at WWC begins with JumpStart, a week of orientation and activities for new students, but the year really kicks off with the Welcome Back Bash, a time for students to meet, mingle, and become acquainted with the various clubs and organizations on campus. "The Welcome Back Bash is a great way to start off the year. Whether you've been on campus two weeks or two hours you're bound to run into friends you haven't seen in awhile," says Jonny Schneider, president of the Associated Students of Walla Walla College, which sponsors the event.

Senior elementary education major Brittany Skeoch joins friends at the annual Welcome Back Bash.

Kristi Spurgeon, WWC GLEANER correspondent
Healing Hands
The Power of Touch

I had never really thought about the importance of my hands until recently. At Tillamook County General Hospital, where I work as a chaplain, each year we honor our nursing staff and ask God to bless their hands in conjunction with National Nurses Week.

As I thought about those who would participate in our Blessing of the Hands ceremony, I wondered what I could say that would make a lasting impact on their lives. What I didn't realize was that the story I shared would change my way of thinking about my own hands.

A Devastating Loss
About 20 years ago in Los Angeles, Calif., I met a young man, Juan,* who hailed from my homeland of El Salvador. I noticed immediately that he didn't have any hands. One day he shared his incredible story with me.

As Juan was headed to church with a cousin, four men—one of them his uncle—ambushed them and demanded that the two young men join the country's rebel cause or die. Juan's cousin attempted to run away and was killed on the spot. Juan fell at his uncle's feet and begged for his life, but the other men kept yelling at his uncle to kill Juan.

"I saw the machete coming down toward my head," Juan recalled. "I lifted up my hands to cover my head and immediately felt something warm running down my body. I realized it was blood from my severed limbs."

When Juan's uncle saw that he had missed Juan's head and cut off both his hands, he panicked. As Juan lay on the ground crying, his uncle and the other men ran away.

A Renewed Appreciation
Through Juan, God led me to seriously think about my own hands and what a blessing they are to me! How important are your hands to you? So many times we use them without thinking, taking them for granted. We forget that our hands are a gift from our Creator, and what we do with them affects our lives and those of others.

Everyday our hospital, hospice and home-care nursing staff members impact patients' lives. Their healing touch—along with that of our physicians, chaplains and other staff members—is a blessing to our patients as reflected by the comments we receive. I hear things like: "I love the nurses at this hospital, they are so wonderful," and "I appreciate the thoughtfulness of your hospice and home-care nurses."

As a chaplain, I have the privilege of talking with a lot of patients and their families, both in our hospital and out in the community. During these encounters, I shake hands, I offer a reassuring touch, or I hold hands. I have found that a simple touch can be very healing. Our hands may not heal every physical illness, but our hands are making a big difference in the lives that we touch.

Today, thank God for your hands and what they can do, for they are a blessing. •

* Juan is a pseudonym

Danny Parada, Tillamook County General Hospital chaplain
Ames 60th
Roy and Rubye Ames recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a brunch hosted by their children.

Roy Ames married Rubye Kinman, June 3, 1945, in Wichita Falls, Texas, while he was in the army. They have lived most of their married life in Valley, Wash., and raised their children in various rural locations. Roy farmed and logged, and Rubye stayed busy with homemaking and also served as manager of a local retirement home. Both have been very actively involved in the Chewelah Church.


Bennett 50th
Fred and Jane Bennett, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a June 12, 2005, reception at Walla Walla Valley Academy, hosted by their children in conjunction with their granddaughter’s wedding reception.

Fred Bennett and Jane Ann Schlader met at Walla Walla College and were married June 12, 1955, in Puyallup, Wash.

After spending six years at the Bremerton Naval Yard, Fred became professor of engineering at Walla Walla College for 38 years. During those years he also served his community on the Walla Walla General Hospital board, the College Place fire and ambulance departments, and the Walla Walla County Port Commission. Once their youngest child started school, Jane Ann worked for 27 years at Walla Walla Valley Academy as assistant to the treasurer and registrar.

The Bennett family includes Janna and Leonard Quaile of Pendleton, Ore.; Fred E. Bennett of College Place, Wash.; George and Jeannine (Ringering) Bennett of Walla Walla, Wash.; Carol and Randy Bovee of Days Creek, Ore.; and 10 grandchildren.

Carrier 90th
Clara Carrier celebrated her 90th birthday with family at the home of her daughter. Clara was born to John and Lydia Guenther, Sept. 4, 1915. She is one of the eldest of six sisters and one brother. She married William H. Carrier Jan. 7, 1940, in Grandview, Wash. They were married 53 years, and together they worked her parents’ family farm. William passed away May of 1993. At 90, Clara still cans her fruit, bakes bread and has a small garden. She has been a member of the Grandview Church all her life.

The Carrier family includes: Janet and Brian Diehm, Bill Carrier, 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Meyer 70th
Milton and Ann Meyer of Indian Valley, Idaho, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with family and friends on Aug. 21, 2005, with a reception hosted by their children at the Vendome Events Center in Weiser, Idaho.

Milton Meyer and Ann Kachuck were married by Elder H. L. Wallace, their Bible teacher from Lodi Academy. The ceremony took place in the family home in Galt, Calif., at 6 a.m. the morning of Aug. 21, 1935, after Milton had milked the family cows on the Meyer dairy farm. Both families were there at that early hour, and the happy couple left for the day. They hurried to be back the next morning for milking. Milton and Ann have owned and operated a dairy and then a cattle ranch for most of their 70 years together. Ann operated a shelter home for the aged for 40 years. They are still very active. Milton cuts all the hay on the family ranch that their son Mickey now operates near Weiser. Ann is busy crocheting rag rugs for the members of their large family.

The Meyer family includes: Mickey and Verdene (Libby) Meyer of Indian Valley; Monte Meyer of Sacramento, Calif.; and Clinton and Marcia Jones of Coldwater, Mich.; 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Owen 50th
Don and LaVonne Owen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 1, 2005, with an open house at the Redmond Church Community Service Center. Don Owen and LaVonne Van Tassel were married May 1, 1955, in Redmond, Ore. Don worked as a dairy hand, logger, and spent 21 years as a literature evangelist in Upper Columbia Conference. LaVonne worked as a teacher’s aid and librarian. Don retired in 1984, and LaVonne in 1993. Don is active at the Redmond Community Service Center, and LaVonne volunteers as a librarian at the Three Sisters Adventist School.

The Owen family includes Keith and Gale Owen of Salem, Ore.; Kimdel Owen of Redmond, Ore.; Keryl Owen of Seattle, Wash.; 7 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Syphers 60th
Kenneth and Charlotte Syphers of Sequim, Wash., celebrated their 60th anniversary on Jan. 11, 2005.

Kenneth Syphers married Charlotte Schlehuber on Jan. 11, 1945, in the home of Elder Frances Berg in Walla Walla, Wash. Through the years they have worked in the Walla Walla Valley, at Columbia Academy, at Auburn Academy, and at Glendale Adventist Hospital in California. They also spent nine...
Family

**MILESTONES**

![Kenneth and Charlotte Syphers](image)

Kenneth has been involved in facility maintenance, and Charlotte in education. Currently they are retired in Sequim.

The Syphers family includes: Keith and Debbie (Lunde) Syphers of Lummi Island, Wash.; Carolyn and LeRoy Byers of Glei, Togo; 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**Winton 90th**

Nina Winton celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends at the Hockinson Heights (Wash.) Church where she is a charter member.

Born Nina A. Young on July 11, 1915, in Hewitt, Minn., she married Forrest Winton on June 25, 1941. They made their home in Hewitt, spent a couple of years in Pendleton, Ore., and a few months in McClaskey, N.D., before moving to Lincoln, Neb., in 1952 to be near the Adventist schools. They moved to the Northwest in 1962 and enjoyed 26 more years together. Nina traveled with the Sabbath School workshop program for many years. Her occupation was housekeeping, which she did until her mid 80s when she started to lose her sight. She also worked for many years at United Medical Labs, keeping up with her housekeeping clients in the evenings.

The Winton family includes Norman and Linda (Cassebaum) Winton and Gloria and the late Bill Treanton all of Vancouver, Wash.; 8 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAMILY</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BIRTHS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DAVIDSON — Andrew was born Nov. 20, 2004, to Steven and Valerie (State) Davidson, College Place, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOMINGUEZ — Samuel A. was born Aug. 12, 2005, to Antonio and Jil (Hanson) Dominguez, Clackamas, Ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOULD — Trenton L. was born Aug. 19, 2005, to Jason and Renea (Samborski) Gould, Milwaukie, Ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JONES — Ekaterina “Katya” Jones, born March 20, 2005, to Kelly and Ella (Motovilova) Jones, Wenaschee, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAUDERDALE — Andrew J. H. was born July 27, 2005, to Bryon and Jasmine (Dowler) Lauderdale, Battle Ground, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINDERMANN — Jonellie P. was born June 19, 2005, to Jonathan and Kimarie (Terry) Lindermann, Ronan, Mont.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDAVARAPU — Graham Walker was born Jan. 20, 2005, to Saker and Lucinda (Carlson) Medavarapu, Lewiston, Idaho.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDDLETON — Damyann M. was born Sept. 12, 2005, to David and Valerie (Lien) Middleton, Pablo, Mont.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOONEY — Kianna Rylee was born Sept. 12, 2005, to Derek and Brigitte (Way) Mooney, Hermiston, Ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEKO — Talia Kay Janice Tulimalotii was born July 23, 2005, to Jared Peko and Jessica Rose, Clarkston, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRATT — Eric L. was born Aug. 14, 2005, to Bruce and Bethany (Willison) Pratt, Corvallis, Ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRINCE — Bruce L. was born Sept. 8, 2005, to Bruce and Rebaca (Ferguson) Prince, Bellingham, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHURTLLIFF — Nathaniel Douglas was born Sept. 10, 2005, to Chris and Heather (Ferguson) Shurtliff, Ogden, Utah.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FAMILY**

| **WEDDINGS** |
| AALTONEN-HANING — Erica Aaltonen and Christopher Haning were married July 21, 2005, in Oregon City, Ore. They are making their home in West Linn, Ore. Erica is the daughter of John and Sharon (Hanley) Aaltonen. Christopher is the son of Flip and Linda Jennings and Dennise (Demalone) Haning. |
| ADAMS-VOLKOV — Alyssa Adams and Joshua Volkov were married July 17, 2005, in Sutherlin, Ore. They are making their home in Sacramento, Calif. Alyssa is the daughter of Alan and Yvonne Adams. Joshua is the son of Linda Powell and the late John Volkov. |

**GUIDELINES**

Information to include: baby’s full name; birth date; parents’ first and last names including wife’s maiden name, and city/state of residence, contact’s name and daytime phone number. Submit online form or print out PDF form from www.GLEANERonline.org > Contributor’s Information and mail it. Corrections will only be made in the GLEANERonline edition listings.

**NOVEMBER 2005 • GLEANER 35**
FARRELL-HENDERSON—Katrina R. Farrell and Jason A. Henderson were married March 20, 2005, in Brush Prairie, Wash. They are making their home in Vancouver, Wash. Katrina is the daughter of Marc and Ned Fristad and Phillip and Becky Farrell. Jason is the son of Denise and Michael Hittle and Ed Henderson.

FERGUSON-CHENEY—Marti J. Ferguson and Gregory Scott Cheney were married Aug. 14, 2005, in Vancouver, Wash. They are making their home in Alexandria, Va. Mari is the daughter of John and Margo Ferguson. Gregory is the son of Leon and Carla Cheney.

FITZPATRICK-ANDERSON—Ruth Fitzpatrick and Donald Robert Anderson were married June 26, 2005, in St. Helena, Calif. They are making their home in Seoul, Korea. Ruth is the daughter of Roy and Janice Fitzpatrick. Donald is the son of Howard and Lorraine Anderson.

JOHNSON-KREIGER—Amber L. Johnson and Chad R. Kreiger were married June 19, 2005, in Pacific City, Ore. The couple is making their home in Eugene, Ore. Amber is the daughter of Doyle and Jackie Johnson. Chad is the son of Ron and Julie Kreiger.

MAINVILLE-MADRIGAL—Darcy Mainville and Kendall Madrigal were married Aug. 21, 2005, in Kananaskis Village, Alberta, Canada. They are making their home in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Darcy is the daughter of George and June (Brock) Mainville. Kendall is the son of Wendy (Pflugrad) Madrigal.

MARLATTE-KORT—Lindsey Marlatte and Jonathan Kort were married Feb. 20, 2005, in Lincoln City, Ore. They are making their home in College Place, Wash.

MCParLAND-HERMENS—Sheena L. McParland and Benjamin J. Hermens were married July 10, 2005, in Corvallis, Ore., where they are making their home. Sheena is the daughter of Reg and Laura McParland. Benjamin is the son of John and Debra Hermens.

NEUMAN-Sperry—Andree Neuman and Dave Sperry were married July 29, 2005, in San Antonio, Texas. They are making their home in southern California. Andree is the daughter of David and Myra Neuman. Dave is the son of Pam and Dennis White and Dave and Cindy Sperry.

NORMAN-SCHAAK—Janet U. Norman and Steven M. Schaan were married March 20, 2005, in Billings, Mont., where they are making their home. Janet is the daughter of Sandra and Charles Stringer. Steven is the son of Betty and the late A. Duane Schaan.

Quaire-MEHARRY—Jannetta Quaire and Jared Meharry were married June 12, 2005, in Walla Walla, Wash. They are making their home in Goldendale, Wash. Jannetta is the daughter of Leonard and Janna (Bennett) Quaire. Jared is the son of Steve and Sheila (CrumpacKer) Meharry.

REIBER-KYLE—Jennifer L. Reiber and Michael D. Kyle were married July 9, 2005, in Walla Walla, Wash. They are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif. Jennifer is the daughter of Gary and Grace (Dubrovay) Reiber. Michael is the son of Jerry and Patti (Riise) Kyle.

ROBINSON-Spencer—Dalena Robinson and Bennett Spencer were married July 3, 2005, in Days Creek, Ore. They are making their home in St. Paul, Minn. Dalena is the daughter of David and Ulena Robinson. Bennett is the son of David and Beverly Spencer.

STEELE-PALMER—Jessica Steele and Steven Palmer were married March 19, 2005, in Lincoln City, Ore. They are making their home in Walla Walla, Wash.

WILLIAMS-Gagliardi—Misty M. Williams and David M. Gagliardi were married Jan. 29, 2005, in Charleston, S.C. They are making their home in Las Vegas, Nev. Misty is the daughter of Marcinda Ramban and Kendal Williams. David is the son of Frank and Carol Gagliardi.

Guidelines:

Information to include: couple’s first and last names including the bride’s maiden name (and previous married name); wedding date and location; full names (including mothers’ maiden names) of the couple’s parents (and step-parents); contact’s name and daytime phone number. Submit the online form or print out a PDF form at www.GLEANERonline.org > Contributor’s Information and mail it. Corrections will only be made in the GLEANERonline edition listings.


GORTON—Delores E. (Dayton), 85; born Nov. 22, 1919, Sergeant Bluff, Iowa; died June 13, 2005, McMinnville, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Darlene Michael, Pat Peterson and Joyce Kline, all of McMinnville; Nancy Springer, Carlton, Ore.; Debbie Nelson, Fredonia, Wis.; 18 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.


GREENE—Robert L., 62; born Nov. 27, 1942, Compton, Calif.; died May 20, 2005, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: wife, Margaret (Vaughan); son, Nathan, Gresham; daughter, Shanna Greene, Portland, Ore.; and a grandchild.

HANSEN—Velma V. (McComas), 91; born March 7, 1914, Downs, Kan.; died Sept. 6, 2005, College Place, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Terri Koch, College Place, Wash.; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.


KEEFE—Wesley J., 91; born Jan. 25, 1914, Holbrook, Mass.;


VORIES—Steve, 50; born Dec. 7, 1954, Walla Walla, Wash.; died Aug. 25, 2005, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Sylvia (Werner); son, Jason, College Place; daughter, Sara Vories, College Place; mother, Barbara (Merklin) Vories, College Place; brothers, Don, College Place; Dennis, Valley Center, Calif.; and sister, Susan Joice, Kent, Wash.


ZIMMERMAN—John S., 89; born Sept. 8, 1915, Bowmont, Idaho; died Sept. 5, 2005, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Virginia (Satern); sons, Robert, Auburn, Wash.; Steven, La Grande, Ore.; daughter, Joann Zimmerman, Marion, Ill.; 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

ZOLLBRECHT—Pauline (Maier), 94; born Sept. 21, 1910, Munich, Germany; died July 10, 2005, Monroe, Wash. Surviving: sons, John, Woodinville, Wash.; Henry, Oregon City, Ore.; daughter, Margaret Branson, Duvall, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.
NPUC
Offerings
Nov. 5—Local Church Budget; Nov. 12—World Budget: Annual Sacrifice; Nov. 19—Local Church Budget; Nov. 26—Local Conference Advance; Dec. 3—Local Church Budget.

Special Days
Nov. 5–26—Native Heritage Month; Nov. 5—Stewardship Sabbath; Nov. 6–12—Week of Prayer; Nov. 19—Human Relations Sabbath; Nov. 26—Welcome Home Sabbath; Dec. 3—Bible Sabbath.

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE
Nov. 12—Evensong, 4 p.m., Walla Walla College Church, a medley of music and words; Nov. 13—Distinguished Faculty Lecture with Bev Beem, 7 p.m., Fine Arts Center; Nov. 20–27—Thanksgiving vacation.

OREGON
LAA Alumni Weekend
Nov. 4–9—Livingstone Adventist Academy homecoming at 5771 N.E. Fruitland Road N.E., Salem Ore. Programs start on Friday evening at 7 p.m. and Sabbath at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be served after church—meal tickets can be purchased at the school or by calling (503) 363-9408.

Oregon SAGE Activities
Nov. 6—Tour of Noah's Ark building and sanctuary model located just south of Roseburg; Dec. 4—Christmas dinner at Gladstone, followed by tour of "Follow the Star"; Jan. 14—Seaside church service, potluck and attendance at barbershop quartet program; Feb. 12—Valentine luncheon at the Monarch Conference Center in Portland. For information, contact Wynn Knowling at (503) 558-8352.

Beaverton Adventist Singles Activity
Nov. 12—Church fellowship dinner, 12:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to share, with enough food for yourself and others. Help us bless the elderly with singing at a nearby facility at 3 p.m. Then stick around for vespers and then a progressive dinner. We will meet at the Beaverton Adventist Church fellowship hall at 5 p.m., where we can carpool to the first house for vespers and salad, then on to other homes for the main course, and then dessert and fun games. For more information, please contact Tom at (503) 684-7971; or Charlotte at (503) 579-9549. Bring a game if you have a good one for a group.

Sunrise Symphony Orchestra
Nov. 5—The Sunrise Symphony Orchestra, directed by Travis Hatton, will present works by Beethoven and Vaughan Williams at 4 p.m. at Sunnyside Church, 1501 S.E. Markot St., Portland, Ore. For information, call (503) 252-8080.

Renton Concert
Nov. 19—Internationally known Christian recording artist and record producer, Jim McDonald, will be presenting a concert at 6:30 p.m. at the Renton Church, 1031 Monroe Ave. N.E., Renton, Wash. Admission is free and open to the public. Call (425) 226-0490, or visit the Web at www.rentoncsa.com.

WASHINGTN
Washington Conference SAGE Events
Dec. 3—a representatives’ meeting with vespers and potluck at 4:30 p.m. at Emerald City Church in Seattle, followed by a “Holiday Classics” concert at Benaroya Hall in Seattle at 8 p.m. Dec. 18—SAGE will hold a Christmas party for needy children. For information regarding these events, please call Joan Libby at (253) 681-6008.

Columbia Adventist Academy Presents
Performances of “The Prince and the Pauper” in the CAA music auditorium are Saturday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 20, at 2 and 5 p.m., and Monday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. Tickets are available through the CAA office (503) 687-3161. Seating is limited! Donations for the music department in lieu of attending, gladly accepted.

UPPER COLUMBIA
Eastgate Missing Members
Walla Walla Eastgate Adventist Church is looking for: Chris Baldasare, Ards Hough, William Greer, Christina Lockwood, Jon Mattice, James Moreno, Dan Nelson, Amber Nelson, Roger Robanske, Robin Smith, Krista Wells, Donald Woodman, Gerald Bellinger, Patricia Flores, Fred Gareis, Tina Newman, and Bud Robinson. Anyone with information regarding them, please contact Yvonne Jackson at P.O. Box 93, Prescott, WA 99348; or Walla Walla Eastgate Adventist Church, 380 Tausic Way, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard Dower, Editor

[Signatures and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner]

[Date] 9/29/05

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WALLA WALLA COLLEGE job opportunities: Please visit www.wwc.edu/hr.

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