Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.

Luke 6:44 (NIV)

Merry Christmas Holly Berries with Snow was photographed by Margaret Annala of Hood River, Oregon.
Hands of Service

More a Lifestyle Than an Assignment

Season's Greetings from the GLEANER editorial staff, from left: Desiree Lockwood, advertising and circulation manager; Richard Dower, editor; Todd Gessele, Northwest Spotlight on Mission producer; Nadine Dower, managing and online editor; Steve Vistaunet, consulting editor.

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When Black Leather and Bible Meet

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Family
Announcements

SUBMISSIONS—Timely announcements, features, news stories and family notices for publication in the GLEANER may be submitted directly to the copy coordinator at the address listed to the left. Material sent directly to local conference correspondents may be forwarded to the GLEANER.

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The story is told of a little guy who was given two quarters before going to church. One, he was told, was for Jesus. One was for him. As he was crossing the street, one slipped out of his hand and rolled down a drain. “Well,” said the little boy, “that’s too bad. I just lost Jesus’ quarter!”

How often have adults, when faced by financial challenges, reacted in the same way by essentially saying, “Sorry God, I don’t have enough money to return my tithe and offerings right now.”

But God is very specific. He calls it “robbery” when we don’t return our tithe and offerings (Malachi 3). In fact He even goes further. Putting it into a place of our choice is not good enough. He says to return the tithe to the storehouse. Is He particular? If you believe the Bible where Malachi calls it robbery, or a later prophet who says, “To defraud God is the greatest crime of which men can be guilty,” (Ellen G. White, Review and Herald, October 13, 1896) then He most certainly is.

**America’s Greatest Sins**

Billy Graham said in his sermon, Partners with God, “One of the greatest sins in America today is the fact that we are robbing God of that which rightfully belongs to Him. Actually, we are not giving when we give God one-tenth, for it is a debt we owe. Not until we have given a tenth do we actually begin giving an offering to the Lord!”

But no one should give out of fear, guilt, or even obligation. For “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Millions of Christians of all denominations will gladly testify to the fact that, miraculously, nine-tenths of our money goes farther when paying tithe than ten-tenths when we don’t. And it is interesting that many began paying tithe, not when they could afford it but when they were poor.

**Success Stories**

John D. Rockefeller said, “I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithe my first salary, which was $1.50 a week.”

He articulated the sentiments of other tithe payers and offering givers whose names you recognize: Henry P. Crowell, founder of Quaker Oats; William C. Colgate, founder of Colgate soaps, etc.; Harley Proctor, one of the founders of Proctor and Gamble; Albert A. Hyde founder of Mentholatum; Mathias W. Baldwin, founder of Baldwin Locomotive Works; James C. Penney, founder of JC Penney stores. All these successful people could testify to the validity of God’s promise to pour out a blessing on those who faithfully return their tithes and offerings.

As we think of the Hewlett Packard motto of, “Do we know what we already know?” we should ask ourselves if in fact we know experientially what by faith God’s people have known since Old Testament times.

If you haven’t experienced this incredible blessing, I’d challenge you in God’s words, “‘Test me in this,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it’” (Malachi 3:10 NIV).

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**Jere Patzer, North Pacific Union Conference president, writes from Vancouver, Washington.**
The events of 2005 have called for an unprecedented response from individuals, nonprofit organizations and government to aid victims of the natural disasters. Americans have responded with record levels of charitable giving to assist those in need.

Now Congress has acted to encourage additional charitable giving during this critical time by changing income tax laws to help Americans fund relief efforts while continuing to support their traditional charitable interests.

The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 allows unlimited gifts to charity up to a donor’s total income until the end of 2005. These cash gifts must be made between August 28 and December 31, 2005, and all public charities will generally qualify.

The 2005 end-of-year gift is not limited to Katrina relief. An individual may make a 2005 end-of-year gift to qualified public charities for any purpose. A qualified charity is any entity that is allowed to receive tax-deductible contributions other than private foundations, donor advised funds, charitable remainder trusts, and similar gifts under which a donor retains income. These charities may also include churches, schools, conferences and institutions.

If you have questions, it is advisable to contact a certified public accountant or other licensed financial counselor for clarification.

Source: www.crescendointeractive.com

Tips for Giving Wisely

Tax-exempt organizations are the fastest growing sector in the U.S. economy. Over 76,000 new charities were created between 2003 and 2004. There are over 1.8 million nonprofit organizations, and the competition for funds has become intense.

1. Know your charity.
2. Find out where your dollars go.
3. Do not respond to pressure.
4. Keep records of your donations.
5. Remember: “tax-exempt” does not always mean “tax-deductible.”
6. Do not be misled by a charity’s familiar name.
7. Do not be enticed by emotional appeals.
8. Ask if the charity is registered by federal, state and/or local authorities.
10. Consider giving generously.

Source: www.charitywatch.org
Driving home from the office the other day while stopped at a traffic signal, I noticed a bumper sticker. The large words read, “VOLUNTEERING.” I eased a little closer to the other car to read the bottom line. It said, “All Work and No Pay.” Enjoying the humor of that message got me thinking about all the people it takes to make our churches work.

**The Church Treasurer**

The treasurer is a key leader in every church. Week after week he or she faithfully gets out the receipts, keeps the records, pays the bills and prepares reports. Agnes Colvin has given 40 years of untiring service as the Grand Ronde Church treasurer. She became the treasurer of the 60-member church in 1963. For those 40 years, she kept the church financial records in a ledger book. “They liked my work and wanted me to keep on doing it,” she says. A busy wife of a logger and farmer, mother of three and an office worker...

Harley Bagley says that it is his role as a Sabbath School teacher to challenge the class members to open their minds and think about their relationship with God.
for the Union Oil distributor in Willamina, Oregon, Agnes was also the home missionary secretary, head deaconess and the “flower girl,” often bringing flowers from her home.

“Her work has blessed us in so many ways,” says Ron Weamer, Grand Ronde and Sheridan Church pastor. “Yet how often does this essential member of the leadership team get recognition for all her efforts?”

The Elder
Harley Bagley is a building contractor, specializing in remodeling houses. He is also an elder of the 850-member Walla Walla City Church. He says his role is to support the pastor. Under the leadership of the pastor, the elders visit members, help coordinate the many church activities, attend the church board meetings and perform many other tasks.

Harley believes that the elders are spiritual leaders who lead more by example than by preaching. What is his example of servant leadership?


default

that Harley heard about a member who needed a new roof on his home. He quickly organized a team of volunteers, and within a few hours had the new shingles installed. He is constantly helping whenever he hears of a need.

Harley’s business allows him the opportunity to talk to a lot of people. He feels that the Holy Spirit prepares people so that he can interact with them, have prayer with them, or just listen. “I’ve come to the realization that you really don’t have to do a lot when you visit with people. Basically, you just have to listen. They will tell you what the problem is and how you can help. It takes the fear out of getting into situations.”

He says, “You never know where God can use you, and I am convinced that the Lord will give a lot of direction if we are willing to listen. I get a lot of joy out of doing what I do.”

The Youth Ministries Specialist
Diane Vyskocil is the children’s ministries/youth coordinator for the Bellingham (Washington) Church. She retired two years ago at the age of 68 from 29 years as a classroom teacher in the Blaine public schools, located just below the Canadian border.

Although retired, she still supervises teachers for their professional teacher certification from City University in Seattle and supervises Western Washington University (WWU) graduating seniors doing their student teaching in surrounding school districts.

Through the years, her work as a teacher and administrator has been with at-risk students. She has seen what happens to kids when they are not involved in a positive Christian experience that includes their social as well as their spiritual needs. “If you provide for their social needs, you will see them in church. I have not seen that to fail,” she says.

Her ministry to the youth of the Bellingham area began when she and her late husband Charles moved there about 30 years ago. They invited area youth, including Canadians, to their home on Friday evenings for tea and toast, singing and Bible discussions. These evolved into soup and salad suppers, then Sabbath dinners with conversations around the fireplace, mountain hikes, or cycling. Weekly gym nights and monthly family nights have grown in popularity with the six local churches and community members as well. Annual bus trips to conference rallies at Auburn and Sunset Lake are social and spiritual highlights for the youth.

Today, the ministry for the collegiate and career group at WWU may not involve large numbers but it is still important. On any given Sabbath, you will find young people from all levels participating in the church service. The Bellingham Church offers training for youth, including deacons, deaconesses and AV technicians.

The church members translate the “No Child Left Behind” motto to be equally important in the spiritual arena. There is a new Pathfinder program involving nearly 80 adults and children, ages four through the teens. “These kids need to have good role models,” Diane says. “It is very important for them to be exposed to character-building programs. Once you give them a chance, they really blossom and grow.”

The countless volunteers who fill positions of responsibility in our churches are essential to the mission of their churches. They testify that their service is really a lifestyle, not just an assignment.

For more information on Bellingham’s youth ministry, go to: www.myopendoor.org

Richard Dower, GLEANER editor, writes from Vancouver, Washington.
Gary Andregg accelerated smoothly as he left Townsend, Montana, the low rumble of his big Harley-Davidson motorcycle barely audible in his helmet. Behind Gary and the small tent camper he was towing, his wife, Karen, kept pace on her own powerful Harley.

Suddenly, a family of ducks crossed the road right in front of Gary, who slowed quickly. Before Karen knew what was happening, she hooked the back of the trailer with her saddlebag, throwing her out of control.

Feeling the bump, Gary looked back to see Karen hurtling down a 10-foot embankment before landing in a heap. Losing the battle to control his bike, Gary crashed just down the road.

A Unique Ministry

Long-time Adventist-Laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) members, the Andreggs were on their way from their Sandpoint, Idaho, home that fateful evening to the 2004 ASI convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. They had planned to visit Sturgis, South Dakota, on the way to help other Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA) members serve the famous motorcycle rally held there each year.

CMA members regularly attend motorcycle rallies and offer to help organizers, who are more than happy to have the alcohol-free CMA members take tickets, keep order, run food services and do many other tasks. CMA members are greeted like old friends by the rough-looking bikers at the annual rallies.

A Desire to Serve

The Andreggs’ commitment to service began long before they became two-wheeled ministers for Christ. After meeting at Gem State Academy and attending Walla Walla College, Gary and Karen married and moved to a number of small towns and rural communities in Washington, Idaho and Montana, where Gary worked as a nurse anesthetist.

While working in Shelby, Montana, the Andreggs helped their local church grow its membership and increase the enrollment in the church school. Gary also worked on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and flew his Beechcraft Bonanza to serve six remote Montana hospitals, sometimes all on the same day.

Two for the Road

Gary has been riding motorcycles most of his life, and he and Karen began going on road trips together after their last child graduated from academy in 1986. In the beginning, Karen rode with Gary on his “Hog.” But one
day Karen saw a gal ride by with her fringe flapping behind her.

She went back to the house and asked Gary, “Do you think I could ride one of those myself?”

“I don’t know why not!” was his enthusiastic reply.

Gary found her a Harley-Davidson Sportster, and, at age 61, Karen became a licensed motorcycle driver.

On the open road, they found that other motorcyclists were quite sociable and open to serious conversations. Over the years, they saw that there was a segment of society that no one was ministering to. When they heard of the Christian Motorcycle Association, they joined it and proudly added the association’s patch to their black leather jackets.

Gary and Karen have been awed as God leads them, in His perfect timing, to people who need Him. Karen says, “We do a lot of hugging, listening and encouraging, and at the end of the day, we are grateful the Lord put someone in our way to share with.”

While they gassed up on the way to a Montana camp meeting, another biker wearing the CMA patch came to fill up. Then another biker came in—a tough-looking, poorly dressed woman wearing an old army hat. “She just seemed like a little waif with a large tattoo on her arm,” Karen recalls.

Gary walked back to her and invited her to eat with them. “You’d never do that in a car, but bikers do that sort of thing,” he explains. “We’re programmed to look for opportunities like that.”

While they were eating, the other CMA member told the woman, “We belong to the Christian Motorcycle Association. We don’t thump you with the Bible; we don’t preach religion. We don’t shove it down your throat, but what we’re all about is to make sure you know about Jesus Christ.”

The other CMA biker, who turned out to be the Missoula chapter president, got the woman’s phone number and set a date to study the Bible with her. They had prayer for her before they parted.
Eighty-Five-Member Korean Church Builds $2.75 Million Ministry Center

By John Kriegelstein

How does a church with a membership of only 85 people build a new church worth $2.75 million in two years for a cost of just $1.5 million? It could only be done by prayer for God’s blessings, hard work, the generosity of people around the world, and the faithful leadership of Andrew Kim, Anchorage Korean Church pastor.

It was not uncommon to walk into the Alaska Conference office early in the morning and find Andrew on his knees at the front of the conference room praying. This room had been the temporary chapel for the Korean congregation for several years. More than once, Andrew had studied with potential members who had quit coming because they said the building was too far from where they lived, and it looked like an office, not a church. This broke Andrew’s heart. So each morning he prayed, “Lord, we need a church in the center of town so people will come to church.”
One day, Andrew was driving through the Midtown area of Anchorage and was surprised to see a newly placed “For Sale” sign on a prime piece of undeveloped property in the middle of a multi-unit residential area. He immediately contacted the real-estate agent and found out that the asking price was approximately one-half the price he expected to have to pay. After contacting the conference office, Andrew immediately agreed to the $195,000 price. By the end of the day, he had the necessary paperwork completed to seal the deal. That “For Sale” sign stood for only one day!

The foundation was laid two years ago, and the church was completed just one year later. Each weekend, approximately 30 Korean volunteers gathered on the work site. Not all the volunteers were Adventist members. The Anchorage Korean community has been watching the progress with interest, because Andrew has volunteered the use of the facility for public functions within the Korean community. The opening ceremony included recognition of the role of local Korean leaders in the success of the building project.

Korean church members have raised funds in some unusual ways. Each summer, Andrew and his wife, Audrey, and other church members have conducted Alaskan tours with the proceeds of these tours going to support the building project. The tours included a presentation of the dreams and needs of the Korean church in Anchorage. Often the presentation of the needs resulted in more donations to the building project than the proceeds of the tour fees. The new church has eight motel-style guest rooms, which will continue to be used to house guests visiting Alaska.

In order to save dollars, Andrew traveled to Korea and purchased pews, flooring, wall paneling, and ceiling tiles at a savings of 60 percent, including the cost of shipping! When the fire department added the requirement of installing a sprinkler system in the facility, a member came forward and offered to pay the $55,000 price tag. Donations have come from the North American Adventist Korean community. The outstanding mortgage on the project is only about $600,000 on an equity value of an estimated $2.75 million!

Andrew spent the first 27 years of his life in Seoul, Korea. He earned a B.S. degree in material science engineering, which he used in a business producing dental appliances. He is currently completing a master’s degree from Andrews University. While in Georgia, where he lived before coming to Alaska, he planted a new church that grew into a large congregation.

When the Kims moved from Georgia to Alaska in 1999, they were not employed full-time as a pastoral couple. To supplement his stipend pay, Andrew ran a dental appliance lab. But even with his part-time pastor’s salary, he continued his drive to grow congregations. Andrew did not receive a full-time pastor’s salary until 2004.

Audrey Kim struggled for more than a year with the move to Alaska. She admits that she did not like living in Alaska and really wanted to return to Georgia. Audrey wrote her story in a book written in Korean, titled I Love Alaska. The proceeds from her book have been donated to the church building project. More than $60,000 has been donated by those touched by Audrey’s story! This is much more than the revenue from the book.

At the urging of others, Audrey has contracted with someone to translate the book into English. She has been encouraged to write a second book describing “rest of the story.” Audrey has also obtained her realtor’s license and has dedicated her commissions to the building project.

The Anchorage Korean Adventist Church now faces two challenges. First, they want to quickly pay off the mortgage. Second, they wish to fill the 200 seats each Sabbath. Under the leadership of their humble pastor, there is no doubt their determination to be God’s light to the Korean community will continue to be blessed.

Jeanie Kriegelstein

The new Anchorage Korean Adventist Church sanctuary furnishings and paneling were purchased in Korea and shipped to the United States.

Members of the Korean choir joined the celebration as the Anchorage Korean Church opened its doors for the first time on Sabbath, September 24.

Jeanie Kriegelstein

Audrey and Andrew Kim, Anchorage Korean Church pastor, stand with the book Audrey wrote, titled I Love Alaska. The book has generated more than $60,000 in donations for their new church.

John Kriegelstein, Alaska Conference communication director, writes from Anchorage, Alaska.
Russian comedian Yakov Smirnoff tells a delightful story about choosing joy over sorrow—in spite of dreadful circumstances. His family arrived as immigrants in New York City. Too poor to buy groceries, they often skipped meals because the cupboards were bare.

Just before Christmas, Yakov landed a standup comedy gig that netted him a jackpot of $45! With a smiling heart and a heartfelt smile, he presented the money to his mom. She reverently handled the cash as if it were the Holy Grail. “We have so much for which to be thankful,” she exclaimed. “Now we have enough money to buy a turkey, a Christmas tree and one gift for everybody in the family. Wow! What a country!”

When she arrived at the grocery store, however, she discovered the money was missing. Panic swallowed her spirit. “Help!” she said to a nearby policeman. “I lost $45! Have you seen my money? It must have dropped out of my pocket. Help me! Please, help me!”

The policeman searched, but eventually resigned himself to the inevitable. “Ma’am, hate to tell you this, but you’re looking for a hamburger in a lion’s cage. It’s gone.”

“Thank you,” Mrs. Smirnoff said. “I’ll keep looking. And if you happen to find it, please, bring it to this address.”

Later, a teenage girl and a garbage man joined in the search. Unfortunately, they too failed to find the fortune. “Thank you. I’ll keep looking. And if you happen to find it, please, bring it to this address.”

The thought of telling her family felt like fire in the gut. Just as she feared, the family was excitedly awaiting her arrival when she came home—empty-handed. In tears, she reported the tragedy. It promised to be a very depressing Christmas.

Mrs. Smirnoff, however, refused to succumb to a complaining spirit. “Even though we don’t have anything for Christmas,” she said to her family, “we will still be thankful for what we have. Remember: you can always choose joy, no matter the circumstances. I’m thankful that we can live in America. Yakov, what are you thankful for?” One by one, all the family members shared something for which they were thankful. The very exercise breathed energy and joy into a wounded family.

On Christmas Eve, the doorbell rang. The same policeman who had searched for the money stood in the doorway sporting a 600-watt smile. “You’ll never believe what happened!” he said. “I was on duty tonight when I found the envelope of money you lost! It’s $45 just like you said.”

His news sparked an explosion of excitement in the Smirnoff family. They would celebrate Christmas with food and gifts after all!

Not a half-hour later the doorbell rang again. It was the teenager that had helped search for the money. “You’ll never believe what happened!” she said. “I was walking by the place where you lost your money, and I found it!” With that, she handed Mrs. Smirnoff $45 and disappeared quicker than an angel.

Fifteen minutes later, the doorbell rang again. This time the garbage man handed Mrs. Smirnoff a wad of cash. “I was collecting garbage in that section of downtown. Wouldn’t you know it—I found your money. Merry Christmas.”

Mrs. Smirnoff’s eyes started to leak as her trembling hand clutched the cash. “In every situation,” she sighed, “there is reason to rejoice.”

Karl Haffner, Walla Walla College Church senior pastor, writes from College Place, Washington.
The annual Maranatha convention was held Sept. 30–Oct. 1 at the Gladstone Park Convention Center in Oregon. Adventists in the Pacific Northwest came out in full force, filling the Holden Conference Center’s Mount Hood Auditorium to capacity.

In the wake of the recent hurricanes that ravaged the southern coast of the United States, the 2005 Maranatha convention organizers invited two representatives from the Gulf States region to discuss the storms’ impact on Adventist communities.

Joe Watts, Adventist Community Services (ACS) national disaster relief coordinator, discussed the severe damage suffered by several churches along the Gulf. According to Watts, the hurricane displaced one-third of the members from each of the Southwest Region and Arkansas-Louisiana conferences. Several churches were completely destroyed. Watts said ACS would like to collaborate with Maranatha in rebuilding or restoring those churches and in also reaching out and helping community members.

Mel Eisele, Gulf States Conference president, gave a detailed report on the destruction at Bass Memorial Academy in Mississippi and of the damage witnessed along the Gulf Coast. Most of the buildings at Bass were damaged, and some must be torn down and rebuilt. As they look into reconstruction, Eisele stated that volunteer help will be needed and welcomed.

The weekend program also focused on Maranatha’s ongoing efforts in Peru and India. Attendees responded generously to the weekend’s offering call, funding five churches in Peru, 10 churches in India, and a new community center and place of worship for Machu Picchu Town. Donations went toward Maranatha’s floating church project at Lake Titicaca in Peru as well.

Fjarlis Named Maranatha’s 2005 Missionaries of the Year

The Maranatha Missionary of the Year award honors volunteers who demonstrate dedication, wisdom, leadership, an attitude of service, a loving heart, generosity, and a passion for the mission of Maranatha. This year’s recipients were Merlin and Jo Ann Fjarli from Medford, Ore.

In accepting the award, Fjarli deflected the praise showered on him and his wife, Jo Ann. “None of this would be possible without a whole bunch of you folks out there,” he said. “It’s not anything one person does. It takes a big team.”

Yet every team needs a leader, and Merlin and Jo Ann have proven to be extraordinary in their ability to inspire people to action. In just four years, the Fjarlis have helped to fundraise for more than 500 village evangelistic efforts in India and the construction of 500 churches. They have led 10 evangelistic projects in India with hundreds of volunteers, ultimately changing thousands of lives. Don Noble, Maranatha president, credits their work for taking what was a finite Maranatha project to a mission with unlimited potential. “We are honored to have you as the 2005 Missionaries of the Year, and we thank you for allowing God to use you to inspire us,” he said.

The Fjarlis are gearing up to start their 11th effort in India in early 2006. From Feb. 1–19, 2006, 61 volunteers are scheduled for a 100-village effort in India. To learn more about the Fjarli’s work with Maranatha in India, order your free DVD copy of “Amazed by God.” Contact Maranatha by calling (916) 920-1900; or send your name and address to marketing@maranatha.org.
Society of Adventist Communicators
Holds Convention in the Northwest

Beautiful weather, dynamic presentations and active fellowship characterized the 2005 Society of Adventist Communicators convention held Oct. 20–23 at the Gladstone Park Conference Center in Gladstone, Ore.

More than 130 registered attendees from North America, including students from several Adventist colleges and universities, had the opportunity to rub shoulders with veteran communication professionals and establish new connections during the weekend.

This year’s convention featured a special two-hour screening of recent SONscreen festival award winners—videos and workshops produced by people under 30—targeted at specific interest groups.

Breakout sessions helped attendees deal with diverse issues such as Web sites, public media coverage, public relations strategies, and publication design, among others.

Many commented on the quality of the keynote presentations. Mara Woloshin, of Woloshin Communications based in Portland, Ore., challenged participants to avoid numbers-based marketing and concentrate instead on people-based values. Phil Cooke, president and CEO of Cooke Pictures in Santa Monica, Calif., covered six basic principles for Christians in media work. He asked all to consider whether “the things you’re living for are worth Jesus dying for?”

Those from beyond the Northwest especially enjoyed the Sabbath afternoon outing to Crown Point and Multnomah Falls along the Columbia River Gorge. Cameras came out and memories were made—some involving friendships and professional connections made for the first time at this convention.

The next SAC convention will be held in October of 2006 in Baltimore, Md., with the goal of equipping a growing group of Adventist communicators for the opportunities ahead.

Steve Vistaunet, NPUC assistant to the president and communication director

Gospel Outreach
Steps Out in Faith

Recently the board of directors at Gospel Outreach (GO), a faith ministry based in College Place, Wash., took a large step of faith by voting to increase its support of indigenous missionaries by another 750 workers. This action brings the number of workers being supported in more than 40 countries to more than 2,000 and will add in excess of $500,000 to the amount of money currently being appropriated for the support of these local missionaries. From past experience and from current activities, it is expected that more than 100,000 baptisms will result from these additional workers.

Although the funds for the sustenance and progress of the work come from GO supporters in the United States, these funds are channeled through local Seventh-day Adventist mission organizations in the 10/40 Window, which is the focus of the operation. These organizations are responsible for recruiting, training, placing and supervising the workers, and for financially supporting them with the funds sent from GO. They are also required to submit quarterly reports to the GO office.

Since all GO workers are volunteers, most of them retired from active denomina-
tional service, the amount of funds required to support the superstructure of the organization is minimal. This in itself makes GO a unique ministry and has contributed to its growth.

The Lord is using many avenues to finish the work in these last days, and Gospel Outreach is happy to be one of them.

Jeane Zachary, GO volunteer
Three years ago, JanaBelle Gordon and several of her friends from the North Pole Adventist Church decided to have some fun and share it with their community friends. Since that time, 7 to 9 p.m. every Thursday from October through April, more than 20 people gather in the church for quilting classes. Calling themselves the Community Quilters, the group has been able to touch the lives of people who have experienced the birth of a baby, been burned out of their homes, or had a death in their family.

The quilters have six or eight quilts ready to be distributed right now. “We don’t like them to stack up because we don’t feel like we are doing our job if they do,” said Carol Gordon. They have given away 20 to 30 quilts so far. One quilt sold for $350 at a benefit auction.

Two quilters have been baptized. Four more are very involved in all church activities. Beverly had never quilted before but wanted to try, so she came with a friend. She decided she enjoyed her knitting more but enjoyed the friendships, so now she comes each week and knits while the others quilt.

Sylvia enjoyed hand quilting and tried another church quilting group, but was unhappy with the pressure she felt from the group. She and her husband Lou were skeptical about trying another quilting group sponsored by a church, but decided to cautiously try Community Quilters. At first Lou brought Sylvia and stayed in the car outside; but when Sylvia came out happy and seemed to be having fun, Lou decided to join them.

When Sylvia was asked whether she felt pressure to join the church, she stated, “No, not pressure, just a loving invitation.” While not yet members, they are studying. While Sylvia is working on her quilts worth hundreds of dollars, Lou, along with several other spouses, is helping with church maintenance or whatever needs to be done. When Sylvia went to Tennessee visiting family, Lou came to the quilting session, doing whatever needed to be done around the church building.

Gordon explained that the church members did not wish for this to be a time for preachy evangelism, but simply a time of friendship and fellowship with the community. “This is just another way to open the church doors to the community and let them know we care about their need for friendship and let Jesus do the rest!”

John Kriegelstein, Alaska Conference communication director

Goodbye to Biloffs
Neil Biloff New Dakota Conference President

After more than 11 years as pastor of the Palmer Church, Neil Biloff and his wife Jacque are heading south where he will be the president of the Dakota Conference.

During the time Biloff has pastored the Palmer Church, membership has tripled to more than 400, a new church has been built, and a new church school is almost completed. Jacque’s musical talent and her articulate discussions as Sabbath School superintendent and lesson study leader will be sorely missed.

Biloff will be remembered for his vision, his business sense, his leadership and for his persistent declaration; “We can do this, folks.”

Bobbie Grimstad, Palmer Church member

Jacque and Neil Biloff are moving from Palmer to the Dakota Conference where he will serve as president.
Fourteen-Year-Old Shares Jesus
In Her Neighborhood

It isn’t often that a 14-year-old chooses to spend her free time sharing Jesus with others, but Amanda Ludwig of Boise, Idaho, isn’t an ordinary teenager.

When Amanda and her family started attending the Oasis Church more than a year ago, she noticed the extra *Primary Treasure, Our Little Friend,* and *Guide* magazines lying around each week. She asked if she could have them. Then, her backpack stuffed full, she anonymously began leaving the extra magazines on doorsteps in her neighborhood each week. As neighbors found out she was the one leaving them, they asked her to bring more.

Fourteen-year-old Amanda Ludwig meets the editor of *Primary Treasure,* Aileen Andres Sox, and shares how she has been distributing this magazine in her neighborhood.

Since then, Amanda has handed out hundreds of magazines in her area. She says it is fun leaving them. Her brother, Daniel, and sister, Amber, sometimes help her while their mom stays at home and prays for them. Recently, Amanda says she started putting cards in the magazines, inviting people to the Oasis Church. Amanda has also been distributing the *Little Treasures* pocket-magazines for children in her neighborhood. Amanda says they are her favorite because they are so easy to carry and pass out.

Amanda’s mother, Diane, a real-estate agent, says, “Amanda loves serving, and she does it with a passion. She is always looking for new ways to share Jesus.” One of Amanda’s newest projects is saving money to buy Bibles and coloring books for kids in her neighborhood.

Diane says she has always stressed the importance of service to her four children. “I wanted my kids to have a heart for mission. I also wanted them to know that even kids can do something for Jesus.”

In her spare time, Amanda also baby-sits and tutors kids in her neighborhood for free. Recently, she helped a 10-year-old learn to read. “Amanda is a shining light in her neighborhood,” Diane says. “The kids notice she is different.”

Nicole Batten, Pacific Press Publishing Association publicity director

Serving Salmon and the World

“I just love shopping at your store!” a teenager exclaimed, who had come into the center one day. While Adventist Community Services (ACS) is not really a store, it does provide great “shopping” for many Salmon citizens.

On Monday mornings, a crew of volunteers help sort the clothes and household things that have been left in bags and boxes on the porch during the week. Clothes are hung on racks and organized on shelves around the room ready for Tuesdays when the ACS center is open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

“People have problems and sometimes just want to talk,” says Joan Clark, who waits on people on Tuesdays.

The surplus clothes not used in Salmon are sorted into boxes and hauled to the Adventist Development and Relief Association (ADRA) warehouse in Boise. They are then shipped around the world to various disaster sites.

Another way Salmon’s ACS helps people suffering from disasters is by making direct monetary donations. When the Asian tsunami disaster struck last year, a monetary donation was made from the funds donated by our Tuesday customers.

“While we wish we could be down south to help in the latest hurricane Katrina and Rita disasters,” director Donna Bailey says, “we’re here for those who have everyday emergencies in their lives.”

Cathy Law, Salmon Church ACS volunteer
Second Chances
Finding Open Arms at Mount Ellis Academy

I came to Mt. Ellis Academy my freshman year because of my grandma who told me about this amazing school that could bring me closer to God. At that point in my life, I wasn’t very spiritual. I started attending public school in the fourth grade and realized it wasn’t exactly “cool” to be spiritual, so I shut God out of my life.

The year started pretty good. I joined the volleyball and basketball teams. Toward the middle of the basketball season, I made a bad choice and was suspended from school and also kicked off the team for substance abuse. Not long after that, my mother pulled me out of school for other negative choices I had not gotten caught for yet.

Back home at public school, I slipped into some old, bad habits. Deep down I knew this wasn’t the life I wanted to live. I really needed a change, but I didn’t know what to do. I didn’t realize how much I was hurting myself and the people around me.

At the end of my sophomore year, I made the decision to return to Mt. Ellis and give up my bad habits for good. That was my goal for the summer.

I returned to Mt. Ellis, fearful of what people were going to think of me. To my surprise, I was welcomed with open arms. I couldn’t believe how fast they re-accepted me into their family. At that point I felt safe and knew I’d make it.

Staff members and students encouraged me on my journey back to Christ, and on Feb. 26, 2005, I was baptized into the Mt. Ellis Church.

Mt. Ellis Academy has helped me turn my life around. I still struggle from time to time, but now I lean on God for support and the loving family I have found at Mt. Ellis Academy.

Korine Rea, MEA senior

Glacier View School in Ronan
Starts with 23 Students

The first Cowboy Camp Meeting was held Aug. 25–27 at Elk Springs Ranch near Florence, Mont. It was attended by Christians of many different faiths. The common attraction was a deep love of the Lord and a desire to share inspiring messages, stimulating music, good food and meaningful fellowship.

James Gilley, North American Division general vice-president, was the featured speaker. His message centered around his latest book, Keep On Keeping On. Each message carried a strong motivation to persevere and grow in the Christian walk.

Plans are already being made for a second annual Montana Cowboy Camp Meeting. The tentative dates are June 22–24.

Virginia L. Davis, Stevensville Church communication leader

I have found myself praying more often. I am happier, and I have found a whole new me has been created. I really just want to let God know how much I appreciate all that He and the Holy Spirit have done for me. They saved me from doing what Satan wanted me to do. I am really happy. And I know the Holy Spirit is going to keep teaching me things. The Holy Spirit is going to remind me of what God says in the Bible.”

Glacier View students and teachers have pledged to provide staples for Christmas baskets for 200 families.

Betty Toews, Ronan Church member
Revival at Milo
A Challenging Week of Prayer Inspires Commitment

Never has a week of prayer at Milo been so talked about, so challenging. Debates arose as students analyzed the speaker’s words. Friends carried on discussions in class, in their rooms, and in the cafeteria. What could the speaker, Clarissa Worley, have said to evoke this much interest?

Worley, then Beaverton Church associate pastor, began the week by distinguishing between love and trust. Love, in her words, is bestowing tangible acts of favor on someone. Trust, on the other hand, is opening oneself up to receive acts of favor. “Love everyone,” Worley proclaimed, “but be careful who you trust.” She drew this concept from the message of Proverbs 4:23, “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” Christians should not put their trust in humans, but instead trust God working in them.

Throughout the week, Worley and her team, which consisted of her sister, Darschelle Worley, and friends Adele Wheeldon and Kondi Kulisew, covered topics that ranged from physical purity to overcoming sin. Some students knew they needed to change, but lacked the motivation. After listening to the experiences of the speakers, many decided to take the steps toward personal reformation.

The Friday night communion service was the highlight of the week. Students demonstrated their acceptance of God’s forgiveness by coming forward and taking the emblems of Christ’s sacrifice for themselves. Then everyone was invited to share their testimonies.

A vespers service that normally would have ended by 9:30 p.m. voluntarily lasted until almost 1 a.m. While many tears were shed, it was not a sad event. Students cried from the realization of God’s grace and from the joy of the family-like atmosphere that filled the church.

The spiritual high brought many students gratefully to their knees. And Milo students have vowed not to let go of that experience. •

Katie Currier and Brenda Beenken, Milo seniors

Aaron Payne Ordained

On Sabbath, Sept. 10, Aaron Payne was ordained to the gospel ministry at Meadow Glade Adventist Church in Battle Ground, Wash. Alf Birch, pastor and former Oregon Conference president, set the tone of the event when he publicly affirmed Payne: “Indeed Aaron has demonstrated a sincerity of calling and an effectiveness of ministry. … With the world church, we acknowledge the calling of Aaron Payne.”

During the service, Rodney Payne, Beaverton associate pastor and brother of Aaron Payne, shared the spiritual message, “God’s Hand.” In it he shared the importance of being under God’s hand and allowing God to work. He also shared his affection for his brother: “I am very, very proud. My pride for you is not for what you do, but for who you are. … It’s really amazing to have a younger brother to look up to in so many ways.”

As the morning came to a close, Don Livesay, Oregon Conference president, officially welcomed Payne to the gospel ministry. Payne responded, “As God has blessed me with this calling, I accept because God said He’d be with me, give me the words to say, and uphold me with His righteous right hand.” •

Amy L. Schrader, Oregon Conference communication director
Evangelism Under the Big Tent

Delissa Hilaire was going down Martin Luther King Boulevard in Portland when she noticed a large billboard advertising a tent meeting. The sign caught her attention, but she did not get the address. Later, in conversation with her sister, she learned about the big white tent being pitched on the corner of MLK and Fargo. Curious, she came by and found that the two signs matched up. She attended each night as Randolph Stafford, South Central Conference evangelist, presented from the Bible the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Each evening, music was provided by members of the Sharon and Your Bible Speaks churches. A team of Bible instructors worked with each person who attended the meetings. As a result of the meetings, Hilaire, her sons and 33 other people have been baptized.

The crusade was hosted by Royal Harrison, Sharon Church pastor. •

Larry Popplewell, Sharon Church elder

“The Kids Under Construction” Children’s and Youth Ministries Leadership Convention

The Oregon Conference children’s ministries and youth departments partnered to present “Kids Under Construction” at Gladstone Park Conference Center on Sept. 24. This leadership convention was designed to provide resources and training for those who work with youth and children.

“We want to give our Sabbath School leaders and teachers as many tools as possible,” says Sherri Uhrig, Oregon Conference children’s ministries director, “so they can be better equipped to teach children about Jesus.” •

Amy L. Schrader

A Stroke of Bad Luck Leads to Baptism

Several years ago, Russell Engle had a stroke and became dependent on his wife’s care. Frustrated with his new limitations, Engle was bored. His wife, Sybil, had a friend come in to help her take care of Russell, and she suggested Sybil take Russell to the adult care center at Medford’s Providence Hospital. Russell loved it and continued to go two or three times a week.

While there, Russell met Gary Soderlind, a care-giver at Providence, and his wife Pauline. They soon became good friends. In the course of their many friendly conversations, the Soderlinds learned that Sybil had attended Rogue River Junior Academy in Medford when she was 16. When the Soderlinds learned that bit of information, they asked the Engles if they would be interested in studying the Bible together, and the Engles agreed. After many months of studying together and praying together, their friendship deepened and Sybil decided to reaffirm her commitment to the Lord by being baptized, and Russell joined her with a decision to commit his life to the Lord.

Since Russell had to be lowered into the baptistry in his wheelchair, the couple decided to have a private baptism on Saturday evening, Aug. 27, at the Valley View Church, Medford, Ore., with Pastor Jim Berglund officiating.

They were received into membership the following Sabbath, Sept. 3, and introduced to the whole Valley View Church family. •

Jean Gren, Valley View Church secretary
Conference News

At Livingstone Adventist Academy, prayer is very important. Prior to school starting, the entire staff and local pastors gather in each school room to dedicate it with prayer. Music and English teacher Katrina Koch says, “It starts the year off right when we pray in every room of the school. It’s powerful.” The staff meets early every morning for worship and to pray for students’ individual needs. By the end of the year, the entire student body will have been lifted up in prayer. Though this spirit of prayer may begin with the staff, it certainly does not end there. Following the example given them, the student body has initiated their own prayer ministries. Two senior ASB officers, Judy Edwards, spiritual vice president, and Shane Akerman, president, lead a student prayer group every Wednesday morning. “I love prayer groups,” says Edwards. “They really put things in perspective.” From school-wide Prayer-at-the-Pole participation to individual class worship, prayer is as much a part of the day as math and reading.

Parents and constituents are equally committed to this prayer ministry. Sandica Constantinescu, mother of a seventh-grader, was impressed during a board meeting to start a parent-led prayer ministry. She explained, “I felt that the presence of the Lord should be in this school.” As a result, parents gather on the first Monday of every month to pray together for the school. •

Elizabeth Fish, LAA seventh-grade teacher

The School that Prays Together Stays Together

The student body of Livingstone Adventist Academy in Salem, Ore., gathers for Prayer-at-the-Pole.

Orchards Pathfinders Reach Out to Sidewalk Kids

The Pathfinder club from the Orchards Church in Vancouver, Wash., launched a bold experiment, reaching out to the neighborhood children surrounding the church. Greg Hillman, director of the 15-member club, had been looking for ministry opportunities for the Pathfinders. Chuck Davidson, an active Pathfinder staff member and supporter of a Christian outreach ministry for children, told Hillman about the Sidewalk Kids Hour program. The idea was to gather unchurched kids, 5 to 10 years of age, from the community for a fun program with a spiritual focus.

To get a crowd, Pathfinders and staff members blitzed the neighborhoods, going door to door with fliers and invitations for the kids to attend the Sept. 17 afternoon program in nearby Orchards Park. About 30 neighborhood kids showed up for the first meeting. With the weather turning cloudy and cooler, not quite so many attended the other outdoor meetings. A final meeting, a Harvest Party, was held in the church with a large attendance.

Although the program was geared for a younger audience, the leaders were surprised that about half of the attendees were kids 10 or older. Three families have expressed an interest in coming to church and keeping in touch.

Hillman says, “The reason we did this was to get an idea of what to do, how to do it and what the opportunity was. We discovered a much bigger opportunity existed than we realized in the area around the church.” •

Richard Dower, Orchards Church communication leader

Targeting neighborhood kids, the Orchards Church Pathfinder Club sponsored a Sidewalk Kids Hour program at a park near the church.
Small With Big Dreams

The Columbia Gorge Church began in 1978 when the first Sabbath School and church services were held at the Corbett Fire Hall. There were 78 people, and all were excited to be planting a church in a new area. Because the fire hall was crowded and did not give us space for children’s classes, we moved to the Corbett Christian Church the following summer.

In 1987 the church board met and, after prayer, suggested that the church be moved to Troutdale. With the support of Rockwood and other Adventist churches in the area, the church was able to solicit sufficient interest and new members to begin meeting in the Troutdale area. Since that time we have rented the Troutdale Community Church as our place of worship.

We were prompted to revive the vision of owning our own facility when the old Corbett Christian Church became available for sale. It is more than adequate for our needs and would be a great asset to us and our vision for service in the community.

During the past 18 years, our church has focused on spiritual growth, nurture, and community outreach. We have a choir that draws singers from other churches and the community. We have been involved in vegetarian cooking classes, stress-reduction classes, parenting classes, and evangelistic outreach, including Vacation Bible School. And for the past four years, we have been the main sponsor for Oregon Youth Challenge (OYC).

Please keep little churches like ours in your prayers. We may be small, but we’re BIG in dreams! •

Rhonda Reedy, Columbia Gorge Church elder

Columbia Academy Dedicates Campus

Circle of Ribbons Symbolizes Commitment

For the ninth consecutive year, students, staff members, and the pastors of the 12 constituent churches participated in dedicating Columbia Adventist Academy’s campus. Led by Matthew Butte, campus chaplain, Columbia reaffirmed its commitment to make God first in all classes and activities during this school year.

After a student-led song service and a commitment message from Butte, everyone moved from the chapel to the front lawn, receiving a piece of ribbon as they left the chapel. Students and staff members met in groups with their pastors for a time of fellowship and prayer. Then they tied their individual pieces of ribbon together to make a longer length, representing their church. These lengths were then joined together to make a complete circle, which was then placed on a wooden cross from the chapel that holds the ribbons of previous years, symbolizing their commitment to a rich spiritual life at Columbia and their recognition that all the members of Columbia’s community are an important part of our family.

The dedication closed with Ryan Rogers, student association president, and Gary Brown, CAA principal, offering dedicatory prayers. •

Ed Tillotson, CAA GLEANER correspondent
“Con Pie Firme”
Hispanic Women’s Retreat 2005

More than 150 women gathered at Camp Kuratli in Boring, Ore., for the eighth annual Hispanic Women’s Retreat held Sept. 9–11. Coordinated by Alina Careaga, this year’s event featured Gillen Molina as the main speaker. Seminars by Aurora Canals, Kathy Hernandez, and Dora Rodas were also presented. The purpose of the retreat, according to Careaga, is to help the women learn how to better fill their roles as church members, mothers and wives. Each woman who attended received a blessing. Isabel Villeda said, “You can feel the Holy Spirit has been here.” Next year’s retreat is scheduled for Sept. 8–10. For more information, contact Aurora Canals at (503) 794-4246 or aurora.canals@oc.npuc.org. •

Amy L. Schrader, Oregon Conference communication director

Victories Won in Cave Junction

The Cave Junction Church traditionally enjoys outdoor church at the Grayback Forestry Campground. This year the women’s ministries committee, under the direction of Darlene Varney and Mondie Johnson, planned a special Bible treasure hunt for children, a Sabbath School class in the rustic amphitheater for adults, and a church service with Donna Griffith as the speaker. Griffith led the church in an interesting Bible study on the power of the Holy Spirit.

At the conclusion of the service, Verne Hyland, Cave Junction Church pastor, led baptismal candidates Sierra Atwood, Dorothy Homan, and Robert Cornett into the crystal clear mountain stream flowing through the campground. Members of the congregation and friendly campers stood on the bridge above and along the bank of the cold, rushing water singing, “Shall We Gather at the River” and “All to Jesus I Surrender.” Many faces were wet with tears of joy as victories were won and prayers were answered! •

Patty Hyland, Cave Junction communication leader

Dallas Children Study the Sanctuary

Primary and junior Sabbath School class members at Dallas, Ore., studied about the sanctuary and its services. The children in the primary room built a large model of the sanctuary; in their classroom, the junior class members made individual paper models. The children learned all about the furnishings and their uses and the symbols that foreshadowed Christ and his work here on earth and in heaven.

Once complete, the children shared their new knowledge during the church service. The large sanctuary model was set up for all to see and enjoy while the children took turns explaining each piece of furniture and what it represented. They also performed songs relating to the sanctuary service and what they had learned during the previous two quarters.

All church members came away from the service blessed. One member told the children that she had never understood the sanctuary service as well as she did after their presentation. •

Julie Segura, Dallas Church member
It was an exciting moment for me to see the children standing up on stage at the Waterville Fair singing their hearts out at a ceremony to honor the families of fallen soldiers. The children had a sense that they were singing for Jesus, and the crowd was very responsive. They presented many of the old patriotic hymns, such as "God Bless America."

The choir began almost four years ago as a children’s ministry of the Cashmere Church. The 24 choir members, ages 4 through 12, come from many of the Adventist churches in the area. The choir meets weekly to practice singing, and to work on their speaking skills, sign language and instrumental music.

Every time they sing, the children know they are representing Jesus. I couldn’t ask for a better bunch of kids to work with. They love the Lord and hold a very high standard of excellence for themselves. It gives me great joy to see the personal improvements each child makes toward being better able to present the gospel through their music, sign language and speaking skills. •

Angela Ford, Reflections choir director

Doug R. Johnson has recently accepted the invitation of the Upper Columbia Conference Executive Committee and Nominating Committee to be the executive secretary of the conference. Gordon Pifher served in this position for nine years before being elected as president of the British Columbia Conference.

Johnson has worked in the Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) office for the past five years as assistant to the president, director of communication and stewardship, and as coordinator of the church ministries consulting service.

Before coming to the UCC office, he served 20 years as a pastor in the Washington and Upper Columbia conferences. His last pastorate was with the Blue Mountain Valley and Mission Native American churches in northeastern Oregon.

Author of *Adventism on the Northwestern Frontier*, Johnson is in the process of researching and writing a book on the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the American West. He has also developed a self-guided denominational history tour of the UCC that includes stories on cassettes and CDs.

Johnson was born in Lewiston, Idaho, and graduated from Upper Columbia Academy and Walla Walla College. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University in 1981. His wife, Denise (Sylvester) Johnson, is also a graduate of Walla Walla College and serves as the office secretary of UCC’s ministerial and evangelism department. They are the parents of two children—Hans, who recently graduated from Walla Walla College, and Erik, who is married to Kaytlin and resides in the Walla Walla Valley. •

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication department secretary
SEEDS Northwest Conference
Spotlights Church Planting

Nearly 300 people from all over the Northwest traveled to the Spokane Valley Adventist Church Oct. 21–23 to attend the SEEDS Northwest Conference on church planting. Enthusiasm ran high as participants enjoyed inspirational sermons, educational presentations and a variety of seminars.

The conference was jointly sponsored by the Upper Columbia Conference (UCC), North American Division Evangelism Institute at Andrews University and the Global Mission office of the General Conference. Its purpose was to inspire participants to focus on the mission of the church and the exciting possibilities of starting new churches.

Max Torkelsen, UCC president, gave the keynote address and called on participants to aggressively reach out to those who don’t know Jesus. He pointed out that the church exists for one purpose, to share the gospel with the world.

Meetings and seminars were also conducted in Spanish, and a number of members from both new and more established Hispanic churches attended.

Bill McClendon, who serves as a church-planting pastor in Tulsa, Okla., presented a number of seminars on how his congregation went from 20 to an attendance of more than 400 in five years.

Russell Burrill, director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute and professor at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, was the primary speaker throughout the weekend. He urged SEEDS Northwest participants to completely commit themselves to the mission of the church and encouraged those not involved in a church plant to seriously consider the possibility of such an adventure.

When An-Marie Kromminga first heard about the 777 commitment, she deliberated before she signed on. She didn’t want to make a promise that she might not be able to keep. Ultimately she made a positive commitment.

When the 777 Friendship Evangelistic Festival came along, An-Marie and 300 others eagerly attended. The festival, planned to encourage those active in soul-winning and especially those who made the 777 commitment, was held at the Moses Lake Crestview Christian School.

At the festival, Gary Gibbs, founder of the Amazing Facts School of Evangelism, shared vignettes from the hurricane-torn areas of Louisiana and Bass Memorial Academy. He compared how people didn’t heed the warnings of the Katrina tragedy to the end-time warnings from Scripture.

Max Torkelsen, Upper Columbia Conference president, explained the 777 commitment—to spend seven minutes in prayer each day, seven hours in Bible study each week, and to make seven outreach friendships a year.

An-Marie prayed for seven individuals and began to see results. One individual came to church, another started attending a Monday night meeting with her, and another had a change in attitude.

“I see God softening hearts and changing the lives of everyone for whom I’m praying,” An-Marie said.

The 777 Friendship Evangelistic Festival was full to overflowing with real-life stories of how God uses willing individuals to make a difference in the lives of ordinary people.
UPPER COLUMBIA
Conference News

Formal Fundraising Banquet
Planned by UCA Students

Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) students had already raised more than $1,700 for Katrina relief but wanted to do more. They decided to host a formal fundraising banquet. With their creative lighting and decorating, the gym became an elegant banquet hall. Students themselves, wearing tuxedos and formal gowns, greeted the guests and escorted them to tables. Before and during the meal, students provided live dinner music, including vocal and instrumental solos.

“So many students wanted to participate in the music,” said Eddie McCune, one of the student organizers, “we had to limit them to one number each!” Ashley Cohen, from Southern Adventist University (SAU), was the guest speaker. Red Cross and Adventist Community Services.

“We learned so much,” said Eddie McCune, one of the student organizers looking back on the experience with satisfaction. “These weren’t things we could have learned in the classroom—we could only have learned by doing them ourselves.”

“I am so proud of these students for doing this!” reports their principal, Jeff Bovee. “They were creative, they worked hard and they worked well with the school. They pulled off a really beautiful evening!”

Cheri Corder, UCA GLEANER correspondent

They called it “Summer Splash!” One of the newest church plants in the Upper Columbia Conference, LifeSource Community Church in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, baptized seven people at its first church camp out at beautiful Farragut State Park in August. LifeSource was planted by the Coeur d’Alene congregation, and officially “launched” its first public service on April 10, 2004, Easter weekend. Nearly 85 members and guests attended the camp out. Founding pastor, Phil Muthersbaugh, dressed in costume, presented the outdoor Sabbath worship message, “Meet John the Baptist!” part of a summer-long series entitles, “Heroes and Zeroes of the Bible.”

Later that afternoon, more than 50 people gathered on a rugged wooden footbridge at a small cove on Lake Pend Orielle to sing, hear testimonies and witness the baptismal service—Summer Splash. A man, who bystanders could only identify later as “John,” heard the singing from his nearby sailboat and quietly joined the other spectators on the bridge to see what was happening. After witnessing the baptisms, he was quoted as saying, “That was the most amazing thing I have ever seen.”

These seven people bring to 11 the total number baptized at LifeSource Church since it was launched 18 months ago.

Carol Nord, LifeSource Church secretary

Bob and Angie Critchfield and their daughter Tina were baptized during the LifeSource camp out.

David Mack was one of the students who made sure each of the banquet guests had a fresh supply of water.

Aric Vyhmeister
Lewiston’s Christmas Cantata

Preparations for this year’s 34th annual Christmas Cantata began in July by Delma Baker, veteran choir director. The actual performance does not occur until Dec. 10, but experience has taught that advance planning is a must with this particular program.

The Lewiston Seventh-day Adventist Church has presented Christmas Cantata for more than 30 years—a program both church and community members look forward to. A collaborative affair, Cantata gathers singers and a diverse collection of musicians from the whole community.

Cantata provides a tremendous opportunity for both church and non-church members to enjoy a truly spiritual and completely free holiday performance. The elegantly decorated foyer and church sanctuary invite guests into a magical world of worship and praise. The music of Cantata is hand-picked, based on the vocal abilities of committed choir members. The choir is composed of Adventist church members as well as members from other churches in the area and private citizens.

In addition to the choir, a variety of local musicians, including violinists, trumpeters, saxophonists, and the hand-bell choir of Lewiston’s Beacon Christian School take part in the concert. The performance also includes a live nativity scene in which children are dressed as wise men, stable animals and shepherds who, with Mary and Joseph, welcome God’s son into the world.

As a family- and community-based program, Lewiston’s Christmas Cantata brings the community together to glorify God and celebrate our Savior’s birth through the gift of music.

Kimberly Johnson, Lewiston Church communication leader

Star-Gazing in Touchet

Church members, friends and community members met at the Touchet Church on Sabbath evening for a star-gazing event. After worship and a light supper, four telescopes were set up as dusk began to fall. One of the telescopes was set up by visitor Tom Ahl, past president of the Tri-Cities Astronomy Club. Todd and Charlene Garlick organized the whole event.

Soon the planets began to show up, first Venus, then Jupiter followed. It wasn’t long before we heard Charlene Garlick exclaim with excitement that she could see one of the moons of Jupiter. Of course everyone had to look, and before long, a total of four moons were observed by the enthusiastic star-gazers.

As the sky grew darker, Venus and Jupiter disappeared over the horizon and the star-gazers turned to see what else the sky had to offer. The Big Dipper was first to be seen, followed by Scorpius, Arcturus and Bootes, then Cassiopeia. Ahl then pointed out through his telescope another galaxy called Andromeda.

At about 10:30 p.m. the planet Mars showed up, with its red hues, over the eastern horizon. For many, seeing Mars through the telescope was a first-time, thrilling experience.

We were reminded of the Creator and how truly big He is when we study the stars and understand the vastness of the heavens.

Debbie Christensen, Touchet Church communication leader
Puget Sound Christian Youth Chorale
European Cathedral Tour

There were many teary eyes as the students from Puget Sound Christian Youth Chorale (PSCYC) sang their last concert in Germany's magnificent cathedral, on July 4. This was the last performance of a very busy 16-day European cathedral music tour, sponsored by Puget Sound Adventist Academy (PSAA). PSCYC, directed and nurtured by Estyn Goss, consisted of 27 students, mostly from PSAA, and several from Auburn Adventist Academy and homeschool. This group, originally started as PSAA’s “Impact,” had performed more than 25 concerts in area church services over the past two years in order to raise money for the tour. In addition to putting on whole church services, the group produced and performed the opera “Amahl and the Night Visitors” and several other benefit concerts.

The tour started on June 20 with a group of 27 students and 13 adults flying from Seattle to London’s Heathrow Airport. The first stop was at Newbold College, which generously hosted the group for three nights. From there, PSCYC made day trips to various sights in England and performed in the Wells and Salisbury cathedrals.

The second stop was in Paris. The American Church of Paris, a non-denominational Christian church, generously allowed PSCYC to stay in the church’s basement gym and “catacomb” youth room. After experiencing a late night thunder and lightning storm on top of the Eiffel Tower, the students performed the Sunday service for a packed audience.

The best part of the trip was the opportunity to perform in the cathedrals, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! The director, Estyn Goss, had an unexpected illness the second day of the tour and was unable to accompany the students most of the trip. He was proud of how magnificently the group performed as a team under difficult circumstances. Juliette Church, who held the group together during Goss’ absence, said, “Each day was an adventure. The students did a fantastic job and showed Europe what Adventist youth are all about!”

Sandra Clay, PSAA parent and participant

Conference Office Breaks Ground
for New Office in Federal Way

The Washington Conference Executive Committee along with officials from the North Pacific Union Conference and the city of Federal Way met May 12 on the new conference office property to break ground for the new office building. The new property, located on the corner of 323rd and Weyerhouser Way in Federal Way, will become the home of the conference office and provide an auditorium for meetings of conference pastors, teachers and general conference events.

The previous office’s sale was finalized in October. The new office building will be smaller than the previous Bothell offices and more energy efficient, which will result in continued savings to overall conference operations.

During the groundbreaking service, Linda Kochmar, deputy mayor, welcomed the Washington Conference to Federal Way and shared warm thoughts of her experiences with the Adventist Church over the years. She and her children were all born in Adventist hospitals. John Freedman, Washington Conference president, led the attendees in a prayer of dedication for the new building site and the work that will be done there.

Doug Bing, Washington Conference vice president

North Pacific Union officials and Washington Conference officers break ground for the new Washington Conference office.

John Freedman, Washington Conference president, signs closing papers on the Bothell office property.
Serving on God’s S.W.A.T. Team

Serving on God’s S.W.A.T. Team earlier this year, Rachele Deininger, a Bremerton (Wash.) Church member, stumbled across the book, *101 Ways to Reach Out to Your Community* by Steve Sjogren. Deininger shared the book with the Friday Night Live (FNL) team who had already been actively involved in creating a Friday evening program at the Bremerton Church, which provides a comfortable environment to invite unchurched friends to learn about Christ.

The FNL team had been trying to think of a way to reach beyond the church doors to the community, so they decided to devote a month to reading the book and to studying the Bible to discover how Christ reached out to His community while here on earth. This study led to the development of the community outreach arm of FNL, called S.W.A.T. (Serving With All Talents). The focus of S.W.A.T. is to show God’s love in a practical way to our community using servant evangelism.

Since it’s launch, S.W.A.T. has conducted seven outreach projects including: neighborhood yard clean-up, giving away quarters at Laundromats, giving away stamps and Payday candy bars on tax day, passing out water at the local Armed Forces Day parade, and handing out cold sodas along the Bremerton waterfront on the Fourth of July. So far this outreach method has allowed S.W.A.T. the opportunity to reach more than a thousand people in the city of Bremerton.

Just like God’s love, the goods or services given away are free and available to anyone willing to accept them. Attached to each giveaway is a contact card bearing an appropriate greeting like, “You looked too thirsty to pass up. This is just a simple way of saying God loves you. No strings attached …” On the back, there is a map to the Bremerton Church with contact information and worship times.

To learn how you can start your own S.W.A.T. team, contact Rachele Deininger at mail@gofnl.com; (360) 377-5993 or (360) 434-0453. •

Rachele Deininger, Bremerton S.W.A.T. team leader

Finding God’s Purpose

Women’s and Teens’ Retreat 2005

What is God’s purpose for each of us? This is a question that Washington Conference women explored at the Sept. 30 Women’s and Teens’ Retreat. Featured speaker, Carla Gober, from the religion faculty at Loma Linda University, shared a powerful message that reached young and old alike. We only need to live our lives connected to God on a daily basis, and we will be living God’s purpose.

It was a special highlight to have teens join the retreat for the first time. They were given a special place in each program to present dramas, readings and fun group activities. It was a pleasure to see mothers and daughters together, and even some grandmothers.

To learn how you can start your own S.W.A.T. team, contact Rachele Deininger at mail@gofnl.com; (360) 377-5993 or (360) 434-0453. •

Rachele Deininger, Bremerton S.W.A.T. team leader

Wilma Bing, Washington Conference women’s ministry director
Homeless in Seattle
Burien Youth Find a Way to Help

Homeless at Christmas. What could be worse? To be homeless and a child at Christmas. The Burien Church youth group decided to help make a difference by participating in Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children, a strictly volunteer-operated organization, which since 1996 has been filling stockings for homeless youth, birth through age 17, throughout the Seattle area.

Two years ago, I saw a small ad asking for volunteers to come help stuff stockings for homeless children. Seven of our teens, almost our whole youth group, decided to go. Did they want to do it again? The answer was unanimous—YES!

Last year we collected gloves, small games and toys to contribute to the effort. We joined others from around the Puget Sound at the Coast Guard base gym just in time for the 10 a.m. start. After some instructions and a prayer, everyone was off to grab stockings and search for gifts a 15-year-old boy or a 2-year-old girl would want for Christmas.

In about an hour, almost 2,000 stockings had been crammed with candy, toys, toothbrushes, gloves and other things for homeless youth. Dennis Tefts, a youth leader, and some of the youth delivered stockings to one shelter on their way back to church and still got there before the sermon ended. As one of more than 30 shelter captains, I dropped a batch off at a homeless childcare on the following Wednesday.

For more information on Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children, please go to www.holidaystockings.org. • Melanie Felton, Burien youth leader

Spanish Convocation Celebrates Brotherhood Day

Spanish-speaking members from throughout the Washington Conference converged on the campus of Puget Sound Adventist Academy to hold their yearly Brotherhood Day on Oct. 1. On this occasion, members come together to see friends and family from other area churches and to celebrate what God has done throughout the Spanish-speaking community both here and abroad.

This year’s speaker was Julio Chazarreta, Portland Spanish Company and Hood River Spanish Group pastor. Chazarreta spoke about the three Eliahs and their application for our lives as we near the end of time. His wife, Lourdes, presented a musical concert.

The afternoon service featured a report on Spanish membership throughout the world, including a parade of nations that featured flags of the nations that were represented by those in attendance. •

Doug Bing

Spanish Evangelism North Cascade Spanish Conducts Meetings

The North Cascade Spanish Church recently invited Ramon Canals, North Pacific Union Conference Hispanic coordinator, to conduct a series of evangelistic reaping meetings at their church.

These meetings, held in August, resulted in 14 baptisms. The North Cascade Spanish Church, under the leadership of their pastor, Manuel Cabral, has been working hard to continue the growth of this recently formed church. •

Doug Bing, Washington Conference Spanish coordinator
Mission Sabah:
WWC Takes Hundreds of Books to Borneo

A group of Walla Walla College students and faculty found a personal mission and gave away some early Christmas presents in the small country of Sabah on the island of Borneo.

It started when Tammy Randolph, assistant professor of education, met with a leader of the Southeast Asia Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists and discovered the urgent need for English language teachers and materials in Borneo. As an educator, Randolph was touched by the need and developed a plan for a classroom service project.

Franice Stirling, the School of Education and Psychology curriculum librarian, was writing a children’s book called T.J’s Week, a story about her daughter’s weekly activities. Stirling, Randolph, and 13 students in Randolph’s applied strategies education classes developed a curriculum plan to accompany the picture book, designed to encourage children to learn English by responding to the theme of the book.

The book and curriculum received overwhelming support in Sabah, and WWC was asked to train teachers to use it effectively. The training group included Randolph; Angie Roberts, associate professor of psychology; Kuyler Lang, a master of education student; and Jody Foster, a 2005 theology graduate.

Traveling with 70 pounds of books each, they spent nine days in Sabah, where they visited seven of the 15 Adventist schools, held training seminars for the teachers, and taught English to the children. They also presented the schools with new and used books for their libraries, including several sets of audio recordings and matching texts which they were able to produce with permission from the books’ publishers.

“The children need every chance they can get to catch up on literacy, so they can succeed in this information world,” says Randolph. “I feel such a burden to help them.”

Randolph hopes to continue in a relationship with the schools in Sabah, called “The Land Below the Wind.” The schools need English-speaking teachers and resources such as storybooks, textbooks, audio stories, and music books and instruments. To offer your support to Sabah, contact Tammy Randolph at (509) 527-2940.

Kristi Spurgeon, WWC GLEANER correspondent

Devoted to the Community

WWC Holds Annual Service Day

Get out and help others. That’s the theory behind Walla Walla College’s annual Service Day, and this year more than 200 faculty members, staff, and students did just that.

The Service Day participants met on campus for an early pancake breakfast. Then, members of the WWC family spent a majority of the day doing work around the Walla Walla Valley, including yard work at elderly people’s homes, cleaning up area parks and cemeteries, and working at schools. Overall, WWC tackled 32 projects.

Carl Cosaert, theology professor, and Sheldon Parris, freshman theology major, clean up around a community building during WWC’s annual Service Day.

Junior theology major Nick Jones spent part of his day at Walla Walla’s veterans hospital, scrubbing and rinsing large outdoor signs. “Even though I ended up soaking wet, it was fun to get out and do something for other people,” he said.

“Service Day is so important because it allows us to take a break from our everyday stresses,” said Courtni Mundy, Service Day coordinator and a junior speech communication major. “It also helps build a relationship with our community, showing them what it means to be a Christian.”

Kristi Spurgeon
It can strike while you’re doing the dishes or visiting with colleagues. Its devastating impact can rob you of movement and speech, or take your life. Stroke is a cardiovascular disease that affects more than 700,000 Americans each year—people like Keith Gibbons, a local retiree who volunteers at Walla Walla General Hospital (WWGH).

A kind-hearted man who served in the military, Gibbons received his doctorate and then pursued a lifelong career in education. His teaching experience spanned elementary to college level and superintendent roles across the country.

One Friday, he simply went out to walk the dog and, if not for the instant observance of his wife of 62 years, may well have fallen prey to the destructive force of stroke.

The symptoms were subtle. Gibbons said, “I knew my mouth felt mushy but didn’t think much of it.” When his wife, Elizabeth, noticed his slurred speech, she instantly enlisted a neighbor’s help to get Gibbons to WWGH, where the emergency department team immediately diagnosed stroke and followed protocols resulting in the prompt administration of TPA, a clot-busting drug. Within hours, Gibbons felt much better and wondered what all the fuss was about.

After spending a day in intensive care, Gibbons went home and returned to his volunteer duties at WWGH the next Monday. Life returned to normal. However, had Gibbons not been seen promptly at a hospital equipped to deal with stroke victims, the story might not have had such a happy ending.

When treating a stroke, time is critical, as is access to a medical facility with staff experienced in stroke assessment and protocols. Often it is vital that the stroke victim’s family or friends recognize stroke symptoms. “Receiving the clot-buster drug within the first three-hours can save a life and minimize the vicious impact of stroke,” says Linda Givens, WWGH director of critical care services. For Gibbons, it meant returning to a life of woodworking, gardening and enjoying his great-grandchildren.

For more information about WWGH and its services, please visit www.wwgh.com.

Terri Croghan is a writer for CMBell Company, a marketing and communications agency in Walla Walla, Wash.
Childers 50th
Martin and Patricia Childers celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends on April 24, 2005, with an open house hosted by their children in their home, near Toppenish, Wash.

Martin Childers and Patricia Fry were married April 24, 1955, in Pendleton, Ore. They have lived and farmed near Toppenish since they were married.

The Childers family includes: Sherri and George Flynn and Mike Childers, all of Deltona, Fla.

Downs 95th
Meta A. Downs celebrated her 95th birthday on July 26, 2005, with a dinner in Wasilla, Alaska, hosted by her family. She is a member of the Colville (Wash.) Church.

Meta was born Aug. 5, 1910, in Knox, Ind. She spent her early years in Wibaux, Mont., where her family joined the Adventist Church. She joined later as a teen. She graduated from nurses’ training at Hinsdale Sanitarium.

During WWII, she joined the Women’s Army Corps and served in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines as part of the 47th General Hospital, an Adventist army unit.

Upon returning from the war, Meta married Alva William “Bill” Downs on Sept. 29, 1946. They were married 51 years until his death in 1998. Besides nursing, Meta raised five children and several foster children, and volunteered with her husband as a missionary in the Marshall Islands and Belize. She currently lives in her home in Colville, Wash., when she is not visiting family.

The Downs family includes: Jim and Patty (Broadwell) Downs of Tacoma, Wash.; Dorothy Polk of Tacoma; Laura and Dave Schwimmer of Colville; Wendell and Linda (Gibson) Downs of Wasilla; Donna Marie (deceased); Barbara Ensley of Fletcher, N.C.; 13 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Kubecka 50th
Jim and Betty Kubecka celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 28, 2005, in Spokane, Wash. They celebrated with friends and family at a reception hosted by their daughter and son-in-law.

Jim Kubecka and Betty Sanger met at Berrien County Training at Hinsdale Sanitarium. They were married on Sept. 4, 1955, in Frederick, Md., at Betty’s home church.


Mohr 50th
Gilbert and Jean Mohr of Sunnyside, Wash., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends June 26, 2005, with a buffet hosted by their children at the Sunnyside Church reception hall.

Gilbert Mohr and Jean Fry were married Aug. 21, 1955, in Granger, Wash. Originally from Granger, they moved back to the area in 1992. Gilbert is a retired teacher who taught in Deer Park, Everett, Puyallup and Yakima, Wash., and San Jose, Calif. Jean, now retired, worked at the Deaconess Hospital in Spokane, Wash., and Providence Hospital in Everett, Wash.

The Mohr family includes: Gary and Dori Mohr of Lodi, Calif.; Sherry and Simon Hamamjy of San Jose, Calif.; Jere and Holly Mohr of Federal Way, Wash.; and 5 grandchildren.

Petersen 90th
Lewis and Margarete Petersen celebrated their 90th birthdays on Aug. 2, 2005, with family members at the Wheatland Village restaurant in Walla Walla. Lewis and Margarete were both very active in the Corvallis Church for 50 years.

They moved to College Place in 1996 to be near their daughter. They now reside in Walla Walla at Wheatland Village and are members of the College Place Village Church.

Lewis was born Sept. 3, 1915, in Hawarden, Iowa. He grew up in South Dakota and Wisconsin and graduated from Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in 1939. He traveled the United States as a salesman before purchasing the Franklin Press, a printing business in Corvallis, Ore., which he owned and operated for 35 years. Margarete Seilaz was born June 29, 1915, and raised in Knoxville, Tenn. She graduated from Southern Junior College (now Southern Adventist University), then from EMU in 1943, and worked as a teacher and librarian before her marriage to Lewis on Nov. 3, 1946. Since then she has been a homemaker and helped in her husband’s business. An artist, she has produced oil paintings, background murals, calligraphy, and chalk drawings with live musical accompaniment.

The Petersen family includes Beverly and Martin Scott of College Place, Wash.; Glenda and Marshall Marklin of Ontario, Calif.; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Rexin 50th
Emil and Rosemarie Rexin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 10, 2005, with a dinner reception hosted by their children at the family home in Willamina, Ore.

Emil Rexin and Rosemarie Falstad were married July 13, 1955, in Salem, Ore. They both had moved out to Oregon from North Dakota where they grew up on farms. The next 40 years were busy ones. Emil worked

GUIDELINES
GLEANER Milestones are for 50, 60, 65, 70 and 75th anniversaries and 90, 95 and 100th birthdays. Information to include: date, location and type of celebration; date and location of birth or wedding; women’s maiden names; a brief résumé: first and last names of only the honorees’ children and their spouses with city/state of residence; total number of grandchildren; contact’s name and daytime phone number. Original color photos or 300 dpi JPG digital files (no published pictures) are only accepted for 60 and 70th anniversaries or 100th birthdays. Submit online form or print out PDF form at www.GLEANERonline.org > Contributor’s Information and mail it. Corrections will only be made in the GLEANERonline edition listings.
at the state hospital 38 years, and Rosemarie taught school at Hopewell and then taught kindergarten for 39 years. They are now retired but busier than ever getting settled on forest land and enjoying God's great outdoors.

The Rexin family includes: Donna and Jim Helein and Douglas and Heidi Rexin, all of Willamina; Debbie and Greg Poupard of Loma Linda, Calif.; and 7 grandchildren.

**Smick 50th**

Lorrell and Shirley Smick celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 28, 2005, with a catered dinner reception with entertainment, put together by their family and friends.

Lorrell Smick married Shirley Lewis Aug. 28, 1955, in Olympia Wash. Lorrell practiced dentistry for 35 years in Yuba City, Calif. He also kept the grounds on a volunteer basis at the Yuba City Adventist Church as well as serving as finance committee chairman for several years. Shirley was a stay-at-home mom, providing a warm and hospitable environment for her family. She also worked for 32 consecutive years in the children’s divisions at the Yuba City Church. She also served as a secretary for the church in various offices. They moved to Brush Prairie, Wash., in 1999, where Shirley is the church florist and Lorrell serves on several church boards and keeps the Hockinson Heights Church grounds in top form.

The Smick family includes: Debbie and Phil Muthersbaugh of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; Tami Smick of Clackamas, Ore.; Jason Smick of Fresno, Calif.; and 2 grandchildren.

**Smith 50th**

Richard and Sharon Smith celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Hawaii. Their daughters planned an anniversary trip to Hawaii that included the whole family. They are members of Auburn City Church in Auburn, Wash.

Dick Smith and Sharon Lorren met while attending Auburn Academy and married on Aug. 22, 1955, in Pendleton, Ore. Dick graduated from the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 1961, and practiced dentistry in private practice until he retired in 1989. He then worked as a supervising dentist for the Pierce College Dental Hygiene program, and just retired from that in June 2005. His paintings have been accepted at several juried art exhibitions. Sharon worked alongside Dick in his dental practice until she retired in 1988.

The Smith family includes: Julie and Rick Hermanson of Bonney Lake, Wash.; and Kelly and Ed Kauzlarich of Spanaway, Wash.; and 2 grandchildren.

**Stanley 100th**

Jessie N. Stanley celebrated her 100th birthday on Oct. 9, 2005, with a reception at the Gaston Wayside Chapel fellowship hall hosted by a long-time friend, Grace McEwen, along with her brother-in-law and his wife from Idaho. Her great niece, Lynell Tucker, also hosted a Sabbath evening vespers and potluck supper on Oct. 1, 2005, at the Gaston Wayside Chapel in her honor.

Jessie was born on Oct. 7, 1905, in Purdy, Mo., eighth child of Hiram and Laura (Buchanan) Giddings. Jessie traces her ancestry to U.S. President James Buchanan. She married Vern Stanley on Sept. 29, 1930. In 1938 Jessie and Vern moved to Oregon and joined the Gaston Church in February of 1939.

In 1942, Jessie began working in the nursery of the Portland Adventist Hospital, where she gave loving care for 25 years. After her retirement in 1969, Jessie enjoyed working outdoors in her country home. During this time, Jessie served as church treasurer and was on the building committee for the new church, the Gaston Wayside Chapel, volunteering many hours. Vern was laid to rest in 1995 after 65 happy years of marriage. Jessie remains an active church member of the Gaston Wayside Chapel. She now lives in an apartment in the home of her great nephew, Ed Tucker, where she has been for nearly 10 years.

**Williams 50th**

Dick and Doris Williams celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary In August of 2005, with a reception at a local restaurant hosted by their children. They are members of the McMinnville Church.

Richard R. Williams and Doris Elaine Jauch were married Aug. 7, 1955, in Lodi, Calif., upon Dick’s discharge from the U.S. Army. Both had taught several years prior to their marriage: Dick at San Francisco and San Diego; Doris at Camino-Placerville and Sacramento. Following their wedding, Dick was employed as a teacher at the campus elementary school at PUC and Doris as the principal’s secretary and librarian in 1955. (Both are graduates of PUC—classes of 1951/55 and 1954 respectively.) The next 3 years were spent in Glendale, California, where Dick was elementary principal and Doris was employed one year as second grade teacher. The years following were spent in graduate schools, teaching and/or administration/supervision in San Jose, Calif., and Sandpoint, Idaho. Doris’ teaching career has focused mainly in the primary grades; while Dick’s has spread over kindergarten through college/graduate level workshops and seminars, as well as elementary school principal. Their combined careers as educators span about 84 years. Doris retired from Bonner County School District in 1993 and Dick in 1994 where they remained in residence. After 24 years in Sandpoint, they relocated in August of 2003 to McMinnville, Ore., to be nearer their married children.

The Williams family includes: Celene and Lorne Cross of Paradise, Calif.; and Cecily and Grant Geschke of Clackamas, Ore.; and 3 grandchildren.

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**BIRTHS**

- **ALFORD**—Nellie J. was born Sept. 9, 2005, to Seth and Jenney (Houg) Alford, Walla Walla, Wash.
- **CARNEY**—Elise L. was born Sept. 26, 2005, to Scott and Lesley Carney, Mill Creek, Wash.
- **COLBY**—Sophie Jean was born Sept. 20, 2005, to Edwin and Jennifer (Ruhl) Colby, Gresham, Ore.
- **COX**—Andrew H. was born Oct. 3, 2005, to Mark D. and Heather (Goodwin) Cox, Ronan, Mont.
- **CULVER**—Drew A. was born Sept. 1, 2005, to Travis and Salena (Reber) Culver, Caldwell, Idaho.
- **DONALDSON**—Justin C. was born Jan. 26, 2005, to Keri Donaldson, Vancouver, Wash.
- **DUBÓN**—Melani Marie was born July 10, 2005, to Rodolfo and Jennifer (Davison) Dubón, Spokane, Wash.
- **FISH**—Claire Esther was born July 8, 2005, to Daniel and Sharlene (Wren) Fish, Salem, Ore.
- **GALUSHA**—Jayden Joseph was born Sept. 24, 2005, to Joseph and Carla (Constantinescu) Galusha, Lynnwood, Wash.
- **HERSEY**—Haydon J. was born Oct. 17, 2005, to Bill and Mindy (Taylor) Hersey, Salem, Ore.
- **HERVIO**—Ava Elizabeth was born May 1, 2005, to Richard and Suzanne (Franzke) Hervio, Hillsboro, Ore.
- **HINCKLEY**—Hayden Adam was born Oct. 19, 2005, to Adam and Janiece (Zachrison) Hinckley, Gresham, Ore.
- **KIM**—Joshua Joonsung was born Oct. 14, 2005, to Daniel and Hyunhee (Lee) Kim, Newberg, Ore.
- **LICKEY**—Amelia Christina was born April 18, 2005, to H. Mark and Jennifer C. (Stites) Lickey, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.
- **MCKEY**—Riley Alexander James was born May 26, 2005, to Wesley N. and Rhonda K. (McNamara) McKey, Auburn, Wash.
- **OETMAN**—Owen Charles was born Sept. 11, 2005, to Greg and Jennifer (Korb) Oetman, Walla Walla, Wash.
- **PHILLIPS**—Mckenna Kay was born Jan. 11, 2005, to Greg and Sandi (Klein) Phillips, Berrien Springs, Mich.
- **PINTOS**—Monique A. was born Sept. 13, 2005, to Fabio and Tania (Andrade) Pintos, Kirkland, Wash.
- **RUHL**—Stella Elizabeth was born March 14, 2005, to Benjamin and Rebecca (Moore) Ruhl, Beaverton, Ore.
- **WARDA**—Caleb Francis was born Oct. 19, 2005, to Frank and Maylin (Tortal) Warda, Portland, Ore.
- **WILLIAMS**—Nellie J. was born Sept. 13, 2005, to Andrew Williams, Seattle, Wash.
- **WROSTON**—Justin C. was born June 9, 2005, to Raresheid and Steven and Tara (Runkles) Wroston.

**WEDDINGS**

- **CAFFERKY–NEWELL**—Carmen L. Cafferky and James L. Newell were married May 1, 2005, in Portland, Ore. They are making their home in Vancouver, Wash. Carmen is the daughter of Ed and Grace Cafferky. James is the son of George Newell and the late Elizabeth Newell.
- **COOK–WRISTON**—Sarah A. Cook and Michael D. Wriston were married April 9, 2005, in Salinas, Calif. They are making their home in Baltimore, Md. Sarah is the daughter of Ken Cook and Allison Atkins. Michael is the son of Ann Raresheid and Steven and Tara (Runkles) Wriston.
- **HARLAN–CHINCHURRETA**—Amber L. Harlan and Nathan D. Chinchurreta were married June 19, 2005, in Nampa, Idaho. They are making their home in Boise, Idaho. Amber is the daughter of Bonnie (Brinker) Harlan and John Harlan. David is the son of G. David and Judy (McGregor) Chinchurreta.
- **HATCHER–WHITTLE**—Marlene S. Hatcher and Donald M. Whittle were married July 31, 2005, in Olympia, Wash., where they are making their home. Marlene is the daughter of May Pruett (deceased). Donald is the son of Donald and Marjorie Whittle (both deceased).
- **HAYDEN–BROWN**—Sara Havens and Michael Brown were married Aug. 28, 2005, in Cedar Creek, Wash. They are making their home in Vancouver, Wash. Sara is the daughter of Gary and Jody Havens. Michael is the son of Michael and Victoria Brown.
- **JOHANSEN–TAYLOR**—Jeanne M. Johansen and Gregory R. Taylor were married July 10, 2005, in Portland, Ore., where they are making their home. Jeanne is the daughter of Luther and Marie Johansen. Gregory is the son of Shari and Franz Meier and Robert and Sherry Taylor.
- **MOHR–DUFFIELD**—Stacey D. Mohr and Jedidiah R. Duffield were married June 19, 2005, in Portland, Ore. They are making their home in St. Ignatius, Mont. Stacey is the daughter of Clayton and Brenda Mohr. Jedidiah is the son of David and Donna Duffield.
- **REYES–WINTER**—Luz D. Reyes and David W. Winter were married March 19, 2005, in Paradise Cove, Hawaii. They are making their home in College Place, Wash. Luz is the daughter of Luis and Alba Reyes. David is the son of Dennis and Darlene Winter.
- **TRUBY–ALEXANDER**—Rosalie Truby and Jeffrey Alexander were married Sept. 17, 2005, in Hope, Idaho. They are making their home in Spirit Lake, Idaho. Rosalie is the daughter of Bill and Carol Truby. Jeffrey is the son of Bev and Don Olsness and Donald Alexander.
AGNEW—Leslie J., 87; born Nov. 22, 1917, Olympia, Wash.; died Sept. 27, 2005, Olympia, Wash. Survivors: wife, Ruby (Geier), Tumwater, Wash.; daughter, Lana Hayes; Olympia; Shirley Reed, Olympia; 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.


ROOS—Aldrith A. (Stoneberger), 82; born April 19, 1923, Loma Linda, Calif.; died Sept. 1, 2005, Yucca, Ariz. Surviving: husband, George; son, Richard, Yucca; 1 grandchild and a great-grandchild.


WHITE—Seth E., 86; born May 14, 1917, Chungsha, Hunan Province, China; died March 28, 2005, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Clara (Choban); son, Don, Columbia, Md.; daughter, Esther Kanneberg, Boise; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

NPUC

Offerings
Dec. 3—Local Church Budget; Dec. 10—World Budget; Inner City Ministries; Dec. 17—Local Church Budget; Dec. 24—Local Conference Advance; 13th Sabbath Mission Offering: Southern Asia Pacific Division.

Special Days
Dec. 3—Bible Sabbath

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE

Calendar of Events
Dec. 3, 4, 8, 10, 11—wwcdrama: Nickel and Dimed. All performances begin at 8 p.m. in Village Hall. Tickets available at www.wwc.edu/drama or (509) 527-2651.
Dec. 9—Christmas concert at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., Walla Walla College Church.
Dec. 15—Christmas vacation begins.

IDAHO

Gem State Academy Church Missing Members
Dale Alexander, Kim Almon, Pamela Bowen, Kevin Chen, Cricket Crisman, Robert Durval, Mark Flores, Jeremy Fregoso, Mina Fugiwara, Frank Garcia, Stanley Hendrickson, Gabe Hokins, David Huynh, Andrea (Kelley) Clegg, Karman Kopitzke, Rick Kopitzke, Robert Kopitzke, Candace Lauer, Raegina Martin, Jason Merritt, Fenion Mezini, Edwin Morlaes, Therese Nagel, France Priest, Rj Roche, James Roebuck Jr, Judy Schultz, Nancy Seeger, Darene Sheldon, Tara Sullivan, Tammie Tall, Barbara Taylor, Debbie (Taylor) Browning, Keichi Ushio, Nichole Wangler, Patricia Wolf. Please contact Marta Stone, GSAA Church clerk at gsaclerk@sunvalley.net, or the campus ministry office at (208) 459-1627/1611S. Montana Ave., Caldwell, ID 83607.

OREGON

Two New Web Sites
Go to LoveTakesTime.com or HopeForTheFamily.com for free marriage, family, parenting and single’s resources. Also we now have “Marriage Matters” resources by Harvey and Kathy Corwin. Call (800) 337-8225.

Sunnyside Concerts
Dec. 10—Portland Adventist Academy Christmas concert directed by Linda Noel, 3 p.m.; Dec. 17—Sunnyside Choir Christmas concert directed by Travis Hatton, 4 p.m.; Dec. 23—Family Christmas program by Lloyd Wescott, Friday, 7 p.m., Sunnyside Church, 10501 S.E. Market St., Portland, Ore. Call (503) 252-8080 for information.

Steve Wallace Seminar
Dec. 16–18—“Arise, Shine!” Friday night, 7 p.m., Sabbath 9:30 and 11 a.m., 2 and 4 p.m., Sunday 9:30 and 11 a.m., at the Nestucca Church, 38000 Highway 101 S., Cloverdale, Ore. (1/4 mile north of Pacific City cutoff). For information, call (541) 994-5730 or (541) 994-9613.

Beaverton Adventist Singles Activity
Dec 17—Bring a dish for the church fellowship dinner at 12:45 p.m., Beaverton Church, 14645 S.W. Davis Road, Beaverton, Ore.; help us bless the elderly with singing at 3 p.m.; then stick around for a white elephant gift exchange and potluck supper at the Beaverton Church fellowship hall at 5 p.m. (bring a dish or dessert). Please bring a wrapped gift worth between $5 and $10. Also bring another wrapped gift (labeled boy or girl and the age it is appropriate for) to be given to a local charity for distribution. Questions? See www.beavertonsda.com or call (503) 684-7971 or Charlotte at (503) 579-9549. This event is open to all singles. Your supervised children are welcome. Singles please reserve Jan. 20–22, 2006, for the Big Lake Event for all singles and Beaverton Church members.

Missing Members
We are looking for addresses and/or information on the following members: Carrie Eldred, Connie Tillman, Nicole Baxter, Kim Brazzile, James Wick. Please make contact with the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church at (541) 476-6313; or emaill the clerk at Office@gpsdachurch.com; fax (541) 474-2179, on the Web www.gpsdachurch.com; 1360 N.E. 9th St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.

UPPER COLUMBIA

Singles Sixth Annual Event
Dec. 10—Christmas Light Festival in Leavenworth, Wash. Meet at Cascade Christian Academy, Wenatchee, Wash., Saturday at 2 p.m. Meet in the school gym with overnight necessities and potluck food for evening meal and breakfast. Carpooling available. For information, contact Melodie DeVaney, (509) 489-3530 or sweetmel19@hotmail.com.

Spokane Adventist Singles Potluck
Join us the third Sabbath of every month for a potluck for singles beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Valley Adventist Church.

Granger Church 100th Anniversary
July 28–29, 2006—Yakima Valley Academy and Granger Junior Academy reunion will be held in conjunction with the Granger Church 100th anniversary. For information: www.grangersda.com; patchild@aol.com; Granger Adventist Church, PO. Box 460, Granger, WA 98932; (509) 854-1132 or (509) 837-4092.

WASHINGTON

Music at Kirkland
Dec. 17—Men of Kirkland and Friends, with director Estyn Goss, present their “EvenSong at Christmas” at 4 p.m. in the Kirkland Adventist Church, 6400 108th Ave. N.E., Kirkland, Wash. Come and enjoy the warmth of the season with music. More information at www.menofkirkland.org.

Washington SAGE Seniors

Revelation Now
Jan. 13, 2006—Revelation Now evangelical series of meetings with Jac and ‘Dena Colon, is coming to the Puyallup Adventist Church, at 510 Seventh Ave. S.E. in Puyallup at 7:15 p.m. You are welcome to come, and invite your friends and relatives.

WORLD CHURCH

Adventists in National Geographic
See the National Geographic magazine (November 2005) for a feature on Adventists, the Adventist Health Study and Loma Linda in the cover story “The Secrets of Living Longer.” Even if you have already read the article on longevity, there is a video presentation of that article. Make sure you have your volume turned on. http://www7.nationalgeographic.com/nm/0511/sights_n_sounds/index.html.

Also this is a short article on that same theme. http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/LivingLonger/story?id=1242497.

Update on AHS-2
85,000 members have now returned surveys. AHS-2 is still recruiting and needs another 20,000. If you have a questionnaire please return it soon. The larger the study the more powerful the results. This is our opportunity to discover better health for everyone. To join, call (877) 700-7077; or go the Web site: adventisthealthstudy.org.

Adventist Christmas TV Show
The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America is releasing its fourth Christmas program entitled “All Is Bright.” This hour-long program will be broadcast during the month of December on many local affiliate stations in the United States, Canada, and Bermuda, as well as the Trinity Broadcasting Network. “All Is Bright” is a heartwarming holiday story for the whole family.
“All Is Bright” features an all-star cast including Tony and Emmy nominee Joseph Campanella, Latin Grammy nominee Patti Cabrera, and 7-time Grammy winners Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr. The musical production will be taped on a closed set at the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, Calif.

Check your local listings to find out when “All Is Bright” is scheduled to air or visit www.nadadventist.org. You can also call your local station to request “All Is Bright.”

Beautiful half- and quarter-page ads are available on www.npuc.org for your free use in promoting this program or printing as a bulletin insert.

“Now Is the Time”
Dec. 28, 2005–Jan. 1, 2006 —An army of youth is preparing to assemble at the Chattanooga Convention Center for the fourth annual General Youth Conference. Attendees will hear speakers such as Mark Finley, General Conference vice president for evangelism; C.D. Brooks, former Breath of Life speaker/director; and David Gates, a missionary pilot from South America. Participants will also pick options from a variety of seminar topics, like “Personal Spirituality,” “Urban Evangelism for the Secular Mind,” and “Signs of the Last Days.” Don’t miss this chance to learn something new or recharge your spiritual batteries! Visit http://www.generalyouthconference.org to register online, download a registration form, or just to get more information.

Union College Homecoming
April 6–9, 2006 —Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to Celebrating a Century of Service—Golden Cords 1906-2006. All Union College alumni who have had a golden cord hung in their honor are invited to this special celebration. Special honor classes: 1936, ’46, ’51, ’56, ’66, ’76, ’81, ’86, and ’96. For more information, contact the alumni office: (402) 486-2503; 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or alumni@ucollege.edu.

SEND STORIES FOR GleanerNOW!

Have you noticed? Timely stories and photos are now being posted promptly on the www.gleaneronline.org Web site. Keep up with what’s happening in the Adventist Church both in the Northwest and around the world. That means that if you submit stories and photos of something special happening at your school or church, with a photo, your members and everyone else will be able to see it within days of the event instead of weeks.

If you hear rumors of things happening somewhere else in the North American Division, check this Web site. You’ll likely find a link to an official source at the North American Division, General Conference, or the union conference office where the event occurred, and can help keep the information that’s being circulated accurate.

Just now the site is full of information about the hurricane relief efforts being carried on all over the Northwest. Have you sent a story about what your organization is doing to help?

Include complete contact information at the end of your story in this order: name of contact person, the organization you represent, your daytime telephone number (including area code), your e-mail address and your mailing address.

Submit your story and photos online at www.gleaneronline.org; click on Contributor’s Information in the left panel and follow the directions. Indicate that the story is for GleanerNOW!

Or e-mail your story with the photo attached (not embedded in a Word document or e-mail message) to gleaner@nw.npuc.org with GleanerNOW! in the subject line. The file size of photos should be at least 1 mb.

Nadine Platner Dower, GLEANER managing editor and online editor
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Advertising Deadline
ISSUE DATE          DEADLINE
February             January 3
March                January 30

December 16–17, 2005

His Bride Has Made Herself Ready

Miraslav Kis, Ph.D.
Adventist Theological Seminary

Friday-7:15 pm
God’s Dream for the Home

Sabbath-8:45 am and 11:15 am
His Bride Has Made Herself Ready

Sabbath-3:00 pm
Incredible Love

Vancouver Adventist Church
9711 NE St. Johns Blvd.
Vancouver, WA
360-636-2511

Charitable Gift Annuity
Tangible Evidence That
In Giving You Receive

Have a charitable intent?
Why not provide for the charity now and receive a lifetime income stream?
What percent of payment would I receive? Check the sample rate chart.

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Contact your local conference Trust Department or NPUC (360) 816-1437

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First-time Advertisers—Advertisers who are members of the Seventh-day Adventist church must submit a letter of endorsement from their pastor or from the local conference communication director along with their first submission. Other first-time advertisers must submit references from business members of their community, a credit bureau and/or any other references requested by the editor. All references must be on official letterhead stationery and received at the GLEANER office by the deadline date of the issue desired for publication. References do not render unnecessary the approval of the GLEANER editorial committee.

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Classified Ads Rates, NPUC Advertisers—For advertisers who are church members in the North Pacific Union Conference: $24 for 30 words or less, $7.50 for each additional word.

Classified Ads Rates, Other Advertisers—For advertisers who are not members in the North Pacific Union Conference: $35 for 30 words or less, $1.25 for each additional word.

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