“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow…”

Isaiah 1:18 (NIV)

Snow-Covered Trees was photographed by Robert L. Rouillard of University Place, Washington.
How the Flame Was Lit
By Steve Vistaunet

What Makes a Church a Family?
By Laurel Rogers

An ASI Supporting Ministry
Mission College of Evangelism
By Immanuel Roth

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A Century of Service

BY JERE PATZER

This year we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the North Pacific Union. When the union was organized on February 19, 1906, comprised of Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Montana, Alaska, Hawaii, and also British Columbia, there were more than 5,000 members with an annual tithe of $63,000. Walla Walla College had an enrollment of 200.

Initially located on the campus of Walla Walla College, the headquarters moved to Spokane, Washington, where newly elected president, W.B. White and staff would have their offices. Within a year the office moved back to Walla Walla where it remained until it was voted to move to Portland in 1944.

At first glance, that seems like a long, long time ago, and it was. But when I look at the GLEANER’s At Rest section, I am quickly reminded that many of our saints passing away now were alive most of those years. And, as incredible as it may seem, according to our membership records list there are a number of Northwest members alive today who were born before 1906. These include people like: Ray Fowler of College Place, born 1905; Raymond Yelick of Battle Ground, born 1904 and Faye Bear of Lewiston, Idaho, born 1901.

As these people can testify, God has blessed His church during the past century. We now have over 90,000 members. Tithe has increased to $79,000,000 in 2005. Walla Walla College has an enrollment of 1,942. We’ve had enough challenges to keep us humble, and we’ve had enough success to keep us grateful.

During this year, the GLEANER will look at the fascinating story of our Northwest church during this century. Not only through facts and figures, but also through the stories and the lives of our faithful members. There are people who had struggles like ours and, yes, some victories, too. I believe you will be fascinated, encouraged, inspired and challenged as together we celebrate this century of service.

It should be noted that at the February 1906 session of the newly constituted North Pacific Union, delegates voted an “object” that today we would call a mission statement. It reads: “The object of this conference shall be to unify and extend the work of the everlasting gospel throughout this conference and the mission fields of the world.”

Today we mourn the fact that Christ has not come. Many of our loved ones have been laid to rest. And we have not finished our work. We are still on this earth. Yet, we can take courage in the fact that through all these years our “object” has not changed. We have been faithful to the purpose for which we were organized!

Yes, the flame still burns. •

¹ Records vary.
² Includes lower grades.
Visit the new Let's Talk section on page 50 of this issue. Each month we’ll feature a specific topic or issue and invite your comments. Hosted by Steve Vistaunet, NPUC assistant to the president for communication, this new interactive addition will be located on page 50 of each monthly print edition of the GLEANER and in blog form on www.GleanerOnline.org. This month you’ll be invited to submit a question for Jere Patzer, North Pacific Union Conference president.

Steve Vistaunet
In its first issue, representing the newly formed North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) in 1906, the *North Pacific Gleaner*, as it was then called, shared with its readers a poem titled “Launching of the Gleaner” by F.M. Burg. Here we quote just the first few lines:

Little Bark, launch out;
Ne’er grander cause nor nobler end
Called forth a ship the deep to brave;
In perils dire, with hopes all gone,
Desponding, sinking one by one,
Are myriad souls from stranded ships,
Who, lest some help at once receive,
Must surely find wat’ry grave;
Little Bark, launch out.

What may seem zealous hyperbole to some modern minds most certainly captured the mindset and mission of early Northwest Adventists who, believing time was short, quoted Joel 3 and Revelation 14 on the GLEANER masthead—“Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.” They were pilgrims on their way to a better land, and believed that God had commissioned them to hold out the flame of truth to a nation and a world with little probation left.

Yet, to the secular view, 1906 was an auspicious time in American history. The growing nation was emerging from the Industrial Age with a sense of optimism that jobs would be plentiful, food abundant, travel easier and quality of life on the upswing.

Although a horse and buggy were still the normal...
conveyance, the internal combustion engine had taken a Packard automobile from San Francisco to New York in just 53 days, the Wright brothers had made their first flight at Kitty Hawk, baseball had celebrated the first World Series, ground had been broken on the new Panama Canal, and Albert Einstein had begun formulating the elements to his Theory of Relativity.

But America, for all its promise, faced daunting challenges. The nation was still more rural than urban, with three out of five citizens living in towns of less than 2,500 population, most without electricity. While upper and middle-class Americans began to experience more leisure time, for most, the average workweek was 12 hours a day and six days a week. Thousands of children labored from dawn to dusk in cotton mills and coal mines. Racial inequalities were rampant.

As the calendar turned to 1906, amidst all the progress, disaster also struck around the world, with powerful earthquakes in San Francisco and Chile, and a typhoon in Hong Kong, killing tens of thousands.

During the first decade of the 20th century, “higher criticism” and the theory of evolution were finding acceptance in some Christian circles, with crowds flocking to widely publicized debates. Carrie Nation, six feet tall and ax in hand, fought alongside the Women’s Christian Temperance Union against the abuse of alcohol and the related mistreatment of women.

Such was the dynamic climate into which the North Pacific Union Conference was formed, although one could easily observe that the Northwest “frontier” was at that time a world apart from most of eastern society. Stories of the Wild West and the Oregon Trail were still current history in many parts of the Northwest. That same frontier attitude of independence also characterized many of the early Adventist pioneers.

Adventist work in the Northwest had actually begun decades before 1906. Teachings of the church had migrated west along with the early settlers. Adventist member Augusta Moorhouse came with her family to the Walla Walla Valley in 1861. She introduced the Stephen Maxson family to Adventism, and the process of multiplication began.

In April of 1873, the growing cluster of Adventists formed the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Walla Walla. In time, they requested ministerial help from the General Conference. When the need was presented in the *Review and Herald*, enough money was donated to enable the young Adventist denomination of just 7,000 members to send Isaac and Adelia Van Horn as the first “missionaries” to the Northwest. Their trip to Walla Walla is typical of that era of travel: A ship from San Francisco to Portland, Oregon; boat up the Columbia River to Wallula, and then six hours and 30 dust-choked miles to Walla Walla by stagecoach. The Van Horns arrived in time to begin their work early in 1874.

The work quickly spread beyond the Walla Walla Valley. Van Horn and newly converted Alonzo T. Jones traveled to Oregon’s Willamette Valley to hold meetings, first in the state’s oldest town, Oregon City, and then in the state capital of Salem. In January of 1877, Van Horn organized a church of 35 members at Salem, the first Adventist church in western Oregon. That year, five churches and six other groups totaling about 200
members within the Oregon and Washington territories were organized into the North Pacific Conference, with Van Horn as president; his wife, Adelia, secretary; and A.T. Jones, treasurer.

In 1880, the portions of Washington and Oregon east of the Cascades, along with all of Idaho were separated from the North Pacific Conference and reorganized as the Upper Columbia Conference. The Advent message moved into the Boise, Idaho, area, where D.T. Fero, in 1885, reported finding two Sabbath Schools in operation. The next year he combined the Sabbath Schools and organized a church.

As the spread of Adventism throughout the Northwest continued, C.L. Boyd held a series of tent meetings in Seattle during 1886, baptizing 10 people in Lake Union. From that beginning, the first western Washington church was organized. First named the North Seattle Church, it relocated as the Seattle Central Church and eventually moved again to become the Volunteer Park Church.

In the central portion of the Montana territory, O.A. Johnson held evangelistic meetings during 1888 just east of Bozeman in Livingston, where there were already four believers. By the end of November, he reported that 26 individuals had signed a covenant to form a church. Just a little over a year later the congregation had built the first church building in Montana. In 1892, the first camp meeting was held in Bozeman, with almost two-thirds of the 125 territory-wide members attending.

Even the Alaskan frontier was opening to Adventist work. During the Klondike gold rush, Jasper N. Sylvester (grandfather of Voice of Prophecy founder H.M.S. Richards) traveled to Alaska in 1898 and handed out tracts far and wide. A.M. Dart and T.H. Watson soon came to the Juneau area as the first official Adventist missionaries.

Responding to the needs of a growing church, the General Conference, in 1901, voted to establish union conferences to allow for more regional coordination and focused support of the church’s mission. Initially the entire group of western states was included in the Pacific Union Conference, including the territories of Alaska and Hawaii and the province of British Columbia. In 1906, delegates met in Portland, Oregon, to approve a new union conference for the Northwest. After an animated and lengthy discussion, the motion carried by 33 to 14 to create a North Pacific Union Conference which included Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Hawaii. The British Columbia territory was redirected into the Western Canadian Union Conference in 1908, and the Hawaiian Mission was placed under General Conference direction in 1909.

By the end of 1906, the newly organized North Pacific Union Conference with William Byington White as president had 145 churches, 20 companies and a total membership of nearly 5,600. A previously published paper called The Educator was replaced by the GLEANER. The four-page weekly GLEANERs often devoted entire pages to detailed canvassing or financial reports to foster unity and accountability with the growing membership. The headquarters for the NPUC were initially located on the campus of Walla Walla College in College Place, Washington.

Throughout the century of progress since 1906, the Northwest church has grown to include 90,000...
members in more than 400 churches. Northwest members are a generous lot. In recent years, they have consistently contributed more per capita to the church’s mission in tithes and offerings than any other union in North America. And the pioneer spirit still lives in thousands of Northwest Adventists, young and old, who have traveled the world on short-term evangelistic mission projects.

In some ways, the Northwest Adventist Church of today faces many of the same challenges it did a century ago. It still seeks to walk a line between the extremes of “higher criticism” on one hand and ultra-conservative fundamentalism on the other. It still grapples with issues of evolution and creation, science and faith. The NPUC has evolved over the decades to help a growing church reach out to an increasingly complex world.

The GLEANER continues to provide regular reports of what God is doing in and through Adventist members in the Northwest. The “Little Bark” that was launched in 1906 to encourage and inspire members towards service and evangelism still seeks to hold true to that mission.

Along with the NPUC, the year 1906 birthed such diverse actors on the world’s stage as tycoons Aristotle Onassis, John D. Rockefeller III, and gangster Bugsy Siegel; Nazi Adolph Eichmann and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer; and musicians “Count” Basie, E. Power Biggs, and Dmitri Shostakovitch. They have passed on, but what they accomplished in their lifetimes lives on for better or worse.

And so it is with our early pioneers. They went to their rest, having passed the torch to other generations, confident that the Second Advent was near, even at the door.

What might those pioneers have thought if they were to know that our homes in 2006 would still have earthly addresses? Stories of missionary zeal still resound from our members who return from trips overseas, building churches by the dozens. Yet over the past five decades, an average of just two churches per year have been established here. It could be more. The Northwest “mission” stands in need of home-grown missionaries, who after their own short-term mission journeys, stand ready to apply Ellen White’s reflex influence promise, where she states that, “the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries afar off,”* to the challenge in their own neighborhoods and communities.

Each Northwest member has a God-given mandate to ensure that the flame, kindled well over a century ago by Northwest pioneers, is used to kindle other flames until Jesus comes. Each of us can pray that the next “centennial” will be celebrated, not here, but at home with those pioneers, in a better land. •

Information for this article was gleaned from several sources including: www.adventistarchives.org; www.hyperhistory.com; Doug Johnson, Adventism on the Northwestern Frontier, (Berrien Springs, MI: Oronoko Books, 1996); Gary Land, Adventism in America, (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 1998); Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia (Washington, DC: Review and Herald Publishing Assoc., 1966); North Pacific Union Gleaner.

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Steve Vistauten, North Pacific Union Conference assistant to the president and communication director, writes from Vancouver, Washington.
I wasn’t there when a group of worshipers met in tiny Boring, Oregon, to form the Hood View Church in 1965. In fact, I wasn’t even born. But when my father moved our family from Florida to pastor this church 11 years later, I became one of the youngest members of a congregation that was more family than church.

And when that church family held its 40-year reunion last May, I spent the day mesmerized by reminders of the years I’ve spent as part of this, my church family.

A Shared History
I remembered Henry Gehhart, who braved the frigid east winds of a January Sunday to help my family move into a new home. He stayed later than anyone else and quickly built a set of stairs to the front door—stairs so solid that they weren’t replaced for 20 years.

There was Marie Schaffer, the picture-perfect grandma for every youngster in our church. She sat alone that Sabbath, but I still remember church camp outs at the beach when she was joined by her husband, Otto, who wore a bright orange windbreaker and an even brighter smile. I miss Otto.

The Jubergs, Mort and Lorraine, were there too—older, no doubt, but just as lively as when Lorraine taught my primary Sabbath School lessons. My grade school physical education teacher, Jim Dixon, still exhibited the ageless fitness he portrayed years ago when I made up as many excuses as possible to avoid his class.

During our potluck lunch, our family reunion spilled out of the fellowship hall and onto a sun-drenched lawn, where my kids explored the surrounding rhododendrons and squealed in delight as older kids showed them spiders, flowers and abandoned feathers. Their amusements left me free to chat with people who had returned to Hood View especially for this reunion—like two of my chums from the neighboring grade school where we once endured polyester gym uniforms, stressful achievement tests, and, in my case, the occasional visit to the principal’s office.

As we separated for the afternoon, I thought of times past when we gathered as a church family for outdoor recreation under sunny skies. Outdoor church was held each summer on Mt. Hood’s flanks. Driving there, we passed the stalwart church athletes who opted to grind up the hills on their bicycles for a special worship amid lawn chairs, towering fir trees and the harmonic plucking of Terry Williamson’s banjo.

Just like in my own family, some of the best church memories are these outdoor adventures—picnic suppers and evening worships overlooking the Cascades when I was a Pathfinder, blistered toes hiking down Larch Mountain to Multnomah Falls, and camping at Ft. Stevens on the Oregon coast each fall.

What Makes a Church a Family?

By Laurel Rogers
During an evening vespers at our church reunion, a slide show reviewed the special moments we’ve shared as a church family. We laughed at 1970s-vintage wedding photos and rejoiced in the unique ministries our church has pursued through the years—from guitar lessons and health seminars to cycling clubs and fishing trips. This was the scrapbook of a family, just as treasured as the albums filling my bookcase at home.

**For Better or Worse**

Like all families, our church has weathered its fair share of scandals, disagreements and hurt feelings. Family feuds and estrangements are always difficult, but somehow those associated with a church family are made all the worse by the expectations we all hold of a certain perfection in a spiritual home.

No matter that our church family is made up of sinful humans, I still cling to the ideal that somehow we can escape the politics, slander, gossip and cruelty that plague the real world and real families. When we don’t, I weep.

As I looked around at our church reunion, I was as aware of those missing as those who were there. Some we’ve lost—for now—to death’s call. But I know others are gone because of schisms, misunderstandings and outright hostility. Do they know I miss them, that I wish I would find them filling their favorite pew once again?

**The Circle of Life**

Even as our membership fluxes, Hood View remains for me an anchor, a common denominator that runs throughout the majority of my life. In this church family, I grew from a pig-tailed toddler into a craft-building Pathfinder. Here I made it through the flirtations of youth and brought home my college friends. In this spiritual home, my church family gathered as I wed my husband.

This special family welcomed our twins for their first visit to church and prayed with us as we dedicated them to the Lord. When the twins celebrated their first birthday at Sabbath School, they sat on the exact same birthday chair that held my younger brother on his first birthday more than a quarter century ago.

Now I’ve come full circle, from the 3-year-old pastor’s daughter to bringing my own 3-year-olds to a church that has sheltered and loved me through all of it. Now it’s their turn to create the memories they’ll be cherishing when Hood View celebrates its 70th anniversary.

In the end, our church is so much more than theology and a set of doctrines. Following Christ’s example with His disciples, we pray together, eat together, and celebrate together. We face lonely nights in the garden together and bring our children to the temple together. And when one of our own disowns us, together we cry … and pray for his or her return. These are the utterly human moments, centered always on a divine Father, that make a church a family.

Laurel Rogers, part-time writer, full-time mom, writes from Milwaukie, Oregon.

Now it’s my son’s turn to join with his church family for special times like outdoor church.

At the Hood View reunion, my dad once again took the pulpit where he preached each Sabbath of my grade-school years.
Todd Casey presents morning worship to his fellow students at Mission College.

As Todd Casey saw the look of joy on the baptismal candidates’ faces as they came out of the water, he knew that he had made the right choice. Five months prior, Todd had his life planned out. Having recently graduated with a B.A. in business from Canadian University College, he was planning to go and work in the accounting branch of a Canadian oil company. The money would roll in, and life would be good. The only problem was that Todd, who was raised a Seventh-day Adventist, did not have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Shortly after graduating from college, some of Todd’s friends told him of their experience at Mission College of Evangelism, a small evangelistic training school located in Laurelwood, Oregon. Todd saw how their spiritual lives had been changed and began to wonder if this was the place for him to go. Wrestling with the idea of going to Mission College, he made several “deals” with God, not thinking that any of them would or could be fulfilled. But everything was lining up to allow him to go—so he went. His experience at Mission College, like that of so many others who have gone there, has truly been life-changing.

Mission College began in 1980 as a dream of two gospel workers. Louis Torres was working in the Missouri Conference as a pastor and conference evangelist. While he and his wife Carol were conducting meetings in various places, they saw there was a real need for trained gospel workers. All through their ministry they had been training their church members and other workers. They saw that there were specific things that helped those who were trained to excel in service for the Lord.

Based on this experience, Carol wrote a curriculum, not knowing exactly how or when it would be used. The Torreses committed the idea to the Lord and trusted in Him to make it a reality. Over the next 15 years, they continued to hold training sessions wherever they were, but wondered how, when, and if their dream of an evangelistic training school would be realized.

In 1995, an invitation was extended to Carol and Louis to open a training school on the campus of an ASI (Adventist-Laymen’s Services and Industries) member organization, Black Hills Health and Education Center, near Rapid City, South Dakota. It was so exciting to see the Lord open doors. In the fall of 1995, Mission College held its first three-week course. The response was very positive from the students, and plans were made to hold a full three-month-long evangelistic training course.

As word got out about Mission College, people from all over the world began applying to come and take the course. While most were young adults, it was encouraging to see all ages, from 18 to 80, apply. Students came with a variety of different backgrounds. There were conference...

Student Lydia Peters gives a health lecture on exercise.
Students begin each morning with worship where they sing hymns and study the Word.

Students plan and put on the children’s programs for the evangelistic meetings.

Students of Evangelism

evangelists, pastors, a conference president, and many lay people who wanted to be trained for better service. Of the lay people that came, some wanted to go into full-time ministry, and others wanted to learn how they could do more for God in their own local churches.

Students who go through the evangelistic course receive training in personal and public evangelism, Bible doctrines, Daniel and Revelation, balanced methods of health evangelism and more. While the training is very intense, it gives the students the basics they need to bring someone to Christ and help that person to continue to grow in Christ.

During the first few years that Mission College was operating in South Dakota, the Lord greatly blessed. During each three-month program, evangelistic meetings are held in which the students participate. By 1998, as a result of the evangelistic efforts put on by Mission College, a new church was planted in Rapid City. The Torreses were elated by the success that the Lord was giving through Mission College. Even more exciting was the number of graduates that were going to all parts of the globe to use the training they had received at Mission College to reach people for God.

After the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Torreses began to explore the idea of opening a branch of Mission College closer to a large metro area. Again the Lord had a plan. In early 2002, an invitation was extended to Mission College to move the school to the campus of the former Laurelwood Academy. Seeing the great need for the gospel to be spread to the Portland area, the Torreses jumped at the chance and moved the school in the summer of 2002.

The first class held in Oregon was in fall 2002. Since then the blessings of the Lord have continued to grow. In the last three years, nearly 200 people have been baptized into God’s church as a result of meetings held during the evangelistic training programs. And many more have been won to God’s kingdom by Mission College graduates who are using the training they received in places all over the world.

This fall the evangelistic class was so large that it was necessary to hold evangelistic meetings in Salem, Sheridan and Vancouver, Washington. Todd Casey, along with 16 other students, had the opportunity to work with the Vancouver Church. Several nights each week the students went out into the communities and put their training into practice by going from door to door and giving Bible studies. The students also helped organize the evangelistic meetings that were held at the church. This experience was tremendously positive for all involved. Wayne Culmore, senior church pastor, said, “I have watched [the students’] enthusiasm and desire and love for souls continue to grow, and I can’t thank them enough.” In Vancouver there were 15 decisions for baptism from the meetings. Through this experience, the students saw that God could use them to win people for Christ.

As Todd Casey looked back on his experience at Mission College, still an ASI supporting ministry member, he said, “My experience here at Mission College has helped reset my moral clock. It has helped me to see what is really important. I am now firm in my religion; during my time here I finally saw that God is real.” Todd has not yet decided if he will go back and work in the oil industry or go into full-time ministry. “Either way,” he said, “I will now be witnessing for my Master wherever He leads me.”

Immanuel Roth, Mission College of Evangelism development director, writes from Gaston, Oregon.
Every day thousands of women are handed crying bundles and, along with their spouses, face the daunting job of giving their infants permanent names. Women in the 19th and early 20th centuries frequently gave birth to 10 or more children, dealing with this important task on a regular basis. Many times they turned to the Bible for names. One can understand why parents would choose names like Moses, Sarah, Elijah, Martha and Noah; but one has to wonder about the thought that went into names such as Samaria and Nineveh.

In many ways Nineveh Ford was typical of the pioneers in the Pacific Northwest. He was strong-willed, independent, resourceful and opinionated—characteristics that naturally formed in the pioneers as they struggled to survive in a remote and challenging frontier. However, Nineveh was unique in many ways.

Nineveh traveled west with Dr. Marcus Whitman in 1843, and historians confirm Nineveh’s claim to being the first pioneer to get a wagon across the Oregon Trail. When the Cayuse Indians killed his friends, Dr. Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, four years later, Nineveh joined the volunteers that traveled up the Columbia River to deal with them. And when Chief Joseph’s band of Nez Perce Indians fought an unwanted war with the U.S. Army in 1877, Nineveh and one of his sons joined the volunteers who fought alongside the government troops.

When the eastern portion of the Oregon and Washington territories was opened for settlement in the mid-1850s, Nineveh moved his family to the Walla Walla Valley, where he took up farming and served three terms as a state senator and twice as a county commissioner. Though Nineveh’s large beard and untrimmed hair gave him a rough appearance, he was intelligent, well-read and a good debater.

When Nineveh came west, there were only 200 Americans living in the unsettled wilderness of the Pacific Northwest. Afraid that there would be no greens to eat, he brought dandelion roots and seeds in his wagon. Today we have Nineveh to thank for introducing this obnoxious yellow flower to the Northwest.

At his farm in eastern Oregon, Nineveh raised an apple that was 16 and a half inches in circumference and weighed almost three pounds. He took it to the nation’s centennial celebration (1876) in Philadelphia. The apple took first place, and records indicate that it was the largest apple ever grown in the United States.

Nineveh lived on the main wagon road between Walla Walla and Milton near the crossing of the Walla Walla River. When wagons stopped for the night, he would sell them hay and produce. In time the county commissioners decided to straighten the road by moving it two miles east and building the first bridge across the river. Nineveh fought the decision but lost.

The night after the bridge opened, Nineveh and his friends used chains, 10 yoke of oxen and rollers to move the bridge to the river crossing near his home. The next day the commissioners were furious, but the bridge was never moved back to its original site.

Soon after crossing the Oregon Trail in 1843, Nineveh and seven others organized the first Baptist congregation in the Northwest. In 1874, Nineveh attended the first Adventist evangelistic meetings in the Northwest and joined the Walla Walla Church. Eight months later he was removed from membership, making him the first Seventh-day Adventist to be disfellowshipped in the Northwest and possibly west of the Rocky Mountains.

Nineveh and his wife had 11 children. Two of their sons became ministers in the Upper Columbia Conference.

The electric chair. Sweat moistened my body as I trudged toward it.

“Sit here,” the attendant barked.

I plopped in the chair, awaiting the torture. I stared vacantly at the “No Smoking” sign above the doorway.

The attendant approached the switch. She flipped the lever.

I felt the power surging in the chair.

“There you go, Mr. Haffner, that’s about the right height,” she remarked as she flipped the switch off. “Just wait here. The dentist will be with you in a minute.”

“Ah, um, ah, thank …” The words caught in my throat like sunflower seeds.

Maybe I won’t have any cavities this time, I thought to myself. Reconsidering, I thought again.

Right, Karl! That’s about as likely as George W. getting re-elected in 2008.

I stared at the poster on the wall. It was a close-up of a grinning mouth sporting diseased gums. The teeth (the three that remained) looked like pebbles protruding from rotten bananas. The caption taunted me: “Avoid Gingivitis! Do You Floss Regularly?”

The clamor blared around me. I heard a duet with a howling kid and the buzzing drill, the “light tunes” of KLIT in the tinny speaker above me, and the gurgling miniature sink beside me.

I could already taste the experience: the sour Novocain; the bitter, squeaky gloves of the dentist; and the bubble-gum-flavored fluoride treatment.

Twenty-six minutes after the dental assistant told me, “The dentist will be with you in a minute,” Dr. Johnston entered my cell.

“Hi Karl,” he chirped. “We’ll get you going here by doing a cleaning. Your dental-hygienist today will be Jill.”

Jill dashed into the room. Glancing at my chart she stammered, “Hi, ah, Mr., um, Haffner.”

“Hi.”

“How are you today?”

“Good,” I lied.

She curled some floss around her fingers. I knew her next question. Oh how I dreaded that question.

Please, I thought to myself, don’t ask me “The Question.”

Any question but “The Question.” Guilt overwhelmed me.

“Do you floss?”

I knew she’d ask me that!

Why is it, I thought to myself, every time I leave the dentist’s office I swear to myself I’ll start flossing everyday, then disregard my commitment within a week?

“No, not usually.” I meekly confessed.

“You really need to.”

“I know.”

“Once you get in the habit, it will be easy.”

That evening, I determined to start a new habit. I yanked, pulled, bled, and muttered, “Flossing is so barbaric. Why do I think this habit will stick?”

“Practice what you preach,” my wife said.

“Huh?” I had no idea what she was talking about. I was quite sure I had never preached on flossing. “You know,” she said, “you’re always preaching about making a commitment, then acting on that decision, not your feelings. Determine your action then act with determination. You’ll never feel like flossing. But if you decide what you want and then act on it …”

“Yeah, yeah, I know.”

There’s nothing worse than getting your sermon preached at you.

With new resolve, I determined to floss daily. Believe it or not, 15 years later I’m still a flosser. I can’t say I love doing it, nor do I sport a bumper sticker that reads, “I’d rather be flossing.” But every time I floss I am reminded that it is possible to form new habits.

Remember that the next time you renege on another New Year’s resolution. Perhaps 2006 was going to be your year for a deeper prayer life, a more disciplined exercise program, a better devotional experience—well, it’s not too late. Decide what habits you need to form this year, then act by faith, not by feeling. I’d explain that further, but it’s time to go floss. •

Karl Haffner, Walla Walla College Church senior pastor, writes from College Place, Washington.
Two Congregations Enjoy Baptism Through Internet Connection

The Internet, so often used by Satan to destroy families, was used to unite two church families Sabbath, Oct. 29, 2005.

When Diana Aparico, a senior at Walla Walla College, made her decision to be baptized and unite with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, there were questions about where the baptism should take place. Should she be baptized in the Wenatchee (Wash.) Church where she first learned the message in the local church school? Or should she be baptized at the college, where she made her decision to commit her life totally to Jesus?

Somehow, perhaps from a Heavenly inspiration, the idea of an Internet hook-up came to church leaders in both churches. A Web link was installed enabling the Wenatchee congregation to see on a large screen what was happening at the Walla Walla College Church, and the College Church to hear what was being said in Wenatchee.

When the day came, Mike Afderhar, Wenatchee pastor, came over the College Church’s sound system. “We’re proud of you, Diana. And we’re glad you have asked to be a member of our congregation. Do I have a motion to accept Diana into membership of the Wenatchee Seventh-day Adventist Church?” It was moved and seconded. “All in favor say ‘Welcome!’” Through the Internet connection, a loud chorus of voices from Wenatchee came over the College Church speaker system: “Welcome!”

When Diana went home to Wenatchee for Thanksgiving vacation, she attended her new home church for the first time. Many of the members there were able to say, “We’re so glad we got to see your baptism. We were there via the Internet. Did you hear us say ‘Welcome?’ Now we have a chance to show you how welcome you are.”

And Diana was able to realize in a new way how the Adventist Church family truly stretches around the globe, united by one Spirit and one message.

Dan Serns, North Pacific Union Conference ministerial director

Diana Aparicio celebrates her baptism with her best friend, Kisna Toruno, a senior from Auburn, Wash.

Or was it possible for both congregations to participate in the experience?

Why not both? As Diana was making final spiritual preparations for her baptism, church leaders in both churches were making technical preparations as well.

When the day came, a Web link was in place, enabling the Wenatchee congregation to see on a large screen what was happening at the Walla Walla College Church, and the College Church to hear what was being said in Wenatchee.

From the baptism of the College Church, Diana shared her testimony of God’s leading in her life and her commitment to make Jesus and His Word, the Bible, first in everything.

Immediately after she was baptized, the voice of Mike Afderhar, Wenatchee pastor, came over the College Church’s sound system. “We’re proud of you, Diana. And we’re glad you have asked to be a member of our congregation. Do I have a motion to accept Diana into membership of the Wenatchee Seventh-day Adventist Church?” It was moved and seconded. “All in favor say ‘Welcome!’” Through the Internet connection, a loud chorus of voices from Wenatchee came over the College Church speaker system: “Welcome!”

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Dan Serns, North Pacific Union Conference ministerial director

Diana’s new home church in Wenatchee, Wash., was able to see her being baptized by Dan Serns in the Walla Walla College Church over an Internet video hook-up.

During a chance encounter at Walla Walla College, Dan Serns invited Diana Aparico to be baptized. Here they visit in preparation for her baptism.
Health Ministry Christ’s Way

NAD Health Summit West 2005

For the second consecutive year, Health Summit West has been held at Gladstone Park Conference Center, Gladstone, Ore. Sponsored by the North American Division (NAD) health ministries department, the summit’s purpose is “to prepare our church members to do ministry in their community, church, and in their home,” says David White, coordinator of the event.

Begun four years ago, Health Summit originally took place only in Florida. In 2004, the NAD experimented by adding a Health Summit on the West Coast. And plans are underway to establish Health Summit North in Canada during the summer of 2006.

Attendance at the Gladstone event was fairly low the first year, but this year the original attendance more than quadrupled as more than 400 registered. Factors for increased attendance, according to White, include consistent location, Neil Nedley, M.D.’s workshop, more word-of-mouth recommendations, and better marketing efforts.

Marilyn Renk, Oregon Conference health ministries director, and DeWitt Williams, M.D., North American Division health ministries director, encouraged attendees to participate in the Adventist Health Study. For more information about the study, visit www.AdventistHealthStudy.org.

Nedley presented his popular depression recovery program to more than 150 listeners. In addition, seminars covering topics such as fitness, whole foods cooking, financial health, and grief recovery were also available. And this year a class focusing on diabetes and obesity was offered in Spanish.

“I believe that a well-trained health professional can use his or her skills to relieve suffering and reach the unreached,” says DeWitt Williams, M.D., North American Division health ministries director. “The health message is the entering wedge that breaks down prejudice and prepares the soil for the seeds of truth.”

Amy L. Schrader, Oregon Conference communication director

R.R. Beitz

One of God’s Special Servants

R.R. Beitz passed away peacefully of old age at his home in Vancouver, Wash. He was 99 years old and a member of the Sunnyside Church in Portland.

R.R. Beitz’s leadership spanned 59 years. He was a pastor/evangelist; a youth department director; and president of the Texico Conference, Southern New England Conference, Southern California Conference and the Pacific Union Conference. In 1968, he was elected as a general vice president of the General Conference, serving there until his retirement in 1974.

He married Martha Reiswig in 1931 who passed away in 1973. Duane S. Bietz and Gordon G. Bietz were born to that marriage. Duane is a retired surgeon in Portland, and Gordon is the president of Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tenn. In 1974, Bietz married Vivienne Craig who passed away in 1990. In 1991, he married Pee Zee Abernathy who cared for him until his death. He is survived by four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Jere Patzer, North Pacific Union Conference president, said, “With the death of Elder R.R. Bietz the church lays to rest one of its great leaders. Due to the passing of years, it is sometimes easy to forget the caliber and contribution of some of our finest. Yet R.R. will be remembered for his bearing, his professionalism and his commitment. He was respected as a trainer, motivator and example. He was a leader’s leader, and in a sense, his death marks the end of an era. We join the family in anticipating the resurrection call of our Great Leader.”

Richard C. Dower with Gordon Beitz
Dillingham School Students
Use Their Hands for Jesus

The students at Dillingham Adventist School have been looking for community-service projects. “Since Jesus is our example of a servant, the students at our school have been looking for ways to serve their community, just to let people know that they care for them and to bring some cheer into their day,” stated Lorraine Carpenter, a part-time teacher/volunteer at the school. “Jesus fed the multitudes, so the first thing they came up with was baking muffins on Friday mornings and delivering them to different people around the community. Thus far they have taken them to Grandma’s House, the police department, Jake’s Place, SAFE, and the men working on the new senior housing.”

On a recent Friday, Carpenter and Rod Rau, the full-time teacher at the school, were praying for a project when a phone call was received from the Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA). They were having a conference that weekend, and their caterer for Friday’s lunch backed out at the last minute. Someone had suggested that the conference planner call the Dillingham Adventist School, since the school often does fundraising dinners. BBNA offered to pay for the groceries if the school would make the lunches.

The students made 80 lunches that Friday morning with the assistance of three parents, Rod Rau and Lorraine Carpenter. The lunches included a sub sandwich, salad, juice and cookies. The students put scripture stickers on the outside of the bags and the kids’ business cards in the bags. “It was quite a job, but fun,” reported Carpenter. “BBNA couldn’t believe we did it for nothing. Rod Rau’s response was to tell them they were an answer to prayer. Since BBNA is just across the street from the school, the students walked the lunches across the street and hand delivered them.

Lorraine Carpenter, Dillingham teacher

Samoan Adventist Church Member Receives University Scholarship

Tafilisauna Toleafoa, a member of the Anchorage Samoan Adventist Church, has been granted a tuition scholarship from the University of Alaska, Anchorage. The 2005 Ahaina Men of Excellence scholarship is available to any University of Alaska student applicant in recognition of outstanding academic accomplishment and community service. Out of a pool of more than 400 applicants for the award, Toleafoa was one of eight finalists and the only man to receive the award. Toleafoa is pursuing a liberal arts bachelor’s degree with a minor in biology. He anticipates acceptance in a forensics master’s degree program upon completion of his degree at the University of Alaska.

John Kriegelstein, Alaska Conference communication

Tafilisauna Toleafoa, a member of the Anchorage Samoan Adventist Church, has been granted a scholarship in recognition of his academic performance and community service.
Auction Supports Christian Education

Four years ago a board member, John Kurlinski, decided to initiate an event that would raise much-needed funds for Gem State Academy. “Other private schools raise a lot of money through auctions,” he said. “Why can’t we?”

David Kramer, a former Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA) student back in the 1950s, is an auctioneer. When he heard that GSAA was considering an auction, he eagerly called and offered his auctioneering services.

Now, four years later, Kramer and his auctioneering team have raised more than $71,000 for GSAA and its feeder elementary schools. “I’m grateful that God can still use me!” he says.

This year’s “Light a Life” auction included more than 300 new and like-new items. Community business owners, alumni and friends of the school opened their hearts and provided a great array of items.

Lead items included Danny Amen’s (class of ‘82) Jeep Cherokee and Jodi (Stephan) Fresk’s (class of ’86) Chevy Van. Mor Furniture for Less in Boise donated a leather sofa/love seat and a dining table with six chairs. Verlain Terrell, wife of the late Wayne Terrell (class of ’48) donated two nights at her condo in Sun Valley.

Among the 300 “Light a Life” bidders at this year’s auction was a real estate agent who moved to New Orleans after being devastated twice by hurricanes in Florida. He barely escaped Katrina. Now he and his young family are endeavoring to build a new life in Idaho’s Treasure Valley, and the “Light a Life” auction was able to assist them with their new start.

“It is exciting to see how God has brought people and businesses together,” says John Kurlinski. “I only envisioned a yearly fundraiser—not an auctioneering ministry or a ministry to hurricane victims. Isn’t God incredible! I can’t wait to see what He has in mind for next year.”

Linda Klinger, GSAA development director

Students Help Make Thanksgiving Meal

Wonderful smells had been filling the halls of Eagle Adventist Christian School in Eagle, Idaho, for two days as students and volunteers led by Debbie Messecar, our Home and School leader, prepared homemade rolls; pumpkin, chocolate and apple pies; cranberry sauce; vegetarian turkey and stuffing; and many other delicious foods for the annual Thanksgiving meal.

At noon on Tuesday, Nov. 22, about 200 people from the Eagle Adventist Church, community and school entered the gym where they were greeted with the aroma of home-style cooking and artistic Thanksgiving decorations that included pumpkins, corn stalks, and home-canned foods. Pictures and table decorations were made by the kindergarten and preschool classes. Gretta Gregg was in charge of the atmosphere for the occasion.

Each year we provide this meal as a means of getting together with parents and church members. This year we extended the invitation to the community at large and several people were blessed by the food. The leftovers enrich the meals of our senior citizens during the holiday season.

The students learn many things by helping with the meal and cleaning up. Then, as soon as the work is done, they go home for their Thanksgiving break.

Jaunita Pitcher, EACS teacher
New Church Planned for Growing Group in Eureka

The Eureka (Mont.) Church family had about 20 members when it became a company in July 1996, and a church in July 2000.

Our church family is growing, and we need a church home of our own so we don’t have to meet in rented facilities or church members’ homes. We praise the Lord that our little congregation has grown to about 50 members, plus visitors, but we really need a place more suitable for church!

We took the matter to the Lord, and He blessed us with a beautiful piece of land, just out of town on a hilltop overlooking the entire valley. Our official ground breaking took place last July.

We were able to purchase the land, put in a well, clear the building spot for the church, put in a driveway, and still come out money ahead. At our Nov. 20 business meeting, we voted to accept the building and financial plans.

If it’s the Lord’s will, we will get started on the actual building project in May 2006 and hope to be in our new church by September 2006 for evangelistic meetings we have planned with evangelist Jason Morgan.

Karen Hirschkorn, Eureka Church communication leader

Community Leaders

MEA Students Inspire the Community to Action

It was unusual to see bright, young faces at a gathering with bank presidents, government officials and other local business leaders. Even more unusual was the fact that they were presenting the keynote address for a Community Leaders’ Brunch, organized by the Gallatin Valley United Way.

On Sept. 11, 50 students from Mount Ellis Academy climbed their namesake mountain with more than $10,000 in pledges for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Because of their early mobilization and elaborate efforts to raise money, the local United Way asked for several students from Mount Ellis Academy to speak about their experiences as a way to inspire and motivate local community leaders.

The students talked briefly about one aspect of the fundraiser, their personal experience and what they learned about leadership and motivation. They concluded by showing a short film of students climbing Mt. Ellis.

The audience was enthralled to see high school students show such great interest and compassion for the world around them.

Keri Newell, MEA GLEANER correspondent

Montana Welcomes New Vice President for Administration/Finance

The Montana Conference welcomes Ray Jimenez III as the new vice president for administration/finance.

Jimenez brings a wealth of experience to the conference from the New Jersey Conference where he has served as assistant treasurer and treasurer. Ray is married to Julie, and they have three children: Ray IV, Randy and Reese. He takes up his responsibilities here in Montana Jan. 1. We are thankful for the Jimenez family and look forward to their ministry here in Montana.

John Loor Jr., Montana Conference president
Meadow Glade Church Celebrates Completion of Renovation

The Meadow Glade Church in Battle Ground, Wash., held an open house on Sabbath, Nov. 19, to celebrate the completion of a four-year, $5.1 million renovation that added 19,000 square feet to the existing structure of the church. The morning worship with Don Livesay, Oregon Conference president, was followed by a luncheon, tours of the facility, and a concert by the Joedy Melashenko Trio.

Sam Elie, Meadow Glade associate pastor, was honored during the worship for his 16 years of service at the church. Former pastors Ralph Martin (during the 70s) and Ken Crawford (1995–2004) were on hand to celebrate as well. Crawford was the senior pastor during the early stages of the project and left to become the Alaska Conference president just as the pastoral staff was moving into the new office complex in the renovation.

Rick Bowes, senior pastor who began his ministry at Meadow Glade in March 2005, shepherds a congregation of more than 1,000 with a team of four other pastors.

“Our church family is friendly, energetic and diverse,” says Bowes. “We’re especially pleased to have many young families in our congregation, attracted to us because of our two nearby schools, Meadow Glade Elementary and Columbia Adventist Academy. The remodeling of our building is due largely to the fact that we want to provide classrooms and fellowship space for all the small-group activities and ministries of the church. We’re also hoping to open up our facilities for community use.”

The Meadow Glade Church, formally chartered on March 31, 1906, with 13 recorded members, will celebrate its centennial in March 2006 with a full weekend of activities. Meadow Glade also operates an Adventist Community Service center in an adjacent building, open Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30–2:30 for food and clothing distribution.

Alternative Learning Center Opens at CAA

In an effort to meet the needs of all the students at Columbia Adventist Academy, the school has employed Sharman Bowes as director of the Alternative Learning Center. The object of the center is to challenge students to achieve results at a level that reflects their maximum potential within the context of their own learning needs and style.

Bowes will assist students with different learning styles through one-on-one interaction, modifications in testing procedures, tutoring, and appropriate testing. Furthermore, Bowes will also work with subject area teachers in writing up Modified Accommodation Plans for students that include home participation and regular reviews.

In looking to the future, the Alternative Learning Center is making plans for textbooks on tape, classic literature designed to be easily read and understood, and other innovative approaches to learning.

Bowes will also be assisting students that simply lack organizational skills and good study habits. It is her strong belief that each student has the potential to become a life-long learner and develop leadership skills, a Christ-like character, and strive to serve the community and church.

Parents who are concerned about their children’s success in school are encouraged to investigate what the Alternative Learning Center can do for them.
Milo’s StEP Program
Teaches Servant Leadership

They are everywhere on campus—being role models at the elementary school, leading out in small groups, tutoring in the student center, and teaching the freshman Bible class. They are participants in Milo’s Student Esteem Program (StEP), a servant leadership program that instills in students the desire to serve as a way to lead their peers to Jesus.

The five steps to becoming servant leaders form the foundation of the StEP mission statement: “Our ministry exists to lead by Serving our peers through the Training of disciples so that we can Experience being Jesus to them. By Proclaiming Jesus’ name through servant leadership we will Sow the seeds that will lead our friends to build a relationship with the Master.”

To be a disciple of Christ means to “be Jesus” to others with unconditional love. This goal is met on the Milo campus through real life experiences, which include leading small groups (CanOpeners), peer mediation, peer tutoring, mentoring elementary students (Shadows), freshmen mentoring, and stress reliever programs like J.A.M. (Jesus and Me).

Sarah Sexton, a senior from Gresham, Ore., helps with the tutoring program. She says, “It is very encouraging to watch the students improve their study skills and fun to see how excited they get when their grades go up.” Other seniors, like Justin Woods from Roseburg, Ore., are excited about teaching the freshman Bible class on Friday mornings. He says, “Freshman mentoring is an awesome program. We get to hang out with the freshmen while having an active influence in their lives.”

Stephanie Johnson, Milo’s StEP program trainer and consultant, says, “To answer the call of ‘Who will be Jesus?’ each day is the ultimate goal of StEP. Commitment to servant leadership, hopefully, will keep Milo graduates walking step by step with Jesus for the rest of their lives.”

Stephanie Johnson, StEP program director

Single, But Not Alone

More than 300 single adults gathered at Gladstone Park Conference Center for the Northwest Single Adult Ministries Conference held Nov. 4–5, 2005. With a full schedule of main sessions, breakout seminars, and social times, participants could never claim boredom.

“Dr. Sharon Hart May was outstanding as a general session speaker,” said Lorene Soderstrom. “Her excellent professional background and first-hand life experiences as a widowed adult and single mother and her later successful remarriage experience provided her with the ability to speak to the needs of each individual present.”

Harvey Corwin, Oregon Conference family life director, says, “American Division statistics indicate that 48 percent of Adventist Church members are single. In light of that, “we have a very important ministry to think about.”

Many times singles ministry is not fully understood. Darlene Reimche, British Columbia Conference single adult ministries director, explains, “Adventist single adult ministries provides a place to experience the love and acceptance of Christian friends, a place of ministry for the single adult, and above all, a place where Jesus, the ultimate single, mingles.”

“God has a purpose for each single person to live his or her life at this very moment—not despite being single,” says Corwin, “but through being single.”

Amy L. Schrader, Oregon Conference communication director

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Stephanie Johnson, StEP program director

Clarissa Worley shares her gift of music during the singles conference. A pastor in the Oregon Conference until September 2005, Worley has stepped out of pastoring to pursue music and speaking.

J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) is a favorite in making the transition into the Sabbath with singing, improv, and sharing who they saw Jesus in during the week.

Singles from the Pacific Northwest and beyond came to enjoy fellowship at the conference.
Revival Revitalizes Church

’05 REVIVE with Doug Batchelor of Amazing Facts and Danny Shelton of 3ABN revitalized the Cave Junction Church! A large clock with hands pointed two minutes to midnight filled the bulletin board in the church foyer. Members signed up for 30-minute segments of time to pray around the clock, 24 hours, during the 10-meeting revival.

Meetings were held in the church each evening, but the devil was unhappy with so many praying and rejoicing in the Spirit-filled meetings. We experienced equipment failures, and stormy weather with wind and rain hit the area. Despite these challenges, the Lord supplied our needs, and the meetings continued.

After each meeting, Verne Hyland, Cave Junction Church pastor, invited the members to form small groups of two and three to pray for those on the prayer list and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the church. Following one meeting, prayer for healing was offered and one member was restored to health.

Before the last meeting, a special baptism was held for Tony Bigginton. He gave a testimony of how God managed to get his attention through terrible trials. Several others indicated their interest in preparing for baptism.

The members are continuing to pray 24 hours a day, around the clock as no one wants ’05 REVIVE to end.

Patty Hyland, Cave Junction Church communication leader

What a Fellowship

The Dallas (Ore.) Church was recently blessed as evangelist Steve Cook presented Revelation Speaks Hope. This informative series of PowerPoint presentations, designed by Cook, emphasizes the beautiful Adventist truths found in the book of Revelation.

In the weeks that followed, seven new members were baptized. They included Tami Hall and her son, James; Juli Ward, Marilyn LeBaron, Chris McDowell, Nancy Saludo, Alvina Hinch, Alicia Smiley and Robert and Michelle Zowie.

All of the new members shared three things in common that drew them into fellowship with the Dallas Church—the leading of the Holy Spirit, the warmth of hospitality extended to them by church members, and the reliance on the Bible as the sole source of spiritual truth.

One of the new members, Alvina Hinch, was baptized in a private service on Oct. 8, just two days before her 91st birthday. A native of Kiowa, Colo., she moved to Dallas in 1990, where she lives with her grandson, Richard “Red” Stephens, who was baptized in May of 2005.

Alvina studied the Bible with Dallas Church members Dale Franklin and Dave Moffatt. She said, “We used no study guides but the Bible, starting with the book of Genesis.” She likes the Adventist Church’s emphasis on the Bible and says, “The Dallas Church is especially nice because it is so family-oriented. There is an aura of Christ in the sanctuary and around the people trying to abide by the word of God; you feel welcomed.”

Mark E. Spencer, Dallas Church communication leader

Tony Bigginton was baptized by Verne Hyland, Cave Junction Church pastor, during the last meeting of ’05 REVIVE.

Tony Bigginton was baptized by Verne Hyland, Cave Junction Church pastor, during the last meeting of ’05 REVIVE.
Hood View Celebrates 40 Years

The Hood View Church (Boring, Ore.) celebrated its 40th anniversary in May 2005 with a special worship service, potluck and evening vespers. Former pastors Ron Smith and Tom Stafford preached for the morning service, which included honorary mention of the charter members who founded the church in 1965 and greetings from Jere Patzer, North Pacific Union Conference president, and Don Livesay, Oregon Conference president.

Current and former members visited during a potluck dinner before rejoining in the evening for a vespers program, featuring a multimedia presentation of the church’s history in photos and sound. Light refreshments after vespers provided one last chance for visitors and members to reminisce together.

An age-old myth was broken that day. The list of former pastors and associate pastors proved once and for all that, in fact, there was never a Pastor Dull at this Boring church.

Laurel Rogers, Hood View Church communication assistant

Healthy by Choice
Not by Chance

In October, 25 people registered for the “Health & Cooking” class at the Cave Junction Church where they discovered with delight that healthy food can be delicious. Each evening the participants enjoyed hearing health tips and sampling the tasty recipes.

On graduation evening, the class was in a holiday mood. They brought Thanksgiving dishes to share in a buffet. During dinner, Miguel Vasquez played music from his native Venezuela on his mandolin.

Bev Steinman, M.D., director of the Siskiyou Community Health Center, spoke on a vital topic, “How to Make Behavioral Changes.” It was the perfect subject for the closing class, because by this time each student and staff member realized their need to make healthier lifestyle changes. She stressed the importance of making a few changes at a time and not being discouraged when you find yourself slipping back into old habits.

Each student received a certificate and a gift, and all came away with the resolve to be “Healthy by Choice—Not by Chance!”

Kathy Morris, Cave Junction Church health leader

True Love Waits

Women’s ministries’ first True Love Waits purity seminar for high school girls was a great success. Twenty young ladies from Livingstone Adventist Academy spent the afternoon of Nov. 18 together exploring the importance of saving themselves sexually for their future husbands. The program ended with a Mexican supper and an outdoor candlelight consecration service in a circle of heart-felt prayer. This program is a dream realized for the main presenter, Cheri Gatton, who is willing to share this seminar with other groups upon request.

Corleen Johnson, Oregon Conference women’s ministries director
The newly formed Whipple Creek Church recently hosted North Pacific Union Conference evangelist Jac Colón and his wife ‘dena for a Revelation Now seminar. During the seminar, Colón also conducted a field school of evangelism for seminary students from Andrews University who assisted in many ways to enhance the seminar. Visitation teams, including lay members, went out to encourage and pray with attendees and assist with transportation problems or any other obstacles to their attendance.

The field school is part of the curriculum at Andrews, giving students practical experience in the basics of successful evangelism. Though coming from diverse backgrounds and geographical areas, the students were a harmonious group. Donovan Kack, a pastor from Libby, Mont., and son of Donovan Kack, the Whipple Creek Church pastor, sat in on the sessions and was a great addition to the visitation teams.

Hurricane Katrina complicated Colón’s usual format, however, by uprooting his mother from her Louisiana home, bringing her to the Northwest for ‘dena to care for until it was safe to return. ‘dena Colón normally sings just before Pastor Colón speaks as an introduction to his subject of the evening. She also takes care of the sales table (CDs, DVDs, print-outs) and the many details that make a seminar successful. Since she needed to stay home with Jac’s mother, the lay people of the church, along with eight seminary students, jumped in and filled the gap.

Due to the unfinished condition of the church, the seminar began at Alki Middle School, later transferring to the Whipple Creek Church. The faithful attendees transferred to uncarpeted floors and rented folding chairs, not wanting to miss a single one of the powerful sermons. Before the seminar ended, the carpet and upholstered chairs were in place.

Oct. 8, the final Sabbath of the series, was a high day. After a sermon on “The Family of God” and the assurance that the incoming new members were now a part of that family, the seminar attendees were invited to individual homes for lunch. This not only provided an opportunity to get better acquainted and bond with regular members, but also gave attendees an introduction to delicious vegetarian cooking.

In the evening, 16 people were baptized, and seven others transferred in on profession of faith. Several others are preparing for future baptism. Whipple Creek is growing—inside as well as out.
“Adventist teachers saved my life!” said Mark Witas, principal of Cascade Christian Academy in Wenatchee, Wash. Witas, speaking at the first Streams of Light education rally held at the Sandpoint Adventist Church on Oct. 15, 2005, told the riveting story of his childhood and rescue by committed Adventist educators.

“The strength of our schools depends on the strength of our churches. Education has to do with evangelism and kingdom values,” said Witas during the Sabbath sermon. “When you provide an Adventist education for your child, you provide an extended family. Teachers are with your child seven hours a day. Children spend more time with their teachers than they do with you. Parents want to trust that the person with their child throughout the day represents high school graduates. “Statistics are not the reason I send my child to an Adventist school. I get one chance with my child, and that’s it,” said Witas. “If you believe in evangelism, you’ve got to believe in Adventist schools.”

Because enrollment is decreasing in Adventist schools, parents and educators came together to address this troubling trend. Their desire is to celebrate Adventist education and look for ways to meet the educational and spiritual needs of the children.

Four more Streams of Light education rallies will be held in 2006. The first will be in Lewiston, Idaho, on Feb. 11 with Gary Hopkins as the featured speaker. Mark Witas will speak again in Yakima on March 4. The third rally will be in Pendleton on March 11, and the fourth in the Pasco area on April 22.

The day-long event showcased Adventist education’s unique vision to equip children for this world and eternity. Homeschooling families participated, demonstrating that the home is the first resource in creating an atmosphere for children to grow and learn. Claudia Moots, a Bonners Ferry mother, said, “What a privilege to see your child see Jesus as a friend.”

The rally was sponsored by Streams of Light, an umbrella capital campaign raising funds for four projects. The UCC campaign director, Patsy Wagner, said, “These children are absolutely the best advertisement for Adventist education!”

The four projects are: $4 million for KEEP (Kid’s Educational Endowment Fund) to provide affordable Christian education for constituent children in grades K through 12, $1 million for Camp Mi Voden, $500,000 for KidsBibleinfo.com, and $500,000 for church planting. •
Wallawalla Valley and Tri-Cities Residents Demonstrate Love for Local Christian Television Station

Blue Mountain Television (BMT) is so grateful to its local viewers who demonstrated their support during the Thanksgiving Sharathon, Nov. 13–16, 2005. Together, BMT and its viewers raised $40,510 and faith promises continue to come in. It’s a blessing to know God’s people are so generous here in the Walla Walla Valley and Tri-Cities. A new credit card and FastPay automatic fund transfer system made donating to BMT this year even easier.

During the four-day annual pledge drive, telephone volunteers recorded 390 calls from people expressing how much they enjoy Blue Mountain Television’s 24-hour Christian programming, which includes news, community affairs and local church services.

In 2006, plans are underway to tap into the community even more by increasing programming that features local artists and musicians. Plus, we want to share stories that focus more on people helping people. Walla Walla Valley and Tri-Cities residents have generous hearts, and it’s time to expose that outpouring of giving to others by use of television."

Blue Mountain Television broadcasts on Channels 21, 22 (Spanish), 28, 36 and Charter Cable channel 13. To learn more about Blue Mountain Television, go to www.bluemt.tv or contact the station at (509) 529-9149.

Dan Thesman, Blue Mountain Television station manager

BMT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

Upper Columbia Academy Hosts Technology Fair

More than 180 seventh-through 10th-graders from all over the Northwest recently attended Upper Columbia Academy’s second biennial Technology Fair. Following a general worship and orientation, each visiting student was able to choose two from the 10 outstanding workshops offered: auto CAD (Computer-Aided Drafting), automotive, aviation, creative threads, desktop publishing, fluid power-automation, photography, robotics, welding and woods technology.

Instructors included personnel from Walla Walla College, Spokane Community College, and UCA students and staff. All together, 18 UCA students assisted in making the fair a success. The visiting students loved doing something they could “get their hands on” and, especially for some, discovering a non-academic side to school.

Students were obviously impressed and excited about the program. In fact, when one of the instructors asked one young visitor if he would be attending Walla Walla College, he said “No, I’m going to UCA!”

Chuck Paulson, who heads UCA’s technology program and who organized this event, was pleased with the day’s outcome. “We want our young people to get excited about technology,” says Paulson, “but most of all, we want them to get excited about Christian education. The Lord has blessed us with a technology program that helps make that happen.”

The computer lab in UCA’s technology building was recently overhauled, thanks to the generosity of UCA alumni and friends. This renovation is part of what makes it possible to put on a fair such as this.

Paulson was pleased, too, with the opportunity to have Walla Walla College so willing to partner with an academy in this kind of undertaking. Just as the band and choral clinics alternate years, the Technology Fair alternates with the Gymnastics Clinic.

Cheri Corder, UCA GLEANER correspondent
Thank You, Spokane
Neighbors Donate Food for Needy

Students from Spokane Junior Academy (SJA) collected more than 4,000 food items from north-side residents for Spokane’s needy people. “Treats for the Needy” took place Oct. 19 and 20.

SJA students visited northwest neighborhoods, leaving an appeal letter for food items. On the second day, students returned to collect bags of groceries left on porches of homes.

All the foods were transported to the Better Living Center, 25 East Foothills Boulevard, the same day. The foods were given to families in need here in Spokane during the Thanksgiving holiday season. A donor sent a note in her bag of food. The note read: “Thank you students for all the time and effort you contribute. I truly appreciate all the thought you put into this. But none of us can appreciate it as much as those in real need. May you all enjoy the time you put into community service.”

“‘Treats for the Needy’ is an opportunity for students to help others, instead of themselves,” said Don Bryan, SJA principal. “Thank you, Spokane, for your outpouring of food and for giving our students an opportunity to serve those in need at this special time of year.”

Spokane Junior Academy is a Christian co-educational day school with students from kindergarten through grade 10. It has served the Spokane area at 1505 W. Cleveland since 1939. The school will move to a new 39.2-acre campus on North Government Way in the fall, 2006.

David M. Wallace, Spokane Junior Academy GLEANER correspondent

Jerry Dawes Wins the Brody Award

Jerry Dawes was this year’s recipient of the Wenatchee Adventist annual Brody Award. The original Brody Award was given in 1982 to Elmer and Lila Brody. It was called the perpetual Brody Award because of the lifelong commitment that the Brodys had to the Wenatchee community through the Adventist Community Services center.

The Brody Award is given each year to a person who has made an invaluable impact on their church and community. Jerry Dawes has probably blessed every member in our church in one way or another. He has been a member of the Wenatchee Church for at least 45 years and has held numerous positions to help our church function. He is a man of high integrity, has a great love for God, enjoys reaching people through Bible studies, and is passionate about reaching inactive members.

Jerry Dawes is a man who is loved and appreciated by so many, and that is why he was chosen to receive the 2005 Brody Award.

Kim Eastman, Wenatchee Church communication leader

Jerry Dawes accepted the 2005 Brody Award from the Wenatchee Church.
God Blesses St. Maries Christian School

St. Maries Christian School began in the year 2004–05 as an outreach school to the community. We stepped out in faith, even though we did not have enough students to meet our budget. Every month, just as the treasurer needed to write the checks, enough money was donated to pay the bills. Usually we had less than $10 in the check book when she was done.

We received a $5,000 grant to aid special education projects through the North Idaho Community Foundation. They usually do not give grants to church schools, but they gave us a grant because they saw that we were involved in providing needed programs for the community. We offered Community Emergency Response Training and a Protecting Your Child program. This year only half of the students who were registered showed up. With only five students and over $6,500 in expenses, we asked God for a sign to indicate we were following His leading. At our first board meeting, a lady walked in and asked if she could register her daughter. This was a sign to us that the school was still in God’s hands, and He has continued to pay the bills.

Half of our students are from the community, and they are thankful for our alternative school. Two of these parents wrote glowing letters for me to present to the North Idaho Community Foundation. This year we are a conference school with a full-time teacher, Verna Sonnentag, who was our lower-grade teacher last year. The Lord also sent us Heather Chrowl, a task force worker from Walla Walla College. In the last week of October and first week of November, we received more than $12,000 in donations! This is the first time we have had an excess. We know the Lord is blessing His school in St. Maries. Please pray for His school!

Martha George, St. Maries Christian School board chair

Hispanic Adventist Men

“Man in Conformity with God’s Heart” was the theme of the first men’s retreat organized by the Yakima (Wash.) Hispanic Willow and Three Angels churches on April 30, 2005.

Hector Vidales, an Adventist pastor from Escondido, Calif., was the featured speaker. He has extensive experience in hosting men’s retreats. In these meetings, his goal was to give the Christian men good self-esteem, to recognize their importance as servants of God, and also their spiritual value. Pablo Maldonado, who has some training in family counseling, talked about the different temperaments and men’s social, familial, and church behaviors. With laughter, learning and spiritual joy, the attendees made the commitment to be better Christians, better husbands, and better representatives of the kingdom of God.

After the meetings, they decided to meet again every three months to continue learning more about God’s Word.

Pablo Maldonado Cervantes, Yakima’s Spanish and Three Angels Spanish district pastor
Students Volunteer in Hurricane-Devastated Areas

The definition of “mission trip” found a meaning closer to home for four schools who sent a delegation of students and chaperones in November to help clean up hurricane-devastated areas.

In Waveland, Miss., 24 Skagit students painted floors, gutted houses, removed sheet rock and insulation, emptied mud-filled bathtubs, and threw piles of debris out of the windows, reported 11th-grader Ariane Brandt and Lisa Knudsen, North Cascade Adventist Church communication director.

The group also participated in “Random Acts of Kindness,” an outreach program to provide families and the elderly living in FEMA trailers and tents with heaters, blankets, hats, gloves, scarves and socks.

“The people were so grateful and happy, even though they had lost everything,” said Debbie Fogelquist, trip coordinator.

Thirty-four PSAA students also provided hurricane relief in Waveland. PSAA parent Jill Clay wrote in an e-mail that Thanksgiving took on a new meaning for the students and sponsors who volunteered in Mississippi.

“We all found it difficult to leave, as there was so much to do,” Clay said. “We felt we had only scratched the surface. We realized that the need is so great there, and the devastation so extensive, that it will take years to gain normalcy for the people there.”

Auburn Academy students assisted with relief efforts in Pearlington, Miss., one of the hardest hit communities. Thirteen Auburn students and four students from Lewis County Adventist School worked together to gut houses, clean yards, visit residents, paint homes, provide neighborhood worships, and conduct resident surveys for FEMA.

By working closely with other schools and organizations, participants forged new friendships and gained a new appreciation for God’s blessings.

“The people, sights and smells we will never forget,” Clay said. “Pray that we all, students and sponsors alike, will burn brighter with a love for others and Jesus because of this experience.”

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication intern

Puget Sound Adventist Academy students sort food to be distributed to hurricane victims in Mississippi.

North Hill Christian Fellowship

Shovels flashed and dirt flew Oct. 15, 2005, as members of North Hill Christian Fellowship broke ground on their long-anticipated church building project in Edgewood, Wash.

Just weeks before, the city of Edgewood had threatened yet another indefinite delay in the permit process. At church that week, members broke into small groups and prayed for God to intervene. “Three days later,” says John McLarty, North Hill pastor, “we had the building permit in our hands.”

A “gold” shovel was presented to Barbara Ford by her church family in recognition of her tireless efforts over the past five years as chair of the building committee. The projected completion date for the construction is May 1, 2006.

NHCF has been “breaking ground” since it began in 1992. Pursuing the ideals of love, acceptance and forgiveness, the members of NHCF have created a place of rest and healing for people with spiritual battle scars. The church has built a unique ministry, serving both questioning intellectuals and people who struggle with emotional and relational wounds.

Melanie Scherencel Bockmann, North Hill Christian Fellowship member

Barbara Ford, North Hill Christian Fellowship Building Committee chair, celebrates the groundbreaking ceremony by using her special gold shovel.

North Hill Christian Fellowship breaks ground for new church.
Mist engulfed Auburn Adventist Academy’s new classroom complex, Nov. 19, 2005. As students, parents, faculty and staff huddled together to brace against the chill of autumn winds, hearts were warm as the brand new building was dedicated to God.

The dedication was special. Two years and two days after the girls’ dormitory burned to the ground on AAA’s campus, destroying the belongings of 80 girls, three deans, and one teacher’s teaching materials, the building was finally finished.

The new building is home to the family and consumer sciences department, which was previously in the basement of Nelson Hall and destroyed in the fire. It also has classrooms for health sciences and Spanish and serves as the final step in rebuilding what the fire destroyed. This new building is located just southwest of the new girls’ dormitory. The fully paid for facility functions as a beautiful reminder that God not only answers prayers, but cares about our every need.

Six guest speakers, including Jere Patzer, North Pacific Union Conference president; John Freedman, Washington Conference president; Pete Lewis, Auburn mayor; and Keith Hallam, AAA principal, spoke. Alan “Lanny” Hurlburt, North Pacific Union Conference vice president for education, gave the dedicatory prayer. Tributes and thanks were given by students who had been through the fire, and a special address was given by Shelly Kilgore, family and consumer science instructor. Before the open house and reception, Sylvan Chorale sang a beautiful rendition of Psalm 67.

As guests hurried out of the cold and into the newly dedicated building, a renewed sense of thanksgiving to God warmed many hearts. It is with grateful hearts that Auburn Adventist Academy dedicates this new classroom complex to the work of Christ.

Jondelle McGhee, AAA GLEANER correspondent

The Winlock Church sponsored a Revelation Unfolded prophecy lecture series for surrounding communities over a six-week period.


The Holy Spirit led several to see the truth of the seventh-day Sabbath and to understand the last days’ call to worship God as Creator on the day He set aside.

Church members enthusiastically got involved with providing prayer ministry, logistical support, children’s meetings and warm greetings for visitors.

The meetings concluded with a special demonstration of God’s power when a windstorm took out the electrical power. Battery-powered lanterns, previously used to light up the church’s driveway, were used to provide light as Wolkwitz, who was not feeling well, presented the last message and the last call—not with electrical power but in the Spirit’s power.

“I’m excited about these meetings because they have regenerated this church,” said Hal Gates, Winlock Church pastor. “The Holy Spirit just came over us and blessed us.”

The series ended with a young man’s rededication of his life to God through rebaptism. Bible studies will continue with nearly a dozen people who are responding to God’s leading.

Greg Owen, Winlock Church elder
A dozen children received 20-inch bicycles after Pathfinder leaders, during the annual Pathfinder Leadership Retreat at Sunset Lake Camp, participated in an outreach training session. The weekend retreat explored ways to build healthy and better Pathfinder clubs by connecting children with God and increasing outreach and ministry.

“Many times,” said Greg Pick, Peninsula area coordinator and outreach session leader, “clubs do not understand the full potential of Pathfinders as an outreach ministry, and outreach is a great way to build a powerful club.”

Greater Seattle area coordinator, Linda Renfroe, wanted to increase interest in improving outreach opportunities and actively worked to bring the bicycle-building session to a reality.

“We wanted to draw interest for outreach by showing the leaders firsthand the benefits of service,” she said.

The hardest aspect of the outreach planning process was finding recipients, as agencies could not release client names and some parents were not able to bring their children to the event. “It’s hard to do something nice,” Renfroe said, after receiving a series of “No” responses.

The training exercise used teamwork to plan, assemble and test the bicycles for style and safety. At the end of the evening, nine happy 6- to 9-year-old children returned home with constructed-with-love bicycles, and three more bicycles were slated for special delivery.

Enthusiastic bicycle recipient, Yvonne Lake, 6, has great plans for her bicycle.

“I’m going to put stickers all over it,” she said, as she admired her pink, purple and blue bicycle, helmet and bicycle decorations.

The training event offered more than 100 club leaders hands-on experience with implementing a service activity.

Friends and family are continuing to surround Brendan “Dan” McKown, 38, with prayer and financial support. McKown was critically wounded during a shooting spree on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2005, when Dominick Maldonado, 20, allegedly opened fire in the busy Tacoma (Wash.) Mall.

Seven people were injured by the shots, with McKown’s injuries being the most severe. McKown may face partial paralysis as a result of the shooting. Already, McKown has regained some use of his right leg.

More than 45 stand-up comedians hosted a comedy night fundraiser for fellow comedian McKown to help offset his medical expenses as he has no medical insurance.

McKown, who works as an assistant manager at Excaliber Cutlery & Gifts, is the son of Roger and Beverly McKown, prison ministry advocates who attend the Yelm (Wash.) Church.

“We are not angry,” Beverly McKown told The Seattle Times. “We are praying for Dan, and we are praying for this boy [Maldonado]. God is a healer.”

Readers may visit www.danmckown.com for more information.
Volleyball Team Competes
At National Tournament

The women’s volleyball team at Walla Walla College made history by qualifying for the United States Collegiate Athletic Association tournament, held in Fort Wayne, Ind.

“We’re the first Seventh-day Adventist volleyball team to reach the post season,” says Wolves coach Don Hepker.

Not only did the team make it to the tournament, but the players also represented WWC in a way that made the other teams, coaches, and officials take notice.

Due to a miscommunication with the tournament organizers, the Wolves’ preference not to play Saturday games was not accommodated. So when the team qualified for the championship round, set for Saturday afternoon, it dropped instead to the losers’ bracket.

“No one had heard of us before, but they really respected our decision not to play,” says Hepker. “We didn’t choose to lose; we chose to honor our Sabbath.”

People were also impressed by the team’s attitude, complimenting the players on their good behavior throughout the tournament. “Many people came up and asked if we were a religious group,” Hepker adds. “They said they could just tell.”

Ending the tournament with four wins and one loss, Hepker says, “Winning is wonderful, but that’s not where the success of this tournament was. We represented our school and our faith.”

Alyssa Jacobsen, WWC contributing writer

Hollywood Accents
Draw Korean Language School to Walla Walla

A group from the largest language school in Korea recently spent a week at the Positive Life Radio studio, recording songs and stories that will be used to teach English to South Korean children.

Why did they leave Seoul, a city of approximately 20 million people, to record lessons in the small eastern Washington town of Walla Walla?

For the “Hollywood” accents of the West Coast.

While researching locations for the recording sessions, SeungMin Lee, chief audio engineer of the Seventh-day Adventist Language Institutes in South Korea, came across PLR’s Web site and liked what he heard. The modern facility on the Walla Walla College campus also met the technical needs of the institute, according to Walter Cox, PLR engineer, who helped coordinate the visit.

The project, headed up by Lee and InHe Shim, textbook writer, uses children’s songs and stories, like “The Wheels on the Bus,” to teach English to young people in South Korea.

WWC students and elementary students from Rogers Adventist School, in College Place, Wash., are serving as the voices that will help millions of Koreans learn English.

“We sing a lot,” says Sophia Rich, a fifth-grader. “My voice gets really tired!” And although they spent hours in the studio on Sunday and all week after school, the students agree that the experience has been “lots of fun.”

“The songs add authenticity to the English lessons,” says Shim. “They also give the students a break from the difficult lessons. There is no pressure or stress, but by singing songs they feel happy and learn better.”

The language school was founded in September 1969. It teaches English, Japanese, and Chinese at more than 30 branch schools across Korea. Approximately 45,000 students attend the institute every two months. For more information, visit www.koreasda.org or www.plr.org.

Kristi Spurgeon, WWC GLEANER correspondent
Celebrating the Sabbath

Whether you’re a patient, family member or on-duty employee, Adventist Medical Center (AMC) in Portland, Ore., strives to make the Sabbath hours a special and memorable time for all. From singing bands to worship services to flowers and Bible verses, employees, physicians and volunteers take time to infuse a peaceful and calming Sabbath atmosphere throughout the facility. But how does the hospital address community health events that take place on the Sabbath?

Community Events on Sabbath
In late 2005, AMC served as an event sponsor of the Portland area Race for the Cure. Sponsored by The Susan G. Komen Foundation, the event raises money and awareness for the fight against breast cancer, celebrates breast cancer survivors, and honors those who have lost their battle with the disease. While the actual race occurred on a Sunday, a special health expo was scheduled for the preceding Friday and Saturday.

“As a Seventh-day Adventist hospital, we must carefully evaluate the appropriateness of our participation in community events held on Sabbath,” said Deryl Jones, president and CEO of AMC. “While we want to be actively involved in our community, we also are determined to remain true to our Adventist heritage and Sabbath beliefs.”

A Creative Solution
Since AMC was a sponsor of The Race for the Cure, promoters expected the hospital’s involvement over the entire weekend. So hospital administration and the marketing department came up with a creative approach to activities on the Sabbath. On Friday, the hospital took advantage of their booth space to market the facility’s women’s services. In addition to valuable health information, AMC offered free osteoporosis screenings, chair massages and more.

On Sabbath, the booth took on a new look, celebrating the theme of creation. The hospital used the word CREATION as an acronym for the health principles of Companionship and Community, Rest and Recreation, Enjoyment, Activity, Temperance, Inspiration, Outlook and Nutrition.

In addition, those who visited the booth were given a rose and card. The card read: Enjoy this flower as a symbol of the beauty and peace of Sabbath rest. It also included the text of Isaiah 41:10 and the hospital’s mission statement.

“It was amazing how many people appreciated our booth on Sabbath,” said Travis Stovall, site administrator for Gresham Station at AMC. “We received lots of comments about how relaxing and peaceful our booth was, and many people were reminded of the importance of taking time out for themselves, their families and God.”

Heather Preston Wheeler, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent
Curnutt 50th  
Russ and Betsy Curnutt celebrated their 50th anniversary on July 31, 2005, with a celebration at Marshall Community Center, Vancouver, Wash., hosted by their children. Russell C. Curnutt and Grace E. “Betsy” J. Cody were married Aug. 28, 1955, in the Hillsboro Church by Pastor C. G. McKeown of Tillamook. Russ and Betsy had met while attending Oregon College of Education (OCE) now known as Western Oregon University at Monmouth, Ore. Russ’ winding career path has taken him from teaching in Brookings, Ore., to working for his dad’s shingle mill in Tillamook County, to teaching at Camp Tillamook Juvenile Corrections, to serving as mayor of Garibaldi. Betsy’s career path has led from being a homemaker to working for an insurance company. Now retired, they live in Washougal, Wash.

The Curnutt family includes: Charles and Denise Curnutt of Niles, Mich.; Vicki Curnutt of Newport, Ore.; and A. Bryan Curnutt of Folsom, Calif.; and 2 grandchildren.

Davis 90th  
Anne Davis celebrated her 90th birthday piloting a pontoon boat on Lake Roosevelt and having a picnic lunch with members of her family at a shoreline park. Anne was born Sept. 12, 1915, in Saskatchewan, studied nursing in Orlando, Florida, and met and married Loran Davis while working as a nurse in Walla Walla, Wash. She has been intimately involved in planting three churches in the Upper Columbia Conference: Blue Mountain Valley, in Athena and Umapine in Milton Freewater, Oregon, and the Kettle Falls (Wash.) Church where she is presently a member. Loran passed away in 1985. Anne enjoys gardening, memorizing Bible verses, and writing letters.

The Davis family includes: Dennis and Brigitte Davis, of College Place, Wash., and Janice and George Enquist, of Kettle Falls; 9 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Ringer 50th  
Elmer and Marilyn Ringer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 26, 2005, with a reception at the Vert Club Room in Pendleton, Ore.

Elmer Ringer met Marilyn Morris his senior year at Auburn Adventist Academy. They were married June 30, 1955, in Pasco, Wash. Elmer worked at Harris Pine Mills in Pendleton, Ore., for four years then went to Hillsboro, Ore., to train as a cartographer for the Washington county assessor’s office. He worked there for three years and then moved to Pendleton, Ore., where he worked for the Umatilla County assessor’s office for 33 years. He retired in July 1994. Marilyn ran a daycare business in her home for 27 years while raising their four children. They both enjoy traveling, rock hunting, hiking, gardening and spending time with their children.

The Ringer family includes: Gary and Cheryl Ringer of Milton Freewater, Ore.; Jeff and Lori Ringer of Walla Walla, Wash.; Brent and Anita Ringer of Lewiston, Idaho; Brenda and Scott Salsbery of Brush Prairie, Wash.; 10 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Wageman 90th  
Minni Wageman celebrated her 90th birthday Oct. 2 with a party hosted by her children at the Adventist Fellowship Hall in Newport, Wash. She was born Minni Schaak on Oct. 13, 1915, in Watkins, Mont.

Minni sold Watkins products for years and did in-home care for older neighbors and friends. She worked in the fields of their farms and was a homemaker. In earlier years, she was very active in her church and was a Dorcus leader. She enjoys driving her car and loves to grow a large garden. Minnie is the mainstay of her family and always has a helping hand for whoever needs it.


White 60th  
Bob and Pat White had planned to be married again to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary hosted by their children, but it was postponed while Pat heals from cancer surgery. Through the years, they have been members of several Oregon Adventist churches. They are now members in Christmas Valley where they have lived since 2001.

Robert W. White and Patricia R. Calkins were married by Roy B. Parcel Aug. 17, 1945, in Vancouver, Wash. After worked in logging, a lumber company and ranching, Bob started transporting autos to dealers. He retired in 1990. Pat taught English as a second language to adults speaking Korean, Vietnamese and Spanish by using pictures.

The White family includes: Patsy I. White (deceased); Eva L. Cochran of Vernonia; Robert E. and Sandi White of Portland, Ore.; Carleana E. White, Allen D. White and Judy White. all of Cornelius; 25 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

They adopted four children, the first three from Korea: Jennifer S. of Portland, Melissa M. of Christmas Valley, and Leioni L. of Laguna Miguel, Calif. Over the years, they were foster parents to 25 children. They adopted one foster daughter when she was an adult.
ALLAIRE-OLSEN—Jessica E. Allaire and Matthew K. Olsen were married Aug. 18, 2006, in Shady Cove, Ore. They are making their home in Medford, Ore. Jessica is the daughter of Don and Elizabeth Allaire. Matthew is the son of Alvin “Sonny” (deceased) and Kathleen Olsen.

CANADAY-TWIGG—Christy A. Canaday and George W. Twigg II were married April 9, 2005, in Yakima, Wash. They are making their home in Selah, Wash. Christy is the daughter of Jim and Cindy Canaday. George is the son of George and Judy Twigg.

DAVIS-PRUNTY—Angela Davis and Jason Prunty were married Sept. 18, 2005, in Auburn, Wash. They are making their home in Ridgefield, Columbia, Canada. They are making their home in Medford, Ore. They are making their home in Medford, Ore. They are making their home in Medford, Ore. They are making their home in Medford, Ore.

MARTENS-PASSMORE—Chantelle C. Martens and Larry S. Passmore were married Nov. 13, 2005, in Penticton, British Columbia, Canada. They are making their home in Ridgefield, Wash. Chantelle is the daughter of James and Donna Martens. Larry is the son of Daniel and Cheryl Passmore.

MCFERON-LEMON—Michelle McFeron and Thomas Lemon II were married Sept. 10, 2005, in Newport, Ore. They are making their home in Cambridge, Idaho. Michelle is the daughter of Larry McFeron and Patty (Willison) McFeron. Thomas is the son of Thomas and Jan (Elmendorf) Lemon.

MERSHON-JOHNSON—Heidi R. Mershon and Caleb J. Johnson were married Aug. 13, 2005, in Walla Walla, Wash., where they are making their home. Heidi is the daughter of Philip R. and Sheryl D. (Smith) Mershon. Caleb is the son of Jerry W. and Linda J. (Engelhart) Johnson.

RIMA-RÜB—Jessica L. Rima and Jeffrey M. Rüb were married July 31, 2005, in Walla Walla, Wash. They are making their home in Shafter, Calif. Jessica is the daughter of Linda Ogden and Randall Rima. Jeff is the son of Laurie Spencer and Marshall Rüb.

SAKARIASSEN-WING—Gina M. Sakariassen and Brandon M. Wing were married Oct. 23, 2005, in Edmonds, Wash. They are making their home in Redmond, Wash. Gina is the daughter of Cita and Robert Marshall and Ron Sakariassen (deceased). Brandon is the son of Pam and Dan McConaughy and Rick and Molly Wing.

WESTON-MARTEL HERNANDEZ—Sherri M. Weston and Jesús Martel Hernandez were married March 20, 2005, in Olympia, Wash., where they are making their home. Sherri is the daughter of Dan and Norma Weston. Jesús is the son of the late Miguel Martel and Galdina Hernandez.


CARTER—Stella (Sharpe), 99; born May 13, 1906, Monett, Mo.; died. Sept. 1, 2005, Baker City, Ore. Surviving: sons, Elvin, Baker City; Dean, Nampa, Idaho; Larry, Salem, Ore.; daughters, Mary Jean Mann, Lincoln City, Ore.; Ruby Hohensee, Gresham, Ore.; Pearle Stover, Nampa; sister, Ruby Brown, Grandview, Wash.; 22 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren and 26 great-great-grandchildren.

DE ROMANETT—John, 87; born April 26, 1918, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada; died July 19, 2005, Loma Linda, Calif. Surviving: wife, Margaret (Craig); and daughter, Linda de Romanett, Keene, Texas.


HANSON—Nellie M. (Robison), 95; born Aug. 1, 1910, Buhl, Idaho; died Nov. 7, 2005, Brewster, Wash. Surviving: son, Marion Hanson, Brewster; 2 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.


G U I D E L I N E S

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


PETERSEN—Lewis, 90; born Sept. 3, 1915, Hawarden, Iowa; died Aug. 26, 2005, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Margarette (Seilaz); daughters, Beverly Scott, College Place, Wash.; Glenda Merklin, Ontario, Calif.; brother, Clyde Petersen, College Place; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.


ROBSON—Jack E., 66; born Sept. 2, 1938, Modesto, Calif.; died May 11, 2005, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Beverly (Fisher); daughters, Rhonda Moruske, Eagle, Idaho; Rosalie Segale, Modesto; Raylene Franklin, Missoula, Mont.; brother, Thearon, Eagle, Neb.; sisters, Joyce Kingham, Loveland, Colo.; and 6 step-grandchildren.

STADDON—Jack E., 66; born Sept. 2, 1938, Modesto, Calif.; died May 11, 2005, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Beverly (Fisher); daughters, Rhonda Moruske, Eagle, Idaho; Rosalie Segale, Modesto; Raylene Franklin, Missoula, Mont.; brother, Thearon, Eagle, Neb.; sisters, Joyce Kingham, Loveland, Colo.; and 6 step-grandchildren.

STEWART—Opal L. (Shepard), 97; born March 17, 1908, Hartville, Mo.; died Aug. 10, 2005, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Roger, Caldwell, Idaho; daughters, Nina Prohaska, College Place, Wash.; Glenna Martin and Barbara Easter, both of Boise; 10 grandchildren and 8 great-great-grandchildren.


YOST—Carol D. (Trovillo), 84; born May 11, 1921, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; died Nov. 4, 2005, Medford, Ore. Surviving: sons, Jerry, Tigard, Ore.; Eugene, Medford; daughters, Judy Miller, Medford; Coleen Thomson, Apokoa, Fla.; sister, Elaine Swanberg, Woodland, Wash.; 11 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.
**NPUC**

**Offerings**
- Jan. 7—Local Church Budget;
- Jan. 14—Local Conference Advance;
- Jan. 21—Local Church Budget;
- Jan. 28—NAD: Religious Liberty;
- Feb. 4—Local Church Budget.

**Special Days**
- January is Friendship Evangelism month.
- Jan. 7—Day of Prayer;

**WALLA WALLA COLLEGE**

**Event Calendar**
- Jan. 6–8—Hispanic Celebration Weekend;
- Jan. 9–14—ASWWC Week of Prayer; 11 a.m., Walla Walla College Church;
- Jan. 14—Havdalah Vespers: “Renewal,” 4 p.m., WWC Church;
- Jan. 21—Havdalah Vespers: “Reconciliation,” 4:30 p.m., WWC Church;
- Jan. 28—NPUC Choral Festival Concert, 4 p.m., WWC Church.

**OREGON**

**Hood View Event Calendar**
- Jan. 14—World traveler, videographer and birding hobbyist Neil Pestes will show “The Whooping Crane,” 4:30 p.m. Pestes has been sharing his films with Portland-area audiences for 15 years or more.
- Jan. 28—The Sound of Love singers, with guitar and bass, from the Portland–Vancouver area, will present a gospel vespers concert, 4:30 p.m. They will offer familiar favorites and a few newer gospel songs. There will be a freewill offering and refreshments will be served. Hood View Church, 26775 S.E. Kelso Road, Boring, Ore.

**Sunnyside Event Calendar**
- Jan. 14—Evenson with Tim and Sherah Berthelsen as the featured musicians. Tim plays the violin, and Sherah plays the pan flute, 4 p.m.
- Jan. 20–21—Creation Series: “The World Through Son Glasses” with John Baldwin, Andrews University professor, Friday, 7 p.m.; Sabbath, 9 and 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- Jan. 27–29—Institute of Bible, Church and Culture (IBCC) Seminar presented by the Walla Walla College School of Theology, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Sabbath, 3 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church, 10501 S.E. Market St., Portland, OR 97216; (503) 252-8080.

**Milo Senior Recognition**
- Jan. 20–21—Parents, relatives and friends are invited to Senior Recognition, Friday at 7:30 for vespers, and all day Sabbath. Salad and dessert potluck on Sabbath with entrée, vegetable and tableware provided. Benefit banquet Saturday night. For details, see miloacademy.org; or contact (541) 825-3200 ext. 3321; info@miloacademy.org; 324 Milo Drive, Days Creek, OR 97429.

**Adventist Singles Activity**
- Jan. 20–22—Oregon Adventist Singles are joining the Beaverton Adventist Church as their guests at Big Lake, Friday afternoon through Sunday after breakfast. There is enough room for both groups. Questions? Go to www.beavertonoda.com/Singles or contact Tom at: (503) 684-7971, tom.te@beavertonsda.com/Singles or contact Nancy Rockey at: (503) 657-8000.

**Upper Columbia**
- Jan. 20–21—Present the Milner Mansion and VanLierop Cultural (IBCC) Seminar presented by the Walla Walla College School of Theology, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Sabbath, 3 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church, 10501 S.E. Market St., Portland, OR 97216; (503) 252-8080.

**Prayer Quest**
- Feb. 17–19—Are you hungering for a deeper connection with God? Prayer Quest is your call to prayer. Both men and women are urged to attend an inspiring conference-wide prayer conference at the Grants Pass Church. Watch for brochures at your church. Back by popular demand are inspiring speakers, Ron Clouet of Southern Adventist University and Janet and Jerry Page from Central California Conference. Among well-known Oregon presenters are Ginny Allen and Tom Lemon. Pray with us and anticipate an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. For more information, call women’s ministries at (503) 652-2225, ext. 207 or 402.

**Portland Union Academy**
- Jan. 28—The class of 1956 needs contact information for the following classmates for the 50th reunion on Feb. 24–25: Odo Braun, Sandra Emmert, Kathleen Finn (Frazee), Carol Hamlin, Wilma Littlejohn, Marlene Lorenzen, Marie Marsh, James Meade, Marliess Mahkob, Nick Pappas and Arrilla Reed. Please call Bev at (541) 440-2789, or e-mail to bevfl65@msn.com; or call Jim at (503) 666-7388, or e-mail to cavanadj1@comcast.net.

**Washington Conference**
- Jan. 28—Mission trip to Kenya, Africa;
- Feb. 12—Ghana evangelistic campaign;
- March 5–10—Poulsbo Adventist School work bee;
- April 3–5—Sunset Lake work bee;

**Washington Sage Seniors**
- Feb. 23–25—Dayton banquet at Kirkland Adventist Church; March 5–10—Tour of Puyallup’s Meeker Mansion and VanLierop Bulb Farm; May 14–19—Sunset Lake work bee;

**World Church**
- Feb. 12–22—Ten-Day Tour of Israel
- Feb. 23–25—Dayton banquet at Kirkland Adventist Church; March 5–10—Tour of Puyallup’s Meeker Mansion and VanLierop Bulb Farm; May 14–19—Sunset Lake work bee;

**Washington Sage Seniors**
- Feb. 23–25—Dayton banquet at Kirkland Adventist Church; March 5–10—Tour of Puyallup’s Meeker Mansion and VanLierop Bulb Farm; May 14–19—Sunset Lake work bee; May 28—Royal Argo Yuncheon cruise on Puget Sound. Contact Joan Libby, (253) 681-6008, at 3450 S. 344th Way, Suite 200, Federal Way, WA 98001; or Joan.Libby@wc.npuc.org; or go to www.sage-washington.com.
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Add one minute for each 13 miles west.

Seattle  4:34  4:43  4:52  5:03
Yakima  4:31  4:39  4:48  4:59
Walla Walla  4:24  4:32  4:41  4:51
Spokane  4:14  4:23  4:32  4:43
Portland  4:43  4:51  5:00  5:10
Medford  4:55  5:02  5:10  5:19
Coos Bay  4:57  5:04  5:13  5:22
OREGON CONFERENCE
Miles City  4:32  4:41  4:50  5:00
Helena  4:57  5:05  5:14  5:25
Havre  4:40  4:48  4:59  5:09
Billings  4:46  4:54  5:03  5:13
MONTANA CONFERENCE
Pocatello  5:11  5:19  5:27  5:36
La Grande  4:25  4:34  4:43  4:52
Post Falls  5:11  5:19  5:27  5:36

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THE SAMARITAN CENTER, a community service organization with a busy thrift operation, near Chattanooga, Tenn., is seeking an executive director to begin orientation in mid 2006. The applicant must have the following qualifications: a Seventh-day Adventist with a commitment to the Adventist mission, a bachelor’s degree in business, public administration or comparable area of community service, demonstrated ability in marketing and management, an understanding of a client-based service environment and exceptional skills in communication and working with a diverse population. Please submit resume and stated salary requirements to Charlene Robertson via e-mail tcrobertson@comcast.net.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks music professor with specialties in piano performance and music theory. Academic rank dependent on qualification/experience. Responsibilities includes: private piano instruction, classroom teaching music theory/aural skills sequence and upper-level coursework. Master’s degree required, doctorate preferred, must have proven record of successful teaching/research/performance. Submit letter of application, current vita and contact information for five references to: W. Scott Ball, Dean, School of Music, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 315, Collegedale, TN 37315. Application deadline: Jan. 20, 2006.

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS ACADEMIC COORDINATOR OF CLINICAL EDUCATION for its doctor of physical therapy program. Master’s degree (doctorate preferred), PT license, and 2 years of clinical experience required. Responsibilities include planning, coordinating and monitoring student clinical activities on behalf of the PT program. Adventists apply online at http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs.html or

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**ARIZONA TOWN HOME**—Located near Tucson in Green Valley. Sun, bird watching, retirement community. Great view of Santa Rita Mountains. Beautiful new furniture. Monthly or weekly. Days, 808-881-4406; evenings/weekends, 808-885-5289; e-mail alohafields@verizon.net.

**MAUI**—Fully equipped condo, unobstructed ocean and sunset view, sleeps seven. Tennis, pool, beach access, top quality amenities, beautifully furnished, close to restaurants and shops. www.seahavenrentals.com; 541-996-8800.

**LINCOLN CITY VACATION RENTALS**—3-bedroom/2-story cottage, sleeps 6–10. Studio/carriage house sleeps four. All new, pet friendly, around the corner from Siletz Bay. 541-996-3801 or www.bluebaycottage.com.

**SUNRIVER RENTALS**—Two nicely decorated homes. 3-bedroom, between lodge and mall, sleeps eight; 4-bedroom, sleeps 10. Both fully equipped. Hot tubs. Days, Mon.–Fri., 808-881-4406; evenings/weekends, 808-885-5289; e-mail alohafields@verizon.net.

**ADORABLE SUNRIVER RENTAL**—Sleeps eight, hot tub, seven bicycles, reasonably priced. Visit www.funinsunriver.com or call 360-577-0711.

**LINCOLN CITY, ORE.**—Luxury beach home rentals located in desirable Roads End Neighborhood. Specializing in new homes only! Spectacular ocean views, easy beach access, top quality amenities.

**SUNRIVER**—4-bedroom executive home, on North Woodlands golf course. Two master king suites, two queens, two sleepers, one twin, hot tub, three TVs, and VCRs, D/W, M/W, W/D, loft, Jacuzzi bath, gas log, BBQ, bikes, all “lodge amenities,” sleeps 10, no smoking, no pets, includes housekeeping. Contact Wayne Schultz: days 541-475-7188; evenings 541-475-6463.

**COLLEGE PLACE LODGING**—Completely furnished new units available daily, weekly or monthly. Full kitchens. Sleep four. Call 509-301-1498 to reserve. View at www.cottagegardens.ws.

**NICE FULLY-FURNISHED ACCOMMODATIONS** in College Place, with microwave, cable TV, some units with Internet. Units vary from 3-bedroom/2-bathroom to studios. Rates vary by month, week or day. Non-smoking only. 509-522-3415.

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**Advertising Policy**

Advertising is accepted as a service to members in the North Pacific Union Conference. The GLEANER management reserves the right to refuse any advertisement, particularly ads not related to the needs and practices of the church membership. Acceptance of any advertising shall be considered a matter of accommodation and not a matter of right, nor shall it be construed to constitute approval of the product or service advertised. Publication of advertisements shall be at the discretion of the GLEANER editorial committee.

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 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.

Payment—Payment is due upon receipt of invoice. Payment must be received before the ad is published. VISA and Mastercard accepted. Always give complete contact information (including daytime phone) to facilitate the billing process.

**Classified Ads**

Classified Ad Word Count—Classified ads must be submitted as hard copy only by e-mail to gleaner@nw.npuc.org or by mail. A maximum of 80 words will be accepted for any new classified ad. Every space between characters marks the beginning of a new word. Count each unit of a date as one word unless it appears as x000, which counts as one word. The editors reserve the right to edit ads for length and to conform to GLEANER style and policy.

Classified Ads Rates, NAD Advertisers—For advertisers who are church members in North Pacific Union Conference: $24 for 30 words or less, $.75 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.

**Display Ads**

Reserving Space—Display ad space should be reserved on or before the published deadline at least a month before the publication date. For large ads, call the GLEANER advertising manager regarding space availability at (360) 816-1483. Go to www.gleaneronline.org for ad policies, specifications, rates and deadlines or request the information from the advertising manager.

Submitting Materials—Submit an ad as a high-res, grayscale or RGB, Adobe Acrobat PDF file with the fonts embedded. May be e-mailed to gleaner@nw.npuc.org, placed on the FTP site, or submitted on a CD. Ad files should arrive on or before the published deadline.

National Advertising—Advertisers who wish to place half- or full-page display ads in at least five of the nine NAD union magazines concurrently should go to www.nadnationalbuy.com or contact the NAD National Buy Advertising coordinator at manager@nationalbuy.com or call (360) 816-1484 or (360) 828-7146.

**JANUARY 2006 • GLEANER 47**
ROOMS TO RENT—Brand new Anchorage Adventist Church has eight guest rooms, one handicap. Queen-size beds, private entrance, kitchen/laundry facilities, Internet access. Rates per night: winter $65, summer $85. All proceeds go to church building fund. 907-868-3310; 907-301-0703.

ADVENTIST GROUP TRAVEL—Call to check availability. 7-day Hawaiian Islands cruise, sailing 4-9-06, hosted by Pastor Dan Matthews; 7-day Voice of Prophecy Alaska cruise, sailing from Seattle 8-13-06, hosted by Pastor Lonnie and Jeannie Melashenko including gospel soloist, Joe Melashenko. Mert Allen, Mt. Tabor Cruise: 800-950-9294; 503-256-7919; mert@mttabortravel.com.

KAUAI—1-bedroom condo, sleeps four, furnished including linens, dishes, dishwasher, refrigerator, microwave, stove, and TV. Sand bottom hot-tub and swimming pool, tennis courts, volleyball, and more on property. Golf, snorkeling, surfing and shopping nearby. $650/week includes housekeeping. 541-385-6749.

PALM DESERT, CALIF—Casa Larrea Inn: small, quiet and quaint in a relaxing atmosphere. One block from the famous El Paseo Blvd. 800-829-1556; casalarrea@dc.rr.com.

OGDEN ADVENTIST GROUP TOUR—South Africa, Sept. 11–28, 2006. Includes: safari in Kruger National Park, Swaziland, Zululand, Garden Route from Port Elizabeth to Capetown with five days sightseeing in Capetown area. Contact: Merlene Ogden, 269-471-3781; ogden@andrews.edu; Judy Zimmerman, 269-471-7004; zim41634@aol.com.

2006 GREAT CONTROVERSY TOUR—June 15–29, with Dr. Gerard Damsteegt of Andrews University Seminary. Prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome and the Reformation sites in the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, France. A most exciting experience! Call or fax 269-471-5172; e-mail gctours@mac.com.

Answers to Did You Know? Presidents of the North Pacific Union Conference (Page 5)

Prayer Quest

"If my people pray... I will hear" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

February 17 – 19, 2006
Grants Pass Adventist Church
1360 NE 9th Street
Grants Pass, Oregon
(503) 652-2225, ext. 207 or 402

To register contact
Oregon Conference
Women’s Ministries

• All are urged to attend this conference-wide prayer event. •

January 27–28, 2006

In Times LIKE THESE

R. Clifford Jones, Ph.D
Adventist Theological Seminary

Friday–7 pm
The Perils of Adventism

Sabbath–11 am
Will Your Anchor Hold?

Sabbath–2:30 pm
The Future of Adventism

Sharon Adventist Church
5209 NE 22nd Ave.
Portland, OR
503-287-7649

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If You Could Ask the President ...

Let me make a not-so-wild guess. Many of us know precious little about the different levels of our Adventist Church structure. While we may go to church on Sabbath, read our bulletins and scan the Adventist Review or GLEANER for interesting tidbits, most of the time we’re oblivious. But that’s not how the plan is drawn up.

Over the years, our Adventist Church structure has placed increasing emphasis on a representative style of operation. That is, we elect delegates and conference leaders to represent us on committees where critical decisions are made on exactly how the church carries out its mission. As long as each of us stays engaged and informed, it works well. But if we disengage, the whole process, which depends on an active, passionate membership to guard against “kingly power” by a few highly-placed individuals, can bog down, get top-heavy, or become bureaucratic.

So I’m inviting you to engage, to really care about what our church does.

Next October, North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) delegates will gather to elect officers and set the course of Northwest ministry for the next five years. In the April, May and June issues of the GLEANER, we’ll be interviewing our NPUC officers. I’d like your input.

If you could ask our NPUC president, Jere Patzer, one question, what would it be? Would it be about matters of organization and structure? … about his personal vision or philosophy? … some concern you have over a decision or policy? If you respond this month, we’ll have your questions and comments to consider as we work on our April interview article.

Go online at www.gleaneronline.org and simply follow the link to Let’s Talk, or e-mail me at talk@gleaneronline.org. When you share your question, also tell me why it is especially important to you. I’ll be anxiously awaiting your response. If possible, please include your full name and the city and state where you live.

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Steve Vistaunet, assistant to the president for communication
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CHURCH  CONFERENCE

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MARCH 9-25, 2006
Come to Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Spring Break

A Personal Invitation from Dr. Jere Putzer, North Pacific Union President

By faith, we’re planning to bring 50 teams of willing (not necessarily experienced!) Northwest Adventists and their friends to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, spring break!

Needed: 50 speakers to make seven gospel presentations (sermon notes provided), construction workers and money (we’ll build as many $12,000 churches as we collectively raise funds for), medical professionals (to give health and family life talks plus take care of our team and minister to the Bolivians), English/Spanish translators, and story tellers to work with the children. We’ll work in 50 sites for a week, then come to a large stadium, where we’ll spend eight nights together producing a live-by-satellite program that will reach all of South and Inter-America. Cost should be under $2,000 p.p. with airfare, lodging/meals.

For Mission Trip Information (360) 816-1400; or www.npuc.org/BoliviaHarvest2006