Northwest Adventists in Action

Gleaner

Share the Light

AUGUST 2006, Vol. 101, No. 8

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www.GleanerOnline.org
Consider the [gulls]: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them.

And how much more valuable you are than birds!

Luke 12:24 (NIV)

“Peg-leg Gull” photographed by Stefan Hinman of Wasilla, Alaska.
Dear fellow members:

The North Pacific Union Conference was organized 100 years ago to partner with members and local conferences in the Adventist mission to “Share the Light” in the Northwest. Now here we are, a century later, still with earthly addresses, anxious to complete this important work so we can all be home with Jesus.

In just about two months delegates will meet for the 26th constituency session of the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC). More than 300 of our Northwest members, along with several representatives from the North American Division and General Conference, will review the accomplishments of the last five years, and elect the three NPUC officers and executive committee members who will help lead our church’s mission in the Northwest for the next term.

We invite you to review our departmental reports in the next few pages and evaluate for yourself how this partnership in our church’s mission is progressing.

The delegates who will be attending this session on October 1 have been chosen by your local conferences and institutions to represent you. If you would like to share your perspectives with a delegate, you’ll find a complete list on pages 24–25 of this GLEANER.

We are so thankful for your partnership in the mission of our church during these past five years. The days ahead will be both challenging and exciting. We invite you to pray with us that the Spirit will work in and through us all to “Share the Light” so our friends and neighbors can be ready to meet Jesus.

Sincerely,
North Pacific Union Conference

Fast Facts

- Education funding amounts to 71 percent of all appropriations to local conferences and institutions by the NPUC.
- Enrollment growth reached 1,968 in 2004–05, the second highest enrollment in Walla Walla College (WWC) history.
- There are 588 certificated, full-time K–12 teachers in 122 schools within the NPUC, with 43 percent of the teachers possessing masters or higher degrees.
- The NPUC has helped to direct evangelistic meetings within nine different countries since 2001—Tanzania, Aruba, Dominican Republic, Philippines, Guatemala, India, Bolivia and the United States.
- There are 430 pastors in the NPUC to assist members in carrying out their mission.
- In the Northwest, there are about 13 million people and 90,000 Seventh-day Adventists, a ratio of 1:144. Forty percent of the Northwest’s population live in metro Seattle and Portland.
- More than 2 million pages are printed each month to provide the GLEANER to Northwest Adventist homes.

Constituency Session FAQ

Do you know how the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) delegates are selected, how many are lay members, or why Walla Walla College also has its constituency session at the same time and place? For answers to these and other questions, check out the Let’s Talk section on page 66. For expanded content or to submit additional questions, go to the Let’s Talk section of www.gleaneronline.org.
Summary
The office of the president articulates the vision that keeps Adventist work in the Northwest organized in accordance with a common mission. Even as North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) president Jere Patzer has undergone treatment for non-Hodgkins lymphoma, he has stayed in touch and helped to guide the NPUC vision. Typically, the union conference president represents the church at various meetings, advises local conference administrators and provides leadership or input to the various committees of the local conferences, the North American Division and the General Conference. This office seeks to make sure that leadership is accountable to membership.

Mission
To lead the mission of the Northwest Adventist church in a way that fulfills God's unique calling and purpose.

What's Been Accomplished
Aside from his other administrative duties as president, Jere Patzer has, during the past five years, encouraged the union and local conferences toward progress in 10 main areas.

Professional Growth—There have been increased continuing education opportunities, including geoscience and New England heritage trips, and Reformation tours. In addition, one Northwest Ministerial/Leadership Convention has been planned for each quinquennial period to inspire and train pastors and teachers.

Public Awareness—In order to position Adventism in the Northwest as a visible and attractive option, increased study has been given to establishing a greater broadcast presence in major metro areas, along with the monthly Issues & Inter-

Fast Facts
- NPUC president Jere Patzer has held evangelistic meetings in nine different countries since 2001—Tanzania, Aruba, Dominican Republic, Philippines, Guatemala, Brazil, India, Bolivia and the United States, five of which were uplinked via satellite.
- He has hosted 200 Issues & Interviews radio broadcasts since the program's inception in 1990.
- He serves as the vice-chair of Adventist Health board and is chair of the Walla Walla College board.

views radio program and promotion of bibleinfo.com and the Voice of Prophecy Discover Bible schools.

Church Planting—Conferences have been encouraged to hire pastors who are passionate about church planting and educating members in the related outreach. Our early Northwest pioneers raised up churches of new believers wherever they went, and so should we.

Lay Evangelism—Increasing numbers of Northwest members and students have gained experience in overseas trips, so now with additional training and encouragement, that experience should be put into practice in local community evangelism.

Informed Membership—The GLEANER now has an active and dynamic Web site with opportunity for immediate updates and reader interaction. That, along with the
quarterly Northwest Spotlight on Mission DVDs sent to each church are helping members stay informed and inspired.

Ethnic Diversity—With churches representing a number of ethnic backgrounds, we must continue to foster our annual black convocations, and Spanish-language updates in the GLEANER, along with other avenues to show this diversity as a strength.

Office Relocation—The long process of relocating the NPUC headquarters offices to an updated, more visible and efficient property is almost complete, with initial occupancy scheduled near the end of this year.

Spiritual Growth—Along with other personal growth tours and trips, more than 30 Faith in Focus seminars have been sponsored throughout the Northwest to educate and encourage members and leaders in the fundamental beliefs of the church.

Global Mission—Since 2001 the NPUC has sponsored major global evangelistic initiatives to Aruba, Dominican Republic, Philippines, India and Bolivia, and has helped in other series in South America and beyond. The NPUC executive committee has voted to continue this outreach until the Lord comes.

Financial Accountability—While we recognize that our mission must determine how finances are allocated, we will carefully use the resources according to responsible and accountable forms of stewardship that honor the Lord and are faithful to the trust of His people.

The Challenges Ahead

Membership Growth—We can do better than the typical North American 2 percent church growth. That must change dramatically if we are to make headway in the mission God has given us. Together with our local conferences, churches, pastors and members we plan to begin a new cycle of regular evangelism in whatever form it takes to reach the people God has placed right here at our own domestic doorstep. The principles we have learned in our Global Mission endeavors, we must adapt here at home. Our goal should be to reach everyone in the Northwest with the Adventist message by the year 2011.

Academic Growth—As good as our Northwest Adventist schools are, we have room for growth, especially in helping our students grapple with their own faith issues. We have established a Northwest commission on student growth that will address how Adventist faith and learning can be combined with increased enrollment to enhance positive outcomes for our children. The future of our church and its mission depends on how well our kids own and live out the Adventist message.

Spiritual Growth—Of course, it all starts with our own hearts and lives, with Jesus living at the core. We must each personally embrace a plan to keep us on track spiritually, grounded in the Word of God and other inspired writings. Thanks to a generous Northwest donor, we are producing a revitalized edition of *The Desire of Ages*. While it preserves Ellen G. White’s profound words, the old King James Bible references are being replaced with the updated, contemporary beauty of the New King James version. We think you will find your life changed by discovering this book “again, for the first time.” In addition, we plan to mail a special clergy edition to thousands of Northwest ministers of other denominations. This classic book will renew our focus on Jesus and point us back to His Word where we can fall in love with Him all over again or perhaps for the very first time.
Secretary
Health Ministries, Stewardship

Fast Facts

- The Institute for Mission and Ministry has sponsored 31 weekend Faith in Focus forums throughout the local Northwest conferences since 2004.
- Attendance at the second annual Health Summit–West event quadrupled to more than 300 individuals who were trained for further service in their church and community.
- This office sponsored pre-retirement seminars at four different sites for church employees who are nearing retirement.

What’s Been Accomplished

eAdventist—All membership records have been transitioned from the older system of paper record-keeping to the new eAdventist Web-based system, which allows unprecedented access and flexibility while ensuring proper security.

Health Summit–West—This Northwest-based event, co-sponsored with the North American Division, featured nationally known speakers with a variety of seminars and activities to promote better living.

Conference Consultation—Continued support to local conferences has been given to help with procedural issues and to provide continuity during administrative transitions.

Domestic Abuse Study—A study was commissioned to explore the impact of domestic abuse within Northwest Adventist homes and churches. The results were sobering, yet necessary to begin a discussion of solutions.

Accountability Assurance—This office has maintained files and policies that ensure accountability to each member, should questions arise.

Women’s Ministries—Sue Patzer, as coordinator, has worked with the active women’s ministries departments in our local conferences to encourage a Northwest-wide emphasis on active evangelism.

Faith in Focus Seminars—Coordinated by Sue Patzer, these seminars, featuring some of the best of the denomination’s speakers, have been held in more than 31 locations throughout the NPUC since 2004.

Summary
The executive secretary’s office at the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) deals not only with the infrastructure and policies of our church organization, but also coordinates the record-keeping that ensures fair and accountable processes for each employee and member. In this office, Bryce Pascoe also keeps abreast of health and stewardship issues and, with Sue Patzer’s assistance, leads out in the Northwest Institute for Mission and Ministry, which has sponsored geo-science trips, Reformation tours and the Faith in Focus seminars throughout the Northwest. He has also guided the Northwest participation with the ongoing study on how to address and reduce domestic violence within the church.

Mission
To provide fair, honest and consistent processes of accountability for church members throughout the Northwest.
The Challenges Ahead

Membership Growth—North American culture has proved more challenging to church growth than other parts of the world. Here in the Northwest, we must find the balance between nurturing existing members and attracting and keeping new believers. In addition, we must realize the ethnic ratios are changing, and adapt our focus and priorities to respond to a growing number of Hispanic and other cultural forces within and without our church.

Safe Family Committee—Adventist homes and churches are not immune to the problem of domestic abuse. To follow up with the study already done, the NPUC has established a Safe Family Committee to review and implement recommendations from that study to ultimately provide safer environments for our members and their children.

Employee Retirement—With the uncertainty surrounding Social Security and other funds, we must develop better tracking to provide more consistent denominational work records and help our employees who retire apply for and receive their retirement funding more quickly. A new Internet-based system will help with this.

So What Else Happens Here?

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive secretary wears several other hats, including coordination of stewardship and health programs, as well as leading out in the activities and events of the Northwest Institute for Mission and Ministry.

Besides providing periodic stewardship emphasis stories in the GLEANER, this office will introduce the new North American Division stewardship series to Northwest pastors this fall, provide promotional support for the “Get a Financial Life” series offered through the trust department, and provide consultation and continuing education for conferences upon request.

Healthwise, the NPUC staff has joined one or two other Northwest conferences in a Fit4Him wellness program that not only promotes good health practices and exercise among employees, but should also eventually reduce medical costs.

With the coordination of Sue Patzer, the Northwest Institute of Mission and Ministry will continue sponsoring and promoting Faith in Focus weekend presentations in each local conference featuring some of the denomination’s leading theologians and speakers. The strong women’s ministries programs in many of our local conferences will also be supported and encouraged by the NPUC.
Summary
The treasurer and the entire treasury department makes sure that financial policies and practices at the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) are consistent with general church guidelines and ethical financial principles. The treasurer acts as a counselor to local conference, college and academy treasurers. Personnel in this department take care of human resource issues, personnel records, payroll and health benefits and all financial statements that are reported to the executive committee and the members. All tithe and offering disbursements and appropriations are handled here. In addition, the legal entity of the church, the North Pacific Union Conference Association (NPUCA), handles financial investments and the all-important revolving fund which enables many of our churches to obtain building and improvement loans.

Mission
To be honest and accountable stewards of the funds God provides for the fulfilling of His mission through this church.

Fast Facts
- More than $43 million in appropriations were passed on to local conferences through the NPUC during the last five years.
- The NPUC revolving fund is generally open for deposits by members who wish to provide funds for church and school buildings while earning interest on their principal. More than $13 million in interest has been returned to these depositors in the past five years.
- Education funding amounts to 71 percent of all appropriations to local conferences and institutions by the NPUC.

What’s Been Accomplished
Conference Funding — Because of changes in how the tithe funds are distributed, local conferences are now able to retain approximately $600,000 more per year than they did in 2001. Previously those funds had been passed on to the NPUC. We have correspondingly economized and “right-sized” our union staff and operations to adjust to these changes.

Treasurer Relations — Helped our local conference treasurers acquire new and more efficient accounting software, mentored them in communicating financial data more clearly to membership and helped them track monthly budget changes.

Treasury Staff — Over the past five years, there has been almost a complete turnover in our treasury staff. Our staff is committed, competent and ready to serve the needs of our Northwest members.

Beyond The Bottom Line — Along with the North American Division and the Andrews University School of Business, sponsored a biennial seminar to help educate, train and inspire our church treasurers and accountants toward higher standards and better practices.
The Challenges Ahead

Ethnic Funding—With the changes happening in our population and membership throughout North America and here in the Northwest, we need to find better funding to help meet the growing diversity in our church. Our best membership growth is within the Hispanic culture, yet many of our Spanish-speaking families cannot afford to send their children to Adventist schools. We need to meet that challenge.

Church Assistance—We are planning to make some major changes in how we approach evangelism here the Northwest. If these efforts are successful, we will need to provide appropriate assistance to purchase land and buildings for new churches.

Church Employees—We must trust God to help us honor the dedication of our church employees by caring for their rising medical and retirement expenses.

God Will Provide—Overall, we believe that what God has called His church to do, He will enable it to do—and that includes all of us—in His plan for success.

NPUC Office Relocation

The long process of acquiring land, the proper permits, building and then relocating the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) office to Ridgefield, Wash., is nearly complete.

Some have questioned why relocation was even necessary. While that discussion has largely been answered in the past, two or three responses may be appropriate in quick review: 1) Downsizing of the NPUC office needs made the old building far too big and inefficient; 2) Needed renovations would have been expensive; and 3) High values at the old site combined with low, but rising values at the proposed site, made relocating a good investment for future values—something homeowners understand and appreciate.

Of course, the delays in obtaining zoning clearance and proper permits have prolonged the relocation process far beyond what was originally expected. Yet, even in this delay, positive results have come forth. NPUC administration have formed strong connections with community leaders. These partnerships have already been beneficial and may, in the long run, be even more valuable in God’s timing. The protracted time has also allowed the project to gain greater press time and local awareness.

The location has proved to be a blessing to the public. During the 2005 Christmas season, NPUC employees erected a huge, 300-foot-long lighted nativity scene at the Ridgefield property, easily visible to Interstate 5 travelers.

Weather and other unknowns permitting, the NPUC offices will be relocating from their interim location in Vancouver, Wash., to the newly-completed Ridgefield offices sometime toward the end of this year. More information will be available and reported in the GLEANER.
Summary
North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) communication personnel have a combined total of 100 years of experience in “telling the story” in print or audiovisual media, yet this department has also proved to be a denominational leader in innovative communication. It specializes in connecting Northwest church members and leaders as well as the public with the Adventist mission through print, broadcast, Internet and video technology.

Mission
To provide inspiration and resources to assist our conferences and members in sharing the Adventist message.

Communication

Fast Facts

- More than 2 million pages are printed each month to provide the GLEANER to Northwest Adventist homes.
- The NPUC and GLEANER Web sites received more than 100,000 visits last year.
- Adventist media touches more than 100,000 listeners/viewers each week in the Northwest.

What’s Been Accomplished

GLEANER Web site—Developed a Web site that is more than just a copy of what is printed. The GLEANER Web site now features regularly updated news, articles and opportunities for reader response.

Community Connection—Aired the monthly Issues & Interviews radio program hosted by NPUC president, Jere Patzer, which reaches all of the major metro areas throughout the Northwest and beyond.

Expanded Information—Through a partnership with the Pacific Press Publishing Association, expanded the GLEANER to an average of 52 pages per issue, with additional information and features. In addition, the Northwest Spotlight on Mission has become a regular feature in many churches.

The Challenges Ahead

Member Survey—We must constantly measure how the GLEANER and other communication resources should adjust to remain responsive to Northwest Adventists of differing ages.

Public Awareness—We plan to help each Northwest Adventist church develop a quality Internet presence as a community and evangelistic outreach tool, and produce radio spot resources to increasingly connect the public with the Adventist church and its mission.

Community Connections—Through radio and Internet technology, we will seek to establish a 24/7 presence in the major metro areas of the Northwest.

How Local Conferences and Members Have Been Helped

Central Information Source—The NPUC and GLEANER Web sites provide a common point for immediate information—to the farthest reaches of Alaska or Montana, or even around the world.

Local News—Each print and online GLEANER is full of information that has come directly from members and conferences and is meant as a resource for other members.

Northwest Spotlight—Each church receives a quarterly Northwest Spotlight on Mission DVD, which shares testimonials and stories about how God is working in the lives of Northwest Adventists.
Disaster Response

Fast Facts

- NPUC church members contributed more than $270,000 in offerings and donations, as well as volunteer teams and supplies to assist victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

- Adventist Community Services (ACS) is the official Adventist disaster response agency within the United States, not the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

- The NPUC disaster response coordinator is a volunteer position.

What’s Been Accomplished

Northwest Coordination—Appointed an NPUC disaster response coordinator who has provided our Northwest local conferences with better access and coordination, regional focus and greater collaboration potential.

Web site—Developed a Web site (http://DisasterResponse.npuc.org) to inform church members and the general public and to eventually be used by conference disaster response coordinators for training.

Disaster Response—Helped to coordinate ACS volunteers and supplies from Idaho, Oregon, Upper Columbia and Washington conferences after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Financial Aid—Initiated an awareness program to Northwest Adventist churches to raise money for hurricane and flood victims.

How Local Conferences and Members Have Been Helped

Central Information Source—Each conference and member has access to a central source for information and coordination in the event of a disaster.

Consistent Training—Each conference, church and member now has access to consistent training and information to help them be part of the solution rather than the problem during any local, regional or national disaster.

The Challenges Ahead

Training—Develop a cadre of trained disaster response volunteers in each church to respond to crises within their community, local conference or on a wider scale during major disasters.

Member Awareness—Inform and educate members that disaster preparedness is an individual and family responsibility, and that ACS disaster response is an important community witness and ministry.

Community Partnerships—Help local ACS groups become active members in state Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), American Red Cross, ham radio operators and other associated organizations.

Fast Facts

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Summary

In May 2003, the Adventist Community Services (ACS) directors and disaster response coordinators of our local conferences recommended that a North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) disaster response coordinator position be funded to provide necessary support for local and conference ACS programs. In April 2004, the NPUC executive committee appointed Dennis Olson to this position. The six local conferences in the NPUC share in providing the $7,500 annual budget.

Mission

To serve the poor and hurting in Christ’s name.

Dennis Olson, director
What’s Been Accomplished

Goals—Directed the development of specific, written goals for Northwest Adventist schools and provided subsidies to help schools begin working toward those goals.

Journey to Excellence—Aided in the creation and implementation of the Journey to Excellence program as a visioning tool for Adventist educators.

Curriculum—Assisted the NAD in developing and revising curriculum.

How Local Conferences and Members Have Been Helped

Remote and Necessary Schools—During the past five years provided nearly $5 million for the “remote and necessary” program which helps to keep Adventist small schools operating for churches and conferences that otherwise would be unable to afford them.

Program Subsidies—Provided $10 million in overall financial aid to Northwest schools for special programs beyond the normal operating costs.

Quality Assurance—Ensured high-quality Adventist education by administering programs for school evaluation and professional development.

Teacher Certification—Provided an objective, neutral center for the certification of teachers.

The Challenges Ahead

Enrollment—During the past five years, K–12 enrollment has dropped by nearly 600 students. We will work closely with each of our Northwest schools to help reverse the trend of declining enrollment.

Cost—The rising cost of education not only affects statewide public school systems, but is also affecting Adventist schools and families. We will help our conferences and churches with plans to keep costs reasonable and affordable.

Distance Education—With fewer families sending children to boarding academies, we must address how to provide quality secondary education to students in far-flung areas.

Summary

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) office of education coordinates and assists in funding special programs for K–12 schools throughout the Northwest. It serves as a liaison between the North American Division (NAD) educational standards and curriculum and the local conference programs here in the Northwest. It is also responsible for the certification of all teachers.

Mission

Because Seventh-day Adventist education is a ministry essential to fulfilling the unique mission of the Adventist church, the office of education is dedicated to implementing the mission of the church in our K–12 educational program.

Fast Facts

- There are 588 certificated, full-time K–12 teachers in 122 schools within the NPUC, with 43 percent of the teachers possessing masters or higher degrees.
- Of the 14 NPUC senior academies, Idaho has one, Montana one, Oregon five, Upper Columbia three, Washington four.
- During the 2005-06 school year, there were 7,550 K–12 students in the NPUC.
Hispanic Ministries

Fast Facts

- Hispanic membership has increased 31 percent over the last five years.
- Hispanic members contributed $1 million more in tithe since 2001.
- Ramon Canals personally holds approximately five evangelistic series each year.

What’s Been Accomplished

Growth—Through strong local efforts, concentrated planning and overall coordination, Hispanic membership has grown by 31 percent since 2001.

Quality Pastors—Worked with local conferences and churches to find, attract and hire high-quality, committed pastors as leaders for growing Hispanic churches.

Communication—Produced an annual Spanish-language feature in the GLEANER.

How Local Conferences and Members Have Been Helped

Local Evangelism—Conducted or helped to coordinate evangelistic meetings.

Church Funds—Coordinated and distributed combined subsidies from the North American Division and the NPUC for purchasing or remodeling buildings for Hispanic churches.

Student Funds—Coordinated and distributed funds to help place Hispanic Adventist students in Adventist schools.

Advisory—Aided conferences and members in the process of hiring pastors and workers, as well as in other personnel issues.

Seminars—Provided workshops as requested to train members in personal and public evangelism.

The Challenges Ahead

Hispanic Education—Many Hispanic families have several children, but currently only 10 to 15 percent of these families are financially able to send their students to Adventist schools. We must develop funding to increase this percentage to well over 50 percent.

Second Generation Hispanics—Large Hispanic families mean a large mission field, yet later generations are becoming more assimilated into the American lifestyle, thus making evangelism more difficult. We must find creative and innovative ways to reach this group.

Church Building—With membership gains comes the need for more churches, yet they are expensive to build and maintain. We must find more individuals like Glenn and Viola Walters, among others, who are willing to step in to help fund the building of new Hispanic churches.

Summary

Recognizing the tremendous growth potential within the swelling Hispanic population in the Northwest, the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) established the position of Hispanic coordinator, who works with local conferences to foster evangelistic activity and visioning for the future. The Hispanic coordinator is an assistant to the NPUC president.

Mission

To support local conferences and their Hispanic pastors in fulfilling the great Gospel Commission of Jesus Christ.
Information Technology

Fast Facts

- More than 600 gigabytes of data passed through the NPUC “firewall” last year—nearly two gigabytes per day.
- The NPUC information technology department provides technical support for nearly 200 church-related employees in the Northwest.
- The weekly backups performed average 280 gigabytes of data and system files... equal to approximately 56,000 copies of the King James Version of the Bible.

What’s Been Accomplished

Wide Area Network—Completed a WAN by 2005 to connect computer and e-mail systems for most of the local conferences.

Support Services—Provided complete troubleshooting for office personnel computer systems.

Upgrades—Routine ly upgraded operating software at strategic times to keep up with current standards, new programs and security concerns.

How Local Conferences and Members Have Been Helped

Office Moves—Provided nearly all consulting and engineering services to both the Montana and Washington conferences before, during and after their recent office moves, resulting in significant initial and ongoing savings.

Ongoing Support—Provided up to 100 percent of the technological needs for Alaska, Montana and Washington conferences and additional consultation for Oregon and Upper Columbia conferences.

The Challenges Ahead

Additional Office Moves—The Oregon conference and our own NPUC offices will be moving in the near future, with all the changes in wiring and technical installation that that entails. We will repeat that process for the Washington conference in the near future as well.

Training—We will help provide access to training so our Northwest church workers stay up-to-date with current technology.

Security—As the Adventist church works on using online giving for tithes and offerings, we will be working hard to keep our network systems safe and secure for our workers and members.

Expanded Services—Our goal is to one day offer additional cost-conscious technical services for our schools, and training opportunities for our members in using technology to reach people for Christ.

Summary

Just as the success of commercial business hinges on technology, so does the work of reaching people for God’s kingdom. Servers, network infrastructure, computer systems and telephones for office personnel, are essential in today’s technologically-advanced world. Because a trouble-free computer system has become so critical, the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) information technology department has, since 1997, offered technology engineering, management and support services to Northwest conference offices.

Mission

Our job is to empower and facilitate ministries.
Legal Counsel

Fast Facts

- David Duncan received his law degree from Willamette University in 1971.
- Duncan works through enough paper each year to create several stacks equal to his height.
- Legal work on estate planning fills 60 percent of Duncan’s time; the remainder is spent on “church” law.
- Duncan has been NPUC legal counsel since 1984.

What’s Been Accomplished

Legal Assistance—Provided legal counsel and advice to conference, church and school leadership as a consultant and problem solver.

Estate Planning—Prepared documents and provided counsel to local conference trust departments and church members that have requested assistance, where such service is ethically permissible.

How Local Conferences and Members Have Been Helped

Trust Services—The most common form of support is found in legal guidance to support conferences as they work directly with members in an estate planning process.

Legal Assistance—Frequently helped conferences and churches find the balance between legal protection and pastoral concerns.

The Challenges Ahead

Refine Attorney Roles—As church estate planning activities grow, we plan to assist our conferences in locating and using independent attorneys who can join with our conference trust departments in providing quality estate planning to the client.

Refocus Our Role—Once an adequate group of qualified, independent attorneys is in place, we wish to focus our work on providing legal advice to the church in areas of church and school law. This will permit us to provide the essential time needed in areas of corporate, property, employment and transactional law that directly affect the organization.

Summary

In this increasingly litigious society, the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) through the Office of General Legal Counsel provides counsel and guidance with a goal of minimizing legal exposure and liability. In-house counsel, unlike outside providers, supplies a unique perspective because of its close association and understanding of the structure and operation of the church.

Mission

To provide effective and ongoing access to legal counsel to church leadership at all levels and to minimize legal risks and distractions in order to permit the church to actively focus on fulfilling its mission.
Summary
The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) believes that the core of the Adventist mission is at each local church. The ministerial department exists to encourage local conferences and members throughout the Northwest that a) We must enter new territory until every neighborhood, town and city is entered; b) Every church, school, pastor, teacher and member has a part to play; c) and that God will give courage, baptisms and financial assistance if we trust Him and His Word.

Mission
The NPUC ministerial department is committed to helping our local conferences take the Adventist message to everyone living in the Northwest and beyond.

Fast Facts
- In the Northwest there are about 13 million people and 90,000 Seventh-day Adventists, a ratio of 1:144.
- On average, one person is baptized each year for every 33 current members.
- Sixty percent of the Northwest’s population live in the ten largest metro areas. About 40 percent live in metro Seattle and Portland.
- There are 430 pastors in the NPUC to assist members in carrying out their mission

What’s Been Accomplished

Ongoing Training—Provided regular information and training through on-site workshops in each conference and through monthly e-newsletters.

Global Mission—Organized annual mission opportunities for pastors and members to participate in evangelism in such diverse places as the Dominican Republic, The Philippines, India and Bolivia.

Local Evangelism—NPUC Evangelists have assisted with 70 major reaping meetings according to conference requests.

How Local Conferences and Members Have Been Helped

Soul Winning—More than 13,000 new believers have been welcomed into the Adventist church over the past five years. Pastors and many lay leaders have been given training in how to implement a regular harvest cycle in their congregations.

Leadership Development—On-site seminars in each conference, 20 Andrews Seminary extension classes hosted by the NPUC, and the annual Ministerial Network Retreat involving conference and college ministry leaders, have helped build a growing sense of commitment.

The Challenges Ahead

Momentum—In order to give the Adventist message to everyone in the Northwest, we have initiated a new plan to involve every pastor, teacher, church, school and member in a simple but intentional cycle of soul-winning evangelism.

Global Mission—We will continue the NPUC commitment to partner in annual evangelism projects with our worldwide sisters and brothers until Jesus comes.
Native Ministries

Fast Facts

- Monte Church travels more than 150,000 miles every year to visit far-flung native groups.
- There are 31 native churches or companies in the NPUC, with 1,489 members.
- There are 15 annual native camp meetings across the Northwest and Canada.

What’s Been Accomplished

Leadership Training—Encouraged and trained each native worker in fulfilling their mission to native populations.

Native New Day Videos—Produced 13 of the planned 26 video lessons in the series. These award-winning videos have already been instrumental in winning many to the Adventist church.

How Local Conferences and Members Have Been Helped

Bible Workers—Helped to provide Bible workers specifically for the native populations within our local conferences.

Camp Meetings—Provided additional coordination and programming for native camp meetings, which is a tremendous boost, since many of these are conducted in remote areas.

The Challenges Ahead

Native New Day Videos—Additional funding has been committed to help complete this 26-part series of evangelistic videos targeted at native peoples.

Native New Health Series—We plan to produce a 13-part series of programs with videos and other components to help address the incredible needs of the native population to improve their health, as an entry point for other evangelism.

NAD Coordination—We will be working with North American Division leaders to increase coordination of the native work all across the NAD.

Summary

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) is unique in its full-time approach to native ministry. The challenges of reaching native groups in the vast reaches of the Northwest are enormous. And once they are reached, the isolation can create difficulties for maintaining active church groups and native workers over time. Yet native members make up some of the staunchest parts of the Northwest Adventist mission.

Mission

To become a partner with Northwest native groups in seeking to better their lives, physically, mentally and spiritually.

Native American Evangelistic Team

Brian and Denise Bechthold
Public Affairs, Religious Liberty

Fast Facts

- Labor union exemption requests have doubled since 2002, indicating increased assertiveness of labor unions in businesses and state agencies.
- Three individuals lose their jobs every day in the U.S. because of religious discrimination in the workplace.
- Greg Hamilton is one of only five full-time Adventist government relations directors in the U.S.

What’s Been Accomplished

Legislative Affairs—(Idaho) played the leading role in promoting and passing Idaho’s Free Exercise of Religion Act; (Oregon) developed statewide religious freedom coalition with Oregon State Representative Dave Hunt to promote Oregon Religious Freedom and Workplace Religious Freedom acts; (Washington) helped to reverse King County’s discriminatory Growth Management Act involving land use for religious entities in the greater Seattle area; successfully challenged collective bargaining agreement between Washington State and the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE), which would have forced placement of exempt membership dues back into labor union coffers; (Northwest) developed substantial contacts with state and federal lawmakers through our team of capitol pastors in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

Public Awareness—Lectured civic leaders, clergy and attorneys at assemblies in Romania on constitutional reform to help qualify the country for admittance to the European Union in 2007; offered the invocation at Idaho’s 2006 Republican Lincoln Day Celebration.

Educational Activities—Besides speaking at churches, camp meetings and media events, participated in seminars for law students and attorneys, including a public debate at the University of Idaho Law School.

How Local Conferences and Members Have Been Helped

Workplace Mediation—Consulted for hundreds of individual cases (nearly 170 in 2005 alone) involving labor union problems, Sabbath accommodation and other issues.

Liberty Express—In conjunction with the Northwest Religious Liberty Association, published a journal with articles and information analyzing the prophetic implications of current religious, political and constitutional trends.

The Challenges Ahead

Case Load—As religious discrimination for people of faith rises, we must determine how to balance the increasing demand without compromising other priorities.

Lay Leader Network—We plan to train a network of lay leaders to represent public affairs and religious liberty principles to their civic leaders.

Summary

The North Pacific Union Conference continues to champion the principles of religious liberty within legislative halls and as a ministry to its members. The public affairs and religious liberty department provides professional mediation, legal guidance, representation and referral services in the workplace, the home, schools, prisons and the military, or for immigration and naturalization purposes.

Mission

To preserve, protect and champion the principles of religious liberty by assisting individuals in the workplace and through legislative advocacy.
What’s Been Accomplished

Regional Convocation—Improved the quality of programming to provide spiritual nurture and fellowship for Black members and, as a result, attendance has increased for various age-groups.

Pathfinders—Provided leadership and support for the 2004 Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

NAD Caucus—Received and distributed a portion of the North American Division funds directed to regional work. In 2004, approximately $170,000 went to help regional work in the Northwest.

How Local Conferences and Members Have Been Helped

Financial Assistance—Made special funding available to conferences for special youth-oriented projects and also for regional churches.

Training Subsidies—Offered subsidies to NPUC youth leaders to help them attend continuing education workshops and training conventions.

Walla Walla College—Encouraged and assisted Black families to help increase the number of students attending Walla Walla College.

The Challenges Ahead

Membership Growth—We need to increase Black membership in the Northwest by focusing on African American evangelism with a full-time evangelist/Bible workers.

Church School Attendance—We must find ways to increase the number of Northwest African American students attending Adventist schools by developing a scholarship fund to subsidize the rising cost of tuition.

Church Building Funds—We must help fund the purchase of new church buildings for some of our regional churches, which currently can only afford to rent space. It is harder to establish and maintain growth without a permanent church home.

Fast Facts

• African American members celebrated their 30th annual convocation in 2006.

• There are more than 126 NPUC Pathfinder clubs.

• During the past five years, regional members have contributed more than $8 million in tithe and baptized 864 new members to bring total regional membership to nearly 3,200.

• There are 14 multicultural Adventist churches within the Northwest composed primarily of ethnic minorities.

Summary

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) facilitates networks and events to help maintain both a sense of cultural identity and unity in fostering an active multicultural and multigenerational work. The director promotes issues of diversity, family life and human relations throughout the Northwest.

Mission

To provide financial and spiritual support to Northwest regional work and resources for conferences to empower youth for Christ-centered ministry.
Summary
A growing number of Adventist members want to manage their resources in a prudent manner that not only benefits their family, but also the ongoing work and mission of the church. The NPUC planned giving and trust services department provides these services free to members who have a charitable intent. It also helps to maintain training and certification for local conference trust services.

Mission
The planned giving and trust services department cultivates, designs and facilitates gifts to further the work of the Adventist Church throughout the NPUC.

Fast Facts
- The NPUC planned giving and trust services department annually administers an average of $25 million in trusts and annuities.
- As of the end of 2005, the department was administering nearly 400 charitable documents.
- During the past five years, the department has administered a total of $9.6 million in benefits to donors and nearly $8.2 million to beneficiaries.

What’s Been Accomplished
Certification—Teamed up with the North American Division to provide training and certification services, which has led to level A certification for all Northwest local conference trust services.

Awareness—Through workshops and the Internet, NPUC trust services are becoming well-established as an option for members.

How Local Conferences And Members Have Been Helped
Trust Management—Manage some revocable trusts and all charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities for Northwest conferences in cooperation with NPUC legal counsel.

Regional Promotion—Familiarized more members with how this service can actually benefit their financial and spiritual goals through seminars and weekend workshops.

Team Building—Developed and encouraged local conference representatives in professional trust management.

The Challenges Ahead
High Standards—We need to recruit more local conference representatives and provide training of technical expertise to be prepared to meet expectations for the next generation of donors.

Greater Awareness—There are more charitable options now than ever before, so we need to make sure our members see clearly how working with the church and its mission makes good sense for their families as well.

Staying Current—We must stay current with the latest governmental changes to ensure we are fulfilling our fiduciary duty.

Gary Dodge, administrative assistant
Marcia Stanton, administrative assistant, trust certified
Silvia Devold, administrative assistant
What's Been Accomplished

Capital Campaign—Completed an $18 million campaign for capital projects, including a new administration building, cafeteria and cabins at the Rosario marine station, and renovation projects on the College Place campus. The renovation includes a remodel of Bowers Hall and the Canaday Technology Center, part of which now houses a new media arts center.

Master Plan—Adopted a five-year master plan, the first ever for the college. The plan outlines goals and objectives for every operational aspect of the college.

Student Apartments—Completed four new three-story apartment buildings to meet demand for student housing. The apartments can accommodate nearly 100 residents.

The Challenges Ahead

Recruiting—Flat or shrinking academy enrollments are leading to increased competition for students among Adventist colleges and universities. Increasing scholarships and targeting Seventh-day Adventist students in public high schools are among the several programs planned to address this challenge.

Higher Costs—Increased costs of operation are driving tuition increases. We will need to implement strategies to curb increasing expenses.

Sharing the Mission—We must increasingly communicate the mission of WWC to its various constituencies and gain their partnership in fulfilling that mission.

Summary

Walla Walla College (WWC) was founded in 1892, an act of faith and perseverance by the 1,500 Seventh-day Adventist pioneers who had settled in the Pacific Northwest. Today, the college enrolls more than 1,800 students who are developing the foundation of their lifework as well as shaping personal and spiritual values. WWC continues to embody the purpose as articulated by the founders in this first statement of mission: to provide young people with “a Christian education, surrounded with influences favorable to the development of Christian character.”

Mission

Walla Walla College, a Seventh-day Adventist university, is a community of faith and discovery. WWC is committed to excellence in thought, generosity in service, beauty in expression and faith in God.
How Delegates Are Selected

The delegates on these pages represent those individuals or positions designated as of the press time for this publication. An asterisk (*) by the name means that individual is also a member of the North Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee. Two asterisks (**) denote a member of the Constitution Committee.

Article VII of the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) constituency session points out that the voting delegates at any regular or special constituency meeting of this union shall be:

a. Appointed delegates which shall represent the local conferences within the NPUC territory. Each local conference shall be entitled to three (3) delegates without regard to conference membership and one (1) additional delegate for each four hundred (400) church members or major fraction thereof, based on its membership on the last day of the third full calendar quarter preceding the constituency meeting. Not less than fifty percent (50%) of the delegates in this category shall be individuals other than active or retired church pastors; officers, department directors, associate or assistant department directors of General Conference, division, union, or local conferences. Delegates shall be selected in a manner determined by each local conference executive committee unless otherwise specified by the local conference constitution.

### Delegate List

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<th>NPUC Constituency</th>
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### Notes

- "**" denotes a member of the Constitution Committee.
- "*" denotes a member of the General Conference, division, union, or local conferences.
b. The following ex-officio and other delegates.

(1) The individual members of the Executive Committee of this union.

(2) The individual members of the General Conference Executive Committee who may be present at any constituency meeting of this union. The number of such delegates representing the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the total number of appointed delegates provided for hereinabove in Section 2.a. of Article VIII.

(3) The Vice President for Academic Affairs, the chairman of the School of Theology of Walla Walla College, plus three (3) additional delegates selected by and representing the faculty and staff of Walla Walla College, and two (2) additional delegates selected by and representing the students of Walla Walla College. The student delegates shall hold membership in one of the churches within this territory.

(4) Two (2) employees of Adventist Health, chosen by its governing board. At least one of these individuals shall be the president of a hospital within this Union territory.

(5) Two (2) employees of Pacific Press Publishing Association, chosen by its governing board.

(6) The members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee of this union.

(7) The directors of all recognized departments of this union, as determined by the Executive Committee of this union conference.

(8) Such other persons as may be selected by the Union Conference Executive Committee, including officers of the North Pacific Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists. The total number of delegates from this category shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the total number of appointed delegates provided for hereinabove in Section 2.a. of Article VIII.
At the young age of 16, Caroline Maxson married James Franklin Wood and the newlyweds along with Caroline’s parents, Stephen and Lois Maxson, moved to the frontier of Nebraska. In 1859, the two families purchased covered wagons and headed to the Pikes Peak gold rush in Colorado. Along the way they heard discouraging accounts of the “gold rush” and decided instead to go to the newly opened up frontier of the Walla Walla Valley in Washington Territory.

The slow, exhausting trip along the Oregon Trail was filled with many dangers. At one river crossing Caroline’s father, Stephen, was swept away by the current; men found him half a mile downstream clinging to a branch and nearly unconscious. Another time an Indian chief wanted to purchase Caroline’s 14-year-old sister, Lucy, for a wife. Stephen told the Indian leader that she was not for sale. But he continued to follow the wagon train and each day offer more ponies and furs. Finally, after six days, the chief gave up his pursuit.

The Wood and Maxson families settled about seven miles southeast of Walla Walla along Russell Creek. In time, the pioneers elected James Franklin Wood as their first superintendent of public schools. Caroline was an exceptional musician that excelled in both voice and piano. She often sang for the soldiers at Fort Walla Walla and special events in town. The locals referred to her as the “Jenny Lind of the West.” Rutherford B. Hayes, the president of the U.S., visited Walla Walla in 1880 and Caroline sang for the event. The locals referred to her as the “Jenny Lind of the West.”

When Adventists in the Northwest opened a college in 1892, they selected Caroline to be the music teacher. One of Caroline’s daughters, Grace Reith, also taught music at Walla Walla College.
Secret discipleship” is an oxymoron. In the words of William Barclay, “There can be no such thing as secret discipleship, for either the secrecy destroys the discipleship, or the discipleship destroys the secrecy.”

If you really understand the Good News, you can’t keep it to yourself. Good news is like that. It’s like the TV commercial where someone reports at the most inappropriate times, “I just lowered my cholesterol!”

I can relate to that commercial because I’ve been guilty of doing the same thing. I heard of a study that claimed blueberries were just as effective as medicine for lowering cholesterol. This caught my attention as I had recently been informed that my total cholesterol was 212—way too high.

So I started eating blueberries. A big bowl of blueberries every morning and evening. Six months later my cholesterol had dropped to 156! Since then I have been an evangelist for “da berry of blue.” I can’t help myself.

Such is the nature of good news. You can’t hide it. Jesus said as much in Matthew 5:14–16: “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Light has so much potential for good. On the other hand, light has great potential for evil. As Sheldon Vanauken puts it: “The best argument for Christianity is Christians: their joy, their certainty, their completeness. But the strongest argument against Christianity is also Christians—when they are somber and joyless, when they are self-righteous and smug in complacent consecration, when they are narrow and repressive, then Christianity dies a thousand deaths.”

Light can glare or it can glow

Think about light that glares. For example, I heard about an evangelism kit that instructed Christians on how to attach a loudspeaker to their car so they could drive around and preach on the road.

The instruction booklet offered this advice: “If you see a car pulled over at a stoplight, shout, ‘Pull over right now so Jesus can save your soul.’”

I’m sure these folk have good motives, but the method feels glaring to me.

Then there is light that glows. Another example: Some years ago our church organized a community event where people could drive through the Christmas story. We did a mass mailing to 20,000 area homes, but on opening night only a few people came.

The next night one of our members rented a four-beam search light. We parked it at the entrance and that evening, we enjoyed bumper-to-bumper business.

Some guests said to me, “We didn’t even know what this was but we saw the light and we got in line.” In that four-beam search light we discovered a marketing plan that worked.

It’s the same marketing strategy that Jesus calls for in His church. “You are the light in a world of darkness.” So don’t be a secret disciple. Let your light shine. And glow with God.


Karl Haffner, Walla Walla College Church senior pastor, writes from College Place, Washington.
Jan Paulsen, General Conference president, speaking for the Sabbath worship hour, said, “Faith is the ingredient that compels us... to complete the journey. It is a gift of God.”

Alvin Kibble, North American Division vice president, gives a historical presentation on the growth and development of the regional work in the U.S. and its effect on the West Coast.

Wayne Shepherd, former NPUC regional and youth director, gives the devotional Friday morning.

Serving in the Northwest for 28 years, Alphonso McCarthy’s family has grown up here. From left, son Damian, wife Judith and daughter Daniella.

Jan Paulsen, General Conference president, speaking for the Sabbath worship hour, said, “Faith is the ingredient that compels us... to complete the journey. It is a gift of God.”

More than 2,000 people gathered May 11–14 at Camp Berachah in Auburn, Wash., to celebrate the 30th annual North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) Regional Convocation. The theme was “Time: Growing Closer, Faith: Getting Stronger.”

The idea started as a women’s retreat and grew into a 30-year tradition of families meeting for faith, fellowship and fun. This annual convocation has changed a lot since then. For a time, families gathered at the Gladstone, Ore., camp meeting grounds before outgrowing the facilities and finding new venues in Hope, British Columbia, and now in Auburn, Wash.

“We have people from all over the U.S. coming now to our convocation,” said Alphonso McCarthy, NPUC assistant to the president for regional affairs.

The weekend celebrations included a number of well-known inspirational preachers, soul-lifting music, and history lessons on how the Black work in the Northwest began to take shape in 1945.

Programming for children and youth was also included. The speaker for the youth was Oliver Archer, Pioneer Memorial Church youth pastor. When he made a call for baptism, 12 young people came forward.

Since 1977, the convocations have consistently advanced and guided the ethnic work...
The Kirkwood family from Port Orchard, Wash., shares their story of receiving a new, mold-free home from the *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* TV show last winter.

“Remnant,” a choral group from Baltimore, Md., under the direction of Fabian Morrison, gives a Sabbath evening concert.

Michele Charity, from the Breath of Life Church in Seattle, is honored by Alphonso McCarthy for her years of service as the convocation music coordinator.

Roscoe Howard, North American Division executive secretary and former NPUC regional director, gives the Friday evening sermon.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication intern; photos by Todd Gessele, NPUC associate communication director

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in the Northwest. Today, the NPUC is home to 10 Black churches, one company, and two groups with one group being an Ethiopian fellowship.

Ed White was the first NPUC regional department director. He was followed by Wayne Shepherd, Roscoe Howard and the current director, Alphonso McCarthy.

“I like every minute of [convocation],” said Lula A. Martin, a member of the Emerald City Church in Seattle, who has attended the convocation for 30 years. “I like the spiritual part, the food, the fellowship. It just lifts you up and makes you want to do more with life.”

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Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication intern; photos by Todd Gessele, NPUC associate communication director
Interior Alaska Campmeeting

More than 130 people from Fairbanks, North Pole, Delta Junction and Tok drove through the smoke of a distant fire to attend the annual Alaska Interior Camp Meeting the weekend of June 24 at Harding Lake State Park. The park is about 50 miles southeast of Fairbanks. A colorful 60-by-60-foot tent was erected in the group-use area of the camp. Participants either camped in the adjoining campground for the weekend or drove in for the day. The nearby shallow lake provided a peaceful setting. Thankfully, the smoke of the distant forest fire shifted so that the air was comfortable. Even the mosquitoes were relatively sparse.

Beginning Friday evening, Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president, presented a three-part series, “The Transformation of Marlo Monroe,” which chronicled Marlo’s experience in the back country of Australia. This story highlighted the need for total surrender to and dependence on God.

Sabbath afternoon, attendees participated in a Share and Tag time, giving people an opportunity to share an experience or song and then tag someone to be the next to share. “People want to share, but are hesitant to say so,” remarked Odea Sigh, Fairbanks, North Pole district pastor and organizer of the weekend. “This gave an opportunity for those not officially on the program to express their testimony.”

— John Kriegelstein, Alaska Conference communication director

On Your Mark, Ready, Set, Go

About 70 students from three Adventist schools gathered in Anchorage May 19 for the second annual Track and Field day, organized by Zach Pratt, Anchorage Junior Academy PE teacher. Both Mat Valley Adventist School in Palmer, and Golden Heart Christian School in Fairbanks, made the trek to Anchorage for the event. The Fairbanks students traveled more than 350 miles and spent three days in Anchorage. Brant Berglin, The Second Mile pastor, led the eager students in worship; he challenged them to run their best race, both for the meet and in the choices they make day to day.

The day started with races for the kindergarteners, first- and second-graders, who then left for a day of field trip activities in Anchorage. Events included the typical running events as well as the standing broad jump, triple jump, shot put and discus. “All male records were broken and half the female,” reported Pratt. He then added, “Of course, we just started keeping records last year.”

— Jeanie Kriegelstein, AJA Teacher

Two Mat Valley students cross the finish line during Alaska’s Track and Field day, May 19.
Olive Tree Children
Remember Passover During Communion

“I liked the foot washing,” said 7-year-old Patrick Dover, when he was asked what he liked best about their reenactment of Jesus’ last supper. Thirty-six members and friends of The Olive Tree Ministry Center in Twin Falls, Idaho, met on Friday evening of Easter weekend to celebrate communion and remember the Passover in a somewhat unorthodox manner. Their goal was to present a little taste of what happened that night in the upper room. There wasn’t a large dinner, just light fare, with some people sitting at low tables on the floor. We also made fresh matza bread from an authentic Jewish recipe.

In researching the event, the group found that Passover is centered on the children. Modern-day Jewish children as well as their ancestors play an important part in the Passover celebration as they act out their forefathers’ escape from Egypt with short skits and readings. Even the smallest child who is able to talk has a part. That night, the members dressed up in costumes of the era, and acted out the story as it was read.

This was especially meaningful to The Olive Tree members because their first ministry is to children. More than 50 percent of those attending are children, many of whom have no other church home and are invited by friends and neighbors.

The Olive Tree encourages the children to fully participate in their celebration of communion. “As Adventists, we say we have open communion. So, if that is true, how can we possibly exclude the children?” said Dwayne Kluchesky, pastor. During the foot washing, adults assisted one or two children. Kluchesky led the service as the mentors spoke quietly to the children, teaching them the significance of what they were doing. “It is very moving to have an 8-year-old wash your feet,” commented one attendee.

The Olive Tree believes that the children are not the future of the church, they are the church. There can be no greater target for evangelism. •

Judi Thietten, The Olive Tree Ministry Center lay leader

Camp Meeting Youth Speaker
Redefines Romance

High school youth were encouraged to give God control of their dating and romance at the Idaho Conference Camp Meeting June 6–10. “I believe that God is the creator of romance, intimacy and all things lovely,” says Sarah Asaftei, the young woman from Macon, Ga., who spoke with the young people every evening. “In a society where everything is instant, few learn the value of delaying our desires.”

Night by night, more than three dozen students interacted with Asaftei as she shared her own story of God’s guidance. She shared how God led in the “modern fairy tale” of her eventual marriage to her pastor husband, Marius, and of the immense rewards of surrendering your romantic heart to God.

She has established Redefinition Ministries as a means to guide modern young people through the process of defining critical aspects of everyday life.

She truly connected with the young people. She had their attention and invited them to give God their hearts. •

John Bryson, Idaho Conference senior youth coordinator

Sarah Asaftei tells the youth at camp meeting how she surrendered her romantic life to God.
MONTANA

Conference News

Montana Camp Meeting 2006

“The Church Triumphant” was the theme for this year’s Montana Conference Camp Meeting. About 675 adults came Sabbath morning and as many as 200 kids.

Clifford Goldstein, the Adult Sabbath Study Guides editor, was the speaker Wednesday through Sabbath evening. Many quality programs were offered during the day. Afternoon seminars included presentations by:

- Cindy Tutsch, General Conference Ellen G. White Estate associate director.
- Jeff Wilson, General Conference trust services director.
- Dr. Fred Hardinge, It Is Written Internet ministries director.
- Greg Hamilton, North Pacific Union Conference public affairs and religious liberty director.

Camp meeting was a real highlight for the kids again this year. Steve Little from Saskatchewan, Canada, was the main speaker for the youth. During the day, some of the kids went to the water slides; others to Bozeman Hot Springs. There were softball games and sled dogs pulling sleds around campus. And yes, they were led closer to Jesus Christ!

Evangelism Hour was popular again this year—a time to make sure we are fulfilling our conference mission: “We are committed to evangelism, and to nurturing, training and equipping our churches, schools, and individuals for service, ministry and growth.” New members excitedly shared their stories of how they were led to Christ and what the church meant to them. Between stories, we were blessed by various special musical presentations.

When asked if the church will triumph (in reference to the camp meeting theme), John Loor, Montana Conference president, says, “Absolutely! The challenge is for us to be in the vessel when the ship comes into port.” Loor said, “It is my desire that the presentations reinforce our thinking that God is in control of His church and that it will triumph in the end.”

Archie Harris, Montana Conference communication director

Jim Jenkins Ordained

One of the Sabbath blessings at the 2006 Montana Conference Camp Meeting was the afternoon ordination service for Jim Jenkins, pastor of the Bozeman/Whitehall district. A native of Montana, he was born in Great Falls in 1964.

Jenkins first sensed a call to the ministry during his eighth-grade year but those thoughts were put on hold as he finished high school, married Sandy Harris and began raising a family. He taught in the Primary Sabbath School in the Missoula Church, became a deacon and a local elder. Under the guidance of Clarence McKey, Missoula Church pastor at the time, he learned the skills of leadership, visitation and preaching.

Then Perry Parks, former Montana Conference president, called him to be the pastor of the Havre/Shelby/Fort Belknap district, where he served for more than six years.

Jenkins believes that he can see the clear leading of the Holy Spirit in his life. He is grateful for the awesome opportunity to have a part in sharing Jesus with the world and for the call to be a pastor for Him.

Richard Dower, GLEANER editor

Jim Jenkins, Bozeman/Whitehall district pastor, was ordained at the Montana Conference Camp Meeting. His wife Sandy kneels beside him.
Prineville Receives a Gift
A New Church Building

Work is underway to build a new church in Prineville because of some generous donors. In August 2005, we started the construction process. As a response to God’s bountiful goodness, the small band of members gathered at the building site after church services one Sabbath shortly after we started work on our church. They sang praises, gave testimonies and had a circle of prayer of thanksgiving, at the same time asking God to bless the building project and to protect the workers. The current church is old, small and lacks adequate parking.

The new church is being built on five acres that were recently annexed to the city, and it will seat about 250 people.

As the church building progresses, the church membership grows. In the spring of 2004, three families, impressed by God’s leading, moved to Prineville, including Al and Myrna Long, retired Georgia-Cumberland Conference secretary and public health nurse, respectively. They help immensely with the church work, including giving Bible studies.

Miles and Marilyn Matthews came from Montana after retiring from their x-ray tech and nursing positions. During the school year 2004–05, Miles drove five church-sponsored children 20 miles each way just so they could attend church school. Now he volunteers at the church construction site on a daily basis. Marilyn is an excellent and patient pianist.

Phil and Carol Meyers came to Prineville with many years of experience in construction. Prior to coming, Phil dreamed about God telling him to come to Prineville and help us. At the time he didn’t know about the generous gift.

Inspired by the growing enthusiasm for evangelism, their sincere faith in God, and the friendliness of the church members, several families from the surrounding area are now attending the Prineville Church.

Many Bible studies are underway. There is much work to be done to reach the people of Prineville. If you have the missionary spirit, come help us in Prineville. God is gracious and He will march His bride to victory—even the small congregation of the Prineville Church. For He has promised “I will build my church.” (Matt. 16:18)

Yollie Jahn, Prineville Church communication leader

Even as their church is under construction, Prineville members are working hard to fill the sanctuary with new members.
Gateway Welcomes Six New Members Through Baptism


Estes has always had the desire to be baptized. He met Marilyn Serenana at Wal-Mart, and then again at the local Dorcas. She invited him to attend Gateway with her. Ernie enjoyed the people and friendly atmosphere Gateway offers, and he started taking Bible studies for baptism. Ernie and Marilyn were recently married, and he says Sabbath has become the highlight of his week.

Leonard Parnau grew up believing in Jesus Christ but didn’t have a personal relationship with Him. In recent years he attended a Pentecostal church with his wife Robin. He was invited to a Bible study Gibson was having. Robin’s uncle is Seventh-day Adventist, so she was already well-acquainted with our beliefs. Leonard, his wife Robin, and daughter Mary started attending Gateway and pride themselves on “being absent only one Sabbath.”

McCormick came very close to dying from her medical problems and she thanks the Lord for her life. Although she was baptized when she was little, she wanted to renew her commitment now that she has a personal relationship with the Lord and knows what baptism means.

Dyson was baptized at the age of 12 into the Catholic church. She says there were lots of rules and regulations, but she didn’t feel exposed to the love of Christ.

She was invited to a Bible study at a co-worker’s house. She thoroughly enjoyed her studies and started attending Gateway. Dyson called Gibson and let him know she was ready to be baptized! She says she feels friendly warmth in her fellowship with Gateway, and she is “blessed daily.”

Laurie Carlson, Gateway Christian Fellowship communication leader

Saw Mill Sent to Peru

When 70 volunteers from the Woodland/Cedar Creek area went to Junajui, Peru, in June 2005 to build an Adventist church, many on the trip noticed that if the people there had a saw mill they could do much more of their own construction.

Cedar Creek/Woodland members with help of local business people raised the necessary funds. The saw mill was shipped to Indiana, Peru, which is on the Amazon, south of Iquitos.

Sam Smith and Gill Plotner went to Peru to set it up but they were only able to help build the building to house the saw mill, as the saw mill was not yet released from customs.

A second trip was needed. This time Smith and Plotner had an assistant, John Littlefield, go with them. They were able to complete the work and tell the local people how to use the saw mill. Soon new chapels and churches will be a reality there because of this new facility.

Miriam Kelly, Cedar Creek Church communication leader

Cedar Creek/Woodland Church members purchased, shipped and set up a saw mill in Peru to aid in the construction of churches and schools.
PAA Senior Publishes Baptismal Book

Walking the halls of Portland Adventist Academy, one can’t help but notice friendly, outgoing Lizzie Johnson. With her contagious smile and sincere charm, Johnson is a wonderful example of one who walks the walk. Her strong desire to witness God’s love is displayed in her Christian personality that can’t be missed. With an ambition to become a pastor, she naturally turned to her own pastor for advice on a senior project idea. The result was a baptismal study guide themed after her favorite pastime: hiking. Not only did she write the book entitled *My Journey with Jesus*, but it has now been published.

Johnson has always felt a desire to help other teenagers form a relationship with Jesus. This was the inspiration for her book which includes the 28 Adventist beliefs geared for the teenage audience. Actively participating in numerous school activities, including preaching at local churches for the school’s Feature Church program, Johnson is always eager to help. “She is so busy, but she goes above and beyond to help others,” said Linda Hill, former coordinator of Feature Church. “Lizzie is truly a God-gifted student.”

Each section of the 87-page book is headed by words such as Base Camp—the opening question to start the journey—and GPS, God’s Powerful Scriptures, and are designed to help the reader relate to the journey with Jesus. “I have always found that nature is a wonderful way to feel Jesus’ presence,” says Johnson. “When I sit there overlooking the Columbia Gorge and all its beauty, I can’t help but feel in awe at the world He created and made beautiful for my enjoyment!”

The Holy Spirit is certainly working on young people like Johnson. One out of every five seniors gave their hearts to Christ through baptism while attending PAA. Three more students will be baptized this summer. “God gives students like Lizzie the tools to touch others,” said Les Zollbrecht, PAA chaplain. And touch others she has and will continue to do. After a memorable mission trip to Peru this spring, Johnson decided to return this summer and use her book to give Bible studies to the people living there. “I feel God is calling me to minister to the people of Peru, and let them know how much He loves them,” said Johnson. “Everyone deserves to learn of God’s love.”

Her book can be found at lulu.com.

Heather Fowler, PAA GLEANER correspondent

A Little Child Shall Feed Them

Several mothers and their children from the Eugene Church presented a cooking school over three evenings this spring. About 20 to 30 people attended. The cooking demonstrations included breakfast items, like a tofu scramble and French toast, and desserts, like peanut butter pie and raspberry almond torte cookies, said Kassandra Meelhuysen,16. The picture shows Raylene Young with sons Weston, 13, and Mitchell, 11, making smoothies. The boys said, “Smoothies are easy and taste good.” Another girl, 5-year-old Arianna, along with her grandmother, showed how easy it is to make gluten from scratch.

Francine Delmore, Eugene Church communication leader
Church Birthday Party

The Hood River Church’s youth group planned and invited the entire church family to a “spiritual birthday party.” Each person was asked to bring a favorite Bible text and baptismal certificate.

Leaders Robert and Jessica Bailey started the evening about an hour before Sabbath sundown with a humorous skit about a book salesman and a resistant buyer. Following the skit we formed a close circle where we could respond to the question, “tell us about your baptism and how you became a member of the Adventist church.”

The first response was from someone who was a fourth-generation Adventist.

Thankfulness was expressed for the combined influence of a Christian home, attending church school, academy and college. Continuing, it was admitted that there has been much growth learning that we are saved by God’s grace and not dependent on deeds or action. It is by the gift of Jesus, His death on the cross that gives us salvation. Others growing up in the church shared similar sentiments.

Then there were testimonies from those who had also been born and raised in the church but had slipped away in their youth. They shared how events in their life and prayers of family and loved ones helped to renew their commitment and bring them back to God.

After sundown, everyone enjoyed eating snacks, birthday cake and ice cream while playing table games or playing volleyball. The “birthday party” was a wonderful evening of fellowship with friends.

Joyce Gallentine, Hood River Church communication leader

Where Dreams Come True

The Completion of Milo’s Fountain

Kevin Vernier had a dream. He got the dream from Kelly Kolstad, then Milo groundskeeper. They dreamed of creating a place of beauty in a parklike setting at the entrance to Milo Academy. As class president in 2000, Vernier proposed donating class funds to build a fountain there. The next year work began.

As campus residents and visitors watched, the vision that Vernier had began to take shape month by month and year by year. Not a mere fountain in a pool, but a hillside with waterfalls, a stream, winding pathways among terraced beds of flowers, a reflecting pool and a gazebo.

Students learned stonework skills as they built the retaining walls. Volunteers grew plants to fill the flower beds. Vernier came back as a task force worker and volunteered many extra hours to the project. Kolstad could be seen after work and on weekends devoting his own “free time.” The construction became a part of many people’s lives.

Kolstad and his assistants have pooled the talents God gave them to create something beautiful to glorify Him.

Visitors are welcomed by the beauty; students and staff go there to visit and meditate. Couples say their wedding vows in the shade of the gazebo.

Kolstad is never slow to talk of God’s great love for us, and of the ways God has led him in his life. Now, even when he is not nearby, the fountain will be a witness of his belief in God’s love.

Steve Rae, Milo GLEANER correspondent

Hood River youth work together planning a spiritual birthday party for their church.
Moving Mountains

When Shawn Plafker, McMinnville principal, first started reading the book *More Than Mountains: The Todd Huston Story* to her sixth through eighth grade students, little did she know that she would one day get to meet Huston in person. Not only did she get to meet him, but many students from Adventist schools in Oregon were able to meet him as well.

Plafker thought it would be inspirational to hear Huston’s story in person. She decided to invite him to give a talk to her students. But Plafker wanted as many people as possible to be able to hear his story, so she invited all of the Adventist schools in the area as well. Plafker says, “I have been reading his book to my students for about five years, and decided one day to see if we could get him as a guest speaker. I didn’t think it possible, but made the call anyway.”

Huston first spoke to a group at Portland Adventist Academy, which included students from Columbia Adventist Academy, Hood River Junior Academy and Riverside Adventist Christian School. He also met with students from McMinnville Adventist Christian School, Laurelwood Adventist Elementary, Central Valley, Tualatin Valley Junior Academy, and West Valley. Altogether, 550 students were able to hear his story on that day.

His story is one of tragedy and inspiration. When Huston was only 14, his legs were mangled by the propellers of a boat. Even though he faced many surgeries and struggled to keep his legs, he still had to have his right leg amputated. Huston grew up to become a psychotherapist and a coach for other people with disabilities.

This tale becomes motivating when Huston shares that he competed in an event called Summit America, which requires climbers to reach the summits of the highest elevations from all 50 states as fast as possible. The former record was 101 days. Huston set a new record when he finished the expedition in 66 days, 22 hours, and 47 minutes.

Sharing this tale with Plafker’s students was a highlight for the McMinnville Adventist Christian School. Students crowded around him asking questions and touching his artificial leg. Huston even showed pictures from the all summits he had climbed.

Some students enjoyed seeing the pictures and the leg, and others liked meeting the person behind the story. As Kate Mayne, a seventh-grader, says, “I loved his book, but it was a lot more fun having him there and telling about it than just reading about his journeys and struggles, physically and spiritually. It was nice to be able to ask him questions that I had had while reading his book.”

Huston’s story helped put life in perspective. It helped the students to see that no matter what, every goal is worth fighting for. His tale inspired the students to have dreams and to pursue those dreams. Not only did Huston climb to the highest elevations of America, but he was able to move mountains inside the hearts and minds of some of God’s little children.

Kristina Gabrys, former McMinnville student
New Communication Director
Joins Upper Columbia Conference Team

Upper Columbia Conference has named Garrett Caldwell as the new assistant to the president for communication. Caldwell hails from Laurel, Md., where he has been the Potomac Conference communication director. Caldwell has also served as the Woodbridge (Va.) Church senior pastor and as the Sligo Church pastor for administration and ministry development in Takoma Park, Md. His pastoral roots are from the Pacific Northwest, as he began his pastoral ministry in Oregon.

Caldwell holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Communications and Theology from Oakwood College, as well as a Master of Divinity from Andrews University, and a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary. Caldwell has been a host for Adventist NewsLine and a professor at both the academy and college levels.

“We are looking forward to him joining our team,” says Max C. Torkelsen II, Upper Columbia Conference president, “and I believe his vision for every aspect of the communications process is mission-focused. He has a deep love for God’s church and an unwavering commitment to a finished work.”

The Caldwell family will relocate to Spokane before school begins. Caldwell’s wife, Cheri (Salmon) has a passion for working with children. Their two children, Garrett Jr. and Tiffani, will attend Upper Columbia Academy. The family loves to play board games, hike, bike and enjoys being near water.

“I am happy to be a part of a conference that is not only passionate about sharing Christ, but supportive of innovative ways of sharing the gospel,” says Caldwell. •

Kathy Marson, communication department secretary

Diamond Lake Couple Baptized

Mieczyslaw “Mike” and Mickie Babij were baptized on April 8 at the Newport Church.

Mike grew up in Poland as a Roman Catholic and came to America at 21. Mike and his wife Mickie met in 1992 and married in 1996. They moved to Washington because of Mickie’s “special needs” daughter. Recognizing a spiritual need, this couple asked God for guidance and began to check out several churches.

In searching for a well driller for their property, they ran across Jim and Leila Eiseman. The Eisemans left two books in their mailbox, Bible Readings for the Home, and The Great Controversy, which led them to take Bible studies by mail.

After studying and with the help of spiritual mentors, Patti and Dale Duerksen, Mike and Mickie prepared for baptism with Len Atkins, Newport Church pastor. •

From left: Mike and Mickie Babij are welcomed into the Newport (Wash.) Church by Len Atkins, pastor, and Jim Eiseman.
Protect Your Heart
The CHIP Way

Art and Elizabeth Keeler, 79 and 83, were the oldest participants in the Coronary Health Improvement Program (CHIP) held April 9 through May 17 at the South Hill Church in Spokane, Wash. They certainly proved that you can be fit at any age, as stated by Hans Diehl, M.D., founder of the program.

Art and Elizabeth are not Adventists but came to one of five informational sessions. But before signing up for the program, they had questions. Art said, “When I heard about the program, I didn’t want to jump into something I knew nothing about. I wanted good representatives that knew what they were talking about.”

They warmed up to the CHIP staff each night as they came to the sessions. Art had a contagious smile with a twinkle in his eyes and was always ready with a witty little joke. Elizabeth was warm and thoughtful as she asked questions.

All the participants were happy with the results of their health improvement at the end of the program, especially Art, who had a triple bypass a few years ago. He is doing well and has more energy. Elizabeth won a prize at the CHIP graduation to have a complete coronary heart evaluation done.

Art and Elizabeth have accepted the new lifestyle for living. “The CHIP program is wonderful!” they said. “We are sharing it with others!”

Juanita Prince, South Hill Church CHIP coordinator

From left: Jeff Bovee, UCA principal, Kola Shippentower, graduating senior, Leland Shippentower, Kola’s father, and Ron Turner, UCA director of marketing and recruitment, hold the flag that was donated to the academy.

Native American Family
Honors Upper Columbia Academy

Hanging in Upper Columbia Academy’s gymnasium are flags representing all of the states and countries our students have come from over the years. During graduation weekend this year, we added a new flag.

Kola Shippentower is the first person from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation to graduate from a Seventh-day Adventist academy. In honor of that achievement, she and her father, Leland Shippentower, presented Jeff Bovee, principal, and the school with the Confederated Tribes’ flag during the Class Night program. By the time Kola marched in her commencement exercises the next morning, the flag was flying proudly above her in the gym.

Kola also honored Ron Turner, UCA director of marketing and recruiting, by presenting him with a Native American blanket. Visiting her family in their home just before Kola’s freshman year, he inspired her with the dream of attending academy and helped her family find a way to make that dream a reality. Due in part to his continuing encouragement and support, Kola was able to attend UCA all four years.

Cheri Corder, UCA GLEANER correspondent

Taking a Stand for the Ten Commandments

JoAnn and Ron Miller with their son, Colby, (center) took part with other Ritzville Church members in passing out the little booklet Taking a Stand for the Ten Commandments during the Ten Commandments weekend.

Even though the Ritzville Company has only eight members plus a few children, they were eager to share the booklet with the community. Ritzville has a population of just under 2,000 people, several of whom are Sabbathkeepers but not church attendees. With the new pastor, Doug Pond, and his wife Marilyn, the group hopes to make a positive impact on the community.

Billie Kouns, Ritzville Company communication leader
During their recent alumni weekend, Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) honored four outstanding professionals who are retiring from Adventist education this year.

Phyllis (Starr) Bretsch has served the church for 30 years in various accounting positions for the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Pacific Union College and three Northwest conferences: Upper Columbia, Montana and Alaska. Along with providing solid financial leadership to the academy, she has gone as a sponsor on mission trips to the Philippines, Mexico and Belize. She has served UCA for 15 years.

As an ordained minister, Ron Turner’s rich career in Adventist education began while he was still a college student, replacing a teacher at Milo Academy halfway through the year. Since then, he has served 39 additional years in nine schools in a variety of capacities such as Bible teacher, guidance counselor, and alumni and development director. He also served as principal at two 12-grade schools and one senior boarding academy. Turner has been at UCA for nine years as director of marketing and recruiting and is known for his passion about getting kids into Christian education.

Harriet Lange began her teaching career by teaching for five years at Sheyenne River Academy (now Dakota Adventist Academy). After taking a break to raise her children, she served for 25 years at UCA, initially teaching home economics but eventually moving to business education. As a professional, she kept up with the phenomenal technological changes from mimeograph machines and manual typewriters to the latest computer systems. She has worked closely with her husband in running a dynamic music program and in sponsoring the four-year seniors.

Jerry Lange also started his career at Sheyenne River Academy. To honor his 37 years at UCA, former students and parents gathered for a Sabbath afternoon program of musical numbers and to share their memories.

The program included two special guests who had amazing connections to Lange. One was Max Torkelsen Sr., who was Lange’s academy principal and band teacher. He recalled Lange’s versatility with the instruments, even as a freshman. Torkelsen helped make a Christian education possible for Lange by suggesting to his parents that he would accept their hay for the academy cows in lieu of money for his tuition.

The other special guest was Jay Lantry, who was the educational superintendent/MV secretary of the North Dakota Conference when Lange was in third grade. “There wasn’t an Adventist school in the area,” Lantry remembered, “and his parents wanted so badly for little Jerry to have a Christian education. We worked together to get a school started, and after all these years it is an honor for me to be here for this occasion to witness the outcome of our efforts.”

Linnea Torkelsen, UCA’s alumni and development director, estimates that Lange has coordinated approximately 123 tours, conducted hundreds of concerts and given a staggering 62,000 instrument lessons!

Cheri Corder

Upper Columbia Academy’s senior class officers

Representing Upper Columbia Academy’s class of 2006 were, from left: (front row) Karlan Wolfkill, pianist; Aleigh Montgomery, treasurer; Ryan Billington, chaplain; Alice Kravig, chorister; Darcy Sturges, secretary; (back row) Dayton Osborn, historian; Jeff Gilbert, president; Cody Lonning, sports coordinator; Thomas Freeman, sergeant-at-arms. Not pictured: Shari Fogelquist, vice president; Tommy Poole and David Mack, student council representatives.

Cheri Corder, UCA GLEANER correspondent
Early Childhood Education

Essential to Return to God

In spite of many years in Adventist schools and growing up in an Adventist family, Gary Evans drifted away from God. Gary’s dad, Benny Evans, was an Adventist pastor in the Oregon Conference, but he passed away while Gary was quite young.

Losing a parent is tough at any age, but at 9 years old Gary was like a ship without a sail. He became rebellious and uncooperative at home. His mom remarried and the family moved. A few years later another tragedy occurred and Gary lost his stepfather.

Through his formative years he attended many Adventist schools, two different church schools, three academies and two colleges.

During the final years of his education, studying to be a cardiopulmonary technician and a respiratory therapist, Gary let go of his Christian upbringing. But God was not lost like the loss of his two dads, because God is in the business of pursuing people.

During the 25 years that Gary was drifting from God, he met his wife, Ilene, and they were married in Eugene, Ore. Ilene was raised attending a Congregational church that wasn’t deeply Biblical, so Gary and Ilene found they dealt with life issues differently. As Gary began to think about the serious questions of life and reflect on why he was the person he was, he realized that his Adventist education, and Godly upbringing, were the foundation of his views on life.

One day Gary and Ilene received a flyer in the mail for an Angel Seminar to be held at the nearby Veneta Adventist Church and they decided to attend. This seminar prompted Gary to decide whether the beliefs he had acquired through Adventist education were real or not.

Gary says, “This time God got not only my head, but He got my heart.” He had the educational background, but now he was able to embrace the truths in God’s Word and take them into his heart. The evangelist, Dennis Pumford, baptized both Gary and Ilene following the seminar. Through God’s leading Gary became a lay pastor and eventually received a call to pastor the Republic and Grand Coulee churches. In April of this year, Gary and Ilene accepted the call to be the pastoral couple for the Brewster and Chelan churches in the Upper Columbia Conference.

Gary’s passion for reaching people is strong, especially those who have drifted away as he once did. He encourages parents and teachers to never quit praying, and never quit being supportive. “You never know when the Lord is going to bring the fruit to ripen,” says Gary.

When asked what impact his early training in Adventist school had on his life, Gary says, “It’s everything, it’s essential … I would not be where I am today without the foundation of a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education.”

Gary says, “I only wish all of our families would see the importance of sending our kids to our own Adventist schools, and that the parents would take an active role in seeing that our Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and standards are upheld in all of our schools. These are dangerous days where compromise is creeping in everywhere if we’re not vigilant. And what’s more important than correctly guiding the children God Himself has entrusted to us?”
Donald Sargeant
First Plastic Surgeon in West Africa

Donald John Sargeant, M.D., died March 26, 2006, at 91 after a long career as a plastic surgeon, including 24 years in international medical mission service.

Sargeant graduated from the Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 1944 and after an internship, residency and time in the armed forces, he began his international medical service as the founding medical director at Bella Vista Hospital in Puerto Rico from 1948 to 1950. Upon completing his residency and fellowship, Sargeant moved to Bakersfield in 1956, where he practiced until the early 1970s.

In 1971, Sargeant became the first plastic surgeon in the country at the Masanga Leprosarium in Sierra-Leone, West Africa. In 1972, he went to Mwami Hospital in Zambia, where he was also the first plastic surgeon in the country, and stayed for three years. In 1976, at age 61, he accepted a call at the new Seventh-day Adventist medical school in Montemorelos, Mexico. Sargeant not only practiced surgery while at the fledgling medical center, but also taught in the anatomy department for the next 18 years.

While at Loma Linda University he met and married Verda White and they had three children.

Steven Sargeant, Donald’s son

CCA’s Cinnamon Roll Teacher

Every school has one of them, or at least they should. Every school should have a teacher who has been there for many years; a teacher who attends most school-sponsored events; and a teacher who comes up with innovative ideas. Cascade Christian Academy has been fortunate to have a teacher like this.

CCA math teacher, Monte Saxby, has a delicious way to encourage promptness and preparedness in his classes.

For more than 20 years, Monte Saxby has taught math from grades seven through 12, computer applications and keyboarding. He’s driven the bus, sponsored classes, been on mission trips and out-skied most of the student body. He’s run marathons, caught large trout with homemade flies and rides his bike to school more days than not.

With all his years and experience teaching you might think that Saxby would have settled in his ways and run out of ideas on how to motivate his students. During this last school year, though, Saxby came up with an innovative idea for classroom attendance and preparedness.

In each of his math classes, Saxby announced that when every student is sitting in his or her seat and ready for class (with pencil, paper and book) for five days in a row, he will bake a homemade batch of his famous cinnamon rolls and serve them on the sixth day. That means no tardies, no absences (excused or unexcused), no “I forgot my paper, can I go to my locker and get it?” No excuses.

And how did Saxby’s plan worked? Attendance was up and so was the caloric intake of CCA’s math students.

Teachers like Saxby make Adventist education that much more fun and rewarding. Next year Saxby will be teaching at Mt. Ellis Academy in Bozeman, Montana. The students, parents and constituents of Cascade Christian Academy all say, “Thanks, Mr. Saxby, for being a great teacher, staff member and baker!”

Mark Witas, CCA principal

Donald J. Sargeant, M.D.
Ham Lovin’ Adventists
North Cascade Church Members Provide Ham Radio Ministry

The North Cascade Adventist Church in Burlington, Wash., has a special ministry: amateur (ham) radio. This small group ministry, with instructors Al Liske, KA7Z, and Rodney Brandt, W7ROD, is part of the church’s small group program and has two class levels: beginning and advanced.

Fourteen students successfully passed their Federal Communications Commission examinations recently for either a brand-new license or a license upgrade. Those taking the class represented a wonderful cross-section. Student ages ranged from an 11-year-old to those in their mid-seventies. In the classes were professionals, students—home school and formal school—stay-at-home moms, retirees and others.

Motivation was high as ham radio is a powerful tool often used for emergencies, such as during Hurricane Katrina. Young hams in the church have organized a once-a-week network where they check in to practice their radio skills. The students, following good Adventist tradition, want to be ready to serve.

Church families are now also involved in helping the youngsters gain practical experience. One father and mother organized an antenna building bee right in their own living room.

One youngster, working with his grandpa, climbed a 50-foot tree to put up his antenna. Another home-school youngster, using IRLP (a ham radio/internet link) has enjoyed talking all over the world, including a contact with a ham in the Antarctic.

For others who might be interested in amateur radio, there is a strong church-related organization, the Northwest Adventist Amateur Radio Association, which actively promotes Adventist amateur radio. The group sponsors an annual ham radio/aviators retreat at Camp Hope in British Columbia, Canada. For more information, visit their Web site at www.naara.org.

Garrett Wilson, KE7CPB; Christian Welch, KE7CPE; Eric Welch (future ham); Eric Wilson, KE7CPA; and Matthew West, KE7FZE, display their completed antennas.

Monroe Congregation Hosts
Multi-Denominational Prayer Service in New Facility

When you have a brand-new church facility, it’s natural to want to show it off. Instead of just hosting an open house, members of the Monroe (Wash.) Church opened up their facilities for a multi-denominational prayer and praise service.

Four times a year, many congregations from around the community join together for a time of worship. It is a time for unity and a time to praise God while putting aside differences.

The two-hour service at Monroe blended seasons of prayer with melodies of praise. Pastors from each denomination led the congregation in focused prayer, while members provided leadership for the praise music.

December 2005, provided an opportunity for Adventist church members to invite people into the new church and to mingle with the community.

“For many in the community, this was their first opportunity to worship in the new church facility,” said Mike Maldonado, Monroe Church pastor. “Many commented on how beautiful the facility was and how inspiring the entire evening had been.”

Mike Maldonado, center front, Monroe Church pastor, is surrounded by ministers of different denominations after the All-City Worship and Prayer Gathering. This worship service was the first community-wide event the Monroe church hosted in its new church facility.

Garrett Wilson, KE7CPB; Christian Welch, KE7CPE; Eric Welch (future ham); Eric Wilson, KE7CPA; and Matthew West, KE7FZE, display their completed antennas.

Mike Maldonado, Monroe Church pastor, with Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication intern
More Than Just English
How Auburn Changed My Life

Being more than 7,000 miles from my home in Thailand is not easy. I arrived at Auburn Adventist Academy in 2003 seeking a better English-language education. I never imagined that I would experience God or have any spiritual changes.

Homesick at first, new friendships, the swimming pool, tennis courts and music practice rooms kept me busy. Dorm worship, vespers and church all told me about God, but I didn’t really pay close attention to them. I just wanted good grades.

My sophomore year, pastor Jay Coon visited me and offered me Bible studies. Respectfully, I accepted the invitation, although I wasn’t really interested in losing my nap time on Friday afternoons. Concepts began to click. I understood more about prayer, worship, volunteer service and baptism. At the beginning of February 2005, I decided to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and to dedicate my life to His work through baptism.

Accepting Jesus Christ is the best thing I’ve ever done. I am currently the student body spiritual vice president and student chaplain. Planning spiritual activities and being involved allows me to witness miracles, to help others and to share the gospel.

I came to Auburn expecting to get a good English-language education. Now I’ve learned that there is a God who loves me so much and wants to offer me the free gift of salvation. While I’m very far away from home, being here with caring faculty and remarkable friends makes it a little easier.

Thank you, God, for sending me to Auburn Adventist Academy.

Pitichoke “Daniel” Chulapamornsri, AAA student

The Ministry of Prayer
Four Churches Attend Prayer Ministry Training Event

Prayer ministry development was the central focus during a weekend seminar at the Maranatha Church in Seattle. Four churches—Seattle Central Korean, North Hill, Federal Way and Maranatha—joined together for the “How to Make Your Church a House of Prayer” training event with Ed and Virginia Collins, prayer ministry trainers.

The Collins began their prayer training ministry in the mid-1990s in the Southeastern California Conference. Since then, they’ve trained many churches in how to become a house of prayer. Their ministry is now based in Florida Conference.

The concept for a “house of prayer” comes from Isaiah 56:7 where it reads: “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” According to Virginia Collins, it takes three to five years for a church to go from one that prays to a “house of prayer.”

House of Prayer activities include a prayer list, small group prayer ministry, prayer breakfasts, prayer vigils, prayer seminars, a weekly prayer-related Bible verse in the bulletin, and hemming every church meeting with prayer.

During the Maranatha Church training event, John Freedman, Washington Conference president, also shared some thoughts on prayer ministry and the need for leaders and members to be consistent in spiritual walks with God.

“Prayer is the foundation of every ministry,” he said. “We need to have steady hands [lifted in prayer] until the Lord returns.”

John Freedman, Washington Conference president, shares during a weekend prayer ministry seminar how prayer has changed his life.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication intern
Train Up A Child
Future Church Leaders Present
Spanish Church Service

It was a heart-and-soul moment when the Lewis County Adventist School fifth- and sixth-graders led the Chehalis Spanish Church service earlier this year.

These young people are participating in, and being exposed to, practical and cross-cultural ministry close to home and at a young age.

From praying, to singing, to reading Scripture, delivering the sermon and closing the service with prayer, the students delivered a program with great enthusiasm.

In the process, the students made their parents, teachers, and pastor very proud. Church members openly embraced the evangelism efforts of the students.

Student Joe Olsen presented the sermon with the aid of an interpreter. Ministry team leader Karsten Cook called Olsen the night before to pray with him about his sermon—an act that impressed the young preacher.

The student ministry teams help to train future leaders. For teachers and ministry leaders, it is a privilege to prepare young people for future ministry.

While the church members gained a blessing from the fifth- and sixth-graders, it is really the students who received a greater blessing as they learned lessons in leadership while making a difference for the kingdom.

Ray Sample, Lewis County Adventist School fifth- and sixth-grade teacher

Singing and Serving
Bremerton’s S.W.A.T. Team Hosts Christian Concert in Admiral Theater

Christian recording artist Shawn McDonald performed this spring at a Serving With All Talents (S.W.A.T.) vespers concert at the Admiral Theatre in downtown Bremerton, Wash.

Based in Seattle, McDonald’s music continues to grow in popularity. He also has a powerful testimony of being delivered from drug abuse.

The Bremerton Adventist Church S.W.A.T. Team, with leaders Ron and Rachele Deininger, believed the concert had the potential to sell out because they felt the Holy Spirit had led them to bring McDonald and his music to Bremerton.

Newspaper articles, billboards and more than 350 posters told people about the concert. Many church members invited unchurched family, friends and co-workers. But in the end it was the Holy Spirit who filled the 800 seats of the Admiral Theatre that night.

While McDonald sang, Seattle painter Scott Erickson created two beautiful and evocative pieces of art live on stage. This unique addition to the concert provided a fun and poignant dimension to the message of the music.

A contact card handed out at the concert asked people three questions: Are you interested in joining a Bible study group? Would you like more information about starting a personal relationship with Jesus? Would you like to take part in a S.W.A.T. team activity?

Seventeen people who turned in their cards answered yes to the first two questions and six people answered yes to participating in a S.W.A.T. activity.

Stories are still coming in to S.W.A.T. headquarters from people who were blessed and how their lives were changed that evening.

“The S.W.A.T. Team was truly humbled by how the Holy Spirit worked on the hearts of the audience at the concert,” Ron Deininger said. “They learned the value of meeting God where He is already at work.”

For more information about S.W.A.T. or how to start your own S.W.A.T. team, visit www.gofnl.com.

Rachele Deininger, S.W.A.T. team coordinator
More than 300 students graduated from Walla Walla College (WWC) in June. Now those students are moving into cities all over the country ready to start graduate schools, new jobs and new lives.

Will they become part of the approximately 50 percent of young Adventists reported to leave the church after college? WWC hopes not. To help facilitate a connection between those hundreds of graduates and the church, the college has started a program called Beyond WWC. The goal of the program is to create a network of Adventist church members and WWC alumni who are willing to reach out to recent graduates moving into their community. These contacts can help provide information about the area, including information about local churches and other young people.

Jon Dybdahl, WWC president, brought the idea to campus, and this was the first year the Beyond WWC network was in place. “Several college presidents had discussed following up with our students after they graduated, but no one really knew how to make it work,” says Dybdahl. “I started thinking that it was something WWC should be able to do.”

This year nearly 70 seniors signed up with Beyond WWC. “We’re thrilled to stay in contact with these graduates and help them connect with other believing communities, succeed in their future lives, and most importantly, help them stay connected to God,” says Susan Bungard, chair of the committee coordinating the Beyond WWC network.

Jessica Eddlemon graduated in June and will begin classes at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine this fall. Before graduation she was part of the Beyond WWC committee. Eddlemon likes the idea of the church actively reaching out to others. “Some members make it their personal ministry to reach out to newcomers. But the church as a whole doesn’t always do that, not because they aren’t hospitable, but because they aren’t aware. This program helps them become aware and the churches I’ve contacted have been very grateful.”

Another way churches can get involved is by joining the Career Network. The Career Network is a searchable database of alumni and others who have volunteered to serve as consultants for career, job and industry information.

“I hope Beyond WWC and the Career Network will connect students as seamlessly as possible with people who want to assist them,” says Nelle Cornelison, Career Center director. “When a student is moving to a new location directly from school they may wish for more than a connection with a church.”

Dybdahl hopes Beyond WWC will continue to benefit both students and communities. “Everyone seems to think it’s a great idea and I’m excited to see that we have so many students involved, especially this first year,” he says.

Beyond WWC plans to partner with alumni and churches in cities throughout the U.S. For more information about the program and ways you can help, contact Nelle Cornelison at (509) 527-2664 or cornne@wwc.edu.

Kristi Spurgeon, WWC GLEANER Correspondent

Seniors Michelle Santana and Julie Cleveland are introduced to pastor Jon Griebel during Walla Walla College’s graduation in June. Santana and Cleveland are moving to California, near the Orangevale Church where Griebel, a 2000 graduate, is associate pastor. They met through the Beyond WWC network, which is designed to help WWC graduates move beyond college life.
A Dose of Hope is Sometimes What the Doctor Ordered

An Interview with Walla Walla General Hospital President Morre Dean

Your mission statement talks about restoring peace, hope and health like Christ did. Many hospitals restore health. What exactly does Walla Walla General Hospital (WWGH) do for patients to restore peace and hope?

At WWGH, we take care of patients as whole people—which requires that we recognize that there is more to their situation than their physical ailments.

How do you create an environment that fosters this perspective?

We make it clear that there will be a spiritual component to daily work here. Specifically, we’ve made prayer the focal point for the spiritual life of our hospital. The power of prayer has the ability to make us more compassionate and to create a better healing environment.

So you pray together?

Yes, in a variety of ways. We begin and close the week with a prayer that is read over the PA system. We also have a weekly prayer group that prays for patients in general—and for employees and physicians by name.

What about your employees and physicians—isn’t it just as important to be ministering to their spiritual needs?

For staff to give good care, their own “cup” needs to be “full.” So we look for ways to restore peace, hope and health to our employees and physicians to ensure that our caregivers are in a good position to give the care that our patients need.

How would you describe the difference in care that a spiritually-centered caregiver might offer vs. someone who has no connection with God?

As Christians, we have the ability to deliver compassionate care to a greater extent because we have the ultimate role model in Christ. It goes back to not just treating the ailment, but treating the whole person—who is in need of peace and hope, as well as health.

Can you give me an example of how this plays out at the patient’s bedside?

Before surgery, surgeons and anesthesiologists ask patients if they would like prayer, and probably 99 percent of them say yes. Of course, our chaplain is available to offer spiritual care to every patient. But we also go beyond that to try to create a sense of God’s presence in the atmosphere—whether it is through Christian artwork or providing extra measures of comfort, such as massage therapy, to our patients.

Have you found any innovative ways to nurture spirituality among employees?

This past year, during Easter we created a self-paced meditation experience that gave staff the option of visiting various stations to contemplate the death and resurrection of Christ. It was very powerful, and I think it will generate some other similar ways of fostering the spirituality of our caregivers.

What impact have these measures had?

I get many letters from patients, but the No. 1 comment I receive is one of appreciation for the prayers we have with them. When they talk about what is different here, they always bring up the spirit of compassion.

What are your dreams for creating spiritual vitality at WWGH?

My dream would be that everyone who works or is treated here leaves with the feeling that they were valued.

DeLona Lang Bell, CMBell
Company president
A mountaineer sits on an outcropping of rock on the peak of one of the mountains in the majestic Chugiak range in Alaska. It had been an arduous climb. Hour after hour of back-wrenching climbing, ever climbing, while muscles protest, bones resist, and a small voice plays its endless tune in his mind. “Why! are we doing this?” “Why are! we doing this?” “Why are we! doing this?” “Why are we doing this?”

But now he sits on the pinnacle of the mountain and savors this moment. The endless rhythmic song in his head is replaced with an extended sigh of contentment. The summit! There is none higher. The broad expanse of the blue sky is his canopy, and the world is a panoramic carpet beneath his feet. This is why climbers do this, for the triumph of this moment is more than worth the pain of the journey.

As he rests, a storm rapidly rolls in beneath him. Cloud masses flow through the valleys like a madly rushing river obscuring all but the tall peaks around him. This is why climbers do this, for the triumph of this moment is more than worth the pain of the journey.

But now he sits on the pinnacle of the mountain and savors this moment. The endless rhythmic song in his head is replaced with an extended sigh of contentment. The summit! There is none higher. The broad expanse of the blue sky is his canopy, and the world is a panoramic carpet beneath his feet. This is why climbers do this, for the triumph of this moment is more than worth the pain of the journey.

As he rests, a storm rapidly rolls in beneath him. Cloud masses flow through the valleys like a madly rushing river obscuring all but the tall peaks around him. It is an experience that few humans encounter and as he sits in the warm tranquil sunshine, beneath his feet, lightning flashes, thunder rolls and torrential rain pours down on the valley floor. The storm is gathering fury, and the winds rip off branches and scour the mountain path he so recently traversed. Above it all, still he sits in amazement at this wonder of nature.

Suddenly from within the dark rolling clouds and the confines of the storm, a mighty eagle breaks free, winging its way toward the sun. With a scream of triumph, it soars out of the tempest and rises into the sunlight, water on its wings glistening like diamonds.

On the back of a churning thermal, the eagle is effortlessly carried higher and higher. The storm is past and this majestic bird soars free above its baleful influence. Below, while animals scurried for shelter from the fury of the storm, the eagle was flying through the very heart of its ferocity, wings beating the air, its body whipped by the winds, struggling to gain its freedom, tossed and turned, through the locus of its violence, struggling ever upward, knowing that somewhere above there is sunshine and freedom.

The mountaineer sits in silent wonder, marveling at amazing power of God and His working with His creation. If there had been no storm, the eagle would rest easy, confined to the recesses of the deep valley. It was the power of the storm that drove it to wing its way toward the sunlight of heaven and freedom.

There is a strange dichotomy in heaven’s providence. In the infinite wisdom of God, the very violence of the storms of life are the catalyst that drives us heavenward to the sunshine of His love.

“Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best.”

Friend, be thankful for those storms of life, for they are a part of God’s design to disturb your contentment with the spiritual valleys of life. The very struggle to exist, those daily trials that weigh you down, the constant harassment along the journey upward, carries in its bosom, the seeds of greatness of character.

God is preparing His heroes. Heaven’s temple will be an eternal hall of fame, decorated with the triumph of those very struggles you now despise. Don’t become discouraged in your struggles for you are now journeying to gain the heights of victory.

“Our God has heaven and earth at His command, and He knows just what we need. We can see only a little way before us; “but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

1 Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 272, para. 1.

2 Hebrews 4:13.

Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president
**Bieber 90th**

Family members and friends celebrated F. W. “Bill” Bieber’s 90th birthday on April 15, 2006, at Wheatland Village in Walla Walla. Their daughter, Sherene Bieber of Vallejo, Calif., hosted the festivities. The Biebers are members of the Walla Walla College Church.

Bill Bieber was born April 13, 1916, to Katarina and John Bieber in Onaka, S.D. “Little Willy” was the youngest of seven children. After graduating from Plainview Academy and Union College, he served as a teacher in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, and as youth/education director of the British Columbia, Wisconsin and Northern Union Conferences. He also served as principal of Wisconsin Academy and as conference president in South Dakota and Idaho, retiring in 1979. He and his wife Viola (Bietz) then moved to Walla Walla, where they still reside.

**Ellis 90th**

Family visited Veronica Ellis on April 29, 2006, in Oregon City to celebrate her 90th birthday. She is a member of the Gladstone Park Church.

Veronica Mellish was born April 30, 1916, in Williams Bay, Wis., the oldest of eight children, to Jessie and John Edward Mellish. Her father was an astronomer and telescope maker, who is believed to be the first person to observe craters on Mars—50 years before Mariner 4 confirmed them. She shared her father’s love of the starry-night sky from a very tender age. She’s had a habit of rising in the night to view the heavens—especially Orion. Veronica met Don Ellis at Broadview Academy. They married in 1934 and were married 65 years until Don died in 2000. Veronica was a dedicated and active Bible instructor for a number of years.

The Ellis family includes Elaine and Tom Christen of Oregon City, Ore.; Kathy and Dale Kamberg of Quartzsite, Ariz.; 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Fleck 90th**

Kenneth Fleck was recently honored by family and friends at an open house for his 90th birthday. The celebration was hosted by his children at the family home near Battle Ground, Wash.

Ken Fleck was born in Brush Prairie, Wash., on March 13, 1916. His paternal grandparents crossed the plains by covered wagon about 1852. His early years were spent on a wheat farm near Madras, Ore., and the family moved to a dairy farm in Longview, Wash., in 1931. He lived there until his marriage to Alcyon Logan in 1941. In 1949, Ken was ordained as a minister in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He and Alcyon spent many years as missionaries in Latin America. After retirement in 1977 he helped Alcyon found International Children’s Care, a worldwide program for orphaned and abandoned children, in which they are still active.

The Fleck family includes Ron and Bobbie Fleck of Walla Walla, Wash.; Carolyn and John Stewart of Portland, Ore.; Rick and Sharon Fleck of Battle Ground; and Alicia and Phil Brown of Caracas, Venezuela; 16 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

**Peterson 50th**

W. Dale and Shirley Peterson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 18, 2006, with a reception hosted by their children in Walla Walla, Wash. They are members of the Eastgate Church in Walla Walla.

W. Dale Peterson married Shirley Lulamondier on June 18, 1956, in Cle Elum, Wash. The couple met at Walla Walla College. Dale spent 17 years in education and then 18 years in communication at Walla Walla General Hospital. He enjoys reading, gardening, collecting coins and playing the piano. Shirley taught elementary school in Troy, Idaho, and Bozeman, Mont., and taught at the Milton-Stateline School for 30 years. She retired in 1999. She likes to cook and enjoys bird watching. Shirley also enjoys helping in children’s church activities at Eastgate Church.

The Peterson family includes Loren and Teresa Peterson of College Place, Wash.; Loralee and Chuck Paulson of Spangle, Wash.; and 4 grandchildren.

Harold Homes married Shirley Hall April 8, 1956, in Spokane, Wash. Shirley and Harold met at a church picnic in Yak, Mont., where they were working in a saw mill. In earlier years Harold worked in the logging industry in the Northwest. For most of their careers they were both respiratory therapists in Chewelah. Harold retired in 2002 and Shirley in 2005.

The Holmes family includes Tim and Pam Holmes of Kettle Falls, Wash.; Kathy Chapman of Spokane; Debbie Brewer of Colville, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**Holmes 50th**

Harold and Shirley Holmes celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 9, 2006, with a reception at the Chewelah Church, where they are members.
BAIRD—Taylor Anthony was born May 22, 2006, to J.D. and Tiffany (Van Hoy) Baird, College Place, Wash.

BAIRD—Thomas Arthur was born May 22, 2006, to J.D. and Tiffany (Van Hoy) Baird, College Place, Wash.

CANTRELL—Joshua Aaron was born March 31, 2006, to Jason Park and Rachael Cantrell, Albany, Ore.

Elliott—Amanda Joy was born Feb. 8, 2006, to Bradley and Becky (Cronk) Elliott, Beaverton, Ore.

FOOTE—Paige M. was born May 13, 2006, to Joseph and Jennifer (Michaels) Foote, Spokane, Wash.

GARD—Megan S. was born April 18, 2006, to Galen and Barbara (Sabiston) Gard, South Beach, Ore.

GIBBONS—Bennett Harold Keith was born April 22, 2006, to Timothy and Megan (Stenseth) Gibbons, Lebanon, Ore.

HERMENS—Lexi L. was born on Nov. 26, 2005, to Benjamin and Sheena (McParland) Hermens, Corvallis, Ore.

JOHNSON—Joseph William was born Nov. 17, 2005, to Joseph and Kimberly (Stout) Johnson, Winchester, Idaho.

LABOCA—Rylan Paul was born March 14, 2006, to Roni and Leannah (Blevins) Laboca, Walla Walla, Wash.

LARSON—Megyn Christine was born March 1, 2006, to Gerald and Laurie (Marsh) Larson, Walla Walla, Wash.

LAWRENCE—Ethan Zion was born June 5, 2006, to Francis Lawrence and Jessica Blair, Lewiston, Idaho.

LIU—Abigail C. was born April 27, 2006, to Stephen and Serena (Howard) Liu, Eugene, Ore.

SCHWARZ—Lillian Edith Elaine was born Jan. 13, 2006, to Tracy and Stacy (Howland) Schwarz, Walla Walla, Wash.

WEARNER—Freaya D. was born April 27, 2006, to Michael and Karin (Oksenholt) Unruh, Gresham, Ore.

WEARNER—Freaya D. was born April 28, 2006, to Eric and Lisa (Heidari) Wearnier, Chehalis, Wash.


BROWN—James E., 84; born Dec. 19, 1921, Quitman, Miss.; died May 18, 2006, Hillsboro, Ore. Surviving: wife, Lorrie (Fisher) LaFave; son, William J., Quitman; stepson, Brent LaFave, Payson, Ariz.; daughters, Barbara Calhoun, Chicago; Eddie May Smoak, Detroit, Mich.; stepdaughters, Linda Seeber, Hillsboro; Rebecca Riggins, Los Alamos, N.M.; brothers, Arthur, Quitman; Tom Davis, Portland; sisters, Eva Bolton and Vera Redd, both of Chicago; 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.


EBY—John C.; 89; born Jan. 26, 1917, Oregon City, Ore.; died May 21, 2006, Corvallis, Ore. Surviving: wife, Fern (Stone); sons, Steve, Corvallis; Rick, Laguna Niguel, Calif.; daughter, Gail Arico, Corvallis; brother, Wilder, Pasco, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.


Theresa Mahoney, Portland; and a grandchild.


KING—Rosalind F. E. (Bailey), 78; born Aug. 13, 1927, Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom; died Dec. 20, 2005, Yoncalla, Ore. Surviving: husband, Jack; daughters, Carol King and Jennifer Rhodes, both of Yoncalla; and a grandchild.


PFEIFFER—Brent R., 68; born Sept. 29, 1937, Alliance, Ohio; died May 18, 2006, Eugene, Ore. Surviving: wife, Sandra (White); sons, Matthew B., Denver, Colo.; Mark A., Corona, Calif.; daugh- ter, Anna Knapp, Beaverton, Ore.; sister, Marilyn Kunz, Bend, Ore.; and 4 grandchildren.


PRAY—George A., 94; born April 10, 1912, San Diego, Calif.; died April 11, 2006, Post Falls, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Thomas and Robert, both of Denver, Colo.; Douglas, Reardon; daughters, Mildred Stevens, Las Vegas, Nev.; Sharon Veall, El Paso, Texas; and Pamela Branton, Albequerque, N.M.


ROLDAN—Evelyn (Ericsson), 91; born May 19, 1914, Pelican Rapids, Minn.; died May 18, 2006, College Place, Wash. Surviving: son, Edward, Pendleton, Ore.; daughters, Betty Reynolds, Walla Walla, Wash.; Grace Crossan, Salem, Ore.; Joyce Dickinson, Chico, Calif.; brother, Marvin Erickson, Lynnwood, Wash.; sisters, Doris Ishaug and Myrtle Hanson, both of Pelican Rapids; 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.


SARGEANT—Donald J., 91; born March 10, 1915, Moscow, Idaho; died March 26, 2006, Gladstone, Ore. Surviving: wife, Maybelnie Rice; sons, Steven, Bakersfield, Calif.; Jeffrey, Woodland, Wash.; daughter, Bonnie Colson, Salem, Ore.; sisters, Dorris Davis in Texas; Betty Jutzy in California; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.


STEELE—Charllynn J. (Treat) Egbert, 65; born May 18, 1940, Bozeman, Mont.; died April 4, 2006, Stevensville, Mont. Surviving: sons, Phil and Mike Egbert, both of Bozeman; daughter, Joy Harris, Boise, Idaho; mother, AlvieAnn Treat, Stevensville; brothers, Ron Treat, Moses Lake, Wash.; David Treat, Warrington, Mont.; 4 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.


SWANBERG—Elna A. (Johnson), 93; born April 17, 1913, Jadobstad, Finland; died May 26, 2006, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Valerie Spencer, Manzanita, Ore.; and sister, Gladys Burill, Roseburg, Ore.

THORESEN—Asa C., 75; born Sept. 9, 1930, Blenheim, New Zealand; died May 31, 2006, McMinnville, Ore. Surviving: wife, Shirley (Scarr); son, Meylan, Portland, Ore.; daughter, Davona Church, Tanzania, Africa; brothers, Doug, Ooltewah, Tenn.; Garth and Clive, both of Auckland, New Zealand; sisters, Elaine Robinson, Houston, Mo.; Loma Rabe, Sydney, Australia; Alveen Thoresen, London, England; and 9 grandchildren.


WALL—Florence “Maxine” (Owens), 92; born April 1, 1913, Cottage Grove, Ore.; died Feb. 13, 2006, Battle Ground, Wash. Surviving: sisters, Verdelle Cox and Virginia Wilson, both of Battle Ground.

WILBUR—Georgia S. (Hurst), 66; born Dec. 2, 1939, Portsmouth, Va.; died May 29, 2006, College Place, Wash. Surviving: sons, James, College Place; Darrell, Walla Walla, Wash.; daughters, Christine Bailey and Catherine Courtney, both of Walla Walla; Blanche Easley, Vancouver, Wash.; brothers, Fred Hurst, Kenner, La.; Joseph Hurst, Portsmouth, Va.; 13 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**NPUC Association**

Official notice is hereby given that a regular membership meeting of the North Pacific Union Conference Association (NPUC) is called for 2 p.m., on Oct. 1, 2006, and will be held at the Red Lion Hotel on the River–Jantzen Beach, 909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, Ore.

The membership is comprised of the members of the Board of Trustees of the NPUC, the appointed ex officio members and other delegates to the Oct. 1, 2006, NPUC constituency meeting.

The purpose of this regular meeting is to receive reports and transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

_Jere Patzer, NPUC president Gary W. Dodge, NPUC secretary_

**Oregon**

**Retired Workers’ Fellowship**

_Aug. 1_ — The annual picnic for the Oregon Retired Workers Fellowship will be held Tuesday at noon at the Gladstone Campground. Meet at the grassy area near the treasury building. Please bring food and your own table service. Tables will be set up, but you might want to bring chairs for comfort. All retired employees from pastorates, schools, hospitals or any denominational institution are encouraged to come. Bring guests, enjoy good fellowship and a sing-along with AI Stern and his guitar. Although this is provided mainly for retired denominational workers, ALL retirees are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Jorgensons at (360) 423-2623 or grandmajo4@hotmail.com.

_Milo Adventist Academy Registration_  

_Aug. 13_ — Registration and move-in day, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Classes begin Monday, Aug. 14. For more information, call (541) 825-3200 ext. 3317; or check our Web site at www.miloacademy.org.

**Oregon SAGE Activities**

_Aug. 15_ — Jet boat ride on the Rogue River at Grants Pass; _Sept. 20–21_ — Two-day excursion to Astoria; _Oct. 6–8_ — Arlene Taylor brain seminar at Gladstone. For additional information, call Wynn Knowling at (503) 343-9548.

**Adventist Singles Activity**

_Aug. 18–20_ — Camping at Badger Lake, 8 miles S.E. of Mt. Hood off Highway 35, sponsored by the Beaverton Adventist Singles. Bring food, camping equipment, swim suit, hat, sunscreen and camera. We will all share our food (if you like). Please RSVP. For information, call Karen Ward at (503) 332-3563; Charlotte at (503) 579-9549; or Tom at (503) 684-7971, tom.te@verizon.net. Maps will be made available at the Beaverton Church foyer and potluck. Information at www.beavertonsda.com, then to the Singles Page. Save the date Sept. 22–24 for the Silver Falls Retreat.

**Music in the Park**

_Aug. 19_ — The annual SonShine Music Fest will be held in Leonard Long Park, Molalla, Ore., from 4 to 7 p.m. Sponsord by the Molalla Church, the event features a variety of talent and testimony from Oregon musicians. Bring your own seating and snacks and settle in for an afternoon of worship and praise. A freewill offering will benefit the Pregnancy Care Center in Molalla and Canby.

**Laurelwood Alumni**  

_Aug. 25–26_ — T-Dub Club Weekend at Gladstone Conference Center. Our group is mostly Laurelwood alumni from 1945–55, but all are welcome. We will have a potluck Sabbath dinner and supper. Call Nancy Paulson at (541) 396-6144 for more information and room/RV reservations.

**Russell Family Nigeria Reports**

_Aug. 25–26_ — Tom and Kim Russell will present a report on their recent travels in Nigeria at the Hood View Church in Boring, Ore., Friday at 7 p.m. In the African country, they led out in organizing the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) and promoted education for living a healthy lifestyle. They will show video clips and slides and tell amazing stories of God’s protecting hand. Tom is senior vice president of the Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore. Musical selections will be performed by the family, including pastor Jonathan and Jaci Russell of Salem. The next morning at 8:30 a.m. their son David will tell of his student missionary experience this past year serving as assistant to the administrator of the Adventist Health International’s Ille-Ife Hospital.

**Revelation Now**

_Sept. 8_ — An evangelistic series of meetings with Jac
ANNOUNCEMENTS

and ‘dena Colon, will begin at the Medford Adventist Church, 1900 Greenwood St., at 7:15 p.m. You are welcome to come, and invite your friends and relatives.

Sacred Concert Sept. 23—You are invited to a sacred music concert at 6 p.m. featuring Lonnie Stephens, Howard Handley, Josh Reyes, Stephen Rice, Marla Danielsen, The Spanish Children’s Choir, Victor Macias, Claudio Maldonado and others at the Forest Grove Spanish Church, 4021 19th Ave. Refreshments will be served.

UPPER COLUMBIA

Biking for Bills Tim Peters, former Taskforce chaplain at Upper Columbia Academy, is going on a 700-mile bike camping trip this summer. He is raising money for worthy students’ school bills at UCA. To help students, call UCA at (509) 245-3617.

WWVA Alumni Weekend Oct. 6–8—Walla Walla Valley Academy welcomes all alumni to visit for Alumni Weekend. Honor classes are ’96, ’91, ’86, ’81, ’76, ’71, ’66, ’61. Activities start with Friday vespers 7 p.m. Guest speaker for worship is Darold Bigger. Visit www.wwva.org to learn more or call (509) 525-1050.

WASHINGTON

SAGE Activities Aug 13—Picnic and Olympic Music Festival in Quilcene; Sept. 6–10—Annual Northwest SAGE Convention in Hope, B.C. featuring Dick Duersken, Jim Burr, Larry Yeagle, John Freedman, and the Gary Parks Family Singers; Dec. 27–Jan. 7—La Sierra University “Path of the Just” mission project; Jan. 7–25 Ecuador mission trip. For information, contact Joan Libby at (253) 681-6008, joan.libby@wc.npuc.org, or go to www.sage-washington.org.

WORLD CHURCH

Union College Elementary Lab School Turns 30 Aug. 27–31—George P. Stone Elementary School will celebrate its 50th year of providing multi-grade experience for elementary teachers under the direction of the education department at Union College. Special events marking the occasion will be held in Lincoln, Neb. All former students, staff, and student teachers are encouraged to send stories and pictures of their time at the multi-grade lab school. Information can be sent to the Division of Human Development at Union College or by e-mail to humandev@ucollege.edu to the attention of Dr. Joseph R. Allison, principal.

50-Year Celebration Sept. 15–16—Join the University Church in East Lansing, Mich., for their 50th anniversary. Roger Coon, pastor in 1967, will be the speaker for the worship service. See the church Web site for more information: www.universitysd.edu. If you plan to attend, e-mail Joan48840@earthlink.net.

GBA Alumni Homecoming Sept. 29–30—The Greater Boston Academy Alumni Association will hold its annual reunion at the academy located at 108 Pond St., Stoneham, Ma. Honor classes are those ending in “1” or “6.” For information, contact Arthur Barnaby, alumni president, at (951) 359-4344 or afbarnaby@juno.com or go to www.gba.myfamily.com.

CVA Alumni Homecoming Oct. 13–15—College View Academy (formerly Union College Academy) will honor the classes of ’46, ’56, ’66, ’76, ’81 and ’96. The special feature is on Saturday, Oct. 14, 11 a.m. when Connie Collingsworth, class of ’76, chief legal counsel for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will speak. All former students are welcome. Come enjoy a great weekend. More information at www.sdasl.org.

Sunset Table

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Local Conference Directory

ALASKA Ken Crawford, president; Jim Kincaid, secretary; Harold H. Dixon III, treasurer; 6100 O’Malley Road, Anchorage, AK 99507-7200; Phone: (907) 346-1004

IDAHO Stephen McPherson, president; Donald A. Klinger, secretary; Rick Roy, treasurer. 7775 Fairview, Boise, ID 83704-8419; Phone: (208) 375-2524

MONTANA John Lose, Jr., president; Ray Jimenez III, v.p. for administration and finance. 175 Canyon View Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715; Phone: (406) 587-3101

OREGON Don Livecy, president; Al Reiniche, v.p. for administration; Randy Robinson, v.p. for finance. 13455 S. 9th Ave., Clackamas, OR 97067-8600; Phone: (503) 673-2225

UPPER COLUMBIA Moe Torkelson II, president; Doug Johnson, secretary; Jon Cozort, treasurer. S. 3715 Grove Road, Spokane, WA 99026-5139; PO Box 10993, Spokane, WA 99219-9939; Phone: (509) 388-2761

WASHINGTON John Freedman, president; Doug Bing, v.p. for administration, Joel Tompkins, v.p. for finance. 3450 S. 344th Way, Suite 400, Federal Way, WA 98001; Phone: (253) 681-6408

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE Project PATCH—(503) 653-8086

North Pacific Union Conference Directory

Columbia Tech Center 1498 SE Tech Center Pl. Suite 300 Vancouver, WA 98683 Mail Address: PO Box 871750 Vancouver, WA 98687 Phone: (360) 816-1400

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Treasurer, ASI ............................... Norman Klam
Undersecretary .............................. Mark Rembold
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Institute of Mission and Ministry ............ Ryan Pascoe
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Native Ministries Northwest ............... Monte Church
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- $54.0K to $63.9K — Travel 25%

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR RECRUITMENT

The Associate Director is responsible for identifying high quality professional and executive-level candidates for position vacancies at ADRA International and ADRA network offices and must work with stakeholders throughout the recruitment and selection process. This individual will perform and/or supervise all recruiting functions including position vacancy marketing, headhunting, management of ADRA's applicant database, interviewing, background and reference checking, applicant and stakeholder communications, contracting and relocation. A wide degree of creativity, near- and long-term recruiting vision, business understanding, and personal organization are required. MA/MS in Human Resources, Communications, Marketing, or related discipline required.
- $53.4K to $62.7K — Travel 25%

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The Director for Health plans and develops new health programs, provides technical support and guidance for current health programs, sets the direction for all health programs initiated by ADRA and directly supervises the entire health team at ADRA’s headquarters office. The director ensures that health programs are operating as designed by traveling to various countries to conduct on-site program and administrative evaluation and to provide technical assistance. MA/MS in health or a related discipline required; PhD or MD preferred.
- $54.0K to $63.9K — Travel 40%

SENIOR FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE ADMINISTRATOR

The Senior Financial Compliance Administrator (SFCA) provides day-to-day support to ADRA implementing field offices on financial management processes, financial compliance, and adherence to donor regulations and ADRA policies. The SFCA serves as facilitator and communication link within ADRA headquarters (HQ), between ADRA HQ and field offices, and between ADRA HQ and US donors. The SFCA provides support to the ADRA network with primary emphasis on implementation of U.S. federally-funded activities, through monitoring activities, development and implementation of training activities, and problem resolution and supports ADRA HQ activities through participation in working groups, committees, or other venues as designated by ADRA HQ Administration.
- $53.4K to $62.7K — Travel 25%

COMPUTER SOFTWARE/HARDWARE TECHNICIAN

The Computer Software/Hardware Technician assists the IT Director in determining hardware and software needs and assists in the implementation of department initiatives. Responsibilities include installation, configuration, preventive maintenance, and hardware/software support for all PC and Mac laptops and desktops, printers, scanners, fax/copiers, and PDA-enabled phones. Candidate should have strong experience in the latest Microsoft Office and Server technologies, and the latest Mac OS, MOP, A+ and/or Net+ certifications are desirable. A.A. degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or a related discipline and over three years of related experience; or equivalent combination of formal education/training and experience. This full-time position is available beginning July 2006.
- $54.7K to $66.3K — Limited Travel

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**SENIOR SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR** It Is Written’s Technical Services Department in Spokane, Wash., is seeking a Senior Systems Administrator. Our preferred candidate has a passion for sharing Christ through technology, more than five years of system administration/programming experience, and a solid understanding of Linux and Open Source. This position will include occasional travel to tend to the technical needs of the ministry. To learn more about this position and/or to apply, please visit www.itiswritten.com/jobs.

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EVENT
MARK YOUR CALENDAR Livingstone Adventist Academy Alumni Homecoming will be Nov. 3–4, 2006 at the school. Our theme is “Living a Life of Service.” We need old pictures and memorabilia, for a tribute, by decade, of school history, students, faculty and staff. Please mail your labeled pictures to the school: 5771 Fruitland Rd NE, Salem, OR 97301 or e-mail scanned copies to alumni@laa.info. We look forward to seeing you there!

MARANATHA VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL’S 2006 CONVENTION will be held September 29–30, in the Portland, Oregon area. All are invited to attend this inspirational weekend. Featured speakers are Mark Finley, General Vice President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; Ron Watts, President of Southern Asia Division; Paul Ratsara, President of Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division; and Leonel Lozano, President of Ecuador Union Mission. For more information, contact Maranatha Volunteers International at 916-920-1900 or www.maranatha.org.

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Constituency Session FAQ
What Really Happens

With the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) constituency session coming up on Sunday, Oct. 1, here are some questions and answers in an attempt to demystify the process. You can view an expanded version of this “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) feature or submit a question of your own at our Let’s Talk section on www.gleaneronline.org. But here, at least, is a start.

How many delegates are involved in the NPUC constituency session?
As we go to press, the official listing of delegates includes 324 names. The actual number who are present and voting at the Oct. 1 session will be somewhat less. A delegate must be present to vote. There are no proxy options.

How are they selected?
The majority represent local conference membership. Each conference, regardless of its size, is allowed three delegates “at large.” In addition, their executive committees must elect an additional delegate for every 400 members. For instance, the Idaho Conference, with approximately 6,300 members, has three “at large” delegates, plus 16 additional delegates who represent the membership formula. A majority of these delegates must be lay members, without direct ties to church employment. According to the NPUC bylaws, there are also “ex-officio” delegates who represent specific institutions or groups. You can read the exact wording of the bylaws and view a complete listing of all delegates on pages 24 and 25 in this issue.

Why is the Walla Walla College (WWC) constituency session held at the same time and place?
The college’s constituency and delegates are essentially the same as the NPUC, with one small difference: the addition of WWC board members who are not already NPUC delegates. At some point during the day on Oct. 1, the NPUC session will adjourn and the WWC session will convene.

What do the delegates actually vote on?
Delegates will vote on the names for officers (president, secretary and treasurer) recommended by the nominating committee. According to the NPUC constitution, only the three officers are voted into office at the main constituency session. Departmental directors and their associates are selected and approved at the executive committee meeting following the session. During lunch, delegates will be grouped by conference to choose recommended names to be presented for a vote later in the afternoon to select the executive committee for the next five-year term. They will also vote any changes to the bylaws and upon other legal and financial matters.

Is the Oct. 1 session a closed meeting, or can anyone attend?
This is an open meeting, but to ensure equal representation, only the official delegates are allowed to participate and vote. Between now and Oct. 1, each member has an opportunity to find someone on the delegate list with whom to share opinions and concerns.

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