Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the Lord…

Psalm 98:8-9 (NIV)

"Eklutna Color Wash" photographed by Stefan Hinman, Wasilla, Alaska.
The Ministry of the Adventist Book Center

Share the Light
Northwest Adventist Leadership Convention

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Ever since the gawking gang of guys from Galilee stood gazing up into heaven there has been a dilemma. They sincerely believed that Jesus would come back in their lifetime. Yet even He had preached, “Occupy till I come.”

Down through the ages Christians have struggled with the hope versus the reality. Adventists, by our very name, have been forced to confront this dilemma and sometimes in less than appropriate ways. We have gone through our eras of “imminent return” construction, assuming that Jesus was coming so soon we really shouldn’t construct buildings to last too long and then sadly years later rebuilding for reality.

We have a special friend who sold his burial plot believing Jesus would indeed come before he would ever need to use it. He is now 98 years old. All of this impacts how we live. There are people who say, “If I knew Jesus was coming in just three days, I would live just the way I am living right now.” Well, praise the Lord. We should all live like Jesus is coming this week. In reality, any of us could face the judgment, even today.

The facts are that when the people living right before the Great Disappointment of 1844 truly were convinced He was coming on Oct. 22, they lived differently. They studied, they prayed, they united, they shared, they sacrificed. That belief became the one and only compelling force that galvanized the 50,000 U.S. Advent believers from many denominations to be ready for His coming.

Charles Fitch was William Miller’s associate in the preaching of the Midnight Cry. He became so completely “driven” to prepare others for the second coming that he literally burned out. After a cold river baptism, he contracted pneumonia and on Oct. 14, 1844, he died. His family was confident they would see him again soon, real soon. As the Millerite periodical of the day, Midnight Cry, reported, “Mrs. Fitch is... smiling and happy.”

Imagine his wife telling the children, “We will see Daddy again when Jesus comes next week. In three days we will be with Daddy.” Imagine the anticipation and subsequent devastating disappointment when the reality of Oct. 23 hit the Fitch family.

Our 3-year-old granddaughter has two time frames. It is either something is going to happen now or if not now then in three days. “Can we go to Sabbath School today?” “No, not yet.” “OK, then in three days.” “Can I go to Ashley’s to play?” “No, not today.” “OK, then in three days.” “Are Nana and Papa coming today?” “No, not today.” “OK, then in three days.” Kyrie has a simple, childlike peace with that. It could happen now or it could happen later, but it will happen. Pretty profound for a 3-year-old.

Most of us grew up learning the motto: “The Gospel to all the world in this generation.” Well, this generation will be coming to an end, as has each preceding generation, if Jesus doesn’t come soon.

So what do we do about this dilemma? Just go on like the last 2,000 years? Definitely not. I want Jesus to come soon, not just sometime in my generation or later. I want Him to come now. It’s time. I desperately want Jesus to put an end to suffering and death, genocide and war, child exploitation and spousal abuse, famine and starvation, AIDS and Alzheimer’s, and yes, cancer.

Scripture reminds us, “All creation anticipates the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay” Romans 8:21, NLT).

A friend of mine recently e-mailed me, “We are no longer living in the last days. We are living in the last of the last days!” I believe that. You see some non-quantifiable, abstract future event is no longer good enough for me.

Even so come Lord Jesus... In fact, in three literal days would be just about perfect!

Jere Patzer, North Pacific Union Conference president, writes from Vancouver, Washington.
A Potpourri of Fast Facts

- There are an estimated 23 million shoplifters in the U.S. The cost to retailers is more than $27 million each day.
- Two-thirds of adults say the most important issue for couples to discuss before getting married is children. The other key issues for couples to discuss before marriage are: finances, 32%; religion, 19%; work-life issues, 7%; others, 5%.
- More than four in 10 adults say being chilly is their top home comfort complaint.
- Among college undergraduates, seniors (75%) are more likely than freshmen (62%) to say they often ask questions in class or contribute to class discussions.
- The safe exposure limit for noise is 85 decibels for eight hours a day. Every time the volume level increases by three decibels, the safe exposure time drops by half. A car stereo can pump out 125 decibels, an iPod on high can produce 115 decibels and a boom box can create 100 decibels.

- When male cicadas sing to attract females, their chorusing is louder than the sound of city traffic. Fire crackers are 120 decibels; cicadas 90 decibels; city traffic 80 decibels.
- Nearly half (48%) of adults who drive and have a cell phone say they talk at least sometimes while driving; they are most likely to live in the West.
- Nearly seven in 10 people say their pets are members of the family.
- Overall spending on pets is close to $40 billion in 2005, more than double what it was in 1994.
- Nearly 43,000 people died on U.S. roads in 2004, the latest year available. There were 36,868 deaths on non-interstate highways and 5,762 deaths on interstate highways.
Eight years ago Christina was struck with vertigo (dizziness), an illness that left her unable to do anything but sit—and even then, reading a book or watching a video was difficult. But as time went on, Christina realized that God had provided a way to teach her how to depend more on Him.

Christina began ordering books from her Adventist Book Center (ABC). Amazed, she watched in wonder as the Holy Spirit guided her from one book to next—each in the right order for what she needed at that time.
Then one day when Christina was feeling well enough to browse, she went into the College Place ABC. A book by Ty Gibson, called *An Endless Falling in Love*, caught her eye. She bought it and took it home. Little did she know that she was about to fall in love with God all over again. She says, “As I read, I was able to envision the incredible love of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. When I finished the last page I was overwhelmed with a love I had never felt before, which soon turned into indescribable joy. Yes, life still had its challenges, but that book changed me forever. I know God placed Ty’s book in my hands to draw me into His arms with a desire I could not resist.”

**How ABCs were started**

The work of the Adventist Book Center is one of the earliest ministries of the Advent movement. It started with the first organized institution of the Seventh-day Adventist church—a publishing house. As each new conference was organized, the first department often to be appointed was a “tract and missionary society.” These “tract and missionary societies” later evolved into Adventist Book Centers—and today this is how the printed word is distributed into the hands of church members and non-Adventists alike. The ABC staff are daily being used by the Holy Spirit to connect the right book or tract with the right person—often never knowing how it has changed a life.

Ellen G. White recognized the benefits of this part of our church, saying, “Our publishing work was established by the direction of God and under His special supervision... The publications sent forth from our printing houses are to prepare a people to meet God. Throughout the world they are to do the same work that was done by John the Baptist...Through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of the third angel who comes down from Heaven with great power and lightens the earth with his glory.”

The mission of our ABCs is to provide Adventist church members with truth-filled books for their own spiritual growth and, more importantly, for them to share with non-Adventists. Last year alone, the Upper Columbia ABC in Spokane, Washington, sold over 45,000 sharing books, tracts and DVDs to churches and individuals for the express purpose of distribution in the community. “Placed in one stack, they would stand taller than the Space Needle in Seattle,” says Herman Schreven, Upper Columbia ABC manager.

**Reaching people with books**

“Every day the Adventist Book Center staff minister to someone with a spiritual need, and often they are individuals who no longer attend church but still seek spiritual encouragement and guidance through our books,” says Schreven. Recently a woman in her 90s came into the College Place ABC to purchase a Bible. It was the first Bible she had ever owned! Another man who purchased the book *Incredible Answers to Prayer* said it inspired him to start attending church again.

And then there’s Dennis’s story. Dennis was a former pastor, who had left the church in the 1970s over theological differences. Two years ago in a rare visit to the Adventist Book Center, he acciden-
Sometimes it comes in the form of simply selling a book to someone who was looking for it. But sometimes it is more direct. I have seen customers come in the store just to look around. And in their browsing, they see a title that directly addresses a situation in their lives. God knew what they needed and took them to it, even though the customer did not know he or she needed it. Isaiah 65:24 says, ‘Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.’ We may not always see the direct effect of our book sales, but I know we are part of God’s greater plan. I can hardly wait to get to heaven and hear the rest of the story.”

Food for the mind and body

Health food is also a part of the ministry of many ABCs. Ken Jameson, who drives the Intermountain Bookmobile to locations throughout Idaho, Montana and other mid-western states, tells the story about how God used vegetarian food to reach out to a man who stopped him at a gas station recently.

“The man, who was a non-Adventist pastor, saw the Adventist Book Center sign on my truck and asked me about it. Apparently, two Adventist truckers had spent the previous Sabbath with him and encouraged him to eat a healthier diet because of his health problems. They had also given him a vegetarian cookbook. However, he didn’t know what vegetarian alternatives were available or where to buy them. We went into the trailer and he was surprised to see all the books and food. He asked a lot of questions and ended up buying $50 worth of vegetarian foods to try. Then he asked for one of the bookmobile schedules. He plans to meet me at future stops to buy more products,” says Jameson.

Reaching out

While the basic mission of the Adventist Book Center is to reach out to and serve the customers who walk through their doors, it is more than that. The mission also includes events such as camp meetings, conference retreats, Internet sales, and bookmobiles (a traveling Adventist Book Center store). Schwartz says he finds doing events just as rewarding as working in the store. “I enjoy getting to know people all over the conference and hear what each one is doing for his or her personal outreach. It is exciting when my staff and I can help further these ministries. We want to help churches and members reach their goals and get God’s Word out.”

For example, an Adventist business in Boise, Idaho, regularly buys pocket Signs tracts from the Idaho ABC, and puts them in accounts payable envelopes they send out. After several years of doing this, the owner of the business began to wonder if it was doing any good. Then one day a vendor came in to get instructions for an order and seemed impatient while the owner was...
This New England Tract Repository is believed to be the first establishment to sell Adventist literature. It was the forerunner of the ABC system of stores. Picture taken in 1871.

Since 1871 when Stephen N. Haskell established the New England Tract Society in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, the Adventist Book Centers have been dedicated to spreading the good news of Christ’s return. The decade that followed saw the spread of tract societies to all the conferences. In 1924 they changed their name to Book and Bible Houses and in 1972 they became Adventist Book Centers.

Whichever name they went by, the ABCs have served the church as the primary outlet for literature intended for outreach. More than a million copies of the sharing book Steps to Christ are distributed through the North American ABCs each year.

The ABCs are also the primary source for Adventist books for personal use and make an excellent source for holiday shopping.

One of the challenges facing the Adventist Book Centers serving their respective conferences is accessibility. In 1940, H. F. Kirk became one of the first to use a trailer to take the books to the people in the Southern New England conference.

The Adventist Book Centers of the North Pacific Union remain on the forefront of our mission as a church. The phone numbers and addresses are listed on page 42 of this GLEANER.

Dan Wegh, Review and Herald sales representative

The Lion’s Den is a space where kids can play while their parents shop at the Upper Columbia ABC.
small group of Seventh-day Adventists formed in the Walla Walla Valley in the late 1860s. Because they were nearly 1,000 miles from the nearest Adventist church or minister, they soon wrote the headquarters of the young denomination requesting a pastor. With limited finances and a shortage of pastors, the leaders could not justify sending a minister to this remote and lightly populated frontier. So the request was ignored for five long years.

Finally, in 1874, the General Conference sent a young missionary family, Isaac and Adelia Van Horn, to Walla Walla. At the time, Walla Walla was the largest town in the Washington Territory with a population of around 2,000. Isaac started by holding evangelistic meetings in his 60-foot tent that resulted in the organization of the Northwest’s first congregation. Seven months after the Van Horn’s arrival, Adelia gave birth to a boy. It was the couple’s first child.

During his first two years, Van Horn conducted evangelistic meetings in the small towns around Walla Walla, organized three churches and developed a recent convert (Alonzo T. Jones) into an assistant. Then he relocated his family to the more populated Willamette Valley in western Oregon where he and Jones started by holding meetings in Oregon City. Next they moved the tent to Salem where they were able to organize a small church.

In the 1850s, Portland emerged as the Pacific Northwest’s trade and transportation center and developed during the frontier period into the region’s only city. So in 1877, Van Horn and Jones focused their attention on this important city of nearly 15,000 inhabitants by conducting evangelistic meetings on both sides of the Willamette River. Unfortunately, the meetings met with only limited success. It was not until 1882 that Charles Boyd was able to organize a small church in Portland.

This same year John Loughborough, president of the California Conference, along with Van Horn and Jones traveled to Walla Walla where the five churches and 200 members in the Northwest were organized as the North Pacific Conference. The next summer Loughborough along with Ellen G. White attended the region’s first camp meeting in Salem. White especially enjoyed spending time with Adelia who had lived in the White’s home for a number of years and assisted White with her writings.

Soon after the 1878 camp meeting, White sent a letter to the Van Horns. She described how Adelia was expecting too much from her husband; and Isaac was giving little attention to the work of the conference including evangelism, stewardship education and administration. Unfortunately, they did not respond to the message. Instead Isaac spent most of the next year building a house for his family in Beaverton.

When Ellen G. White and Stephen Haskell came to the Northwest camp meetings in 1880, they were shocked. At the Milton camp meeting, White called both Van Horn and Jones into her tent. In a letter to her husband (May 20, 1880), White wrote, “I then bore to them a most pointed testimony and charged the state of the churches upon the course Elder Van Horn had pursued in doing nothing.... It was a weeping and confessing time. There was a humbling of soul before God.”

The next summer the Van Horns were transferred to California and then Michigan. Van Horn spent the rest of his ministry serving as a pastor and administrator in the states east of the Mississippi River.

Richard Daley, the eccentric mayor who served in Chicago for 21 years, had the reputation of being a bulldog boss. Once a speech writer approached him and requested a raise. Daley’s response was, “I’m not going to give you any more money. You’re getting paid more than enough. It should be enough for you to work for a great American hero like myself.”

Two weeks later, Daley gave a speech to honor veterans on Veterans Day. Famous for not reading his speeches in advance, there he stood before a packed house of veterans and media personnel. He spoke eloquently of the forgotten soldiers. He shared how the world had discarded this important group of people. The audience sat spellbound.

“But I care. And today, I am proposing a 17-point program, national, state and citywide to take care of the veterans of this country.”

By this time all the people wanted to know what the mayor would say next. (Daley was pretty interested to find out himself!) Turning the page, Daley read: “You’re on your own now, you great American hero.”

True greatness

During this month of political jockeying and governmental transition, rulers the world over would do well to learn that true greatness comes by descending into self-abandonment, sacrifice and even death. The greatest ruler to ever live, Jesus Christ, modeled this genre of greatness. Philip Yancey, in his book The Jesus I Never Knew, contrasts the humility that marked Jesus’ royal visit to earth with the prestigious image associated with world rulers today.

“In London, looking toward the auditorium’s royal box where the queen and her family sat, I caught glimpses of the... way rulers stride through the world: with bodyguards, and a trumpet fanfare and a flourish of bright clothes and flashing jewelry. Queen Elizabeth II had recently visited the United States, and reporters delighted in spelling out the logistics involved: her 4,000 pounds of luggage included two outfits for every occasion, a mourning outfit in case someone died, 40 pints of plasma, and white kid-leather toilet seat covers. She brought along her own hairdresser, two valets and a host of other attendants. A brief visit of royalty to a foreign country can easily cost $20 million dollars.

In meek contrast, God’s visit to earth took place in an animal shelter with no attendants present and nowhere to lay the newborn king but a feed trough. Indeed, the event that divided history, and even our calendars, into two parts may have had more animal than human witnesses. A mule could have stepped on him.”

How great are you?

Consider the counsel of the apostle Paul: “Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave... Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything” (Philippians 2:5–9, The Message).


Karl Haffner, Walla Walla College Church senior pastor, writes from College Place, Washington.
Almost all of the Northwest’s Adventist pastors were missing from their pulpits on Sabbath, Sept. 30. While they were not at their churches, they were in Portland, listening to Jere Patzer, North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) president, as he preached during the Sabbath morning worship service on the final day of the Northwest Adventist Leadership Convention.

Held every five years, this five-day convention, billed as a “camp meeting for pastors,” included three devotional meetings, 76 seminars, two plenary sessions, four evening meetings, Sabbath services, and a great deal of fellowship. The primary participants were pastors, but senior academy principals, Bible teachers, chaplains and science teachers were also invited.

The two plenary sessions addressed specific issues. The first covered the topic of passing the Adventist mission, message and identity to the next generation. The second covered faith and science and demonstrated that it is still credible to believe in our historic biblical position. During both sessions, top Adventist scholars and theologians shared their findings and then in panel discussions answered questions from the floor.

“These sessions work to strengthen our relationship with God, our understanding of the Bible, the Adventist message and really help to focus our mission for the next five years,” said Dan Serns, NPUC ministerial director.

Reaction from the attendees was enthusiastic. Michael Demma, Bellingham pastor, said, “I appreciated the candidness of the discussion about some of our doctrinal beliefs. We know we have a firm
Singer/songwriter Buddy Houghtaling, a dentist from Battle Creek, Mich., along with a bass guitarist Dan Grentz, a veterinarian from Delton, Mich., sing during the convention's Thursday evening banquet.

Carl Cosaert, Walla Walla College Department of Theology professor, delivers a well-attended seminar titled, “Can We Trust Our Bibles? Do They Accurately Represent the Ancient Manuscripts?”

David Ring, a Christian evangelist from Franklin, Tenn., shares his story of overcoming his physical limitations in order to share God's love with people. His challenge is, "I have cerebral palsy, what's your problem?"

Marilyn Laszlo, a national speaker for Wycliffe USA, tells about living with the Sepik Iwan people of Papua New Guinea where she learned their language, invented an alphabet for it, taught the people to read, and translated the New Testament into that language.

Michael Hasel, Southern Adventist University professor of Near Eastern studies and Institute of Archaeology director, discusses "Having Confidence in the Creator, Faith and Science" during the Friday morning plenary session.

David Ring, a Christian evangelist from Franklin, Tenn., shares his story of overcoming his physical limitations in order to share God's love with people. His challenge is, "I have cerebral palsy, what's your problem?"

Sylvia Culmore and Pattric Parris, both NPUC staff members, answer a question for Wally Lyder, Silverdale, Wash., pastor. The NPUC staff was organized into teams to plan for and conduct the convention.

Richard Dower, GLEANER editor
North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) delegates, meeting in Portland on Sunday, Oct. 1, re-elected officers Jere Patzer, president, Bryce Pascoe, secretary, and Norman Klam, treasurer, for the 2006 through 2011 term. All three were elected by more than 90 percent of the nearly 300 voting delegates.

Delegates also dealt with several recommended changes in the constitution, including approval for an official change of address for the NPUC office once it moves into new Ridgefield, Wash., headquarters and a change of title for the Hispanic and regional affairs directors: from assistant to the president to vice president.

Many of the delegates came to Portland for the entire weekend in order to attend the final couple of days of the Northwest Adventist Leadership Convention. The convention theme of “Share the Light” carried over to the constituency session as well. Discussion grew intense and lengthy at times, yet remained consistently respectful and thoughtful.

While North American Division president Don Schneider gave the devotional and presided over the election of the officers, NPUC president, Jere Patzer, remarkably fit following his most recent chemotherapy treatment for lymphoma, stood at the podium most of the day as chair of the session. He returned to the hospital just two days later to begin the final two treatments which are projected to be finished by the first of December.

NPUC departmental directors are scheduled to be elected by the Executive Committee at its November meeting. •

Steve Vistaunet, NPUC assistant to the president for communication

The NPUC officers re-elected during the constituency session on Oct. 1, from left: treasurer Norman Klam and his wife Marlene, president Jere Patzer and his wife Sue, Genia and Bryce Pascoe, executive secretary.

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<th>NPUC Executive Committee 2006–11</th>
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<td>The following individuals were elected to serve on the North Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee for the next term of 2006–11. Their names are listed here pending their final acceptance.</td>
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Golden Heart Christian School and several members of the Fairbanks Adventist Church recently hosted students in grades 3–10 from Anchorage Junior Academy (AJA) and Mat Valley Adventist School (Palmer) for the “best campout of our lives” as one seventh-grader put it. Approximately 50 staff and students from Anchorage and Palmer schools made the 400-mile trek up the Parks highway on Thursday during the peak of fall colors. The students spent Thursday night at the Fairbanks School and then moved to Twin Bears Camp 30 miles from Fairbanks. Barbara Quaile, Golden Heart Christian School (GHCS), plans an annual campout for her students each year and tweaked the schedule a bit to accommodate the larger group.

Fairbanks church member Bernard Bador, an employee at Fort Knox, a working open-pit gold mine, arranged for a three-hour guided tour. Students and staff alike were “totally wowed” by the process, the huge equipment, and holding a 21.42-pound brick of gold worth $148,394.96 ($577.30/ounce).

On Friday afternoon, cowboy Neil Wetherington, a local church member, shared a part of his extensive collection of cowboy gear including a variety of chaps, outerwear and several antique weapons.

Ruth Farnsworth, AJA principal, organized the Sabbath School nature activity. Daphne Keeney, a Fairbanks member, led the group through several activities to illustrate that in God’s hands ordinary hands can do extraordinary things.

It took only about 35 minutes on Sabbath afternoon for the combined group of students to package the dry ingredients for nearly 300 bags of soup for the local food bank. GHCS has provided the local food bank with approximately 100 bags of soup mix for the past six years. The food bank has contacted the school each fall to verify that they can count on this contribution. Students enjoyed the opportunity to contribute in this meaningful way.

On the final night, Chena Hot Springs, a natural hot springs 30 miles from the camp, made the perfect place to relax from three long and busy days.

Students from Golden Heart Christian School, Mat Valley Adventist School and Anchorage Junior Academy enjoy the fellowship and sharing through a variety of activities.

Thanks to the generosity of Fairbanks members, students at the multi-school campout, Sept. 14–17, enjoy canoeing with the beavers on the small lake at Twin Bears Camp.

On Friday afternoon at a Taco Bell, a patron commented that it was a great pleasure to dine with so many teen boys without having to listen to foul language. She also observed that they bowed their heads in prayer.

Jeanie Kriegelstein, AJA Teacher
Explosions filled the air in early August, destroying more than a dozen homes in Hooper Bay, Alaska, as well as the public elementary and high schools and one village store. Hooper Bay is a small Yup’ik Eskimo village of approximately 1,100 people about 535 miles west of Anchorage. More than 250 people were evacuated from their homes to escape the fire, which was apparently started by kids playing with matches. Though there was only one minor injury, the loss of valuables and homes devastated many families.

In the days following the fire, donated goods started arriving in Bethel, a hub town where mail, health, education and government is administrated for a 50-village area of the Yukon/Kuskokwim delta of western Alaska. Hooper Bay was overwhelmed with more than 100,000 pounds of donated goods with very limited storage space.

Incident Command requested donation specialists to take control of the accumulating donations in Bethel.

Jim Kincaid, Adventist Community Services coordinator for Alaska, offered to help. He recruited John and Andria Payne of Wasilla to go to Bethel. They located and rented a vacant airline hangar at the Bethel airport to warehouse and inventory the more than 30,000 pounds of donations that arrived in the next few days. Urgently needed goods such as food, outdoor gear and personal care items were immediately transported to the village. Other items were stored for later distribution. Later, a rummage sale was organized to sell the surplus clothing that had accumulated at the warehouse. More than $3,500 was raised for the Hooper Bay Relief Fund.

John Kriegelstein, Alaska Conference communication director

The Eagle River Valley Church is preparing for new-member growth.

The members of the Eagle River Valley Church recently had a work bee to prepare their church for new-member growth. They were pleased to work side by side with their active membership and several who were not members of the Eagle River Valley Church.

Cleaning the church office revealed a rich church history, including a church school active in the late 1980s/early 1990s. Also found was a copy of the cancelled church mortgage—evidence of faithfulness on the part of Eagle River members to pay off their building.

But a work bee is not an end in itself. The cleaning of the building was done to begin building momentum for soul-winning in the church. Shelves were cleared in the office to make way for the Discover Bible lesson guides to be used in evangelism. Brush was cleared away from the outside of the building in preparation for a future building project in order to make more room for those who will join the church. A new extension was built for the pulpit in the sanctuary for the preaching of God’s word. And new telephone poles will soon be used to put lights in the parking lot.

Eagle River, a bedroom community of Anchorage, is one of the fastest growing areas of Alaska. The harvest potential is great. Pray for the Eagle River Valley Church as we seek to build up God’s Kingdom.

Brant Berglin, Eagle River Valley and The Second Mile churches pastor
Joshua and Aaron  
Visit Pathfinders and Adventurers

Idaho Conference Pathfinders and Adventurers, 115 in all, had two unusual visitors come to their camporee, held Sept. 15–17 in Summerville, Ore., at Roy and Heather Way’s farm. Friday evening, after a rousing song service amid rain showers, Joshua arrived. He told stories of experiencing the plagues in Egypt as a young boy. Like an excited child, Joshua told about crossing the Red Sea after Pharaoh decided to let them go. Imagine a young boy, walking through the sea on dry land with walls of water—curious, but a little afraid too. Joshua (aka Terry Rusk, Idaho Conference Pathfinder director) learned that God always took care of them, even when they didn’t have water, food or were facing enemies on the battlefield.

On Sabbath, Joshua was joined by Aaron, the high priest, dressed in his finest robes. Aaron (aka Tontress Cockrum, Snake River Valley/Eastern Oregon Pathfinder coordinator) taught us the Sanctuary honor. Aaron had Pathfinders come to the front and portray different pieces of furniture—he made the sanctuary come alive. Everyone went through stations to learn more about each area of the sanctuary and how each part was designed to teach the Israelites something about God and His love.

Afternoon activities included parts of the Wilderness Living honor. Pathfinders learned how to use a solar still to collect water, build a shelter if they didn’t have a tent, tie knots, develop their own survival kit, and how to find and identify edible wild plants.

Joshua finished up the day with more stories and by challenging the Pathfinders and Adventurers to make a choice. They could be bold and choose to follow God, just like he and his family did. Nearly a dozen Pathfinders and Adventurers decided to be baptized. More than earning honors, Pathfinders is about giving kids the opportunity to choose Jesus. •

Eve Rusk, Idaho Conference Adventurers director and communication department administrative assistant

Idaho Women’s Retreat  
Brings an Opportunity to Share God

More than 80 women attended the Idaho Conference Women’s Retreat at Camp Ida-Haven to hear Ardis Stenbakken, General Conference women’s ministries director. Each year, we pray that this conference will reach women and help strengthen their relationships with God. Here’s my story of one woman who was helped this year.

I noticed a woman, somewhat agitated and in a hurry. When she asked me when the bookstore would open, I told her, “in a few minutes, after sundown.” She didn’t care much for my answer and quickly walked away. When the store opened, she was there buying a pile of books. As she attempted to carry them, I offered to assist her. I carried some of her books, and we began to talk. She was not an Adventist, but had felt impressed to stop by the camp on her way down from northern Idaho, heading home to Caldwell. She had visited the church there a time or two, and knew of the retreat, but really didn’t know much about Adventists at all. We laughed, cried and prayed together in that short visit.

I don’t know what eternal or present effect our meeting will have, but the Lord certainly does. Come and join us next year, Sept. 7–9, 2007, to hear JoAnn Davidson. •

Joan Green, Idaho Conference women’s ministries coordinator
Five new employees have joined the staff at Mt. Ellis Academy this fall. “Even though we’re a small school, we always look for the best we can find. I think from top to bottom it’s the best team we’ve ever had,” said Darren Wilkins, school principal.

Monte Saxby, a Walla Walla College graduate with a B.S. in mathematics and M.A.T. from Central Washington University in Ellensburg, has returned to his alma mater to teach keyboarding, pre-calculus, algebra, geometry and physical science. Even after spending 21 years at Cascade Christian Academy, Saxby still considers Montana home. “It’s difficult to be the new person who doesn’t know anyone. I haven’t been that for years,” said Saxby. His goal is that every student learns to love math and is excited about taking a math class.

Luke Self, assistant chaplain, works closely with students to see them “actively engage in a personal relationship with God,” said Self. “So their spiritual life would become their own, not their parents’.

Kelsi Cadiente, another Redlands native and a junior from Pacific Union College (PUC), is serving as an assistant girls’ dean. “I want them to realize their strengths and use them to glorify God,” said Cadiente, “… to be a family and have fun in a safe home away from home.” She anticipates returning to PUC for a degree in elementary education.

Working as an assistant boys’ dean, Andrew Bigelow, from Yakima, Wash., is a graduate from Canadian University College with a B.A. in religious studies and adventure-based youth leadership. “A leadership position in the dorm can be very representative of Christ in our spiritual walk,” said Bigelow. “I want to show Christ to someone through the way I live my life and deal with things.”

Mt. Ellis Academy staff and students are expecting a monumental year with the blessing of these new individuals. “There is lots of experience and youthful energy in our staff. They teach well and play hard, all as an act of worship,” said Wilkins.

Keri Newell, girls’ dean and GLEANER correspondent
BJ Christensen Memorial
Golf Benefit for Big Lake Youth Camp

In 1962, Big Lake Youth Camp held its first summer of junior camps. For more than 30 years, an estimated 3,000 staff and volunteers have made summer camp an awesome experience for over 70,000 youth and children. All of this effort for the simple reason that kids matter! Our future is bleak without the hope of healthy, happy and responsible young people. They matter to us, and they matter to God.

In 1998 the first Big Lake Golf Benefit was held at Black Butte Ranch in Central Oregon with the hope that we could begin raising money for much-needed upgrades of camp facilities and have a great time golfing too! Our first two years were a humble but encouraging beginning as supporters of Big Lake and avid golfers came to participate in this fun and worthy cause.

In 1999, we moved the event to the Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club, a beautiful championship course in the western suburbs of Portland, which is a more convenient location for many of the interested supporters of Big Lake. Our numbers grew immediately.

In the year 2000 the death of BJ Christensen, director of the camp from 1975-81 and avid golfer, saddened all those associated with Big Lake. His long battle with cancer proved to be a time of reflection for staff and campers of the past and present concerning the value and importance of places like Big Lake. It is places like Big Lake and events like summer camp where lives change and the future remains bright.

It is now an honor for Big Lake to carry on Christensen’s memory through the BJ Christensen Memorial Golf Benefit. Not only does this event remind us of the wonderful life of service he lived, but it also allows us to support the cause for which he gave so much. Youth.

This year’s sponsorships totaled just over $30,000. These funds will help purchase materials for two new docks for our waterfront area. We had 120 golfers come out and play. Your continued support of Big Lake Youth Camp is greatly appreciated.

Aubrey Nelson, Oregon Conference Youth Ministries administrative assistant

July 4th Vegeburger Booth
Raises Money to Help Community

Members and friends of the Kelso-Longview Church came July 2 to 5 to be at the vegeburger booth at Lake Sacajewea in Longview. The booth is one of many booths and attractions visited by people who come to the “Go Fourth” celebration. This event is listed in Sunset magazine as one of the top four July 4th celebrations in Washington, and the booths are a way for nonprofit organizations to share information about their ministries.

Volunteers, working in shifts, sell vegeburgers and many other delectable foods and drinks to raise money for the Community Service Center and The Project—a program that gives one new school outfit to each child brought in to the center by a parent. Each child also receives a second outfit of quality used clothing. For some of the children, these outfits are their first new clothes ever! ADRA also helped The Project by donating $1,500. This year, 306 children went away very happy with their new school wardrobe.

Marilyn Roger, Kelso-Longview communication leader

Kelso-Longview Church members sell vegeburgers at Lake Sacajewea for the 4th of July celebration.
PAA Welcomes New Staff Members

“They each match the passion that our current staff shares for young people.”

Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) is proud of their newest staff and faculty members for the 2006–07 school year.

Greg Phillips brings his wife Sandi and his two daughters Keeley and McKenna from Michigan where he has been a seminary student. Greg teaches several Bible classes and helps plan spiritual events for the school. When Phillips isn’t gallantly protecting his girls from spiders, he loves to sail, especially in the San Juan Islands and at Big Lake Youth Camp.

Heading up the drama class and club is Laura Chambers, a PAA graduate. Laura has traveled extensively throughout Europe and has just returned from a short stay in Costa Rica. She loves young people and has a passion for drama. The combination makes her a perfect fit.

Dorothy Pearson joined the English department with high recommendations from College View Academy in Lincoln, Neb. She teaches a number of literature and writing classes. The students seem especially amused that Pearson was born in Kansas and calls her car “Toto.”

Terry Lee teaches Earth science, marine biology and spends a good portion of his time tutoring. Lee came from Skagit Adventist School in northern Washington. He has already taken his students on a trek through a cave, and we understand there is a lot more hands-on learning planned for this year. Lee loves the outdoors, and kayaking tends to be his most exercised hobby.

Liesl Vistaunet has filled a vacant public relations position. She has a special appreciation for teachers and sees the need to promote education. Vistaunet enjoys her walk to school each morning and says she feels right at home in the school environment because six members of her family are teachers. She and her husband recently moved from Caldwell, Idaho, where she was an announcer at the local Christian radio station.

Liesl Vistaunet, public relations, has a special appreciation for teachers.

Dawn Baltazar and her husband Terrance are drawing attention to the cafeteria. They not only serve up a fantastic lunch each day, but they also get up extra early to make sure the students have a hot breakfast. The two chefs feel a special connection to PAA because their son and daughter are students there. But Dawn perhaps feels it more as she is a full-blown PAA cougar! She graduated from PAA in 1985.

With the school year well on its way, the new staff members have proven to be a positive addition to the academy.

“I’ve been impressed by them all,” said Gale Crosby, PAA principal. “They each match the passion that our current staff shares for young people, and it’s been an easy process of transition.”

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

Terrance and Dawn Baltazar not only make a hot lunch, but a hot breakfast for the students as well.
Bend Congregation Prepares Chapel
In Memory of Former Pastor Sid and Holly Nelson

The Bend Church congregation is nearing completion of an eight-year long commitment to build a new place to worship God and evangelize souls for His Kingdom.

They intend to dedicate their chapel/library to the memory of former pastoral couple Sid and Holly Nelson, who served the Bend Church from 1985 to 1994. They served longer than any other single pastoral team in the last 60-plus years.

For several years, Sid was sole pastor for not only Bend and Redmond, but also Gilchrist and Christmas Valley congregations before Elwood Starr was sent as his associate.

It was not unusual for Sid to preach for three of his congregations on any one Sabbath. He accomplished this by having early church in Redmond, the 11 o’clock service in Bend, and then flying south to Gilchrist or Christmas Valley in his own plane for afternoon church.

When they left Bend, it was to the Alaska Conference Interior where Sid’s love for flying and owning his own plane made him a perfect choice for shepherding scattered flocks of believers in the North Country. Sadly, five years later on July 14, 1999, while returning to Alaska from a trip south, their private plane crashed and they were killed.

This tragedy sent shockwaves all over the Northwest, Alaska and the South Pacific Islands where Sid and Holly ministered during their more than 39 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Sid and Holly Nelson were warm and giving people and exemplary, living testimonies of the Bend Adventist Church mission: “To Know Jesus, To Reflect His Character, and To Serve Others.” They loved Central Oregon and kept their home there when they left for Alaska. It had been their plan to return after their retirement. This led longtime Bend members to ask the church board to dedicate the lovely chapel/library space in memory of this humble, gracious pastoral couple. The board approved this request as well as the Nelson’s children Paul, David and Ruth.

The chapel is a 27 x 28-foot space with four lovely arched windows immediately to the left of the main entrance. This space will be able to accommodate personal and group Bible studies, as well as smaller weddings or funerals. The church plans to furnish this area with handsome cabinetry, padded seating, a wall-mounted flat screen TV and other accessories.

Though their accident happened before they could return to this church fellowship, the church hopes that dedicating this chapel to their memory will give their children and others who loved them a special place to visit and reflect on their example of selfless ministry.

Barbara Lodahl, Bend Church member
Milo Welcomes New Faculty

Tim Floyd and his wife Teresa come from Lincoln, Neb., to join the Milo family. Floyd is the new Bible teacher and guidance counselor. In addition to teaching and interacting with the students, Floyd enjoys playing the guitar, rock climbing and gymnastics. Raquel Ledezma is the new director of the music department, which offers choir, handbells, voice, piano and instrument ensembles. She will also continue leading the Voices of Zion, which she has directed the last four years. Mark Starr is the new manager of Thunderbird Wood Products. He comes to Milo from the Walla Walla Valley, where he owned and operated Northwest Wood Products for nine years. His wife Nancy Starr is the new administrative assistant. She has been the director of Employee Wellness at Walla Walla College for 15 years. They have four sons: Joshua, Jonathon, Andrew and Luke. Milo is also happy to have three new task force workers on campus, all from Walla Walla College. Lyndsi Hersey is the new assistant girls’ dean. Hersey was the head resident assistant her senior year at Milo and believes God was leading her back to help others have the great experience she had. Scott Rae, a junior business major, is the new assistant boys’ dean. He was also the head resident assistant his senior year at Milo. Rae spent the last four summers working at Big Lake Youth Camp and wants to help students have a fun, growing experience at Milo. J. P. Zenthoefer is the new assistant grounds supervisor. He is a senior health science major and is considering a teaching career. He was drawn to the country setting here at Milo along with a desire to work with young people. These new staff are already making a positive impact on campus as God blesses their efforts for the students of Milo Adventist Academy. •

Bob Uhrig Ordained

Bob Uhrig was ordained as a minister of the gospel at the Estacada Church on Sabbath afternoon Sept. 23. He has served for the past three years as an associate to senior pastor, Paul Johnson, at the Estacada and Gladstone Park churches. Born in 1956 and raised in Shreveport, La., Uhrig graduated from Southwestern Adventist University with a degree in theology. Convicted that God was calling him into the educational ministry, he declined an invitation to join the pastoral team of his own conference in order to be boys’ dean and Bible teacher at Jefferson Academy. In 1982 he graduated from Andrews University with a M.A. in Education Administration. After more than 20 years in education including deaning, teaching and administration, the impression came from God that now is the time to begin in pastoral ministry. This call was confirmed when the Oregon Conference invited him to his current position.

“The desire of my heart,” says Uhrig, “is to be where God wants me, when God wants me there, and doing what God wants me to do. I have looked forward to this day since I was a child.” He and his wife Sherri (Van Dewilt), have a son Jeremi, daughter Ami and eight grandchildren. •

Gary McLain

After Uhrig’s ordination, from left: Scott LeMert, assistant to the president; Tom Lemon, ministerial director; Sherri and Bob Uhrig; and Don Livesay, Oregon Conference president.

Brittany Manuel, Milo sophomore

J. P. Zenthoefer, assistant grounds supervisor

Scott Rae, assistant boys’ dean

Nancy Starr, administrative secretary, and Mark Starr, Thunderbird Wood Products manager.

Lyndsi Hersey, assistant girls’ dean.

Raquel Ledezma, music director

Richard Cook, Gladstone Park Church communication leader
Thanksgiving Boxes  
A Bountiful Harvest

Giving out food boxes at Thanksgiving time has become a new tradition for the church beside the freeway in Woodland, Wash.

After the church’s Thanksgiving party, the whole church family stays at the Community Service Center and helps put food together in boxes for local families. These boxes include staples, baking goods for the holiday season, canned foods, produce, bread and paper products.

Five years ago, the women’s ministries department was started, led by Janice Ross. For the first two years, women’s ministries gave Christmas food boxes to a few families. Then, to meet the needs of more families throughout the entire year, the Food Pantry was started.

Ross says that church members bring food each Sabbath and have been very generous. Many say that God has blessed them as they share with others. Now, food is delivered to people all during the year, as it is needed, often with the opportunity to visit and pray with the family.

Three years ago, the Christmas boxes were changed to Thanksgiving boxes so the items could be used throughout the whole holiday season. The church family worked hard donating time, food, money and prayers.

Food boxes throughout the year and the Saturday night before Thanksgiving have become a tradition at the Woodland Church.

Jaime Bennett, Woodland Church communication leader

Adventist Booth at the Douglas County Fair  
Encourages Preparing for Heaven

Clowns, music, fast rides, animal competitions, excited children, weary babies, eager adults, and exhibits of many varieties—all were represented at this year’s Douglas County Fair from Aug. 8–12.

This year’s theme, “Land of Milk and Honey—Bee There,” presented a great opportunity for a twist of more inspiring words for the Seventh-day Adventist booth. The words on a sign over the booth read: “Preparing for the Heavenly Land of Milk and Honey—Let’s Be There.”

Centrally located in Douglas Hall, the booth displayed color photos of most of the area’s Seventh-day Adventist churches with the street address and city listed below. Curtis Perkins of the Roseburg Adventist Church put together the attractive display. This year’s booth was organized by Arlene and John Sproed.

The booth was staffed by members of the local churches and offered books, magazines, DVDs, a CD by Christian music artist Steve Darmody, and children’s coloring and activity books.

Sandra A. Haynes, Roseburg Church member

From left: John and Arlene Sproed, booth organizers; Ed Haynes, of Roseburg; and Oliver Watson of Glide represent a team of 15 volunteers who helped with the Douglas County Fair booth sponsored by the Roseburg Church.
Pathfinders on Wheels at Farragut Park

More than 700 Pathfinders and staff, and just as many bicycles, swarmed into Farragut State Park in North Idaho Sept. 15 for the Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder Camporee. Farragut, on the shores of Lake Pend Oreille, was the world’s second largest naval training station used during World War II.

One of the main attractions to this year’s camporee was a bicycle theme. Pathfinder clubs were encouraged to bring bikes for special cycling activities planned throughout the weekend. “This was the most fun camporee I’ve been to,” said Wheatland Coyote Pathfinder Club member Jonathan Bradshaw, 12, who has been in Pathfinders since he was 9 years old. “I liked it because with bikes you can go a lot of places and see nature.”

On Sunday, each Pathfinder club formed teams of cyclists who were to participate in Olympic-style events using pedal power. Events included a relay race, a newspaper-delivery-boy paper toss, a slow bike race and a flat tire pit stop. “I learned how quick we could change the tire on the bike,” said Bradshaw, “and I learned that if you do it in parts then it is a lot easier than if everyone does it all the same time.”

Sabbath afternoon, the Pathfinders had the option of exploring the miles of bike trails that wander through the 4,000-acre grounds, or ride their bikes to the Naval Training Center Museum, which is one of the many attractions at the park.

On Saturday night, the Pathfinders participated in a hide-and-seek sort of game in the dark. The object was to cross a field and some woods at night to get from the amphitheater to the friendship pole (a large sculpture built for the world Boy Scout Jamboree held at Farragut in 1968) without being caught by the “Gestapo.” Kids used camouflage and stealth, crawling through high grass and thick trees to get to their destination.

Dillon Bell becomes one with nature.

The keynote speaker for the weekend was Leo Ranzolin, a General Conference vice president and former General Conference Pathfinder director. Pathfinders gathered in a huge natural amphitheater once used by the Naval training cadets. In his talks, Ranzolin emphasized Jesus’ love for all of us and how much He gave up to save us from sin.

Many Pathfinders have learned to give up things for Christ, as evidenced in their sacrifice for other Pathfinders in Peru. During the meetings, Wayne Hicks, Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder director, shared the need of a Pathfinder club in Peru who is trying to raise money for Pathfinder uniforms. He told about the club’s goal to earn the money to buy material that they could use to make uniforms. The Pathfinders gave more than $500 for this project.

Jon Dalrymple, Upper Columbia Conference communication assistant
Volunteer Power Shows at Sharathon

Sharathon at Spokane’s Positive Life Radio station KEEH 104.9 started off with a bang this year thanks, in part, to the help of a record number of volunteers. Each fall the nonprofit Christian radio station turns to listeners in Spokane and the surrounding areas through the Positive Life Radio Network of stations to raise more than 60 percent of its funding for the year. With the theme “How Great Is Our God,” the staff and listeners really focused on re-dedicating the broadcast to the Lord. It was a time of celebrating what God has done through the ministry over the last 12 months. In “Telephone Central,” where the pledge calls are received, it seems that each volunteer had a spiritual story to tell that led them to give their time to the cause of supporting Positive Life Radio. One such story came from Deanne, a new Christian whose first exposure to the life of faith was through Positive Life Radio. “At a time when I wouldn’t dare step foot in a church I started listening,” she said. Now a faithful church member, Deanne considers it a joy to give her time to support the radio ministry. “Last week I heard a call for volunteers,” says Deanne, “I wanted to come in, but with work I was going to be too busy. At the end of the week I got laid off and my first thought was, “Now I can volunteer for the Sharathon!” Deanne admits that some people don’t understand her faith. They believe that she should be job hunting rather than volunteering. Deanne knows that God is in control and will lead her to the right place in His time. Patricia and Julie met for the first time at the Sharathon last year and have been friends ever since, meeting for lunch at least once a month. Patricia was diagnosed with terminal cancer and given six months to live. After being told that her only hope to extend life beyond those few months was to undergo chemotherapy, she refused—choosing instead to give her circumstances to God. More than two years later she feels as good as ever, her tumors have experienced little growth (and in some cases have gotten smaller) and she lives each day to give glory to God. Story after story emerged between phone calls until the volunteers felt as though they were in an impromptu worship service. At offering time in church each Sabbath we are reminded that giving is an act of worship. During the KEEH 104.9 Sharathon, it became clear that when we give our time to support a ministry that connects people to Christ we are worshipping as well. KEEH 104.9 is a part of the Positive Life Radio Network with 11 broadcast facilities around the Inland Northwest, and is also heard worldwide via the Netcast at www.plr.org. And by the way, all of the Positive Life Radio stations reached and surpassed their Sharathon goals for the first time in several years. The totals: KEEH 104.9 Spokane $211,945, KGTS 91.3 Tri-Cities/Walla Walla and KPLL 94.9 Lewiston/Clarkston $152,491, KPLW 89.9 Wenatchee/Moses Lake $80,402, KYPL 91.1 Yakima $90,337, Worldwide Netcast $10,205. •

Garrett Caldwell, Upper Columbia Conference communication director
There’s a Party in My Heart

Matthew Kabush is baptized by John Pierce, St. Maries pastor.

“There’s a party in my heart!” was 7-year-old Matthew Kabush’s response after his baptism on a beautiful, sunny Sabbath afternoon in June—a fitting day for a young man to give his life to the Lord.

Some weeks earlier, after a special Sabbath sermon and an afternoon meeting about Revelation that Matthew’s parents, Christine and James Kabush, and their three boys, had attended in St. Maries, Idaho, Matthew expressed his desire to be baptized. With tears running down his cheeks, he told his parents he wanted Jesus to forgive his sins and come into his heart—he wanted to go to heaven!

Pastor John Pierce studied with Matthew in the succeeding weeks, making the comment at his baptism that Matthew had “understanding beyond his years.”

Matthew wanted to be baptized in the river, so St. Maries member, Sue Clark, opened her home situated by a quiet spot on the river for the baptism and accompanying picnic. We thank God for this young man and are sure God will be able to use him mightily for His work. •

Martha George, St. Maries Church member

“Remember When” Booth at Benewah County Fair

St. Maries Christian School in St. Maries, Idaho, had an informational fair booth at the Benewah County Fair in August. The theme for this year was “Remember When.” Old-time desks and black-and-white photos were on display with other old-time memorabilia. The goal was to not only advertise the school, but to offer needed seminars to the community.

People showed interest in the seminars, with 23 signing up for the “Cooking for Kids” seminar, 19 for “Healthy Cooking” and nine for “Christian Education.” One individual is interested in help with dealing with substance abuse. Overall, 105 signed up for the free drawing. The Spokane Adventist Book Center donated a leather Bible and Laymen’s Ministries donated a children’s video and a Clear Word Bible on CD. Many of the St. Maries church members spent hours setting up the booth and staffing it. The Junior Sabbath School class under the supervision of Sue Clark spent Sabbath morning handing out brochures.

For more information about the St. Maries school, go to www.stmariesidahochristianschool.com. •

Martha George, St. Maries Christian School board chairman

UCA Foundation Assists Students

The Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) Foundation has given a total of $31,000 to 33 students for the 2006–07 school year. This foundation had its beginnings in 2004, with donors pledging more than $1 million to establish a scholarship endowment fund. The foundation is made up of board members, alumni and friends who care deeply about Christian education and is currently led by president Tom Stanyer; vice president Doug Wells; secretary/treasurer Jaclin Smith; and director Debbie Nelson. “We’re so excited to have these various scholarship opportunities available to our students, many of whom could not be here otherwise,” says Mark Lockwood, UCA’s vice principal for finance. For information about the UCA Foundation, go to www.foundationuca.org. •

Carmen Slavens, UCA GLEANER correspondent

These UCA students are the recipients of the 2006-07 UCA Foundation scholarships provided by the Foundation’s board members and generous donors.

Volunteer Rose Marie Tiffany and Ruth Sonnentag, St. Maries Christian School third-grader, cover a shift at the Adventist booth at the Benewah County Fair.
New Adventist Retreat Center
At Sheridan Meadows Golf Course

Great things are happening in Eastern Washington. When the idea was presented to the area churches at this summer’s Fruitland Camp Meeting—formerly called the Lost Lake Camp Meeting—to purchase Sheridan Greens Golf Course for a retreat center, the campers caught the vision and by the end of the weekend had raised over $96,000 in pledges.

The churches involved in this commitment are Chewelah, Colville, Davenport, Grand Coulee, Inchelium, Ione, Kettle Falls, Northport and Republic. They saw the value of having a site for future camp meetings and church outings. The golf course sits about two miles off of Highway 20 at approximately 3,100 feet elevation, promising ideal mild summer weather. It is a lovely setting with a nice creek.

The regional Lost Lake Camp Meeting had grown so large that it was moved to the Fruitland Assembly of God Bible Camp. While wonderful, the site was a bit desolate and crowded for active young people. So when the opportunity to purchase a 55-acre golf course just a few miles out of Republic presented itself, the churches gave it serious consideration and decided to purchase the property.

To prepare the site, one of the first things that needs to be done is to dig a well before winter sets in so the Northeastern Washington Regional Camp Meeting can meet at this new campground site next year. They look forward to having camp meeting in a large outdoor tent situated in the middle of a peaceful meadow sprinkled with colorful wild flowers and surrounded by majestic mountains. They praise God for a location with fresh mountain air and water rippling over the rocks to the beat of croaking frogs. It will take hard work, funds, talents and skills to develop this property but they are trusting God to provide.

For more information, contact Marjorie Holmes at 178 E. Evergreen Drive, Kettle Falls, WA 99141-9553, (509) 738-2627 or lholmes@inwi.net.

Lois McCombs, Deer Park Church communication leader

Countryside Celebrates
An Era of Service

For Barbara Clouse and the Spokane Countryside Church, the setting of the sun one Sabbath marked the end of a legacy of 51 years of ministry in children’s divisions. Clouse says her interest in Sabbath School work began at the age of 12 when she took her younger brother to Sabbath School at the Spokane Central Church. Her membership at Spokane Linwood Church and later at the Countryside Church would provide the context where over the years she would lead classes from Cradle Roll through Primary ages.

Countryside honored Clouse for her many years of service in a surprise ending to the 13th Sabbath School program. With all the Sabbath School members present, Gary Bartholomew thanked her and told about her years of service. After the song “Thank You,” sung by Phyllis Radu, Clouse was presented with a bluebird music box as a memento. She continues in faithful attendance at Countryside, but no longer takes that turn to go downstairs to the children’s divisions. The Countryside Church is very grateful for the many years of service Clouse has given to the children.

Kathie Bartholomew, Spokane Countryside Church member

Barbara Clouse (left) accepts a gift from Kathie Bartholomew in recognition of her many years of service to the children of the Countryside Church.
Bouquets Win at Fair

“Breathtaking!” and “Best in the whole division,” were some of the comments made by the judges concerning Allison Kouns’ floral arrangement entry. Kouns, 12, submitted a total of six entries in the flower division of the Wheatlands Communities Fair in Ritzville, Wash., and received two second-place ribbons and four first-place ribbons plus the Best of Show ribbon for her efforts. Kouns loves arranging flowers and has been faithfully providing bouquets each Sabbath for the front table at the Ritzville Church for the past several months. Besides entries in the flower division, Allison submitted three entries in the Arts and Crafts division and one entry in the Cookie division. Of those entries, she won one second-place ribbon and three first-place awards plus two special merit awards. •

Allison Kouns holds the floral arrangement which won her the Best of Show award at the Wheatlands Communities Fair.

An Ending and a Beginning

On a beautiful September Sabbath a mother’s prayers were answered. Danielle (Nellie) Hignight’s re-baptism is both an ending and a beginning. It is the ending of resistance and walking away from the voice of the Spirit, and a beginning of a Spirit-filled, committed relationship with God that has changed her life. Nellie’s husband, Jeremy, and daughter, Kamri, and her parents, Cliff and Debbie Herra, watched as Nellie went under the chilly waters of the St. Joe River. Their St. Maries Church family surrounded them and sang her request “Shall We Gather at the River” as she was led into the river by Pastor John Pierce. Her church family praises God for Nellie and her family. •

Martha George, St. Maries Church member

Goldendale Stages Fun Fair Booth

Brandon Robins stands ready to assist a young person who’s preparing to throw a dart at a balloon at the Klickitat County Fair Booth for the Goldendale Church. Many young people lined up to try out this activity. After hitting the balloon, the balloon fragment was taken down and a question, hidden behind, was read to the participant dealing with health or the Bible. When the person answered the question, the person received a copy of such magazines as Winner, Listen, and/or a Sabbath School handout.

Church members gave away many copies of “The Ten Commandments Twice Removed” as well as quite a few brochures about the school. Val Robins, Home and School leader, had half the booth and was successful in advertising the Goldendale Adventist School. New teacher, Lois Poterton, was available to talk to interested parents. •

Elaine Kubler, Goldendale Church health secretary
Family Ties
at Auburn Adventist Academy

The doorbell rings. As the front door opens, the aroma of freshly baked cinnamon rolls fills the air. A few more students manage to find a place on the floor of the living room, and everyone begins to sing. “Day is Dying in the West” welcomes in the Sabbath hours, announcing the beginning of a much loved tradition. Faculty home vespers has begun.

Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) is a school devoted to building relationships and creating a sense of family on campus. Faculty home vespers is one of many activities that do just that. ASB Handshake, orientation group-building games, the “Getting to Know You” party, a Sabbath picnic at Lake Sammamish Park, and a weekend spent at Sunset Lake are just a few of the many opportunities provided for students and faculty to get to know each other at the beginning of a school year.

Jessica Noyer, AAA sophomore, shares her experience of coming to Auburn. “On the first day of school, a student came up to me and introduced himself. I was so surprised to be approached by another student. It made me feel really welcome. I’m really glad I came to AAA.”

Children Contribute to Local Community

Marcie Aschenbrenner, Grays Harbor Church VBS director

Children in Grays Harbor, Wash., learned about people in Africa, Asia and India recently during a Vacation Bible School (VBS) program developed by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

The focus of this five-day program, local leaders said, was to teach the children about the world around them and how they too can contribute to their community.

Mid-week, 30 children, between the ages of 2 and 12, decorated grocery bags donated by Swanson’s Grocery, and visited homes in the community to collect food items for the local Adventist food bank.

Altogether, the children collected 202 pounds of food and received 329 pounds of food donated by Safeway and Bob O’Day, food bank director, parked his car far enough from the door of the food bank for the children to form a chain. They proceeded to empty the car, one item at a time, going from child to child, until the car was empty.

The children also made crafts during the week, delivering them to the local nursing home, Pacific Care Center.

The children learned that even though they may live far away from countries in need, they can serve Jesus right here on the harbor.
Evangelism a Family Matter at Cedarhome

It’s been 30 years since the Cedarhome Church in Stanwood, Wash., held an evangelistic series. Last spring, that changed when evangelist Richard Halvorson preached about prophecy. Since then, 18 people have made decisions for Jesus, and the church is excited about evangelism.

When Paula Fuentes enjoyed a series of meetings at the Mount Vernon Church, she decided to invite her brother and sister-in-law, Gabriel and Dawn Zamora, to attend the meetings in Cedarhome. Zamora—who attended various churches in the past—finally found the church where she belongs. “I never felt at home until I came to these meetings,” she said. “Now I know the truth of God’s Word.”

Zamora also invited her mother, Merilyn Underwood, to come to the prophecy meetings, where Underwood decided to ask God for a sign. She received two signs on the final Friday night—clouds in the shape of a cross, and a vibrant rainbow over the church. “I just feel so much peace here at Cedarhome. I know this is my church home.”

Other family connections:
Thirty years ago, Emily Johnson’s mother was baptized at the last Cedarhome evangelistic series; celebrating Emily’s baptism was a special moment for the Johnson family. As a result of leading a Bible study group with her husband, Doug, Lynnette Peterson decided to be baptized. From the Peterson’s small group, a mother/daughter team, Linda Schmoe and Laura Nunnally, also made decisions for baptism.

Paul Coneff, Cedarhome Church pastor, with members Scott and Shiela VonBergen

Ferndale Church Celebrates 100 Years

September marked the 100th birthday of the Ferndale Church. The festivities began Sept. 8 with Friday vespers, including a short sermon by Doug Bing, Washington Conference vice president for administration. Sarah McHugh, 15, played the harp.

The celebration continued Sept. 9 during the morning worship service with a bagpipe procession and recessional featuring Sid Hammond, Bellingham Pipe Band member. Jerry Landcastle, Ferndale mayor, presented a proclamation from the city of Ferndale to Louis Turner, church pastor. John Freedman, Washington Conference president, was the guest speaker.

Among those who attended the festivities were members, past and present, from the Ferndale Church as well as the other district churches of Bellingham, Everson, Lummi and the Open Door Fellowship.

The celebration concluded with an afternoon program when church members shared special memories and focused on past and present mission projects, including Ferndale’s help in building a church in Santa Cruz, Philippines. Bob Burt, former Ferndale pastor, gave a tribute to long-standing members and his good friends Norman and Kathleen Everett. The highlight of the afternoon was a concert by the Vancouver Adventist Filipino Anklung (bamboo) Ensemble and Choir.

The church began as a small company in 1905, and they built the first Ferndale Church in 1906 with donated land and lumber from members’ properties. Thorvald Linrud, whose family still attends the church, led in the construction. The original pulpit (handcarved by Linrud), one of the benches and the original old clock (still working) were located and brought into the current sanctuary for this occasion.

Bob Burt (right), former Ferndale pastor, pays tribute to Norman and Kathleen Everett for their contributions to the Ferndale Church over the past 50 years.

Connie Morrissey, Ferndale communications secretary
SAGE Volunteers
Assist Habitat for Humanity

An Adventist family in Poulsbo is the recipient of a new home from Habitat for Humanity.

Nearly 20 SAGE volunteers participated in the “Blitz Week,” which saw the house framed and roofed, exterior siding, plumbing, and doors and windows installed, all in just five days. The house was completed in mid-October.

Pablito, Belma and Michelle Reyes have lived in a small trailer for the past dozen years. When the roof started leaking a few years ago, they were unable to repair it properly. As a result, their furnishings were damaged and moldy, and they started experiencing asthma symptoms. This new home is an answer to their prayers.

SAGE members also helped provide some new furniture, bedding and other household items to give the Reyeses a fresh start in their new home. Pablito is a computer technician and Belma works as a nurse aide. Teenage daughter Michelle, a talented musician, is a student at Auburn Adventist Academy. The Reyeses are members of the Poulsbo Adventist Church.

Like all who receive homes from Habitat for Humanity, the Reyes family contributed 500 hours of volunteer labor on their home and other projects. SAGE volunteers, and other volunteers, provided 1,284 on-site hours during blitz week. •

Carrol Grady, SAGE Advice editor

A weekend camping trip is the first event of the re-launched young adult ministry program in Washington Conference.

A team of lay leaders and pastors is working to re-energize young adult ministries in Washington Conference to reach young adults ages 18–35 who have questions about the church and the role of the church in their lives.

“Young adults face three big decisions: who to marry, what career path to follow and what to believe about God,” said John Freedman, conference president. “The church plays a defining and nurturing part in helping young adults sort out life issues.”

In September, lay leaders put together a plan for two retreats and gatherings per year. The first event, Faith on the Farm in Duvall, Wash., was a weekend camping trip when young adults from several churches could come together and network, enjoy nature and express their faith.

Weekend programming, provided entirely by young adults, included a powerful sermon by Tyler Stewart of Portland, Ore., a performance of an original song by Heather Coiburn, of Arlington, Wash., and testimonies from peers eager to share their faith.

One woman from the Everett Indonesian Church described the afternoon activities—horseshoes, volleyball, hikes and boat rides—as an opportunity for a “city girl to turn into a semi-country girl.”

Beyond retreats, the leadership team is also planning to develop a database of young adults in the region. •

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication intern, with Diedre Dealy, event participant
Walk Through Bethlehem
Church Produces Live, Interactive Pageant

Step back in time, and take a “Walk Through Bethlehem” this holiday season with a live interactive pageant, complete with actors, animals, a synagogue, soldiers, tax collectors and more.

The program, produced by the Open Door Fellowship in Lynden, Wash., offers a complete Christmas experience. Visitors go back in time to Christ’s birthplace and travel down the bustling streets of Bethlehem, even “purchase” a cup of tea or hot lentil soup with gold they are given at the beginning of their journey.

Preparing for this event begins in August and means a lot of time and dedication from a core group of church members. In addition, many family members and members of area churches are involved since the production involves more than 100 volunteers.


Sara O’Connor, Open Door Fellowship event communication coordinator

“Dear God, You’re the Best”
Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs
Begin Year with Retreats

A simple childish prayer scrawled in purple crayon and taped to a rough wooden cross during a Sabbath morning activity captured the heart of Pathfinder and Adventurer ministries.

“Dear God, You’re the best, ... I love you. I hope I’m going to heaven. I wish I was there right now. Maybe tomorrow.”

Over two separate weekends in mid-September, 570 Pathfinders and Adventurers came to Sunset Lake Camp to mark the start of their new club year.

Pathfinder Camporee and Adventurer Fall Family Campout featured the usual treasure hunts and late night hikes, but they also included something more. “These events serve as milestones in the lives of many young people,” said David Yeagley, Washington Conference youth director. “During these campouts young people create memories which will stay with them for a lifetime and help to anchor them to their church.”

If you are interested in starting a Pathfinder or Adventurer club in your church, contact the Washington Conference Youth Department.

David Yeagley, Washington Conference youth director

Lindsay Lectures in Tacoma

Allan Lindsay, author and narrator of the *Keepers of the Flame* video series, presented a three-part lecture series at the Tacoma South Side Church this fall. The series focused on the ministry of Ellen G. White.

Lindsay described White’s messages as “full of love and knowledge.” “Her council still brings challenge and inspiration and blessing to the church,” Lindsay said, “and I believe it will continue to do so until the Lord comes.”

Corinne Morley, the great-great grand niece of Ellen G. White and daughter of White’s sister Caroline Clough, and her son David Morley attended the Friday night lecture. It was a special moment when Lindsay introduced the Morleys and presented them with the *Keepers* series DVDs.

“All lectures like these help the church body grow spiritually,” said David Moench, coordinating pastor for the series. “As Dr. Lindsay spoke about God’s prophet, Ellen G. White, the angels of Heaven were there in force impressing our minds and filling our hearts with the importance of these messages.”

April Pierre, church member, with David Moench, pastor

Allan Lindsay, author and narrator of the *Keepers of the Flame* video series, described Ellen G. White’s messages as “full of love and knowledge.”
Music in Malaysia
With a WWC Professor

Music is music, whether you’re in Walla Walla or Kuala Lumpur. The fact that music transcends culture recently allowed a Walla Walla College music professor to extend his many years of experience to musicians in Malaysia and Singapore during a series of popular vocal and choral workshops.

John Dennison, WWC choral activities director and orchestra conductor, was invited to lead the August workshops in Penang, Kuala Lumpur, and Singapore by WWC alumnus Danny Oh, a plastic surgeon at Penang Adventist Hospital. During the vocal workshops, Dennison helped individuals positioning the school more accurately in relation to similar institutions and communicating clearly with international students who associate “college” with a secondary school.

“Our liberal arts core and our commitment to personalized education will remain strong, however we are adopting a university name to more accurately describe our institution,” says John McVay, WWC president. “We believe a university name will place our school in a stronger position to clearly communicate who we are,” he says.

As part of the transition, the phrase “Seventh-day Adventist Higher Education” will be used as a tagline to the university name. “Our name may be changing, but, as always, our education will continue to be rooted in Seventh-day Adventist faith and tradition,” McVay says.

The name change was approved by 83 percent of the 256 delegates who voted. The date the name change will become official is still to be determined by the college’s Board of Trustees.

For more information about the name change, visit wwc.edu/namechange.

Kristi Spurgeon, WWC GLEANER correspondent

Walla Walla College to Change Name

Walla Walla College (WWC) has elected to change its name to Walla Walla University in order to better reflect the scope of its programs and the nature of its student body. The name change was approved at the WWC constituency meeting in Portland, Ore., on Oct.1.

The decision followed an earlier recommendation by the college’s Board of Trustees that the institution should include the term “university” in its name. WWC has been officially recognized as a university for more than 10 years.

Other factors contributing to a name change include positioning the school more accurately in relation to similar institutions and communicating clearly with international students who associate “college” with a secondary school.

“Our liberal arts core and our commitment to personalized education will remain strong, however we are adopting a university name to more accurately describe our institution,” says John McVay, WWC president. “We believe a university name will place our school in a stronger position to clearly communicate who we are,” he says.

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For more information about the name change, visit wwc.edu/namechange.

Kristi Spurgeon, WWC GLEANER correspondent
A CHIPer Way of Life

Tillamook native Marie Hasbrouch is an engaging, talkative and healthy woman. To look at her, it’s hard to guess her true age of 76 or that she’s ever been unwell. Two years ago she had diabetes, heart trouble, sleep apnea and arthritis. These health issues motivated her to seek a new lifestyle that would make her healthier and happier.

Marie had attended a three-day program hosted by Weimar Institute at Cannon Beach, Oregon, several years ago. They provided meals, exercise and instruction, and inspired Marie to pursue a healthier lifestyle. But the meetings came and went. Without support, Marie found it difficult to maintain her new habits.

A year ago Marie saw an advertisement for the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) at Tillamook County General Hospital (TCGH), an Adventist Health hospital in the coastal Oregon community. Similar in format to the Weimar program, CHIP offers a longer course with an emphasis on maintaining a healthy lifestyle after the program ends with follow-up support meetings.

CHIP is a worldwide lifestyle education program sponsored by Seventh-day Adventist churches throughout North America. Churches, along with other local sponsors like TCGH, conduct this unique video-based program in their communities. During the program, participants learn strategies to help make lifestyle changes that can continue.

“We’re fortunate to have a connection between the Tillamook Adventist Church and the hospital so we can offer this program,” said Ginny Gabel, hospital CHIP coordinator and community education and public relations manager.

Two years ago, a physician from the TCGH medical staff attended a leadership conference and learned about CHIP. He became instrumental in bringing CHIP to Tillamook.

“It takes a team,” said Ginny. “I work with many volunteers including TCGH’s two registered dietitians and several doctors.”

When Marie decided to come for the CHIP meetings, she worried about attending the evening meetings because of her trouble with driving at night. When Ginny heard, she set up a carpool. Marie’s enthusiasm heightened when she discovered that not only were food demonstrations planned, but participants would receive free samples and recipes every evening.

“During the first CHIP sessions that Marie attended, we only served recipe samples,” recalled Ginny. “But during the second program we decided to offer a light supper and show people how to prepare healthy meals.”

Though Marie did not stick with the program 100 percent of the time, she still saw huge improvements in her health. The heart trouble, sleep apnea, diabetes and arthritis became far less severe as she took better care of herself.

CHIP’s effects impressed Marie so much that when the second set of meetings came around, she not only attended again but brought five people with her.

For Marie, the best part of the program also proved the most challenging. She loved the education and examples. “But,” Marie admitted, “after eating one way for 70 years, it isn’t very easy to change.”

For those considering CHIP courses, Marie says it is the best thing to do for a healthy life.

“Not only was the program educational, but it was so well-administered that it was fun and a joy to attend,” said Marie. “You can beat the killer diseases by the way you choose to live. It will be the best long-term investment you’ll ever make.” For more information about the CHIP program or other health care programs at Tillamook County General Hospital, visit www.tcgh.com.

Shawna Malvini, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent
**Davis 100th**  
Nellie Elizabeth Davis celebrated her 100th birthday on July 23, 2006, with family and friends at a party in the fellowship hall of the Milton-Freewater (Ore.) Church where she is a member.

Elizabeth was born July 23, 1906, to Charles and Jane (Ellison) Burton in Soda Springs, Idaho. She was the middle child of seven children. She learned early to care for sheep, spending her summers helping her father at the sheepherder’s covered wagon. She was introduced to the Adventist Church while riding horseback with an Adventist friend. Later she attended Gem State Academy and was baptized in the Boise River during camp meeting—becoming the only Adventist in her family. She married Marion Davis in 1926. He has since passed away.

The Davis family includes Mona and Richard Jenkins of Milton-Freewater; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**Gibbs 60th**  
Don and Doris Gibbs celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 2, 2006, with a family get-together in the Kamiah Church Fellowship Hall.

Donald V. Gibbs married Doris L. Stoessel on June 2, 1946, in San Diego, Calif. Doris’ grandfather, an Adventist minister and former missionary to Russia, officiated at the wedding. Don is a World War II vet with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe Theater. He graduated from La Sierra College in 1953 with ministerial and agriculture degree. He was a principal and teacher in Adventist elementary schools until he retired in 1984, from Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska. Don also led Pathfinders for 45 years. For the past 60 years, Doris has been a homemaker and worked with Pathfinders and children’s Sabbath Schools.

The Gibbs family includes Eloise and Keith Bolin of Orofino, Idaho; Lillian “Tiny” Cornish of Angwin, Calif.; Chuck and Josie Gibbs of Spokane, Wash.; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**Harrison 55th**  
Harold and Wanda Harrison celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on May 14, 2006, with family and friends at home in Monitor, Ore. They have been members of the St. Johns, Old Central and Stone Tower churches and are currently members of the Monitor Church.

Harold Harrison married Wanda Hellman on June 14, 1951, in St. Johns (Portland), Ore. Harold was a maintenance engineer on the campuses of Monument Valley Mission and Hospital in Utah; Rio Lindo Adventist Academy in Healdsburg, Calif.; Laurelwood Adventist Academy in Gaston, Ore.; and Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, Ore. After attending Walla Walla College, Wanda was a private secretary until their children were born. Later Wanda worked where needed in the academies. In 1964 Wanda started working in the Sabbath School and Publishing Departments in the Oregon Conference.

The Harrison family includes Marie and Randy Oglevie of Salem, Ore.; Sandra and Ralph Breaux of Spotsylvania, Va.; Jenae and Joe Herrera of Monument Valley, Utah; 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**Jepson 60th**  
Clayton and Irene Jepson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Aug. 25, 2006. They are now members of the Loveland (Colo.) Church.

Clayton Jepson married Irene Whitcomb Aug. 25, 1946, in Pendleton, Ore. They met in Pendleton where Irene was teaching in the Adventist school and Clayton worked at the Harris Pine Mill prior to returning to college after serving in the Army. Clayton served 39 years in hospital chaplaincy and pastoral ministry in the Upper Columbia Conference, Bangkok, Thailand, and Ohio Conference. He pastored the Green Lake, Tacoma Central and Sequim churches in Washington Conference before retiring in 1988. In addition to teaching church school, Irene spent more than a decade in hospital nursing.

The Jepson family includes Gail Szana of Littleton, Colo.; Trent Jepson of Colton, Calif.; Gary and Deidre Jepson of San Marcos, Texas; and 4 grandchildren.

**Merickel 60th**  
Charles and Stacia Merickel celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Aug. 5, 2006, with a lunch hosted by their daughter in Portland, Ore.

Charles Merickel married Stacia Alexanko on Aug. 7, 1946, in Lincoln, Neb. The couple spent a number of years living in Oregon where Charles was on staff at Laurelwood Academy and Portland Union Academy. Charles made a career change and worked for nine years for the state of Oregon as a property appraiser. It was then back to teaching. The couple spent 16 years teaching at Gem State Academy before retiring in Florida near their daughter. After 16 years they have moved back to College Place, Wash., where they continue to be active in their church.

The Merickel family includes Phyllis and Bob Wilson of Portland, Ore.; Donna and Clay Judy of North Port, Fla.; Chuck and Nancy Merickel of Chehalis, Wash.; and 7 grandchildren.

**States 60th**  
Newton and Esther States celebrated their 60th wedding
anniversary Aug. 12, 2006, at a family gathering in Cascade, Idaho. They are members of the Emmett, Idaho, Church.

Newton States married Esther Pack on Aug. 10, 1946, in Boise, Idaho. Newton graduated as a registered nurse in 1961 and has taught Licensed Practical Nursing and Respiratory Therapy courses and was director of nursing at Caldwell Memorial Hospital. A hospital administrator for 30 years, his last position was at Walter Knox Memorial Hospital in Emmett, Idaho. Esther has been a homemaker for 60 years.

The States family includes Tim and Nancy States of Payette, Idaho; George and Mary States of Emmett; Newton Jr. and Karen States of Cocalalla, Idaho; and Tom States of McCall, Idaho; 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Thomas 50th

Griffith and Shirley Thomas celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 27, 2006, with a reception hosted by their children at the Tillamook Church Fellowship Hall where they are members.

Griffith Thomas married Shirley Brane Aug. 26, 1956, in Walla Walla, Wash. After Griffith’s graduation from Walla Walla College with a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1957, Shirley got a B.S. in Nursing at Portland Adventist Hospital in 1960. Griffith graduated from Loma Linda University School of Medicine with his M.D. degree in 1964. He practiced medicine in Prentice, Wis., as well as Forest Grove, Tualatin and Tillamook, Ore., until his retirement in 1996. Shirley continues to work part-time in the OB Department at Tillamook County General Hospital.

The Thomas family includes Marcene Thomas of Salem, Ore.; Delbe and Ed Meelhuysen of Beaverton, Ore.; Lloyd and Barbara (Otis) Thomas of Joshua, Texas; Jill and Lyn Walcker of College Place, Wash.; Joseph and Lisa (Butcher) Thomas of Lake Jackson, Texas; Hugh and Joanne (Ulloa) Thomas of Moses Lake, Wash.; 12 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Young 95th

Shirley Young celebrated her 95th birthday on April 11, 2006, with family and friends at Garrison Creek Lodge in Walla Walla, Wash.

Born Shirley Mae Budd, she was the daughter of George and Ella Mae (Brown) Budd of Minnesota. After her mother’s death, Shirley and her father moved to College Place, Wash., where she attended Walla Walla College, graduating in 1937. She taught school and was a gifted pianist. She married John Young and they adopted two Korean/American children in the early ’50s. They lived in Amity, Ore., until the children were grown, then moved back to College Place when they were in their 80s. After John passed away several years ago, Shirley continued to play the piano for the Primary Sabbath School division at the Village Church.

She enjoyed sewing and mending at the Community Service Center, but had to move to Garrison Creek Lodge after breaking a hip. She still enjoys her friends and family who live nearby.
BIEGEL-MCKEE—Joy C. Biegel and Russell E. McKee were married May 14, 2006, in Colledgatede, Tenn. They are making their home in Ooltewah, Tenn. Joy is the daughter of Robert and Jann Biegel. Russell is the son of Ellsworth and Sharon McKee.

BRYANT-MCDANIEL—Amy Marie (Clendenon) Bryant and Darren Matthew McDaniel were married Aug. 5, 2006, in Seaside, Ore. They are making their home in Caldwell, Idaho. Amy is the daughter of Brian and Shirley Clendenon. Darren is the son of Deena and Harvey Hochstetter and David McDaniel.

CLARK-STEWART—Sharon Clark and Scott Stewart were married July 23, 2006, in Busselton, Western Australia. They are making their home in Vancouver, Wash. Sharon is the daughter of Maurice and Helen (Cousins) Clark. Scott is the son of Donald and Diane (Jones) Stewart.

CUMBO-VILENDRÉ—Camela Cumbo and Justin Vilenbre were married May 5, 2006, in Lahaina, Hawaii. They are making their home in Hillsboro, Ore. Camela is the daughter of Roger and Sheila Cumbo. Justin is the son of Jim and Kathy Vilenbre.

GOTCH-MAINE—Elizabeth Gotch and Joel Maine were married Dec. 31, 2005, in Spokane, Wash., where they are making their home. Elizabeth is the daughter of Roger and Kate Gotch. Joel is the son of Roger and Florence Maine.

JACOBS-LEY—Kimberly A. Jacobs and Joshua J. Ley were married June 4, 2006, in Sequim, Wash. They are making their home in Port Angeles, Wash. Kimberly is the daughter of Michael and Arlene Jacobs. Joshua is the son of Shelly Ley and Jerry and Nancy Ley.

JOHNSON-SMITH—Michele J. Johnston and Ryan J. Smith were married Aug. 13, 2006, in Walla Walla, Wash., where they are making their home. Michele is the daughter of Tom Johnston and Echo Johnston. Ryan is the son of Gary and Theresa Smith.

LOSS-HOFFMEISTER—Janna Michelle Loss and Abram Arthur Hoffmeister were married Aug. 20, 2006, in Snohomish, Wash. They are making their home in Georgia. Janna is the daughter of Vickie and Donald Zundel. Abram is the son of Brett and Linda Hoffmeister.

MEIDINGER-DENNEY—Erin N. Meidinger and Eric B. Denney were married Aug. 20, 2006, in College Place, Wash. They are making their home in Cheney, Wash. Erin is the daughter of Duane and Marjorie Meidinger. Eric is the son of Marvin and Carolyn Denney.

MOORE-STUART—Becki Moore and Geoffrey Stuart were married Aug. 19, 2006, in Milton-Freewater, Ore. They are making their home in College Place, Wash. Becki is the daughter of Larry and Cindy Moore. Geoffrey is the son of Robert and Eileen Stuart.

SHREVE-ANDERSON—Elizabeth Shreve and Gabriel Anderson were married Aug. 19, 2006, in Reno, Nevada. They are making their home in Albany, Ore. Elizabeth is the daughter of Jerry and Helen Shreve. Gabriel is the son of Randy and Judy Anderson.

STEWART-WILLIAMS—Jenny D. Stewart and Brian P. Williams were married June 30, 2006, in Hayden Lake, Idaho. They are making their home in Pullman, Wash. Jenny is the daughter of Don and Diane Stewart. Brian is the son of Lysle and Patricia Williams.

TETZLER-GEIGLE—Lacey Tetzler and Brandon Geigle were married Aug. 20, 2006, in Springfield, Ore. They are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif. Lacey is the daughter of Dan and Virginia Tetzler. Brandon is the son of Cheryi and Peter Teller.

WILLIAMS-FORD—Kelly D. Williams and R. Marshall Ford were married July 14, 2006, in Mt. Vernon, Wash. They are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif. Kelly is the daughter of Lysle and Patricia Williams. Marshall is the son of Robert and Blanche Ford.


GROFF—Pamela M. (Spohr) Booth, 58; born Jan. 10, 1948,


HOPPER—Bernice E. (Rabun), 94; born Oct. 20, 1911, Montgomery, Texas; died Aug. 26, 2006, College Place, Wash. Surviving: sons, Richmond, College Place; Terrence, Naples, N.Y.; Donald, Port Orchard, Wash.; Thomas, Jamison, Ore.; daughter, Rita Hopper, Aliso, Calif.; granddaughters and great-grandchildren.

JENNINGS—John E., Sr., 72; born June 11, 1934, Phillipsburg, Kan.; Aug. 19, 2006, Oregon City, Ore. Surviving: wife, Eleanor (Smith); sons, John Jennings Jr., Wilsonville, Ore.; Floyd Quesky; daughter, Deanna Kagawa, Portland, Ore.; Peggy Quesky, Corvallis, Ore.; Dianna Powell, Albany, Ore.; half-brothers, Leroy Pierce, McMinnville, Ore.; Lloyd Pierce, Salem, Ore.; half sister, Barb Kendall, of Mexico; and 7 grandchildren.


VAN TASSEL—Lyle D., 54; born Nov. 24, 1951, Redmond, Ore.; died July 6, 2006, Milton-Freewater, Ore. Surviving: wife, Nancy (Miller); and sister, Jere King, Bristol Bay, Alaska.

ZACHARY—Viva (Cooper) Smith, 102; born April 21, 1904, Spokane, Wash.; died July 17, 2006, College Place, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Dorene Yuen, Los Angeles; Myrtle Tomczek, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; Deloris Foote, Fort Ann, N.Y.; and Virginia Ross, of Eastern Oregon.
WRITING GUIDELINES

Who can submit stories to the GLEANER?

Anyone can. But we want only stories that accurately represent your church, school or other church-related group. You should be either the designated spokesperson for your organization, or have permission from the pastor, principal or leader of the group to submit an article. This protects you as the writer, the group you represent and, of course, the credibility of the GLEANER.

News stories the GLEANER editors are particularly looking for:

- Stories with ideas to encourage church growth that other Northwest churches can try. What is your church doing to gain soul-winning momentum?
- People’s conversion stories that will cause readers to say, “I could do that!” Instead of a photo of a person or group that was baptized, described in a cryptic caption, write a story that focuses on relationships. Why was someone attracted to this church? Who encouraged them to become a member and how did they do it? A photo of the individual or family the story is about with the person who brought them to Christ would be appropriate. Baptismal robes are neither required nor desired. Regular clothes are best.
- Stories that show the value of Christian education at all levels.
- Stewardship stories that illustrate the blessings that flow from trusting one’s entire life to God. These stories might deal with Sabbath-keeping, health, relationships, tithing, freedom from addiction or many other topics.

How to write news stories for the GLEANER

- In the body of the story expand on the first two paragraphs. Make it interesting to the whole NPUC, not just your local area. Ask yourself, “What would someone who was not here want to know about this?”
- Stick with the facts. Do not sermonize, editorialize or use your story to thank people.
- Use action words. Adjectives and adverbs should be used sparingly. Avoid using forms of the verb “to be” as much as possible. Write in active voice rather than passive voice. Example: rather than writing “the church was painted by the members,” write “the members painted the church.”
- Identify each person by first and last name in the first mention. Last names are used in further mentions (unless two names with the same family name are used). In all GLEANER stories, social and professional titles are not used (Dr., Mr., Mrs., Prof., Eld., etc.).
- Identify the role or title of each person you’ve identified to show their connection to the story. The name comes first, then the institution/organization they’re connected with, followed by their title within that organization. Example: Archie Harris, Montana Conference youth director; Don Hutchison, Eagle (Idaho) Church head elder; Jan Paulsen, General Conference president.
- Be brief. Limit news stories to 350 words or less. To save space, dates and states are abbreviated following the Associated Press Stylebook style—not the two-letter postal abbreviations.
- Identify the story’s author. Place contact information at the end of each story. Provide the author’s name as it should appear in print, the e-mail/mailing address and a daytime phone number the GLEANER staff can call when clarification is needed. If the author has a title that directly relates to the story (such as church communication leader) please include it. Example: Shirley Downing, Sitka (Alaska) Church communication director; Tammy Onstott, Cornerstone Christian School (Bonners Ferry, Idaho) home and school leader.

PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

Selecting your photos

Vibrant photography adds an important element to your GLEANER story. Acceptable photos will:

- Help the reader understand the story better.
- Be clear, sharp, attractive and colorful.
- Illustrate some kind of action in the story.
- Avoid portraying subjects in unflattering poses (such as with wet hair after a baptism).

The best photos show action, so avoid submitting photos with rows of people smiling for the camera. Baptismal tank photos should be avoided because they’re so overused—particularly not photos that show the baptismal candidate in profile or showing only the back of the candidate’s head. And, because quality is more important than quantity, please limit the number of photos you submit to your three best photos per article unless you are introducing new staff members who each have individual photos.

Writing photo captions

Many busy readers do not read every story, but instead rapidly scan
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

How to submit news stories

There are three ways to submit news stories. They are listed in order of preference:

• Online at www.gleaneronline.org. (To find step-by-step directions online, click on “Contributor’s Information” in the left column.)
• E-mail to gleaner@nw.npuc.org. Microsoft Word documents can be attached to the e-mail, or the story can be copied and pasted into the e-mail message area if another word processing program was used. Do NOT embed photos in e-mail or Word documents, but send each one as a separate attached file.
• Mail a hard copy of the double-spaced, typewritten story to GLEANER Stories, P.O. Box 871150, Vancouver, WA 98687. Plain solid black type should be used (no decorative type) on plain white paper, free of handwritten corrections, so that a scanner with optical character recognition (OCR) software can correctly interpret the words. Be sure your printer is working properly and forming complete, clearly visible letters. Scanners cannot recognize type that is broken or otherwise defective or too light.

Handwritten stories cannot be scanned and are unlikely to be published due to time pressures and the difficulty of ensuring accurate interpretation of handwriting.

How to submit photos with stories

Photos should be 1) linked online right along with the story, 2) e-mailed as attachments with the story (NOT embedded in a Word document or e-mail message) or 3) photographic prints mailed to the GLEANER office accompanied by a hard copy of the story—even if the story has already been e-mailed. (Enclosing a hard copy of the story in the envelope ensures the proper matching of photos with story.) Do not send computer inkjet print-outs of photos; rather send in the original files.

Photo credits will be published if the photographer’s name is included. Credit the original source of any photos that are being republished.

If submitting photos taken with a digital camera, ensure that your camera captures at least 3 megapixels. Further, make sure that your camera is set to its “highest-quality” mode and is on “largest size.” For scanned images, scan at 300 pixels-per-inch with a minimum size of 4 x 6 inches. Please do not use CMYK mode; use RGB mode instead (most scanners’ default). Virgin JPG files should be saved at the highest possible resolution. Avoid degrading the image by re-saving a .jpg file to the same filename. The file size should be close to 1 megabyte.

How to submit announcements

GLEANER publishes announcements about upcoming events and opportunities for involvement as a service for NPUC churches, schools, organizations and institutions at no cost to the organization. Announcements may be placed free of charge the first time but are considered classified ads for any further placement. Announcements that contain dollar figures for entrance fees or other references to cost are considered classified ads. Announcements for organizations outside the NPUC are placed as space is available. Announcements are submitted in the same manner as news stories.

How to place paid advertising in the GLEANER

To place an advertisement, please refer to the GLEANER Advertising Policy that is published in the advertising section of most issues and at www.gleaneronline.org when you click on “Advertising Information.” If you have further questions, e-mail the advertising manager at gleaner@nw.npuc.org.

How to obtain and submit FAMILY forms

Go to www.GLEANERonline.org to submit Family information online or, if you can’t go online, have someone print out for you the PDF document for a Birth, Wedding, Obituary, Anniversary or Birthday form that you will find there. The information may also be typed as it appears in the print edition and submitted by e-mail. Please refer to the GUIDELINES that are printed in each issue of the GLEANER for a reminder of what specific information should be included in each type of announcement. Always include the submitter’s name, daytime phone number and e-mail address for clarification purposes.
NORTHERN PACIFIC UNION

Offerings
Nov. 4—Local Church Budget
Nov. 11—Annual Sacrifice*
Nov. 18—Local Church Budget
Nov. 25—Local Conference Advance
Dec. 2—Local Church Budget
* Special Materials Provided

Special Days
Nov. 4–25—Native Heritage Month
Nov. 4—Stewardship Sabbath
Nov. 5–11—Week of Prayer
Nov. 18—Human Relations Sabbath
Nov. 25—Welcome Home Sabbath*
Dec. 2—Bible Sabbath
* Special Materials Provided

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE

Calendar of Events
Nov. 12—The Walla Walla College Distinguished Faculty Lecture will be held at 7 p.m., in the Melvin K. West Fine Arts Center Auditorium. Jon Cole, chair of the natural resources and conservation management program at WWC, will present the annual lecture.
Nov. 13—Join Walla Walla College for the inauguration of the college’s 23rd president, John K. McVay. The inauguration ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. in the Walla Walla College Church.

IDAHO

Idaho Missing Members
The Eden Valley Adventist Church is missing the following members: London G. Bennett, Sherida K. Hamlin, William E. Hicks, Lisa D. (Jepson) Starr, Sarah D. Jepson, Nichole L. Jepson, Jarrod J. Jepson, Norman E. Parks, Albert Pozernick, Williema Terherst, and Yvonne Ward. If you have any information regarding them, please contact Rosann Thompson at 539 Lenz Ave., Hazleton, ID 83335-5079 or thompsrosa@cs.com.

OREGON

Rockwood Concert
Nov. 4—Michael Harris will be in concert at Rockwood at 5 p.m. He will share his compelling story of how Christ set him free and gave him a music ministry throughout the U.S., Canada and many other countries. He has a rich baritone voice and has been on 3ABN, Trinity Broadcasting, Canadian Christian Broadcasting and more. Potluck supper to follow, so bring your favorite Saturday-night food and come to the Rockwood Church, 1910 SE 182nd Ave., Portland, Ore.

Sunnyside Events
Nov. 4—Sunnyside Symphony Orchestra Fall Concert, conducted by Travis Hatton at 4 p.m. The concert features hymn tunes and standard orchestral works by George Frideric Handel, “Overture to the Royal Fireworks”; Gustav Holst, “Lyric Movement for Viola and Orchestra,” Wendy Edgar, viola soloist; and Robert Schumann, “Symphony #4, d minor op. 120.” No admission charge.
Nov. 25—“Giving Thanks” Vespers with Carl Parker, 5:30 p.m., Sunnyside Church, 10501 SE Market St., Portland, Ore., (503) 252-8080.

Retired Workers’ Fellowship
Nov. 7—The monthly potluck of the Oregon Retired Workers’ Fellowship will be held at noon. Marilyn Renk will be sharing information with us on “How to Eat, Drink and be Healthy.” This is perfect timing with the holidays coming up. Although the potluck is for retired denominational workers, we encourage and welcome other retirees to join us. Please bring food to share and your own table service. Remember we are meeting in the cafeteria on the Gladstone Campground, 19800 Oatfield Road, Gladstone, Ore. For more information, call the Jorgensons at (360) 423-1612.

Oregon SAGE Events
Nov. 12—You can do it! Make a holiday wreath/centerpiece or paint a picture. Cheryl Null and Jim Blackwood will help you,
Gladsome Park; Dec. 2—Singing Christmas Tree, Portland. For details, call Wynn Knowling at (503) 343-9548.

Adventist Singles Activity
Nov. 18—Beaverton Church fellowship dinner, 12:45 p.m. Please bring enough food for yourself and others. Then take a hike or visit a friend and meet back at church to carpool at 5 p.m. for a progressive dinner party. Bring a friend and a canned food item for the poor. Questions? Please contact Tom at (503) 684-7971 or tom.te@verizon.net; or Charlotte at (503) 579-9549; or Karen at (503) 332-3563. This event is open to all singles. Your supervised children are welcome.

“Allie Warbucks,” the Musical
Nov. 18, 19, 20—Columbia Adventist Academy presents the musical “Allie Warbucks.” For tickets and information, call (360) 687-3161.

Beaverton Benefit Concert
Dec. 2—Come share an enjoyable evening of fine music with us at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Beaverton Church, 14645 S.W. Davis Road, Beaverton, Ore., to benefit the Fetch Outreach Project in Andrah Pradesh, India. Project FETCH is a grassroots organization that promotes hands-on support for disadvantaged, downtrodden people in India by providing clothing, food, medical care, education, and job training. FETCH has planted one church and is currently building a second. For information, call (503) 646-9828.

WASHINGTON

Washington SAGE Events
Nov. 5—Representatives meeting at Bellevue Church;
Nov. 5—Argentine choral concert at Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue; Dec. 6–Jan. 7—La Sierra University “Path of the Just” mission project;
Jan. 7–25—Ecuador mission trip;

Christmas Evensong
Dec. 16—Men of Kirkland present their sixth Annual Christmas Evensong at 4 p.m., in the Butterfield Chapel, 5531 11th Lane N.E., Kirkland, Wash., on the NW University Campus. For driving directions, go to menofkirkland.org.

WORLD CHURCH

Pastoral and Evangelism Council
Dec. 3–6—Southern Union Evangelism Council joins the 27th Annual Pastoral and Evangelism Council by Regional Conferences at Oakwood College. Special Guests: Mark Finley, Kenneth Cox, Phillip Sammaan, and Dr. Calvin Butts, keynote speaker, the pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York. Get the best of both councils featuring preaching and seminars for pastors, evangelists, lay-evangelists and religious workers by noted presenters. Information: Shirley@oakwood.edu or (253) 726-8399; or Ralph Ringer: sueevangelism@yahoo.com or (407) 257-6847.

Christmas Broadcast
The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America is releasing its fifth Christmas program entitled “Love’s Pure Light.” This hour-long program will be broadcast during the month of December on many local affiliated stations in the U.S., Canada, and Bermuda, as well as nationwide on TBN and the Hallmark Channel.

The story takes place on Christmas Eve when a widower’s life is changed by an unopened gift his wife gave him five years ago. Joseph Campanella, Ruta Lee and Patty Cabrera star in this musical drama, which will be a family event. Special musical guests are four-time Grammy winner Deniece Williams, Rudi Miceli and Sandy Wyman Johnson.

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“Love’s Pure Light” is the sequel to “All is Bright,” which was last year’s Christmas special produced by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. The production was recorded on a closed set at the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, Calif., on Sept. 12 and 14.

Check your local listings to find out when “Love’s Pure Light” is scheduled to air or visit www.nadadventist.org. You can also call your local television station and ask them to air “Love’s Pure Light.” If the station’s program manager has not heard of it, he/she should call the AMS Agency at (805) 955-7680 and speak with Chauncey Smith.

HOW TO SUBMIT DIGITAL PHOTOS TO THE GLEANER

In the interest of maintaining the high quality of the publication, computer inkjet print-outs from digital cameras or from a scanner cannot be accepted for publication. They would have to be scanned again to get them back into digital form—losing quality at each step. Instead, an original (virgin) digital file should be submitted. Re-saving a JPG file to the same filename degrades the image, so if you want to re-save a JPG photo, give it a new filename.

Suggestion: Use the same filename you gave your story, to keep the story and photo together in the index of files. The camera’s numbers are meaningless when the photo reaches the GLEANER office.

There are two ways to tell if your photo has a resolution high enough for publication: 1) The 300 ppi photo is at least 4 x 6 inches; or, 2) if you don’t know how to tell whether the photo is 300 ppi, check its file size. It should be about 1 megabyte saved as a jpeg from your digital camera or image editing program. If the file size is less than 300 kilobytes, there’s not enough information in the file for publication.

When submitting photos by e-mail, “attach” each digital photo to an e-mail along with the story you have attached, and send it to gleaner@nw.npuc.org. DO NOT EMBED your photos in the e-mail message or in a word processing document.

Nadine Platner Dower, GLEANER managing editor
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December 1-2, 2006

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John McVay, Ph.D
President of Walla Walla University

Friday—7:00 pm
Growing in Christ

Sabbath—9:30 am
Why You Should Read Colossians 1

Sabbath—11:00 am
Paul’s Call to Arms

Sabbath—2:00 pm
Fighting Together (The right way!)

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EVENT

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First-time Advertisers—Advertisers who are members of the Seventh-day Adventist church must submit a letter of endorsement from their pastor or from the local conference communication director along with their first submission. Other first-time advertisers must submit references or business members of their community, a credit bureau and/or any other references requested by the editor. All references must be on official letterhead stationery. All applications are subject to the approval of the GLEANER editorial committee.

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

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

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

Classified Rates, Other Advertisers—For advertisers who are not members in the North Pacific Union Conference: $35 for 30 words or less; $12.50 for each additional word.

Display Ads

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

Submitting Materials—Submit an ad as a high-res, grayscale or RGB, Adobe Acrobat PDF file with the fonts embedded. Be sure to e-mail to gleaner@npuc.org, placed on the FTP site, or submitted on a CD. Ad files should be received at the GLEANER office at least a month before the published deadline.

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

“What an awesome idea,” she said. The 20-something paralegal, nervously nibbling a scone in the local Starbucks, stared at her Adventist friend who had broached the Sabbath subject. “What I would give to have a day like that every week!”

She voices the often unspoken desire of our time. Tasks loom, schedules fill, deadlines threaten, cell phones ring, entertainment beckons. The expedient crowds out the important. What we would give to have that yoke lifted, to take a deep cleansing breath, to clear our heads, to rest before we resume.

The Sabbath is not just a theological theory—it’s a practical gift from our Creator to save us from ourselves. A day of rest, of recuperation, of reconnecting. It was made for us, according to Jesus Himself.

But Scriptures also tell us that God set the seventh day aside as a holy time. “If you … honor the Sabbath, making it a delight—not doing your own work or talking about your own business on that day but considering others—then you will find the joy that comes from serving the Lord” (Isaiah 58:13,14).

Yet I wonder if in our sometimes zealous efforts to define the parameters of this holy day, it is possible to focus on the Sabbath, while losing sight of the Lord of the Sabbath?

Certainly the seventh-day Sabbath is a God-ordained memorial of the Creator, tied to the very cycle of creation. Should it not also be a God-provided means to re-creation, a gift of time that allows us to cultivate the all-important relationship between creature and Creator, between human and divine?

When an inattentive spouse forgets an anniversary, something is lost that is difficult to regain. When God asked us to “Remember the Sabbath day …” could it be that He was recalling those evening strolls in the garden with Adam and Eve? Was He longing for His people, like a wayward spouse, to give Him hallowed space once again in their busy lives?

Sabbath can help us reconnect and refocus. D.A. Carson in “For the Love of God,” comments: “People do not drift toward holiness… We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.” Perhaps the Sabbath, properly understood, is the perfect antidote.

How do you approach this gift? How do you make the Sabbath a “delight” and avoid making it a burden? What is your past and current experience with the Sabbath?

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Steve Vistauinet, assistant to the president for communication
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