Have faith in the Lord your God, and you will be upheld...
2 Chronicles 20:20 (NIV)

“Snow-covered Tree” photographed by Greg Owen of Rochester, Washington.
in Bulgaria and Young Adult Perspectives on Faith

One expression of a passionate faith can include prayer and service.

Photo by Brandon Witzel, SermonView.com.

Published by the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®
(ISSN 0746-5874)

Postmaster — send all address changes to:
North Pacific Union Conference
GLEANER
5709 N, 20th St.
Ridgefield, WA 98642
Phone: (360) 857-7000
gleaner@nw.npuc.org
www.gleaneronline.org

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GLEANER, (ISSN 0746-5874) is published once per month for a total of 12 issues per year by the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®, 5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642. It is printed and mailed at Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Rd., Nampa, ID 83687-3193. Subscription rate: $13 per year. Periodical postage paid at Ridgefield, WA 98642 and additional mailing offices.
In a world of change, we tend to look for something or someone we can count on to be stable and steady.

For the past five years, we have all had the luxury of two such people, working behind the scenes to provide a consistently stellar GLEANER as a monthly anchor point for Northwest members. They have traveled the length and breadth of the Northwest, capturing stories that connect us all to what it really means to be about our Father’s business. They have harnessed the talents of writers and photographers throughout our territory, and through it all have consistently met design and print deadlines without complaint. They have been our stable and steady influence, and we shall miss them.

You see, the Dowers, with an unmistakeable gleam in their eyes, have reached the fabled shores of retirement. They are ready to move into a somewhat less structured and deadline-driven lifestyle. This issue of the GLEANER is Dick’s last as editor. Nadine will remain as managing editor for the next couple of issues during this transition period.

Dick and Nadine Dower, both as individuals and as a team, have made an indelible impact upon our church’s communication outreach efforts.

Dick’s passion for gaining and maintaining relationships has enabled him to share the heart and soul of what it means to be an Adventist in the real world. From black leather-clad bikers sharing Christ as they motor across the country, to a professional fishing guide in Alaska fighting to keep the Sabbath even during the busy summer season, Dick has brought the extraordinary power of God working through ordinary people to the pages of the GLEANER and other Adventist publications. And if a good picture is really worth a thousand words, Dick’s ability to tell stories with powerful photographic images would fill an impressive library.

With her careful attention to detail, Nadine is the quintessential counterpart to Dick. She has worked tirelessly to develop and maintain a communication partnership throughout North America that has promoted the mission of many Adventist ministries while at the same time strengthening the potential of every union paper. And when Dick returns from the far reaches of the Northwest with another great story, it’s Nadine who pushes it through the process onto the printed page or the Web.

At the Society of Adventist Communicators convention held in October in Nashville, Dick and Nadine received the Lifetime Achievement Award amidst a standing ovation. It is a fitting, yet somewhat inadequate, tribute to a couple who has, over the decades, quietly aided and mentored countless young communicators within our church.

Pick any spot in North America and you will likely find someone who has gone to school with Dick and Nadine or who has been mentored by them over the years. Their network of friends and admirers testifies to their commitment to building lifelong relationships.

In an era of selfishness, Dick and Nadine have modeled an esprit de corps that exemplifies independence of thought but unity of action. As a team, they have created a living legacy, a commitment to the Lord’s cause that will continue to inspire many of us for years to come.

If you’d like to share a word of thanks with the Dowers, send an e-mail to gleaner@nw.npuc.org or a card to the Dower’s attention at 5709 N. 20th Street, Ridgefield, WA 98642.

Steve Vistaunet, NPUC assistant to the president for communication, writes from Ridgefield, Washington.
An Adventist Snapshot

Seventh-day Adventists
Around the World
The official website of the Seventh-day Adventist Church states, “Welcome to the official website of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—a Christian faith community preparing the world for the return of Jesus Christ.”
- There are 60,273 churches, 61,352 companies and 14,399,072 members. With a world population of about 6.5 billion, there is one Adventist for each 450 people on Earth.
- During 2005, 2,090,182 new members were welcomed into the fellowship of the Adventist Church.
- Around the world, a new member joins the church every 30 seconds, and a new church is organized every three hours and 42 minutes.
- The church employs 5,735 active ordained ministers and has a total of 185,993 active employees.
- There are 1,334,486 students in 6,966 schools, including elementary, secondary, and colleges and universities.

Seventh-day Adventists in North America
The North American Division (NAD) includes all of the United States, Canada and Bermuda. There are nine union conferences and 58 local conferences and as of March 30, 2007, there were 5,179 churches, 674 companies and 1,046,810 members.

Union Membership
Atlantic Union 98,505
Canada 57,391
Columbia Union 123,123
Lake Union 79,623
Mid-American Union 60,813
North Pacific Union 92,398
Pacific Union 211,535
Southern Union 233,848
Southwestern Union 89,574

Seventh-day Adventists in the Northwest
- The North Pacific Union is comprised of six conferences.
- The North Pacific Union leads all other unions in North America in total per capita contributions.
- There is one Adventist for every 74 people in the Upper Columbia Conference. That is the highest ratio of any conference in North America.
- During the first quarter of 2007, 459 people were welcomed into membership of the Adventist church in the Northwest.

Alaska Conference
27 churches, 6 companies, 3,743 members

Idaho Conference
44 churches, 4 companies, 6,262 members

Montana Conference
38 churches, 9 companies, 3,965 members

Oregon Conference
128 churches, 14 companies, 34,177 members

Upper Columbia Conference
105 churches, 16 companies, 24,250 members

Washington Conference
65 churches, 16 companies, 20,001 members

Source: www.adventiststatistics.org
I had great plans. I was headed to build a church in Muren, Mongolia, where Christianity struggles to thrive in a Buddhist climate. Banking on my previous Maranatha experiences, I eagerly anticipated the challenge until changing circumstances leveled my enthusiasm.

For starters, my family’s volunteer group had no official leader. I began to feel apprehensive as I found myself missing Maranatha’s streamlined system. Then my mother-in-law, who was scheduled to go on the trip, wound up with a fractured collarbone and subdural hematoma. How could she endure the 14-hour flight across the Pacific, much less the 18-hour bus ride to Muren? Miraculously, when the CT scan came back, it was normal. She could go.

When we arrived in Ulaanbaatar, the city was gearing up for the festival of Naadam. It is a national holiday; shops shut down and people are given time off. What could we do but join in the celebrations?

Meanwhile, we learned that our target project had not progressed as planned. So instead of taking a bus to Muren, we’d ride the train to Bulgan to help finish a church. We felt a keen disappointment in not fulfilling our original purpose.

While I stood washing dishes, discouragement threatened to set in. I argued with God. “Lord, I came to do something significant. Washing trowels, maybe, but not dishes!”

“My child, if I’d asked you to do some great thing, you would have done it. So why not the little things?”

Maybe it was time to re-examine my focus. Maybe I needed the humility of Christ. This message came clearly through the Sabbath sermon, taken from 2 Kings 5:9-14. Maybe, like Naaman, I needed a washing too.

Blinding tears forced me to glance away from the smiling translator, whom I later discovered was the famous Pastor Bold, one of Mongolia’s first Adventists. Now God spoke through him to my heart.

“Unless we fully commit ourselves to God, we won’t be prepared to receive His gifts,” he said. Had I really surrendered to God’s will?

“Please give Me 100 percent,” God said. When I joined the congregation in singing “Create in me a clean heart, O God,” we sang in different languages but with one spirit.

The delay in Ulaanbaatar prepared me for the monotonous task of sanding the Mongolian missionaries’ apartment in Bulgan. It wasn’t what I had expected, but it needed to be done. In the evenings, we attempted to communicate with the young Mongolian
Sanding the door trim is boring work but was a necessary step before painting. who assisted my husband with insulation. Alyosha couldn’t speak much English, but we broke the silence when we discovered his reading abilities. Afterward, when the missionaries handed me a gift, I knew that my seemingly insignificant task had made a difference. And when Alyosha sat with us on our train until just before our departure, I knew we had changed his life too. I no longer wished to build a block church in Muren. Instead, I had found blessings in Bulgan.

Jennifer Woehler, a teacher, writes from Caldwell, Idaho.

Three weeks after obtaining my undergraduate degree, I was out on my own, 3,000 miles from what had been home and starting my first postgraduate job in health care communication.

New to Southern California, I searched the Internet for what I thought was the closest Seventh-day Adventist Church. One particular church caught my eye. It had an up-to-date website and was hosting a popular Adventist speaker that very weekend. Jotting down directions, I headed out on Friday night to find the church some 45 minutes away.

An hour and a half later (after getting lost multiple times), I finally arrived at the church where the vespers seminar was in full-swing. During discussion time, I participated and dialogued—yet name exchange never happened. Even after the program, I stayed around to ask questions about the church and the area. When I left, no one knew my name or even if I was an Adventist.

The next day, I returned in time for the church service. In the sanctuary, I recognized several people from the previous night, but again no one acknowledged me. When the service concluded I waited to leave hoping someone would talk to me or even invite me to the fellowship dinner that was advertised in the bulletin.

I gave up after waiting for several minutes. The reality of my move and the sudden lack of community hit strongly. Everything I had known had changed. I cried all the way home.

Community had always been created for me thanks to my pastor father and my teacher mother. Even in college, community was ready-made. As a young adult venturing out into the world, I didn’t know how to find and build a sense of community.

My experience in Southern California was not an isolated event. It’s occurred weekend after weekend as I visited more than 30 churches throughout California and later in Washington.

There was only one exception—one church that truly made me feel welcome from the first 60 seconds after I slipped into the service late. Before song service was over, five people sitting around me knew my first name. Before the postlude ended, I had a lunch invitation, an opportunity to go camping with a group of young adults, and two people’s phone numbers—and this was all before the church knew I was the new pastor’s daughter!

In the last two and a half years, I’ve become more adept at church visiting and introductions. Yes, I’ve learned a few lessons in the art of visiting: offer my name, indicate that I’m a visitor, ask questions. Yet, I wanted to be more than a visitor. I wanted to be a valued member. I’ve learned to volunteer for ministries and projects, participate in church events, initiate conversation, exchange phone numbers with visitors and guests, and offer a friendly greeting.

As I’ve talked with peers, our experiences mirror one another. Integrating into a community is not an easy task (for anyone), yet the value is so important. My church family helps to hold me spiritually accountable. My church family provides a platform for ministry and fellowship. My church family values me, and in turn, I value them. This is what community is all about.


My friendship with her began about 11 years ago. I was a teenager at the time and had just moved 500 miles to learn more about faith and the Bible and the Adventist message. I was starting at a new school in a new place—and I felt plenty of awkwardness trying to navigate the unfamiliar hallways and social networks. I was always glad when I could spend the weekend with my new friends at Hockinson Heights Church. It was there that I first heard about Ellen, though it was several weeks before I met her personally. And when I did, I thought that she and I would be friends for a long time.

Most of the reason that I liked Ellen was that she was a devout Christian. It seemed she had nothing to say that wasn’t about God, and when she talked about Him, it was like she really knew Him—and I could sense it. It was inspiring, really.

The other reason I liked Ellen was that she talked straight. Flattery is annoying, and she never flattered anybody. She was always real and always concerned about what mattered. If you were too caught up in yourself, Ellen would let you know. If you were neglecting what Jesus had asked of you, Ellen would remind you of your responsibility. She always told the truth. At first I liked this about her, but that didn’t last forever.

After a while I grew tired of faithful Sister Ellen pointing out my sins. And she made it seem like every little sin was the worst! I couldn’t go left or right without some guilt complex. It started to drive me crazy! And besides, she was so old-fashioned and a lot of good Christians had never read anything Ellen had written... I was friendly on the outside, but angry on the inside, hoping I’d never run into her again.

So for a long while I pretty much stopped listening to what Ellen had to say because I hated feeling guilty, and I wished that sometimes—at least just one time!—she could let something go. But when I heard people talking bad about her, calling her a liar and fake and a cheat, it kind of woke me up. Because I knew that what had bothered me about Ellen White was her truth-telling.

So I read up on the criticisms of her ministry and the responses too. Eventually I became convinced that the critics were wrong: Ellen G. White was a faithful messenger of Jesus. Her love for and commitment to Him was so evident on every page, and she never said anything to me that contradicted the Word. I couldn’t hold against her my hardheartedness, I couldn’t hold against her the way other people quoted her, I couldn’t hold against her her faithfulness.

So we became friends again. I don’t hear from her everyday and sometimes what she says still stings a little, but I’ve learned an important lesson through my friendship with Ellen: Real friends tell you the truth. •

Kessia Reyne Bennett, Oregon Conference assistant evangelism coordinator, writes from Gladstone, Oregon.
Why I Am Still an Adventist

by Brian Vistaunet

Church leaders and members alike are concerned about my generation. Many are asking, “Where have all the young adults gone? How do we get them back? How do we avoid losing young people in the future?”

I cannot pretend to have all the answers to these questions. But I can tell you why I am still an Adventist.

I was raised in an Adventist home and went to Adventist schools. My path down the straight and narrow was closely guarded until I neared adulthood. I reached a point where I felt I had to begin researching for myself everything that had been dictated to me up until that point. When I began to think for myself, my entire belief system and world view was challenged by what I found.

I certainly believe that fundamental beliefs are important in our church, but they are not what kept me holding on through all my questioning. As I see it, there are three reasons why I am still an Adventist.

1. Relevant involvement: In college I organized and led praise and worship music for church-related activities. After graduation, I was fortunate enough to get plugged in at a church where my musical abilities were utilized. It was easy to want to stay involved in a church where I felt needed and valued.

2. Present truth: The Adventist church was founded by intellectuals who refused to believe that their churches had everything figured out, and continually studied the scriptures for new revelations of truth from God. Though it is sometimes hard to see, I am convinced that this philosophy of present truth still exists in our church today. I want to be a part of this effort to continue to grow in our knowledge of God and how we can serve him better.

3. The true mission of Christ: Jesus told us to preach the gospel to the whole world, but he also told us to take care of the hungry, thirsty, estranged, sick, naked and imprisoned. He told us to love our neighbors. He even told us to love our enemies. The way we treat other people is a major theme in teachings of Christ. To ignore or downplay the significance of this function is really to downplay an essential part of the gospel. Organizations like Adventist Community Services and ADRA are just a few examples of Adventist efforts to preach the whole gospel by reaching outside of the church to our neighbors, our communities and our world. While so many denominations are focused on pushing their agendas into government, the Adventist church is trying to make the world a better place through invitation rather than legislation. I am proud to be a part of a church that is taking a different approach. It is an approach that I believe is modeled after the ministry led by Christ himself.

So what about the young adults who have left the church? Why have they left? Some of my friends who have left the church say they are dissatisfied with what they feel are knee-jerk answers to legitimate questions they have about church doctrine and philosophy. Others feel like their understanding of worship is not valued.

I certainly don’t know all the reasons some young adults have left the church, and I don’t have all the answers. What I do know is why I am still here. During my search for truth, the churches I attended kept me involved and helped me see the value in certain church philosophies. Today I am thankful that I am still an Adventist, and I hope my experience sheds some light on how our church can address the needs of future young people as they embark on their own quest for truth.

Brian Vistaunet, Portland Adventist Community Services office manager, writes from Portland, Oregon. 
It had to go.

Every night after work, I came home and turned on the television. In a new city, with few friends, TV characters became my companions. The noise drowned out the memories of failure, subduing the raw ache in my heart. I tuned in every night, trying to tune out reality, watching until I just couldn’t keep my eyes open.

But the still small voice was persistent, finally breaking through. One night I realized how much I was missing, how much I wanted healing. And I knew the television had to go.

That was eight years ago, and the beginning of an incredible spiritual reawakening in my life. On this journey, I’ve discovered how powerful God really is, as He freed me from addiction. I’ve found deep, dear friendships in my local church, in a small group that I would sacrifice so much for. In unemployment, I’ve learned to trust in God’s provision. I’ve found joy in serving at my local church. Through it all, I find myself living out these words: “God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him” (Philippians 2:13, NLT).

And you know what? It makes me want to worship this amazing God who has worked so deeply in me.

Passionate Worship

Indeed, on this journey, I’ve discovered the power of passionate corporate worship. Through the contemporary worship movement of the last decade I have found an environment where I encounter God regularly in profound experiences. Worshipping through rhythmic music, singing lyrics written in today’s English, is a cleansing experience for me, one that I long for when I’m away from my home church. I feel closest to God when worshipping Him passionately with a group of believers.

After all, God created us as emotional beings. It’s exciting to be at a football game, for example, in a huge crowd yelling at the top of our lungs to encourage
Acts of Worship

During the last few months, I’ve become increasingly convicted that I’m not being obedient to Jesus’ clear directives about serving the poor. I’ve begun to take steps toward being more obedient in some of the ways that Isaiah wrote about:

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

- to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set to the oppressed free and break every yoke?
- Is it not to share your food with the hungry
- and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
  - when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

(Isaiah 58:6, 7)

Living in an affluent society, it is easy for me to forget some of the very fundamental ways that God wants me to worship. Like visiting someone in jail. Volunteering at the local homeless shelter, or drug recovery center. Mentoring a job training participant trying to re-enter the workforce. Working to pass legislation that removes historic inequities. Cheering at Special Olympics. Delivering a food basket to a recent widow. Working at blind camp. Giving financially to help orphans in developing countries. Leaving for church a little earlier to stop and pick up a couple of people who need rides.

In the words of Jesus Himself: “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me”

(Matthew 25:40).

As I read the Three Angels Message, there are two fundamental acts that stand out: worship and obedience. Listen as the first angel shouts, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water”

(Revelation 14:7). The next two angels make it clear: this is all or nothing. Either worship the Creator completely and exclusively, or face a judgment going against you.

I want to be part of a community that pushes against the prevailing winds of society that blow me toward pampering myself instead of caring for others. I wish that by attending a typical Seventh-day Adventist Church I would find myself surrounded by people actively sacrificing themselves to serve the poor, the disabled, the marginalized of our society. I dream of a day when instead of local Adventist congregations moving out of neighborhoods filled with poverty, we are moving in.

Most of all, I long for the day when our churches are packed with new believers passionately worshiping God, filled with gratitude because of the freedom found when God worked through us to break chains of addiction, and financial bondage, and broken relationships.

Because that’s something worth celebrating.

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Larry Witzel, a young husband, father and a member of the Oasis Christian Center, writes from Vancouver, Washington.
An elderly teacher once told me about his experience teaching in an old country school in rural Arkansas. It was a one-room school where kids of all ages were lumped together. Time had dulled many of his memories, but he would never forget Arlie. Arlie’s family lived way out in the hills and they were as poor as dirt.

Arlie and Tommy would eat lunch together every day. Tommy’s father owned the general store, which made them one of the richest families around. Nowhere was the gap between these two boys more evident than when they ate together. Arlie brought the same thing every day: flour biscuits covered with pork rind gravy, long grown cold. Tommy always had something different.

As Christmas approached, Tommy started bringing large navel oranges his father put in holiday fruit baskets. Arlie had never seen one—or tasted one. He sat fascinated as he watched Tommy peel it. Tommy felt Arlie’s eyes fasten on him, and asked if Arlie would like some. After all, they were friends, weren’t they? So Tommy let Arlie eat the peels.

Day after day this went on. The teacher stood by the window every day at noon watching Arlie chew and swallow those bitter orange rinds as if they were the
greatest thing in the world. “Please,” the teacher silently pleaded, “Just let him have one real slice—just one.” But it never happened.

Then the teacher made the decision to take things into his own hands. On the last day of school before Christmas vacation, he went to the store and bought a sack full of candy, small toys and fruit, especially oranges.

The way to Arlie’s house couldn’t be traveled by car. Snow was starting to fall as the teacher parked his Model-T car by the railroad tracks and started walking the ties. All he could think of was getting this bag to the boy’s house. After a while, the teacher couldn’t make out the path that cut through the woods to Arlie’s. Light was fading fast. That was why he didn’t see the root that snagged his boot and caused him to trip and spill his load. Fumbling around in the dark in the fresh snow, he gathered up what he could, stuffed it into the wet sack, and went on.

Arlie sure was surprised to see his teacher at the door. And his eyes were wide and bright when the bag was dumped on the table. Immediately he grabbed an orange and tore off a chunk of the peel. Before the boy could put the peel to his mouth, the teacher took Arlie’s hand and said, “Wait! Stop! It’s like this.” And with that the teacher took the orange and peeled it. As he did the room filled with the fragrance of the fruit. Everyone in the room was in awe.

The teacher broke the orange in two and all the children “oohed” over the misting juice that sprayed into the air. Tearing off a single slice, the teacher turned to Arlie and said, “Here.” As he told me about this years later, the teacher said, “I will never forget looking into Arlie’s eyes when he bit down and the juice and the flavor of that orange exploded on his tongue. It was the look of a boy who never in his wildest dreams could imagine that God could make something that would taste so good.”

“O taste and see that the Lord is good,” said the young psalmist David in Psalm 34:8. Telling others the good news of the Savior is difficult for many of us. But we forget too easily that God has already done the truly hard part. He gave His Son to become a man and to die a hideous, undeserved death for the sins of all other men. He sent the Holy Spirit to convict men of their sins and to reveal Jesus Christ as the Savior they need. Finally, God even instills faith in the hearts of men to believe in that Savior.

All that God leaves for us is the joyous part, the part that was left to the teacher of a small boy in rural Arkansas. To a world that in a million different ways is cramming its belly with bitter peelings and thinking it to be pretty good stuff, God sends you and me with that first bite of something far richer than anything those people have ever dreamed of. Why would we ever keep it to ourselves?

This true story was taken from the book, now out of print, Dancing With Broken Bones by David Swartz, pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church in Roseville, Michigan. It is reprinted here as it was written with the permission of the author who stated that the names of the individuals mentioned in the story have been changed.

A bout a year ago, the Montana Conference began working with ShareHIM a ministry directed by Robert Folkenberg Sr., that provides soul-winning training and tools for lay people and pastors. Local church outreach leadership teams conduct seed-sowing ministries in their communities and they follow up these felt-needs ministries with a series of evangelistic meetings. This approach fits hand-in-glove with the two annual harvest cycles of Soul-Winning Momentum embraced by the Montana Conference administration and constituents.

So far, Montana churches have conducted 17 ShareHIM reaping events in 2007 with 29 people, including several young people, serving as speakers. Soul-winning momentum is building as God’s people experience the joys of “Sharing Him.”

Let me share how God is blessing His soul winners in Big Sky Country.

About 160 people attended two Boot Camps of Evangelism and learned how to preach for a series of evangelistic meetings. As a result, seven churches began ShareHIM reaping meetings and 10 churches conducted ShareHIM reaping events during the fall. At the Kalispell Church, several young people did a good share of the speaking.

Clair and Linda Nystrom were one of the couples who attended one of the boot camps. They have been inactive members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 14 years. In March 2006, they had a new birth experience and they made a commitment to share Jesus in any way possible. Clair was one of the speakers for the Bozeman Church spring meetings. Clair says he was apprehensive at first because it had been 14 years since he had publicly expressed religious views, however he is ready to do it again; Linda was one of several speakers for the fall meeting.

Another member of the Bozeman Church, Joni McCann, was raised in a Seventh-day Adventist family, but she had been away from the church for 25 years. In March 2005, she returned and was rebaptized. Joni was one of the speakers for the 2007 spring meetings, serving on the prayer team. During the fall meetings, she worked with the children’s programming.

Jim Jenkins, Bozeman Church pastor, says, “The ShareHIM approach to soul winning has been a unifying experience for our church and the outreach leadership team. We plan to do these events every year.”

Victor N. Christ asks Luke to be his missionary partner for the next harvest cycle. Luke says, “Sure! And thanks for being patient with me all these months.” “No problem,” says Victor N. Christ. “Jesus has been patient with all of us. Now let’s find some people the Holy Spirit is already working on!”
Beginning with the January 2001 issue, Karl Haffner has written 84 Fresh Start columns for the GLEANER and this story finishes the series. Karl is leaving his post as pastor of the Walla Walla University Church to go to Kettering, Ohio, where he will pastor the Kettering Church and work in strategic planning and mission for the Kettering Network of Adventist hospitals. Thanks, Karl; we all hope your ministry in Ohio will be meaningful and rewarding. —the editors.

Every Christmas we hear stories that suggest pieces on Earth and bad will toward men. For example, the San Francisco Chronicle told of two men in San Rafael, California, who were offended by the presents they received from one another. Angry words escalated into a fight that involved flying flowerpots. Both men landed in the hospital.

The Victoria Colonist covered the story of a woman who was arrested for beating a man with her Christmas tree. The incident occurred because the man grumbled that the load of gifts in his arms was heavier than the tree she was carrying.

Let’s face it: Christmas can get messy, messy, messy. Perhaps you’ve never thought of this holiday as the most, messiest time of year, but if you wish to be true to the original story, then you have to face the messy facts. While Christmas cards portray fairytale scenes of a quaint manger and a quiet infant, “no crying he makes,” the real story in Luke 2 confronts us with a messy mystery that is more blood and barn than tinsel and peace.

In verse 2, the angels tell the shepherds, “This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Notice the “sign” that identifies Jesus: a baby born in a barn, wrapped in rags, lying in a feed trough. This is not the nativity scene at your local mall. Our replications are clean. But in the real barn where Jesus was born there were no antibacterial wipes on hand to sanitize the scene.

When the shepherds showed up, they didn’t ratchet up the chic factor. They weren’t known for hygiene. In ancient days, they were considered unstable and shady—perhaps like traveling circus hucksters in our day.

But the angel tells us that this was no accident that Jesus was born in the middle of a mess. This was a sign that Jesus was no ordinary king. That’s the clue that tipped off the shepherds: “You’ll know it’s the Messiah because He’ll show up in the messiest place on the planet.”

No money. No celebration. No paparazzi. Shaun Dyer warns, “If we sanitize the Christmas story—eliminating its earthiness, pain and struggle, we miss the truth of a God who deeply loves us. The birth of Jesus is the moment God came to dwell in our midst, to join us in our struggle. Because therein lies a clue to the mystery. Had he come as he deserved, in royal clothes surrounded by nobility, he would have remained a distant God. But what I know of him is that he is a present and involved God.”

The Christmas story is good news because we’re messy people. And we belong to a messy church. Sometimes young people abandon our church because of the messiness; you know, the hypocrisy, legalism, cattiness. But not all young people are jumping ship. As this issue attests, there are lots of young folk who understand that our church is a messy place, but they show up anyway.

And in the mess, they hear the angel proclaim: “Here’s the good news of Christmas: Our God embraces our mess. This infant child will come into your life no matter how messed up it might be. That’s His signature, His sign, a dead giveaway that it’s Jesus.”

Jesus doesn’t care how messy your life is. It doesn’t scare him at all. For He started His life in a mess, wrapped in rags and placed in a manger; and He ended His life in a mess, wrapped in rags and pounded to a cross.


Karl Haffner, Walla Walla University Church senior pastor, writes from College Place, Washington.
God So Loved
Satellite Evangelism from Boise

Rosa Aguilar was depressed. She says, “I had no hope, I had no peace; I felt empty, alone, rejected. I was in love with Jesus but had many doubts. I could not accept that it was so easy for Him to forgive. I thought I deserved to be punished and then forgiven.”

During March 2006, she and her family drove from Colorado to Mexico and stopped at a scenic overlook in New Mexico. Looking down she saw a sun-bleached book in a plastic bag. The book was *Steps to Christ*. She took it, read it and decided she needed a real conversion experience in her life.

After the family moved to Boise, she started watching 3ABN on channel 31, where she saw a program on the Sabbath which made sense to her. She started searching for a church which taught the truth, finding her way to the Boise East Seventh-day Adventist Church. She studied a lot on her own and with others and then made her decision to be baptized on Monday night, at the “God So Loved” meetings.

Boise’s Cloverdale Church was the host for the eight-night series “God So Loved,” Oct. 20–27. “God So Loved” was videotaped in high definition and was shown on The Hope Channel during the week of Nov. 10–17. Many congregations throughout the Northwest and beyond presented this “God So Loved” in their respective churches to reach out to their communities.

Hosted by Mike and Marilyn Armayor, Cloverdale Church pastoral couple, each night’s program featured a variety of music, a testimonial from a recent convert and the main message from speaker Jere Patzer.

During the final meeting of the series, Jere Patzer shared his story of being a cancer survivor in terms of the great cosmic controversy.

From left: Win Wheeler of Light Stream International (McMinnville, Ore., Church’s media ministry), Alex English, a Walla Walla University double major in Communication and Engineering, with Todd Gessele, NPUC new media director, calling the shots for the taping of the meetings for broadcast on the Hope Channel to churches and homes around the world.
IFIC UNION

Conference News

Patzer, North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) president, interspersed with colorful graphics. This was truly a collaborative project, involving not only the union conference, but also the Idaho Conference along with pastors and members throughout the Treasure Valley. Musicians such as Rollyn and Angie Betts, Stacy Piontek, Wanda Vaz and the Gospel Brass came from around the Northwest to add their talents to other nationally known artists, including Jaime Jorge. The Pacific Press provided books and other materials for audience giveaways and resources.

In addition, a technical crew from the McMinnville (Ore.) Church joined with a group of students from Walla Walla University to help record the meetings under the direction of Todd Gessele, NPUC director of new media. Oregon conference member, Tim Adams, added his talents for lighting.

“God So Loved” is the second in a series of twice-a-year reaping meetings sponsored by the NPUC to help Northwest churches develop the concept of Momentum—an evangelistic philosophy that creates an ongoing cycle of bringing people to Christ. Ron Halvorsen’s “Snapshots of the Savior,” recorded in Auburn, Wash., in the spring of 2007, was the first. During 2008, two more series will be provided to Northwest churches via the Hope Channel. The first, on April 19–26, will originate from Anchorage, Alaska, and feature speaker Jac Colon. The fall series, also provided via the Hope Channel Nov. 8–15, will have Byron Corbett speaking from Spokane, Wash.

After her baptism, Rosa said, “That was a significant day because now I know in my heart that Jesus is my Lord and my Savior. Now I can see that God has the power to change our lives.” She is sharing with her family, sending them Steps to Christ and the Desire of Ages. Her husband Crispobal is studying and has accepted the Sabbath. “I am so excited! The way God works in our lives is amazing.”

Richard Dower, GLEANER editor, with Steve Vistaunet, NPUC assistant to the president for communication.
Volunteers Build a New Campus
For Thriving Youth Ministry

Project Patch, a ministry dedicated to helping troubled youth, is expanding their outreach. A group of adult volunteers with Maranatha Volunteers International is helping to build a staff house and four cabins in a beautiful wooded area in Goldendale, Wash. This campus will be specifically targeted to help entire families.

Project Patch founder Tom Sanford recognizes a need for family counseling in the modern world. “A growing need in society demands that there be something for families as well as their youth.”

Volunteer project coordinator Ken Casper, from Rogue River, Ore., has been a champion builder for the Project Patch ministry, leading more than a dozen Maranatha construction projects for Patch since 1993, the year the ministry got its start. A long-time building contractor, Casper has had a hand in the construction or remodeling of every building used by Patch.

Working on the Patch ranch made Casper a believer. He has participated in Maranatha mission projects all over the world, but keeps coming back to Patch. “They have probably an 80 percent success of rehabilitating these young people. It is a tug at your heart right here in the United States. It is the kids that keep drawing us back here.” Project Patch has helped between 1,200 and 1,500 young people, preparing them for healthy, fulfilling lives.

Casper is not the only one who feels a connection to this Northwest outreach that is ranked in the top 5 percent of U.S. residential facilities for adolescents. Ken Carr of Woodburn, Ore., has volunteered his skills there many times.

“They bring these kids in, some living on the streets. A lot of them don’t have any respect for anybody, not even themselves,” says Carr. “They counsel them and have schooling for them and get them turned around. But if they go back to the same environment they came from, they can get into problems again. They want to bring the families to Goldendale for a few days to help them understand where the problems came from.”

Sanford is grateful for the ongoing assistance of volunteers. “Maranatha has been an integral part of Patch since we opened the ranch in 1993. Without Maranatha it would take a lot more years to get this done. It would have taken much more money. When we are operating on a sliding scale to allow children from all walks of life to attend the program, it is very important to have the assistance of these qualified volunteers. We can’t say enough good about Maranatha!”

To find out how you can volunteer with Maranatha, visit www.maranatha.org.

For information on the history and services of Project Patch, visit www.projectpatch.org.

Carrie Purkeypile, Maranatha Volunteers International communication specialist
So Easy to Forget

In Washington D.C., two major monuments remind us of two of our country’s great presidents—George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Being here, you get the feeling that the human mind needs a lot of prodding. Our tendency to forget drives us to jog our memories with monuments, anniversaries and celebrations.

Jesus knew we would need powerful reminders of what happened in Gethsemane and on Golgotha. Though He never seemed to enjoy ritual or ceremony, He is the One who said, “Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19). In the upper room He urged His followers to love each other. He said that by their love they would be recognized as His disciples. Then He showed them what He meant with an ongoing memorial.

Those disciples could hardly believe what He did. Picture Jesus picking up a towel, filling a basin with water, then kneeling in front of each disciple and washing his dirty feet. As He completed His menial task He commanded them—and us—to do what He did in humility and love. Each time someone kneels in front of me to wash my feet in preparation for Communion, I see Jesus in my mind. I remember His command to love one another.

But it wasn’t over. At the Passover Supper, this pivotal moment in history, Jesus and His disciples ate in order to remember. They remembered God’s delivery of the Israelite slaves from Egyptian bondage. They also looked forward to their future delivery from sin, to the Messiah’s death. Then Jesus, the actual Messiah, just hours before His death, set up a memorial for us using two common items. He was saying, “It’s so easy to forget! Please remember!” And I do.

As I take that unleavened bread I remember Jesus, His sinless body, bruised, beaten and bloody. I see Him trying to drag that cross, my cross. I see the King of the universe hanging on that cross in my place. As I eat the bread, my heart says, Jesus, I cannot fathom the pain you must have felt for me. Thank You! The grape juice makes me think of Jesus too; His flowing blood brought from His body by the lashes, the thorns, the nails. He died, on Friday, so I could live eternally with Him. And as I sip the juice, my heart cries out, Thank You for taking my death. I want to live for you today!

Yes, it’s easy to forget. I want to remember and believe. I want to receive Him into my life again.

Don C. Schneider, North American Division president

A Special Service Live Across North America

A special communion event will link Adventists across North America in a service of joyful dedication on Friday, Dec. 28. This event, carried live on the HOPE Channel, will unite hundreds of thousands of Seventh-day Adventists in North America in the experience of rededicating their lives to Jesus at the same time.

The service will be broadcast live at 5 p.m. Pacific, 6 p.m. Mountain, and repeated two hours later in each time zone. For more information, visit www.nad.adventist.org or see the ad on page 49.
If You Pray, They Will Come!

I love to open the Word of God and give a Bible study, something I missed when I switched from pastoring to administration. There is nothing as inspiring as leading someone to Jesus, and then supporting them as they grow.

I wasn’t in administration too long before I began to pray, “Lord, send someone here who is seeking truth that I can study with. Within a few days, a lady walked into the office and boldly asked the receptionist, “Is there anyone here who could share your church’s understanding of the Bible? I have a few questions, and I would like to learn about what you believe.”

And that was how I started studying with Phyllis, supported by JoAnn Stevens, the Alaska Conference administrative secretary.

Phyllis was a challenging student. She had a lifetime of study, and she knew her Bible well. Every week, she had a new list of penetrating questions and at times arguments as to why what we were teaching her couldn’t be the truth. “No other church teaches this,” she often commented. “How could they not understand this if it’s the truth?”

I had the blessing of baptizing Phyllis a few weeks ago, and she is now attending church on a regular basis. She has been loved and nurtured by JoAnn Stevens and is continuing to study as she grows in her newfound faith and truth. In addition, she has several family members who are now studying. Some of them are attending Adventist churches around the country.

JoAnn Stevens, Alaska Conference administrative assistant (left) and Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president, study with Phyllis Aanonson, a walk-in Bible student.

Tok Church Members Staff Booths

At Women’s Health Fair

Residents of the small town of Tok, Alaska, are used to seeing health food displays in Francine Lee’s Tok General Store, which is less than 100 miles from the Yukon border between Canada and Alaska. And tourists coming by road into Alaska always pass Lee’s store.

In the health displays in her store she encourages NEWSTART principles. Lee says, “Using good things moderately and avoiding the bad is obviously wise, yet often hard to practice. Temperance can be neither bought nor earned, but is rather an important gift of God, a fruit of the Spirit.”

So when the Women’s Ministries department of the Tok Church was invited to participate in the Women’s Health Fair, Sept. 30, Lee wanted to be sure to be there. She forwarded the invitation to Edward Dunn, Alaska Conference executive secretary, and Butch Palmero, Delta Junction physician/pastor and his wife Melba. Organized around the title, NEWSTART (Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in God), the Adventist presence provided more than half of the fair’s services.

Adriana Cuber, a Tok Medical Clinic nurse, conducted pulmonary function tests, while Shauna Lee extrapolated values from the Health Age and Stress Profile Inventory. Susan Crawford, a dentist, gave tips on dental health, while Crawford’s daughter, Betty, emphasized the benefits of regular exercise.

Other health agencies and health advocacy groups serving interior Alaska also participated in the health fair.

“It was well received and very informative to the community,” said Lee.

Butch Palmero, Tok/Delta Junction pastor
Robert Sanchez was baptized on Sabbath, Oct. 27, at the conclusion of a weeklong series of meetings at the Nampa (Idaho) Spanish Church. The series title was “Secretos de la Vida” (Secrets of Life). The speaker was Ramon Canals, North Pacific Union Conference vice president for Hispanic Ministries.

“My life was harsh,” Roberto says, “I’ve been in a gang here in Nampa since I was 14. For the past several months my life was going in a spiral of destruction. I needed a change. I couldn’t handle it anymore. I knew that with God’s help, He could get me through anything, and I am tired of my heart being like a rock.”

Gustavo, Roberto’s older brother, was baptized about four years ago at the end of a similar series of meetings in the church. When they were young, their mother had brought the boys to Sabbath School and church until she could not make them go anymore, but she would not give up. Every Friday she would call Gustavo and invite him to church. He would tell her, “Maybe next Sabbath, I’m going to be sick tomorrow.” “One day,” he says, “she got smart and got someone else to invite me, and I showed up just to be able to tell her that I had.” The sermon that day changed his life.

During August, Gustavo had decided to dedicate a special time to pray for three people: his uncle, a cousin and Roberto. A month later, Roberto showed up in church. “I spoke to him, and he said that he wanted to give his life to Christ. I said, ‘Let’s start studying’ and that is where we are at today. We have not left a gang,” Gustavo says. “We have just changed into Christ’s gang now. Now we are soldiers of Christ, and we are going to go after those other guys to show them the way.”

Within the last four years six family members have been baptized. Gustavo says, “My mom has been praying hard.”

Roberto Sanchez (rear) and his sister Erica were baptized by Edwin Lopez, Nampa Spanish Church pastor, at the conclusion of the evangelistic meetings. Los Heraldos de Esperanza, the Heralds of Hope quartet supported the evangelistic meetings in the Nampa Spanish Church.

Richard Dower, GLEANER editor
Not Your Sunday Paper

Signs of the Times News Box Changes Lives

Thousands of people around the Northwest pick up a Sunday paper each week from a news box in front of a grocery store, gas station or post office. Now many of these same people can also pick up a free copy of Signs of the Times due to the hard work of David Sturm.

When Sturm came to work at Pacific Press Publishing Association® in Nampa, Idaho, in 1988, he began experimenting with placing news boxes of Signs of the Times around the Idaho Conference. It soon became evident that this was a viable ministry that could reach thousands. So in 1993 Sturm convinced Pacific Press to hire him to travel around the U.S. and place news boxes sponsored by Adventist churches.

“Ever since I joined the Adventist church I have been interested in evangelism,” says Sturm. “When I became acquainted with Signs of the Times the Lord impressed me with the idea of witnessing to others by making the magazine available in public places through a news box. People were already used to getting their newspapers this way. Since then I have seen it change many lives.”

Sturm began his news box ministry by speaking at churches on the weekends—sharing about the outreach opportunity it offered—and scouting locations in the community during the week to place new boxes. He still visits three or four churches a week, and is happy to help churches find a location and negotiate with a business to place a news box. Recently Sturm placed his 4,000th news box in Ojai, California.

Since 1993, Sturm, who currently resides in Caldwell, Idaho, has traveled to every state but Hawaii. He says, “We need missionaries in foreign countries, but my mission field is right here in North America.”

When asked why churches see the value of a news box ministry, Sturm says, “They are attracted to it because it is a powerful yet easy way to do evangelism. Every magazine is filled with spiritual food and includes a Bible study invitation card. People can pick up a copy of the magazine and take it home. They can look at it in the comfort of their homes and not feel threatened or embarrassed.”

Allen Thompson from Emmett, Idaho, is a testimony to the success of the news box ministry. He traces the conversion of his family to Signs of the Times. “I picked up a copy at a grocery store and sent in a Bible study card. Eventually, I attended some meetings locally and was baptized. Soon my wife and other family members joined me. I am now an elder at the Emmett Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

Signs of the Times has been around for 132 years. “The magazine is designed to help contemporary readers live as Christians in modern North American society,” says Sturm. “It gives special emphasis to Christ’s Second Advent and the prophecies and signs that indicate its nearness. The content is specifically written for non-Adventists.”

Churches interested in sharing Signs through a news box ministry can contact David Sturm at (208) 850-2387. For more information about Signs of the Times magazine, visit their website at www.signstimes.com.

Nicole M. Batten, Pacific Press GLEANER correspondent
Is it Legal
For School to be This Fun?

It doesn’t get much better than a school family learning, worshipping and relaxing together in one of the world’s most scenic natural settings. This fall, ninth- through 12th-graders from Mt. Ellis Academy (MEA) spent a week in Grand Teton National Park.

In small groups, students studied fire ecology, wildlife biology and water ecology. Each group spent a day in the field receiving instruction on an area of study, and a day designing and conducting a research project.

Students also participated in hiking and canoeing activities. One-third of the students chose to do a rigorous hike, spanning 17.5 miles up and over a divide and among the high peaks of the Tetons. MEA students are the toughest kids around. The trip was made even more exciting because of numerous bear sightings, though no negative encounters thankfully.

Outdoor school is a tremendous time for establishing spiritual focus for the school year as well as bonding the student body. It is also part of an overall school emphasis on taking the learning process into the great outdoors.

Darren Wilkins, Mt. Ellis Academy principal

Native American Camp Meeting
In Fort Belknap

Native American Camp Meeting 2007, on the Fort Belknap Reservation, featured two speakers and an evening panel discussion.

Jim Jenkins, Bozeman/Whitehall district pastor, presented “Him With Me or Me With Him?” during the Sabbath worship hour. Elmer E. Dow, Havre/Shelby/Fort Belknap district pastor, presented “Eating Dust or Walking Tall?” on Friday evening and “Walking With Jesus” on Sabbath afternoon.

A panel discussion Friday evening was the highlight of the weekend. Moderated by Dow, the panel included Carrie Ferguson, Fort Belknap Adventist School teacher; Milton Fish, Glendive/Sidney/Plentywood/Fort Peck district pastor; David Prest, Montana Conference trust services/church ministries/ministerial director; and George Walker, Fort Belknap Church treasurer. The insightful discussion focused on personal devotional life topics such as prayer, meditation and reading.

The weekend featured a variety of activities such as a fun run/walk on Friday afternoon and a jam session by the Havre-based group Strings of Praise on Sabbath afternoon.

A semi-trailer parked next to the church served as the site for a giveaway of used clothing and blankets provided by the Food Bank of Phillips County. The Montana Adventist Book Center set up displays Friday afternoon and Saturday night.

Elmer Dow, Havre/Shelby/Fort Belknap district pastor

Children Receive Diplomas
For Completing KidZone Lessons

Three young people in Miles City received their diplomas from the Voice of Prophecy for completing the new KidZone Bible Guides lessons recently developed and released by The Voice of Prophecy.

Brittney Peaslee, Stephanie Rogers and Austin Rogers are the first three to finish the new series of 14 lessons covering basic Bible topics. They enjoyed the stories, games, puzzles and other activities in the lessons.

Because of their enthusiasm for the guides, at least three other children have started the lessons or have requested that they be able to participate in the program. The church has sets of lessons that are administered through the local Discover Bible School.

A supply of enrollment cards was ready to be passed out to trick-or-treaters who visited members’ homes.

Marilyn Delinger, Miles City Church communication leader

Michelle Sears, Fort Belknap Company member, prepares pancakes for those attending the 2007 Native American Camp Meeting in Fort Belknap.

During Mt. Ellis Academy’s Outdoor School week, Victoria Sevilla and Katie Lewis paddle on Jenny Lake.
Riverside Experiences an Adventure
The Bible Adventure Series

What if you could join a safari adventure that traveled not just around the world but all through time too? What if you had the chance to visit the places where Bible stories happened while those stories were actually happening? If you have had this experience, you were either dreaming or you were a part of the Riverside Church’s Bible Adventure program.

The Bible Adventure Program came into being when Riverside’s pastor, Walter Mancia, felt impressed to create an evangelistic series for kids. When he discovered that no other churches had held meetings of this type, he took the idea to the church board, who approved the idea. Then the real work began.

“The Bible Adventure program didn’t emerge overnight,” Rachel Scribner, a member of the planning committee and drama team coordinator, explains. “No one had ever done this sort of thing before and we didn’t know how we were going to do it either, but gradually this idea for a safari adventure through time that visits the Bible stories took shape.”

The Riverside Church has roughly 120 regularly-attending members, with approximately 70 people involved with the Bible Adventure program. “It was amazing to see how working together for Jesus dissolved our differences and made us a family,” said Scribner.

For the main presentation each night, Mancia chose Young Disciple Ministries Truth for Youth sermons for a framework, but eventually he decided to have the sermons interrupted by a drama that would bring the featured Bible story to life. The result was a program designed to keep kids guessing—and listening.

On a typical night, Jacob Benjamin, the host, entered dressed in khakis and hiking boots and spun imaginative tales of other adventures he had led. Partway through the program Benjamin introduced the young adventurers to a stuffed chimpanzee he said had followed him home from Africa. The children were allowed to choose a name for the primate, and “Champ” became a faithful member of the Bible Adventure team.

Benjamin also operated the Adventure Meter, an unsteady-looking bucket of bolts with a spinning dial on the front. The Adventure Meter would bump and rattle as the dial spun amid brightly colored flashing lights and when it finally came to rest, the place where it stopped predicted the distance back in time the group would be traveling that night.
“Do you like it?” Jacob (Steve Creitz) lovingly presents his son, Joseph (Loren Rogers) with a colorful coat.

After song service and prizes from the treasure chest (Champ occasionally got in trouble for hiding or losing the all-important chest), Mancia would begin telling a Bible story. On the first night he told the story of creation with a giant fog machine simulating the formless earth. On the second night, and every night afterward however, Mancia would just begin his story, when suddenly the church would come alive with characters from the past. The kids met Lucifer and watched as he turned against God and tried to trick Eve. They saw Noah and his family go into the ark and they watched as the wicked people realized that water was coming down from the sky, just as Noah had said. They followed Joseph as he marched as a slave to Egypt, and they saw him choose to forgive his terrified brothers.

At one of the final meetings, Mancia spoke about baptism. At the end of the topic he asked all those who wished to be baptized to come forward. Sixteen children, eight from the surrounding community, came forward.

On the final night, the Adventure Meter registered “FF” and Benjamin solemnly explained that this stood for fast forward and meant that tonight the adventure would not go into the past but the future. As Mancia told the children what heaven would be like he motioned to three kids seated on the front row. “Let’s imagine,” Mancia told them, “that Jesus has already come and now we are up in the clouds meeting other people who accepted Jesus’ gift of salvation.” Immediately a cloudy fog fell over the stage and a parade of familiar characters filed down the center aisle. The children rushed from person to person asking them questions about their lives on Earth. Two angels came in and started introducing themselves to the people. Suddenly, Jesus appeared and a hush fell over the group. Gabriel announced that God would now dwell with men and Jesus spoke some familiar words beginning with, “Come you who are blessed of my Father…” When Jesus had finished, the people lined up and began to enter through the gates of heaven. Jesus and the angels handed out harps, robes and crowns. Mancia and the kids with him were at the end of the line. Just as the person in front of Mancia and his young friends walked through the gate, Jesus and all the angels suddenly disappeared into a thick cloud.

“Wha, wait! … They’re gone.” Alex realized sadly. “We imagined it all,” Miki added. “Oh, Pastor Walter,” Mayson cried, “When is it going to happen for real?”

As the three children returned to their seats, Mancia explained that we will all get to go to heaven very soon, as long as we accept Jesus’ righteousness. He led the children in repeating John 3:16 and told them that this promise was for them. At the end of the night Mancia asked all the staff who were present to come forward and together the whole group sang Side by Side. “I’ll meet you in heaven; we’ll sing songs together. Brothers and sisters, I’ll be there. Pray that we all will be there.”

Rachel Scribner, Riverside Church communication leader
Big Lake Accepts Donation
From Inmates at Oregon State Penitentiary

Angelina Cameron-Wood, then Abba’s Child coordinator, in the spring of 2006, set about the task of informing the public of Big Lake’s newest camp: Abba’s Child. Abba’s Child is a camp that ministers to children who have lost a loved one. To promote the camp, Cameron-Wood sent fliers to all the hospices in Oregon, not knowing that one would reach some inmates at the Oregon State Penitentiary.

Almost a year later, Monte Torkelsen, Big Lake Youth Camp director, received a phone call from the penitentiary asking permission to raise money for Abba’s Child. Torkelsen agreed, and three months later, he received a second phone call from the prison saying that money had been raised and a check was waiting. Greg Phillips, then Big Lake’s associate director, volunteered to visit the prison and accept the check on behalf of the camp. Much to his surprise, Phillips was fully processed into the prison and led into the cafeteria where a party was already underway. His presence completed the festive mood, as he was the recipient of the check and guest of honor.

Two groups of inmates, The Lifers and WISH, were responsible for raising the funds. They discovered Abba’s Child after finding the flier that the prison hospice received almost a year prior. They decided to join together and make it a mission to raise money for Abba’s Child. The result of these two groups joining forces was $1,500—no small feat for these inmates who make anywhere from $15 to $40 a month! The inmate responsible for initiating and organizing the fundraiser explained to Phillips that he has a special place in his heart for children who have lost a loved one, as his own children had experienced a similar loss.

Big Lake is always grateful for the generosity of individuals who contribute to the camp and its ministry. It is these kinds of stories and acts of unbelievable generosity that remind us of Big Lake’s main goal: to be a life-changing experience for kids and show them God’s ever-present grace, goodness and love. •

Jillany Wellman, Big Lake Youth Camp grant writer

Coquille Church
Hosts Fair Booth,
Shares About Health and Radio Ministry

For the second year, the Coquille Church set up a booth at the Coos County Fair July 25–29. Staffed by 17 volunteers, the booth offered a number of resources, including information about the church’s Vacation Bible School program and a church-sponsored Life Style Matters program. They also shared DVDs of children’s and health programming from 3ABN, as well as BibleInfo.com and the Panorama of Prophecy CDs from Amazing Facts.

Another reason for the booth was to acquaint people with KLYF–FM, the low-power 3ABN radio station, which the Coquille Church has been operating for almost four years. Visitors received free bags, pens and fliers promoting the station.

There was also a drawing for a free set of Arthur Maxwell’s The Bible Story. It was amazing how many people, on seeing a sample of the books, would remark, “I had a set of these when I was growing up!” Volunteer Phyllis Moles said, “This drawing attracted the most interest.”

Herb Kramer, Coquille Church personal ministries leader and Betty Kramer, communication leader
CAA Welcomes “New” Staff
But Their Faces Sure Are Familiar

“CAA students love their school. In fact, they love it so much that when they finish their education they want to come back and teach on the ‘other side of the desk.’ The value of Adventist education is truly recognized when individuals make choices to give back to their church. The Christ-like influence of these staff members is making a real difference.”

—Gary Brown, Columbia Adventist Academy principal

Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) is well into a busy year, and our enrollment stands at 117, up 10 students from where we ended last year, for which we are thankful. We are also thankful for our three “new” staff members, who are coming back to our campus after being students or teachers previously, making this a homecoming of sorts.

Marien Vera is our Spanish teacher and yearbook sponsor. She is a graduate of Walla Walla University where she earned her degree in Spanish and secondary education. She returns to CAA after five years. She taught here from 1996–2002. During the last five years, she went back to school at the Art Institute of Portland where she received an art endorsement for her Washington certification. She also had two children during that time, and taught pre-K through eighth grade Spanish at Our Lady of Lourdes in Vancouver. She lives in a 1920s home, which she enjoys refurbishing. Vera and her husband, Cameron, have two children, Christian and Adrian.

Jay Pierce is our new athletic director and a junior class sponsor. Pierce graduated from Meadow Glade Elementary School in 1984 and CAA in 1988. His wife, Nichole, is a 1999 CAA graduate. They have two children, Logan and Luke. Jay has been teaching elementary PE in Yacolt, Wash., for the last five years. Of his free time, Jay says, “When I had it, I would golf and fish. Now almost all of my time is spent playing with and reading to my kids.” Of course, this is perfectly all right with him!

CJ Anderson has returned to CAA (after graduating with the class of 2002) as our taskforce marketing director. He graduated from Walla Walla University last June. He has served as an intern with the Washington State Senate and tried his hand at managing political campaigns. CJ is enjoying spending time at CAA with his brothers, Matt and Micah, who are seniors. The most visible thing CJ has accomplished here is to breathe new life into the school’s website.

We are thankful to have all three of these talented, energetic people as part of our Kodiak family.

Lara J. Dowie, CAA GLEANER correspondent
Prineville Church Reaches Homeless And Elderly in Community

One of the goals of the Prineville Church is to emphasize service to the community and recently, they had two opportunities to do that.

First, five Prineville Church members and Jose Galvez, Prineville Church associate pastor, and his wife Sherry, volunteered at an Oct. 13 event in Central Oregon called “Project Homeless Connect.” This statewide initiative involves about 125 agencies and service providers. About 1,000 people received two meals, a haircut and dental care. At the event, they could also get information and direction for employment, housing, utility assistance and child care. There was also information specifically for veterans or seniors.

Galvez says, “I was very happy to see our church members step up and help at this humanitarian event. As a church we don’t have the kind of money to completely change someone’s life, but we were able to give them love and respect. I was able to give a few hugs and offer special prayer for some. Project Homeless Connect enabled us to do what Jesus would do for those in need.”

Second, the Prineville Church singing band made its debut by singing to the residents at the Carriage House Assisted Living facility in October. The group consists of 15 juniors and youth along with a few adults. The residents appreciated the meaningful hymns while the young people enjoyed visiting with them. The group looks forward to future outreach opportunities.

Yolanda Jahn, Prineville Church communication leader

The Flying Blue Jay Milo Student Sets New Speed Record

Jaymann Henry, a junior at Milo Academy, competed in the World Human-Powered Speed Challenge races held at Battle Mountain, Nev., and on Oct. 3, he became the youngest racer ever to build his own bicycle and race it to more than 50 mph.

His third speedbike, named the Blue Jay, was built out of several used bikes, fiberglass, steel and Kevlar. Jaymann, who works in the technology department at Milo, has been welding since he was 14 and is planning to be a mechanical engineer.

Racing is a family affair for Jaymann. His parents sponsor their three sons and brother Barclay have the fastest cars on the track, but they haven’t won the electrathon because they never race on the Sabbath, and the scores for Saturday and Sunday are added together to get the total score. So at this year’s race in Eugene, Ore., officials decided to add a new category for the race: most laps in a single day. Jaymann and Barclay both won their divisions, and many people have learned about the Sabbath through the loving Christian example of the Henry family.

Kim Bartholomew, Milo sophomore

Jaymann wins a trophy for most laps in a day, a category created because his family doesn’t race on Sabbath in this two-day event.
PAA Young Alumnus
Publishes His Own Translation of First John

Early in his senior year at Portland Adventist Academy (PAA), John Moor, a member of the class of 2007, committed to translating the book of First John from its original biblical Greek text to a modern and applicable English text for his senior project. The senior project, which is required for graduation at PAA, took Moor 180 hours to complete. It resulted in a 42-page book and commentary called First John Applicably, which gives the reader an applicable understanding of First John.

Moor's passion for biblical language developed when he was a sophomore at PAA. “At the time I was feeling a bit bored by what I was reading in the Bible,” says Moor. “But then I noticed how much more interesting it was when my pastor would bring the original words and their meanings into his sermons.” So Moor began studying biblical Greek with Stephen Lundquist, Pleasant Valley Church youth pastor at the time.

Throughout First John Applicably, Moor gives commentary of his work. “I designed the book so that the reader can fully understand how I came to form a sentence.” The first sentence, which reads “Jesus was from a beginning,” took Moor four hours alone to translate. The surprising translation acts as an introduction for what Moor sees as the most important thing to understand. “The book is about Jesus,” he explains.

Moor had high hopes for himself when he started the project. “I wanted it to be the perfect translation,” he said. “I wanted it to be an NASB meets The Message. But I know I’m an amateur,” said Moor when asked what he learned from the project. “It was so humbling for me to realize that I can’t make a perfect translation. But I also learned that God can still work through me, despite my imperfections.”

Moor is now a freshman at Walla Walla University where he is earning his degree in biblical languages. For more information about First John Applicably, go to www.lulu.com, or call (503) 255-8372, ext. 256.

Liesel Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

Prison Inmate
Finds the Church of His Past

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it” Proverbs 22:6.

Sometimes we take a long trip with the world before we realize that things were so good with the Lord.

Brian Wright was baptized at the Sheridan Federal Prison Camp by Ron Wearner, Sheridan Church pastor, and will be a member of the Sheridan Church, even though he cannot attend services there.

Wright’s mother and grandmother were Seventh-day Adventists. However, his mother married a man who, while he was a good husband and father, didn’t train his two sons in spiritual things. Brian followed his father’s career as an operating engineer in Palmdale.

For recreation, Brian and his older brother rode motorcycles in the high desert. Their names were in the American Motorcycle Association’s District 37 record book for Desert Racing during the 1970s, and several times they held the coveted No. 1 position.

As the years passed, Brian began to do methamphetamine. He says, “I was a true junky and was actually glad when I was arrested.”

There is a group of Seventh-day Adventists who meets each Wednesday evening and Sabbath afternoon at the Sheridan Prison Camp, as well as a group at the Sheridan Federal Correctional Institute. They ask that you keep them in your prayers.

David A. Kerr, Sheridan Church prison ministries leader
Red Ribbon Week is a special week at Yakima Adventist Christian School (YACS) and across the nation, held Oct. 22–26. This week is a tribute to Special Agent (DEA) Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, who was kidnapped and murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico. After his death friends and family began the Red Ribbon Campaign to show that they would continue his fight against illegal drugs, embracing his belief that one person can make a difference. Red Ribbon Week has become a statement to say “yes” to a drug-free, smoke-free, alcohol-free lifestyle.

At YACS, students showed their commitment to living a drug-free life. There were contests, special speakers, videos, skits, and special themed days. Everyone got involved. All the themes were fun and students (and staff) participated. Some of the themes were: Stay in the Game, Be Drug-Free (wear athletic gear); Drugs Turn You Inside Out (wear clothes inside out); and Friends Help Friends Be Drug-Free (dress the same as your friend). Posters, poems and coloring pages decorated the hallways and reminded everyone of the importance of staying drug-free, alcohol-free, and smoke-free. Some of my favorites were:

“Drugs are a Band-aid, only Jesus can heal your pain!” —part of a poster by Honor
And this poem by Lowie:
Don’t use drugs because here’s what they do,
They mess up your brain that God gave you.
Your life becomes ruined, it hurts others too.
Instead seek out Jesus, He loves you through and through.

Susan Bailey, YACS correspondent

Yakima School Celebrates Red Ribbon Week

At Upper Columbia Conference’s 75th Constituency Session held Sept. 30 at Upper Columbia Academy the delegates participated in a polling session on a variety of topics, including communication, spirituality, youth and family life, and evangelism. The results of the survey will be fodder for discussion among church leaders for a while. At the conclusion of the polling the communication director promised to publish the results in the GLEANER over the next several months.

This month we will see the results of a few questions regarding church life. Each question shows whether the delegates could only choose one answer or could choose all that apply. In cases where they could only choose one answer the percentages will equal 100. When the delegates could choose “all that apply,” the number of votes each selection received has been divided by the total number of people voting—so each selection is shown as a percentage of 100.

The November edition of the GLEANER showed responses to several demographic questions. The reader may want to refer to those responses when comparing their preferences to those indicated by the delegates who were in attendance.
It was the observation of this writer that the overall spirit at the session was quite positive. Yet there was a tangible yearning in the hearts of those on the floor and on the stage to see a breakthrough in God’s work in the Inland Northwest. Perhaps best captured in the theme of the session, “Catching the Second Wind,” all longed to see revival and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit among the members and congregations in the Upper Columbia Conference so that we can soon see the Savior’s face and go home with him.

**Church Life**

I regularly attend the following: (Choose all that apply)
- Sabbath School 49%
- Worship service 83%
- A small group sponsored by the church 35%
- Evangelistic meetings 45%
- Prayer meeting 26%
- Communion service 80%

In my observation, attendance in my congregation is: (Choose one)
- Growing 47%
- Not changing 30%
- Declining 23%

My church has clearly defined goals for the upcoming year. (Choose one)
- Yes 53%
- No 47%

I am involved in a small group that includes prayer, Bible study and fellowship. (Choose all that apply)
- Yes, an adult Sabbath School class 58%
- Yes, a small group other than Sabbath School class 44%
- No 18%

In my observation, attendance in my congregation is:
- Growing 47%
- Not changing 30%
- Declining 23%

I wish my pastor would preach more sermons on the following: (Choose one)
- Fundamental beliefs 14%
- Bible prophecies 9%
- Explanation of biblical passages 11%
- Grace and salvation 12%
- Second Coming 12%
- Relationship with God 30%
- Personal relationships 5%
- Felt needs (loneliness, depression or life purpose) 7%

Garrett Caldwell, Upper Columbia Conference assistant to the president for communication
Post Falls Church Celebrates Wedding and Baptism

The members of the Post Falls Church closed their fall reaping series, “From Eden to Eden” on Oct. 6 by celebrating a church wedding during the Sabbath service.

Orval and Joan Stafford not only had their “church wedding,” which they had wanted for some time, but were baptized following a combined reception and church fellowship meal. During the wedding service, performed by Willard Santee, district pastor, every husband and wife in the congregation were given the opportunity to join in repeating their marriage vows.

Special guest artists, Ginger Brockman and Scott Orser, provided the music throughout the wedding and baptismal services.

Willard Santee, Post Falls, Idaho/ Otis Orchards, Wash., district pastor

Colville Valley Family Radio
Hosts Open House for New Studio

Colville Valley Family Radio celebrated the completion of their new studio with an open house on a cold, foggy Thursday, Oct. 18.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony included Ken LeBrun, Kettle Falls Church pastor; Dan Knapp, Colville Church pastor; Mark Freiberger, Colville city engineer; and Dick Nichols, Colville mayor. Nichols said, “This station is an example of good people doing good things.”

The open house featured several hours of local on-air programming, including interviews with Freiberger, Knapp, Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Media Association representative, and many others. This project came to fruition with the support of both the Kettle Falls and the Colville churches. In addition to the interviews, several musical selections helped mark the day.

Bob Sorlien, station program manager, and church member Cindi Coffen hosted the live programming with assistance from Bob Coffen and Tony Phillips, station engineers.

According to Freiberger, Colville Valley Family Radio KEIT-LP FM 100.7 has been broadcasting family-oriented Christian music and talk radio since Sept. 10, 2005.

The recording studio facility was recently completed, and it provides housing for the equipment and the ability to do local recording. Colville Valley Family Radio is locally owned and broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Their programming comes primarily from Life Talk Radio.

Kathy Marson, UCC communication assistant

Learning Idaho State History

Three students from the St. Maries Christian School participated in a six-day field trip of Idaho in September in an effort to learn more about Idaho State history. Each student had a parent along. They visited Spalding Mission; Canoe Camp and Dworshak dam and fish hatchery at Orofino; the state capitol (although it’s closed for renovation so we just looked as we passed); Boise Zoo; Hagerman fossil beds; Craters of the Moon; Yellowstone National Park; Lewis and Clark Caverns; and the Old Montana prison and car museum in Deer Lodge, Montana. The last stop was at a silver mine in Wallace. The students and adults stayed at four Adventist schools located in McCall and Twin Falls, Idaho, Mt. Ellis Academy in Bozeman, Mont., and Missoula, Mont.

The trip was made possible by having the students pass out regional phonebooks last June and the generosity of the host schools for a night’s lodging. Only one night was in a motel near Yellowstone.

Verna Sonnentag, St. Maries Christian School teacher

From left: RJ Schwanz, Jonna Wilson and Ruth Sonnentag visit a museum on their Idaho state history field trip.
Native American Ministry Growing
Northwest Couple Shares Health Message in British Columbia

Leif and Zanna Ove are two Upper Columbia Conference members with a mission. Their passion: to be the hands and feet of Christ among the Native American Indians in the Inland Northwest and beyond. To do this, they want to reach members of local tribes with information about issues of health. They also want to offer information about Bible studies.

Recently the Oves have sensed a calling to travel beyond the border to the north and begin a new tribal ministry. In a newsletter entitled “Indian Arrows of Education,” Zanna describes their progress.

“On Oct. 7, Leif and I left Craigmont, Idaho, on an adventure of our lifetime! We are answering a call to Kitwanga, British Columbia, to occupy a 200-acre campus located in the middle of the Gitxsan Indian Nation (6,000 strong) to establish a mission work for them. We spent that night with friends in Omak, Wash. The next morning we would cross the border.

“We had two cases of Radiant Indian Health, which is our health magazine, our desktop computer and an office chair. We were praying for a trouble-free border crossing. We were questioned as usual about general topics. The border patrol guard walked around our pickup without looking into the canopy, and told us to go on through and have a good trip.

“It took us three days to reach Kitwanga. We arrived at the Fair Haven campus about noon Wednesday, glad to have made our destination.

“Before leaving Idaho, I had called for an appointment for Oct. 11 to meet with a tribal leader. So the next day, Leif and I went into old Hazelton for the interview. The Lord prepared the way before us. They were delighted with our offer of service to their nation and were awed that we would come so far. We were invited to attend their Gitxsan National summit meeting, which would take place Oct. 24–26, and have a booth for Radiant Indian Health.

“The buildings on campus have not been used in about 10 years, so we immediately went to work cleaning the homes we want to occupy. We came with only suitcases and camp-cooking utensils, so we salvaged furniture from other buildings that are not in use.

“Last week we spent a full three days at the Tribal Summit meetings. It was like a condensed college course in Tribal culture, language, and economics. Three quarters worth compressed into three days. Radiant Indian Health was well received by everyone. We met a lot of the key tribal leaders, and were able to share our hopes and plans with some. One even signed up for the Native New Day Bible studies! What a privilege to attend! The Lord certainly prepared the way before us!”

Garrett Caldwell, UCC assistant to the president for communication, with Zanna Ove.

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, “Follow Me.” There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort.”

‘God Must Have Sent You’
Seattle Area Volunteers Aid New Orleans

In New Orleans, if your house isn’t boarded up properly, city officials will red tag the home for demolition at the owner’s expense. If the owner can’t pay, the land is repossessed.

Such was the potential case for one elderly Adventist woman who owned a home in the Upper Ninth Ward but who is currently living in Texas. The sagging ceiling fan on the second floor, the hacked-through roof, and the water marks high on the wall are remaining reminders of more than 20 feet of water from Hurricane Katrina. Her home had been cleared of deep sludge, like most other homes in the area, but she had no means to safeguard her home.

A scouting team of four people, representing the Washington Conference, spent an entire day of their week in New Orleans boarding up nine openings to the elderly woman’s home. The group included Byron Dulan, from Lighthouse Christian Fellowship; Donovan Vliet, from Poulsbo; Serret Perry from Edmonds; and Vera Raseecin, from Ferndale/Bellingham. Earlier in the week, the team of Washington volunteers, along with members of other church-based groups from across the country, had met Alice Carter, who received only $300 from insurance for her home and belongings. When they volunteered to help with general clean-up and sheet rocking, Carter exclaimed, “God must have sent you here.”

“I learned so much about New Orleans without really even trying to learn,” said Dulan, who serves as Washington Conference Adventist Community Services director. “It was good to go and network in the community for future rebuilding trips.”

Interested in participating in the next Katrina rebuilding trip? Fill out an interest form online at www.washingtonconference.org.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director

Power of Prayer
Grays Harbor Starts Prayer Ministry at Food Bank

When Cristian Bobocca, Grays Harbor Church pastor, suggested a prayer ministry last spring at the Grays Harbor Adventist Food Bank, Kathleen Abbott, Jo Ann Drake, Patti Kramer and Doris Tsuha eagerly started the Still Waters Prayer Ministry.

When someone visits the food bank, a member of the prayer team will ask, “Do you have any concerns you’d like me to pray with you about...any illness in the family, need of housing, employment, finances, any relationship problems?” After listening to the request, the team member offers a short prayer.

Each prayer partner receives copies of each week’s prayer requests, which are then prayed for daily until the following Thursday when we ask the question again of that week’s clients.

Since this prayer ministry started six months ago, we have received 880 prayer requests. We have also received answers to our prayers. We know of two individuals whose cancer has gone into remission and one lady who no longer needs to have her foot amputated! Another client was able to find an apartment for $450, and no longer had to pay $850 at the motel.

We rejoice with our clients when their needs are met. We have been very blessed by following the admonition found in Hebrews 4:16, “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Doris Tsuha (right) prays with a food bank client.
Education runs deep in their blood and Puget Sound Adventist Academy (PSAA) is delighted to welcome four new dedicated staff members to the team.

Scott Carlson returned to serve his alma mater as a taskforce worker this year. A PSAA graduate from 2001, Carlson was in the nursing program at Walla Walla University when he felt the Lord calling him into ministry. Switching majors, he decided to study theology and will graduate in June 2008. His primary duties at PSAA include campus ministries and campus life.

“I know I will be filled with so much learning even though I’m on the other side of the desk,” says Anika Clark, new head of the English department. Clark, a native of Idaho, enjoys athletics, the arts, literature, cultural studies, music, including guitar and singing, and is fluent in Spanish. Her degree in English is from Walla Walla University.

Erin Decker is the smiling face in the front office. She has more than 14 years of administrative experience, with 13 of those years working at Microsoft. Additionally, she recently served as a marketing and administrative coordinator for a national member organization. She enjoys applying her skills and abilities to keep the front office running smoothly.

Tom Gammon serves as the new business manager of PSAA and Kirkland Adventist School. Gammon studied at Newbold College, served as a student missionary in Greece, and graduated from Andrews University with degrees in business and English. He and his wife, Fe, whom he met in Greece, are members of the Kirkland Church and have two sons.

Auburn Seniors Select Class Leaders, Grow Spiritually

The thundering surf and the somewhat sandy shores of the Puget Sound annually draw seniors from Auburn Adventist Academy. For 14 consecutive years, seniors have come together for a retreat at Fort Flagler to choose leaders, to grow spiritually and to bond as a class.

“Since we have such a variety of people in our class, having time to be able to spend with them really created a bond,” said Clara Mae Fitchner, a senior from Eugene, Ore. “As a result, we are definitely closer.”

Whether it is outdoor campfires, communion service, Sabbath walks through the park, or midnight adventures in the bunkers, the time spent together as a class was unforgettable.

“I thought it was a very powerful weekend, and I was deeply moved,” said four-year senior Richard Meharry of Harvey, North Dakota. “I made new friendships and was able to bond even more with my old friends.”

Senior class officers: Megan Tan, president; Shelly McLarty, spiritual vice president; Natalie Harris, social vice president; Melissa McCormick, treasurer; Alma Antonio, secretary; Evan Smith, sergeant-at-arms; Alex Paulsen, photographer/historian; Matthew Stanley, sports coordinator; Michelle Reyes, music coordinator; Ashlie Heilbrun, student-faculty council representative. It is safe to say that every senior walked away from that trip with a better sense of unity within their class, and a deeper appreciation for our heavenly Father. That is the entire point of the Fort Flagler trip, and it has definitely been a cherished experience associated with Auburn.

Erikka Hoffman, four-year AAA senior from Newcastle, Wash.
Learning in Nature
Students Participate in Outdoor School

Nearly 200 children and adults participated in Outdoor School at Sunset Lake Camp this fall.

Fifth- and sixth-grade students from 11 Washington Conference schools participated with support from teachers, parents, a camp nurse, a camp pastor, and junior counselors from Lewis County Adventist School.

“Learning about nature in nature makes the lessons more memorable,” said Lon Gruesbeck, Washington Conference school superintendent.

At Outdoor School, students learned about nature in nature.

Several of the SAGE workers were among the founders of Cypress more than 30 years ago. Three former Cypress teachers were in the group. Volunteers from the Cypress constituency and other surrounding churches joined the SAGE group to dip their brushes in paint.

Don and Alice Kirkman gave expert advice on color choices; Roger Ferris arranged for the paint to be donated from the closed paint depot on the Auburn Adventist Academy campus; Jenny Murphy, board chair, planned the food service, and the Cypress teachers served it. Martin Bode, local contractor, did a major part of the planning, and Mike Altman, a painting contractor from Portland, directed the process.

Lowell Dunston, CAS principal

About 25 SAGE volunteers helped to spruce up Cypress Adventist School with new paint.

The local fire department brought in fire trucks and a playhouse to help teach students at Skagit Adventist School about fire safety.

Skagit Students Practice Fire Safety

The lower grades at Skagit Adventist School celebrated fire prevention week by discussing safety, drafting an escape route, and putting their plans into action through a safety drill.

To start the week of fire prevention education, a fire department representative came to talk about fire safety and planning an escape route.

The second day, the fire department returned with two fire trucks and a big white playhouse. The students toured the fire trucks, and talked with the firefighters.

They also practiced their escape plans. In small groups, students went up the stairs of the white playhouse only to have it catch on “fire” in the bedroom. One by one they felt the door only to discover it was hot.

Using their fire safety knowledge, each child went out the window and climbed to safety. Each group met at the mailbox (the predetermined meeting spot).

“It was like a real fire, but it wasn’t a real fire,” said Mariah, a fourth grader. “It was fun to learn how to get out of the house during a fire!”

Taryn Dillon, SAS fourth-grade teacher

During Outdoor School at Sunset Lake Camp, students rotated through several nature stations.

Photos by Denise White

Denise White, Washington Conference associate superintendent
Beyond the Classroom
WWU Nursing Professor Teaches Health in Guatemala

Last spring, Walla Walla University (WWU) associate professor of nursing Sallieanne Brewer got an unexpected phone call. Her cousin, a member of the United Methodist Church of Ocala, Fla., had learned that the focus of an upcoming church mission trip was women’s health issues. She thought Brewer would be interested. She was right.

Brewer spent nearly two weeks providing health education to women near the city of Chichicatenango, Guatemala, a country where most people have little to no access to health care services or information. Although public spending has shifted more toward preventive care, diseases such as AIDS continue to spread.

“When people are challenged just to survive and feed their young,” explains Brewer, “issues of health education and preventive medicine are not viewed as vital.”

Before arriving in the villages, the team was able to discuss women’s health issues with a young local woman who had been hired to provide health education to other local women.

In talking with the young woman, the team learned that the women in the villages used no protective garments during their menstrual cycles.

“We had purchased hundreds of cloth diapers and diaper pins for the babies in the villages,” says Brewer, “but I guess God had another idea.”

A portion of the diapers and pins were handed out to the local women, and a pair of underwear was given to each woman. The diapers became sanitary garments, and the team showed the women how to pin the diapers into the underwear.

Knowing that many of the women had not seen underwear before, Brewer took it upon herself to demonstrate their function by pulling a bright pink pair of panties on over her clothing.

“Some things do not need any interpretation!” says Brewer. “The women broke out into a round of laughter. I am fortunate we did not get a picture of that event!”

Brewer and the team of nurses continued their educational series on topics such as breastfeeding, menopause, hygiene and nutrition. They distributed boxes of clothing, baby formula, bottles, vitamins, shampoo, soap, and toothbrushes and toothpaste. Most of the items had been donated by people in the Walla Walla and College Place communities.

This is not the first trip of its kind for Brewer. Several years ago she coordinated a medical mission trip to El Salvador, where she provided care as a nurse practitioner.

In 2005, Brewer, along with WWU assistant professor of nursing Trudy Klein, developed a missions nursing course now offered at WWU. In the spring of 2007, Klein had the opportunity to take a group of nursing students to Jamaica, where they provided health education for the locals. Brewer and Klein are currently planning a similar trip to Thailand in conjunction with WWU.

For information on how you can help further the efforts Brewer and others are making in women’s health education around the globe, contact the WWU nursing department at (509) 527-2461.

Becky St. Clair, WWU GLEANER correspondent
In the Quiet of the Night
Meeting the Spiritual Needs of Sleep Lab Patients

When I saw the huge picture of Jesus on the wall, I felt I belonged at Walla Walla General Hospital (WWGH),” said Catherine Zundel, polysomnography technician in the sleep lab.

Zundel moved to Walla Walla after leaving a supervisory job as a respiratory therapist. Even though WWGH had no such opening, Zundel applied. She and her husband prayed.

In a conversation with Lisa Bennett, who, at the time, was the hospital’s respiratory and sleep director, Zundel mentioned that in her previous job, she would relieve the technician in the sleep lab and take off the patients’ electrodes in the morning.

“If you have sleep lab experience, I have a full-time job for you,” said Bennett, who was eager to find a permanent alternative to using traveling technicians.

Zundel’s orientation to her new position began with prayer. “I knew I was in the right place,” she recalls. Orientation also included encouragement to talk about spiritual matters with patients. Zundel liked the idea, but she hesitated. Coming from a secular work environment, she had frequently referred patients to the hospital chaplain, but rarely had taken the initiative in spiritual discussions.

One evening, a patient came in for a sleep study. The client’s deep and mature faith impressed Zundel. Even so, the patient expressed some uneasiness and asked, “Will you pray with me?”

“Of course,” Zundel answered.

As the patient slept, Zundel had a compelling impression: “You have permission to pray with patients, and I want you to.” She had a strong sense that God was calling her to be more directly and intentionally involved in the spiritual care of her patients.

Zundel began asking every patient if she could pray with him or her. One patient wept in response. Another thanked her in the morning. Another time, the question led to an hour-long discussion on religious beliefs.

On one occasion, she felt impressed to ask, “Do you know Jesus?”

Her internal logic argued, “No, God. You don’t really want me to do this, do You?”

The impression remained strong as she stood behind the patient, positioning the electrodes. Zundel stopped, put her hands on the client’s shoulders and asked the question. The patient did know Jesus, and they started talking. Months later, they saw each other on the street. The former patient enveloped Zundel in a bear hug.

At times, the hospital’s overhead pager broadcasts the message, “Code Love.” Zundel and her fellow employees recognize this as an invitation to stop and pray. They don’t need to know for whom they pray. They don’t need to know the situation. But a patient who has requested prayer knows that at that signal, hospital employees pause to call on the Great Healer.

“This job has affirmed the reality of spiritual needs,” says Zundel. “People are much more open when they have health problems. I always tried to consider patients’ spiritual needs before, but now I’m much more aware.”

Attending to those needs is her way of making a difference and of furthering the hospital’s mission to restore peace, hope and health as Jesus did—sometimes one person at a time, in the quiet of the night.

Submitted by CMBell Company
Career Missionaries

Does someone in your church keep in touch with missionary families who have gone out from your church to an overseas assignment?

It doesn’t matter if they are church employees, Adventist Frontier Missions volunteers, medical missionaries, or self-supporting missionaries. If they send back e-mails and photos describing their mission and what it’s like to be there, GleanerNOW! would like to give them a wider audience than just their friends or local church. If you are willing to be a conduit for their stories, here’s what you can do:

- Obtain the missionary family’s permission to republish their e-mail messages, or ask them to submit stories and photos directly to www.gleaneronline.org.
- Go through their message and take out any personal messages to individuals that would not be appropriate for wide distribution. Limit story length to about 350 words. (If you don’t, we will.)
- Make sure there are no requests for money in the story. It’s appropriate to describe a need and/or ask for prayer about specific things. But let’s just let the Holy Spirit do the rest.
- You may determine what contact information you and/or the missionary family are willing to have published, in case someone is impressed to establish contact after reading the story. Remember, the Internet is a very public place.
- Make sure there is a photo to accompany every story—preferably one illustrating the story—and that it has a descriptive caption, written in a complete sentence.
- Their church of origin must be within the North Pacific Union territory.
- Keep the stories coming on a regular basis.

Short-term Missionaries

The same thing can be done when your church has individuals or a group going on a short-term mission trip.

- Establish a GleanerNOW! login for each designated correspondent before leaving on the trip. Go to www.gleaneronline.org. In the left panel, under Resources, click on Contributors’ Information. Print out the PDF file Step-by-Step Instructions, then simply follow the directions. The same guidelines apply to these stories as to the print edition, so print out the GLEANER Guidelines you see there too.
- Make sure someone on the trip has the ability to take digital photos and send stories back. Make it their assignment to do so. Youth are particularly good at this. It is better to choose a support person who is not responsible for preaching, however. Those who are preaching have found that they are much too occupied with sermon preparation and visitation to keep up with this correspondence regularly.
- If your group will have several projects going on simultaneously, consider assigning someone at each site to be the GleanerNOW! reporter. Just make sure each one has a digital camera that shoots at least 3 megapixels. Once the photo is shot, and the story written, it’s just a matter of finding an Internet café to get online. Then all the folks back home don’t have to wait until the group returns to hear about their loved ones on the trip.
- A blog style is quite acceptable for this type of story.
- The stories can be short, but they definitely should not exceed 350 words.

Nadine Platner Dower, GLEANER managing editor
Engelhart 60th

Al and Irene Engelhart celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends July 7, 2007, at their daughter's home in Milton-Freewater. They are members of the Milton-Freewater, Ore., Church.

Al Engelhart married Irene Seibold June 26, 1947, in the old Milton Church. Al was stationed in the European Theater with the U.S. Army during WWII. He was a local builder for many years, and later worked in sales for a floor covering business. Irene worked as a secretary for the Milton Nursery; as secretary to the superintendent at McLaughlin High School; and as secretary in a local attorney's office. She currently volunteers at the Community Service Center. The couple has enjoyed traveling for many years. They enjoy gardening, especially raising sweet corn to sell to the community.

The Engelhart family includes James and Ruthie Engelhart of Nampa, Idaho; Dianne and Jeff Cook of Milton-Freewater; Dwight Engelhart (deceased); and 2 grandchildren.

Ivy 50th

Jack and LuLu Ivy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends Aug. 25, 2007, in North Valley Church Werner Hall.

Jack Ivy married LuLu Archer Aug. 25, 1957, in Deer Park, Calif., after meeting at Pacific Union College. Jack worked with his dad in St. Helena, Calif., at the Ivy Sheet-Metal Shop. They moved several times until 1965 when they moved to Grants Pass, Ore. Jack continued in the sheet metal business and LuLu stayed busy with the children until they started college. In 1981, they opened their own shop, Caveman Heating & Air Conditioning, at which time LuLu became the office manager. In 1993 they sold the business, and Jack continued on in heavy-equipment operation. They now spend their winters in Yuma, Ariz., and their summers in Merlin, Ore., helping with upkeep on the North Valley Church which they helped to build. Maranatha keeps them busy in their spare time.

The Ivy family includes Jerry and Tracy Ivy of Lostine, Ore.; Linda Ivy of Walla Walla, Wash.; and 4 grandchildren.

Smith 70th

Clyde and Winifred Smith celebrated their 70th anniversary on Sept. 14, 2007, with a reception hosted by their children in Big Timber, Mont. They are members of the Big Timber Church.

Clyde W. Smith married Winifred E. Wheatley on Sept. 14, 1937, in Seattle. Clyde and Winnie met at Auburn Academy. After marrying, they began a career in Adventist education in the North Pacific Union Conference lasting more than 37 years. They first served at Granger Academy, then Columbia Academy, Milo Academy, Mt. Ellis Academy and finally Auburn Academy where they retired in 1978. Clyde served as a business manager and teacher, and Winifred served in the food service department. The couple now resides in Big Timber.


CLARK–RIVINIUS—Cherith Clark and Kiff Rivinius were married Aug. 12, 2007, in Grants Pass, Ore. They are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif. Cherith is the daughter of Marvin and Judi (Walter) Clark. Kiff is the son of Jerry and Lynette Rivinius.

COLBURN–ANDERSON—Heather Colburn and Leif Anderson were married July 1, 2007, Edmonds, Wash. They are making their home in Redmond, Wash. Heather is the daughter of Stanley J. and Karen S. Colburn. Leif is the son of Roger and Cynthia Anderson and Laurilee I. McGregor.

CONRAD–HERMENS—Georgia Conrad and Joseph Hermens were married Sept. 1, 2007, in Maple Hill, Kan. They are making their home in McMinnville, Ore. Georgia is the daughter of Chris and Evelyn (Mollohan) Conrad. Joseph is the son of John and Debra (Williams) Hermens.

EGGERS–DAMAZO—Lindsey Eggers and Jason Damazo were married Sept. 8, 2007, in Cooperville, Wash. They are making their home in Pasadena, Calif. Lindsey is the daughter of John and Terri (Schroeder) Eggers. Jason is the son of David and Becky (Thorpe) Damazo.

MATHIS–SCHACK—Jamie Mathis and Robert Schack were married Aug. 4, 2007, in Eugene, Ore., where they are making their home. Jamie is the daughter of J. Terry and Orvadell (Hughes) Mathis. Robert is the son of Brian R. and Jodee L. (Smith) Schack.

WARD–NASH—Mandy J. Ward and David Nash were married July 1, 2007, in Walla Walla, Wash. They are making their home in Napa, Calif. Mandy is the daughter of Jeffrey and Shirley Ward. David is the son of Sidney and Arline Nash.

WEBER–HETZER—Stephanie Weber and Ashley Hetzer were married Sept 9, 2007, in Arlington, Wash. They are making their home in Olympia, Wash. Stephanie is the daughter of Travis and Helen (Lattin) Weber. Ashley is the son of Larry and Darlene (Pifer) Hetzer and Tami (Scheib) Hetzer (deceased).


HARNESS—Dryden Gosse was born May 22, 2007, to Bradley S. and Katrina K. (Wijma), Harness, Springfield, Ore.


OAK—John W. was born Sept. 21, 2007, to John and Leisl (Duerksen) Oak, Hayden Lake, Idaho.

THOMPSON—Oliver J. was born Sept. 14, 2007, to Sydney and Jaime (Gilmore) Thompson, Lincoln City, Ore.

U’REN—Dahlena Rosengren was born Aug. 30, 2007, to Jan Troy and Cindy (Dahlen) U’Ren, Vancouver, Wash.

WRIGHT—Selah L. was born Sept. 28, 2007, to Garrett and Heather (Chisholm) Wright, Sweet Home, Ore.


BLOOMER—Marvin (Jenson), 87; born May 19, 1920, Brooklyn, N.D.; died Sept. 20, 2007, Everett, Wash. Surviving: wife, Rozella “Sue” (Guess); stepson, Robert M. Anthony, Murphys, Calif.; and stepdaughter, Patti Sue Rafferty, Great Falls, Mont.

BLOOM—Sandra M., 83; born Nov. 9, 1923, Port Angeles, Wash.; died Oct. 9, 2007, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Cora (Mitchell); sons, Bill, Meridian, Idaho; Tim, Maui, Hawaii; Cliff, Homedale, Idaho; Ted, Las Vegas, Nev.; John, Nampa; daughters, Gloria Farley, Newport, Wash.; Georgia Russell, Nampa; and 18 grandchildren.

BOGG—Mary Jean Horst, Lincoln, Neb.; died Sept. 29, 2007, Silver City, N.M. Surviving: husband, Frank, Buckley, Wash.; Johnathan Thomas, Buckley; Hess and Jagger Hess, both of Richland; stepbrothers, Tyson Hess and Jagger Hess, both of Buckley; Johnathan Thomas, Richland; and stepsister, Jordan Thomas, Richland.

BRANNAM—Donald E., 72; born Nov. 18, 1934, Houston, Mo.; died Sept. 20, 2007, Everett, Wash. Surviving: wife, Rozella “Sue” (Guess); stepson, Robert M. Anthony, Murphys, Calif.; and stepdaughter, Patti Sue Rafferty, Great Falls, Mont.


LADD— Margaret “Peggy” J. (Crane), 83; born Nov. 9, 1923, Oakland, Calif.; died Sept. 26, 2007, West Linn, Ore. Surviving: son, Ervin D., Saline, Mich.; daughters, Anita Cafferky, West Linn; Myra Thompson, Lincoln City, Ore.; 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.


**NORTH PACIFIC UNION**

**Offerings**
- Dec. 1—Local Church Budget;
- Dec. 8—World/Inner City*;
- Dec. 15—Local Church Budget;
- Dec. 22—Local Conference Advance;
- Dec. 29—Local Church Budget;
- Dec. 29—13th Sabbath Offering

**Special Days**
- Curriculum Focus for the Month—Christian Hospitality†
- Dec. 1—Bible Sabbath*
- Curriculum resource materials are published in NAD church resource journals—Sabbath School Leadership, Celebración, Célébration, Kids’ Ministry Ideas, and Cornerstone Youth Resource Journal.
- *Special Materials Provided

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY**

**Calendar of Events**
- Dec. 1, 2, 6, 8, 9—wwuDrama presents “An Evening of John Steinbeck” on the Donnie Rigby Stage on the WWU campus. All shows are at 8 p.m. except the 9th, which is at 2 p.m.
- Dec. 8—Children’s Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. Linda Neel directs singers and instrumentalists.
- Dec. 15—A Choral Christmas with the Sunnyside Church Choir at 4 p.m., with glorious music of the season directed by Travis Hatton.
- Dec. 21—A Portland tradition: The 26th Annual Family Christmas at 7 p.m. A plethora of happy people provide music and the spoken Word.
- Dec. 22—Christmas Sabbath at Sunnyside at 8:50 a.m. and 11:20 a.m.
- Jan. 20—Bowling (see Charlotte).

**Oregon**

**Sunnyside Events**
- Dec. 8—Children’s Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. Linda Neel directs singers and instrumentalists.
- Dec. 15—A Choral Christmas with the Sunnyside Church Choir at 4 p.m., with glorious music of the season directed by Travis Hatton.
- Dec. 21—A Portland tradition: The 26th Annual Family Christmas at 7 p.m. A plethora of happy people provide music and the spoken Word.
- Dec. 22—Christmas Sabbath at Sunnyside at 8:50 a.m. and 11:20 a.m. Christ child, Simeon and Anna; little shepherds and respected wise men; strings and bells; choir and organ—all in support of Pastor Dave Allen’s good-news message about love.
- Dec. 28—The Canadian University College Chamber Orchestra at 6:30 p.m. Naomi Delafeld, conductor, presents a program of sacred music.
- Jan. 20—The Oregon Sinfonietta at 3 p.m., Donald Appert, music director and conductor. The program features Prokofiev’s Classical Symphony, Saint-Saëns’ Concerto for Cello and Orchestra No. 1, and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 1. Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church, 10501 S.E. Market Street, Portland, Ore.; (503) 252-8080; www.sunnyside-nda.org.

**Oregon SAGE**
- Dec. 9—Attend a play, Tuna Christmas, in Vancouver, Wash. Call (360) 326-8996 for details.
- Dec. 13—Lunch at Hometown Buffet and deliver gifts to shut-ins in Medford, Ore. Call (541) 665-0637 for details.
- Jan. 19—Church service and Champion Barbershop Quartets in Seaside, Ore. Call (503) 343-9548 for details.

**ASAM Events**
- Dec. 15—Adventist Single Adult Ministries White Elephant Gift Exchange and Potluck at the Beaverton Church fellowship hall, 5 p.m. Please bring a special holiday dish or dessert. Your supervised children are welcome to come. Also, bring a cash donation for families living in the Mexico City dump of Tultitlán, Mexico. Let’s pool our money this year and help them through Medical Teams International, www.medicalteams.org. Jan. 19—Bowling (see Charlotte).
- Jan. 20—Cross-country skiing or snowshoes at Meadows. Questions? Please contact Tom at (503) 684-7971 or tom.te@verizon.net; or Charlotte at (503) 579-9549. www.beavertonsda.com, then to the Singles page.
Christmas Vespers
Dec. 15—Warm your hearts as you listen to the inspirational Valley Brass, the Forest Grove Church choir and others at the Christmas vespers, 5:30 p.m. at the Forest Grove Church, 1950 Mountain View Lane, Forest Grove, (503) 645-0123, or lynda@sandpoint.net.

Linwood Missing Members
Please contact the Linwood Church office in Spokane, Wash., at (509) 327-4400 or linwoodsda@asinsa.com if you know how to contact any of the following people: Donna Parks, Aaron Patenaude, Michael Payton, Teresa Payton, Ron Peckham, Baetty Peters, Greg Pipoly, Michael Pipoly, Donald Rathburn, Jason Raynow, Jody Raynow, Tamara Richman, Eric Ripplinger, Kelly Rowell, Norman Saavedra, Corey Scanlan, Geoff Scanlan, Merton Scott, Roy Shoemaker, Tawnya Shupe, Bridig/Chris/Tom Sivertsen, Shaun Slinkard, Steve Smetana, Charles Smick Jr., Edwin Steinbeach, Steven Steinmetz, Dale/Kami Sumbureru, Timothy Lee Tate, Dereck Tobias, James Whitley, Wendi Whitley, Maura Widhalm and Matthew Williams.

WORLD CHURCH

Health Summit Orlando
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Union College Homecoming
April 3–6, 2008—Union College alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to come to “Remember When…” Honor classes are the years ending in “8” and “3.” For more information, contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu.

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Computer Graphics Artist for Prophecy Graphics project. Need examples of work. charleys@charleyssnyder.com; 253-272-7229.

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Event
Come and share the warmth of the season as the "Men of Kirkland" present their 7th Annual Christmas Evensong, Dec. 15, 4 pm in the Kirkland Adventist Church, 6400 108th Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98033.

Master Storyteller Dick Duerksen, Buffet Brunch and Book Signing. Join us Sunday, Dec. 9 from 10 am to 12 noon with inimitable entertainer Dick Duerksen for the latest and greatest stories from around the Maranatha planet! Enjoy a scrumptious buffet brunch. Proceeds will benefit the Mozambique Mission project in May 2008. Auburn City Adventist Church, 402 29th Street SE, Auburn, WA 98002. RSVP to Alice: 253-833-7910.

Psalms Impact Chorale presents their annual Christmas Dramatic Musical, directed by Mr. Estyn Goss. Dec. 1, 4 pm at the Kirkland Adventist Church. For more information, call Juliette: 425-828-7888.

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Worthington, Loma Linda, Cedar Lake, Azure Product, etc. Low prices. Auburn Enterprises, Bill and Judy Hoard, 4192 Auburn Rd NE; PO Box 13757, Salem, OR 97309-1757; 503-585-9311; fax 503-585-1805; auburnern@earthlink.net.


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