"I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."

Isaiah 44:22 (NIV)

“Mt. Hood Sunrise” photographed by Palmer Halvorson of Spokane, Washington.
When God Puts Right People in the Right Place at the Right Time

By Heidi Martella

Illustrating the theme of “Divine Appointments” is artist Nathan Greene’s image entitled “The Senior Partner,” used by permission from www.hartclassics.com.
I had just boarded an airplane in Portland, nothing unusual in and of itself, on my way to Boise, when we heard the dreaded words, “Please deplane as we are experiencing mechanical difficulties.” There was immediate speculation about the real cause.

Since there were only a few passengers on the plane the cynics were grumbling that the airline would make us just wait until the next scheduled flight a couple hours later. To our amazement we had barely gotten off the plane when they told us we could reboard and take any seat we wanted since the plane was relatively empty.

When I sat down, a young professional woman sat in the same row with me and began to strike up a conversation. I’m not usually the type who likes to chatter on a plane. I’d rather read. But she was inquisitive. She wondered what I did. I told her I had just returned from a short overseas mission trip where I had been the speaker for a series of meetings.

By this time the plane was heading down the runway, and she continued the conversation. “So what did you speak about,” she queried? Now that was an open-ended question if I had ever heard one, and I had a captive audience. “Well,” I said, “I talked about various Bible topics.” To which she responded in a way I will long remember. “Tell me about it. You’ve got 50 more minutes! Go for it!” And I did.

I’ve thought about that incident many times since. It was not a coincidence the whole plane had to empty out so we could get reseated, and I would end up sitting next to a lady who was open to study the Bible. Call it what you like but I’d call it a divine appointment. It must be fascinating to be an angel and be responsible to arrange all those “coincidences” just so God can lead us into or away from situations for our or others’ good. And then the sobering thought—the flip side. How many times have we missed those opportunities because we weren’t open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

**Saved by the Voice**

A number of years ago a nationally recognized evangelist was scheduled to fly to a speaking engagement. Arriving at the airport he had a strong impression he should not board the plane. Wanting to meet his appointment he debated with the inner voice but ultimately stepped aside and didn’t fly on the plane. A few hours later he learned the very plane he was to have been on crashed, and he would have been killed.

When reporters realized he was originally scheduled to be on the doomed plane, they interviewed him and asked why it was that he was the only one spared. To which he responded, “I heard the Lord speak to me.” The reporter said, “So how come you were the only one God spoke to?” And the man of God humbly responded, “Maybe I wasn’t, but maybe I was the only one listening.”

It is no question that divine appointments come to all of us as Christians. The question is how often do we miss them because we aren’t listening to that still small voice?

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**Jere Patzer**
North Pacific Union Conference president
**President’s Day Quiz**

1. Who was the oldest president?
   a. George Bush
   b. James Buchanan
   c. George Washington
   d. Ronald Reagan

2. Who was the youngest president?
   a. Thomas Jefferson
   b. Bill Clinton
   c. Theodore Roosevelt
   d. John F. Kennedy

3. In which state were the most presidents born?
   a. Texas
   b. Ohio
   c. Virginia
   d. Massachusetts

4. Who was the first president to live in the current White House?
   a. George Washington
   b. John Adams
   c. Thomas Jefferson
   d. Abraham Lincoln

5. Of the following portraits on American money, which of the following never served as president?
   a. Abraham Lincoln-$5
   b. Andrew Jackson-$20
   c. Alexander Hamilton-$10
   d. Ulysses S. Grant-$50

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**Quotations**

“It is easy enough to be friendly to one’s friends. But to befriend the one who regards himself as your enemy is the quintessence of true religion. The other is mere business.”
—Mohandas K. Gandhi

“The very life of the church depends upon her faithfulness in fulfilling the Lord’s commission ... Where there is no active labor for others, love wanes, and faith grows dim.”
—Ellen White

“The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.”
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

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**The Value of Trees**

- In one year an average tree produces enough oxygen for a family of four.
- One tree will absorb the CO₂ from four cars every year.
- The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

(Source: The Oregonian)
Our Northwest conferences are unified in the gospel and are committed to the Momentum Evangelism Initiative. Washington conference has prayerfully integrated our mission, education and lifestyle evangelism goals for the next three years. With God’s blessing these include: creating 3,000 prayer warriors; training 3,000 lay Bible instructors; and training students to how to give Bible studies before finishing academy. As a result, we are challenging churches to have monthly baptisms. With every church baptizing at least one person per month, we can have more than 1,000 baptisms a year. Thus inspiaing a new goal: raising average baptisms from 600 to 1,000 baptisms per year by 2010.

It’s not about mere numbers. This is the mission we have all been given: to grow His family and His kingdom. Guiding these values are: purposeful teamwork; humility in realizing only the Holy Spirit converts a human heart; integrity in presenting the gospel message; and committed spirituality as we share the love of Jesus from our hearts.

Wherever you are in the Northwest or beyond, I believe the Lord will give you the eyes of Jesus to see people all around who are willing and open to developing relationships with Him. As we share a story or two here of our experiences, we pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance in your own life. Let these stories about divine appointments reignite your commitment to tell everyone: “It’s All About Jesus.”

Ten-year-old Bryan and his father, Larry Lee, went on an afternoon Pathfinder food drive last Thanksgiving. As collecting goes, it was: Knock on a door, ask for a donation and watch neighbors chip in to help others. The interaction is but a few minutes and then the process is repeated.

The father-son duo just finished in Olympia, Wash., when Bryan asked, “Dad, can’t we knock on just one more door?”

A lady came to the door and Bryan stumbled through a speech about Pathfinders and the food drive. “I know about Pathfinders!” the lady exclaimed. “I used to be a Pathfinder.”

The Lees chatted with Christina Pugh and discovered her first contact with Adventists happened at age 12 when she made friends, was baptized, and participated in Pathfinders for five years, including working toward her Master Guide, (the highest Pathfinder leadership level).

She married young and church became a “waste of a weekend,” she didn’t feel welcome, and most of the time, she saw every reason not to go to church.

As an adult, Christina looked back fondly on her religious teenage years. She thought about attending church again,
“Wherever you are in the Northwest or beyond, I believe the Lord will give you the eyes of Jesus to see people all around who are willing and open to developing a relationship with Him.”
and once visited an Adventist church on her own, but didn’t feel comfortable. She owned a Bible, and thought about reading it, but didn’t actually stop to read God’s word. Life was just too busy for this single mom raising two boys.

The story could have ended here, but Larry had just learned the tools for pur- posely engaging people in conversation during the Impact Your World training ses- sion in Olympia with Gayle Lasher, Bible worker. He invited Christina to join their family the next weekend at church.

On Sabbath morning, Christina joined the pastor’s study group. “It was different from what I remembered,” she recalls. “I was surprised how welcome I felt. I felt like I could come here all the time—every weekend.”

The Right Place

But there’s another part to the story, starting in 2001. Insert: Rich Goldstein, New York City staff sergeant working as a police dispatcher. After the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade towers and the Pentagon, his National Guard unit was activated for security detail. Later, he became a paralegal and accepted a commission in Iraq.

Rich went to Iraq in 2004. In 2005 he went through a divorce. He requested to be stationed on the East Coast so he could be close to his two children in Rochester, New York. Instead, he was offered a take-it-orleave-it contract in Fort Lewis, Wash. It seemed like a mistake—to go the opposite direction from home—but Rich accepted.

He arrived in Fort Lewis in November 2005 and began court reporter training. Several months later, the legal center consolidated and Rich found himself running the legal office by himself. It was new territory.

An officer handed him transition papers one day with instructions to “take care of it.” Rich filled out the administrative portions and sent it on—only to find out a short time later, several pieces were missing. To correct his mistake, Rich sought help from Christina Pugh, transition coordinator. Several days after Christina helped him, he returned the packets and discovered she was having a hard day. Trying to be a friend, he chatted with her a bit and discovered she was in the midst of a divorce, similar to what he had recently gone through.

They began dating a year later. Christina told him about her religious upbringing, and her contemplation about going back to church. Rich had never been to church and didn’t understand the Bible, but he knew this meant a lot to her.

When he returned to Iraq in July 2007, he took a Bible to learn more about what Christina valued. He discovered six other soldiers meeting weekly to study Bible guides from the Adventist church—the same church Christina joined in her youth.

“We asked a lot of questions, and whoever knew the most answered,” Rich remembers. “I wasn’t raised with the Bible, so it was interesting to me.”

Days before Christmas, Rich’s paralegal expertise was requested for a special investigation. This was a first for Rich. He had soldiers underneath him who should have done this mission. He didn’t have the time—and his leave was quickly approaching. Three hours, after receiving his assignment, Rich was at the airport for a two-week, two-man mission with a colonel (who cannot be named due to his continued involvement in investigations).

The flight was delayed, and the colonel decided to stay at the airport instead of returning to base. The colonel pulled out a Bible, and Rich commented how he just started reading the Bible. They fell into conversation and Rich discovered the colonel was an Adventist and served as a youth pastor at home. The colonel offered to answer any Bible questions and also suggested they have a Bible study each night.

“I heard about Christina going to church,” Rich recalls. “With all the different things happening all at once, it was amazing. Everything just came together. Here I had the chance to do a religious study and Christina had someone knock at her door and invite her to church.”

Rich attended his first Adventist church service in mid-December, and he and Christian were invited, to share their story with the Olympia Life Transformation Center church family.

“The people,” Rich notes, “were wonderful, welcoming and interested. It felt like the right place to be. They didn’t pressure us—and that made it much more of a reason to go back.”

The Right Time

How is life different with God? “I’ve gone through a lot of things in the nearly 20 years I’ve been in the military,” Rich explains. “With God in my life, I’m brighter, and happier, and more thankful. I see how...”
Three Common Themes

Divine appointments happen when ordinary people seek God in prayer and allow Him to work in their lives in extraordinary ways. These stories have a three-part trend:

**STOP**
Seek Jesus

**YIELD**
Pray for the Holy Spirit

**GO**
Take Jesus to the world

The beauty of divine appointments is that it’s not an organized program. It’s a God-thing.

Where divine appointments provide the inspiration for Washington’s lifestyle evangelism focus, “Stop, Yield and Go” provides a focused structure for every department and ministry. As a result, members and leaders at all levels are praying for God’s leading and the Holy Spirit’s blessing—and watching divine appointments unfold.

Consider these stories:

Andrew Michell was only 16 when he was arrested as a theft accomplice. He was incarcerated at McNeil Island where his only “entertainment” was a Bible and a radio program called Amazing Facts. The more he studied, the more he learned about God and how God could set him free—even though he was still in prison. His personal study, coupled with the ministry of several conference members helped solidify his faith. At 26, Andrew was released. His full story is featured in an upcoming Northwest Spotlight on Mission DVD feature.

Adrian Petreaca is pastor at the Renton Church. Early one morning as he was studying his Bible and praying, he felt impressed to go to the church—even though it was 6 a.m. A couple arrived soon after looking for information about the Adventist church. Adrian talked and prayed with them and invited them to come back the following Sabbath. The couple, Bill and Sandy Schneider, came, and they’ve been coming ever since.

Nearly three years ago, David and Gaylene Wolkwitz (who both work in trust services) moved to Auburn and met their new neighbor. In that first driveway conversation, Dave felt impressed to pray with Tim and offered to explain any questions Tim had about the Bible. Prayer regularly surrounded “Neighbor Tim” as he faced health challenges, drug and alcohol addictions, and spiritual battles. During the Ron Halvorsen Sr. Snapshots of the Savior series in Auburn, Tim gave his heart to God. Tim died just before Thanksgiving, and Dave and Gaylene are thankfully looking forward to being neighbors with him in heaven.

Throughout the ages, God has been guiding history and placing the right people in the right place at the right time. Hadassah grew up to become Queen Esther, and saved the Jewish people in Persia. God called Philip away from a successful crusade to explain scripture to a traveling Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8). Cornelius, a Roman centurion, asked God to open the doorways to make a difference (Acts 10), and helped Peter launch a new stage of church growth among Jews and Gentiles.

Wherever you are, consider that God is waiting to work through your life. Stop and take time to seek Jesus. Be willing to yield to the Holy Spirit’s leading. Then go—share your faith in your everyday activities and see how God opens doors and invites you to participate in divine appointments. After all, It’s All About Jesus.

Heidi Martella

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Tom Decker, Olympia church pastor, prays for Christina’s spiritual growth and for Rich’s safety in Iraq.


Pastors surround Andrew Michell (second from left) after his testimony, while John Freedman, conference president, prays.
BRAZIL

Brazilian Adventists Gain Recognition with Nationwide Program

A nationwide Christmas celebration drew excitement from volunteers and celebrities during “Christmas Mutirão—Sharing Hope.” The event highlighted a record 3,200 tons of food collected for the needy—30 percent more than last year. “Mutirão” is a Brazilian/Portuguese expression used to describe collective service projects. Geraldo Alkmin, former governor of São Paulo and current presidential candidate said, “the initiative of Seventh-day Adventists is an example of leadership responding to poverty in Brazil.” Television actor and comedian, Helga Nemeczk, was also present. During a tearful testimony, Nemeczk acknowledged her own Adventist heritage said she was proud of “her” church for taking a stand for the poor.

(Source: Adventist News Network)

KENYA

Adventists Faced With Violence

At least one Adventist is among hundreds killed in violent presidential election disputes in Kenya. Meanwhile, classes have resumed at the Adventist-owned University of Eastern Africa, Baraton campus. During the violence over 250 students, teachers and staff were evacuated by police after a mob surrounded the school. Caesar Wamalika, University chaplain, told reporters, “We have been having daily threats from the crowds of people outside the campus. All of them are armed with machetes, bows and arrows... I have never seen anything like this.” Kenya is home to 34 million people and more than half a million Adventists. For the latest on this story visit: www.adventistreview.org.

(Source: Adventist Review)

GREAT BRITAIN

Adventist Woman Receives Queen’s Recognition

An Adventist woman receives the Queen of England’s recognition for community service. London, England, member, Joan Saddler, was recognized for her promotion of volunteer service, equality and diversity in health care, and work with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Saddler received the Order of the British Empire from Queen Elizabeth II, during a December ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

(Source: Trans-European Division news)
**Jerusalem**  
**Conservative Anglicans Plan Conference**  
Conservative Anglicans plan to gather in Jerusalem in June to test their strength as the growing majority among Anglicans. This Global Anglican Future Conference 2008 is a response to the fallout over the Episcopal Church’s (TEC) support for gay, lesbian, bi- and trans-sexual clergy and couples, and its re-interpretation of core scriptural teachings. This event will also test the office of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s ability to provide guidance for a deeply divided church.  
(Source: ChristianToday.com)

**Italy**  
**Islamic Religious Leaders Accept Offer to Meet with Pope**  
More than 138 prominent Islamic religious leaders, championing improved relations between Muslims and Christians, accepted an invitation by Pope Benedict XVI for a meeting in February or March. Muslim leaders were “encouraged” to make their proposal following the historic meeting in November between the pontiff and Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah. Stressing, Muslims and Christians make up more than half the world’s population, it identified their relations as “the most important factor in contributing to meaningful peace around the world.” Benedict had upset many Muslims when, in a September 2006 speech in Regensburg, Germany, he associated Islam with violence. He has since worked to heal relations.  
(Source: BigNewsNetwork.com)

**Malaysia**  
**Licensed Newspaper Disputes “Allah”**  
After legal challenges the government of Muslim-majority Malaysia renewed a Catholic newspaper’s license to publish, despite its use of the word “Allah” to denote God. The paper was warned its license would be revoked if it didn’t stop using the reference. In the Malay language “Allah” means God. At least one ministry official felt the paper was used to confuse Muslims. More than 60 percent of Malaysia’s population are Muslim Malays. Their constitution guarantees religious freedom, but Islam is the official religion. Furthermore, it states all Malays are Muslim—a stipulation critics say, makes it difficult for a Malay to convert to another faith.  
(Source: CNSNews.com, ChristianToday.com)

**India**  
**Christians Under Siege**  
Recent violence against Christians in India raised fears the election victory of a Hindu hardliner in India’s most-developed state may be prompting activists to turn on non-Hindu minorities. A curfew was imposed in a remote part of eastern Orissa state after clashes over the Christmas holiday left at least one and possibly three people dead. More than 12 churches and numerous Christian homes were ransacked or torched, state officials and Christian groups reported. India is predominantly Hindu, although the affected district has more than 100,000 Christians in 650,000 people. Christian and Hindu organizations blamed each other for sparking the latest violence.  
(Source: CNSNews.com)
Conner Hinman, Kids for Christ member, puts on his game face for Bible study.

If you look inside the Wasilla Church on Wednesday nights you find children excited about prayer meeting! While adults enjoy study time, these children enjoy Kids for Christ.

Kids for Christ began last spring with the 28 fundamental beliefs for baptism preparation. Using exciting experiments, games and crafts, children are able to see beliefs presented in tangible, hands-on ways. The baptismal class has ended, but Wasilla youth are now focusing on ways to contribute to the church, congregation and community. Each are taking active roles for service. Recently, Wasilla youth prepared Thanksgiving and Christmas packages for needy families. “What a joy to see the young people in our church leading in a mighty way,” comments one member. •

Rhonda Kack, Wasilla Church member

Jim Bingman, Dillingham Church member, climbs the 100-foot TV tower to check the signal.

Did an Angel Repair the Tower?

The 10:30 a.m. sunrise was spectacular and a small group gathered to prepare tools, climbing harnesses and warm clothing for the 100-foot climb up the tower in the frosty 7-degree air. They were attempting to repair signal problems which had persisted for several months. Jim Bingman, a 70-year-old church member, offered to harness up and do the climbing to check the tower’s electrical connections.

The Dillingham (Alaska) Church made a commitment on Dec. 20, 1995, to rebroadcast the Three Angels’ Broadcasting Network (3ABN) to their 2,500–resident community. Funds were raised, equipment purchased, and the first 3ABN television signal beamed across the town.

In 1999, a fierce storm brought down their tower. With insurance money, a new tower was purchased. Now repairs were needed again to keep 3ABN’s signal strong. “This time of year, the sun never gets more than a few degrees above the horizon,” reports Judi Thompson, Dillingham School teacher, “so we can’t count on much warmth from its rays. We donned our fur hats, padded overalls, warm coats and heavy gloves.”

Getting to the tower, the group checked readings on the transmitter meters once again. To their amazement, the readings were normal! Bingman, already harnessed, and ready to climb the tower, decided he should go up anyway, and shake the cables and connectors, while others watched the meters, to make sure there wasn’t still a fault lurking. To their amazement, there wasn’t a problem anywhere!

As the group dispersed to their homes, they were filled with thanksgiving—for the beauty surrounding them, for people like Bingman who had strength and courage to climb the tower, and to God for solving the problem before they even asked! •

Judi Thompson, Dillingham School teacher

Jim Bingman, Dillingham Church member, climbs the 100-foot TV tower to check the signal.

Stefan Hinman

Conner Hinman, Kids for Christ member, puts on his game face for Bible study.
Thousands Visit Bethlehem
Through Conference Living Nativities

More than 3,000 visitors were treated to living nativity displays presented by the Idaho Conference’s Eagle and La Grande churches.

Guests made their way through interactive Bethlehem villages complete with calling vendors, tax collectors, Roman soldiers, beggars and authentic barnyard sounds and smells. Both journeys highlighted the humble birth of Jesus. Visitors mingled with shepherds and were witnesses to the angelic announcement of the Savior’s arrival.

Church and community members, as well as dozens of live animals were called into action. La Grande’s nativity included more than 75 costumed actors. Jon Hanley, local artist and member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, volunteered his time to create a unique Bethlehem replica. Visitors to the Eagle living nativity were treated to homemade bread, hummus and soup. They also enjoyed live music from a Christmas choir and the Gem State Adventist Academy handbell choir.

Each nativity also featured plenty of warm drinks for Bethlehem travelers coming in and out of the cold. •

David Riley, La Grande Church GLEANER correspondent and Edie Taylor, Eagle Church member

Gem State Students
Help Six Families Have a Merry Christmas

It was Christmas 1972 when the student association first invited more than 20 disadvantaged children to a special Christmas party. The party became an instant tradition. Now, 35 years later, more than 1,000 children have been “adopted” by Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA) students.

This year’s association officers discovered Ray Blue, retired math teacher, organized the first children’s party. They invited Blue to the party and honored him for starting this tradition and for the legacy of selfless service he began.

During Christmas 2007, GSAA students adopted 20 children from six families.

Students pooled their money to shop for special gifts and then wrapped them up to make Christmas dreams come true. •

Mike Schwartz, GSAA principal

Ray Blue (left), retired Gem State Academy math teacher and party founder, shakes hands with Jacquelle Boone, student association president.
Montana Teens ShareHIM

“Now that is something I could do,” Amos, 17, thought to himself after he listened to lay members present the spring ShareHIM meetings at the Kalispell, (Mont.) Church. About the same time Derek, 13, asked his dad if he could give a ShareHIM talk at the next series of meetings. Word got to David Sample, the church ShareHIM coordinator, both of these young people had an interest in the ShareHIM meetings. As fall approached he set up times to practice with them.

Mark, 19, was at church when he saw the two practicing with the synchronized slides and script on the computer screen. He said, “Hey, can I try that?” And so the idea of youth-presented ShareHIM meetings was born. A total of 10 young people ranging in age from 10–19 presented most of the topics at the fall 2007 meetings.

Cody, 14, had just been baptized a couple months before, stood tall at 6 feet 2 inches, when the evening came for his presentation on “Mr. One Day Late.” As he spoke clearly into the microphone, he looked out at the audience to see his family, friends and church members who had specifically come to hear him speak. “The whole thing was great,” he said. “I liked talking to everybody, and I learned a lot as I prepared for the talk about how Sabbath worship was gradually changed from Saturday to Sunday.”

Natalie, 11, said, “I loved being able to tell others about the gospel.” She says she will always remember the story about the man who wouldn’t wake up even though the sirens were blaring under his bedroom window. “It’s so important for us to know that Jesus is coming soon,” she said.

Katie, 12, and Jessica, 13, both really wanted to present topics for the meetings but were concerned they would not understand the topic well enough. Both girls spent hours studying and reviewing their topics and afterward Katie said, “Wow, I learned a lot, and I enjoyed the response people gave at the end of the meeting.

I think people respond in a special way to young people who love Jesus.”

Joe, 14, and Emily, 11, were so happy a lot of their friends came to hear them speak. As a result, an adult family friend, who came to hear them speak, has requested baptism and is now taking Bible studies with their family and Tom, the pastor. Paul, 11, said he really enjoyed the computer technology of the synchronized slides. He says he knew God was with him as he spoke.

Derek, one of the teens who expressed interest initially, was thrilled when several neighborhood teens came to the meetings. He is eager for another opportunity to help with ShareHIM meetings. “The whole thing was awesome!” he said. •

Linda Glatts, Kalispell Church member

Montana teens take over evangelistic meetings.
Mrs. Waters, a resident in Vernonia, Ore., was up to her knees in water when the flood waters came to her small town. Volunteers have been swarming the town since, including more than 125 Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) juniors and seniors.

On Dec. 11, 2007, several PAA teachers and staff took the students to flood-ravaged Vernonia for volunteer day in conditions requiring waterproof clothing, face masks and, in some cases, protective jumpsuits.

The jobs were dirty, and it was very cold. “But I don’t think I heard one complaint,” says Greg Phillips, PAA chaplain. “The kids were His hands and feet, so to speak.” The staff observed how remarkably sensitive the students were to the families they were helping. “The lady we helped, Deanne, seemed really reserved and shy,” says Holly Long, PAA senior. “But

I would be too if there were strangers in my home tearing down my walls.”

PAA students not only helped families who lost everything, but they also heard their stories. While one group was ripping out sopping wet insulation from a crawl space, the homeowner was told her home had to be torn down to the studs. She had only owned her home for one year. “I felt really bad for them,” says Amelia Gradt, PAA junior.

Jim Robertson, Bible teacher, took nine boys to Mrs. Waters’ home. After the boys spent the day gutting her crawl space, Mrs. Waters told Robertson, “Your kids are like angels in blue jeans.”

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

The Santa Clara Church had occasion to celebrate Nov. 17, 2007. Samantha Shipley, church member and Laurelwood Academy student, was celebrating her 15th birthday just after completing months of chemotherapy. A year earlier, she underwent surgery for a tumor. More than 120 family and friends attended her party, enjoying pizza, birthday cake, games and a pie-eating contest.

In other church news, ladies there have been making quilts for families in Oregon and around the world. Most recently, eight baby quilts went to an orphanage in Sri Ram Ashram in Northern Haridivar, Uttarkhand, India. The orphanage has 66 children and teens, ranging from newborn to 20 years old.

Julianne Reed, a registered nurse and caregiver at the orphanage since 1993, said, “Children will be so happy to have the warm, bright quilts through the cold winter.” Whenever she visits the U.S., Reed takes as much clothing and needed items as possible back, to the orphanage.

Ladies at the church have been quilting for five years. Recipients of the quilts have been local families and shelters. Quilts have also been sent to Hurricane Katrina survivors as well as to families in Russia, Mexico and El Salvador. Recently, these same ladies gave a full-sized quilt to be auctioned off at LAA and brought in $400 for the upcoming academy’s mission trip to Mexico.

Carol Milicia, Santa Clara Church communication leader

Samantha Shipley, church member and Laurelwood Academy student, celebrates her 15th birthday and the end of chemotherapy.
PAA Celebrates Portland Marathon Finishers

Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) has a long tradition of physical fitness. Today’s students and staff continue to demonstrate the importance of fitness by participating in the famous Portland Marathon.

The marathon weaves 26.6 miles over forested hills, across foggy bridges and through the streets. Among the 30,000 runners were two PAA students and one teacher.

Lauren Lewis, freshman, showed extraordinary discipline as she trained for the 2007 marathon. Lewis joined Vancouver Fit classes, which require early morning, heart-pounding runs every Sunday for over six months. “Her commitment is to be commended,” says Linda Johnson, PAA assistant athletic director, who also participated in the marathon. “She is a great example of discipline.”

Kristen Johnson, senior and daughter of Linda Johnson, ran the race with her mom to celebrate her 18th birthday. It proved to be a mother-daughter bonding journey. “As a parent I would highly recommend an event like this,” says Johnson. “I can’t think of another time I had my daughter’s attention and conversation for more than six hours.” Both mother and daughter say they plan to participate again.

Along the route family and friends cheered for Lewis and the Johnsons. Twelve PAA seniors were stationed at aid booths along the route. Also in the cheering stands was the Columbia Adventist Academy bell choir and friends from Big Lake Youth Camp.

Kristen Johnson, student; and Linda Johnson, mother and PAA assistant athletic director; finish the Portland Marathon.

Milo’s Program Comes Alive With Living Christmas Wreath

Elementary students, academy students and faculty members from Milo Academy joined together to tell the wonderful story of God’s greatest gift to man in a unique way this Christmas.

As visitors to Milo’s Christmas concert walked into the sanctuary, their eyes were drawn to a lighted wreath at the church front. As the music changed and the lights faded, a glorious transformation took place. The wreath became a living depiction of the Christmas story.

Students from elementary school, usually active, changed into motionless living advent pictures, as they held their poses in the center of the large shadow wreath. Throughout the 90-minute concert, academy and elementary students blended talents to bless others with music and drama.

Under the direction of Dwight Morgan, Milo’s music director, students transitioned from one meaningful scene into another, while the choirs, band and bell choirs expressed heartfelt emotion of each event. Melissa Owens, a sophomore from Fort Jones, Calif., played Mary and sang “A Miracle of Love,” reminding us about the miracle of God’s love for each.

Students from the elementary school have become an integral part of the music program, and as they practice and perform with academy students and faculty members, they learn not only to share their talents with others, but also to work together as part Christ’s family. Matthew Kelley, sixth-grade clarinet and bell player, says playing with the academy students is “kind of exciting. We get to play harder music, and that’s fun.” When asked what it’s like to play music with faculty members, he adds “they smile at me and tell me I can do it.”
Oregon Adventist Hispanics
Welcome Two New Congregations

Two new Oregon church families joined the Hispanic Adventist community in December and January.

Monitor Spanish became a company on Dec. 8, 2007, with Ivan Cruz as their pastor. Woodburn Spanish sent about 15 members to Monitor in February 2007 to start a church reaching out to Hispanic residents in the farming community. About 10 people have been baptized since then. Complete with a bell tower, the Monitor church building is one of the oldest in the conference.

On Jan. 5 more than 130 people attended the opening service for the new Beaverton Spanish church plant. Don Livesay, conference president, and Al Reimche, vice president for administration, encouraged members to persevere. Roger Hernandez, conference Hispanic coordinator and interim pastor, gave a captivating sermon, followed by a call. More than 25 non-Adventists came forward. Beaverton Spanish meets at the Aloha United Methodist Church. The plant has more than 20 members from Portland Spanish and about 70 from Hillsboro Spanish. Hillsboro Spanish was holding two church services each Sabbath, and parking was becoming hard to find. Many members were traveling from Beaverton to attend so it made sense to plant a church in the Beaverton area.

The Beaverton Spanish group started a month-long evangelistic series, one of five series they plan on doing in the next seven months. Their goal is to bring in 70 new members.

Gary McLain, Oregon Conference communication director

Knowing God
Evangelistic Series in Grants Pass

More than 75 people came every night for the Grants Pass Church evangelistic series Oct. 12–Nov. 10, 2007. Edward Nelson, assistant pastor, was the speaker for the series “Knowing God.” The series emphasized the character of God, His love and how it ties into the classic Adventist doctrines. A picture of a father reaching down to hold a child’s hand was used to illustrate this theme. Says one attendee, “Everything showed God’s yearning for us and how He longs for us to return His love.”

In addition to the main service, the church held children’s meetings and facilitated prayer groups which prayed for the Holy Spirit to bless the meetings. For the 40 days leading up to the series, church members prayed. Nelson provided a list of 40 different texts such as, “Day two: Ps. 14:2 ‘Pray for hearts in our community to be receptive to the voice of the Holy Spirit.’” Everyone prayed for the same blessing each day as God prepared their hearts and those in the community.

This evangelistic series was recorded by Better Life Television (KBLN), and it will soon be on the Web site: www.betterlifetv.tv.

Evelyn Wagner, Grants Pass Church communication leader
Gift of Love Holds Open House
Laurelwood Neighbors Participate

Gift of Love held an open house Sunday, Nov. 11, 2007 in the old Laurelwood store building. Scott Noon, from the Oregon Department of Human Services, came and answered questions from the 40 neighbors, including 16 Laurelwood Church members, who attended.

Gift of Love helps children, placed in foster care, when they are removed from their homes due to drugs or abuse. Many are removed from “meth homes” and therefore cannot take clothing or possessions with them.

In response, Gift of Love sends large bright-colored, zippered cloth bags filled with essential and comfort items to these children. Last year, more than 25 uniquely-created bags containing: homemade quilts, small pillows (with handmade pillowcases), baseball caps, flashlights, toiletry items, school supplies, and stuffed animals were delivered.

Caroline Salsbery and Marjorie Cate, Laurelwood Community Service directors, organized in August 2006 after being inspired by Bible reading and noting similar projects reported in the GLEANER and on 3ABN. Their skills and desire to initiate a project to benefit the community are well-suited to the concept.

While the open house was held to gain awareness and recruit more assistants, the Laurelwood community can benefit from the fellowship Gift of Love provides. “Working together weekly can provide opportunities to meet one another’s needs,” says Salsbery.

For more information on how you can help please contact Caroline Salsbery at (503) 985-7783.

Fern Berryman, Laurelwood Church assistant communication leader

From left: Caroline Salsbery along with Mary Beth Gessele and Chris Baidenman, show a Gift of Love quilt.

Virginia Buchanan packs Gift of Love bag for a foster child.
Pleasant Valley Primary Project
Proves Dimes Really Do Count

Primary Sabbath School members from the Pleasant Valley Church will help children in Africa go to school through their $350 donation to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Over the last two years, the 35-member class has been participating in friendly competition to raise money for three different mission projects.

Here’s how it works. The class is divided into two teams based on their birthdays with the January–June birthday group competing against the July–December group. The children bring a dime for the mission project jar when they fulfill one of the incentives, which include reciting memory verses, studying the lesson five days in the week, and bringing Bibles to class. In addition, the class was encouraged to ask their parents for extra jobs around the house to help earn money for the mission jars. As the project got underway, the dimes slowly changed to quarters and sometimes dollar bills. More and more children knew their memory verses and Bibles coming to Sabbath school hit an all-time high!

The mission idea began after Hurricane Katrina. The children wanted to do more to help victims than just remember them in their prayers. The first time the mission jars were filled, approximately $50 was sent to ADRA for hurricane relief with the January–June birthday group being the “winners” for the competition. Next, the July–December birthday group led the way as the jars yielded $80 to purchase a crib for an African orphanage for babies with AIDS.

The most recent competition required the mission project jars to be emptied halfway through because more and more dollar bills were finding their way into the jars! The final count revealed the July–December group raised $203.96 and the January–June group raised $152.37, for a $356.33 total!

Lucille Krull, Pleasant Valley Church Primary leader

Columbia Adventist Academy
Soon to Build New Administration Building

The Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) operating board voted in November 2007 to begin construction on the school’s new administration building.

Along with the early signs of construction, fund raising efforts have begun. In the last few months, individuals and families have committed gifts over $1 million. In addition, the CAA 2006 class donated $75,000 toward the Next Century Campaign as their senior class gift. Alumni board members heard the story and were inspired. They asked themselves, “If current CAA students are this dedicated to their school, why couldn’t alumni step up to the same kind of challenge and support their efforts? If one class can raise $75,000 for the new building, surely a whole decade of alumni can match that!”

So was born the CAA Alumni Decade Challenge. The alumni board is challenging each decade of alumni to raise $75,000 for the Next Century Campaign and match the gift from the 2006 class. The total goal for the Alumni Decade Challenge is $500,000.

There will be a ceremonial groundbreaking during alumni homecoming weekend April 4–5. Friends of the academy are invited.

Lara J. Dowie, CAA GLEANER correspondent
Fall Festival for Spokane Linwood Church

More than 100 people came to the Country Bumpkins Fall Festival on Oct. 28, 2007, sponsored by the Spokane Linwood (Wash.) Church. Activities included a treasure hunt for more than 100 mini candy bars, music by the Forever Country Singers, and a gospel sing-a-long, led by Kevin Wilfley, pastor, around a roaring fire.

The food was nothing short of a good ol’ Adventist country dinner: veggie hot dogs, barbecued baked beans, homemade potato salad, and pumpkin pie, all washed down with 30 gallons of fresh squeezed apple cider.

When asked about their favorite parts, Audrey Child, church member said, “It was really fun watching the games.” Wilfley said, “the food!” And Jan Moseanko said, “It was nice sitting around the fire, [with] everyone singing.” •

Kyle Wilfley, Spokane Linwood Church member

Volodymyr Nesteruk, pastor, and wife, Natalia, of the Spokane Slavic Church, dressed for the occasion.

Slavic and Linwood Church Services
Go Live on the Web

The Spokane Slavic Church has experience with international broadcasting. For more than a year, the sermons from Volodymyr Nesteruk, pastor, have been broadcast on the Hope Channel Europe (HCE) and can be seen as far away as his native Ukraine. Now the Open Door Russian language television ministry can be seen live through a stream on the Web.

Since June 2005 the Slavic community in Spokane has been tuning into the Adventist-operated KHBA channel 39 to hear the only Russian religious television program available in a community with a sizable population. In May 2007 HCE began airing the broadcast as well. In September 2007 Nesteruk traveled to the Ukraine and recorded 30 half-hour installments of an evangelistic series in the Ukrainian language, which will also soon be aired on HCE.

You can find the live stream on Sabbath afternoons at 2 p.m. at www.openbookcenter.com. If you would like to tune in to the English language service at the Linwood Church, where Nesteruk serves along with Kevin Wilfley, senior pastor, you can find this Sabbath mornings at www.linwoodsda.org. •

Garrett Caldwell, Upper Columbia Conference assistant to the president for communication
Foss Ordination Held in Richland

The Reach Adventist Church

The sound of a bagpipe heralded the beginning and end of an ordination service October 2007 at The Reach Adventist Company in Richland, (Wash.) for pastor Jerremy J. Brenja Foss.

Foss is passionate about making God real, helping people have a clear picture of who God is and helping them to understand the Bible more fully. Foss and his wife, Ely, have four children. He graduated from Walla Walla University with a theology degree in 1999 and from Andrews University in 2002 with a master’s degree. His wife, Ely, has a bachelor’s degree in psychology and is currently a homemaker.

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) administrative assistant

Moped Helps Pastor in Vietnam

Go More Miles in the Ministry

Imagine being a pastor, trying to serve a thousand members in more than 30 congregations, traveling on foot. Through stories told by Linnea Torkelson, Adventist Southeast Projects board member, the Spokane East Central Church youth group learned about a Vietnamese pastor who is doing just that. They wanted to help. “What if we could buy him a moped?” they wondered.

The youth, along with some older church members and Pathfinders, decided to raise the money. They held a huge yard sale and car wash. The initial goal was to raise $400, but with the Lord’s blessing, $800 was collected.

In October 2007, church members invited Mai Duong, wife of the radio pastor who makes the programs for Vietnamese broadcasts on Adventist World Radio, to come and receive the money. During the special worship service, Duong and Torkelson shared stories about the miracles and angel interventions believers in the underground Adventist church in Vietnam have experienced. It is estimated as many as a million people are listening to the gospel on short wave radios, some delivered by lay pastors on mopeds, and some delivered to remote mountain villages by “beings with shining faces.”

This project reminds us how blessed we are to live in this country, yet so often we take those blessings for granted. This church is committed to doing everything they can to spread the good news of salvation, and look forward to meeting many brothers and sisters from Vietnam who have been blessed as a result of the moped ministry project. “It is our earnest desire to help ‘make ready a people prepared to meet the Lord’ (Luke 1:17) by any means,” says the pastor’s wife, “even a garage sale!”

Mable Dunbar, Spokane East Central Community Church youth director
More than 167 lay people joined a ShareHIM boot camp held Nov. 30–Dec. 2, 2007, at Camp Mivoden. We arrived with a common interest, a hunger and thirst for soul winning. From opening night it was obvious the unity we felt, was fueled by our passionate love for lost people. Christ had done something in our lives we wanted to share with others. It’s too powerful to be kept to ourselves!

The boot camp was sponsored by ShareHIM, an organization devoted to soul winning. Robert Folkenberg, elder, spent years developing a method and a means for training laymen and pastors to preach God’s truth all over the world. His emphasis recently turned toward America with meetings held all over the country. These boot camps provide a training ground to communicate the tools to help us share our faith through full evangelistic series, small groups and personal Bible studies.

We learned, to be successful, we must become experts in sowing seeds of interest in the gospel. We challenged one another to continually have “people” in our minds and hearts. We determined to form genuine relationships and foster those relationships by inviting others to join us in Bible studies. We recognized, clearly, if we are weak on sowing, we will be weak on reaping. A text came to mind “Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

ShareHIM has presentation software free to those scheduled to preach an evangelistic series. We practiced preaching in front of one another with these materials. We affirmed one another by genuinely clapping and offering encouragement.

ShareHIM fits into our Momentum thrust. It presents us with opportunities to work together for those who are far from Christ. We talked about team teaching, where two or more presenters can come together and deliver two messages each evening. What a great opportunity to work with your pastor or an elder.

We ended our weekend together with a solemn commitment. The words ringing in my ear were from the late Martin Luther King Jr. who said: “We will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” We all agreed most people are only an “ask” away. If we prepare and we form relationships and ask people to come and listen, the gospel will flourish.

Everyone returned home committed to service for their Savior who saved them and changed their lives.

Are you ready to learn more? Sorry you missed out? The next ShareHIM rally with Folkenberg is Feb. 23 at the Walla Walla Eastgate Church at 3:00 p.m. The boot camp will follow on March 14–15 at Rogers School in College Place. Call the Upper Columbia Conference for further details or to register.

Northwest members have committed to share Christ with their communities at the ShareHIM training sessions.

1 2 Corinthians 9:6

Dave Livermore, Upper Columbia Conference personal evangelism and discipleship director
Constituency Session Survey
Part 3—Church Growth

Early church days saw vigorous growth. However, today, we are seeing our growth plateau or, in some cases, decline. Here are some trends which concern our UCC leaders.

1. Eighty to eighty-five percent of Adventist churches (in North America) are not growing.
2. Fifty percent or more members are absent on any given Sabbath.
3. Sixty percent of delegates in the last constituency session were at least 50 years old.
4. There are fewer conversions from the cultural mainstream of America.
5. The UCC baptismal total in 2006 was the lowest since 1946 (excluding Hispanics).
6. Forty-two UCC churches had no baptisms in 2006, which is a growing trend.
7. Many Adventist churches have little, or no involvement in their community.
8. Two-thirds of local U.S. churches are located where only 20% of people live.
9. Culture shift demands new evangelism methods, but the church has few discretionary funds.
10. More of our resources, both in finances and time, are spent on ourselves.

The bottom line to these indicators is a tendency to be fuzzy in our thinking about the purpose of our church. In some cases, our churches have turned inward on themselves rather than outward to their communities.

The delegate’s perception of how evangelism is being done is briefly addressed by the following survey questions. Please notice the subtle and not so subtle indicators for the focus we have on ourselves. There are also some encouraging insights to be gained. The question is: “Can we continue the way we are?”

My church had the following number of baptisms: (Choose one)
- None ................................ 12%
- 1 or 2 .................................. 18%
- 3-5 ...................................... 25%
- 6-10 .................................... 24%
- 10 or more ........................... 21%

The following had the greatest influence in making my decision for baptism: (Choose one)
- Family .................................. 41%
- Friends .................................. 8%
- Church service ...................... 5%
- Adventist school ................. 16%
- Evangelistic meetings .......... 12%
- Bible studies ......................... 10%
- Junior baptismal class .......... 7%
- Pathfinder event .................. 1%

I have invited a non-member to church this year.
- Yes .................................. 59%
- No .................................. 41%

I gave a Bible study this month.

My congregation connects with the community by:
(Choose one)
- Giving Bible studies .......... 5%
- Conducting lifestyle seminars .............. 23%
- Inviting friends to church activities .................... 16%
- Forming small groups .... 5%
- Hosting a Pathfinder, Adventurer and/or Eager Beaver Club .............. 5%
- Sponsoring kids to summer camp .............. 2%
- Sending out brochures for evangelistic meetings .... 8%
- Holding Vacation Bible School .................. 15%
- Another way not listed here .................. 19%

Jonathan Sharley, 16, won the Yakima/Ellensburg regional Young Pianists Award. The son of Harry and Lori Sharley, Yakima Church pastor and wife, performed Schumann’s “Piano Concerto in A Minor” in his bid for the award at the Dec. 2, 2007 event. Jonathan has been invited to perform as a guest soloist with the Yakima Youth Symphony on April 27. Jonathan, who is a student at Yakima Adventist Christian School, has been taking piano lessons for 10 years.

Garrett Caldwell, Upper Columbia Conference assistant to the president for communication

Yakima Student Wins Award

Jonathan Sharley, 16, wins the Yakima/Ellensburg regional Young Pianists Award. The son of Harry and Lori Sharley, Yakima Church pastor and wife, performed Schumann’s “Piano Concerto in A Minor” in his bid for the award at the Dec. 2, 2007 event. Jonathan has been invited to perform as a guest soloist with the Yakima Youth Symphony on April 27. Jonathan, who is a student at Yakima Adventist Christian School, has been taking piano lessons for 10 years.

Garrett Caldwell, Upper Columbia Conference assistant to the president for communication
The Rains Came Down
And the Floods Came Up

June Hadland had her first canoe ride several weeks ago. Flood waters rose up to 44 inches in her now—lakeside home of 24 years in Adna, Wash. Jerry Swena, Chehalis Church head deacon, was a first responder who got trapped and needed to be rescued by helicopter. Brad and Deborah Mills thought their home was safe from flood waters—only to come back and discover they lost nearly everything.

Raymundo Gomez was stranded on the second floor of his home with his baby daughter and waited for three days to be rescued. Dan Baker, Lewis County Adventist School (LCAS), principal, changed weekend snowshoeing plans and joined emergency room physicians and nurses to volunteer in the community. When he had a massive heart attack, the medical personnel were able to immediately help him—and save his life.

The stories of people’s lives, interrupted, continue. “We’re not dealing with things, we’re dealing with people—people whose hearts have been broken,” says Tom James, Centralia pastor. “It’s important to talk about hope, to believe in hope, and to live in hope. We don’t know if the words we share may be exactly what someone needs to hear to pull him or her through.”

In the last few weeks, students at LCAS and Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) and adults from various churches in the region and beyond, have volunteered time and skills in the community to help recovery efforts.

“Even with disrupted schedules, students have maintained willing and cheerful attitudes, while helping with community service,” says Earlene Wohlers, LCAS office manager. “Every student is able to help in some way, [from baking cookies and bread to shoveling mud] and that is a good feeling among the student body.”

Nearly 50 AAA students volunteered to help five families remove insulation, shovel mud away from house foundations and clean up water-soaked homes. “It was muddy and kind of smelly but really rewarding,” says Marty Toebe, a senior from Renton, and student body president.

John Freedman, Washington Conference president, and Adventist Community Service (ACS) leaders met with local church members in early January to discuss recovery plans. “We are grateful for the protection of our church and community families,” Freedman says. “The conference family is concerned about their sister churches and want to help. There are 101 ways to help, and we are determining the best way to help.”

Typically, ACS provides warehouse management through the state. However, in this disaster response, long-term recovery efforts are being explored. Donation and volunteer needs vary from day to day. For more information, visit washingtonconference.org or call (253) 681-6008.

“Humor sees a lot of people through a disaster. For her part, June Hadland’s joke is, “I had land, but no more.” Her house had up to 44 inches of water.”

“The best way for you to help right now,” says Mark Terry, Southern Federation president, “is to prepare your family for a disaster.”

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director
When Terry and Elke Tanner were living in Vienna, Austria, Elke received a postcard inviting her to learn more about the Bible. She studied for approximately seven years.

After the Tanners moved to the United States in 2000, Elke missed her Bible studies. When she received a flyer for a prophecy seminar, she decided to attend. Everything she studied came together and a few weeks later, she was baptized at the Lacey Church. Meanwhile, Terry still had no interest in religious matters, so Elke asked her church family to pray for him.

“If they had a place to put prayer requests, Terry’s name went in there,” Elke says with a laugh. “Terry had no idea. I sent his name to KACS radio; Amazing Facts with Doug Batchelor; HOPE TV; camp meetings and 3ABN.”

The prayers worked. In January 2007, Terry began reading his Bible, watched the Snapshots of the Savior series on television, and occasionally went to church.

After watching a baptism at church, Terry decided to be baptized and began studies. In August 2007, the weekend of his baptism, Gayle Lasher, Washington Conference Bible worker, presented a seminar. She asked for volunteers to respond to two interest cards. Terry raised his hand and said, “I’ll go.” Hours after his baptism, Terry was out practicing Matthew 28: “Go ye...into all the world.”

Rob Aaron, Lacey Church communication leader

Chester Schurch, pastor, introduces Matthew and Caite Burghart.

Burghart, son and daughter of Curtis and Pam Burghart, were baptized on their older sister’s 13th birthday and their grandmother’s 70th birthday.

Their baptism was nearly delayed by the severe flooding in the area because the Boistfort Water System, which supplies the church with water, wasn’t working. With extra doses of bleach in the water and showers immediately following their baptism, Matthew and Caite certainly have a baptism to remember.

Lana Fletcher, Chehalis Church clerk
Students Learn
Joy of Giving

Students at Skagit Adventist School in Burlington, and conference employee children have a new appreciation for gift giving.

During the holidays, the 66 students in these three grades bypassed the usual classroom gift exchange to help four homeless families in the Skagit Valley. Each classroom had a "wrap" party where they decorated their own paper, wrapped presents, and baked cookies to give to the families.

Why give? "Because Jesus wants our hearts to be kind," says one second-grader.

Children of conference employees wrapped gift boxes for five families from It Takes a Village family agency in Federal Way.

"The plan was for the children to wrap the boxes and the parents to fill them with their food donations," says Denise White, associate superintendent and party coordinator. "However, the kids had so much fun wrapping the boxes and so they filled them too."

"As a parent," says Elizabeth Yeagley, conference administrative assistant, "I am pleased whenever my children have an opportunity to serve the community."

Pathfinders Help
70 Families With Food

The Cascade Eagles Pathfinders collected more than twice as much food as they planned to furnish Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. Their original goal was 75 bags. Through the extra effort of seven Pathfinder families, the number was more than doubled to 172 bags. As a result, the club was able to deliver more than 70 food baskets to families in the community.

"This was a great way for Pathfinders to experience the fun and joy of giving," say club leaders. "It also helped them complete the requirements for a community service honor."

Aubrey Carambot and Mariah Benedict help sort the collected food.

Becky Rice, Cascade Eagles Pathfinder club assistant

New Administrative Office
Built Debt-Free

More than 150 conference staff members, construction vendors and guests celebrated in December 2007 the grand opening of a new administrative office in Federal Way.

"I remember driving down Weyerhaeuser Way and thinking this would be a great place for a conference office," says Dave Weigley, former conference president, "and here you are."

John Freedman, conference president, explains the reason for moving the church headquarters for western Washington was to better manage financial and ministry resources. He adds, the new administrative office was built "as green as we could afford."

The conference office and the new Adventist Book Center in Auburn were both built debt-free.

"This is an asset the church as a whole can be proud of," says Jere Patzer, North Pacific Union Conference president. "As beautiful as this facility is, this is not the conference or the church. The conference is designed to facilitate resources for local churches, schools and ministries. The church is beyond these walls, but is represented within these walls."

The new conference administrative office in Federal Way was built debt-free. By downsizing the facility, additional resources are now available for ministry.

Conference staff began using the new office in June 2007. The office is located just east of Interstate 5, off exit 143 at 32229 Weyerhaeuser Way South.

Heidi Martella
Some of the first young people have graduated from the Voice of Prophecy’s (VOP) new KidZone Bible study program. They are Amy Conroy of Albany, Ore.; Carlus Bets of Poplar, Mont.; and Simon Bakhshnia of Kettle Falls, Wash.

Amy, a nine-year-old, writes, “I enjoyed learning more about heaven!” Carlus, also nine-years-old, says, “The activities provided fun during Sabbath afternoon hours.”

At the Kettle Falls Church, Mary Ratcliff, local coordinator, introduced the children to KidZone during a series of meetings at the church. Nearly every night, eight-year-old Simon brought a lesson he completed and waited eagerly (with a big smile) while she graded it for him. He was the first at his church to finish KidZone.

KidZone presents doctrines with stories and illustrations for junior-age youth and is designed to be used by vacation Bible schools, baptismal classes, elementary schools and for sharing door-to-door.

Topics for the 14 lessons include: creation, salvation, baptism, prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Sabbath, and health. Every guide includes an appeal to accept Jesus. In addition to a response sheet, each lesson features an activity page with games and puzzles.

KidZone is free to kids in the U.S. and Canada. Children worldwide will be able to read the guides online when a new VOP Web site, kidsvop.com launches this year. The Web site will have additional activities for children, not included in the lessons.

Eldyn Karr, Voice of Prophecy public relations director

Ashlock’s Service

It is with deep gratitude the NPUC remembers the life and service of Thomas M. Ashlock. A man described by family as good enabler. Ashlock served the NPUC as communication director and GLEANER editor from 1967–1970 and Religious Liberty director from 1971–1973. His blessed service in this region was just one of many stops in a lifetime following God’s call.

In 1950, Ashlock began his ministry, working in Northeastern India. The region now boasts over 5,000 baptized members and continues expansion into unreached areas. At age 12, Ashlock asked why his father’s India wall map did not have colored pins in the upper region. When told the pins represented believers, and someone else was still needed to do God’s work in the Manipar Territory, the boy remembered God’s call to Isaiah: “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” Ashlock declared, “Someday, God willing, I will be that someone else.”

The experience sparked a lifetime of faithful Christian service beginning in India and reaching back to the United States.

In addition to his work in India, Ashlock also spent time in the Ellen G. White Estate, Ohio Conference, Trans African Division and the General Conference. Missionaries to Africa report the natives still admire Ashlock for “treating them like men.”

Through his work in the United States, and around the world, countless lives were touched by the gospel.

CJ Anderson, NPUC communication intern

Thomas M. Ashlock, a former GLEANER editor, is remembered for a life spent honoring God’s call.
Commemorating the Past

WWU Celebrates Black History Month

Every February Walla Walla University (WWU) looks forward to celebrating Black History Month. This year, the celebration will take place Feb. 1–2, with special activities planned by the Black Faculty and Staff Fellowship, an organization going back many years on the WWU campus.

In 1991, a small group created an informal fellowship of staff and faculty with African origin, designed to foster camaraderie and deep friendship between those who were so far from home and family.

Now, 16 years later, the fellowship continues to meet weekly to either plan events or share each other’s joys and sorrows. The group’s goal is to be a helpful resource for WWU by making themselves available for mentoring black students, as well as helping to encourage diversity.

“We formed the fellowship with the idea of gently encouraging the university to continue in the direction of increasing diversity of its students, faculty and staff,” says Austin Archer, current chair of the fellowship, and professor of psychology and education at WWU. “We want to help the university accomplish this without compromising quality, and while continuing to make the campus more welcoming to minorities.”

Over the years, the fellowship has had members who were natives of the United States, Africa and the Caribbean, as well as members of other minority groups who shared the fellowship’s goals and interests. The fellowship continues to be an encouragement for staff and faculty on campus who are distant culturally from what they are used to.

The fellowship facilitates many activities geared toward minority students, staff, and faculty, including African American University Days, a time when black students are invited to experience life at WWU; a black alumni dinner during Alumni Weekend in April; occasional potlucks for black students; Berean Fellowship, a worship experience geared toward minority students; and Black History Weekend, which takes place on the first weekend of February each year. Though all fellowship-sponsored events are designed with African American students in mind, they are open to all students.

This year’s Black History Weekend features Tony Campolo, a well-known Christian speaker and author. Campolo is a media commentator on religious, social and political matters, having been a guest on television programs such as *Larry King Live* and *CNN News*, among others. He is also a highly respected and sought-after guest on radio stations around the globe, and has authored 34 books. Campolo will share his inspired insights for WWU’s Black History Vespers on Feb. 1.

Other Black History Celebration Weekend events at WWU include a Berean Fellowship worship service at 10 a.m. on Saturday, followed by a black history worship service at 11:45 a.m. and African American University Days, which continues through Monday.

Becky St. Clair, GLEANER correspondent
Tuesday Crafters Add Care to Cancer Treatment at AMC

There is little good to say about cancer, but women receiving treatment for breast cancer at Adventist Medical Center (AMC) now have something positive, thanks to the Tuesday Crafters, a small group of friends who meet weekly to share coffee and conversation while creating crafts. Recently, the Tuesday Crafters were asked to make gowns for breast cancer patients. The ladies took on the challenge and began sewing garments for the Portland-based medical center.

The brightly colored gowns are made with 100 percent cotton fabric chosen by Kim Earp, radiation oncology chief therapist, and Mary LaFore, a staff technician. The gowns—in shades of bright pink and yellow floral or swirling green, blue and gold—are sewn in a kimono style that ties at the waist with Velcro closures at the chest for added coverage. Earp says “women who come for treatment at AMC can choose a gown to use over the course of their treatment.”

“When you are diagnosed with cancer, you don’t have many choices. Choices allow patients to feel empowered. They appreciate choosing appointment times, or which color robe to wear,” says Earp, adding, “the garments are so well made, they can pass for a nice top instead of a hospital gown.”

Bob Breckenbridge, AMC oncology staff therapist, says when two women are in the waiting room wearing similar gowns, there is an automatic connection between them. Patients have remarked they like wearing the gowns because of the color and comfort.

Not only comfortable, the gowns make it possible for patients to open only the side where they are receiving treatment. And the fabric softens over time, which is a benefit for women dealing with skin irritation from treatment. Yet, while the fabric softens, it stays opaque unlike traditional hospital gowns that can become semi-translucent over time.

Lois Hazelwood, a Tuesday Crafters member, says the group shared the work of making gowns. One lady would cut, one would pin, and one would sew. Hazelwood says sewing the gowns “gives us something positive to do, and a positive outlook. We love to help people.” And the Tuesday Crafters pray over each gown they sew.

Lois’ daughter, Julie Taylor, AMC mammography technician, asked her mother if the Tuesday Crafters could make the gowns. This was not the first time she asked her mother to sew for the hospital. Hazelwood is also part of a quilting group called Sew In Love. She and other Tuesday Crafters participate in both groups, meeting with the Sew In Love ladies every Monday. Together, they have made five quilts for AMC’s oncology department.

Quilts made by the ladies of Sew In Love are given to oncology patients who are not doing well and may be suffering side effects of treatment, such as chills. Some quilts are given to patients admitted into hospice. The quilts have patchwork tops sewn with multi-colored squares of fabric. Each quilt has a small tag sewn on it that reads “made just for you.”

To learn more about the happenings at AMC, visit www.adventisthealthnw.com.
INSIDE SCOOP

Behrens to Retire from Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center Presidency

B. Lyn Behrens, Loma Linda University president and Adventist Health Sciences Center chief executive officer, announces she will retire from her positions in March. Behrens took the role as LLU’S first woman president in 1990. Up to this print, no replacement has been selected.

Philippines for Christ 2008

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) is organizing speakers and team members for 28 sites in the San Pablo City region of the North Philippines Union Mission during March 14-29. For more information, go to http://npucmissions.wordpress.com, or call the NPUC ministerial department at 360-857-7037.

Attention, Adventist Filmmakers!

Mark your calendars for April 10-12 and plan to attend the SONscreen Film Festival at Adventist Media Productions’ Studios in Simi Valley, Calif. In its sixth year, the event will feature film screenings by Adventist and Christian filmmakers as well as technical workshops and insights from Christian experts on The Gospel in the Trenches of Hollywood. For more information, visit www.sonscreen.com.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?

Advent Source®
This is a clearinghouse for published Adventist materials and resources. Go to www.adventsource.org.

PlusLine®
Find updated church-event planning and registration services. Go to www.plusline.org.

Northwest Religious Liberty Association
Greg Hamilton, NPUC public affairs and religious liberty director, represents constitutional and workplace concerns for people of all faiths in the Northwest. For legislative advocacy and workplace mediation services, go to www.nrla.com for more information.

New Gleaner Team Members

Editor—Steve Vistaunet
In addition to his position as assistant to the president for communication, which he has held since 1997, Vistaunet is now including editor duties. He holds degrees in both communication and theology, and has two decades of experience in writing, editing, broadcasting and other communication-related fields. He currently serves the Society of Adventist Communicators as the general vice president. As editor, Vistaunet directs the overall content plan for the print and online GLEANER. You can reach him at (360) 857-7045 or at steve.vistaunet@nw.npuc.org.

Managing Editor—Cindy Chamberlin
In addition to her first duty as mom to three boys, ages 10-14, Chamberlin has communication experience at both the Upper Columbia Conference and the General Conference Philanthropic Institute where she compiled the “Giving is Caring” calendar and co-edited the book Accent on Humor: The Wit and Wisdom of Wealth and Philanthropy. A 1994 graduate of Walla Walla University, she has worked on projects for the university, Blue Mountain Television, KVEW Television, Walla Walla Children’s Museum, and Washington’s 13th legislative district. As managing editor, Chamberlin coordinates content and production flow for each GLEANER. She is available at (360) 857-7046 or at cindy.chamberlin@nw.npuc.org.

Intern—CJ Anderson
Anderson graduated from Walla Walla University in 2007 with a bachelor of arts in communication. He joins the team as a two-year intern. Anderson has worked as a legislative intern in Olympia, Wash., and has experience in broadcasting, video, writing, photography and Web content management. He produces the Did You Know? and World News Briefs sections for the GLEANER and will be developing regular online updates at www.gleaneronline.org as well as a soon-to-be-introduced GLEANER e-newsletter. You can reach him at (360) 857-7044 or at cj.anderson@nw.npuc.org.
Refined Foods Increase Macular Degeneration Risk

Regularly consuming refined foods such as sugary drinks, white bread, sugar cereals, French fries and chips significantly increases your risk for age-related macular degeneration—an eye disease leading to vision loss. If you want healthy eyes for a lifetime, choose fresh fruits, vegetables, whole-grain cereals/breads, legumes, whole-grain pasta and pasta with added soy protein. To read more about this, go to: www.wellsource.org/handouts/Glycemic_index_HO.pdf.

Antidepressants May Affect Bone Health

Taking antidepressants for extended times can increase the risk for weaker bones and fractures. Alternative therapies, such as talk therapy, have been found to be as effective as medication for depression control. A regular exercise program (at least 30 minutes moderate to vigorous daily exercise) can also be effective in decreasing depression. But don’t stop taking antidepressants without first consulting a doctor. Some antidepressants may not be linked to bone health problems. To read more, go to: www.wellsource.org/handouts/Osteoporosis_handout.pdf and www.wellsource.org/handouts/WC-Optimistic.pdf.

A Little Weight Loss Provides Great Benefits

If you are overweight, losing as little as 5–10 percent body weight may improve problems linked to being overweight. Practical weight loss steps include: setting reasonable goals, eating better, limiting portion sizes, increasing activity levels, eating high-quality breakfasts and packing careful lunches. To read more, go to: www.wellsource.org/handouts/Healthy_Weight.pdf.
**Boyer 100th**

Margaret Boyer celebrated her 100th birthday Oct. 7, 2007, with a brunch hosted by her family in the Sunnyside Church.

Margaret Chitwood was born Oct. 7, 1907, in Lincoln County, Ore., but grew up in Portland. She attended the Lents Church School and Laurelwood Academy. She married Milton Boyer in 1928 and has been a member of the Sunnyside Church since the 1930s. Margaret was a full-time homemaker devoting her spare time to volunteering for church, school activities and at Portland Adventist Hospital. She also decorated the homes Milton built. Margaret remained in Lake Oswego after Milton’s death in 1979. In 2000, she went to live with her daughter.

The Boyer family includes Carolyn and Jim McHan of Eugene, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

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**Funner 60th**

Carl and Myke Funner celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Oct. 5, 2007, at a family weekend in Baker City, Ore.

Carl J. Funner married E. Myra “Myke” Decker on Nov. 12, 1957, in Lincoln, Neb. Bob was a pipe fitter and welder. They took in foster children for 30 years. Shirley was a preschool teacher, teacher’s aid and a dental assistant.

The Jordan family includes Roxanne and Dan Tverberg of Gresham, Ore.; Teresa and Kent Sheets also of Gresham; and Jeff Pierson of Gresham: 8 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

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**Kirk 100th**

Anna Kirk celebrated her 100th birthday Oct. 21, 2007, at the Coquille (Ore.) Church where she is a member.

Anna owned and operated the Coquille Community Nursing Home for many years. She still enjoys traveling.

The Kirk family includes Lorrain McDonald; 6 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

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**Schlader 100th**

Margaret L. Schlader celebrated her 100th birthday on Dec. 6, 2007, with family in College Place, Wash. She is a member of the Village Church.

Margaret was born to Samuel and Jennie Warner Dec. 6, 1907, in Larimore, N.D. She graduated from Devil’s Lake High School in 1926. Shortly after, her family moved to Fargo, and she met George “Red” Schlader. The two were married on Jan. 9, 1932. In 1941 the family drove to Washington. Red found work in the shipyard, and they lived in the Tacoma area. In 1945, they moved to Puyallup. Red died in 1961 and in 1962, Margaret moved to Walla Walla, Wash., where she has lived since. Margaret worked in a nursing home and at Roger’s Bakery. She was known in town as the “bakery lady.” Currently she lives at Eagle Meadows Assisted Living.

The Schlader family includes JaneAnne and Fred Bennett of College Place, Wash.; Betty and Roy Smith of Puyallup, Wash.; 6 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.
Westergard 60th

Richard and Juanita Westergard celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 18, 2007, at a family reunion. They have been members of the Valley View Church in Medford, Ore., since 1963.

During WWII Richard Westergard was a medic in field hospitals. After returning stateside he met Juanita Black at an MV meeting. Richard married Juanita Aug. 24, 1947, in San Jose, Calif. They settled in Morgan Hill, Calif. In 1963, Richard moved his family to Medford, Ore. He started a house painting and paper-hanging business, using Scandinavian techniques passed down from father-to-son for generations. Juanita was a homemaker. They have enjoyed more than 50 Maranatha projects together. Richard is retired and Juanita works part-time at a medical clinic.

The Westergard family includes Daniel Westergard (deceased); Kathy and Glenn Finley of Eagle Point, Ore.; and Judy and Bruce Harvey of Medford; 3 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

DIAMOND—B’Elanna K. was born Dec. 11, 2007, to Lance and Elizabeth (Mendenhall) Diamond, Seaside, Ore.

EVANS—Tayton Michael was born Nov. 27, 2007, to David and Melissa (Larson) Evans, College Place, Wash.

OSTER—Jonathan Jetlee was born Dec. 2, 2007, to Steven and LaRai (Martin) Oster, Walla Walla, Wash.

SEVERE—Paul Ryan was born Nov. 28, 2007, to Constantin and Robyn (Dennis) Severe, Portland, Ore.

THESMAN—Nathan Aaron was born Oct. 7, 2007, to Dan and Louise (Davidson) Thesman, College Place, Wash.

GUIDELINES

The required forms for Family listings are available at www.gleaneronline.org by clicking on Contributors’ Information (in the left panel). You simply scroll down to find a printer-friendly PDF file you can print out. If you don’t have a computer, have someone else print out the form for you. Then fill in the information and mail it to GLEANER Family, 5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642. Or you can log in and fill out the appropriate form online. Step-by-step how-to instructions are available under Tips for Authors, at the same location, to help you through the process.

LANCASTER–HOWARD—Vanessa Lancaster and Andrew Howard were married Nov. 11, 2007, in Klamath Falls, Ore., where they are making their home. Vanessa is the daughter of Dale and Crystal Lancaster.

LANGSTON–GLOVATSKY—Bethany Langston and Brandon Glovatsky were married Nov. 17, 2007, in Happy Valley, Ore. They are making their home in Troutdale, Ore. Bethany is the daughter of Les and Keri (Fulton) Langston. Brandon is the son of Elmer and Diane Glovatsky.

LENO–EATON—Cindy Leno and Levi Eaton were married Dec. 8, 2007, in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. They are making their home in Milton-Freewater, Ore. Cindy is the daughter of Doug and Jeannie (Stewart) Leno. Levi is the son of Dixie Eaton and Gary and Debi Eaton.

MILLER–WHITTEMORE—Shelly Miller and Christon Whittemore were married Aug. 5, 2007, in Klamath Falls, Ore. They are making their home in Redmond, Wash. Shelly is the daughter of Stan and Cory Miller. Christon is the son of Thomas Whittemore and Carolina Whittemore.

RIELEY–WESTPHAL—Karen Rieley and Rick Westphal were married Dec. 28, 2007, in Forest Falls, Calif., where they are making their home. Karen is the daughter of LeRoy and Ethel (Syme) Rieley. Rick is the son of Ken and Jeannette Westphal.

STEBBES–BONSON—Brittany Stebbeds and Adam Bonson were married July 29, 2007, in Belknap Hot Springs, Ore. They are making their home in Nampa, Idaho. Brittany is the daughter of Marc and Monica Stebbeds. Adam is the son of Craig and Teri Bonson.

TROTTS–TROTTS—Christa Trotts and Todd Trotts were married June 23, 2007, in Walla Walla, Wash. They are making their home in Portland, Ore. Christa is the daughter of Harriett and Jim Trotts. Todd is the son of Larry and Debi Trotts.

TURNER–DELIZO—Lisa Turner and Keith Delizo were married Oct. 19, 2007, in Las Vegas, Nev. They are making their home in Mentone, Calif. Lisa is the daughter of Harvey and Joanne (Wagner) Turner. Keith is the son of Genesis and Lolita (Laurel) Delizo.
ALLEN—Katherine E. (Smith), 87; born Feb. 3, 1919, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India; died Nov. 19, 2006, St. Helens, Ore. Surviving: sons, William, San Jose, Calif.; Robert, St. Helens; sister, Mildred Stilson, Loma Linda, Calif.; and 2 grandchildren.

ASHLOCK—Thomas Morton, 80; born April 30, 1928, Troutdale, Ore.; died Nov. 25, 2007, Troutdale, Ore. Surviving: wife, Betty (Zollinger); sons, Thomas F., Vancouver, Wash.; Donald R., Ooltewah, Tenn.; daughter, Lynda Colburn, Troutdale; brother, James W., Ooltewah; 10 grandchildren.

BARRETT—Josiah S., 23; born Nov. 7, 1984, Portland, Ore.; died Nov. 21, 2007, Scappoose, Ore. Surviving: parents, Mike and Rita (Smith) Barrett, Scappoose; and brother, Nate Barrett, Scappoose.


CHROWL—C. Eugene, 75; born Dec. 23, 1931, Seattle; died Oct. 24, 2007, Klamath Falls, Ore. Surviving: wife, Nola M. (Banta); daughter, Jan L. Chrowl, Klamath Falls; brothers, Keith and Roger, both of Salem, Ore.


ELLIOTT—Ruth (Wyman), 90; born Nov. 16, 1916, Rangoon, Burma; died Sept. 3, 2007, Pacific Palisades. Surviving: son, Phil Elliott, Reno, Nev.; daughters, Shari Perman, Bothell, Wa.; brother, Chuck Ewing, Delhi, Ca., and Sharon Wong, Nehalem, Ore.; Margaret Hershfelt, Salem, Ore.; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

FORSYTH—Minnie A. (Jones), 93; born June 14, 1914, Calistoga, Calif.; died Nov. 29, 2007, Milo, Ore. Surviving: sons, Robert, Pasco, Wash.; James, College Place, Wash.; daughters, Lorraine Anderson, Corbett, Ore.; Irene Simmons, Milo; 7 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.


HART—Bethine M. (Shipley), 80; born Nov. 11, 1926, Salem, Ore.; died June 4, 2007, Lebanon, Ore. Surviving: son, William, Lebanon; daughters, Melissa Duncan, Creswell,


LaSage—Frank R., 68; born Aug. 28, 1939, Cebu City, Philippines; died Sept. 19, 2007, Eugene, Ore. Surviving: wife, Catherine; son, Michael, Dallas, Texas; daughters, Caitlin LaSage, Eugene; April LaSage, Portland, Ore.; Kathleen Hill, Eugene; Renee Bild, Junction City, Ore.; sister, Ann Parmenter, Springfield, Ore.; and 8 grandchildren.


Roberts—Ernest L., 79; born April 11, 1928, Silsbee, Texas; died Dec. 11, 2007, Pendleton, Ore. Surviving: wife, Jean (Engel); sons, David, Mars Hill, N.C.; Keith, Custer, Wash.; John, Pendleton; daughter, Sandra Fontaine, Mars Hill, N.C.; brother, Harvey, Keene, Texas; sisters, Daisy Keeney, Hickman, Calif.; Ellen Green, Victorville, Calif.; 3 grandchildren and a step-grandchild.


Schowalter—James Wesley, 70; born Oct. 5, 1937, Modesto, Calif.; died Nov. 29, 2007, Olympia, Wash. Surviving: wife, Gabriele (Haensch); daughter, Leona Shultz, Modesto; a grandchild and 3 great-grandchildren.
Thinking Ahead

To help church communication leaders with ideas for stories, the editors are compiling topics for stories they are seeking for the next two issues. We will fit in as many stories as possible in the print edition, and publish more in the Web edition of the GLEANER on www.gleaneronline.com.

MARCH — Community Service

SUBMISSION DEADLINE — February 4

How has the “Dorcas” society changed in your church? What is your church doing to be of real service to its community today?

APRIL — Stewardship

SUBMISSION DEADLINE — March 3

Do you know of someone in your church who has put God’s promise to the test, trusted Him with every aspect of their lives, and found Him able and willing to care for their needs?

Follow the same instructions for submission as in “Tips for Authors” on page 37.
Understanding ADHD; How to Raise Responsible Children; Anger Management; Discipline without Punishment and other topics. Call (541) 476-6313 for specific times and locations.

Oregon SAGE Event
Feb. 10—Valentine luncheon and program, 11:45 a.m. at the Gladstone cafeteria. For additional information, call Wynn at (503) 343-9548.

Rain—Spiritual Renewal Retreat
Feb. 15–16—Experience spiritual renewal at Milo Adventist Academy for high school students. Herb Larson will be the guest speaker. Call for details and reservations (541) 825-3200, ext. 3321.

Mt. Tabor Church Missing
The Mt. Tabor Church is missing the following members: Gemechu Abraham, Wubitu Abraham, Cynthia Albrecht, Violet Asbury, Della Austin, Delmar J. Blacketer, Michael Brooks, Justin L. Buchanan, Rachelle M. Buchanan, Rachel C. Budd, Joseph Chew, Aurelia C. Delucca, Tai T. Do, Anna M. Hennessy, Alice Huey, Nathaniel Jenkins, Doris Keener, Ken Keener, Terry G. Keener, Rickie L. Kienholtz, Charlotte H. Marambe, Wallace Martinson, Jaime Mendoza, Derelee A. Olds, Brent Reese, Vivian M. Rud, Jeanne Schmidt, Ian Stark, Agatha J. Stout, Timothy W. Tamerius, Wade Thornblad, Georgia Wills. If you have any information, please contact: pat.halleson@oc.npuc.org.

ACS Disaster Response Training
Feb. 23–24—Weekend event at Hood River Church includes personal disaster preparation, Adventist response to disaster, and an area Adventist Community Services meeting on Sabbath afternoon. On Sunday morning become certified by attending the new North American Division ACS Disaster Response Training. Church leaders and anyone interested in disaster relief, community connections, and community service work are invited to attend. Call Community Outreach at (503) 850-3555 for more information and to register; also see www.OregonConference.org for the latest updates. The next training event will be held at the Meadow Glade Church, March 15–16.

Springfield Church Missing
We are missing the addresses and phone numbers from the following members of the Springfield Church: Anders Ahman, Dale Atkins, Beverly Brooks, Shannon Brown, Robby Hern, Lisa Jenness, Jeff Miller, Janice Miller, Jody Pedroni, Marciena Romero, Justice Sitowski, David Warren, Adelaide Whaley, James Whaley, Aaron Whitsett, Fred Whitsett and Lacy Whitsett. If you can help, please call Melissa at (541) 895-2839 or Marilyn Grass (541) 741-4644.

Abuse Seminar Sponsored by Life Renewal Institute
March 15–16—Those who have been abused suffer with feelings of rejection, anger, fear and incredible sadness. In this seminar, learn from Doctors Ron and Nancy Rockey what precipitates emotional, verbal, physical, and sexual abuse, and gain the tools to undo the results of childhood/adult wounding that comes from it. Open Arms Adventist Church, 15150 N.E. Glisan, Portland, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. both days (lunch included). Register by March 7 for lunch. Seating is limited so register early at www.youriri.com or call toll-free (888) 800-0574. For local information, contact Audrey Woods, (503) 252-2112.

CHIP Health Seminar at Hood View
March 31, April 3, 8—Preliminary, identical, free informational and registration opportunity sessions for the April 13–May 8 CHIP seminar at the Hood View Church, 26775 S.E. Kelso Rd., Boring. The four-week seminar offers instruction in prevention and reversal of the end of your story in this order: name of the contact person who can answer questions or obtain answers for the editors; the organization you represent; your daytime telephone number (including area code); and your e-mail address. Do keep your local conference communication department informed. They will also have access to any stories you send for GleanerNOW! You may submit your story and photos online at www.gleaneronline.org; click on Contributors’ Information in the left panel and follow the directions. Or e-mail your story with the photos attached (not embedded in a Word document or e-mail message), and the photo captions following the story, to gleaner@nw.npuc.org. Be sure to include “GleanerNOW!” in the e-mail’s Subject line, so the message is recognized as a timely story that needs immediate attention.

File size of photos should not be less than 600 Kb (400 x 400 pixels). In order for the photos to run larger in the print edition of GLEANER, the file size should be at least 1 megabyte. • Nadine Platner Dower, GLEANER consulting editor
Does God Like Me?

First of all, before we get to the question—let me say what a privilege and humble honor to be back in partnership with the GLEANER and have the opportunity to connect with youth from around the Northwest.

“Does God like me?” You know this is a question I have been plagued with during my years. I think most of us think so and if we looked deep enough inside, we would know it as well. He sent His only Son for us so I guess that does mean He likes us.

However, standing in the mirror looking at the reflection, you may wonder, really why would He like me? Jeremiah 1:5 says, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart…”

So here’s the simple answer to this question, “does God like me?” Yes, He does and the reason is simply: because of love, because He is the creator, because He has known you all along and most importantly because of Jesus.

I look forward to reading more of your questions and doing my best through Jesus’ help to answer them. If you would like to send a question to me to answer here in the GLEANER please send your questions to “PJ” at gleaner@nw.npuc.org.

God be with each of you and remember keep looking up!

PJ

P. J. Deming, Milo Academy youth pastor and vice-principal

Ask PJ

Coronary heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, overweight, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, cancer, arthritis, osteoporosis, depression, digestive problems, and high medical/medication costs. Classes will be held four nights each week: Sunday, 6–8 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 7–9 p.m. Health screenings by professionals will be held April 11 and May 9. A graduation celebration for those who complete the seminar will take place at 6 p.m., May 15. For information, phone (503) 658-2329.

WASHINGTON

North Hill Fellowship Concert
Feb. 2—Award-winning pianist Jee Wong will perform a free concert at 6 p.m. at the North Hill Fellowship, 10106 36th Street East, Edgewood. There will also be special appearances by Judy Baum, violin; Roni Greenwood, cello; Timmy Kosaka, piano and harp; and The Russian Choir.

SAGE Senior Events

April 20–25—Sunset Lake work bee. General repairs and clean-up. Meals provided. Bring your RV or stay in a cabin. Call (253) 681-6008, e-mail joan.libby@wc.npuc.org, on the Web www.washingtonconference.org, 32229 Weyerhaeuser Way South, Federal Way, WA 98001.

Young Adult Prayer and Study Retreat
April 4–6—Join young adults ages 18-30 for a simple weekend of prayer, praise and Bible study at Sunset Lake Camp. For more information, e-mail YAPrayerAndStudyRetreat@gmail.com or call the Washington Conference youth department at (253) 681-6008.

Enumclaw Church Homecoming
April 12—All members and former members of Enumclaw Church are cordially invited to attend a special homecoming service. Ted Bartter, former pastor, will be preaching for the 11 a.m. service. Bartter served as pastor in the early 1970s. Plan to attend the potluck immediately following the service. Please contact Enumclaw Church at (360) 825-4155 for more information.

WORLD CHURCH

Broadview Academy Homecoming
May 2–3—Our school still binds us together! Join us for the Broadview Academy alumni weekend. Mark your calendars. Call your classmates and start planning for this weekend now. The classes to be honored end in “8,” plus 1983. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, we need your e-mail addresses. Send them to: scross@broadviewacademy.org; or call Shona Cross, (630) 677-4387.

Cruise With the Aeolians
June 19–23—The Alma Blackmon Aeolian alumni are planning to cruise to Cozumel, Mexico, and would like family and friends to join the fun. Go to www.aeolianalumni.org or contact Tanja Spohn at Tanja@ClassicWorldTravel.com or (800) 777-9529, ET.

Libraries 360°: The Whole Picture
June 22–28—Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians (ASDAL) 2008 Conference at Loma Linda University, Calif. Librarians of all specialties are invited to attend. For registration information, go to www.asdal.org or contact Carlene Drake at cdrake@llu.edu or (909) 558-4581.
2008 Image of Creation
Photo Contest Winners

Winners for the inside cover
Ken Baird
Debbie Blackburn Beierle
Fonda Cox
Palmer Halvorson
Gary J. Haynes
Gary Lackie
Josh Peterson
Kay Prunty
Roger Windemuth

Winners for www.gleaneronline.org
Mary Lane Anderson
Margaret Annala
Stephanie Bailey
Ken Baird
Judi L. Baker
Debbie Blackburn Beierle
Bryce Casebolt
Fonda Cox
Dorothy Fletcher
Wendy Foster
Bryan Gray
Palmer Halvorson
Gary J. Haynes
Larry Hoppe
Ron Hughes
Criss Kramer
Gary Lackie
Lowell R. Norris
Josh Peterson
Kay Prunty
Albert Russell
Willard Santee
Roger Windemuth
Complimentary meal when taking a no-obligation tour. Call Dan Andersen at 509-248-1766.

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- Learn how to use gift annuities to meet special needs of family and friends
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In Giving You Receive

Contact your local Conference Planned Giving & Trust Services Department, Walla Walla University Estate Planning Services Department, or North Pacific Union Planned Giving & Trust Services Department: (360) 857-7000
**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** seeks qualified applicants for faculty positions in the following departments and schools: Chemistry; Communications; Engineering; Library; Mathematics; Social Work; Technology. For more information, please visit http://www.wallawalla.edu/resources/employment/faculty-employment/. All positions will remain open until filled. To apply, follow the application instructions listed with each position.

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks two tenure-track, qualified Adventist nursing instructors, 2008. Experience in either Medical/Surgical or Mental Health nursing required. Minimum of MSN required; teaching experience preferred. Submit resume to: Jeff Joiner, Nursing Program Director, Union College, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506; or jejoiner@ucollege.edu.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC** wanted for Sunnyside Adventist Church. Direct the church’s established music ministry for services, programs, and concerts. Salary provided for part-time basis. Please submit resume and/or inquiries to: Personnel Committee, Sunnyside Adventist Church, 10501 SE Market St, Portland, OR 97216.

**CARE GIVER NEEDED** Yakima Valley live-in or onsite lady/couple for ambulatory Adventist lady. Vegetarian cooking, non-smoker, must drive, resume with references required. For more information, call: 888-863-7888.

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks an instructor for a full-time position in the School of Journalism and Communication. Anticipated courses include audio/video production, photography, new media, and speech. Candidates should have demonstrated success in college teaching, and/or professional work experience, with a strong commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education. A master’s degree in the field is required, and a doctorate is preferred. Send CV to Dr. Greg Rumsey, School of Journalism & Communication: PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; rumsey@southern.edu.

**DENTAL HYGIENIST**: Quality of life, no stoplights or traffic yet lots of cultural opportunities and abundant nature to explore. Become an important part of our healthcare community. K-12 Adventist school and church on beautiful Orcas Island, Washington. $50/hour, 3-4 days/week, benefits. Contact: tripletmichael@hotmail.com.

**LOOKING TO FILL** a part-time year round assistant cook position at Camp MiVoden. If interested, please contact Sami at 208-772-3484.

**MD-DO-FNP** Great opportunity in beautiful southern Oregon. Busy family practice clinic offers excellent pay and benefits to the practitioner who wants to practice in semi-rural community with easy travel to city services and medical specialists. Call 541-840-9484 for information or fax resume to 541-830-5042 or glsenf@ccountry.com.

**EVENT**

**A RECEPTION FOR ELLEN F. VENABLE SEAMOUNT-HILL** to celebrate her 90th birthday, Feb. 24, 2008, at the Village Church in College Place, Wash., 1-5 pm. Please RSVP at 509-525-0031.

**CONFUSED BY ALL THE TALK ON DIET?** Attend the two Conferences on Vegetarian Nutrition on March 4-8, 2008 at Loma Linda University in California. For more information on speakers, topics and motels, contact Stoy Proctor at 301-680-6718 or e-mail sanchezl@gc.adventist.org.

**PSAA ALUMNI SABBATH** February 23, 2008, Kirkland Seventh-day Adventist School gym. We will be honoring the first tenured class from 1998, as well as the 5th year class of 2003.

**WASHINGTON CONFERENCE SINGLES** Feb. 10—Valentines Banquet. Sign up by Jan. 26. March 15—All Birthday Party, Old-fashioned Hoedown. April 25-27—Rosario Retreat. For information, contact: wandaatk@hotmail.com; bfsmith01@msn.com.

**FOR SALE**

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ATTN: COMMUNICATION PROFESSIONALS! If you are an Adventist working in public relations, journalism, broadcasting, the Internet or other electronic media, or related fields such as layout and design, The Society of Adventist Communicators is building a list of resource people and would like to hear from you. For more information, go to www.adventistcommunicator.org or contact steve.vistaunet@nw.npuc.org.

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Every space between characters marks the beginning of a new word. Count each unit of a date as one word unless it appears as xx/xx/xxxx, which counts as one word. The editors reserve the right to edit ads for length and to conform to GLEANER style and policy.

Classified Ads Rates, NAD
Advertisers—For advertisers who are church members in North Pacific Union Conference: $25 for 30 words or less; $35 per additional word. For advertisers who wish to place half- or full-page display ads in at least five of the nine NAD union magazines concurrently should go to www.nadnationalbuy.com or contact the NAD National Advertising coordinator at manager@nadnationalbuy.com or call (360) 857-7043.

Advertising Deadline

<table>
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<th>ISSUE DATE</th>
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<td>April</td>
<td>March 3</td>
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ADVERTISING POLICY

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

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

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

Classified Ads

Classified Ad Word Count—Classified ads must be submitted as hard copy either by e-mail (to gleaner@nw.npuc.org) or by mail. A maximum of 80 words will be accepted for any new classified ad.
tule. Monthly or weekly. Days, 808-881-4406; evenings/weekends, 808-885-5289; e-mail alohafields@hawaiiantel.net.

SUNRIVER—Take a spring break in beautiful Sunriver, Ore. Sunny days and abundant wildlife make our Quelah condo the place to lose those winter blues. Visit www.sunriverunlimited.com or call 503-253-3936.

MAUI—Fully equipped condo, unobstructed ocean and sunset view, sleeps seven. Tennis, pool, across street from surf and beautiful sandy beaches. April thru December 14, seventh day FREE! 360-652-6455 or 425-258-4433.

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

LINCOLN CITY, ORE.—Luxury beach home rentals located in desirable Roads End Neighborhood. Specializing in new homes only! Spectacular Ocean views, easy beach access, top quality amenities, beautifully furnished, close to restaurants and shops. www.seahavenrentals.com; 541-996-8800.

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

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Palm Desert, Calif.—Casa Larrea Inn: small, quiet and quaint in a relaxing atmosphere. One block from the famous El Paseo Blvd.; 800-829-1556; casalarrea@aol.com.

Adorable Sunriver Rental—Sleeps eight, TV/DVD, high-speed internet, dishwasher, microwave, washer/dryer, wood stove, barbecue, hot tub, seven bicycles, no pets, reasonably priced. Visit www.funinsunriver.com or call 360-577-0711.

Gold Beach Oceanfront Rental—Luxury beach home and townhouse located at prestigious Sebastian Shores: 3-bedroom unit (#16) fully equipped with Jacuzzi, can sleep up to 6; 2-bedroom unit (#8) fully equipped with loft and jacuzzi, sleeps up to 6. Contact Missy Hartman: 888-807-6483; 541-247-6700.

Vacation on Kauai—The Garden Island’ Kahili Adventist School operates a scenic mountain park with various types and sizes of cabins, sleeping 2-6 persons. All have full kitchens. See pictures and rates at www.kahilipark.org. Reservations: vacation@kahilimtnparks.com; 808-742-9921.

Beach Front Vacation Rental—near Sequim, Washington, on the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Beach just out your front door. Fully-equipped, luxurious 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home sleeps up to six people. Call Maxine at 509-747-7622. Two-night minimum.

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AWR’s broadcasts are making waves in the lives of listeners living in the hardest-to-reach places of the world. With your help, many more eager listeners will be able to turn on their radios and hear of God’s love for the first time.

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www.awr.org
RESPONSE FROM LAST MONTH

The real source of the smell in the September through November 2007 GLEANERS was a special solution used in the sheet-fed printing process for the cover. Once that was replaced, the smell was gone.

The GLEANER was used as “deer repellent.” One lady wrote to say she had buried her GLEANER out by the ornamental cabbages and no deer had bothered them since.

You may respond to the issue raised here by sending an e-mail to: talk@gleaneronline.org

Steve Vistaunet, NPUC assistant to the president for communications
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Sponsored by the Regional Ministries Department of the North Pacific Union & Pacific Union Conferences

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April 11–13

Devotional Speaker
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