CREATIVELY CONNECTING WITH THE INLAND EMPIRE

Media and the Mission

CREATIVELY CONNECTING WITH THE INLAND EMPIRE
...let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy...
Psalm 96:12 (NIV)

"Poppy in Poppy Field" photographed by Gary J. Haynes of Gresham, Oregon.
Jason Satterlund, Adventist filmmaker, is one of many individuals and groups within the Upper Columbia Conference and throughout the Northwest, who are addressing a rapidly changing world with innovative forms of communication. Read more about him and others in this issue’s feature section.

Photo credit: Jon Dalrymple
A few days ago we had what was thankfully an unusual occurrence at our North Pacific Union office. One of our “saints” came into the lobby and asked for a certain service. Our receptionist graciously responded that because we were an administrative office we unfortunately weren’t able to provide what she wanted but explained where she could find it.

The “saint” grumbled about how she “gives the church all this money, and we didn’t have anything that was of use to her.” And then as a parting shot, she remarked, “You won’t be getting any more of my money!”

I don’t know who she was or if she’ll read this editorial, (evidently she doesn’t read the GLEANER since that is a service of the NPUC) but if she does, I’d like to apologize for not meeting her expectations.

Less Accountability?

So as a church leader does that make me less accountable? Absolutely not. Does it mean everything is always handled perfectly? Unfortunately, the answer is also no. But take heart in the same assurances I do. Ellen G. White, who helped structure this church under divine inspiration, wrote some great counsel.

“Some have been dissatisfied and have said, ‘I will no longer pay my tithe, for I have no confidence in the way things are managed at the heart of the work.’ But will you rob God because you think the management of the work is not right? Make your complaint, plainly and openly in the right spirit, to the proper ones…but do not withdraw from the work of God, and prove unfaithful because others are not doing right.”

Then she also stated in no uncertain terms, “Cannot you see that it is not best under any circumstances to withhold your tithes and offerings because you are not in harmony with everything that your brethren do? If the conference business is not managed according to the order of the Lord, that is the sin of the erring one; the Lord will not hold you responsible for it, if you do what you can to correct the evil. But do not commit sin yourselves by withholding from the Lord His own property.”

More Accountability

So, in financial terms, what’s the bottom line? The tithe and offerings that you and I return to the Lord are sacred. They are the Lord’s. As a leader I must be extremely careful in how these monies are used. I am accountable to a higher Authority than even our members. And, likewise, you and I must be extremely careful to return faithfully our tithes and offerings. If we are, he will bless us and His church accordingly. •

1 Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, 249.
2 Ibid., Manuscript 3, 1890, 6-7.

Jere Patzer
North Pacific Union Conference president
Learning to Help

Want to expand your vocabulary and do your small part to fight global hunger? Thanks to the Web site freerice.com, you can do both. For visitors the site appears to be a simple vocabulary quiz game, but the payoff comes when you correctly define a given word. For each correct answer, freerice.com will donate 20 grains of rice to the UN World Food Program. Since October 2007 successful brain aerobics have turned into over 34 billion grains of rice.

Common Threads

The term “Religious Americans” may refer to a wide variety of doctrines and worship styles. But, according to a new study, 70 percent of religious Americans believe many faiths can lead to eternal life. Here are some other areas they agreed on:

- 92% Believe in God.
- 79% Believe in miracles.
- 58% Pray daily (outside of religious services).
- 35% Read scriptures at least once a week.
- 31% Say their prayers are answered at least once a month.

SOURCE: Pew Research Center
What drives radio personalities from the comfort of a Northwest spring to the heat and humidity of Cambodia?

Following the lead of H.M.S. Richards, radio pioneer and minister, dedicated Adventist missionaries have sprung to the challenge of using radio technology to spread the gospel in response to the Great Commission of Jesus, both worldwide and locally in the mission fields of America.

From talk and interview formats of LifeTalk and Three Angels’ Broadcasting Network radio, to contemporary Christian music stations, local Northwest communities are being changed through radio. According to George Barna, statistical researcher, up to 25 percent of Christian radio’s audience label themselves non-Christians—quite a mission field.

Radio broadcasting has long provided a powerful influence within the Inland Empire and beyond.

KGTS–FM began as a small classical station on the campus of Walla Walla University in 1963. Today KGTS is an affiliate of the Christian-music-based Positive Life Radio network, which is an outgrowth of the station’s own development.
Positive Life Radio network serves more than 100,000 listeners through four full-power primary stations, one low-power FM station, 13 translators throughout Washington, Idaho and Oregon, as well as an additional 30,000 via the worldwide Netcast at www.plr.org. The Spokane affiliate station, KEEH, alone ministers to an audience of 57,000 unique weekly listeners, and along with sister Positive Life Radio stations, KPLW in Wenatchee (Wash.) and KYPL in Yakima (Wash.), has been ranked within the top 30 non-commercial religious stations in America.1

KEEH has made building bridges in the community a ministry focus. For instance, each month pastors of other denominations are invited into KEEH’s studio to pre-record the Good News Bible verses of the week and to meet the staff. Each pastor leaves with a leather gift copy of the book Steps to Christ.

A Wider Purpose
Beyond the Inland Empire, other Northwest Adventist radio stations, including the three-time Dove award-winning KTSY, covering the Boise, Idaho market, and KACS, which provided critical information for flood-stricken people within its Chehalis/ Centralia (Wash.) core listening area, have become important community links for the church’s mission.

Recently, Positive Life Radio’s annual Rice for Cambodia campaign received listener donations allowing the purchase of enough rice to feed a city the size of Yakima (70,000 people) for an entire month.

Kevin Krueger, station general manager, traveled to the Asian rice paddies, sharing life-sustaining rice along with eternal life-sustaining scripture tracts.

Louie Giglio, author and popular speaker, fine-tunes this idea of the Christian’s personal mission statement: “Within each of us is God-wired uniqueness, something that makes us feel more alive than breath itself... But it’s not enough to simply do what makes us feel alive. We must exploit our uniqueness in a way that broadcasts Jesus, the one name the world cannot live without.”

Adventists throughout the Northwest and beyond have a great opportunity to extend their personal mission to supporting and praying for the ministry of Christian radio as it helps listeners come alive for Christ in the Northwest and around the world. •

1(Copyright Arbitron, Inc., estimate only, Fall 2007, average quarter hour share.)

“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

Howard Thurman

See a list of Adventist broadcast stations in the Northwest at gleaneronline.org.

Photos (left to right):
Kevin Krueger, Positive Life Radio general manager, hands out school supplies to Cambodian children.

The Positive Life Radio booth attracts food donations at a supermarket in Yakima.

KEIT in Colville, Wash., is one of several low-power radio stations that have sprung up around the Northwest.

The KEEH van pauses overlooking the Palouse area of the Inland Empire.
Feature

Jake is an example of those drawn to the church through television ministry. Jake had questions about the Sabbath which his Lutheran pastor could not answer. Once ordained to the ministry himself, Jake wanted Bible-based proof for his beliefs. After watching the Spokane, Washington-based, He’s Alive Television for a year and a half, Jake walked into the Spokane Valley Adventist Church and asked Byron Corbett, pastor, “Can this church validate what I’m learning on TV?”

The church was able to do that, and Jake was baptized. At the June TV board meeting, Jake attended as a new member. His search for truth came full circle, and now his perspective will help the station reach many more.

TV Brings Seeds of Change

Trapped in a culture of drugs, heavy metal and violence, 17-year-old Michael stumbled onto He’s Alive Television. As he was watching, he found God spoke to him through the preaching. “I found myself coming home at 9 p.m. to watch TV rather than partying...” he says.

A seed was planted; his mother noticed. From an attitude of anger and intimidation, Michael became more approachable. “Jesus was growing within my heart, and she was the first one to really notice that change. Once one accepts Christ into their heart, anyone who knew you before can’t help but notice there is something different about you,” says Michael. “Christian TV is an amazing way to win souls to Christ.”

TV Brings Fulfillment

Lloyd and Shirley were living in Arizona, trying different churches, when they discovered Three Angles’ Broadcasting Network. “We heard truth we agreed with,” says Lloyd. “This made a tremendous difference in our lives.” When they moved to Lewiston, Idaho they looked for an Adventist church and got involved with Positive Lifestyle Network. “Richard Steffanson asked for people to help videotape the Lewiston church service,” says Lloyd. “So I volunteered and that’s how I became involved with Positive Lifestyle Network.”

TV Provides Opportunities

Like Jake, these individuals have a common thread in their stories. They know God led and changed them for the better through TV ministry. Jake says “If people have biblical questions, then watching KHBA is an obvious choice. Renewing our minds on a daily basis is vitally important. When I come home and turn on the TV, I get encouragement, scripture—all of it! It encourages, renews and supports you...”

Clinton Schultz, Spokane Countryside and Davenport Church pastor, says “I know people are watching the station.” In another district he received a call where the

Photos (left to right):
Roger Martin, from Airway Heights Church, baptizes Jeannie Tridle, KHBA viewer.
Mable Dunbar, UCC family life educator, and Dean Huggins use the KHBA set to record a local television interview.
Joe Stanfill, KHBA station manager, captures some of the events at the annual Bloomsday celebration in Spokane.

BY KATHY MARSON

The Thrust of TV IN THE MEDIA MISSION

Photos courtesy of KHBA
people had watched an evangelistic series and called and said, “We want to be baptized.” When Clinton and an elder sat down with them, they were ready.

James Shires, pastor of the Lewiston and Lewiston Orchards churches says, “We have people drop by our church regularly. Four or five have been baptized because of the TV.” Positive Lifestyle Network generates a regular stream of people checking out the local churches, and creates community awareness of Adventists. These stories don’t happen by chance. They happen because churches and individuals put media ministry in their budget. They happen because volunteers edit and shoot programs. They happen because of vision and God-inspired forward thinking. In the 1980s Marlo Fralick, then pastor of the Spokane Central Church, had a vision for a television station and now for 15 years this has been a reality.

**Blue Mountain Television**

This ministry has been a part of the Walla Walla Valley for a number of years. One couple was so impressed by Blue Mountain Television’s first April 1990 broadcast they called the College Place Village Church asking to attend services. Their entire family attended church the following Sabbath and after Bible studies, were baptized into the Adventist Church. From the beginning and throughout its 18 years operating, God has blessed and used it to bring people to a relationship with him.

Debbie was a drug addict. Carlos was a feared gang leader. Doug and Cindy were searching for a solid family foundation. Walt and Maria loved the Lord and sought to strengthen their faith and God’s plan for their lives. The common denominator in all of these lives? Television and the Holy Spirit’s leading. Today, all are active members of the Adventist Church because Blue Mountain Television was in their homes, broadcasting hope, encouragement and truth from God’s word.

Blue Mountain Television and Adventist media like it, exist to lift up Jesus, share his love, and communicate his life, grace, and strength to viewers. That’s why scores of volunteers and hundreds of faithful prayer partners and financial supporters keep the station on the air, 24 hours every day, year after year. They simply don’t want to imagine living in a community without this life-transforming outreach.

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference administrative assistant, and John Cress, Walla Walla University Church pastor write from Spokane and Walla Walla, Washington respectively.
Historically Adventist Christians have correctly recognized film as a tool with the incredible power to influence the acceptance of ideas and shape thought and have opposed anything to do with the movie industry. However in a culture where the currency of conversation is often drawn from stories told on the big screen, and in a world where film is only the first of many stops in a distribution cycle that includes Internet, cell phones and personal media players, the times demand storytellers fluent in the language of modern media and committed to creating images which prompt an openness to God’s Spirit.

Jason Satterlund—Christian Filmmaker

Enter Jason Satterlund: An award-winning filmmaker and committed Seventh-day Adventist Christian who, along with his wife Michaele, recently returned to his roots in the Northwest with his company, Big Puddle Films.

Jason recently reflected on a loving mother who prayerfully protected him from the potentially evil influence of movies in his youth, while nurturing the creative gifts given to him by God—gifts he now uses to tell stories every day. “Now my Mom is my biggest fan,” Jason says with a sheepish grin.

Having worked and traveled extensively as a filmaker in conjunction with the Josh McDowell ministry, the most recent film Jason wrote, produced and directed is entitled The Human Trace, which won the Cedar Rapids Film Festival. Although Big Puddle Films has produced Christian music videos and a media resource for worship services called Droplets (available through AdventSource), the audience this long-time youth Sabbath School teacher most frequently addresses is the general public.

“We are called to do more than preach to the choir,” says Jason, “If we produce movies…well-crafted…as good or better than everything else that is out there…with Christian values, and place them in the public marketplace, then that’s one less movie with terrible values.

Photos (left to right):

Jason Satterlund has a passion for Christians making a more positive impact in the world through creative video and movie projects.

Volodymyr Nesteruk’s efforts have extended his reach with the gospel message to the Ukraine and around the world.
that people will watch.”
Jason, who has a gift for narrative and who is meticulous in his attention to detail, produces television commercials for Northwest companies that have the quality of national market commercials with much larger budgets. He believes movies for Christian audiences should be made with no less quality than for the general public.

“Satan has ruled the [movie] industry for a long time,” says Jason. “Why aren’t we ruling it? As believers, we should all be doing work that is better than anything the world is putting out in any industry.”

When asked what kind of movies he thinks the Adventist Church should be making, he simply says, “We should be making movies that show just how good God really is.”

Volodymyr Nesteruk—Reaching the World

While some may think it preposterous to imagine a small Slavic congregation in Spokane, Wash., as home to a groundbreaking international media ministry, closer examination shows it’s true.

The messages of Volodymyr Nesteruk, pastor, can be seen and heard on a number of media outlets, making it possible for The Three Angels’ Message to have an unprecedented reach into the homes of Russian- and Ukrainian-speaking viewers in various parts of the world.

Volody, as he is called, produces two TV ministries: Open Book Evangelism, a 60-minute Russian language series of 24 episodes; and Truth for Today, a half-hour series in Ukrainian with 30 episodes. He had already been seen on the Seventh-day Adventist-run Hope Channel–Europe, when he was contacted by management at CNL–TV, a non-denominational group that airs programming over four satellites covering Europe, North America and Australia.

CNL is the most popular Christian television channel in the countries of the former Soviet Union. Already airing his Ukrainian series for free, Volody is negotiating with CNL to air the Russian language series in the coming months at $220 per week—a modest price for such an audience, yet a big financial challenge for a congregation of less than 50 members that has yet to achieve church status.

Volody and his wife, Natalia, are gifted musicians whose ministry is seen in Spokane on KHBA television. They estimate nearly 70 percent of the 25,000 Slavic community members in Spokane have watched the program.

Volody considers Victor Gill, Canadian evangelist, his spiritual mentor. While a young seminarian, Volody served as translator for at least 14 different evangelistic series conducted by Victor. On a recent visit to the Nesteruk home in Spokane, Victor recounted that he “wasn’t so sure about Volody at first.” With laughter the two friends recall, “During that initial series of meetings, as Volody translated the sermons he never took his eyes off his shoes.”

Now, able to look directly into the eyes of the congregation before him, as well as those in countries thousands of miles away, Volody proclaims the hope of Adventism. •

Garrett Caldwell, Upper Columbia Conference assistant to the president, and Jon Dalrymple, UCC communication assistant write from Spokane, Washington.

Editors’ note: Beyond those mentioned in these pages, there are many other Adventist-owned and operated media ministries throughout the Northwest. For a complete listing go to www.gleaneronline.org. Adventist members have a stellar opportunity to support these cutting-edge outreach efforts, reaching beyond the church walls. Jason can be reached at: www.bigpuddlefilms.com or email: jason@bigpuddlefilms.com.
WASHINGTON D.C.

Adventist Surgeon Receives Medal of Freedom
Benjamin Carson, a Seventh-day Adventist pioneer in pediatric neurosurgery, has been awarded the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom. The award was granted for Carson’s outstanding contributions to medicine and his motivating influence on America’s youth. President George W. Bush praised Carson for overcoming a “grim future” of poverty, crime and violence to become “a scholar, a healer and a leader.”

SOURCE: Adventist News Network

ECUADOR

First One-Day Church Opens
Adventists in Valle Hermoso, Ecuador, are worshipping in the first One-Day Church. This new church and lay-sponsored program provides ready-to-assemble churches that volunteers can build within a day. Maranatha volunteers began construction at 7:30 a.m. and finished by 4 p.m. The One-Day Church program is intended to serve the needs of 200,000 Adventist congregations around the world who do not have permanent church homes.

SOURCE: Adventist News Network
SOLOMON ISLANDS

Hundreds Baptized After Evangelistic Meetings

A recent evangelistic series in the Solomon Islands has resulted in nearly 400 baptisms. The three-week series was presented by Gary Webster, Kukum Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor. More than 10,000 people came out to see the program each night. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Solomon Islands has a strategic goal to double their membership by 2010.

SOURCE: South Pacific Division

INDIA

Church Leaders Protest Government Intervention

Christian leaders in Kerala, India, are calling for an end to the Communist government’s alleged involvement in church-run institutions. A newly formed group, the Joint Forum of Churches, plan to meet with the state governor to seek his intervention on their behalf. In recent months, religious leaders in Kerala have complained the government has been interfering in the management of church institutions.

SOURCE: christianpost.com

NORTH KOREA

Northern Asia-Pacific Leaders Meet in Closed Country

Adventist leaders in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division held their 2008 mid-year Executive Committee meetings in the Democratic People’s Republic of North Korea. This is the first such meeting since the country closed its borders in 1953. “We have no organized work in North Korea, so to have an official meeting is a historic occasion,” says Glenn Mitchell, Adventist Church in Northern Asia associate secretary.

SOURCE: Northern Asia-Pacific Division

PAKISTAN

Christians Abducted by Militants

While Pakistan’s government continues efforts to protect minority groups, Christians are still under attack by Islamic militants. In June, a group of more than 20 Christians were kidnapped and beaten. Meanwhile, the nation’s government has secured the release of 16 Christians who were abducted in the Northwest Frontier Province. Christians make up less than 1 percent of Pakistan’s population and are among the poorest segment of society.

SOURCE: christianpost.com
Queridos hermanos, nos place informarles que empezando con este número del mes de Agosto del Gleaner, todos los meses encontrarás una página en español con noticias de la obra hispana en la Unión del Pacífico Norte. Además hallarás interesantísimas historias de los milagros que Dios está haciendo en su pueblo. Es nuestro anhelo, que cada mes busques con ansias estos artículos edificantes que te ayudarán en tu caminar con Jesús.

Una Iglesia de Amistad y Salvación

Uno de los desafíos más grandes que enfrenta el desarrollo del ministerio Hispano en la Unión del Pacífico Norte es el de encontrar lugares propios en los cuales adorar a Dios. Sin embargo, este desafío ha motivado a los administradores de la conferencia de Upper Columbia a orar a Dios y a desarrollar métodos innovadores para proveer templos en los cuales los hispanos puedan adorar a Dios. Muchos templos ya se han adquirido de esta forma. Una de las iglesias que estaba enfrentando dichos desafíos era la iglesia Hispana de Yakima. El pastor Maldonado nos cuenta...

“El templo donde nos reuníamos se estaba quedando pequeño. En realidad de la manera como estábamos creciendo nos dimos cuenta que necesitábamos un templo con mayor capacidad y con mejor presencia ante la comunidad hispana del lugar. Habíamos orado por un templo de adoración que tuviese todos los espacios necesarios para los niños, jóvenes y adultos, así como tan bien una excelente cocina. Aunque el sueño parecía lejano, Dios escuchó nuestra oración y nos concedió el templo que anhelábamos. Gracias al apoyo de miembros fieles y la visión de los administradores de la Conferencia y de la Unión, hoy tenemos templo propio. El Sábado 5 de Enero del corriente, el pastor Max Torkelsen, presidente de la Conferencia de Upper Columbia, y Walter Pintos, coordinador Hispano, tuvimos el privilegio de cortar el listón simbólico de entrada al templo y nos vestimos de gala para dar la apertura oficial de nuestra nueva ubicación en Yakima.”

Ramon Canals, North Pacific Union Conference vice president for Hispanic ministries

FOTO DE ARRIBA:

El pastor Max Torkelsen, presidente de la Conferencia, junto con Walter Pintos, coordinador Hispano, y un grupo de miembros pioneros cortan el listón simbólico de entrada al templo de Yakima.

A LA IZQUIERDA:

Alejandro García, llegó a la campaña de evangelismo en Yakima gracias al curso por correspondencia que recibió de “Discovery Bible”. En la fotografía, aparece con el pastor que le bautizó Pablo Maldonado. Esta es una muestra de cómo los ministerios adventistas funcionan como verdaderos instrumentos del Señor.
Recent Convert

Inspires Anchorage Members

On a Friday last September, Donavon Kack, pastor, received a call from Tina Steenmeyer asking where the church was located. She had been listening to 3ABN and wanted to attend. Steenmeyer walked through the doors of the Hillside-O’Malley Church the next day and has not looked back. She was baptized in early October.

Steenmeyer says she was drawn to the church. “God called me home,” she says. Since her baptism, she has shared a powerful, engaging, yet humble testimony of how God’s grace helped her overcome a $5,000 per month cocaine habit. She challenges her church to open their hearts to many like herself in Anchorage.

“No one knew the pain, challenges and the heartache I was going through. But God knew,” she exclaims. And when, in that initial phone call, she discovered the Adventist church was not more than a mile from where she lived, God opened a door for her recovery. “There are so many more who are out there, who look good on the outside, but are dying within,” says Steenmeyer. She is a walking testimony of how God brought her into contact with a church family caring enough to share the love of God with her. Now she encourages Adventists everywhere to reach out and draw others to Christ. •

John Kriegelstein, Alaska Conference communications director

Pathfinder Camporee

Features Cool Waters and Warm Hearts

With the ice out of Flat Lake by barely a week, nearly 50 Pathfinders from four clubs gathered at Camp Tukuskoya for Alaska’s annual spring camporee Memorial Day weekend. Arriving at Mosquito Point by car and bus from Anchorage, Palmer and Fairbanks, Pathfinders then boarded the reliable 30-year-old, 26-foot skiff for the five-minute boat ride to camp.

The camp is only accessible by boat. Lingering ice on the lake had prevented being able to fully prepare the camp for guests, so while there was running water and flushing toilets, there was no hot water for bathing.

Richie Brower from Spokane, Wash., presented stories from the Jerusalem temple to demonstrate how every aspect of the temple worship service provided multiple illustrations of how God deals with his people. At the close of each service, Brower provided an opportunity for listeners to make a commitment to choosing and serving God. At the final meeting, about 20 percent of the campers indicated they would like to prepare for baptism.

Joe Koliadko and Mike James provided instruction and survival skill demonstrations for campers. James’ demonstration for starting a fire without matches impressed them. Campers enjoyed the presentation of two great-horned owls, learning to use GPS units for the geocaching honor, and participating in team activities. Happy campers left Sunday noon, joining their camp songs with the haunting cries of the loons on the lake. •

John Kriegelstein, Alaska Conference youth director

Pathfinders take notes at Alaska’s annual Pathfinder camporee at Camp Tukuskoya.
Timberline Students
Win Science Awards

Timberline Adventist School, near Vale, Ore., came away from Idaho Conference’s annual science fair with awards in two different grades and an overall achievement trophy.

Held April 8 at the Eagle Adventist Christian School in Eagle, Idaho, a number of Adventist elementary schools throughout southern Idaho and eastern Oregon participated in the fair. Judges, including a physicist, an astronaut and an artist, spent the morning talking to students, who were on hand to show and explain their experiments.

In the afternoon students were divided into two groups: grades 1–4 and grades 5–8, for science activities. Younger students wrote messages in invisible ink and then decoded them using a variety of methods with Marilyn Gantz, Meridian, Idaho educator. Older students made robots under the direction of David Pitcher, Eagle School principal. Fritz Heid, a Timberline Elementary seventh-grade student, was the only student able to successfully operate his robot within the given time limit.

Concluding the day’s activities was an awards assembly. Timberline won first place in the first-grade division for a helicopter experiment, showing which materials make the best-flying propellers. In the seventh- and eighth-grade division, Heid won third place for his electric motor experiment showing which gauges and wire wraps work best.

Pocatello Woman
Finds Second Calling

After helping people for 20 years as an addiction counselor, you would think that she would be eager to retire.

But Bernice Caston, Pocatello Church member, decided she wanted to continue helping people, so about a year after her official retirement in 1994, she began a new job. For the last 13 years, she has volunteered at the Pocatello Women’s Correctional Center as a religious coordinator.

“We meet with the inmates in a group setting,” says Caston. We host five groups weekly, including baptismal classes. I have witnessed many baptisms, the last seven by Dean Lifshay, Pocatello Church pastor, in 2007.”

Caston’s approach is straightforward. She says, “Accepting God’s forgiving love is difficult for some, because this means having to change and take responsibility. One of my greatest rewards is to see their countenance change as they mature in their relationship with God. When witnessing with individuals, I share as if this could be the only opportunity for influencing them about Jesus’ unconditional love.”

Caston’s passion for leading people to Christ springs from her own experience many years ago. Lorraine Lau, an Adventist co-worker, spent many hours sharing Jesus and the plan of salvation with Caston. She gave her Steps to Christ. “After reading the little book, I was convinced that the Adventist Church of believers is the true church mentioned in Revelation,” says Caston. She started attending church regularly with her husband and seven children and was baptized in August 1966.
Camp Meeting Guests
Dig Into Scripture

Families traveled from far and near to renew friendships and learn more about God at Montana campmeeting.

Each day speaker John McVay, Walla Walla University president, challenged attendees to grow in Jesus while Carl Cosaert, Walla Walla University theology professor, used the book of Galatians to encourage those present to have a deeper trust in God. Skip MacCarty, Pioneer Memorial Church associate pastor, conducted a seminar on the old and new covenants.

Special weekend guests at this year’s campmeeting were Don and Marti Schneider, North American Division president and wife. Mrs. Schneider led women in a short retreat on creative ways to share Jesus in neighborhoods as they told stories from their own experiences. Elder Schneider shared his deep love for Jesus and what God has done for him. He encouraged each person present to go home and Share Him, the theme of this year’s campmeeting.

Camp Paxson
Boasts Bumper Crop

It was a week filled with geocaching, gymnastics, singing, swimming, worship and wakeboarding. This year Montana’s youth camp, led by Archie Harris, conference youth director, saw 68 campers and 25 staff attending Camp Paxson for the last week in June. It was the highest number of campers the youth department has hosted in more than 10 years, breaking last year’s record of 62.

In preparation for the larger numbers, three new activity classes—puppetry, rocketry and geo-caching—were added to the camp schedule.

Other classes included basketball, kayaking and crafts. Evening activities included games such as greased watermelon football and the 2008 all-time favorite, capture the flag. The festivities were followed with worship and time around the campfire. Jim Jenkins, Bozeman pastor, was the camp pastor for the week. Rousing skits from the counselors, nature nuggets, singing and puppet plays preceded the evening talks. Jenkins emphasized his nightly themes using personal stories and those from the Old Testament. Morning worship, or camp council, and Sabbath School allowed counselors to share some of their own experiences with campers. The highlight of the week was the Sabbath evening baptism of a Paxson camper.

Camp Paxson 2008 is best described by one camper who says: “Camp was awesome!!! My cheeks hurt really bad from smiling!”

Kristi Geraci, assistant summer camp director
Better Life Broadcasting Sponsors First Annual Campmeeting

Better Life Broadcasting Network held their first camp meeting, at Milo Academy June 13–15. More than 800 attended Sabbath services. Kenneth Cox, evangelist, shared messages on the working of the Holy Spirit. James Rafferty, speaker from Light Bearers Ministry, encouraged others to cling to Jesus during difficult times. Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, Michael Ministries member from Pennsylvania, spoke to the youth about passion and purity as well as providing music during the weekend. Other musicians included Dona Klein, organist, and the His Song Chorale. Donna Clifford, from Roseburg, Ore., and team led out in children’s programming. People enjoyed the weekend. One attendee wrote: “I wanted to tell you how much I appreciated the opportunity to be at camp meeting. It was the first one I attended in over 30 years and what a blessing. I renewed old friendships and most of all a spiritual renewal resulted; praise God.”

Another wrote: “I appreciate the simple introductions of the speakers giving glory to God. The afternoon concert, along with the interviews and testimonies showed how God is using Better Life TV to reach precious souls for the kingdom.”

Many are planning now for next year’s event, scheduled for June 12–14, 2009. •

Charley Romani, assistant to the station manager

New Conference Office Officially Opens

July 7 began as usual with worship at the Oregon Conference office. But there was one difference—workers had worship in the chapel of the new conference office building. Don Livesay, president, spoke of the Oregon Conference’s purpose, to serve and assist churches so more people may be brought to Christ. After worship, workers walked through the building, asking God’s blessing on their efforts and on the building and for it to shine with God’s Love.

At 10:00 a.m., local officials joined the team for an open house ceremony and ribbon cutting in front of the new building. Wade Byers, Gladstone mayor; Frank Grace, chief of police; Alf Birch, former Oregon Conference president; and Bryce Pascoe, North Pacific Union Conference executive secretary, were a few of those in attendance.

You’re welcome to visit the new office at 19800 Oatfield Road, Gladstone, Ore., the same campus where Gladstone camp meeting has been held since 1930. •

Gary McLain, Oregon Conference communication director
Milo Brings Back the Farm

If the new farm manager at Milo looks rather familiar, it’s because he is. Gene Mitchell has returned to Milo’s farm, and already his experience and leadership are making a positive difference on campus. The farm’s organization has gone through a fundamental change since his last tenure here. The new organization, South Umpqua Farms, LLC, is an independent business. Mitchell is the president and manager, but he is assisted by an advisory committee with a tremendous amount of agricultural experience. Together they are implementing plans that will turn the farm into a progressive, profitable venture.

Some of the plans for the future include planting a greater variety of fruit and nut trees. The fields are now being prepared for organic farming, and when they get their food preparation building ready, they will be able to package products for sale to the school’s cafeteria and local towns. Land not suitable for crops, is being developed into pasture lands, and sheep are already on campus.

One of the first programs to benefit from the new farm management is the horse program. Last year Milo had 18 horses on campus for students to ride. Already this summer, the farm has filled the hay barn with over 1,400 bales of hay. Some of the hay will go to feed next year’s horses, and the rest will be sold to help operate the farm.

Farm workers are also planting varieties of fast-growing trees. These trees have the ability to give off large amounts of oxygen, and environmental programs are in place to pay farms for letting them grow. Long-range plans for the forestry division include growing lumber for the mill and producing sawdust for the boilers. Other projects include renting out bee colonies, selling river rock, and raising and selling goats and sheep.

The farm’s main goal is not financial; it’s spiritual. Mitchell says, “Every seed is God’s. We can plant it, but he makes it grow.” South Umpqua Farms has a mission statement: “To be good stewards by taking care of God’s plants.”

More than plants are growing here. As the students who are employed at the farm can testify, working here is a Christian experience. The supervisors are constantly drawing attention heavenward and showing them Christ through their loving treatment of not only plants and animals—but also students.

Gazing across the campus, one notices how the fields and orchard look well-kept. Yes, the farm is a blessing. Welcome back, Mr. Mitchell.

Steve Rae, Milo Academy admissions and marketing director
Livingstone Debt Document
Burned

On the evening of April 3, a vital legal document was destroyed by fire in the Livingstone Adventist Academy at the Barbara Livesay Chapel. Fortunately, because of the prompt action of the school administration, nothing else was damaged. In reality this was a controlled burn—a mortgage document, destroyed because of a debt paid in full.

Besides the concern of setting off the smoke alarms, all went well and there were no major complications. Even if the alarms had been set off it could not have dampened the joy and relief of being debt-free. This joy was shared by faculty, administration, pastors, board members and the constituent representatives who were on hand to witness the mortgage cremation. It was a time of celebration.

The background to this important turning point began in 2003 when LAA started building their high school. In 2004 the school was completed, and the school was left with a mortgage debt of about $450,000. That debt was gradually amortized, with the final $249,545 coming from an anonymous group. On Jan. 8 the mortgage for the building was paid in full.

With the mortgage paid off, the school now turns its attention to other projects to fulfill its mission of quality education.

Cherilyn Clayville, LAA journalism student

Tualatin Shares Roses
With Community Moms

On Mother’s Day the Tualatin Church took their appreciation for moms beyond the walls of the church. Following the worship service, members prepared seven dozen roses with ribbon and attached a note that said, “Given in grateful appreciation to the mothers in our community.” The back read, “Provided by your friends, the Tualatin Seventh-day Adventist Church” and included the church’s Web site address.

The team took the flowers to a local neighborhood that had generously donated during a food drive last Thanksgiving. The roses were lovingly placed at the doors of these homes. Those who spotted the random act of kindness assumed it was a fund raising event.

When they learned it was just a gesture of gratitude, many were impressed that a church would take the time and effort to do this. The church hopes that through these random acts of kindness they can show the community that they are a caring and loving group.

David Smith, pastor

South Salem Children
Build for the Birds

Families of students in the Primary Class at South Salem Church were invited to a special potluck after church on Sabbath, May 3, and then had the opportunity to build a birdhouse from cedar wood. Parents and grandparents helped each child nail and screw the pieces together.

The event was organized by Doug and Brenda Stuivenga, Primary Class leaders. Mr. Stuivenga is a technology teacher; he planned the event and pre-cut the pieces.

Doug Stuivenga, Salem South Church Primary Sabbath School teacher
New PAA Alumnus
Has Strong Personal Goals

New Portland Adventist Academy alumni member Deanna Lemire wowed her teachers with her senior project before graduation in June.

Lemire’s project, a diploma requirement at PAA, was inspired by her interest in “fiber arts.” Lemire went through the entire process of raising wool on her llama, Tater Tot, shearing, cleaning, spinning, dying it from berry juices and then weaving it on a loom to create yarn. She then knitted hats, gloves, scarves and a blanket from the material she made.

To say Lemire’s teachers were proud is an understatement. “We give very few perfect scores on the senior project,” says Gale Crosby, PAA principal and judge. “But Deanna earned it!”

Lemire is not an average teenager. During the school months, she would rise at four in the morning to hand milk nine goats and her cow, collect eggs and, of course, feed all her animals, which took over two hours every morning. And because the Lemire family lives a long distance from PAA, she had to be on the road by 6:30 a.m. to make it on time for band rehearsal.

Lemire accomplished much during her years at PAA. She graduated as senior class chaplain, an active member of the climbing club, a band member and an honor society student. Outside of school, Lemire sold eggs, milk, cream and butter from her animals. She was a 4-H teen leader, junior chairman of the Northwest Pigeon Association and was recently named the Columbia County Dairy princess ambassador.

Her teachers were impressed with the enthusiasm and determination for her project. “But what I was most impressed with,” says Crosby, “was why she wanted to become a spinner in the first place.” Lemire says “I want to get back to the sense of community that we are losing. Spinning used to be about people coming together with their yarn and food and they’d just sit and spin and talk all day long.”

“Deanna bonded with her teachers and mentors,” remarks Crosby. “She made relationships that, I believe, will carry on throughout her life because she cares about this lost art. She demonstrated extraordinary maturity.”

This fall Lemire will use a scholarship she earned for Mt. Hood Community College. She then has plans for Walla Walla University, followed up with Loma Linda Medical Center where she wants to earn a degree in orthodontics.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA public relations director

Woodburn Community Church
Dedicated

After 30 years of operation, members of the Woodburn Community Church discovered that the church had never been formally dedicated, so on May 17 they held a dedication service.

Since members had recently been remodeling the church, this was an appropriate time for the service. They spent hours cleaning, painting, and putting in new carpeting. Old orange pews were replaced with new chairs in the sanctuary. The front of the sanctuary was completely re-done. Even the church parking lot was steam cleaned.

Members and guests join in the dedication of the Woodburn Community Church on May 17.

Don Livesay, Oregon Conference president, joined Eddie Ciobanu, pastor, in the dedication litany. The Salem Adventist Men’s Chorus gave musical interludes.

As an interesting side note, Dennis Colgan, Jim Green and Lula Eugene, three previous pastors of the charter members, still attend.

Rita Back, communication leader
NW Adventist Singles
Ponder Mud Pies and Mirrors

“Mud Pies and Mirrors” was the seminar topic of this year’s Memorial Day Northwest Adventist Single Adult Ministry retreat, presented by Mike Aufderhar, pastor and his wife Brenda. Singles learned how to be good listeners using effective communication skills and implementing biblical principles.

“I found the speakers truly inspiring, the role-playing made it real, and the group activities helped us get to know more details about each other,” comments Vivian from Alberta, Canada.

ASAM retreats are a safe setting where single adults can meet other single adults through worship, prayer, good Christian fellowship and recreation. The NW MiVoden Singles Retreat is known for its spiritual emphasis where singles come to meet old and new friends to share and pray together.

Activities include waterskiing, beach volleyball, indoor swimming and outdoor jacuzzi time. Several mixer activities are planned throughout the weekend for singles to get to know each other.

“I was nervous at first and did not know what to expect. But everyone there was so nice and friendly that soon I felt comfortable,” says Tamara, a first-time attendee. “I was even in a ‘Talentless Talent Show.’ I haven’t laughed so hard in such a long time. They say that laughter is the best medicine.”

Single adults make up more than 50 percent of our churches, so the goal of ASAM is to reach out and meet the needs of singles in our churches which includes, but is not limited to mission service, divorce care groups, grief recovery, nurturing and reaching others for the kingdom of God.

Terrie Leen, UCC ASAM leader

Youthful Yakima Musicians
Share Talents for God

A hush came over the Yakima Capitol Theater on April 29 as the Yakima Youth Symphony Orchestra began a concert. Many in the audience were from the Yakima (Wash.) Church and had come specifically to hear Jonathan Sharley and Nicole Kim.

Sharley is the 16-year-old son of Harry and Lori Sharley, Yakima Adventist pastor and wife, who won the 2008 Young Pianist’s Award and the privilege of playing with the orchestra. Before beginning the piece, Sharley bowed his head and prayed and the conductor politely waited. His flawless performance of Schumann’s Piano Concerto, “Opus 54,” received a standing ovation. In addition to piano, Sharley plays French horn, cello, trumpet, guitar and accordion.

Nicole Kim is the 14-year-old daughter of Jung and Vicky Kim and the primary cellist in the orchestra. She performed Vivaldi’s Concerto in G Minor, a difficult, but delightful, cello duet. Kim also plays the piano, the bassoon and sings. She recently received an excellent rating for Arias (sung in Italian) at an adjudication in Spokane, Wash. Kim is in school choral groups, band and the church hand bell choir.

Besides being gifted musicians, both are 4.0 students at YACS and class officers.

Nita Hinman, Yakima Church communication leader
The Little School Who Could

Starting with just three students two years ago, the Dayton Community Adventist School now has nine students in grades one through seven. This steady growth has caused the church building committee to look at either adding an addition to the church or setting up a modular building so the church’s multi-purpose room can be used again. That is where the school has been meeting.

The school started when former public school teacher Renae Young, a stay-at-home mom who was homeschooling her three young children, decided to start the school. It was her and other visionaries who researched and worked on all the necessary requirements for such an undertaking.

Kristin Brooks did the graphics for their school logo; a handbook was developed; and Young worked on all the paperwork to obtain Washington state approval. Since Dayton has the highest illiteracy rate in the county, Young goes to a curriculum fair in Puyallup, Wash., each year to handpick appropriate materials. Each day of their four-day school week begins with Leland Hawes, lay pastor, conducting worship and teaching Bible classes to the upper grades. Harriet Evans volunteered her services, cooking hot lunch every day for two years. As an outreach ministry, the tuition is minimal, daily hot lunch is free, and Young is a volunteer teacher. Doug Venn chairs the school board.

This school year concluded with a social studies/science field trip to the Washington coast for a week. They enjoyed Pacific Science Center, the Seattle Aquarium, the state capitol building, the beach and Mt. St. Helens. They stayed at Sunset Lake and other stops—even staying in yurts.

Earl Brockman, retired teacher

Upper Columbia Academy Creates Orphan Bible Shelf

The Upper Columbia Academy library had a problem. Students would borrow a Bible for class, but often it would never be seen again. While Bibles are good books to have, the school could not afford to continually replace Bibles at $20 apiece. Here is how the problem was solved.

Lois Wade, librarian, created the Orphan Bible Shelf. Bibles on the shelf are free for “adoption.” Students need not check them out or return them. They may take what they need and if it never finds its way back to the library it’s fine. There are usually between five and 20 Bibles available at any given time. Students borrow them for a day, a week or a lifetime—depending on the need. All Wade asks is that if you no longer use the Bible you return it to the library for another to use. Wade obtains inexpensive Bibles in nice condition from thrift stores and churches for this purpose.

Does your church have a box of “orphan” Bibles in need of a good home? If so, contact Wade; she is accepting Bibles in good condition for the Orphan Bible shelf for the 2008–2009 school year. Wade can be reached at: lwade@ucaa.org or leave a message at (509) 245-3610.

Let’s get all those orphans adopted!

Joe Hess, GLEANER correspondent
Pathfinders
Gather Food and Bibles

More than 775 Pathfinders and staff gathered at the Nez Perce County Fairgrounds in Lewiston, Idaho, on Sabbath, May 17, for the annual Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder Fair. Anthony Oucharek, Tri-Cities Junior Academy principal, was the featured speaker, focusing on the “Bible—It’s God’s Voice for Me.” During Oucharek’s commitment call, hundreds of Pathfinders made first-time decisions for Christ and more than 50 made decisions for baptism.

During the fair, Pathfinders and staff went door to door to Lewiston and Clarkston homes to collect food for local food banks and to ask for Bibles for the Bare Your Bookshelves project.

Despite temperatures of over 100 degrees, each one stuck with the effort. Interestingly, although postal workers had conducted a food drive a week prior, and most residents were unaware of the Pathfinder drive, they helped again with food items, Bibles, and/or money.

The Lewiston Food Bank benefited from 961 pounds; 648 pounds went to the Clarkston Food Bank.

Later in the week, another truck load of canned goods was delivered to both food banks for a total of 2,763 pounds. Additionally, $400 in cash and checks was divided between the two area food banks. Over 800 Bibles were collected for the overseas project.

Charmaine Andrews

UCA
Selects New Principal

Troy Patzer has been named the new principal for Upper Columbia Academy.

Patzer has been an asset to UCA for over 10 years. He began as a business intern in the accounting department in 1997, going on to become the treasurer/accountant after graduating from Walla Walla University with his business degree.

In 2004, Patzer completed his masters in business administration and also became the vice principal of UCA for student administration. In 2008, he received an administrative certificate from the NPUC in conjunction with Walla Walla University.

As principal, Patzer says he plans to help UCA reach its goals in both mission and finances. “I want to make a difference in people’s lives now and for eternity,” he says.

Marvin Mitchell served as interim principal for the previous year and will now be free to return to retirement. Patzer, the vice principal for the past four years, will be the first UCA alumnus to become principal in recent years.

When asked how he feels about being principal-elect, Patzer responded, “Because of the great students and staff at UCA, I am excited for the possibilities that will arise over the next few years.” He is looking forward to working with students while adding to UCA’s rich history.

Mindy Schreven, UCA senior

Milton-Stateline Walk-a-thon
Breaks $20K Mark

Taking a break from classes for a day, Milton-Stateline School faculty, staff and students laced up their tennis shoes on May 2 for the fifth annual walk-a-thon at the Walla Walla University track.

This year, the walk-a-thon raised money for restroom and kitchen improvements and to expand the wood shop/woodworking classes.

Pledges and donations topped more than $20,000 (up from $18,000 last year) with first-grade student and top pledge earner Nathan Treadway bringing in nearly $1,300.

Rachel Mitsourov, GLEANER correspondent

MSS students participate in the fifth annual school walk-a-thon at the Walla Walla University Track.
Washington Camp Meeting
Highlights Evangelism

Record numbers of people attended Washington Camp Meeting this summer to “Seek Jesus.”
“Everything about camp meeting this year was evangelistically focused, including our live [Internet] stream,” says Doug Bing, Washington Conference vice president for administration.
“We had members inviting their friends to ‘go’ to camp meeting online or to see what the Seventh-day Adventist Church is all about.”

From a nightly baptismal class, to community service projects, to spontaneous (and planned) prayer groups, to speaker’s presentations on finding a deeper relationship with Jesus, the focus was “Seeking Jesus.”

The theme was part one of the conference’s evangelism concentration: Stop and seek Jesus; Yield and pray for the Holy Spirit; and Go, take Jesus to the world.

Stories of God moving in people’s lives punctuated the 10 days of camp meeting: a couple who listened to a Spanish radio program; a woman who attended evangelistic meetings after Adventist volunteers cleaned up her flood-damaged home; church members who use their talents (whatever their profession) for witnessing; and individuals who committed to Jesus through baptism at camp meeting.

In the face of the current economy, the camp meeting evangelism offering goal of $350,000 seemed a long shot. However, the final weekend offering of $235,821.60 brought the total to $334,156.82—and donations and pledges are still coming in. The goal for 2009 is $375,000.

“I hope camp meeting never becomes just about raising money, but instead continues to be a time for spiritual growth and renewal,” says John Freedman, conference president. “What we do really is ‘All about Jesus.’”

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director

Hispanic Family Camp Meeting
Increases Momentum

Each of the nearly 200 individuals on stage at the Hispanic Family Camp Meeting in May was there for a reason. They were all baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2008.

Hispanic pastors and leaders met several months ago and prayerfully set goals for 2008: 400 baptisms, 40 baptisms per church, 100 small groups, and two new churches.

To accomplish the goals, church members hosted one evangelistic series per month, established 100 small groups, distributed flyers door to door, and hosted La Voz de Esperanza (The Voice of Hope) on radio station 1360 AM each Sunday in preparation for a two-week series, Jesús es la Esperanza (Jesus is the Hope), with international evangelist Alejandro Bullón in Burien, Wash.

The Hispanic Family Camp Meeting in Auburn, Wash., immediately followed the series and allowed Bullón to nurture new and growing believers.

“If you pray and you study, but don’t bring anyone to Jesus, you are dead,” says Bullón.

“Make friends and talk about tortillas and cars and soccer. Discover what’s important to them. Then you can invite them to come with you to hear the evangelist.”

Spanish Momentum continues to grow with two church plants in Burien and Auburn, continued radio ministry, and preparation for an evangelistic series in Bellevue-Issaquah with Ramon Canals, pastor-evangelist.

Heidi Martella
As a “welcome to the family” gesture, new members received a Spanish Bible with a hymnal.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director
Auburn City Goes to Mozambique

Auburn City Church partnered with Maranatha Volunteers International, and sent 26 missionaries to Praia Xai Xai, Mozambique, in May, to volunteer with church construction, Vacation Bible School, medical outreach and evangelistic meetings.

The construction team used a type of brick that does not require mortar to construct a new church in less than three days. The team’s efficient work allowed extra time to pour a large concrete patio, build an outdoor baptismal tank, and provide gorgeous landscaping to the church grounds. The growing congregation now has an inviting place for worship.

More than 125 children eagerly came running to learn about Jesus during the VBS program with some walking five miles each way to come! With the aid of translators, the VBS team was able to teach songs, share stories and engage the children in exciting games and crafts. The children proudly wore their gold heaven crowns around the village.

With government clearance, a medical team of one doctor and several nurses held clinics for six days in surrounding villages and helped 60 patients a day. Patients with serious illnesses were invited to a special anointing service on the last night of the meetings.

Vince Saunders, Auburn City youth pastor, preached nightly messages of God’s grace and love during the meetings. Nearly 30 community visitors attended each night and made decisions for Christ. On the final Sabbath, eight people were baptized in the Indian Ocean.

“God’s inspiration and guiding hand was felt throughout the entire trip,” Saunders says. “We thank our generous church family and friends, who provided the prayer support and financial assistance needed to make the trip a success. Anyone considering participating in a mission trip should definitely step out in faith.”

Discover more about Maranatha Volunteers International and read the Auburn City blog at maranatha.org.

Carla Andersen, mission trip participant

Impact Your World Conference

More than 100 people registered and attended the first annual Impact Your World Bible Worker and Prayer Warrior Conference in April, prompting Randy Maxwell, author and Idaho Conference pastor, to say, “God is up to something.”

“When Bible instructors and prayer warriors are united together in God’s work, amazing things happen,” says Gayle Lasher, Washington Conference Bible worker and event coordinator.

“Working side by side, we can accomplish God’s mission here on earth.”

New and “seasoned” Christians came out for the weekend spiritual feast. Attendees shared laughter and tears, made new discoveries and heard wonderful testimonies. A former pastor found his way back into the arms of Jesus. A candlelit communion service provided a time of humble reflection and peaceful comfort. One participant noted how she could feel the presence of Jesus, the Holy Spirit and heavenly angels walking through the room.

Dan Knapp, Upper Columbia Conference pastor, provided practical training for Bible instructors while Maxwell shared insights with prayer warriors.

The Impact Your World Conference began as a way to network approximately 700 people in Western Washington who are now trained to give Bible studies. The next retreat will be April 3–5, 2009, and will feature speakers Kurt Johnson and Ruthie Jacobson. For details, visit washingtonconference.org (Ministries>Impact Your World).

Donna Dickerson, participant
Janet Goltz Retires

Washington Conference hosted the union level challenge of the Bible Achievement Program where young people in grades five through ten memorize selected portions of the Bible.

This year each six-member team—plus an alternate—memorized the book of Matthew. All teams participate in an area level challenge where a score of 90 percent is needed to achieve first place. Teams who achieve first place are eligible for advancing to the conference and union levels.

A record 16 teams attended in Washington; 13 teams earned division level eligibility. They joined the ranks for the national part at Andrews University, to make the highest total yet—45 teams. All 13 teams representing the NPUC achieved a first place rating.

This is the sixth year for the Chehalis Mountaineers to participate and the fourth year to receive a first place distinction at the division level. •

Karyn Fritz, Chehalis Mountaineers Pathfinder club coach

Cascade and Chehalis Pathfinders pause for a quick photo in front of the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University.

Mission Trip to Bethel

For their mission trip in June, six adults and four children from Idaho and Washington chose the Native bush village of Bethel, Alaska.

The team held a Vacation Bible School using a Bible royalty theme about princes and princesses of the kingdom, using skits and silly court costumes to tell the stories. Between 20 to 40 Native Alaskan children came. The team also brought six boxes of books, such as My Bible Friends, to share.

Participants spent long days and nights (in the land of the midnight sun) painting, sanding, staining, flooring, cleaning, landscaping, trimming and overhauling a bathroom at the Bethel Church.

“The trip was a great way to get our children involved,” says Jenny Welch, participant, “and become aware of the different cultures and ways of living in our own country.” •

Pam Wallenfelsz, North Cascade Church member

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Regional Convocation
Lights Shine Warm and Bright

The unseasonal warmth of the sun May 15–18 at Camp Berachah in Auburn, Wash., was surpassed only by the warmth of fellowship shared by those who attended the 32nd annual Regional Convocation, This Little Light of Mine.

Organized and presented by the North Pacific Union Conference Office of Regional Affairs with Alphonso McCarthy, NPUC vice president for regional affairs, and Pattric Parris, NPUC administrative assistant, this annual event provides opportunities to share in learning, faith and fellowship.

The 2008 convocation featured a keynote sermon by Carlton Byrd, Berean Church pastor in Atlanta, Ga., as well as presentations by Joyce Johnson, higher education professor in Hagerstown, Md., and Washington Johnson II, editor of Message magazine. In addition, workshops were presented by T. A. McNealy, Mount Olive Church pastor in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Keith Doram, Adventist Health vice president and chief medical officer; and Eric Walsh, Loma Linda University Medical Center’s Urgent Care Department medical director. Throughout the weekend, This Little Light of Mine carried the theme of evangelism and personal ministry.

Sabbath services also included four baptisms by Kevin Rogers, Mount Tahoma Church pastor, and numerous musical performers, including Tina Glenn, a recording artist from Antioch, Calif. Gregory Nelson, Dupont Park Church youth pastor in Washington, D.C., presented the youth programs and for the first time, specific programs for young adults were offered.

Make your plans now to attend the 2009 Regional Convocation, May 14–17 at Camp Berachah.

CJ Anderson, NPUC communication intern
Pastors pray with Carlton Byrd before his Sabbath sermon. Byrd is the Berean Church pastor in Atlanta, Ga. Convocation leaders pray for God to continue to bless the young pastor’s ministry.

“Whatever we are going to do for Jesus, we don’t have much time,” says T. A. McNealy in a Friday night message with the regional convocation.

This year’s regional convocation featured four baptisms on Sabbath, performed by Kevin Rogers, pastor of the Mount Tahoma Church.

Carlton Byrd engaged listeners as he shared a Sabbath message.

Tina Glenn, recording artist, was the featured musical guest at this year’s regional convocation, giving several performances throughout the weekend.
All Seventh-day Adventist schools in the North Pacific Union Conference, including Walla Walla University, admit students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school and make no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

### Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
6100 O’Malley Rd · Anchorage, AK 99507 · (907) 346-1004 · Superintendent – John Kriegelstein

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<td>Amazing Grace Academy</td>
<td>PO Box 3229, Palmer, AK 99645</td>
<td>(907) 745-2691</td>
<td>Janna Marshall</td>
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<td>Anchorage Junior Academy</td>
<td>5511 O’Malley Rd, Anchorage, AK 99507</td>
<td>(907) 346-2164</td>
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<td>Dillingham Adventist School</td>
<td>PO Box 969, Dillingham, AK 99576</td>
<td>(907) 842-2964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Heart Christian School</td>
<td>PO Box 82997, Fairbanks, AK 99708</td>
<td>(907) 479-2904</td>
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<td>Juneau Adventist School</td>
<td>4890 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801</td>
<td>(907) 780-4336</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sitka Adventist School</td>
<td>1613 Halibut Point Rd, Sitka, AK 99835</td>
<td>(907) 966-2661</td>
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### Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
7777 Fairview Ave · Boise, ID 83704 · (208) 375-7524 · Superintendent – Paulette Jackson

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<td>Gem State Adventist Academy</td>
<td>16115 S Montana Ave, Caldwell, ID 83607</td>
<td>(208) 459-1627</td>
<td>Peter McPherson</td>
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<td>Adventist Christian School</td>
<td>PO Box 50156, Idaho Falls, ID 83405</td>
<td>(208) 528-8582</td>
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<td>Baker Valley Adventist School</td>
<td>42171 Chico Rd, Baker City, OR 97814</td>
<td>(541) 523-4165</td>
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<td>Boise Valley Adventist School</td>
<td>925 N Cloverdale Rd, Boise, ID 83713</td>
<td>(208) 376-7141</td>
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<td>Caldwell Adventist Elementary School</td>
<td>2317 Wisconsin Ave, Caldwell, ID 83605</td>
<td>(208) 459-4313</td>
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<td>Canyon View Adventist School</td>
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<td>Desert View Christian School</td>
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<td>Eagle Adventist Christian School</td>
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<td>Hilltop Adventist School</td>
<td>131 Grandview Dr, Twin Falls, ID 83301</td>
<td>(208) 733-0799</td>
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<td>La Grande Adventist School</td>
<td>PO Box 1025, La Grande, OR 97850</td>
<td>(541) 963-6203</td>
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<td>McCall Adventist Christian School</td>
<td>3592 Longview Rd, McCall, ID 83638</td>
<td>(208) 634-0053</td>
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<td>Salmon Adventist School</td>
<td>400 Fairmont St, Salmon, ID 83467</td>
<td>(208) 756-4439</td>
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<td>Timberline Adventist School</td>
<td>2582 10th Ave W, Vale, OR 97918</td>
<td>(541) 473-9661</td>
<td>Nadine Messer</td>
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<td>Treasure Valley Adventist School</td>
<td>PO Box 296, Payette, ID 83661</td>
<td>(208) 642-2410</td>
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Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
175 Canyon View Rd · Bozeman, MT 59715 · (406) 587-3101 Superintendent – Archie Harris

Mount Ellis Academy  3641 Bozeman Trail Rd, Bozeman, MT 59715  (406) 587-5178  Darren Wilkins  9-12
Blodgett View Christian School  119 Westbridge Rd, Hamilton, MT 59840  (406) 375-0733  Janet Riley  1-8
Central Acres Christian School  3204 Broadwater Ave, Billings, MT 59102  (406) 652-1799  Autumn Paskell  1-8
Five Falls Christian School  3102 Flood Rd, Great Falls, MT 59404  (406) 452-6883  Pennie Wredberg  1-8
Fort Belknap Adventist School  PO Box 937, Harlem, MT 59526  (406) 353-4858  Carrie Ferguson  1-8
Glacier View Adventist School  36332 Mud Creek Ln, Ronan, MT 59864  (406) 676-5142  Marian Baker  1-8
Havre Christian School  4115 9th St W, Havre, MT 59501  (406) 265-8312  Kathy Edwards  1-8
Libby Adventist Christian School  206 Airfield Rd, Libby, MT 59923  (406) 293-8613  Cindy Patten  1-8
Mount Ellis Adventist Elementary School  3835 Bozeman Trail Rd, Bozeman, MT 59715  (406) 587-5430  Becky Meharry  1-8
Mountain View Adventist School  1010 Clements Rd, Missoula, MT 59804  (406) 543-6223  Marty Knapp  1-8
Valley Adventist Christian School  1275 Helena Flats Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901  (406) 752-0830  Clark McCraun  1-8
Valley View Adv Christian School  264 Highway 200 S, Glendive, MT 59330  (406) 687-3472  Joelle Chase  1-8

Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
19800 Oatfield Rd · Gladstone, OR 97027 · (503) 850-3500 · Superintendent – John Gatchet

Columbia Adventist Academy  11100 NE 189th St, Battle Ground, WA 98604  (360) 687-3161  Matthew Butte  9-12
Livingstone Adventist Academy  5771 Fruitland Rd NE, Salem, OR 97317  (503) 963-9408  Jon Dickerson  9-12
Milo Adventist Academy  PO Box 278, Days Creek, OR 97429  (541) 825-3200  Randy Bovee  9-12
Portland Adventist Academy  1500 SE 96th Ave, Portland, OR 97216  (503) 255-8372  Gale Crosby  9-12
Rogue Valley Adventist School  3675 S Stage Rd, Medford, OR 97501  (541) 773-2988  Fylvia Kline  9-12
Canyonville Adventist Elementary School  PO Box 1155, Canyonville, OR 97417  (541) 928-7820  Mike Meadows  1-8
Central Valley Christian School  31630 SE Highway 34, Tangent, OR 97389  (541) 935-3017  Liisa Fults  1-6
Countryside Christian School  88401 Huston Rd, Veneta, OR  97487  (541) 935-3017  Jon Dickerson  9-12
Emerald Christian Academy  35582 Zephyr Way, Pleasant Hill, OR 97455  (541) 935-3017  Don Bryan  1-8
Gold Coast Christian School  1251 Clark St, North Bend, OR 97459  (541) 756-6307  Holley Bryant  1-8
Grants Pass Adventist School  2250 NW Heidi Ln, Grants Pass, OR 97526  (541) 476-1708  Don Bryan  9-10
Hood View Junior Academy  PO Box 128, Boring, OR 97009  (503) 663-4568  Holley Bryant  9-10
Kelso-Longview Adventist School  PO Box 889, Scappoose, OR 97056  (503) 472-3336  June Graham  1-8
Klamath Falls Adventist School  PO Box 128, Boring, OR 97009  (503) 663-4568  June Graham  1-8
Libby Adventist Christian School  2499 Main St, Libby, MT 59923  (541) 825-3200  Randy Bovee  9-12
Laurelwood Adventist Elementary School  PO Box 39, Gaston, OR 97119  (503) 985-7289  Melissa Haugsted  1-8
Lincoln City Adventist School  2126 NE Surf Ave, Lincoln City, OR 97367  (503) 994-5181  Richard Worley  1-8
Madrass Christian School  66 SE “H” St, Madras, OR 97741  (541) 475-7545  Rachel Jones  8-12
Madrone Adventist Elementary School  4300 Holland Loop Rd, Cave Junction, OR 97523  (541) 920-3220  Amy Whitchurch  1-8
McMinville Adventist Christian School  1349 NW Elm St, McMinnville, OR 97128  (503) 472-3336  Mike Meadows  1-8
Meadow Glade Elementary School  18717 NE 109th Ave, Battle Ground, WA 98604  (360) 687-5121  Mike Meadows  1-8
Mid-Columbia Adventist School  PO Box 777, Pasco, WA 99301  (509) 543-6223  Marty Knapp  1-8
Milo Adventist School  1251 Clark St, North Bend, OR 97459  (503) 663-4568  Tracy Lang  1-8
Meadow View Adventist School  PO Box 128, Boring, OR 97009  (503) 663-4568  Tracy Lang  1-8
Mount Ellis Christian School  1100 NE 189th St, Battle Ground, WA 98604  (360) 879-5812  Dan Wister  1-8
Portland Adventist School  3990 NE 1st St, Gresham, OR 97030  (503) 472-3336  Mike Meadows  1-8
Rivergate Adventist Elementary School  1505 Ohlson Rd, Gladstone, OR 97027  (503) 879-5812  Barbara Clark  1-8
Riverside Adventist Christian School  PO Box 367, Washougal, WA 98671  (360) 879-5812  Barbara Clark  1-8
Scappoose Adventist School  PO Box 260, Scappoose, OR 97056  (503) 543-6939  Steve McKeene  1-8
Shady Point Adventist School  PO Box 216, Eagle Point, OR 97524  (541) 826-2305  Conynan Allred  1-8
The Dalles Adventist School  3339 E 13th St, The Dalles, OR 97058  (541) 293-8613  Connalyn Allred  1-8
Three Sisters Adventist School  2155 Tumalo Rd, Bend, OR 97701  (541) 826-3514  Dan Wister  1-8
Tillamook Adventist School  4115 9th St W, Havre, MT 59501  (406) 265-8312  Dan Wister  1-8
Tualatin Valley Junior Academy  PO Box 39, Gaston, OR 97119  (503) 985-7289  Melissa Haugsted  1-8
Wahkiacus Adventist Church School  457 Wahkiacus Heights Rd, Wahkiacus, WA 99870  (509) 842-6533  Dennis Kingma  1-8
West Valley Christian School  PO Box 38, Willamina, OR 97396  (503) 879-5812  Barbara Clark  1-8

Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
PO Box 19039 · Spokane, WA 99219 · (509) 838-2761 · Superintendent - Larry Marsh

Cascade Christian Academy  600 N Western Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801  (509) 622-2723  Mark Witas  9-12
Upper Columbia Academy  3025 E Spangle-Waverly Rd, Spangle, WA 99031  (509) 245-3600  Troy Palter  9-12
Walla Walla Valley Academy  300 SW Academy Way, College Place, WA 99324  (509) 525-1050  John Deming  9-12
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<td>Beacon Christian School</td>
<td>615 Stewart Ave, Lewiston, ID 83501</td>
<td>(208) 743-8361</td>
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<td>Brewster Adventist School</td>
<td>115 Valley Rd, Brewster, WA 98812</td>
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<td>Colville Valley Junior Academy</td>
<td>139 E Cedar Loop, Colville, WA 99114</td>
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<td>Cornerstone Christian School</td>
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<td>12107 W Seven Mile Rd, Spokane, WA 99224</td>
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<td>Lake City Junior Academy</td>
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<td>53565 W Crockett Rd, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862</td>
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<td>Rogers Adventist School</td>
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<td>Saint Maries Christian School</td>
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<td>1888 N Wright Dr, Spokane, WA 99224</td>
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<td>1603 S Sullivan Rd, Spokane Valley, WA 99037</td>
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<td>Tri-City Junior Academy</td>
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<td>(509) 547-8092</td>
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<td>Upper Columbia Academy</td>
<td>3025 S Spangle Waverly Rd, Spangle, WA 99031</td>
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<td>Yakima Adventist Christian School</td>
<td>1200 City Reservoir Rd, Yakima, WA 98908</td>
<td>(509) 966-1933</td>
<td>Patrick Frey</td>
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**Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**

32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S · Federal Way, WA 98001 · (253) 681-6008 · Superintendent – Lon Gruesbeck

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<td>Auburn Adventist Academy</td>
<td>5000 Auburn Way S, Auburn, WA 98092</td>
<td>(253) 939-5000</td>
<td>Keith Hallam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orcas Christian School</td>
<td>PO Box 669, Eastsound, WA 98245</td>
<td>(360) 376-6683</td>
<td>Tom Roosma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pugel Sound Adventist Academy</td>
<td>5320 108th Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98033</td>
<td>(425) 822-7554</td>
<td>Rick Serna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skagit Adventist Academy</td>
<td>530 N Section St, Burlington, WA 98233</td>
<td>(360) 755-9261</td>
<td>Ken Knudsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baker View Christian School</td>
<td>5353 Wachshe Rd, Bellingham, WA 98226</td>
<td>(360) 384-8155</td>
<td>Anthea Lindsey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buena Vista Adventist School</td>
<td>3320 Academy Dr SE, Auburn, WA 98002</td>
<td>(253) 833-0718</td>
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<td>Cedrarbrook Adv. Christ School</td>
<td>PO Box 150, Port Hadlock, WA 98339</td>
<td>(360) 385-4610</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedarhome Adventist Christian School</td>
<td>28505 68th Ave NW, Stanwood, WA 98292</td>
<td>(360) 629-5340</td>
<td>Frank Meidell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cypress Adventist School</td>
<td>21500 Cypress Way, Lynnwood, WA 98036</td>
<td>(253) 775-3578</td>
<td>Lowell Dunston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Park Adventist Christian School</td>
<td>4120 Federal Ave, Everett, WA 98203</td>
<td>(425) 258-6911</td>
<td>Sheri Rodman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grays Harbor Adventist Christian School</td>
<td>1216 SR 12, Montesano, WA 98563</td>
<td>(360) 249-1115</td>
<td>Adria Hay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirkland Adventist School</td>
<td>5320 108 Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98033</td>
<td>(425) 822-7554</td>
<td>Rick Serna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kitsap Adventist Christian School</td>
<td>5088 NW Taylor Rd, Bremerton, WA 98312</td>
<td>(360) 377-4542</td>
<td>Heather Phelps</td>
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<td>Lewis County Adventist School</td>
<td>2104 S Scheuer Rd, Chehalis, WA 98532</td>
<td>(360) 748-3213</td>
<td>Dan Baker</td>
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<td>Mountain View Christian School</td>
<td>255 Medsker Rd, Sequim, WA 98382</td>
<td>(360) 683-6170</td>
<td>Larry Arnot</td>
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<td>Northwest Christian School</td>
<td>904 Shaw Rd, Fuyall, WA 98372</td>
<td>(253) 845-5722</td>
<td>Marshall Merkin</td>
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<td>Olympia Christian School</td>
<td>1416 26th Ave NE, Olympia, WA 98505</td>
<td>(360) 352-1851</td>
<td>Anita McKown</td>
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<td>Poulsbo Adventist School</td>
<td>1700 Lincoln Rd NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370</td>
<td>(360) 779-6290</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
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<td>Shelton Valley Christian School</td>
<td>PO Box 773, Shelton, WA 98584</td>
<td>(360) 426-4198</td>
<td>Judy McCain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skagit Adventist School</td>
<td>530 N Section St, Burlington, WA 98233</td>
<td>(360) 755-9261</td>
<td>Stephanie Gates</td>
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<td>Sky Valley Adventist School</td>
<td>200 Academy Way, Monroe, WA 98272</td>
<td>(360) 794-7655</td>
<td>Angela Spurgeon</td>
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<td>Tacoma Adventist School</td>
<td>230 S 94th St, Tacoma, WA 98444</td>
<td>(253) 537-3523</td>
<td>Karen Schwartz</td>
<td>K-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whidbey Christian Elem. School</td>
<td>31830 SR 20, Oak Harbor, WA 98277</td>
<td>(360) 279-1812</td>
<td>Dan Nickolatos</td>
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Richard Litke Receives

Generosity in Service Award

At Walla Walla University’s commencement in June, Richard Litke received the first Generosity in Service Award, which has been created to recognize those who continuously uphold WWU’s mission statement: “Excellence in thought; Generosity in service; Beauty in expression; Faith in God.”

Litke has an extensive history with WWU, finishing 60 years of service to the university this year. His career began two years after he enrolled as a post-war freshman. Following his graduation in 1948, he was immediately hired to teach Greek and Hebrew for the theology department, something he started during his second (and senior) year as a student.

In order to accommodate the high number of veterans enrolled in the theology program, WWU asked Litke, whose language skills had been apparent from the moment he set foot on campus, to teach in addition to finishing his own coursework. Litke agreed, and so began six decades of inspiring dedication.

As he worked toward earning a doctorate degree in Ancient Near Eastern Languages at Yale University in 1959, Litke completed graduate work at Berkeley, Chicago and Michigan. This study enhanced his knowledge of ancient languages, and, just for fun, he added French to his repertoire while at Berkeley.

By the time Litke finished his doctorate, he had mastered Sumerian, Akkadian, Hittite and Arabic, along with three distinct Greek dialects, all in addition to the Koine Greek that he taught at WWU.

His doctoral dissertation was published in the Yale Babylonian Collection in 1998. In recent years, with the encouragement and inspiration of his wife Norma, Litke has undertaken another challenge: studying and demonstrating the relationship between Sumerian and Chinese. For this purpose, he taught himself Mandarin Chinese, further expanding the list of languages he has mastered. His project is currently being prepared for publication in two volumes.

Litke was born in 1921 into a German Communist family and grew up an atheist. He knew nothing of the Bible, Christ or church.

The summer after eighth grade, Litke attended meetings put on by a man who spoke of the stars and planets and an intelligence behind them. Intrigued, Litke attended each meeting, culminating in his baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in August 1935. Following that summer, Litke attended Auburn Adventist Academy and graduated in 1939.

Currently, Litke rents two apartments. One is for sleeping and eating, the other is for visiting with and tutoring students. He always has time to meet with anyone who asks, and he loves every minute of it. His generosity in service continues to touch the lives of students and faculty at WWU.

“Dr. Richard Litke is indeed a worthy candidate to receive Walla Walla University’s first ‘Generosity in Service’ award,” says John McVay, president of WWU. “He has served his God, his church, his university, and the world with distinction, inspiring both his students and his faculty colleagues to superior scholarship and serious Christian commitment.”

Becky St. Clair, University GLEANER correspondent

Even at age 87, Litke continues to study, teach and serve.
Walla Walla General team

Goes to Guyana

In May, a three-person team from Walla Walla General Hospital set out on a whirlwind journey of love. Leaving the comforts of the Northwest, they flew a two-stop trip to Georgetown, Guyana. After just two days in the tropical town, they left again, but not without a new addition to the family.

With the support of the WWGH leadership and medical staff, the trio “adopted” a sister Adventist hospital in South America. Working through Adventist Health International—an organization created in 1991 to support Adventist hospitals and clinics in developing countries—the team visited Davis Memorial Hospital in Guyana (pronounced GUY-an-a). Slightly larger than Idaho, the former European colony borders Venezuela on the east and is the only English-speaking country in South America.

Among the sugar cane, rice paddies and mango trees, DMH was established in 1954 in honor of an early 20th century missionary. While it has survived over the last five decades, the depressed local economy and lack of resources make operations tough.

“We were interested in adopting an Adventist hospital in a less developed country and helping them out,” says Monty Knittel, president and CEO of WWGH. “The purpose of this trip was to get a firsthand look at their needs.” He stressed that the support was not necessarily monetary. Much assistance could be in the form of volunteer labor and consulting on areas such as policies and procedures, staff education and biomedical training.

Additionally, mission trips will be funded by donations rather than from hospital operations.

In the weeks since returning, the team has kept in contact with the DMH leadership with the goal of prioritizing needs. DMH’s needs are many, according to Marj Simons, WWGH patient care executive. Some are very basic, such as help with painting. Others, such as remodeling the ER, are more complicated.

WWGH’s biggest offering though is experience. After the trip, WWGH sent sample policy materials for DMH to customize, and a future option would be to send volunteer nurses to Guyana to teach and train clinicians. In the interim, Simons hopes to send education modules.

Beyond training, a major focus is improving DMH’s clinical operations.

“When we went to Guyana, I was encouraged to see they were doing a lot of good work,” says Jack Hoehn, WWGH primary care physician. For him, going remote was like going home. After spending 12 years working in Africa, he says, “I consider myself first a mission doctor.”

“The staff and the CEO are so dedicated,” says Simons. “Just about anything we do will be helpful.”

Reflecting on the trip, she says, “It’s striking how much blessing there is in helping. We haven’t done anything tangible yet, but we’ve given them hope.”

To learn more about this project and what you can do to help, contact: (509) 527-8302.

Shawna Malvini, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent

Guyana marketplaces are bursting with fresh local produce, including bananas, mangoes, breadfruit and beans.
INSIDE SCOOP

Melashenko Leaves Voice of Prophecy

Lonnie Melashenko has left his position as speaker/director of the Voice of Prophecy to assume the role of vice president of spiritual services and missions for the Kettering Health Network in Ohio. During his 17 years of service, Melashenko has been a key asset at the Voice of Prophecy. Melashenko has agreed to represent the organization at various speaking appointments and the evangelistic outreach in Hong Kong this fall.

Keep in mind

Church employees of any 501(c)(3) must refrain from any indication of support or opposition to any political candidate. This includes using your position, church resources or equipment (bulletin boards, e-mails, Web sites, stationery, publications, and the pulpit) to either support or oppose any political candidate. Certainly you are free to do this as a personal matter but please refrain from any involvement in such activity as a church employee. For more information, contact the General Conference Office of General Counsel at (301) 680-6325 or (301) 680-6321 or visit: www.irs.gov/charities.

Weimar Academy and College get “New Start”

After recently joining ministries, the boards at Amazing Facts and Weimar have voted to keep the Weimar Academy and College open for the upcoming school year. Earlier this year, Weimar faced a serious financial shortfall that threatened operations. However, with the help of Amazing Facts, the college and academy are now renovating facilities and hiring new staff for classes this fall. Neil Nedley, M.D., author of Proof Positive and Depression—A Way Out, has accepted the call to become president of the Weimar Center of Health and Education.

THE ADVENT MOVEMENT

Rod Bieber left the John Day (Ore.) district July 1 to pastor the Chandron, Crawford and Gordon (Neb.) churches in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. Paul Cole retired July 1 from his work in the Oregon Conference. David Ballard left the Dalles/Wahkiacus (Ore.) district May 15 to pastor the Newberg/Hopewell (Ore.) district. Se Bong Im has accepted the pastoral position at the Seattle Korean Church in Everett (Wash.). Im has been the pastor of the Olympic Korean Church in the Southern California Conference for the past 10 years. Elmer Dow, pastor of the Havre (Mont.) district, made the decision to go on permanent disability July 1. Casey Higgins, pastor of the Helena (Mont.) district, is transferring to the Kalispell (Mont.) district to be the senior pastor. Current pastor, Tom Glatts, will continue in Kalispell as the associate pastor with emphasis on building up small congregations. Reuben Hubbard joined the Burns (Ore.) Church July 1 as a half-time pastor for evangelism. Joon Hwan Huh accepted a pastoral position with the Eastside Korean Company (Wash.) on July 5. Roland Lehnhoff has accepted the pastoral position at the Tacoma (Wash.) South Side Church. The Lehnoffs have served nine years at the Auburn (Wash.) City Church. Walter Mancia, previously of the Riverside/Stevenson district, was installed as pastor of the Valley View Church on May 15. Mike Martinez, pastor of the Billings (Mont.) district, is transferring to the Arkansas/Louisiana Conference to pastor the Bentonville (Ark.) Church. Jim McMurry accepted the invitation to pastor the Hood View (Ore.) Church. McMurry comes from the Sonora (Calif.) Church. Alvin Payne, assistant pastor at the Hillsboro Spanish/ and The Rock Church (Ore.), accepted a call to the Chesapeake Conference. Mike Schwartz became the new principal of Bakersfield (Calif.) Adventist Academy July 1, leaving the same position at Gem State Academy. Ron Smith has fully retired from his work in the Oregon Conference. Anthony Thomsen is the new pastor of the Salmon and Wood River Valley (Idaho) churches as of July 1. Craig Wiley became the new science teacher at Gem State Academy on July 1. He comes from a similar position at Dakota Adventist Academy.

OOPS!

In the July’s Advent Movement we listed Brian Sutterlund as replacing Aaron Woehler at Gem State Academy. The correct spelling of his name is Setterlund.

COLEMAN—Robert Levi was born April 24, 2008, to Charles and Rachel (Jenks) Coleman, Walla Walla, Wash.

HEIN—Julian James was born May 29, 2007, to Scott J. Hein and Lisa Greene, Portland, Ore.

KELSTROM—Caden Finn was born Jan. 28, 2008, to Jared and Sarah (Rodriguez) Kelstrom, Spokane, Wash.

KIRCHBAUM—Holli Tamra was born May 11, 2008, to Eric and Heidi (Heid) Kirschbaum, Ore.

LORTON—Isabelle Marie was born May 5, 2008, to Joseph S. and Brie A. (Biggs) Lorton, Aberdeen, Wash.

NATIVIDAD—Theodore James was born May 8, 2008, to Sam and Esther (Mendenhall) Natividad, Seaside, Ore.

NELSON—Benjamin Eric was born May 31, 2008, to Chris and Aubrey (Oliver) Nelson, Tigard, Ore.

NICOLICI—Danica Maxine was born May 16, 2008, to Adrian and Christina (Johnson) Nicolici, Everett, Wash.

ONDONG—Ethan Emmanuel was born Dec. 25, 2007, to Arman and Melanie (Hardesty) Ondong, Chehalis, Wash.

PADDOCK—Trekken Evan was born June 9, 2008, to Ryan and Laura (Bredall) Paddock, Milwaukee, Ore.

PERRIN—Dea Phaelyn Tess was born June 5, 2008, to Daniel J. and Heather L. (Kellogg) Perrin, College Place, Wash.

PORTER—Mackenzie Brooke was born May 27, 2008, to Mike and Robin (Reed) Porter, Eagle Point, Ore.


SANDAINE—Ryder Lee was born May 31, 2008, to Jesse and Ashley (Thorn) Sandaine, Spokane, Wash.

SCHNIBBE—Reagan Johanna was born April 29, 2008, to Barton and Georgi (Wood) Schnibbe, Clackamas, Ore.

SCOLLARD—Jacob Evan was born June 27, 2008, to Andy and Shonna (Davis) Scollard, Snohomish, Wash.

TILLEY—Amanda Shelby Nicole was born June 5, 2008, to Nick and Jessica (Ringering) Tilley, Milton-Freewater, Ore.

WEBB—Sara B. was born June 17, 2008, to Steven and Bernta (Smith) Webb, Sweet Home, Ore.

BRUBAKER–REEVES—Krystle Brubaker and Brian Reeves were married May 9, 2008, in Hobart, Ind. They are making their home in Berrien Springs, Mich. Krystle is the daughter of David and Joy (Sutton) Brubaker. Brian is the son of Bruce and Sandy (Stahl) Reeves.

CURCIO–WHITEAKER—Lynesa Curcio and Monty Whiteaker were married June 14, 2008, in Walla Walla, Wash., where they are making their home. Lynesa is the daughter of Richard and Isabel Curcio. Monty is the son of Warren and Kathy Whiteaker.

HAIGH–SCHNEIDER—Shannon Haigh and Mark Schneider were married June 22, 2008, in Days Creek, Ore. They are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif. Shannon is the daughter of George Haigh (deceased) and Elona/Wendy Wong–Haigh. Mark is the youngest son of Victor and Irma Schneider.

NEISNER–HAYES—Heidi Neisner and Sean Hayes were married March 26, 2008, in Walla Walla, Wash. They are making their home in College Place, Wash. Heidi is the daughter of Dan and Shirley Neisner. Sean is the son of Dan and Debbie Hayes.

SCHIMKE–HARRIS—Melissa Schimke and Dallas Harris were married June 13, 2008, in Ephrata, Wash. They are making their home in Fairfield, Mont. Melissa is the daughter of Wayne and Debbie Schimke. Dallas is the son of Phil and Arlene Harris.

SEXTON–TUTSCH—Joni Sexton Stovall and Michael Tutsch were married May 24, 2008, in Coos Bay, Ore. They are making their home in Walla Walla, Wash. Joni is the daughter of Rick Sexton (deceased) and Jon and Janice (Benton) Jonsson. Michael is the son of Ulrich and Cynthia (Grams) Tutsch.

AUTREST—Mary H. (Hight), 94; born April 9, 1914, Tacoma, Wash.; died April 25, 2008, Central Point, Ore. Surviving: son, Joel H., Ketchikan, Alaska; daughter, Lynda Rae Austin, Central Point; 4 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchild.


BILBRO—Shirley B. (Johnson), 77; born Sept. 27, 1930, Dutton, Mont.; died June 12, 2008, Billings, Mont. Surviving: husband, John W., Jordan, Mont.; son, Allen, Denver, Colo.; daughters, Linda Hiebert and Eileen Peisert, both of Dayton, Ohio; brother, Boyd Johnson, Billings; sister, Joyce Depner, Rice, Wash.; 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.


BRITTON—Lucille M. (Nickols) Slagle, 91; born May 19, 1917, Eau Claire, Wis.; died May 20, 2008, Salem, Ore. Surviving: sons, Arthur Slagle, Raymond,
Walla, Wash.; Larry Slagle, Gulfport, Miss.; Leroy Slagle, Fort Atkinson, Wis.; Byron Slagle, Raymond; Thomas Britton, Eugene, Ore.; daughters, Donna (Slagle) Lueoff, Park Falls, Wis.; Cecelia (Britton) Thomas, both of Salem; Beverly (Slagle) Leach, Salem; 29 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.


**DANFORTH**—Leona May (Woodford), 85; born Aug. 11, 1922, Los Angeles, Calif.; May 28, 2008, Eagle Point, Ore. Surviving: husband, Het; sons, Lauren, Hoodspoort, Wash.; John, Buena Park, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**DERHALA**—Zouhdi M., 75; born July 29, 1932, Jaffa, Palestine; died April 29, 2008, Portland, Ore. Surviving: sons, Gary, Johnston City, Ore.; sons, Tom, Portland; brothers, Tom Traughber, Bay City, Ore.; Leslie "Bud" Traughber, Redding, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**DERHALLI**—B. Esther (Rollins) Derhalli, 75; born June 11, 2008, Port Orchard, Wash. Surviving: husband, Henry; daughters, Mary, Johnsville, Ark.; brother, Eddie, Borger; and 3 grandchildren.

**DANFORTH**—Leona May (Woodford), 85; born Aug. 11, 1922, Los Angeles, Calif.; May 28, 2008, Eagle Point, Ore. Surviving: husband, Het; sons, Lauren, Hoodspoort, Wash.; John, Buena Park, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**DERHALA**—Zouhdi M., 75; born July 29, 1932, Jaffa, Palestine; died April 29, 2008, Portland, Ore. Surviving: sons, Gary, Johnston City, Ore.; sons, Tom, Portland; brothers, Tom Traughber, Bay City, Ore.; Leslie "Bud" Traughber, Redding, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.


**KEMP**—Joe Q. Sr., 87; born July 1, 1920, Yellowstone County, Mont.; died May 6, 2008, Billings, Mont. Surviving: wife, Erna R. (Reinke) Kemph; sons, Joe Jr., Custer, Mont.; daughter, Karen Lich, Custer, and brothers, Bob, Delano, Calif.; Floyd, Big Timber, Mont.; sister, Kathleen Hixson, Redding, Calif.; 3 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**KIELE**—Robert Lewis, 78; born May 1, 1929, Denver, Colo.; died March 18, 2008, Bremerton, Wash. Surviving: wife, Arlene (Hawkinson), Port Orchard, Wash.; sons, R. Scott and Lane, both of Port Orchard; Jan, Anchorage, Alaska; daughter, Julie Sherman, Port Orchard; and 13 grandchildren.


**MANSSELL**—Vesta (West), 75; born July 25, 1932, Daly City, Calif.; died May 29, 2008, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Donald; son, Donald E., Paradise, Calif.; daughters, Marjorie Mayfield, Nampa; Ded Wood, Cascade, Idaho; brother, Everett West, Woodland, Calif.; sisters, Mona Barnes, Sacramento, Calif.; Norma West, Fair Oaks, Calif.; 7 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**ODANI ELS**—Betty Evelyn (Traughber), 84; born Sept. 14, 1923, Lawton, Okla.; died June 1, 2008, Portland, Ore. Surviving: sons, Gary, Johnston City, Ore.; sons, Tom, Portland; brothers, Tom Traughber, Bay City, Ore.; Leslie "Bud" Traughber, Redding, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.


**PLUMMER**—Phyllis Isobel (Breum), 87; born July 11, 1920, Wolf Point, Mont.; died June 20, 2008, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: son, Larry Jenson, Nampa; 5 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great-grandchildren.

**RASCO**—Jimmy Ray, 70; born Feb. 17, 1938, Borger, Texas; died March 19, 2008, Pullman, Wash. Surviving: wife, Joanne (Carich); twins sons, Don and Ron, both of Moscow, Idaho; brother, Eddie, Borger; and 3 grandchildren.

**REICHERT**—Edna L. (Viser), 70; born June 6, 1937, Crockett, Calif.; died Feb. 27, 2008, Tacoma, Wash. Surviving: husband, Robert L., Port Orchard, Wash.; son, Steve, Port Orchard; Nelson, Healdsburg, Calif.; daughters, Mercene Schilt, Port Orchard; and Laura Reichert, Paradise, Calif.


NPUC

Offerings
Aug. 2—Local Church Budget; Aug. 9—Oakwood College/Andrews University/ Loma Linda University; Aug. 16—Local Church Budget; Aug. 23—Local Conference Advance; Aug. 30—NPUC Budget: Alaska Conference.

Special Days
Curriculum Focus for the Month—Spiritual Gifts +
Aug. 30—Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day
+Need materials for Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day? The Hope of Survivors has a complete set of brochures focusing on the abuse of power, the theme for this year. Visit www.thehopeofsurvivors.com/products.asp or call (618) 983-6434 to order your supply.

Walla Walla University
Registration is now open for WWU’s annual FIRST LEGO Robotics Event. Teams of young people ages 6 and up will compete in several events on the WWU campus in April 2009. The theme for this year is “Climate Connections.” Register now at engr.wallawalla.edu/lego. Call Marlene at (509) 527-2446 with questions.

Montana
Christian Women’s Retreat
Oct. 10–12—Sue Smith will present “Women Jesus Loved” at Fairmont Hot Springs, Anaconda, Mont. For information, call Deanna Harris at (406) 599-9464 or check out www.MontanaConference.org.

Oregon
Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM)
Aug. 15–17—Sponsored by the Beaverton Adventist Singles. Tent camping: Honeyman State Park, Florence, Ore. (Central Coast), Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. Cost: $20, plus parking: $5 per vehicle, per night. Bring food (to share), small tent, camping equipment, Bible, swim suit, sand toys, sleeping bag, pillow and camera. Call Charlotte for menu. Limited space. Click below for map and directions: http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_134.php. Send your check to: Charlotte Miles, 9417 S.W. Manchester Pl., Beaverton, OR 97007; (503) 579-9549; or contact Tom Terry at (503) 684-7971; tom.te@verizon.net; www.beavertonsda.com, then go to the ASAM Singles Web Page, where maps will be made available and at the Beaverton Church foyer. Note: Your check is your reservation. Save this date: Sept. 12–14—Silver Falls Retreat: The Latest in Biblical Archeology.

Milo Academy Starts School
Aug. 17—Registration and move-in time is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Classes begin Monday, Aug. 18. For more information, call (541) 825-3200, ext. 3317 or go to www.miloacademy.org.

Oregon SAGE
Sept. 14—Corn feed at Gladstone; Dec. 14—Christmas lunch at Gladstone.

Coronary Health Improvement Project Program
Sept. 28–Oct. 23—Mt. Tabor Adventist Church, 1001 S.E. 60th Ave., Portland, OR 97215, is presenting the CHIP program. There will be three free information/registration sessions: Sept. 17, 24 & 25 at 7 p.m., in Mt. Tabor’s Community Life Center. Regular sessions: Sunday, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday & Thursday, 7–9 p.m. For more information, call: (971) 275-3163 or e-mail: mtaborchip@yahoo.com.

Missing Members
Woodburn Community Adventist Church is seeking missing members: Armando and Betty L. Aguilar, Amy L. Chambers, Anna E. Foster, Jeannete Gibson, Joann Jones, Brend H. Lee, Harvey L. Lonsway, Brenda S. Martin, Linda J. Martin, Sandra J. Mort, David Nicolet, Jason L. Sr. Nicolet, Sandra J. Steeley, and Denise A. Wilson. If you have contact information for any of these, please contact Ronald Brown, clerk at (503) 266-6444 or e-mail rondebrown@canby.com.

UPPER COLUMBIA
Jaime Jorge Concerts
Aug. 16–17—Jaime Jorge, world-renowned violinist, will be visiting the Walla Walla Valley. He will present the entire church service at the Milton Seventh-day Adventist Church in Milton-Freewater Aug. 16, and will represent the Milton-Freewater Ministerial Association at the city’s annual summer festival, Muddy Frogwater Days, Aug. 17. For information, contact the Milton Church at (541) 938-3066, or e-mail churchoffice@miltonadventist.org.

WWVA 1998 Class Reunion
Are you a member of the Walla Walla Valley Academy Class of 1998? Our reunion is Oct. 4. Please send Mari (Ferguson) Cheney your contact information (mailing and e-mail addresses) to marijfcheney@gmail.com to receive reunion updates.

Missing Members
The Sandpoint Church is seeking information on the following missing members: Jamesina Allen, Sandy Allen, Darcie Bloom, Joseph Conley, Sandra Johnson, Karyl Joseph, Michelle McGifford, David Neimeyer and Anders Youngdale. If you have information, contact Lynda Bailey at (208) 265-9309 or lynda@sandpoint.net.

Washington
SAGE
Aug. 3—Painting workbee at Bellingham Spanish Church. Meals provided. Aug. 24—Mariners baseball game.

Thinking Ahead
Here are suggested topics for news stories GLEANER editors are seeking for the next two issues. We will fit as many stories as possible in the print edition and publish more at www.gleaneronline.org. Stories should be no longer than 300 words and will be edited as needed for design needs.

SEPTEMBER—Community Connections

SUBMISSION DEADLINE—August 4
What specific ways have Adventists worked together with other civic groups in your community to make a positive difference? How were these partnerships established and what projects have been co-sponsored?

OCTOBER—Healthy Living

SUBMISSION DEADLINE—August 28
Has your church, school or group done something in your community to raise awareness of health and wellness principles? Have you hosted a health screening, created a healthy living booth at the fair, co-sponsored a fitness test or walk?
Beat the Heat
Temperatures that hover 10 degrees or more above the average high temperature for the region and last for several weeks are defined as extreme heat. When temperatures are extremely high, take steps to protect yourself and loved ones:
1. Drink more fluids, regardless of your activity level.
2. Stay indoors during the hottest part of the day. If possible, stay in an air-conditioned place. If you do not have air conditioning, visit a shopping mall or public library for a few hours, or call your local health department to find heat-relief shelters in the area.
3. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes.
4. Never leave people or pets in a closed, parked vehicle.
5. Plan to visit adults or children who are at risk daily and closely watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.
Read more at: www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/.

Help Prevent Skin Cancer
Skin cancer is the most commonly occurring cancer in the United States. Ultraviolet rays can reflect off virtually any surface, including sand, water, concrete, snow and ice. They can also penetrate light clothing, windshields, windows and clouds. To be safe in the sun, consider these tips:
1. Stay out of midday sun.
2. Wear a wide-brimmed canvas hat to protect your ears and neck.
3. Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
4. Wear sunglasses that provide 100 percent UV protection for your eyes.
5. Whenever you’re outside, wear a broad-spectrum UV lip balm and sunscreen with at least SPF 15 that blocks both UVA and UVB rays. Apply it 30 minutes prior to sun exposure, and reapply it every two to three hours when in the sun.
6. Seek shade whenever possible—before you need relief from the sun.
7. Stay away from tanning beds and sunlamps.

Keep Your Food Safe
A family of four on a moderate-cost shopping plan spends, on average, more than $225 each week for groceries, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The rising cost of food has Americans gardening, eating more home-cooked meals, and reheating leftovers. Too frequently, fresh food spoils before you can eat it. To help keep food fresh, follow these basics:
1. Choose the freshest produce.
2. Buy perishables (e.g., bread) close to when you plan to use it.
3. Prepare and store food properly.
Read more at: www.wellsource.org/handouts/Food_Safety.pdf.

Ask the Wellness Doctor
Q: Some of my medications cause me to have severe constipation. I’ve tried fiber, stool softeners and laxatives, but they don’t seem to help. And laxatives cause cramping. Can you suggest an alternative?
A: Constipation is a common side effect from medications. Read the entire answer from Dr. Don Hall at www.wellsource.org/ask/constipation.pdf.
Do you think it’s necessary to attend church to keep the Sabbath?

One of the things that I love about attending church is being able to see my extended “family” and catch up on the lives of the youth in my life. At church we’re able to spend time with our Father and together learn more about Him. Secondly, it helps us stay in touch with the bigger family, mission and calling that God has given us. I’ve traveled to different parts of our world on mission trips and speaking at youth events, and I love being a part of a worldwide church. It helps me understand the common goals and purposes we share are not just unique to my home church.

Perhaps the question should be, what is a church? The Bible talks about the importance of being in relationship with each other. Matthew 18:20 says, “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” So Jesus is the one who draws us together for support, accountability and fellowship. Without that, it’s easy for any one of us to drift away from God’s calling. In praying with each other and sharing with each other, we grow together as God’s family, just like Acts 2:44 describes the early church: “All the believers were together and had everything in common.”

So, yes, you can keep the Sabbath without attending church, but you’ll miss the blessings of being with a “family of believers” that is so important to Christian growth and God’s purpose for his people. So I look forward to seeing you at church. Keep looking up!

P.J. Deming, Milo
Academy youth pastor/chaplain


Missing Members
The Washington Conference Church is seeking information on the following missing members: Imelda Cordova, Ana Corea, Edwin Corea, Elvin A. Corea, Forest Davidson, and Lorraine E. Davidson. If you have information on these members, contact Janeth Carnduff at (253) 681-6008.

WORLD CHURCH

Berkeley Springs Church Celebrates 40th Anniversary
Aug. 16—The Berkeley Springs Church will commemorate the 40th anniversary of its founding with special all-day services (including a fellowship luncheon) on Sabbath, Aug. 16. All former pastors, members, and friends are invited to participate. In addition to attending, if you have any stories, articles, or pictures for display, or for more information, contact Denise Mayberry, 99 Brookview Acres Dr., Berkeley Springs, WV 25411, denifrakin@aol.com, (304) 258-6679, or Mark Hann, 250 Lantern Lane, Berrien Springs, WV 25411, hann@pennswoods.net, (304) 258-3888.

Oak Park Academy Alumni

Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend

Health Summit West–English 2008

View Upcoming events online in the Events Calendar below World Church News at: www.GleanerOnline.org
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F. ........... 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sun. ........... 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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623 Caster Lake Ave.
Medford, OR 97504-8014 (541) 734-6457
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Sun. ........... 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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334 East Fairhaven Ave.
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ADVENTIST HAM RADIO OPERATORS, PILOTS AND FRIENDS. Annual Camp Hope Retreat scheduled for August 9–10, 2008. Field trips and special seminars on Friday featuring topics in aviation, ham radio and presentations of particular interest to women and families. Spiritual feast on Sabbath. Guest presenters are Jim and Neva Brackett plus others. Pre-session on Thursday the 7th features all-day ham radio classes with evening exam. For more information, go to www.naara.org or call 360-293-5457 or 509-526-0694.

FOURTH ANNUAL SHELTON VALLEY CHRISTIAN SHOW N’ SHINE—August 17, 2008, from 9 am–3 pm. Location: Shelton Valley Christian School, Shelton, Wash. For more information or to register your car or bike, call 360-426-2776 or 360-426-2474.

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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.

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Marjorie Rittenbach, Elsie Jones and Imogene Perry (from left) are Eagle Meadow residents.


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I learned about the perils of darkness years ago, right after prayer meeting.

Following the midweek service that evening, I chauffeured my family through the dark night toward the lights of home. A mile beyond the church, the road turned and ran straight across a wide valley before curving up into the hills. As we started across the valley I looked ahead, saw no headlights approaching, and was overwhelmed by an inexplicable urge. “Let’s see what it feels like to drive in the dark,” I brashly exclaimed, and immediately flicked off the headlights. Engulfed in pitch blackness we hurtled forward under my irresponsibly idiotic captaincy at 80 feet per second. After two seconds of terror, during which I imagined nameless forms looming up before us in the dark, I hurriedly switched the lights back on.

And there, centered dead ahead in the headlights, was a box—a large box. At 60 miles per hour, there was no time to swerve. No time to “think outside the box.” Just…WHUMP!

In retrospect, this was such an ironically timed surprise that you will need to forgive my unsanctified imagination. I can almost picture a cluster of angels peering eagerly over the banister of heaven as my guardian angel, frustrated by my ridiculous course of action, positions the box for greatest effect, then looks up toward the angelic cohorts with a smile and says, “Watch this!”

The box was empty. Other than a long, cleansing pause in heart palpitation and an indeterminate number of years shaved off my life expectancy, no lasting harm was done. I’ve never again been tempted to turn off the lights. If, indeed, my divine guardian was complicit, the maneuver worked. I learned my lesson.

But I’m sensing lately that gauging the future is increasingly like driving without lights. There are so many obvious choices in the “worry category.” What effect will global warming, or terrorism, or gas prices, or home foreclosures, or job layoffs, stock market fluctuations, or natural disasters have on you and me? In the midst of economic, political, global and even climatic change, what can we personally hold onto that is firm enough to trust?

Then I recall the wonderful old painting Freedom from Fear by Norman Rockwell. There, a tired father looks on as a careworn mother tenderly pulls up the covers at their sleeping children’s bedside. Folded in the father’s hand, beyond comprehension of the peaceful little tykes, is the evening newspaper with headlines in bold: “Bombings!” “Horror!”

With that image I remember another Father who holds back the daily terrors with His hand, and who through His Word promises to be a lamp to our feet, and a light unto our path. And I resolve, as I turn toward an uncertain future, to always keep that Light on. •
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