

Operation Bearhug

North Pacific Evangelists To Hold Meetings in Russia

By Morten Juberg

In a move reminiscent of the early Adventist Church sending its first missionaries overseas, the North Pacific Union Conference will send evangelists to Russia to hold meetings.

After careful study a Global Mission Strategy Committee chaired by Bruce Johnston announced the following unprecedented plans:

- To call the program Operation Bearhug.
- To select three evangelists from the North Pacific Union Conference to hold evangelistic meetings in Russia in March and April. This would be the forerunner of more campaigns planned later in the year.
- To begin a voluntary fund-raising program to purchase Russian language Bibles to be used for evangelism and for funding the costs of the meetings.
- To seek suggestions and ideas from members for programs that can be initiated in Russia.
- To ask Alfred Birch, North Pacific Union Conference Global Mission Strategist, to go to Russia to ascertain needs prior to the evangelistic meetings.
- To work with the Russian Union as a sister union to the North Pacific Union Conference. (The Russian Union covers eight time zones from Moscow to the Siberian Coast.)

In calling the Global Mission Strategy Committee together, North Pacific Union Conference President Bruce Johnston said, "There are many opportunities but how long they will be available, we don't know."

✂ Cut out and return

Yes, I want to have a part in **Operation Bearhug**, the plan to hold evangelistic meetings in Russia.

Enclosed is \$ _____ to be used to purchase Russian language Bibles for evangelism and to help fund the cost of the meetings.

I will also pledge \$ _____ to be paid by _____.

This coupon should be sent to **Operation Bearhug** at your local conference office or placed in a tithe envelope and turned in to your local church.

"The news tells of turmoil and chaos in Europe and Russia. This is a critical time because we may have only a short time frame in which to work," he added.

Much of the information about conditions in the Soviet Union has come from Harold F. Otis, Jr. who heads the Department of Soviet Affairs in the General Conference.

Otis and his wife Rose have traveled widely in Russia and have gained a knowledge of the evangelistic opportunities. In addition, Otis held meetings in Siberia where 120 were baptized. An unusual twist was that those who attended the meetings were charged a two-ruble fee.

Meeting with the Russian Union presidents at their year-end meeting, Otis proposed the idea of a sister union with the North Pacific Union Conference.

Otis said the Russians were somewhat puzzled by the idea of a sister union but when it was explained to them they were most enthusiastic.

The president of the Russian Union gave Otis a big hug and the other presidents asked, "Can't you find someone to love us too?"

The Russian Union is the logical one for the North Pacific Union Conference to be affiliated with since St. Lawrence Island, off the coast of western Alaska, is only 38 miles from islands off the Eastern Siberian Coast. Already Adventist natives from the Island have made contact with Siberian Eskimos who speak the same Yupik language.

Three Evangelists

Preliminary plans call for the sending of three evangelists to Russia in March and April to hold meetings. The cities range in size from 100,000 to one million. The evangelists would each hold two one-week meetings in large halls in the cities to be designated. The Russian Union will follow up on the decisions made.

Alf Birch, after his discussions with Otis, said receptivity among the Russian people for evangelism is excellent.

The topics to be covered during the week-long meetings would deal with basic Christianity such as the truthfulness of Scripture, the life of Jesus, His ministry and His message. One of the functions of the first series of meetings would be needs assessment, laying the groundwork for more



A Response of Northwest Adventists
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meetings later in the year.

"Our plan is not to Americanize the Russian people," Johnston added. "However, we face the problem of instructing the pastors about the fundamentals of democracy which enter into church affairs. Their system is more authoritarian. Only recently has there been a more formal church organization as we know it."

But while preaching was allowed during the stricter years of Communism, there was no proselytizing or public evangelism and inviting individuals to church was not allowed. Consequently, with the easing of these restrictions, the doors are now wide open for public meetings and evangelism.

Bibles Are Needed

One of the most pressing needs for evangelism in Russia is Bibles. Bibles can be purchased from printing plants in Europe. The plan calls for the copies of the Scriptures to be shipped to the Adventist Seminary in Russia and they will ship them to the cities where the meetings are to be held.

Readers are invited to send donations for both the Bibles and the evangelistic expenses to their local conference, either directly or through regular church channels. Contributions should be marked "Operation Bearhug."

Orientation Planned

Present plans call for Birch to travel to Russia shortly after the first of the year to gain firsthand knowledge of possibilities and problems. Several other individuals, in addition to Otis, who have held meetings in Russia or Eastern Europe, would be asked to participate in the orientation process.

Ideas Solicited

In the plans studied by the committee, Johnston called for the active involvement of North Pacific Union Conference lay members in projects for which they have skills.

"We see the possibility in the near future of using individuals who can run youth camps and have experience with youth

Wide Open Doors

Receptivity for evangelism among the Russian people is excellent. The doors are wide open.

meetings to share their knowledge," he stated. "There is very little there for the age group from 16-25."

Johnston noted the committee would also seek suggestions for Pathfinder organization, stewardship planning, and training and equipping both pastors and laity in Russia.

A dentist has expressed a desire to help a Russian dentist be upgraded and established in a private practice.

"We hope there are individuals in our union who have skills in areas of need and would be willing to share them with our Russian brethren," he said. "We are looking for creative ways in which members can

participate on site."

"They have not been allowed to conduct Sabbath Schools until Perestroika came into effect. I visited our church in Moscow in 1967 and was given the rare privilege (for those days) to preach," Johnston said.

He continued, "It is important for us to develop a creative partnership with our sister union in Russia. We have no intention of dominating them or setting their agenda. We can suggest, but we will respond by their invitation. In order to avoid confusion it will be especially important to work through the Global Mission Strategist, Alfred Birch, who will coordinate Operation Bearhug.

Any suggestions or ideas for work in the Soviet Union should be sent to Operation Bearhug, Box 16677, Portland, OR 97216. Phone (503) 255-7300. Fax (503) 253-2455.

Morten Juberg is editor of the GLEANER.

An Anointed Vision, A Prime Necessity



By Bruce Johnston

Vision is one of the most important senses for a human. To be able to see is important. For a Christian there is another type of seeing, an Anointed Vision, one that is guided by the Holy Spirit and which provides direction and insight for the giving of the gospel.

Vision has always been an important part of Adventist Church growth planning. The success of this Anointed Vision can be seen in the successful climax of Harvest 90 when there were more than 2.2 million accessions to the church in the five-year period ending at the General Conference Session in 1990.

Adventists will be hearing a great deal about another Anointed Vision, Global Strategy, during the decade of the 90s. Briefly stated, church planners divided the world's population into 5,000 geographical units of about one million people each. They discovered Adventists had organized work in about 3,200 of these units, leaving 1,800 for Global Strategy.

Plans call for an emphasis on evangelism in these unreached areas of the world which includes the Moslem world, Russia and China.

Walls Are Down

The walls are down in Eastern Europe and Russia. Windows of opportunity have opened in unbelievable ways. But we must move quickly. We are linking up with the Russian

Union to help them evangelize in what is called Operation Bearhug; and with ADRA to assist in building bridges of caring and understanding.

Our Eskimo believers on Saint Lawrence Island in the Alaska Conference are free to travel into Siberia. They speak the language. There have been friendly exchanges already in both directions. They are making new friends and witnessing to relatives in their version of Operation Bearhug.

Here in our own Northwest territory we also have a strategy. Like Global Strategy it has as its goal bringing the gospel to relatively large untouched segments of our Northwest population.

With some 70,000 members in our North Pacific Union and a population in excess of 10 million, it can be seen that we have a great amount of work to do.

What are some of the unentered areas of the Northwest, an important part of our Anointed Vision?

High on the list is work for the Native Americans. Though Native Ministries Northwest is doing an excellent work, we have only taken a few faltering steps to evangelize this large segment of our population.

While the giving of the gospel is proceeding among the Blacks and Hispanics, there is still much to be done. This is also true for other large segments of our foreign population — the Vietnamese, Koreans, Chinese, Japanese and other Asians who have come to America.

But we don't have to look at the culturally

diverse segments of our Northwest population to find challenges.

No Interest

There are the hundreds of thousands of residents of the North Pacific Union territory who seemingly have no interest in religion. Our Northwest area has been called the most unchurched part of America.

There are centers of population to evangelize. These represent a special challenge. While sharing Christ with all, we need to identify responsive segments and to especially target those who are more ready to respond now. At the same time we must find bridges to people's minds and hearts who now show no interest.

Then there are thousands of unchurched Adventists — former members who for one reason or another no longer attend church, though their names may be on the books. We have youth who have drifted away. Many say the Church does not meet their needs. There are the young married couples who are seeking answers to life.

The church must be the kind of place where they can come to find acceptance, love and nurture. A place where they have a piece of the planning as well as the action.

Our schools, too, are vital to our future as a movement. They need heroic support beyond anything yet seen.

To help meet all of these challenges with God's help, we have devised a strategy called "Toward the Year 2,000, An Anointed Vision."

This strategy calls for the The Church Committed.

To accept all that God, through Christ, has given.

To be, through the Holy Spirit, all that God wants us to be.

To accomplish, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the mission Christ has given.

To call again those who once walked with us.

These are goals voted by the North Pacific Union Executive Committee for the future. In our human strength all of these challenges may seem beyond attainment. But we serve a God who does the impossible and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit all things are possible.

Join us in praying that God will give each Northwest Seventh-day Adventist an Anointed Vision for the great tasks that face us.



Bruce Johnston

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UPDATE

Evangelists Named Two evangelists have been selected by their conference committees to hold evangelistic meetings in Russia this spring. They are Dave Weigley from the Washington Conference and Ron Hockley from Oregon. One more evangelist will be named shortly.

Each of the evangelists will hold two one-week meetings in cities to be designated.

Needs Assessment Alf Birch, who is Union Coordinator for Operation Bearhug, will visit Russia in mid-February for a first-hand assessment of the evangelism potential.

Bibles Needed An appeal is being made for funds to purchase Bibles in the Russian language to be used in the evangelistic meetings.



Yes, I want to have a part in Operation Bearhug, the plan to hold evangelistic meetings in Russia.

Enclosed is \$_____ to be used to purchase Russian language Bibles for evangelism and to help fund the costs of the meetings.

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Special Signs Issue

About 97,000 copies of the special holiday issue of the *Signs of the Times*, "The Greatest Gift," have been shipped. The issue was designed to be used during the Ingathering season.

Pastor Dick Morris from the Portland Stone Tower Church said copies of the issue sent to relatives and the armed forces in Saudia Arabia were well received.

Walla Walla College Chaplain John Cress used 500 copies to share with prisoners at the Washington State Penitentiary and for other sharing projects.

Anchorage Churches Ship Bibles to Siberia

By Dorothy Watts

Twenty-two cartons of Russian Bibles were shipped to Magadan, Siberia, USSR, on Dec. 15, a Christmas present to the Magadan Adventist Church from sister churches in Anchorage.

Accompanying the gift was Jim Osborne, pastor of the Northside Church, whose efforts had spearheaded the drive for funds. Nearly \$3,000 came in after Kirill Movelyan, Adventist pastor in Magadan, spoke at Northside and five other Anchorage churches in October.

Osborne spent a week in Siberia visiting Anadyr and Magadan. While there he spoke twice at the Adventist Church, visited several members in their homes, appeared in a television interview, and represented Alaskan Adventists at an international conference for religion and culture.

According to Osborne there is one Adventist lady in Anadyr and around 30 members in Magadan. One carton, 20 Bibles, was earmarked for Anadyr, the others for Magadan.

"I will never forget the experience of watching Kirill Movelyan, our Adventist pastor, give one of those Bibles to an elderly woman," says Osborne. "As he handed it to her, Kirill pointed to me and said something in Russian I couldn't understand."

There was no misunderstanding what happened next. The woman clasped the Bible to her breast, tears rolled down her cheeks as she exclaimed, "Spasiba! Spasiba! Spasiba!"

With 4,000 names of people who want Bibles, Pastor Movelyan says he will give a Bible only to those who promise to study a set of printed lessons. In addition to the lessons Movelyan has been able to print 20,000 tabloid-style brochures with articles

on Adventist beliefs and 5,000 copies of *The Great Controversy*.

Osborne tramped through heavy snow in 20 degrees below zero weather to see the future site of the Adventist church building. Volunteers from Moldavia, Kirill Movelyan's home province, will arrive in the spring to help the congregation erect a stone church to seat 400 people. The group now crowds into the small living room of the pastor's one-bedroom apartment.

Among recent Magadan converts are a lady criminologist and two medical doctors. Osborne spent time with the pastor and one of the doctors listening to their dream of erecting a clinic on the church property. "I wish there was something we could do to help them fulfill that dream," says Osborne.

While in Magadan Pastor Osborne also visited an orphanage, a home for the handicapped, and The Room of Truth in a museum which commemorated the more than three million people who suffered in a hundred concentration camps in the area. The people of Magadan are descendants of the guards and the inmates of these camps. The road from the airport to Magadan was built by prisoners.

"I walked with one man, a Jew who survived the camps," reports Osborne. "He said that many Adventists as well as Catholics

and Pentecostals were in his camp. He remembers the Easter programs those Christians put on as one of the brightest spots of his time there."

"It was a very emotional experience for me to fellowship with these people," Osborne says. "I sensed their sorrow and confusion as they try to deal with a difficult past, live in a troubled present, and plan for an uncertain future. I'm glad we could have a small part in bringing them the hope found in God's Word." 

Dorothy Watts writes from Anchorage, Alaska.



Jim Osborne took 22 cartons of Russian Bibles to Magadan, Siberia in December.



Magadan Adventists meet in the living room of the pastor's home, the right side of this duplex.

 Cut out and return

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FROM THE EDITOR

Operation Bearhug has stirred the interest of Northwesterners, one of the reasons being the proximity of Alaska to the Soviet Union.

In response to Operation Bearhug we have heard of many people offering financial help for the evangelistic meetings that are being planned as well as for Bibles.

As an example, there is the program initiated by the Portland Rockwood Earliteens. A report of this appears in the feature section of this issue.

Alf Birch, Operation Bearhug coordinator, is visiting Russia to get firsthand information as to the needs and possibilities. We will carry a report of his findings upon his return.

If your church or group has plans for Operation Bearhug, we would like to hear from you. Send the information along with pictures to GLEANER Editor, Box 16677, Portland, OR 97216.

Two More TV Ministries

I received my GLEANER this which is always a first in my week's reading. I enjoyed George Vandeman's article on the television ministries. I was disappointed that two of them weren't mentioned.

Amazing Facts is an outstanding fundamental Adventist program. Also LaVerne Tucker's Search telecast. We should support all of these good programs whenever possible. They are doing a wonderful work in preaching the gospel to hasten the Lord's return.

Frank Gray
Baker City, Ore.

We certainly agree with reader Gray's commendations for Amazing Facts and Search. They are excellent programs. However, they are completely supported by listener donations while an annual church offering benefits the four denominationally sponsored television programs.

Special People

A year ago, Mark, my grandson, came to visit me and to build a new fence in my backyard where it was needed. . . . We had it all finished with the exception of the south side when Mark received a phone call to return home as soon as possible.

A Modern Miracle

By Tom Hooper

I am writing this to say that our Lord is still alive and answers prayer and performs miracles the way He did while here on earth.

In June of this past year, while living in New Mexico, I became so ill I went to the doctor. He put me on some medication but after a few days instead of feeling better I felt worse. I continued to get worse to the point I could not walk or sleep and I could barely breathe. My feet and ankles swelled up to one and a half their normal size. I felt that I was dying.

This went on for some time and I finally called my folks in Idaho and asked if I could come home and of course they said, "Yes." I learned that my folks and my church family had been praying for me. The first miracle was my being able to drive myself home alone. The 1,000 miles from New Mexico was a long drive and I was exceptionally tired and worn out when I got home, but I made it.

The second night I was home I was having trouble breathing so my father took me to the emergency room. The doctor there did not know what to do to help me. The next morning I called to see if I could get in to see my old family doctor and I got an appointment for that very afternoon. This was another answer to prayer because they were booked solid. However, there had been a cancellation that morning, so I got in.

The doctor checked me over and they ran several tests. Then he told me that he knew what was wrong with me, that I had experienced a bad heart attack and that I should not even be alive. As he put it, my

lungs were gone, my kidneys were of no use and he gave me only seven days to live at the most. He admitted me into the hospital.

While I was in the hospital my parents and church family prayed for me and I started to do some pretty serious thinking. I had been a church member for many years but had lost my way and my faith at best was weak. I started to earnestly pray and I told the Lord if He would heal me I would work for Him the rest of my life. I was in the hospital nine days. When I left, I was confident I was going to live.

It has been several weeks now since I left the hospital and I am walking four to six blocks a day and I feel good. The other day my doctor said that I am doing great but he confided to me that I was in the worst shape of any 32-year-old patient he ever had. While I was in the hospital there were spots on my lungs and my heart was not working right at all and it was quite enlarged.

Recently he had a couple of tests redone along with x-rays. When I went in to see him he told me my heart size has shrunk, the spots on my lungs were gone, and that my heart is pumping fine so I wouldn't need the heart surgery. He told me this never happens this fast, but the results were right there in front of him. He said to keep up the good work.

I don't know why the Lord spared my life or why the healing happened so quickly, but I am not questioning His judgment. He knows what He is doing. I am just grateful that He did spare my life and I want to lead as many as I can to the One who answers prayer, who hears us and does perform modern miracles.

Tom Hooper writes from Twin Falls, Idaho.

Before Mark left he called a contractor and was assured that he would come the following day. He didn't come so I called him and he told me he was unable to come that day, but would come the next day. This went on for a week and he never came, so I called many people only to find there would be a waiting period of three weeks to a month before anyone could do the job.

Vivian Harper, a friend of mine, stopped by and saw my problem and said she might be able to help. The next day four men came: Bill Wacker, Joe Milicia, Robert Parks and Steven Walker. They told me they were from the Santa Clara Adventist Church and would like to help me with my problem.

I was amazed to have anyone do this for me.

They told me they were building a new church and invited me to come and see it. They wouldn't accept any pay for their work and they had my fence up in a very short time. Their enthusiasm and pride in what they were doing made quite an impression on me.

I went to see the church and was welcomed by such loving, friendly people that I kept going and I found the church to be just what I had been looking for in my life. I'm grateful that my grandson wasn't able to finish the fence and that God sent these special people to help me.

Ruth Burger
Eugene, Ore.

ABOUT THE COVER

Deborah B. Geeseman, M.D., Anchorage, Alaska, calls the cover picture, "The Silent Watcher." She took the picture in Harriman Fjord in Prince William Sound while kayaking. She writes this was a part of the Sound that wasn't defiled by the oil spill.

Dr. Geeseman used her Canon EOS 650 Camera loaded with K-64 film to capture this spectacular shot.

A well-balanced character is formed by single acts well performed.

Messages to Young People, p. 144



From the Pastor's Desk

Getting People Involved

By Chad McComas

Being involved in church office and mission is vital to each member's spiritual health and growth! Church research and statistics document that member involvement is a must to keep new members in the church.

Challenge 1 = Lack of Opportunity

With a yearly election of officers many are left out if they move into the area just after the election or if they are not well known by the election committee. Besides, some church members believe that a new member should not be rushed into office, so by the time the new member is given responsibility, often he has lost his early spiritual zeal.

Challenge 2 = Lack of Skill

Even when the church wants to put new members into office it is faced with an unskilled person walking into a skilled job. The result can lead to frustration and sometimes loss of the member. There are some jobs that can be shared with new

members, but they are often too few to deal with the challenge of getting people involved.

So how can the local church get more people involved?

I'd like to suggest three solutions to help get people involved in ministry and leadership in your church. In this and the next two columns I will deal with:

1. Leadership Coordinator
2. Leadership Apprentice Program
3. Year-round Personnel Committee
4. SEED Ministry (An every member ministry)

The Leadership Coordinator

One way to get new members involved in church office is to find out their:

1. Skill
2. Interest
3. Spiritual Gifts

The local church Leadership Coordinator office can interview and collect data on all members of the church. This data will be used in the election process to make sure that people are put to work on the basis of their ability and gifts. The collection

process can involve a questionnaire and a spiritual gifts test. The results will be filed for church reference.

When a new member joins by transfer, baptism or profession of faith the Leadership Coordinator will get the necessary information and endeavor to match the person to positions in the church.

Of course, the Leadership Coordinator becomes an automatic member of the nominating committee to make sure that the committee takes advantage of the gathered information.

The Leadership Coordinator can also schedule training events for current leaders and potential leaders to teach them the skills they need to hold a certain office.

For example: The local church may need a Pathfinder Leader. There may be several people willing to help, but no one ready to lead. The hesitancy may be due to being unsure about what is expected. The Leadership Coordinator can invite skilled Pathfinder Leadership to come hold a training seminar on how to be a Pathfinder leader. The training will help those willing to move into leadership.

The potential and opportunities are unlimited. A good Leadership Coordinator can greatly strengthen the local church in building leaders and getting members involved.

Chad McComas is pastor of the Corvallis and Philomath, Ore., churches.

Rockwood Youth to Raise Money for Russian Bibles

By Morten Juberg

The Earliteen Sabbath School class of the Portland Rockwood Church has begun a project to raise money to buy Bibles for Russian children.

Under the direction of their leader, Shirley Jordan, the boys and girls have a goal of \$1,000 to purchase 200 Bibles as a part of Operation Bearhug.

"They had the option of raising \$200 or \$500 but they chose a goal of \$1,000. We're really proud of them," Mrs. Jordan said.

The Earliteens will be selling food at an upcoming amateur hour, holding a car wash and soliciting funds from relatives, friends and church members.

Alf Birch, who is coordinating the program for the North Pacific Union, met with the group recently and commended them for their efforts.

"I'll be visiting Russia soon and I'll be

telling them about your interest in them," he told the group.

Morten Juberg is editor of the GLEANER.



The Rockwood Earliteens are enthusiastic about their plans to buy Bibles.

NPUC Bearhug Coordinator Finds Many Needs in Russia

Editor's Note: Alf Birch, coordinator of Operation Bearhug for the North Pacific Union Conference, recently spent five days in the Russian Union assessing needs for proposed North Pacific Union Conference participation. The following are excerpts from a Needs Assessment document prepared by Birch on his return.

The three greatest needs in the Russian Union are public evangelism, the erection of church buildings and the provision of literature, according to Birch.

In his commentary he said, "From the outset and throughout the next five days, I was hosted by the most gracious and loving people I have ever met."

His itinerary began in Moscow where he worshiped with the Adventist congregation. The 770 baptized members and 25 children and youth filled the church building.

"The audience, made up largely of ladies beyond their 40s and 50s, remained attentive throughout the proceedings," he wrote.

"While Sabbath School and church were in progress six buses pulled up periodically outside the church with up to 40 passengers at a time. What for? To allow the people to step into the church's foyer to witness a Christian service in progress. . . . Imagine, a Christian service becoming a tourist attraction."

A Thirst for Truth

Continuing, Birch said, "The Holy Spirit is impressing the millions of the Soviet Union's republics that this magnificent reality can be found in Jesus Christ. It is an unprecedented display of a thirst for truth and righteousness; a desire to experience their personhood, which they were denied by Communism for over 70 years but which may now be realized in the message of the cross.

"In church growth parlance this represents a people movement with a receptivity



A Response of Northwest Adventists to Global Mission

for the gospel of unparalleled magnitude! Within a few days I would discover that what Operation Bearhug could proffer would but represent a molehill in relation to the formidable needs and challenges that face the church in the Soviet Division."

Sabbath afternoon Birch visited the city of Zaokski where the recently completed seminary is located. Also under construction is a publishing house.

On Sunday, Birch, accompanied by Division President Mikhail Kulakov and a pastor, traveled to the space research center city Kaluga. There Pastor Alexander Krushkov has conducted Sunday afternoon meetings in a public hall seating about 300 people.

Rapt Attention

An announcement had been made over the local radio station that an American would be the speaker. Upon arrival Birch found the hall packed.

"Never before have I witnessed such attention to a presentation of the gospel as I did that day," he noted.

In discussions in other cities in following days the American visitor discovered more about the great needs.

He wrote, "It should be remembered that the Adventist community in Russia still has almost nothing by way of an infrastructure to give support to church work.

"The Russian Union has no office building out of which to operate. The president doesn't have a desk to sit at. They have no



This is the Zaokski Theological Seminary.



Alf Birch, center front row, meets with Russian pastors and church leaders. On Birch's right is Mikhail Kulakov, president of the Adventist Church in the Soviet Union. On Birch's left is Mikhail Murga, president of the Russian Union Conference.



Alf Birch works out logistical details with Russian Church officers. From the left are Mikhail Murga, Russian Union president; P.G. Panchenko, Central Conference president; Birch; and Peter Kulakov, who is the Communication director for the Division and the translator for Birch.

computer, word processor or even a typewriter, and no car or vehicle of any description that may be used for even the most official business that is normally conducted by the church."

No Church Offices

The president of the Russian Union, the largest in territory of the Soviet unions, runs the church business from his home as do the other presidents.

Building materials are in short supply, according to Birch, because of the slowdown of the Russian economy and because of bureaucratic red tape. But according to current rates of exchange, \$5,000 or \$10,000 will go a long way toward the erection of adequate church buildings.

A need for literature of all kinds was stressed to Birch. The Russian Union Church Ministries director said in many places Adventist pastors are invited to public schools to give the children religious instruction. But a lack of literature to distribute makes this difficult.

Birch listed six cities in the Trans-Siberian Union for public evangelism. These are Camchadka, population 700,000, one church, 190 members; Magadan, 350,000, one church, 22 members; Yakutsk, 350,000, one church 15 members; Sachalin, 200,000, one church, 14 members; Chabarovsk, 750,000, one church, 100 members; and Vladivostok, 700,000, one church, 190 members.

He suggested two evangelistic teams of no more than five persons per team for these locations. The meetings would be scheduled from mid-August to Sept. 22.

The estimated cost for both groups would be about \$4,000 for hotel accommodations and food. This doesn't include air fares.

River Evangelism

What Birch termed a "Multi-city Blitz" would be conducted in nine cities along the Volga River during May 19-June 23 or Aug. 4-31. To facilitate this endeavor, a boat would be rented.

The cost for six people including hotels, food and boat rental would be about \$2,000. Again, this doesn't include the cost of air fares.

In addition, Birch's report listed 14 cities where churches could be provided by contributions or by volunteer construction teams such as Maranatha Volunteers International.

Under Miscellaneous Requests Birch listed the need for \$10,000 for printing 100,000 copies of *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing* which would be sold by literature evangelists. Another \$5,000 would provide materials for literature evangelists in four unentered territories with a population in excess of two and one-half million.



The Earliteen Sabbath School Class in the Moscow Church. These youth will receive Bibles from the Portland Rockwood Earliteen class. The Rockwood youth set a goal of \$1,000 for their project and in their first fund raising project brought in \$1,060.

Expertise from those who can lead out in training is desperately needed. These areas include Pathfinders, Youth Ministry, Small Group Ministries and Family Life Ministries.

Other needs include felts for children's divisions, communion ware, baptismal robes

and VCR equipment.

For information about sponsorships or participation in any of the listed projects contact Alf Birch, Operation Bearhug, P.O. Box 16677, Portland, OR 97216. Phone (503) 255-7300. Fax (503) 253-2455. ➔

Lakeview, Ore., Company Gains Church Status

By Jay E. Prall

Lakeview is over the horizon from the metropolitan centers of Oregon. Nestled in the ranch country of the southeastern corner of the Oregon Conference, the Lakeview Church family is more than 300 miles or six hours from the conference office. In fact, the Nevada-Utah Conference is 100 miles closer.

Though it may not be conveniently located near the resources of a conference office, it is in the center of a priority area for the Holy Spirit. In fact, some of the blessings have already been witnessed by the church family.

In the spring of 1989, Don Jacobsen, conference president, had been in Lakeview when "company" status was granted. In his Sabbath sermon he challenged the church family.

"Moving from group to company is a rite of passage. It is like getting the keys to the car as you are growing up. But it is also a time to look forward. I hope it won't be long until you step from company to church status."

That step from adolescence to full adulthood came this spring when conference leadership returned to bestow full church status. Representing Don Jacobsen was Larry Evans, special assistant to the president.

Lakeview is a practical town where Sabbath services begin at 10 a.m. and freshly pressed western shirts and polished boots are as evident as Bibles. The church itself

was built with leftover building materials from the Klamath Falls Church and a former World War II Japanese-American internment camp. The stained glass window in front of the church also came from the camp chapel.

On this special Sabbath church members expected to fill the church. "This is the first time I've had to park on the street in many years," exclaimed Frank Toth. "We ought to have that problem every week."

George Fullerton, one of the people who had worked hard to ensure the survival and growth of the church agreed. "I would like to see the church full."



George Fullerton's dream of full church status is signed into the charter member roster.

The Holy Spirit was obviously not willing to let the members of the church become too content with their passage of adulthood. Noting that Lakeview is the highest Oregon city above sea level, Larry Evans reminded the church family of the Biblical story of a light set on a hill. "What an opportunity you have to be a beacon," he challenged.

How would that happen? First, the local newspaper carried a major feature story regarding the church's history, its special Sabbath festivities, and even some explanations of Adventism's major beliefs. For many in the community it might be their first introduction to Seventh-day Adventists.

But Evans, referring to the story's "status upgraded" headline, reminded church members that their personal witness would be the most important factor in filling the sanctuary Sabbath after Sabbath. "Through us God spreads the fragrance of Him. Will you be the cologne or perfume of Jesus? Will the world know that you've been with Him?"

Before church members signed the

charter membership roster, senior pastor Mike Petricko asked if there was anyone who would like to become part of the Adventist family. Two hands reached into the air, answering the pastoral question and reaching symbolically to a loving Father.

Expressing prayers of dedication, Glenn Way asked God to bring revival to the church and to power it to be a light in the community. With tears in his eyes, Jim Hiatt reminded the Lord that their walk together had started in the Lakeview Church.

As the service concluded, it didn't take much imagination to picture Jesus with His arm firmly around Jim's shoulder, a tear of gratitude and expectation rolling down His own cheek, as they picked up the melody and words "O let me walk with Thee alone."

The Lakeview Church family, empowered by the Holy Spirit, was on the verge of some very precious days. ➤

Jay E. Prall is Communications director for the Oregon Conference.



When you live in a ranch community, the story of the prodigal son's decision to leave the sheep and cows of the farm for the bright lights of the city takes on new meaning.

Northwest Called World Leader in Adventist Broadcasting

By Ed Schwisow

When Robert Folkenberg, president of the General Conference, pronounced Northwesterners "head and shoulders" above the world field in Adventist broadcasting, he expected some hand-clapping.

The place was right. He was speaking at the 1991 convention of Northwest Adventist Broadcasters in Yakima, Wash., co-hosted by the Upper Columbia Conference, the North Pacific Union Conference and the Yakima Adventist Church.



Many observers join the broadcasters in their afternoon convention, including Carl Campbell, right, of Wenatchee, Wash., who provided private air transport for the General Conference president and Stan Folkenberg, father of the General Conference president, with whom he converses.

The time was right. He'd just completed a flawless two-hour, phone-in interview before an audience of 500. In turn, the interview had been carried live by KGTS-FM in College Place, 100 miles away, and through its translator facilities, had been heard on radios throughout most of eastern Washington and much of northwestern Oregon.

Applause seemed appropriate.

Applause for a Proposal

But in addition to hearty applause, he received the gift of a challenge. In the spirit of a group responsible in the previous eight months for placing Adventist programming on seven new TV channels, creating one new full-power FM radio station, and achieving first-place market status for its KGTS-FM base station in College Place, the Northwesterners handed him a proposal that must have drawn applause in Heaven itself.

It called on the world church to work with Northwestern broadcasters in the creation of a Global Net which would supply the world field with satellite-carried radio programming of uniform quality and voice.

The programming suggested by the proposal would occupy four channels, each dedicated to either a prominent language or a group of prominent languages, as outlined in the Global Mission of the Adventist



Roger Johnson, Lynelle Child and Max Torkelsen display three Federal Communication Commission TV licenses given this past January to Blue Mountain Broadcasting Association. The licenses allow the corporation to transmit Christian programming 24 hours a day from three antenna sites in the Walla Walla Valley. Roger Johnson is Blue Mountain president; Lynelle Child is station manager, and Max Torkelsen is Upper Columbia Conference communication director.

Church. Local churches would then be able to inexpensively rebroadcast the programming in their communities, equipped only with legal clearance, a satellite dish/receiver and a small transmitter.

A Watershed Year

When Folkenberg spoke of Northwestern broadcasters as "head and shoulders" above

Heavy Evangelism Series Planned for Soviet Union

At least 20 cities in the Soviet Union are on the public evangelism schedule as a part of the North Pacific Union Conference Operation Bearhug according to Alf Birch who is coordinating the program.

The following schedule is subject to final confirmation by Robert Spangler, retired Ministerial Department head, who is the General Conference coordinator for Russian work.

A team from Walla Walla College will work in the Trans-Siberian Conference with meetings scheduled in Camchadka, Aug. 14-19; Magadan, Aug. 21-26; and Yakutsk, Aug. 28-Sept. 1.

Oregon evangelist, Ron Hockley, travels to the Trans-Siberian Conference in September. His meetings are set for Sachalin, Sept. 4-8; Chabarovsk, Sept. 11-15; and Vladivostok, Sept. 16-22.

Dave Weigley, who is the Washington Conference Ministerial director, has a month-long, multi-blitz program along the Volga River. During the period of May 19-June 16 his work takes him to the cities of Astrahan, Volgograd, Samara, Uljanovsk, Kazank, Cheboksary, Kostroma, Yaroslavl and Tver for meetings. All of these cities are in the Volga-Uralian Conference.

Also working in the Volga-Uralian Conference is Jim Reinking, Upper Columbia Conference evangelist. His schedule calls



A Response of Northwest Adventists
to Global Mission

for meetings in Sverdlovsk and Chelyabinsk the first two weeks of October.

Fred Cornforth, Senior Youth coordinator for the Idaho Conference, goes to the North Caucasian Conference for campaigns in Grozni and Mahachkali June 16-30.

If you would like to help financially with any of these evangelistic campaigns, you can

Large Offering For Bibles

Bruce Moore, pastor of the Auburn, Wash., City Church, reports that a special offering earmarked for the purchase of Bibles for the Soviet Union brought in \$4,403!

mark your tithe envelope "Operation Bearhug" and turn it in with your regular offerings.

For further information you can contact Alf Birch, Operation Bearhug, P.O. Box 16677, Portland, OR 97216. Phone (503) 255-7300. Fax (503) 253-2455.



StayWell

Nurturing Yourself

By Janet Wilkinson, M.P.H.

Monday was one of those days. I had five appointments and errands which my three children and I raced through. They were bored and pokey and I was rushed and impatient. By day's end I was exhausted and drained. After tucking them in, I flopped my weary body on the bed. I still needed to clean up the kitchen, write a letter, and pack for tomorrow's trip. No, what I really needed to do was nothing. So I quickly packed, and then eased myself into a tub full of hot water and camomile herbal bath. Ahhhh! Then I crawled into bed with a good book. I felt restored and ready to give again.

Each day we deplete our energy, our spirit, and we need to replenish it by nurturing ourselves — slowing down to read, meditate, write, pray, study, play tennis, sew, go for a walk, or whatever refills the inner soul.

Being good to yourself is not selfish. It's self-preserving. When you take the time to care for yourself you will find the time and energy to effectively reach out to others. There is often a direct parallel between the way we treat others and the way we treat ourselves. We find it difficult to be kind when we feel out of kilter ourselves. When you're impatient and neglectful of others it's usually because you've been treating yourself badly. When you are thoughtful and gentle with others, you probably have been kind to yourself.

If you give untiringly to your spouse, children, friends, bosses, and co-workers with no time to relax and nourish yourself; you'll become overwhelmed and burned out. Then you're no use to anyone.

No one can give you the gift of private time but yourself. Take it. Now.

Janet Wilkinson, M.P.H., writes from Yakima, Wash.



The Russian bear in a Seattle museum holds no terror for Dave and Becky Weigley who will hold evangelistic meetings along the Volga River in October.



Mite Makes Might

Students of the Kelso-Longview, Wash., Church School believe the same God who fed the 5,000 will bless their offering of pennies, nickles, dimes and quarters toward the purchase of Bibles for Russia.

Impressed by GLEANER articles and a television program, students of Mrs. Eleanore Tarangul and Walter Wilson decided to save their change and send it to the conference to be used for the Russian work.

Walter Wilson

Heyburn Students Have Area Magazine Route

For nearly a year the seven students of the Heyburn, Idaho, Church School have been passing out *Signs of the Times* around their school.

Each month the students give 10 copies of the magazine. It took several months to find 10 interested people. Now that the

interests have been located it takes only a recess period to make the distribution.

Since the territory is around the school, the students need no transportation but walk to their assigned territory. The students enjoy the project and work with three members. Since there is an interest, plans call for increasing the number of homes contacted.

Ted Martsch



Heyburn students enjoy their monthly magazine route.

Colville School Has Strong PE Program

The Colville Valley, Wash., Adventist School has just completed a four-day ski program at Red Mountain, B.C., Canada. The economical skiing package included rental, lift ticket and lessons. It provided students an opportunity to discover a new sport that they might not have otherwise had access to.

Students at CVAS are encouraged to take part in many aspects of physical fitness. Ron Eckert, principal at CVAS, commented that there is more to physical education than team sports. "They have their place in our curriculum but we believe there needs to be a balance. Students should be led to cultivate activities that they can do later in life. It's not often practical in our busy world to recruit enough players for team sports," added Eckert.

In addition to skiing, the school has started a running program. This is another activity that carries over into adult life skills. The start of a spring running program is just in time for Spokane's Lilac Bloomsday Fun Run. Plans are under way to have a representation of students at the Bloomsday run to be held May 5.

For more variety, several times a year the students go into Spokane for roller skating. Elaine Huey, a teacher at CVAS, reports that, "Most of the student body takes part in this after school program. It is a nice opportunity because we can rent the rink with our other Adventist schools in Spokane."

In other CVAS news, after a tie breaking round of five questions between Ryan Crisman and Allison Bacon, Ryan became the school's winner of the National Geographic Geography Bee. Ryan has since turned in a written geography test. This enters him into the Washington state contest.

Recently, CVAS sponsored a Talent Show.



An Open Letter To My Son

Editor's Note: D. Reid McCrary, head teacher at the St. Maries, Idaho, Church School, wrote this to his son Andrew who is a 1991 theology graduate of Walla Walla College and has been hired as a ministerial intern by the Upper Columbia Conference.

Dear Son,

You are just about done with your college years. You have set your goal in life to minister to others and have accepted a call to Upper Columbia Conference. You now get to put into practice what you have studied. But, Son, there is more to pastoring than Hebrew and Homiletics. That *more* is people.

These last few months I have been reminiscing about my early years as a church member and a very special person who touched my life in so many ways. That person was my pastor — Vernon Bliss. I feel compelled to relate these incidents to you because in him I see the kind of pastor I hope you will be.

My first remembrance of Pastor Bliss was when I was about 12 years old and newly baptized into the church. He must have sensed my need to belong and to be needed. He gave me the job of printing the bulletin.

That was back in the "hunt and peck" days at an ancient typewriter, "cutting" the old stencils, gluing the halves together and using the correction fluid. And then bicycling over to his house to run it off on the old black-inked mimeograph. On Sabbath, when everyone read the bulletin — I felt

proud. Proud that I was working for the Lord.

Granted, someone else could have done it better and faster. But the kingdom of heaven is not necessarily for the better and faster.

I'll never forget Pastor Bliss asking us kids to help on a building project. He hauled in lumber for the project in a big flatbed truck. When he got off of the public road and on to church property he got out from behind the wheel and asked us if we wanted to maneuver it around to where it was needed. He knew the hearts of teenage boys. We knew he cared about us and we loved and respected him.

The hearts of teenagers sometimes get stubborn and they do stupid things. Like the time our MV society went to Yosemite for a weekend. Pastor Bliss went along to be with us for the weekend. He didn't need to go. We had our fearless leaders and chaperones. But I'm thankful he did. For some reason and I'm not sure why, we as young people did not get along very well with our church appointed MV leader.

On Sabbath afternoon we decided to go for a short walk up the side of a mountain. When our leader heard about it he told us not to go. As I said, kids can be stubborn at times and because he said not to we determined to go ahead. So we started on up the mountain. Pastor Bliss did not say a word to us about going or not going. He read our hearts and knew that we needed him whether we knew it or not. So he just walked along behind determined that if we

got into any difficulty he wanted to be with us.

Sure enough, we did. We came upon some snow and thought it was fantastic. But after awhile the sun went down and we were walking in snow up to our waists. Still Pastor Bliss did not say a word. About 11 o'clock we realized we were in deep trouble.

We turned to the pastor and asked him if he would pray for us and take the lead in finding a way off the mountain. His response was very simple, "I've been waiting for you to ask." He did not chide us. He never said, "I told you so!" He knew we were sorry. He led us in prayer and then led your mother and me along with the rest of the kids off the mountain.

In high school I wanted to join the wrestling team. So I went to my pastor and asked him whether I should or shouldn't. His answer, "Ask Jesus about it." He was not going to give me a yes or a no. I'm sure he would like to have told me what to do but he wasn't about to take my responsibility nor to assume God's job. He wanted me to know Jesus and to visit with Him. He gave me some questions to ask myself about the activity and some suggestions to read in the Bible, but he would not make my decisions for me.

Son, what more can I say than that in all probability if it were not for my special pastor — you would not be an aspiring pastor today.

Love,
Papa

Publisher to Print Bibles for Soviet Union

By Morten Juberg

The Review and Herald Publishing Association will print 100,000 Bibles to be used in Russia and will ship them to the Adventist Publishing House in Zaoski.

These will be available for use by North Pacific evangelists who will be holding meetings in Russia this summer and fall. They will also be used for field schools of evangelism.

According to Alf Birch, Operation Bearhug coordinator, the Bibles will be printed at a cost of \$2.50 each. James Zachary of the General Conference says this is the best

price he has been able to get anywhere.

Birch stressed the urgent need for the Scriptures. "It is most essential that we do all we

can in raising our portion of the \$250,000 needed to print these Bibles," he said.

Readers are urged to use the coupon on the back cover of the GLEANER to indicate their participation in the Bible project.

Morten Juberg is editor of the GLEANER.



Bearhug Briefs

- The Earliteen Sabbath School class of the Portland Rockwood Church, under the direction of Shirley Jordan, set a goal of raising \$1,000 to buy Russian Bibles. To date they have raised \$1,400.

- Upper Columbia President Jere Patzer and his wife Sue will head an evangelistic team going to Magadan, Siberia, in August.

- Idaho President Steve McPherson will join the team headed by Senior Youth Coordinator Fred Cornforth for evangelistic campaigns in Grozni and Mahachkali in the Caucasian Conference in June.

- Funds are still needed to sponsor these and other teams listed in the April 15 GLEANER.

BOOKS YOU JUST CAN'T PUT DOWN



And young people won't want to put down the new **Becca Bailey series** by Paula Montgomery.

Four enchanting books—*Coyotes in the Wind*, *Down the River Road*, *A Summer to Grow On*, and *When November Comes*—tell the story of an energetic young lady with big dreams.

Get the **Becca Bailey series** today at your Adventist Book Center!

US\$24.95/Cdn\$31.20
Paper, set of four books

© 1991 Pacific Press
Publishing Association 2256

We Need Your Help FOR BIBLES For the Soviet Union



These Bibles will be distributed at evangelistic meetings that will be held in the Soviet Union this summer.

Complete Russian Bibles can be printed and shipped to

the Adventist Publishing House in Zaoski for \$2.50 each.

Complete the tear-off coupon below and turn it in with your offering. Be sure to mark it Operation Bearhug Bibles.



Yes, I want to sponsor Russian Bibles for evangelism in the Soviet Union. My check for \$ _____ is enclosed for:

- | | | | |
|--|----------|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Bibles @ \$2.50 each | \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 100 Bibles @ \$2.50 each | \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50 Bibles @ \$2.50 each | \$125.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Bibles @ \$2.50 each | \$ _____ |

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

to the front of the sanctuary for prayer. However, it was not the purpose of the Worship Conference to promote the style of worship followed by celebration churches. Oregon Conference President Don Jacobsen explained the reasons for the sessions.

"We are being belatedly proactive. We are seeing churches across North America wanting to have a revitalization of their worship services," he said. "Some churches have gone ahead of the pack; some have attempted to mimic the format without the substance."

"We have brought in some of the best minds from across the country to share with us how to worship," he added. "There are many who felt we were going to showcase the celebration churches. This isn't the case. We are simply trying to understand better how the Adventist Church should worship God."

Why the Fuss?

One of the workshop chairmen, Craig Dossman, a Black pastor from the New York City area, looked at the stir caused by celebration churches with a smile.

"I don't know much about the celebration churches. Black people have been celebrating God for years. We wonder what all the fuss is about," he said.

Dossman repeated a statement heard in various forms during the conference.

"God realizes each one of us that He made is different. We come with different backgrounds and experience. But when we come to Him He gives us a large flexibility when we worship Him. He gives us room to worship Him as His children."

Keynote speaker William Johnsson, editor of the *Adventist Review*, set the tone for the conference.

"We have come to worship the Living God, to enter into that worship and to learn how better to bring out that experience. For we are called to worship Him, the Creator of heaven and earth, who is judge of all and who is the soon appearing King, to call others to the worship of the God of heaven.

Johnsson said Jesus should be the central figure in all preaching, adding, "Unless our hearts have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, we will never worship in spirit or in truth. True worship comes from a heart that has been changed."

Non-Members Speak

Joe Englekemier, from Andrews University, told about large rapidly growing Protestant churches he had visited. These churches surveyed the attitudes of non-members in their area.

"Respondents said the services were boring, that the church was always after money, that members were cliquish and hard to get acquainted with, and that they wanted quality child care," he said.

"Maybe all of this is telling us it is time to really focus on worship, even making it more important than witnessing because people are worshiping in a life changing way," Englekemier noted. "Unless people are worshiping in a life changing way, they don't have the motivation it takes to go and make friendships with non-church people who are our target audience."

Garrie Williams, Oregon ministerial director, and one of the organizers of the

conference, said, "We are trying to reveal that Adventists can be leaders in spirit-filled worship which centers on Jesus, the great truths of Scripture and the great God of heaven."

In his concluding remarks at the close of the sessions, Alf Birch, chairman of the program, said, "We haven't tried to model any particular worship service that may be conducted in a church on a Sabbath morning, except that you have come and been inspired to go back to your churches with new ideas."

Changes in worship formats will come, though not without some struggles and perhaps some controversy. But as several speakers noted, "Let's be tolerant of others who don't share our ideas."

Morten Juberg is editor of the GLEANER.



Hyveth Williams, pastor of Boston Temple, prepares to show an overhead projection.

Businessman Tells of Adventist Work in the Soviet Union



Robert Paulsen, a Puyallup, Wash., businessman, spent 10 days in the Soviet Union last autumn and related his experiences to the recent ASI gathering.

Half of his stay was at the Adventist Seminary in Zaoski where housing for students has been a problem.

"We hope some of these problems have been alleviated because the seminary is very much needed," Paulsen said.

Projects move slowly in the Soviet Union, according to Paulsen because of a lack of leadership experience.

"It is frustrating because some projects won't be finished for seven to eight, even 10 years," he noted. "For 70 years the Russian people hadn't much to look forward to. Then all of a sudden democracy has come with freedoms they have never had.

They are grasping at these freedoms and don't know how to handle them."

Paulsen praised the North Pacific Union Conference Operation Bearhug saying evangelism is much needed.

"We have an opportunity right now that we will never have again," he said.

The Washington businessman has learned to love the Russian Adventists. He first got closely acquainted with some of them when he manned the Soviet booth at the General Conference session this past summer.

"They are wonderful people who love the Lord, he said. "They are so kind. They treated me with tremendous kindness."

Paulsen said another great need in the Soviet Union is Christian literature.



Robert Paulsen, a Puyallup, Wash., businessman, told the ASI about his recent visit to the Soviet Union.

Flower Sales Help Educate Family Children

By Melissa Neal Hawes

Flowers! At first glance, it's impossible to see the connection between raising and selling fresh-cut flowers and organic vegetables with Christian education. Yet the value my husband and I place on a Christian education for our boys is high.

A simple lifestyle, older cars, lots of hard work — these aspects cannot dampen the spirits of a family who has harvested too many bumper crops of blessings over the five years we have worked together. What began as 30 rows of dried flower seeds painstakingly planted by hand while I was nine months pregnant, has blossomed into a thriving small business conducted from a handmade cart in my front yard and several accounts to whom we deliver.

My husband Lee and I decided that it was imperative for me to be able to stay at home while our children were still young. After home-schooling each of our older boys, we started them in the second grade at Hood View Junior Academy in Boring, Ore. Our oldest, Sid, with his recent report card touting six As, has again shown to me that character development and quality academics coupled with an ability to work effectively toward a goal is still a viable reality.

I have an outstanding business partner; He is responsible for providing customers and empowering my crops to grow. And

what incredible customers He has sent!

I think of the busy summer evening I met Uli, her warm German accent querying, "Would you like to meet my children?" As she opened the car door, I beheld two tiny replicas of "European dolls" gazing sleepily out. Later her husband, a neurosurgeon, performed a successful operation on Lee that enhanced his life a hundredfold.

Or the man who came early one Sunday to have flowers for his wife to awaken to, and later treated Lee and I to a rare evening out at a romantic restaurant. The child who comes clutching his \$2, thoughtfully picking out flowers and vegetables for his mommy, who smiles from their older car. The owner of Thompson Berry Farms, graciously bringing his valued field hands to buy flowers for their senioritas. The two insurance brokers, wearing dresses and strolling in suede heels down the dirt paths of the garden, choosing blossoms between mobile phone calls.

Then there are the moms, proudly introducing their teenage daughters, who leave delighted to have flowers in their bedrooms . . . the youths walking up the road to buy their first flowers for a special young lady, and the list goes on.

Sometimes when I'm really tired, and the rows aren't weeded and the dishes need to be done, the laundry needs to be hung on the line, and I've still got to create dinner,



Melissa Hawes with some of her flowers and son Daniel. Photo courtesy of *The Oregonian* and photographer Roger Jensen.

I'm tempted to wonder about the validity of it all. Then, driving a beat-up truck, arrives the father who has saved his lunch money to buy a big bouquet for his wife because, "She loves flowers, you know." As I watch my children rush out to help him, wrapping his flowers in paper, giving him change with such boyish charm, a verse from Psalms comes to mind, "Oh that I would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men." I am renewed, because after all, my business partner is God. 🌿

Melissa Neal Hawes writes from Gresham, Ore.

Oregon Trio Holding Field School in Siberia

Oregon Conference President Don Jacobsen heads one of five teams asked by the General Conference to hold Field Schools of Evangelism in the Soviet Union this summer.

Jacobsen has as members of this team Pastor Ed Gienger, Vancouver, Wash., and H. Walter Emori, a Jacksonville, Ore., physician.

The trio left for their assignment in Novosibirsk the last of May and will be in the Siberian city for five weeks. Located about 2,000 miles east of Moscow, it is about 500 miles north of Mongolia.

Jacobsen says the city of 1.6 million is unusual in that about 100,000 scientists and

their families live there. It is also the home of 100 colleges and universities.

During their stay the three will lead out in the field school during the daytime and hold evangelistic meetings in the evenings. Dr. Emori will hold health classes. Jacobsen expects to train the 40 pastors and lay leaders in evangelistic methods.

"This is the most challenging assignment my church has given me in the 36 years I have served it," he said.

Jacobsen said the new Soviet Division isn't able to provide all of the funding needed. Transportation expenses are needed for the team.

The total expenses for the crusade and



A Response of Northwest Adventists to Global Mission

the team will be about \$25,000. Oregon GLEANER readers can contribute to this phase of Operation Bearhug by so marking their gifts and sending them to the conference office or putting it in the offering plate.

Funds are still needed for the evangelistic teams that will be going to the Soviet Union this summer. Again, donations can be made directly to your conference office or given through your church. 🌿



Pop Cans for Bibles

The La Grande, Ore., Kindergarten division has for the past three months raised money for Russian Bibles by collecting pop cans.

They have raised \$192.40 and that's 3,848 cans. They are excited in looking forward to seeing Russian boys and girls in Heaven that were helped by Operation Bearhug.

Kim Kelsay

A Letter Of Thanks

Editor's Note: Larry Gasser, a literature evangelist in the Washington Conference, received this letter from one of his customers.

Just a letter to say hello. I want to thank you for your colporteur ministry. If you remember, you came to my house to sell some books. It wasn't just a house, it was the parsonage of the Pentecostal Church of God in Enumclaw.

If I remember right, you sort of looked intrigued to be talking to a Pentecostal pastor about buying Adventist books. After buying the books we started to talk about the Adventist Church. You loaned us your personal copy of the book, *A Biblical Exposition of 27 Fundamental Doctrines*.

We read it and believed it. I am delighted to say we gave up our pastorate because our church wasn't preaching the whole truth.

We started attending an Adventist Church in Reedley, Calif., and were baptized into membership on March 16, 1991. Thank you for your time, prayers and ministry.

In His Service,
Terry, Tammy and Becky

Fighting Bear Wins Big Battle

By Antonia (Toni) Lupinacci

Roy Fighting Bear, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of eastern Montana, was baptized in the Santa Fe Adventist Church recently, the culmination of Christian witnessing, prayers, dreams, a miraculous healing and a full commitment to his best Friend.

In 1975, due to severe injuries in an automobile accident at the age of 26, Roy was in a nursing home in Miles City, Mont., waiting to die, when Toni, a non-Adventist Christian, began leaving Christian reading material in his room and, to her joy, Toni discovered that Roy was reading it when he thought no one was watching.

Four months later Toni moved 770 miles away and what should have been the end of the story was only the beginning. For eight months she had a series of dreams about Roy in which he was always walking and talking with his family on the reservation, though to all reasonable appearance because of his accident, this would never be possible.

Toni felt the Lord was asking her to do something, so she began writing very simple letters to Roy asking for "yes" and "no" answers which he could circle because he had lost his ability to write or speak coherently due to his injuries. Assisting Roy with his letters was nursing attendant, Barbara Loumer, a member of the Adventist Church.

By now, 1977, Roy was praying along with Barbara and Toni that the Lord would intervene in his problem life and the Lord heard their prayers. After a move and three months of physical therapy and exercise under a good therapist and Toni's watchful prodding, Roy walked with a walker and began to do virtually everything for himself. In 1982 he began living independently and in 1983 was the groomsman at Toni's wedding when she married David Lupinacci. In 1985, David and Toni were baptized as members of the Adventist Church, and now, Roy is also a member.

Like many of his people on the reservation, Roy had an alcohol problem but has enjoyed the freedom of being sober for

five years. He has a great burden for his brothers and sisters and wants them to know the love and peace of Jesus as he knows it. He asks that his "new" brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere pray for his people.

The most outstanding dream that Toni had was one in which she and Roy's sister, Serena, planted seeds in rich, dark dirt, watered it and went to bed. Upon rising in the morning the seeds had sprouted into lush, green, magnificent plants standing several feet tall and all of his family were there looking at the plants in amazement. Toni and Roy feel that his family are the "rich soil" and the "seeds" need only to be planted and watered to bring forth abundant growth and fruit.

Antonia Lupinacci writes from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Great characters are formed by little acts and efforts.

4 Testimonies, p. 603

Commitment Service Held For Operation Bearhug Workers



By Morten Juberg

An unprecedented wave of Adventist evangelism will be felt in many sections of the Soviet Union this summer and fall. As many as 50 or more individuals from the Northwest will share the good news of the gospel as a part of Operation Bearhug.

The participants from most parts of the North Pacific Union Conference includes church administrators, pastors, lay members and youth.

At the recent North Pacific Union Constituency Session a special commitment service was held for those present who will be traveling to the Soviet Union as part of Operation Bearhug.

Alfred C. McClure, president of the North American Division, told the audience, "As a result of what was born here, it has caught fire across the division. In addition to what you have seen here this afternoon, there are others going from unions in the North American Division to other parts of the Soviet Union.



Alf Birch, left, Operation Bearhug coordinator for the North Pacific Union Conference, led out in a commitment service for those going to the Soviet Union this summer and fall.

From the left are Bruce and Marianne Johnston, North Pacific Union Conference; Ruthie and Don Jacobsen, Oregon Conference; Douglas Clark, Walla Walla College; Sue and Jere Patzer, Upper Columbia Conference; Lynn Martel, General Conference; Dave Weigley, Washington Conference; and Jac and 'dena Colon, Washington Conference.

Alf Birch, Operation Bearhug coordinator for the NPUC, said Alaska Airlines is beginning a schedule to Eastern Siberia on

June 15.

"This will greatly expedite travel by saving time and money," he said.



Bruce and Marianne Johnston, who will hold evangelistic meetings in the Soviet Union, received a reminder of Operation Bearhug in the form of two specially made bears. The presentation was made by Washington Conference President Lenard Jaecks and his wife Lois.

The Johnstons are scheduled for meetings in Moscow, Tule and Leningrad Aug. 28-Sept. 29.

North Pacific Union Conference Comparative Statement of Tithe and Mission Offerings

4 Months (17 Weeks)

Ended April 30, 1991

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TITHE

Conference	Membership 1990	Tithe 1990	Tithe 1991	Increase or Decrease -	% Increase Decrease -
Alaska	2,133	381,126.93	480,801.73	99,674.80	26.15
Idaho	4,907	856,308.13	886,800.70	30,492.57	3.56
Montana	3,256	458,979.06	449,718.94	-9,260.12	-2.02
Oregon	26,899	4,976,551.81	5,302,932.00	326,380.19	6.56
Upper Columbia	18,726	3,179,016.14	3,569,232.80	390,216.66	12.27
Washington	13,630	2,465,819.33	2,745,059.81	279,240.48	11.32
Union	69,551	12,317,801.40	13,434,545.98	1,116,744.58	9.07

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MISSION OFFERINGS

Conference	1990	1991	Increase or Decrease -	% Increase Decrease -	Per Capita 1990	Per Week 1991
Alaska	20,468.83	24,575.00	4,106.17	20.06	0.59	0.68
Idaho	54,119.87	54,920.31	800.44	1.48	0.65	0.66
Montana	30,659.27	26,510.42	-4,148.85	-13.53	0.56	0.48
Oregon	357,560.58	369,404.05	11,843.47	3.31	0.79	0.81
Upper Col.	232,859.55	240,700.14	7,840.59	3.37	0.74	0.76
Washington	132,399.06	146,641.69	14,242.63	10.76	0.59	0.63
Union	828,067.16	862,751.61	34,684.45	4.19	0.71	0.73

The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. It was a revelation of "the mystery which had been kept in silence through times eternal."

Romans 16:25
Desire of Ages, p. 22

Musings of a Northwestern Adventist



Ed Schwisow

By Ed Schwisow

Northwestern Adventists probably make up one of the more hard-to-understand groups of Christians in North America.

We tend naturally to accept new ideas, new ways, new styles of doing things. Yet we also instinctively defend the ideals of our conservative pioneers. Paradox enough, some would say.

But then, we complicate things more by offering a bearhug of welcome to thousands of immigrants, some of whom spring from traditions far different from our own. How can such a church be governed?

Some say it can't be done. Yet, the Northwestern Church is now on a soul-winning surge; school enrollment is increasing; unchurched Adventists are returning. True, the paradoxes of our way of life seem to engulf us in eternal dialogue. But that dialogue, reported and discussed in a balanced, Christian way, is undoubtedly one reason Northwest Adventists enjoy amazing brotherhood.

Native Northwesterner

I say this as a native Northwesterner. I was born in Heppner, Ore., in 1952 and spent the first three years of my life in Condon, Ore., and later in Goldendale, Wash., right across the Columbia River. I was graduated from Columbia Adventist Academy and Walla Walla College. As many Northwesterners of devout Adventist parentage, I became, at age eight, a missionary's kid, destined for a diet of Home Study International, and the challenge of learning a new language and holding onto my Northwestern identity during nine years in Bolivia, South America.

There, my dad, Don Schwisow, M.D., ran a 25-bed mission hospital; Mom Marcella ran the local Dorcas Department, the local church children's divisions, and of course, the home front. Those three kids ran her — crazy.

Through those years, we received the GLEANER. In fact, Dad paid several dollars *per issue* to have the magazine flown into La Paz, Bolivia. On missionary salary, that was a big commitment. But it was worth those extra dollars to keep in touch with our roots back home.

Pioneering Spirit

We Northwesterners have a strong pioneering spirit. We're often sons and daughters of immigrants (ever wondered where my

name "Schwisow" came from; ever wondered how to pronounce it? Family lexicographers tell me: "It used to be spelled 'Schwiesow,' and that's the way it's pronounced." Other family members would just as soon start over with something simple like "Anderson," but our Prussian forebears would rise up in Teutonic ire, so we let sleeping ghosts lie.)

As offspring of fairly recent immigrant families, we Northwesterners still have few traditions to anchor us. We don't find it at all unusual to leave sisters, brothers, and even elderly parents, to devote years of life to mission service. In keeping with this trait, the GLEANER will continue to give high priority to news of Northwesterners' outreach to foreign lands, as with the ongoing OPERATION BEARHUG to Russia.

Innovation

Second, we in the Northwest thrive on innovation. The GLEANER, as we know it today, is a product of innovation. It has set the standard for the style and content of most Adventist news magazines in the church today. And as the GLEANER goes, so goes the Northwestern church, innovating new worship styles, new approaches to church government, new methods of outreach. Yet, at the heart of these innovations, we often find extremely conservative principles.

To deny its readers informed reports on these innovations would be to inflict a culture-killing travesty on the heart and soul of Northwestern Adventism. The GLEANER will continue as a forum for innovative reporting and thinking.

Climate of Acceptance

And finally, I have found Northwest Adventists to be highly accepting, patient, understanding people. Yes, we often berate ourselves for being too insensitive, too self-centered, too cold. We all could stand to be a bit more "Northwestern" in our hearty greetings, in our ready welcome to the Hispanic, to the Black, to the Asian, to the Californian in our midst.

But I find, overall, an amazing cultural openness. The fear of the unknown or of the not-yet-understood has not yet (and pray God, never will) become a phobia that drives us to subcultural cloistering.

Yet, as the Northwest becomes more complicated, tensions can build. They could heat us to the point of cauterizing subcommunities of Adventists into exclusive enclaves. This, the GLEANER will do all within its power to diffuse.

It's reassuring to live, work and worship in a Christian arena where the people of

God are pioneer-minded enough to value the virtues of the past. It's exciting to be part of a movement willing and eager to take the lead in innovation. It enriches my Christian walk to feel accepted by all of my Christian brothers and sisters, regardless of my cultural past or present.

We enjoy this enriched spiritual environment, I believe, because, as Mort Juberg taught us so well in these pages during the past 13 years, we must "speak often to one another."

And if as a responsive reader, you can help us speak more fluently, more graciously, more winsomely through these pages, I believe the GLEANER will continue to be the kind of paper Northwestern Adventists throughout the world hunger to read.

An editor by any other name or a magazine under any other masthead could not hope for higher success. 

Ed Schwisow is acting editor of the GLEANER.



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Northwest Evangelists in Russia Report Heartwarming Response

By Ed Schwisow

Northwest evangelists, pastors and administrators who have journeyed to Russia to hold meetings and to train Russian leaders, report outstanding public response.

Dave Weigley, director of the Washington Conference Ministerial Association, held several large crusades along the Volga River. Normal attendance was standing room only in halls with 1,000 or more capacity.

Don Jacobsen, president of the Oregon Conference, reports that in his crusade, attendance each night fills 1,100 chairs and leaves standing room only. During his crusade, Jacobsen is also providing practical training for several Russian pastors, none of whom have attended formal seminary.

Jacobsen notes that problems in translating his sermons have led to some trying moments. Terms such as *victory*, *mansion*, and *storage*, must be explained to the interpreters themselves before the translation can be completed.

Pastoral visitation, notes Jacobsen, is a new concept to many leaders in Russia. Because of political constraints in the past, it was not practiced, and is only now being reestablished.

Adventist membership of 25 to 150 in cities of half a million persons are not uncommon, says Jacobsen. One pastor has only eight members in a city of 600,000.

It is hoped that with the training provided by such seasoned evangelists as Weigley, Jacobsen and others, Russian pastors will be able to begin to reach out effectively in these large metropolitan areas.

The evangelistic campaigns have been coordinated, and Bibles for distribution in Russia have been made possible, through Operation Bearhug, working with the General Conference and the Soviet Division.

Donations for Operation Bearhug, especially for the expenses of young people who will be traveling to Russia as evangelistic assistants and for Russian Bibles, can be earmarked "Operation Bearhug" and sent



A Response of Northwest Adventists to Global Mission

to any local conference in the Northwest, or in a marked donation envelope placed in any Northwestern Seventh-day Adventist Church offering plate, according to Alf Birch, Operation Bearhug coordinator.



From the Pastor's Desk

Encouragement Cards

By Chad McComas

The writer of Hebrews instructs us: "Let us consider how we may *spur one another* on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us *encourage one another*—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24, 25 (italics mine).

One of the best and most practical ideas that I have run across to follow the above instruction is the use of "Encouragement Cards" at church. The "Encouragement Card" is a postal-sized card that is perfect for writing a short message of encouragement. It can be used for uplifting someone going through a difficult time or illness. It can be used to let people missing from church know that someone cares. It can be used to affirm leadership and say a well-timed thank you. The uses are endless.

Perhaps the best part about encouragement cards is the ministry of caring that is created. Let me illustrate by sharing a story

from one of the first churches in which I used encouragement cards.

Brian was in his early 20s when he began attending church. He was coming out of a background of drug abuse and loneliness. The church people opened their arms and loved Brian. Periodically different people in the church would send an encouragement card to Brian. I remember visiting Brian in his home and finding all the encouragement cards pinned on his wall. He was so proud of them. They had done their job!

To ensure the success of the Encouragement Card ministry the cards need:

1. To be available in the pews at church.
2. To be mentioned each Sabbath.
3. To be collected with the offering.
4. To be mailed by the church as a ministry. (If members take them home, they often forget to mail them.)

Many churches in the Northwest are using encouragement cards. If you'd like to see one, send a stamped, addressed envelope to: Encouragement Card, Corvallis SDA Church, 3160 S.W. Western, Corvallis, OR

97333. We'll be happy to mail you one.

Chad McComas is pastor of the Corvallis, Ore., Church.



Our Roots

German and Scandinavian Influences

By Doug Johnson

Editor's Note: This is a continuing series of articles by Doug Johnson, pastor of the Blue Mountain Valley and the Mission Native American churches, both located between Pendleton, Ore., and Walla Walla, Wash. In this series he explores the early beginnings of the Adventist Church in the Northwest.

Today the Seventh-day Adventist Church is working among a number of ethnic groups in the Northwest. They include the Hispanics, Blacks, Native Americans, Koreans, Samoans and Vietnamese. But in the early days we directed our ethnic work toward two totally different groups — the Germans and Scandinavians.

In 1861 a group of Scandinavians in Southern Wisconsin joined the newly-formed Seventh-day Adventist Church and organized the denomination's first ethnic congregation. Two years later a Scandinavian minister of the Baptist Church, John Matteson, also united with Adventism along with most of his members. Before long Matteson was traveling to groups of Scandinavian immigrants throughout the Midwest and raising up churches.

In 1890 two Scandinavian families who had accepted Adventism in Minnesota moved to Monitor, Ore. Here they established a small Adventist church of seven members. By 1900 this church, which boasted a membership of 67, had become the largest Scandinavian church in the West.

Adventists started many Scandinavian churches in the Northwest during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Several of these churches, which in later years switched to using the English language, are still in operation today.

In early copies of the GLEANER there were church lists for each of the Northwestern conferences. But these lists did not indicate whether or not a church was Scandinavian or German unless it was the second Adventist Church in town. So this writer was not able to find out how many Northwestern churches were originally Scandinavian or German. A few of the locations that had Scandinavian churches were: Bellingham, Wash.; Ferndale, Wash.; Monitor, Ore.; Lebanon, Ore.; Tacoma, Wash.; Everett, Wash.; Ballard (Seattle), Wash.; Portland, Ore.; and Spokane, Wash.

A number of German immigrants in the



Phillip and Katherine Rudy

Midwest began accepting Adventism during the 1870s. One of them was Louis Conradi. After joining the church he attended Battle Creek College where he finished the four-year course in a little over a year. Conradi began working in 1881 for the German immigrants of the Midwest. He was joined the next year by another German, Henry Shultz, who had been working since 1874 for English-speaking people.

The work among the Germans grew rapidly. By 1925 there were more than 100 German-speaking churches west of the Mississippi River with a total membership of 4,000. East of the Mississippi there were 17 churches with a membership of 900.

In the late 1880s, F. Jorg raised up several German churches in the North Pacific Conference of western Oregon (Albina and West Union). Then in 1891 Henry Shultz visited the Upper Columbia Conference and started a German church in Farmington, Wash. The next year Gottfried F. Haffner, who had been working in the North Pacific Conference since 1890, moved to the Upper Columbia Conference to get the German work rolling. He met with good success.

In 1893 Haffner started a German church of 40 members in Walla Walla. This church later moved to College Place where in 1911 a building was erected on the northwest corner of Sixth and Bade. As late as 1942 this church was still functioning and had a membership of 97 members.

Also in 1893 Haffner visited the German colony along the Palouse River. Here he baptized members of the Ochs, Schierman and Weitz families and established the Endicott Church.

This writer's great grandparents, Phillip and Katherine Rudy, joined this church in 1911. They were Germans who had been living along the Volga River in Russia. The night before they were to leave for America, Katherine Rudy had a dream. In it she saw two men preaching about the Sabbath. Even though they were Lutherans, she was impressed that they should join the church of the two men when they came to America. A little more than four years later the Rudys were invited to some religious meetings at Conrad Schierman's home, along the Palouse River. When Katherine entered the home she could not believe her eyes. The men speaking were the very men of her dream. They were Gottfried F. Haffner and Jacob Riffel. At the end of the meetings the ministers baptized the Rudys in the Palouse River through a hole in the ice. Several years later the Rudys bought a farm west of Colfax. Here they attended the Wilcox German Church.

By 1906 there were nine German churches in the Upper Columbia Conference with a total membership of about 200. Other conferences in the Northwest also had a number of German churches. A few of these locations are: West Union, Ore.; Albina, Ore.; Billings, Mont.; Marsh, Mont.; Spokane, Wash.; Wilcox (Dusty), Wash.; Endicott, Wash.; Farmington, Wash.; and College Place, Wash.

Though today we are directing our ethnic work toward different groups than a century ago, our goal is still the same. To preach the everlasting gospel "to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people" (Revelation 14:6, NKJ).



The Wilcox German Seventh-day Adventist Church building still stands along Highway 26 about 15 miles west of Colfax, Wash. This church started in 1901 and was closed in 1953. For many years this church had over 60 members and operated a church school.

How Far Can I Kick the Ball on Sabbath?



Ed Schwisow

By Ed Schwisow

When I was a teenager and captain of my club's volleyball and football teams, the urge to hold team practice on Sabbath afternoons was hard to resist.

We tried drills where we "kicked softer" on Sabbaths, or didn't spike the volleyball during the holy hours.

But, somehow, we felt transgression in the air, until, one Sabbath morning, the personal ministries director invited the team to help the church members give Bible studies. (We chuckled. Imagine, Sabbath breakers and competitive sportsmen giving Bible studies!)

But we accepted, offering to take the homes farthest away from the church. (We rode and raced bicycles, too, and we somewhat irreverently reasoned that we could do some cross training while we did good. We knew the Bible study giving would be simple: we had hundreds of friends, many of whom often asked us why we were Adventists.)

We were right. Soon we had 125 people (all high schoolers) signed up for Voice of Prophecy lessons. We were so busy delivering the lessons and bringing our friends to church meetings that we had no time left to plot an acceptable trajectory of a soccer ball on the Lord's Day.

Our taciturn debates with "church authorities" changed to warm strategy sessions. We won some games that year, but

we won a lot more hearts for God. We had become more than a special interest group on the fringes of the family. We now belonged.

A Strategic Issue: The GLEANER

We spend hundreds of thousands of hard-earned and cheerfully-given Northwest Adventist dollars each year to send out more than 800,000 copies of the GLEANER.

As Russians cry for Bibles, we print birth announcements; as spiritually orphaned South Americans plead for pastors, we print ads for pen pals and marriage partners. As Filipinos house new members in makeshift huts, we feature dedications of rich sanctuaries that may be less than half filled on Sabbath mornings.

It doesn't seem to make sense.

A Family Magazine

Editors stay awake at night thinking about such things. And the temptation comes to edit the GLEANER as one would change his soccer kick on Sabbath. You know, a bit more subdued than *TV Guide*; more sanctified than the *National Geographic*; more sanitized than the local newspaper. Softer and holier.

But such editorial attitudes can never justify this publication. They can lead to a boring magazine few will read twice, yes. But unless this magazine helps our mouths parch with the thirst of the Russian brother for the Word of God; unless we shiver with the Filipino caught in the monsoon on Sabbath morning; unless we cry with the letter-writer distraught over a loved one who has left the church, this magazine isn't justified.

The GLEANER must draw us together. It must make us family. It must help us feel family pride, at times, and sometimes, in all fairness, family shame. But the point is, it must make us feel.

Family Feelings

I solicit your prayers, your letters, your intuition and your advice. Maybe we should put aside questions such as "What is the tolerance level for celebration in church?", and instead ask unifying ones such as: "How can we bring whole communities to celebrate with us and with us to prepare for the awesome days ahead?"

We must look for questions that lead to unifying fellowship. Discussions that produce action and cooperation. Questions that will bring independent-minded Northwesterners into unity of purpose.

Help me put my fingers on those family questions. If we can do that, the Filipinos, the Russians and the South Americans will not begrudge us our paper. Instead, we'll begin to receive requests for multilingual editions. ➔

Ed Schwisow is acting editor of the GLEANER.



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Operation Bearhug Brings Bible to Life for Russian Children

By Hazel Burns with Helen Heavirland

Considering the desperate need in the Soviet Union for gospel materials, I was excited that our church decided to help Soviet children visualize the gospel.

The pastors' wives in the Upper Columbia Conference had encouraged churches to provide Bible felt sets for child evangelism in the Russian Union. Little Folk Visuals agreed to provide the three-year Bible in Felt set at approximately half the usual cost.

I explained the project to our 54-member Country Haven congregation and asked, "Are you interested in this project?" Deacons provided paper and I asked those interested to indicate (1) the amount of money they would like to pledge and (2) if they were willing to prepare the felts for shipping. The congregation's response to both questions surpassed my expectations.

So I ordered two sets of felts and invited members to sharpen all their scissors and bring them to the fellowship dinner June 1. When the first set of felts arrived, I cut the large sheets into manageable sizes and made sure everything was ready for cutters.

Nature delivered a blue-sky day. Members and guests worked together in the open air. A few felt men and oxen ran off on one occasion, but we corralled them as soon as the whirlwind passed. The "cut-cut-cut" was accompanied by speculation on how the Soviet children and teachers would enjoy

the felts and the Bible characters portrayed.

In the hands of many willing workers, the stack of felts dwindled to nothing by evening vespers. We rejoiced in a completed job and in the privilege of helping Soviet children learn of Jesus.

If your family or church family would like to join in the work and satisfaction of actively helping the Soviet children, contact your local conference church ministries director.

Hazel Burns and Helen Heavirland write from Pasco, Wash.



A Response of Northwest Adventists
to Global Mission



The Country Haven members prepare felts for Soviet children.



From the Pastor's Desk

Church Maintenance Coordinator

By Chad McComas

Who's in charge of taking care of maintenance and repairs at your church? Is it assumed that the pastor takes care of broken windows or leaky faucets? Do the deacons of your church take care of the maintenance? Is there a master plan for the maintenance at your church? Who decides when the carpets are cleaned or the walls painted?

The uncertain answers to these questions in my church led me to ask my church to develop a new position in church leadership. We call it Church Maintenance Coordinator. The creation of this position is one of the best decisions we have ever made!

The Church Maintenance Coordinator is responsible, as repairs are needed, to care for them. This doesn't mean that he or she does all the work. It means that the maintenance coordinator makes sure that the work is done either by volunteers or paid professionals. The coordinator is also responsible for scheduling routine maintenance and keeping records of what was done and when it was done. This helps the church plan for routine painting, carpet cleaning, light changing, and so forth. It also helps the church budgeters plan how much will be needed each year to take care of ongoing maintenance.

If the coordinator is sharp, finds what needs to be done and does it, the church

may tend to overspend its maintenance funds. But, how terrible is it to spend more on maintenance and have a church that is caught up on repairs? I'd rather have a neat, clean, well-running church! It feels great to be able to call our Church Maintenance Coordinator and to pass word on that a light needs to be replaced or a toilet leaks. I know I won't have to worry about it.

You may want to add the position of Church Maintenance Coordinator to your church offices list this summer as you elect new officers. You'll never be sorry you did.

Chad McComas is pastor of the Corvallis and Philomath, Ore., churches.

Baker City, Ore. Helps Russians

During a special Sabbath fellowship hour recently, the Baker City Church participated in their own *Operation Bearhug* event during a farewell dinner honoring Alexander Souslov, a retired astronomy professor from the Ukraine, U.S.S.R.

The new Soviet freedoms made it possible for Souslov to visit his cousin, Othilie Fagenstrom, of Baker City.

Souslov, who speaks practically no English, and Gregor Fagenstrom, who speaks no Russian, solved their communication problem with their mutual knowledge of German. Together they responded to a published appeal from City Hall for a Russian speaking person to translate a "Please Help Us" letter received from Elviza Yanko of Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Souslov has a decided empathy with the woman who wrote the open letter, having lived "under deprivation" in Leningrad after World War II.

The resulting translation published in the *Baker City Herald* created widespread community interest. Copies of the article were posted on most church bulletin boards in town.

The translation revealed the desperate need of the Yanko family for warm clothing. "It is now wintertime," Mrs. Yanko wrote, "and we suffer greatly. We have no winter shoes or clothing. The shops are empty . . . we cannot sew because we have no thread and little material."

Mrs. Yanko included a special plea for a Bible, because, she said, "We have recently joined to God!" Bibles are hard to get and very expensive, about 25 percent of a Russian's monthly salary.

Mrs. Yanko closed her letter with a cordial invitation to visit them in their three-room apartment with bath which the three of them share with two toddlers.

Although we have no full report as to the extent of church and community response to Mrs. Yanko's letter, it is our sincere hope and prayer that next winter will find the Yanko family supplied with that new Bible, and warm clothing for the bitter Soviet weather.

Wreatha Hudson



Othilie Fagenstrom of Baker City, Ore., with Alexander Souslov of Lvov, Ukraine, U.S.S.R. Photo courtesy of *Baker City Herald*.

Pathfinders Conclude Successful Year

Nampa/Caldwell Pathfinders deserve recognition for their accomplishments this year.

A 50-mile bicycle run brought in funds for club operation and produced first place winner Kelly Lewis; Sandi Kelly, second place; Christy Day, third place; Melissa Taylor, fourth place; and Kevin Bartlet, fifth place.

Ingenuity and originality produced pinewood derby cars for the annual race in February.

At the April 9 conference wide Kite-A-Rama, club members also were active assembling kit kites and competing with members of other clubs.

The winners for the longest flight were all from the club: Travis Adams, first; Charlie Wade, second; and Angela Kreuder, third. Club member Corrie Day took first place for best design.

Scott Trace, a pre-Pathfinder, brought home first place for best kite. Jessica Brown of Caldwell took third place.

The club brought home the coveted Giant Trophy as Club #1 of Idaho on May 5 at the Idaho Conference Pathfinder Fair. The award was presented to the club with the highest number of points earned. The club booth won a blue ribbon. The club food booth was also a success.

The club also took part in the Caldwell Club Retreat in January; the Junior Retreat, last November and the Teen Retreat in March. During these times, the club members learned to assist in meal preparation, serving and cleanup.

Teen Club Pathfinders of the Year are Sandi Kelley and Travis Johnston. Junior Club Pathfinders of the Year are Angela Kreuder and Kevin Bartlett.

On the spiritual side, the club members take small gifts, Valentines and Easter baskets to their adopted elderly grandparents. At Halloween time, they collected canned goods to make up food baskets for needy families. They give prayers and spiritual talks and present musical and vocal numbers.



The 58 Pathfinders and 20 staff with Director Bill Legg which make up the Caldwell/Nampa Crusaders brought home the coveted giant trophy this year at the Idaho Conference-sponsored Pathfinder Fair at Gem State Adventist Academy.

Bill Legg, Pathfinder director, led the club with 59 Pathfinders and 20 staff. The Idaho Conference presented him the Pathfinder Director of the Year Award.

The club is grateful to the Idaho Conference and to sister clubs for the support they give the young people of the Nampa/Caldwell club.

Mary E. Day



Counselor Jerry Jones supervises camp cleanup at Ida Haven by some of his unit of eight sixth-grade boys named The Conquerors.



Milford Terrell, Conference Pathfinder director, honors Bill Legg with a plaque as the chosen Pathfinder Director of the Year Award.



Bill Legg, Caldwell/Nampa Crusader club director, in cap, supports the winners at the Pathfinder Fair at GSAA. First place was won by Connie Lawrence (center), second place by Nichole Kreuder (left), and third place by Angela Kreuder.

MiVoden Retreat Teaches Health Principles

A full weekend retreat featuring health information and tips on prevention of disease was conducted recently at Camp MiVoden by Melvin Beltz, M.D., medical director of Black Hills Health and Education Center, and his wife Muriel, instructor and co-lecturer, from South Dakota.

Staff from Total Health, a Yakima, Wash., health center, prepared healthful meals for approximately 60 persons in attendance.

Central to the theme of the weekend retreat was the point that Christ and His righteousness form the basis of our faith, not the health message. Christ will lead individually in attaining health goals, said Beltz. We are not to push and condemn others, for each person is at a different point in their experience with the principles of health.

Muriel Beltz contrasted the perfect diet of Genesis 1:29 with a normal American diet. The meals for one day of a typical American contain almost a pint of sugar. Sugar is known to clog the blood and acts much as a fat in the system.

The lecturing team also told of the importance of including fiber in the diet. The produce department in the grocery store is the safest and best place to shop, they said.

Carol Martin



Melvin Beltz, M.D., medical director of Black Hills Health and Education, S.D., speaks at the retreat.



Camp MiVoden was the lakeside setting for the health retreat.



Ellensburg, Wash., Educator Awarded

Carrie Tow, teacher at Valley Christian School in Ellensburg, Wash., has received a \$300 teacher project award from the North Pacific Union Association of Educators. This will be used for a special project in crystal growing and molecular construction kits which will aid in her teaching of chemical and physical science.

At the school's award assembly, students gathered around Congressman Sid Morrison who handed out national and presidential academic and physical fitness awards. From the left are back row: Carrie Tow, teacher/principal; Jennifer Cross; Philip Morton; Danny Moor. Middle row: Danyel Zacharias; Tami Young; Jaida Detwiler; Anna Detwiler; Levi Christy; Stevie Moor. Front row: Georgianna Holliday; Brooke Chasteen; Kellie Zacharias; and Joshua Christy.

Russian Evangelism Planned By Team

The Upper Columbia Conference is sending a team, under the leadership of Conference Evangelist Jim Reinking, to the Soviet Union this fall. They will be in the Volga/Urulian Conference as a part of the North Pacific Union Conference Operation Bearhug.

The team is still in the process of being organized, but it appears that Harold and Van Kostenko from Walla Walla and Donna Reinking and Janice Renck from the Spokane area will be a part of the team.

They have been asked to conduct two one-week series in an area just east of the Ural Mountains, about 900 miles east of Moscow. From Sept. 30 to Oct. 4, the team will be in Sverdlovsk, a city with a population of 1.5 million and an Adventist church membership of 50. The team will spend the second week in Chelyabinsk, a city of 1.2 million and a church of 30 members.

Reinking will use a rear-projection audiovisual system to present the essentials of the gospel, while the other team members will provide music for the program. The Volga/Urulian Conference will provide a translator, Bibles and Bible courses, along with the necessary workers to continue the program in the weeks and months to follow.

"This is really an exciting opportunity to take the gospel message to a society that has been largely isolated from Christian influences for decades," said Evangelist Reinking. "For the Soviet Union, this represents an historical period of time, when every human institution has seemingly failed and the population is particularly responsive to the hope that is ours in Christ," he concluded.

If you would like to contribute directly for this team, you can give your gift by marking your tithe envelope "Operation Bearhug — the Volga/Urulian Conference Team" and placing it in the church offering, or you can send your gift to: Upper Columbia Conference, Volga/Urulian Conference Team, P.O. Box 19039, Spokane, WA 99219.

Blue Mountain Church Saves on Project

This spring, members of the Blue Mountain Church in Athena, Ore., built and paid for a hookup to the city waterline.

When the church was built 20 years ago the city was unwilling to bring the waterline out the quarter mile to the church. So the church used a huge buried water tank.

This year, after much negotiating with the city it was agreed that the church could go ahead with the waterline. The city

officials were confident that it would take the church a long time to complete the project.

Many volunteers came to work on this project, directed by LaVerne Nelson. Harold Lund brought his backhoe from College Place. The waterline was completed and the fire hydrant hooked up within two days, and the cost was only \$11,602.89 instead of the \$55,000 estimated by the city.

Dottie LeFore

WASHINGTON



Operation Bearhug Car Wash

The Juniors in the Arlington Church held a car wash this summer to benefit Operation Bearhug. All the profit went toward buying 61 Bibles for Russia. Directing the project were Herb Hainey and Dave Patrick.

Jack Criddle



Mount Tahoma Thank You

Treasurers are very special and they do a lot of work, say Mount Tahoma, Wash., members. Elfreda Hurcomb, treasurer, and Geneva Martin, assistant treasurer, were recognized for their hard work.

Mount Tahoma says thank you for a job well done.

Windows of Heaven The Plants Were White With Frost!

By Roy A. Wesson
As Shared by Elsie Arnold

"I looked out at my garden. The lush berry bushes looked healthy and beautiful to my eager eyes. The hard work and labor of love had paid off this year and the bushes were loaded with berries. I was filled with satisfaction as I looked upon God's handiwork and thought how He had blessed my digging, pruning and watering. I went to bed with a contented heart.

"Morning came and oh, it was so cold. I slipped on a jacket and went out to look at my garden. What a change in the weather. I couldn't believe my eyes. The ground and plants were white with frost.

"Oh Lord, what will happen to my berries?" I quickly took my Bible and went out to the berry patch. I read Malachi 4:8-11 and claimed God's promise for protection of my plants. As I prayed over my berries, I told the Lord that I believed his promise and knew He would rebuke the devourer, this unwelcome frost. As I finished my prayer I told the Lord it was now up to Him.

"A few days later I discovered that my

neighbors' berries had all been struck by the frost and destroyed, but I had a huge crop. As I shared my berries it was so delightful to tell how the Lord had blessed and how I had claimed the promise of Malachi 4:8-11 for my berry patch.

"One couple I shared the berries with wanted Bible studies and they later joined our church and became active members. Upon their death they left to the Lord's work several thousands of dollars."

In my 51 years of being an Adventist this is only one of the miraculous stories of God's working and opening the 'Windows of Heaven.'

Praise the Lord! He is still pouring out his blessing. Are you being faithful in your tithe and offerings so you too can experience God's wonderful blessings?

Ramona and I know from our experience that after we give the Lord tithe and offerings the amount which remains provides for more than our needs.

Do you have a tithe experience that you would like to share? Please send it to me.

Roy A. Wesson is treasurer for Washington Conference.



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Don't Miss This Opportunity!

Thousands Respond As Northwestern Evangelists Reach Russian People

By Alf Birch

Northwestern evangelists, returning from evangelistic meetings in the Soviet Union, all tell stories of people accepting Jesus Christ by the hundreds, just as we read about in *Acts of the Apostles*.

Jac Colon, director of the Northwest Evangelism Institute, assisted by his wife 'dena, started a series of evangelistic meetings in Riga, Latvia, on June 7, 1991. Up to 1,000 people attended meetings each night.

A young man from Siberia, searching for something better, was told by a friend about a Pentecostal evangelist going to Riga. Upon arriving at the airport, he asked about the meetings, and someone told him about the meetings being conducted by the Colons. He arrived just after the meeting ended, but one of the members invited him to stay in their home.

They brought him to church on Sabbath morning, the meeting that evening, and the Pentecostal meeting on Sunday. He was not satisfied with the Pentecostal meeting and became deeply moved by what he heard from Jac Colon.

Tuesday night he decided that he wanted to be baptized and join the Adventist Church, after hearing only four sermons. Since his plane left on Thursday morning, he wanted to be baptized the next night. He was told that he would need to study

more and that maybe that could be done through an Adventist church near his home.

He discovered that the nearest church to his home was 800 kilometers away. He said, "If you baptize me, I will start a church." Again he was told that he would need to do some further study in order to be better prepared for baptism. He was very disappointed, but agreed to study more.

Somehow the bookings for his flight were mixed up, and he was scheduled to leave on Sunday instead of Thursday. He felt sure that this was God, telling him to be baptized in Riga.

It was finally decided to give him a cram course, and he was baptized at 11 p.m. Saturday night after the meeting, in a nearby river. When he was handed his baptismal certificate he said, "This is just like a passport!"

He left Sunday morning with the love of those who had led him to Christ, a lot of literature and determination to start a little church in his home town.

During this series of meetings, 122 persons were baptized. This evangelistic campaign was conducted in conjunction with a Field School of Evangelism for 40 pastors, administrators, and Bible workers of the Baltic Union. It was conducted jointly under the auspices of the General Conference and OPERATION BEAR-HUG, a North Pacific Union Conference initiative.

Don Jacobsen, president of the Oregon Conference, left Portland, Ore., on May 28 for Novosibirsk, in the Trans-Siberian Con-



A Response of Northwest Adventists
to Global Mission

ference. He was accompanied by his wife Ruthie, as well as Walter Emori, M.D., a physician from Medford, Ore., and Ed Gienger, pastor of the Vancouver, Wash., Church. During the next five weeks they led out in a Field School of Evangelism for 40 pastors and conducted public evangelistic meetings at night.

Oregon Conference members contributed \$40,000 to conduct this evangelistic program. More than 2,000 Bibles were distributed during these meetings. Two thousand additional copies were purchased and donated for meetings in Moscow. Four thousand three hundred other books, such as *Steps to Christ* and *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, were purchased and distributed.

More than 1,300 people attended the evangelistic meetings each night. Two baptismal services were conducted toward the end of the campaign. Two hundred six persons were baptized into Christ during these meetings and joined the fellowship of the Adventist world family. Many more are expected to be baptized as time progresses.

While the meetings were being conducted in Novosibirsk, a lady was walking down one of the city streets and noticed a kiosk where literature was being sold. One of the books for sale was *Steps to Christ* in the Russian language, which she started reading while waiting to pay the cashier.

People pressed in about her until she was pushed outside of the circle of people surrounding the kiosk. She promptly "stole" the book, left, and completed reading it in her apartment. Don Jacobsen says, "As she kept reading the book, it just broke her heart as she learned about Jesus Christ. She accepted Him as her Savior. She was convicted to go back and pay for the book.

As she returned to her apartment she saw a sign advertising the gospel meetings being conducted by Don Jacobsen and his team.



Don and Ruthie Jacobsen enjoy some sightseeing, but spend most of their waking hours in pastoral education and in evangelism.



More than 200 persons are baptized from Jacobsen's meetings. More will follow.

Having just become a Christian and wanting to learn more she decided to attend. That night as she came to the meeting it so happened that *Steps to Christ* was being distributed. She said to herself, "This must be a good meeting because they have the same book here that I just purchased."

She stayed by, attended all the rest of the meetings, became fully convicted about what she'd heard, and was baptized the last Sabbath of the campaign.

Upon his return to Oregon, Emori started raising \$35,000 for the building of a 400-seat church in Novosibirsk. Most of this amount has already been raised.

Gienger put the challenge to his church in Vancouver to become part of the Novosibirsk project. This church decided to assist the Trans-Siberian Conference with the expenses of moving a pastor to the church from the Ukraine, buy him a parsonage, and sponsor his salary for three years. All of that for \$4,500!

Beginning the second week of May, Dave and Becky Weigley, Mardene Bartholomew, and Tae Kim, two students from Auburn Adventist Academy, evangelized seven different cities along the Volga River, which flows more than 2,200 miles through the interior of the Soviet Union.

Presentations were made on the gospel, Daniel 2 and the Second Coming for three nights in each city. The purpose was to arouse interest in a 12-week Bible study program that would be conducted by the pastors of our churches in these cities. Each 12-week series would close with another three nights of reaping meetings.

It is estimated that more than 12,000 listeners heard the presentations that were given in the seven cities during the four



Jac Colon, right, assists a young Siberian baptismal candidate.



Don Jacobsen, president of the Oregon Conference speaks in evangelistic meetings most evenings, but during the day, he trains young Russian pastors such as these.

weeks of evangelistic emphasis. Of that number, more than 1,200 signed up for Bible studies with Russian pastors.

It is ironic that for their travel on the Volga River, the Weigley team rented the boat called "The Propagandist." During the heyday of Communism, this boat was used by the Communist Party to proclaim the teachings of Marx and Lenin. It was now used to go up the river proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. We may recall Nikita Khrushchev's comment regarding Christianity. Ruling the Communist Party from 1953 to 1964, he once boasted that by 1965 Christianity would become obsolete.

"When that happens," he said, "I will insist that at least one Christian be preserved and placed in a museum so that future generations of Soviets can view an extinct species." Contrary to his predictions, Communism is now obsolete while Christianity is bringing hope again to the Soviet people.

When Weigley asked a student at the university in the city of Uljanovsk after his meeting whether she had understood his presentation, she said, "Yes, very much. I can hardly speak," and her eyes began to well up with tears. "I'm trembling inside, for you have brought sunshine to my heart today by what you shared with us from the Word of God."

She is now studying the Bible with our Russian pastor. She symbolizes many of the people who attended the Weigley meetings.

Many had never heard the gospel preached during their lifetime. In Saratov no one had preached the gospel there during the past 70 years. The Weigley team was the first group from outside the Soviet Union permitted to enter that enclave with the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

WWC Students, Faculty Go to Siberia

If you were to ask most college students where they wanted to spend the month of August, it is unlikely that Siberia would make the list. But three Walla Walla College students and a 1991 WWC graduate are in the middle of a three-week project in the eastern-most cities of the Soviet Union. The group also includes Doug Clark, dean of the WWC school of theology, and a Soviet translator.

The students involved are Laura Constantinescu, a sophomore psychology major from Salem, Ore.; Tami Galusha, a junior elementary education major from Loma Linda; and David Springer, a senior theology major from Auburn, Wash.

The itinerary includes Yakutsk, Magadon and Camchadka, three eastern-seaboard cities with populations that range from 350,000 to more than 700,000. Each city has only one Adventist church, ranging from 15 members to about 100. The WWC group is planning to put on three, six-day series of meetings, but with the newness of the program, and the difficulty of communication and translation, Clark says they are preparing for anything.

"This is a pioneering effort," says Clark, who will be the main speaker. "There are unknowns — we don't know our daily schedules, we don't know who we'll be visiting. It's a territory no one knows much about."

Sponsored by the North Pacific Union's Operation Bearhug, the WWC group is one of five Northwest groups that are planning to participate in the project. Their meetings will include children's stories, health messages, music, and sermons that focus on the basics of Christianity. The group is also responsible for filming video footage that will be used to put together promotional videos about Operation Bearhug.

Steve Dunston



A team of students and a professor of theology are teaming up to enter Russia on an evangelistic mission. Shown, left to right, are Laura Constantinescu, Larry Witzel, Doug Clark, David Springer and Tami Galusha.

Operation Bearhug Projects

Please remember the following places and people in your prayers.

The Hockley/Corwin team (Oregon Conference) in Juzhno-Sakhalinsk, Khabarovsk, and Vladivostok (July 29-Aug. 29).

A Walla Walla College team, led by Dr. Doug Clark, in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski, Yakutsk, and Komsomolsk na Amur (Aug. 12-Sept. 2).

The Jere Patzer team (Upper Columbia Conference) in Magadan (Aug. 14-24).

The Jim Reinking team (Upper Columbia Conference) in Sverdlovsk and Chelyabinsk (Sept. 27-Oct. 16).

The Fred Cornforth team (Idaho Conference) in Makhachkala, Grozni, and Nalchik (Oct. 1-16).

The Upper Columbia Conference has rallied to sponsor their president, Jere Patzer, to establish an ongoing relationship with the Magadan Adventist Church in Siberia. The intent is to provide resources and expertise to build up the work in this cultural and political center of the Soviet Far East.

During a recent preparatory visit to Magadan, Patzer, who was accompanied by Jim Osborne, Ministerial Association secretary of the Alaska Conference, met with the Minister of Religion, who in turn introduced them to the vice-chairman of the Communist Party for that entire region. They were anxious to know what the Adventist Church could offer their community. Extensive newspaper, radio and television coverage presented our leaders' reports in a very positive way, giving credibility and exposure to the small group of 42 Adventists



Dave Weigley and team travel the Volga River aboard *The Propagandist*, a ship once used by the Communist Party to promote Marxist-Leninist philosophy.

in Magadan, a city approximately the size of Spokane.

In mid-August Magadan will hear more from Adventists as Patzer, his wife Sue, a physician, dentist, engineer, several musicians, and a group of young people will be traveling to conduct a series of evangelistic

and other meetings for adults, youth and children. The Belko Brass will accompany the group. 🍀

Alf Birch is Church Ministries director of the North Pacific Union Conference and coordinator of Operation Bearhug.

Lents Church Services on Cable TV

By Mort Juberg

The large showroom of the Gresham, Ore., Chrysler-Plymouth dealership had been cleared of automobiles. In their place stood a bride and groom. Salesmen, mechanics and office personnel gathered for this unusual wedding presided over by Pastor Ewart Brown, minister of the Lents Adventist Church in Portland.

This uncanny wedding was a result of "Words For Life," a television ministry of the Lents Church.

"I went to have my car repaired at this dealership," Pastor Brown said. "A man stopped me and said, 'I know you. I have been watching your program.'" On a later visit to the garage Brown received an unusual request, "Would you like to have my wedding?"

"I'll be happy to work with you," Brown replied.

"Words For Life" is seen eight times weekly at a variety of times on Channel 21 and once on Channel 11. The cable company covers much of the Portland area with some



Cameraman Richize Lian watches the image of Ewart Brown on the viewing screen.

of the programming being seen in Vancouver, Tigard and Oregon City. There is no charge for this local access coverage, now called community television.

A little more than two years ago when Pastor Brown transferred to Lents from a pastorate near Spokane, Wash., he was approached by one of his members with a suggestion.

"I watch cable television and I don't like what I see. This should be an opportunity to present the gospel. Why don't we have a program on cable?" he asked the pastor.

With some hesitation Brown presented the idea to his church board and they said, "Go for it."

Members had already been videotaping the Sabbath sermon for shut-ins, so the transition to a regular format wasn't too difficult. The Oregon Conference provided one camera and two more have come from the Communication Department of the North Pacific Union Conference.

Pastor Brown gives an introduction and conclusion to the program, videotaped separately. During these two time periods he invites listeners to write or call for free books. These segments, added to the taping of the Sabbath service which begins the program with the special music, make an hour-long presentation.

"Words For Life" has been aired for a little more than two years. Pastor Brown is pleased with the response. Twenty Bible studies by members are currently in progress and many books have been sent to listeners. One person has been baptized.

"I am happy for the response from our viewers," the pastor noted. "There are people who most likely wouldn't open their



Carol Leak with Pastor Ewart Brown. She watched the program and decided to attend church, which she has done regularly. "What Pastor Brown had to say really hit me," she said.

door to me but in the comfort of their homes they listen to the gospel."

A lady met the pastor at the Lents Church saying she had been watching the program every Saturday morning for the past two months. "This morning I decided to come to church," she said.

She has been attending regularly and is receiving studies. Also, Pastor Brown performed her wedding.

One of the parishioners, a beautician, said six of her clients are pastors. Several, knowing she is a Lents member, have told her they watch "Words For Life."

In addition, ministers from other congregations have phoned requesting a book or a tape, identifying themselves as pastors. Another minister phoned saying, "I'm calling to encourage you and to let you know I'm thinking of you."

Brown sees another benefit of the program. "There are many shut-ins for whom this is their Sabbath church," he noted.

Auburn Camp Meeting Features Russia Theme

"Camp keeps faith with tradition" was the large headline of a half-page report in the *Tacoma News Tribune* about the Washington Conference camp meeting, now 105 years old.

"We are planning to continue each year with a strong camp meeting program," confirmed Conference President Lenard Jaacks. "We have the advantage of using our spacious Auburn Academy campus, a very comfortable and pleasant place for camp meeting," he said.

Jaacks explained that he and his staff had considered ways for providing more space for campers and tents to accommodate growing crowds. This year's attendance was larger than in recent years. More than 3,000 people were on campus during the week. On the two Sabbaths of camp meeting, June 22 and 29, there were nearly 7,000 people on campus.

The Russia Connection was a special ongoing feature of this year's camp meeting featuring a number of individuals who have been to Russia or were planning to go there as guest evangelists. The evening speaker, Mark Finley, went directly to Moscow from the Auburn camp meeting for a series of evangelistic meetings.

During camp meeting Jac and 'dena Colon, of the Northwest Evangelism Center and senior pastor of the Federal Way Church, were in the Soviet Union holding evangelistic meetings. Washington Conference ministerial secretary, Dave Weigley, and his wife Becky, along with two Auburn Academy students, Mardene Bartholomew and Tae Kim, returned from a month-long evangelistic tour along the Volga River just prior to camp meeting.

The first Sabbath morning speaker was Neal Wilson, General Conference president, 1978-1990, who has been much involved in the development of the work of the Adventist church in the Soviet Union.

Sabbath afternoon, June 29, was dedicated to an Operation Bearhug report.

Featured speaker for the program was Michael Kulakov, Jr., who is dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary in the Soviet Union. He told of the experiences of Seventh-day Adventist young people of the Soviet Union which tested their faith and commitment to Christian principles.



The Russia connection at the recent Washington Conference Camp Meeting was emphasized by gathering of those who had recently been to Russia with the family of Michael Kulakov, Jr. Washington Conference president, Lenard Jaacks, left, wears a hat which was a gift from the Dave Weigleys and purchased in Russia. Beside him are Mardene Bartholomew and Tae Kim, Auburn Adventist Academy students who accompanied the Weigleys for the month-long Russia evangelistic tour. Center are Dave and Becky Weigley, in the front on the right is Michael Kolakov, Jr., his wife Louda, and children Constantine and Tanya, and in the background on the right are Bob and Carol Paulsen, members of the Puyallup Church, who were part of the Russia Connection.



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save a life.**

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He was accompanied by his wife, Louda, and two young children, Constantine and Tanya.

The Operation Bearhug report began with a re-created welcoming party who had recently gone to SeaTac International Airport to welcome the Weigley group as they returned from Russia. A special report of their evangelistic work in several cities on the Volga River was illustrated by slides. Weigley reported that 1,200 of the 12,000 people who attended meetings in the cities where they visited had signed up for Bible correspondence courses.

Puyallup Church leader, Bob Paulsen, who has traveled with denominational leaders in the Soviet Union, gave his slide-

illustrated firsthand report of the work to construct a publishing house and the Adventist Seminary.

The pastoral and office team of the Washington Conference worked long hours in preparation for camp meeting and during the nine days of camp meeting to provide the best possible experience for the campers. Each of the youth departments reported larger numbers than in previous years. Nearly 1,500 people attended the 28 classes offered at camp meeting.

The theme for the 1992 Washington Conference Camp Meeting is "Ye Shall Receive Power, Ye Shall be Witnesses," and the dates are June 18-27, 1992.

Dennis Carlson

ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM/WEST

Program Helps Patients On Verge of Collapse

Joe* was teetering on the scaffolding of life, stressed and shaken by the pressures of joblessness and family turmoil. He was one step from losing his dangerous balancing act and falling into a hospital bed or a jail cell.

Instead, he found the stability of the adult psychiatric day hospital, a new service of Portland Adventist Medical Center's behavioral medicine division.

The program offers intensive psychiatric services to help people to return to or enhance their functioning at home, on the job and within the community. Patients spend their days participating in a wide range of therapeutic programs, then return home in the evening to practice their new skills.

Besides being significantly less costly than inpatient care, the day hospital is often a more appropriate therapeutic environment for many patients.

"The day hospital program reinforces the research that says patients make better progress when it's possible to keep them in their natural environment," says Barbara Brady, the program's coordinator.

At the time he connected with Portland Adventist, Joe had been out of work for a year and a half, and his family was on the verge of falling apart. He was severely depressed (a trait he shared with most patients in the program), and his explosive disorder symptoms had caused several run-ins with the police.

"He came here in a pretty bad emotional

state," Brady says. "He had incredible family stress; he was tense and hostile. He wasn't sleeping and he was drinking 14 to 15 cups of coffee a day. There's no way he ever would have agreed to hospitalization. He felt that was just too great a loss of freedom."

Joe is typical of the group of patients best suited for the environment of the day hospital program, Brady says.

"Our typical patient is the person you run into in the grocery store," says Brady. "They may have been functioning okay for a long time, but then some situation happens — family stress, a job loss, the death of a loved one—that for the first time puts them in the position of being unable to cope."

It was a combination of those situations that brought Joe to Portland Adventist. Once accepted into the day hospital program, Joe entered into a contract with the staff and set goals for what he wanted to achieve.

Joe's goals were to repair his family life and get back to work, and the day hospital staff set to work designing a plan of therapy.

Joe's psychiatrist provided medical care and supervision, and worked with the therapy team to develop a treatment plan for him. The multidisciplinary members of Joe's therapy team included a clinical social worker as clinical care coordinator (this can also be a clinical nurse specialist).

The coordinator met with Joe individually and with his family, and organized the services of nurses, mental health therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, clergy and the many other professionals and resources available to him.

While medications helped control Joe's

anxiety and depression, the day hospital team began to address problems related to a learning disability that had been uncovered during an in-depth psychological assessment.

"He'd had it for probably 30 years and no one had picked it up," says Brady. "He was having some auditory and communication problems related to it most of his life. But no one had found it before and said, 'You're not stupid or crazy, you have a learning disorder.'"

Joe attended the program five days a week early in his therapy. In individual and group sessions he learned coping and assertiveness skills and relaxation techniques. As his progress continued, his visits were gradually decreased.

Joe's wife and daughter actively participated in his therapy. Family involvement in therapy is strongly encouraged, Brady says.

Day hospital staff worked with Worker's Compensation personnel to assist Joe in his vocational rehabilitation. A rehabilitation counselor helped him address the psychological implications of being unable to work.

Joe has made significant progress toward fulfilling his goal of returning to work, and the family's relationship is well on the way to recovery.

*"Joe" is a pseudonym.

Care for Needy Part Of WWGH Plan

Service is a catch phrase, a cliché for many hospitals today.

However, since Walla Walla General Hospital started in 1899, it has been committed to care. As a result, service has not been a catch phrase, rather, it has been a quiet, constant way of practice.

For example, take the Russian who contracted leukemia after the Chernobyl accident. He has joined his family in Walla Walla, and is receiving care at no cost from the hospital.

Or the heart attack victim who worked with the hospital after his hospitalization, and received both a health care grant and assistance in financing the repayment of the rest of his bill to help avoid financial failure as he worked to rebuild his life.

Or the little boy, whose family had no medical insurance and whose father makes only \$6 an hour. After a medical emergency involving the child, the hospital provided a health care grant.

Altogether, each year the hospital commits nearly \$20,000 to help meet the needs of patients who cannot afford hospitalization.

This money is distributed as the hospital takes careful time each week to review the

LETTERS

Letters are welcomed for publication. The editor reserves the right to reject letters and where necessary, to edit for continuity and space requirements. Letters must be signed and should not be more than 150 words in length except, where, in the editor's discretion, more space is available. Address letters to Editor, Box 16677, Portland, OR 97216.

Unity, Not Uniformity

Based on what I have read in the GLEANER during the past year, and in the spirit of Ed Schwisow's concluding remarks in "Musings of a Northwestern Adventist" (July 15 issue) I believe that we could "speak more fluently, more graciously, more winsomely" in our letters and articles if we would: 1) differentiate between opinion and fact-report and impressions; 2) give the source of information or the basis of conclusions; . . . 3) be careful when quoting the Bible to support our ideas. . . .

We often hear expressed the need for church unity. Some are uncomfortable with a call to unity because they confuse unity with uniformity. God does not desire that. What is it that will unite us? The same issue that divided God's family to begin with: *The kind of person we believe God to be* (pp. 68, 69). The prophet said, "Let him who glorifies glory in this, that he understands and knows Me" (Jeremiah 9:24, NKJV).

Jesus said, "And eternal life means to know you the only true God and to know Jesus Christ, whom you sent. I have shown your glory on earth; I have finished the work you gave me to do . . . I have made you known (John 17:3-6 TEV). Ellen White echoed this when she wrote: ". . . our whole spiritual life will be molded by our concepts of God's character (*Review & Herald*, April 5, 1887). (Emphasis supplied.)

If, then, we truly worship and admire the same God, we will soon reflect His character; that will make us a loving and lovable people and, "So shall we all at least attain to the unity inherent in our faith" (Ephesians 4:13 NEB). (Emphasis supplied.)

H. Lloyd Leno
Vancouver, Wash.

Christian Challenge

In response to your editorial of Aug. 5, 1991, I would like to submit an idea.

Why not invite a little competition among the various Christian churches (not just Adventist) to see how much money for each of these "causes" can be raised? We could begin with Russian Bibles, for example.

The individual churches can decide how best to raise the money (we might even get some great fund-raising ideas ourselves), the end result being the Christian community pulling together to help Russian people who are starving to receive God's Word.

It's not that hard to approach other denominations with "a Christian challenge." If advertised properly, even "non-denominational Christians" could join in — and most probably would.

We could also team up by twos (Adventist and Baptist, for example) and do a door-to-door campaign that should be "less frightening" to non-Christians. (This would also show non-Christians what Christianity is all about — love that transcends all borders, country borders and denominational borders as well.) It should be a good witnessing tool for all of us.

N. Starzinger
Salem, Ore.

Enjoyed Convocation

In recent months several Portland-area Adventists asked me, "Are you going to Convocation?" After I indicated I wasn't sure, and then reversed the question, the response was, "It won't be anything like Gladstone Camp Meeting."

I, along with others, wasn't too enthusiastic about enduring the hassle of riding the freeway, finding parking space and elbowing crowds in the big city atmosphere of the Portland Coliseum.

But I did go, with my husband. I found it to be a pleasant experience. The freeway drive and finding parking were easy.

We relaxed in the padded chairs. The temperature-controlled arena added to our comfort and the sloped seating afforded a perfect view of proceedings. The mood was reverent, not noisy as at camp meeting. The coliseum was clean and attractive with ample rest rooms. Outside, during meal breaks many people spread out blankets on the lawn or sat on folding chairs under the trees.

The Oregon Conference planners had lined up an outstanding slate of speakers and musicians. I felt inspired and spiritually filled.

Lorraine Juberg
Boring, Oregon

Don't Follow Leaders

The person who, in a recent issue of the GLEANER, admonishes us to "follow the leaders" must never have read Isaiah 9:16: "The leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed."

Also, Christ did not admonish the people to follow their leaders in His day.

The leaders rejected the 1888 message as have the leaders all down the line — killing and stoning the prophets.

Ellen White never admonished us to follow the leaders, but only the Spirit of God.

Alice Rhoads
Spokane, Wash.

 I don't understand, Alice, by what scriptural foundation one can justify a blanket denunciation of leadership. If I read my Bible correctly, severe Divine discipline was frequently meted out to those who "murmured" or who attempted to assume the reins of leadership.

The Spirit of God inspired the Apostles (com-

missioned leadership) to appoint a guiding infrastructure (deacons, deaconesses, bishops, teachers, and so forth) to carry the burdens of the people. This is commonly known as "servant leadership," and is modeled after the Master Servant, Jesus.

As we have no Biblical authority to change the Sabbath, so there is no scriptural injunction to modify the primitive Christian government role where leaders at various levels served the congregation of saints.

Russia Update

By Ed Schwisow

As this issue goes to press, the cities of Moscow and Leningrad and Kiev face armed civil conflict. What may occur remains a question of prayer among Christians; of wild speculation among secular analysts.

Among Northwestern Adventists, however, the most pressing issue of prayer concerns Operation Bearhug. Northwestern evangelists, during the past four months, have spoken to thousands of Russians, baptizing hundreds. Tens of thousands of Bibles have been distributed. As we go to press, 22 Northwestern Adventist evangelists, including spouses and assistants, remain in Siberia.

The two teams involved, one lead by Jere Patzer, president of the Upper Columbia Conference, and the other by Doug Clark, chairman of the Walla Walla College School of Theology, appear to be continuing their evangelistic activities in Russia. Reports by friends and relatives of the team members, as well as contacts with Russian sources, indicate that those areas where the teams are at work have not yet felt the effects of the civil unrest. We pray that this apparent tranquility will grace their missions to conclusion; that this unrest will be quickly resolved; that the Operation Bearhug outreach will continue to grow.

Some postponement of evangelistic efforts may occur; however, no Northwestern outreach to Russia has been canceled at press time. We pray that this window of opportunity, darkened now by the clouds of civil tension, will remain open to the gospel. Clearly, the Holy Spirit is at work. Operation Bearhug remains in effect, ready to reach out, perhaps in new and more innovative ways, as events unfold in Russia.

ABOUT THE COVER

As one can readily see, this is a double exposure, something that isn't easily done. Lorayn Beaver, Caldwell, Idaho, a retired professional portrait photographer, writes "There was a lot of testing and a lot of fun doing this photograph of Cindy Lauterbach, a Walla Walla College student who lives in Nampa." Mrs. Beaver uses Professional Ektachrome EPP 100 Plus film in her Canon A-1 Camera.

On the Withering Away of Leaders



Ed Schwisow

By Ed Schwisow

A mountain of cartons (huge boxes, brown, white and gray) grew in the lobby of the North Pacific Union office in Portland.

Men and women who usually sit at desks and encode their thoughts on video display terminals, now marshalled amazing athletic skills. They pushed, tugged, strained and wheeled the boxes toward the front door. Bruce Johnston, union president, managed the maze in open-necked knit shirt and casual slacks. With the volunteers, he sorted, counted, labeled, thanked and smiled as the cardboard-swathed baggage grew to ruinous proportions, destroying the simple interior decorating of the lobby.

But we didn't care about interior decorating. Bruce Johnston, our president, was bound for Russia to reach out to thousands in the name of the Lord. And not just any place in Russia. He was going to Leningrad, the pride of the Russian people; the city which every Russian leader since Peter the Great has longed to name his own.

One Way to Siberia

When Operation Bearhug news started showing up in the GLEANER a few months ago, a lot of phone calls came in. Most callers seemed to like the idea of Northwesterners sharing the gospel with Russians. But others took a more open-clawed approach to Bearhug. It would clearly be just fine with them, it seemed, if some of our leaders declined to use the return half of their tickets.

Now, as we Northwesterners try to adapt to the World Church challenge of Global Mission, it may be a good time to think about leadership. Does God really need humans to help Him lead?

Amazingly enough, if there is one thing that Adventists share with Communists and American Capitalists (some company!), it's a cynicism about the whole idea of leaders, period.

Each movement came about because of a revolt against "kingly power": America against British royalty; Communism against Czarist Russia; Adventism against any and all empire building in the here and now. Our Kingdom was not of this world.

Communism promised that government would "wither away" in a utopian society. (It's withering away, all right, but hardly in utopia.)

American capitalism, likewise, needed nothing more than the "invisible hand" of

free market to avoid the threat of tyrannical leaders and the canker of taxation. To this day, moderate and conservative free-marketers, and to a more severe degree, far-right political parties, still preach this idea.

Early Adventists, who were, in effect, protesting the protestantism and renaissance-bound Catholicism of their day, saw little need for church government. Leaders just happened; the Lord provided. Leaders farmed and they wrote and they held camp meetings, and that was enough.

And so, in a way, each system — communist, democratic and Adventist — harbors a tinge of anarchy, and to this day, we see vestiges of these feelings.

The Bible Norm

Despite the trends at Adventist World Headquarters (a historic reorganization is now occurring, attempting to cut down on expenses, and to make more funds available for direct evangelism) there's little prospect that Adventist organization will "wither away." Nor has that ever been promised.

We will remain organized, as a church. But in order to work together, we need to understand what we should expect of leaders.

Organization — the allotting of responsibility — is Biblical. The cloud alone could have guided the Israelites through the Red Sea, but God chose to honor the man Moses with the responsibility of modeling (through his outstretched arm) His power. And though God began with an autocracy, that one-man president, congress and supreme court wrapped into one soon gave way to a system that employed a good number of the people in camp administration. Though that generation failed in its mission, the problem was one of the communal heart, not one of camp organization.

Parabolic Leaders

What, then, should we expect of our leaders? It seems that we should expect much the same sort of thing that God expected of a Moses, or of an Elijah, or even of a Daniel. We should expect technical skills, of course. But if we look closely at the lives of these Bible men, we will see humble servants who accomplished their greatest roles as their lives served as walking parables of the power of God.

It's often been said that the sermon of the life speaks 100 times more convincingly than that of the mouth. Christ led, and His life, as well as His utterances, were a parable; like a parabolic mirror, they reflected perfect linear reality, as it could be in God.

He spoke unforgettable parables that reflected new realities every time they came to

mind. Everything He did carried the prospect of a deeper application, from His decision to allow the death of His best friend Lazarus, to His willingness to order His life according to a punctilious time schedule which, apparently, could not deviate from plan by even one day.

What Christ did, He did perfectly; no leader today can stand before us with His un-failing perfection, and even if one did, that perfection would be seen only in retrospect, as the disciples perceived their master only after His resurrection. Therefore, by definition, we should not expect perfection from our leaders, though we should hope and pray for it.

But in the divine system, unlike other failed utopian ideas, God calls for leaders to stand as models and parable speakers before their peers; neither higher, nor lower, nor apart from nor special in any sense of glory, except that the congregation sees in them a special calling to devote their lives to a special gospel-modeling career.

That some leaders become living parodies rather than living parables of Gospel power

Continued on next page

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is occasionally true. Yet, the calling to leadership, in and of itself, is inherently a humbling one, and carries with it the pale of depression and disillusionment. ("Jesus Christ," a minister once cried, "is a very tough act to follow.")

Recognizing this, I have chosen to hold up the hands of the Moseses and the Aarons, the Elijahs and the Daniels among us today.

I'm as independent as they come here in the Northwest. But I do plan to be at the airport when Bruce Johnston's plane touches down from Russia. Bruce is the kind of leader who won't need any help with his luggage when he returns. You see, he will probably have given everything away to the Russian people.

That's the kind of leadership even a child can understand and follow. 

Ed Schwisow is Acting Editor of the GLEANER.

Give Jesus the Keys

I am writing in response to the letter "Wants the Car Keys" (July 15 issue) . . .

The statement that the younger generation does all the compromising is false. Rather, there is an attempt to force the lovers of truth into compromise so the devil can bring false worship into the church, telling people they can be saved in their sins.

By the way, I'm 15. As for me, I'll let Jesus drive the car!

Ezrela Palmer
Fall Creek, Ore.

 So rarely do we hear from articulate young letter writers such as Ezrela, that we printed excerpts from this letter, despite its mention of worship format. As stated in Aug. 19 issue, however, we will generally cease coverage of the Celebration Church question as a quid-pro-quo discussion among our readers.

Apostate Anthems

This letter is in regard to your response to M.L. King of Portland, Ore., in Letters to the Editor, Aug. 5, 1991.

To declare loud religious rock music, which is desecrating some churches today, as grandiose anthems, shows what an awful state of apostasy our beloved church is in. However, let it be known that amid all this Babylonianism a true revival of primitive godliness is going on amongst many of the laity in our church. Sadly enough, many others don't even know it's happening.

Harry A. Knopper, M.D.
Pasco, Wash.

 Indeed, we should daily seek for Godly revival. Please note, however, that the issue set before GLEANER readers was that of the harmful effects of high-volume music. The letter writer suggested rock music as an example; I submitted "grandiose anthem" as an alternative form of high-volume worship. The ability to indict a whole church on the basis of two words from one editor's pen shows amazing precocity of judgment.

I agree the musical instruments are too loud. . . . The organ and piano (they put [a] microphone in by [the] hammers and strings) played so loudly for congregational singing that you can not hear [the] singing or pick out the tune for all these new hymns we are to sing.

I have noticed this in more than one church. Loud music does not bring *walk softly, talk softly, and reverence* to my mind. . . .

Ronica Hopkins
Algona, Wash.

Thoughtful Advice

Your editorial "How Far Can I Kick the Ball on Sabbath?" was thoughtfully done. It suggested willingness to examine imponderable, existential questions. . . .

I commend your desire for change. But re-

member, if you aren't afraid of change, you're out of step with 95 percent of the rest of the flock, who ARE afraid of it. If you try to bring substantive change to a religious community, you'll need the wisdom of Solomon, the diplomacy of Kissinger, the iron will of Thatcher, the drive and political savvy of Gorbachev, and the ability to make people think your idea came straight from God Himself (or better yet, from themselves). Then you *might* succeed.

For starters, if you can force readers to THINK with the brains God gave us, He will one day say to you, "Well done!"

R.E. Cook
Portland, Ore.

 Thanks, R.E. You pose a daunting gauntlet for a new editor. I believe that the majority of Adventists prefer change to stagnation. A certain tidal current must flow, intellectually and spiritually.

We are a church dedicated to changing the world. We stand, immutable on principle, yet highly elastic in seizing new opportunities to present our case to an ever-changing society.

GLEANER Cover Pictures Needed

Each fall the GLEANER purchases transparencies for the next year's covers. This year the cover judges will look at submissions in early December. The following rules will apply. Read them carefully.

1. All transparencies must be mailed or delivered in person so as to be in the GLEANER office by Wednesday noon, Nov. 27. For mailing from distant areas you should allow a week or 10 days.

2. Each photographer may submit up to 10 transparencies. Submissions of greater amounts from one individual won't be considered. (Slides and transparencies mean the same to us.)

3. Transparencies should be 35mm only. Don't send larger transparencies or color negative prints. They can't be used.

4. All transparencies must be of a vertical format.

5. The slides must be taken in the Northwest, which includes the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

6. Put your name and address on the frame of each slide.

7. Send original slides only. Duplicates will not be considered.

8. Slides submitted shouldn't be similar to covers used during the past two years. If you have recognizable people in the picture, you should be prepared to furnish a model release for each one.

9. The GLEANER is interested in having slides of church activities such as baptisms, Pathfinders, Community Services work, etc.

10. Be prepared to furnish your biographical information as well as photographic data on your slide if it is purchased. You will receive forms for this information.

11. The GLEANER pays \$50 for a one-time cover use for each transparency purchased. All slides submitted will be returned promptly. Those selected for publication will be held for approximately two months or until color separations are made.

12. Slides will be returned at regular postal rates which are paid by the GLEANER. If you want your slides insured or handled in a different manner, include extra postage.

13. Submissions for GLEANER covers, should be sent to GLEANER, Box 16677, Portland, OR 97216-0677.

LETTERS

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Looking to God

In response to Ed Schwisow's letter of Aug. 5, it seems as though we have an editor who is concerned as to where we are going with all our talk and priorities.

I wouldn't want to put anyone down who feels strongly about any issue, but only to ask some questions of each one. . . . When we strike out against the behavior or beliefs of others, of what spirit are we? When we point a finger at something, do we realize we have three pointing back at us? Are we praying prayers like, "Lord, thank you that I am not as other men?" Are we genuinely concerned about the behavior of our brothers and sisters or (just) that we might be embarrassed to be linked with them? . . .

Having our conversation and questions on what our God is like just might lead us to behold Him instead of a certain kind of belief or behavior. It's doubtful that we will ever see everything alike, but to be unified on what our God has to be like, could be a start toward coming away from fault-finding and finger pointing. For by beholding Him we can become changed into His likeness.

Ed Sager
Vancouver, Wash.

ABOUT THE COVER

This old miner's cabin is a relic of Alaska gold mining days. The slide was taken by Danny Whatley, Palmer, Alaska, near Hatcher Pass, a recreation area in the Talkeetna Mountains, about 20 miles from Palmer.

Whatley writes that the area was the center for hard rock gold mining in the 1930s. For this picture he used his Minolta SRT-101 Camera with K-64 film. He currently works in construction management but also labors seasonally as a guide and bush pilot.

Northwesterners Help In Moscow Outreach

By Don Gray

It could have been just another line to buy imported shoes or fresh bread. But this line beside the Palace of Culture in downtown Moscow was different.

From three o'clock in the afternoon, they gathered to await their turn for a place to sit or stand that evening — not to buy, not to eat, but simply to hear the Word of God.

When the doors finally opened, the crowd surged into the auditorium, nearly over-running anyone in its path. Never, in 40 years of evangelism, have I seen such hunger for the Word of God!

As we faced opening night of the crusade, Sunday, June 30, our team had had no way of knowing the outcome of this, the first full-scale series of modern evangelistic meetings ever held by Adventists in the city of Moscow.

Our team featured Mark and Ernestine Finley from Berrien Springs, Mich. (Mark had just flown in from Seattle, where he had been speaking at the Washington Conference Camp Meeting; he had also just been named associate speaker of *It Is Written* telecast.)

Dr. DeWayne and Carla Butcher of Fletcher, N.C., were to speak on health and preventive medicine; my wife, Marge, and I served as crusade assistants and, later, as an advance team for similar meetings in Leningrad, which are in progress this month with Bruce Johnston, North Pacific Union Conference president, as speaker.

Adventists in Moscow had made the dire prediction that few would attend our Moscow meetings in July, since nearly everyone would be away on vacation. However, the first night we had to lock the doors at 7:30 because we realized that safety would not permit all to come in.

Every spot where a person could sit or stand was occupied, so we announced a second meeting for 8:30 that night and two meetings each night thereafter, one at 5 p.m. and one at 7 p.m. The hall was continuously packed for both sessions.

More than 3,500 persons enrolled in the Bible Course offered at the meetings. The lessons, *The Bible Says*, which Marge and I had written, had been translated into Russian and were used to instruct those in attendance on the details of the Adventist message. More than 70,000 lessons were completed and corrected by 40 Adventist ministers who participated in the field school.

On the fourth weekend, a new church was started in the Palace of Culture. More than 1,400 people crowded into the church service. Only about 300 of these were church members.

The services on Sabbath continue to be filled to capacity, with double sessions conducted on Wednesday nights to study the Book of Revelation.

But the culmination of the meetings came in a beautiful Moscow park. Here, the largest Adventist baptism ever conducted there or in Europe, took place when 32



People line up early to get into the meetings.

ministers simultaneously baptized 462 candidates.

An audience, estimated at 3,000 people, eagerly crowded around the lake to witness this spectacular event. Cameramen from the local television station videotaped the hour-long service. The Moscow Adventist congregation provided an exceptional background of sacred music.

This baptism brought to 502 the number baptized thus far in the Moscow Crusade. Another 200 were in a baptismal class in preparation for baptism in the near future.

One of the ladies who was baptized in the Moscow meetings is the chief English translator for the government publishing house. She has negotiated with them to put into print the books, *Open Secrets*, and *Good News for Today's Kids* lessons, evangelistic materials Marge and I have written, and which we have released. This means that every bookstore in the U.S.S.R. will carry these books.

It is said that God works in mysterious ways! Now Russian Adventists will be able to share a full-message book for adults and a children's book of lessons about the good news of salvation.

Plans are progressing to produce a set of slide/tape Bible studies to help Russian pastors and laymen present the Adventist



A baptism of 462 persons takes place in this lake in a Moscow park.



Russians are eager to study the Bible school lessons.

faith in evangelistic meetings. Marge and I will coordinate the production of these Russian-language audio-visual programs.

The Oregon Conference is moving a large Forox camera from Union College to Oregon for this project. James and Joyce Dutro of Washougal, Wash., have set up a trust fund with the North Pacific Union Conference that will match the General Conference funds to pay for the development of these film programs. It is hoped that these will be completed by the end of the year so the Russian Adventists can use them in 1992.

As dramatic events unfold in Russia, let us pray that the work of the church will permit even greater opportunities to reach those who are anxious and hungry to hear God's Word.

We believe the angels of Revelation 7 are now holding back "The winds of strife" so that the Gospel will reach everyone possible, and the servants of God may be sealed with the Seal of God.

Now is the time to support Russian brothers and sisters as never before, while they await with open arms for that bear-hug



The auditorium is packed with people.

welcome from their Northwestern Adventist family, in the name of Jesus. 🐻

Don Gray is a retired minister/evangelist now residing in Washougal, Wash.

Bruce Johnston Begins Leningrad Crusade

By Ed Schwisow

In the wake of political turmoil that first threatened freedom in Russia, but which, in its passing, has widened the windows of gospel opportunity, Bruce Johnston, president of the North Pacific Union Conference, has begun a four-week, citywide evangelistic crusade in Leningrad.

Working with Duane McKey, pastor of the Pendleton, Ore., Church, Dan and Lillian Guild and Duane Bietz, a surgeon from Portland, Ore., Johnston and his wife Marianne will remain in Russia throughout the month of September. The evangelistic meetings will be similar in format to those in the Moscow crusade described by Don Gray in the preceding article.

Johnston will speak in the Leningrad Civic Theater in the center of the city, directly across from one of the subway main terminals. Thirty Russian Adventist ministers will assist in the crusade. Johnston will also hold seminary-style classes for these ministers in a course of practical instruction known as a "field school."

The spiritual and intellectual climate for the crusade is ideal, reports Gray, who laid the groundwork for the meetings with a visit

to Leningrad in early August. He reports that the city, then, and possibly even more so today, with the deposing of the recent coup, is basking in a glow of freedom-loving tolerance and interest in Western society.

"Seventh-day Adventists, in particular, are seen in the city as highly intelligent and prosperous people," says Gray. "To attend Adventist meetings is a highly desirable thing. People want to find out how they can enjoy the benefits of the Adventist way of life."

Gray believes that the number of people who will be touched by Johnston's preaching during the first week of evangelism could stretch into the tens of thousands. Provisions for up to 3,500 Bible students have been taken to the city.

Equal to the Russian interest in the teachings of the church is their attraction to the message of physical and mental prosperity offered by Adventist physicians. Adventist physicians who have traveled to Russia report that they have been permitted to address some of the highest officials of the regions where they have visited. The message of well-being they carry has sparked dialogue with influential Russian people, and has added luster to the image of Ad-



Bruce and Marianne Johnston depart for Russia on Aug. 25.

ventism as a religion that helps in the here-and-now while preparing the soul for the hereafter.

In a city of millions, the Leningrad Seventh-day Adventist Church consisted of between 170 and 180 members when Johnston set foot in Russia. What he leaves behind on the final evening of the crusade, Sept. 26, could well form the nucleus for many new congregations in this, one of the most progressive cities of a Russia reborn in the spirit of Operation Bearhug. 🐻

Growing Northwest Convocations Strengthen Ethnic Outreach

By Ed Schwisow

Many Northwestern Adventist parents of Korean descent send their children to Sunday school. They do it, they say, so that future generations will keep the Sabbath.

The logic baffles most of us. But to the Korean parent, the issue is clear. Should their children lose their native tongue, the Northwest ministry to Korean immigrants, begun at such sacrifice during the past 15 years, would die away.

So, on Sabbaths, Korean Adventist children go to church, but on Sundays, they go to language school. Korean parents are determined to keep their Northwestern churches alive and young.

Does such long-term planning make sense? Apparently so. During calendar year 1990, in terms of percentage increase, the Korean-speaking churches of the Northwest were the fastest-growing in the union. And

it should come as little surprise that their annual cultural rallies, or camp meetings, are growing rapidly.

Convocations Increase

The decline of some general camp meetings in North America has placed no damper on the appeal of ethnic convocations. German and Scandinavian camp meetings no longer convene, prey to years of low European immigration.

Yet, with the upswing in Eastern European migration to the Northwest, (Portland, Ore., it is said, is a favored destination for Russians) Operation Bearhug may soon have to go earnestly into the camp meeting business.

During the late 1970s and 1980s, yearly convocations of Samoans, Native Americans, Hispanics and Blacks were organized, on a union or bi-union basis, in addition

to the Korean event. Average attendance at these events grows each year, says Wayne Shepperd, director of the North Pacific Union Conference Multicultural Department.

Hispanic Convocation

No convocation has been so explosive in growth as the yearly Hispanic convocations, usually held in July or early August in one of four places: College Place, Wash.; Seattle, Wash.; Portland, Ore., or, as it was this year, for the first time, Caldwell, Idaho.

With nearly 2,000 Spanish-speaking Adventists in the Northwest, and with an annual growth rate in excess of 10 percent, this event can attract 1,000 persons on a clement weekend.

Eliseo Briseño, Hispanic coordinator for the North Pacific Union, believes that the Hispanic convocations fill a deep need for religious identity among North American Hispanic peoples, the majority of whom have moved geographically in the same transaction as they have responded to the Holy Spirit.

Aside from being only marginally fluent in English, many of the new converts value the chance to mingle in a larger group of believers. The assembly of many hundreds reassures them that Adventism has a wide and supportive network. A Ph.D. at the pulpit confirms that the faith makes intellectual sense; that, as an Adventist, their family will be given opportunities consistent with the promise of the new land.

The building of new church structures and the Christian education of young people have become major themes of recent convocations.

"We must keep the Hispanic culture alive in America," I was told by Pastor Javier Soto Valle, guest speaker at the recent convocation. Soto pastors a large Hispanic church in mid-city Los Angeles. "If our children lose the culture and the language, we will not retain our evangelistic potential with the Hispanics in this country."

Native American Camp Meeting

Usually in mid-June, the Native North American Camp Meeting is held in the Pacific Northwest or Canada. Now in its 10th year, it attracts consistent worshippers from thousands of miles away. Regional camp meetings are also held in Alaska and Canada.

An unusual feature of this camp meeting



"Prepare to Meet Your God" proclaims the banner as representatives of different Hispanic nations show the diversity of the Latin American culture.



Black Convocation is held in Seattle, with heavy participation, in 1991.

is that many of the worshipers are Anglos who have lived near, or in, reservation areas, and who have raised up groups of Native American believers. The reason for this lay Anglo involvement soon becomes apparent; for decades, the church offered no systematic outreach to all Native Americans.

A tribute to lay Adventists' willingness to place their talents where the organized church could offer few resources, Anglo Adventists, many now well past retirement, have often spent years of their lives near reservations, specifically to raise up groups of believers.

In some cases they have succeeded within a few years; in others, limited success has come only after 30 or 40 years of prayerful and careful cultivation of interest. These congregations, however, now form the backbone of Native American work in North America.

With the installation, nearly three years ago, of a Native American director, Monte Church, in the North Pacific Union office, the North American Division has signalled a concerted interest in evangelizing Native North Americans.

At camp meetings such as the one held this year at the Adventist Indian Center on the Umatilla Reservation near Pendleton, Ore., testimonies flow as plans are announced for added faith incursions into the Native American communities of North America.

Church, himself a Native American, is currently producing a multi-tape series of evangelistic videotapes that cover all Adventist doctrines, but employs the imagery and story-telling format of all Native American spiritual instruction.

Black Convocation

The annual Black Convocation is the most venerable, and also the most complex of the ethnic events.

The convocation this past spring coincided with the mid-point of a three-year unionwide plan for Black church growth.

That the coordinator of these goals and objectives on the union level is not a voting member of the NPUC Executive Committee has perplexed many in the Black Adventist community, who point out that the NPUC is not only the only such body in North America which has no Black leader at an executive level; it is also the only union with no Black departmental representation on its executive committee.

A general dialog on this issue was conducted during the recent Convocation, and continues, in search of resolution. It was pointed out, during a recent dialog between Black and North Pacific Union Conference leaders, that the North Pacific Union is subject to a constitution which was drafted in the mid-1980s to grant 50 percent represen-

tation to laity, and which seems to exclude union departmental directors from membership.

The constitution is now being analyzed by attorneys to determine if such a reading is justified, and whether the Multicultural director (who represents all cultural entities within the union) could be instated on the committee under the current document.

"Black worship and methods of outreach are quite distinct from those employed by other cultures," says Shepperd. "This is not a racial issue; it's a cultural issue, and we must respect these differences, for they are deeply engrained and come down to Black members through hundreds and hundreds of years time.

"What the Black Adventist community is saying is: 'We want to grow; we want to succeed in the Northwest, and we want every possible chance to succeed,'" says Shepperd. "This is a serious issue, and it is being handled in a serious way, through channels."

As with other ethnic camp meetings, the Black Convocation serves to energize the cultural identity of Northwestern Adventists, Shepperd says. "It gives us an identity; it helps tell us where we're going. We have a mission to reach our culture. Black Convocation helps us focus on that mission."

A Sacred Heritage

Amazingly, says Shepperd, unity thrives best when cultural differences are respected and allowed to flourish. "It's when you invade, when you try to lump together, when you try to dilute, that differences become difficulties," says Shepperd.

Though promoting Christian unity by defining cultural differences may seem about as logical as sending children to Sunday school so more will keep the Sabbath, the logic does seem to hold true in human relations.

"When you're putting down other cultures; when you're professing your own superiority; when you're attacking others,



Wayne Shepperd exhorts at Black Convocation, 1991.



Anglo-American leaders often take part in ethnic convocations, as does Stephen McPherson, president of the Idaho Conference, in greeting the Hispanic Convocation crowd through an interpreter, in this case, Eliseo Briseno of the North Pacific Union Conference.

then you're dividing to be conquered," says Shepperd.

"But when you're strengthening your own cultural identity so that you can live your Christian culture to the fullest, and share it to the fullest, you have a powerful force for good. We need this kind of reinforcement in the Northwest. And it's happening, not just at convocation time, but every Sabbath. And that's good." 



An out-of-door setting with nearby tents proves an ideal setting for Native North American Camp Meeting, 1991, near Pendleton.

Cans for Jesus

By Michelle Liggett

"Cans for Jesus" is the expression used by two-year-old Ryan Herbel every time he sees a can. His older sister, Katie, has been recycling to earn money for Russian Bibles. The Bibles will be used in the outreach of the Idaho Conference in Operation Bearhug to Russia in October.

Katie is five years old and the daughter of Gene and Bonnie Herbel. They live on the campus of Gem State Academy in Caldwell, Idaho. Katie has been collecting cans, jars, tin, newspapers, pipes, stainless steel, cardboard, and anything else that can be recycled. All of the money is applied to the Bibles.

She got the idea from *Our Little Friend*. The magazine ran a story about children who were helping do things for Jesus. Katie was concerned because she wasn't helping Jesus.

"I am glad Katie is doing this as a child. I hope she will do it when she is old. . . . You have to take time to teach your children

these things. The Lord is coming soon and it is important to teach the children of His works," said Katie's mom, Bonnie.

Katie's dad, Gene, has donated damaged farm pipe and scrap metal for recycling. But Katie has to do most of the work. She has already raised \$130 and plans on raising more. She has also influenced many of her cousins and friends. Katie's cousins have already started to recycle, too.

Michelle Liggett is a senior at Gem State Adventist Academy.



Ryan and
Katie
Herbel

OREGON



Youngsters Give Shower

Forest Grove Earliteen girls brought together the ladies of the Church recently for breakfast in honor of Renee Apple, expectant mother. The girls, with the help of their mothers and leaders, gave a baby shower. Shown with Renee Apple (in chair) are (clockwise from right of Renee), Krista Rice, Melissa Sturgis, Brittany Apple, Carrera Lizzi, Lisa Shelton, Rachel Fjarli, and Tami Rice.

Gerri Warmanen

Corvallis Health Fair Invites Participation

The Corvallis, Ore., Seventh-day Adventist Church is planning its second health fair on Sunday, Oct. 20, at the LaSells Stewart Center in Corvallis. It is

being co-sponsored by the Corvallis Kiwanis Club and will include various runs, a volkswalk, healthful food, and more than 25 booths manned by local health organizations including the local hospital and medical clinic.

To discover what a health fair is like, and

to visualize its impact in your community, plan to visit this event. A people-powered ferris wheel, built by local member Prince Baker, will be a prime attraction.

For more information, contact Ardie Earhart by phoning (503) 757-7406.

Two Women's Retreats Scheduled in Oregon

Oregon's Women's Ministries has expanded its support programs by establishing an Adventist Widowed of Oregon support group (see August 5 issue) and by publishing a newsletter designed for women elders.

In addition to seminars, prayer circles and study groups, annual retreats have become a significant part of the friendship development among Oregon Conference women.

"It's more than getting together as women that binds us," says Janet Haley, avid retreat attendee. "It's an opportunity like no other in our busy lives to share miracles as well as problems, to focus on our spiritual needs, and to join together in unified prayer."

Five years ago, Haley brought her friend, who was studying to be baptized, to Oregon's first women's retreat at Trestleglen Camp. "It was wonderful!" Haley says. "We laughed, we cried, we walked together in the woods, we sang, we prayed. It brought us close to each other and to the Lord."

Others express similar sentiments as they recount the favorite parts of their retreat experiences. Warm fellowship, good food and peaceful surroundings are memories as meaningful as learning more about God's plan for women, His abiding love, and recognizing that others understand where they have been, and where they want to be.

In the past, conference retreats in the north and south of the state have been held at camp-like settings. This year's schedule again offers two choices, but only one is at a traditional away-from-it-all spot near Medford, Oct. 25-27. The other will be at Lincoln City's Shilo Inn, Oregon's newest convention center, Nov. 8-10.

Retreats have been so successful that local church groups are planning their own. Ruthie Jacobsen, Women's Ministries director, explains the philosophy of retreats: "Our lives today are often hectic as well as lonely, and sometimes it doesn't seem we have time for reflection. More than ever, we need to reach out to other women. In a retreat setting there is ample opportunity for restoration and for rejoicing."

Helen R. Smith

*It is a solemn thing to die,
but a far more solemn thing to
live.*

5 Testimonies, p. 466

tion for the church as it faces challenges before it.

The "code book" approach to understanding Scriptural truths paints a picture of a God with a short fuse. This view results in fear of deep Bible study; young people disillusioned by inconsistent standards and behaviors; people afraid to think for themselves; teachers who present the Scriptures "glossy side up"; and churches where

arbitrary words and judgmental attitudes abound.

In contrast, the "case book" approach paints a surprisingly different picture of a God who has a very long fuse; a God who is willing to roll up His sleeves and get His hands dirty in order to get through the roadblocks in our minds, all the while preserving dignity and freedom of choice.

In this scenario, churches give time and

room for necessary growth and development, searching the Scriptures diligently. Teachers are not afraid to present the Scriptures in their full light, exposing both the good and brutal elements. Lewiston members feel a fresh determination to work together to hasten that day of Holy Spirit outpouring because of the insights shared by Dr. Thompson.

Cheri Stowers



Operation Bearhug in Cheney, Wash.

June Christensen's K-4 students at Four Winds Christian Academy in Cheney, Wash., prepare felts that will be taken to the Soviet Union this summer as a part of Operation Bearhug. Along with the felts, the FWCA students will also send 30 boxes of crayons and small colorbooks to children of the Soviet Union. Sue Patzer



GUEST SPEAKER:
Mrs. Sharon Hanson
Corona, California

Fourth Annual
Upper Columbia Conference

Christian Women's Retreat

October 18-20, 1991

Camp MiVoden
Hayden Lake, Idaho

Retreat brochures are available in all UCC churches or contact:

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Upper Columbia Conference
P.O. Box 19039
Spokane, WA 99219

Because of limited space, reservations can only be accepted by written application—no phone reservations.



From Russia With a Bearhug

Editor's Note: The following are significant excerpts from an interview conducted by Ed Schwisow with Bruce Johnston, president of the North Pacific Union Conference, just hours after Johnston's return to Portland, Ore., after a month of evangelism in Leningrad/St. Petersburg, Russia.

GLEANER: While Operation Bearhug may create sensational headlines and tingle our spines with exotic imaginings, does it really bring the Northwestern Adventist any real advantages? It could become a "foreign policy diversion" to keep our eyes off real problems at home?

JOHNSTON: Russia, with its new openness, has captivated our imagination, and has drawn us together into a sense of coherence as a union. We're a team. You will note that Northwestern pastors are always involved in these campaigns, and they are returning to their churches with enthusiasm. I believe that, in the end, this Operation Bearhug experience will produce a companion upswing of evangelistic and missionary fervor in the Northwest. Historically it's been true: One of the best ways to revitalize the church locally is to mobilize to serve others in missionary outreach.

A New Pitcairn

Operation Bearhug serves as a focus for the church. Even the kids are involved. We've needed something like this, a new Pitcairn, as it were. (A mission ship was outfitted earlier this century as a ministry to the South Sea Islands. It was named the Pitcairn, and served as a symbol of Adventist commitment to mission. The funds were contributed primarily by children, mostly in pennies, nickels and dimes.)

GLEANER: Let's talk about the impact of Operation Bearhug on the Russian people. For four weeks you were an evangelist in the second-largest city in that country. You trained pastors for evangelism while you were there. Did you achieve your goals?

JOHNSTON: Yes, really, it was almost beyond our expectations. We had 25 ordained pastors with us and about 15 laymen who attended our classes. The response was just

tremendous. The advantage of having an American come in to Russia to preach and teach is that it helps broaden their vision. For instance, we told them that we needed a minimum of 10 churches in St. Petersburg; you know, it just blew their minds. But by the time we were through, that's what they were talking about. They were saying, "We've got to have more churches."

GLEANER: And yet, to do what you did with the help of Duane Bietz, M.D.; Duane McKey, and others, couldn't have been easy. Time, preparation, legal technicalities, questions about coup d'états. . . . How did you surmount these obstacles?

JOHNSTON: You know, we were scheduled to leave on Aug. 25, and on Aug. 19, they had a coup in which all public assembly was outlawed. But the coup failed rapidly, beyond anybody's expectation, and we were right on schedule going in. We had no difficulty. And the airlines were just super good to us. We had 27 pieces of luggage, including big, big boxes. You can't imagine what a pile of stuff we had to take in, and they wanted \$109 per bag for any overage beyond our two that were allowed, and both Alaska and SAS (Airlines) took those bags and sent them without any charge. It could have cost us well over \$1,000. When we got into customs, a young customs man looked at our luggage and just about threw up his hands. "What are they?" he asks, and I said, "Well, they are equipment we have. We are having some public seminars and we've brought some gifts, clothing. . . ."

"Gifts!" he said. "Gifts?," and he called over a senior customs man and I explained. He spoke fair English and I spoke to him and told him what we were there for, to help the people, and he let us on through, no problem.

Barricade to Catapult

GLEANER: Did you see or feel the effects of the recent coup?

JOHNSTON: In Moscow, we visited the parliament building where the people had erected barricades to guard Boris Yeltsin, and I actually climbed up over the barricades. On the other side, I saw a group of soldiers. There must have been, oh, probably 15 or so, and they were all standing



Bruce Johnston

around a man, a civilian, and we crowded in and I asked the interpreter who this was. She found out this was Alexander Rutskov, vice president of the Russian Federation, and he was commending these officers. These were the officers who had gone down and brought Gorbachev back after the coup. It was an historic moment, and then I stepped up and got acquainted with the vice president, and through my interpreter, I talked and commended him and Mr. Yeltsin for their courage in sustaining the country. Then he shook my hand and said: "The first priority is peace on this planet, and we must work together to accomplish that." That was a beautiful statement and I was able to use that in my meetings and also on my television interview.

Continued on page 6, col. 2

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An Olympic swimming pool is used for the baptisms of 212 persons in one day in St. Petersburg, Russia.

weight-loss program to take part in, while providing an accepting environment in which to pursue and monitor weight loss;

- A variety of pregnancy related classes, including early pregnancy, childbirth and sibling courses;

- Mother/Daughter Seminar, which helps these women understand different personality traits while improving communication;

- Break Free stop-smoking program, which helped 16 out of 19 in the first class of this year to quit.

Another of the hospital's community-oriented programs is Ask-A-Nurse, which is paid for entirely by the hospital. It helps

more than 36,000 callers each year, every day, around the clock. The service provides not only health information directly to community residents, but also refers them to health classes, physicians and to emergency care when needed.

These health programs assure that WWGH continues to meet its commitment to care for the health needs of the Walla Walla Valley, in the tradition of Adventists caring for the complete person in the name of Jesus. ➔

Stephen Payne writes for Walla Walla General Hospital's planning, marketing and communications department.

rode two hours a night, each way, to attend the meetings after she saw me on TV.

Professionals of Faith

GLEANER: Were these people curiosity seekers or spiritually driven?

JOHNSTON: Some were curiosity seekers, but it was just incredible the way they opened up their hearts. The interesting thing is that the intellectual level of the audience was very high. We had many professional people attending, and their comments to us specifically was that when they went to other Christian meetings, there was no meaning to it. It was exciting, but there was no content, and that in our meeting they got both the emotional satisfaction and the intellectual fulfillment as well.

GLEANER: And then what happened?

JOHNSTON: We had 212 candidates during our first baptism. But instead of treating them as a mass of people — and this is significant — we broke them up into small groups, and they began to meet in these groups. We realized that no pastor could handle that many new people, especially so many professionals on a mass basis. So, then, we asked for a report from each small group, and that was exciting. One pastor said there were four physicians in his group. What is happening is that there is a whole new church being created in Russia. There'll be some growing pains in Russia, because it will not be the old church of the faithful who went through persecution. (A report directly from St. Petersburg, received in the GLEANER office, indicates that since that first baptism, 111 additional candidates have joined the church, with 65 to 70 preparing for baptism. On Sabbath, Sept. 28, 500 persons from Johnston's meetings met as a new congregation in a public meeting hall.)

GLEANER: Operation Bearhug. What can you extrapolate? What can you tell us about its future, based on your recent experiences in Russia?

JOHNSTON: I think now we need to evaluate very carefully what we have accomplished. That's why I'm sending Alf Birch (Operation Bearhug coordinator) to Russia this month because we want a very, very thorough evaluation of the program. I sat with the union president, the local conference president, and also with Mikhail Kulakov, the division president, and they are just radiant. It's transforming the Russian church. I asked them specifically, now, to evaluate the Bearhug programs, and they were very high on what our people have done during the past few months. They felt the Jere Patzer group, the Hockley-Corwin group, the Jacobsen group, the Weigley group, all had done exceptional work. (At that point, the Walla Walla College group's results had not yet come into Moscow headquarters.)



From the Pastor's Desk

Promise Cards

By Chad McComas

God's Word has a way of touching people's lives that can't be matched by anything else. Combine that with the joy of giving people a small gift and you have the "Promise Card."

For several years now I've been using these little cards at church, with friends and in ministry situations. I've found that the Holy Spirit uses the messages in the cards to touch hearts. There are nearly 100 different promises, but the giver of the card doesn't know which message is in the card. It is sealed and must be opened by the recipient.

In giving a person a card, I explain that the Holy Spirit knows the message they need. Sure enough — it happens! I've often been accused of peeking at the promise before I give it so that I know that the promise in the card will match the situation. God knows what the person needs.

People will often have tears well up in their eyes after opening the cards and ask how I knew what they were going through. I didn't, but God did.

Recently I went to the bank to make a deposit and the teller asked me where her promise card was. She knew me and expected the blessing the card brought. My wife used one in a department store when she saw a clerk having a rough day. The clerk later called and explained how the promise in the card helped her make the important decision to move back to live with her parents. Her parents had been praying for that decision and the card was their answer.

I'd be glad to send you a promise card and form so that you can order a bulk supply. We use thousands each year. Send a quarter and stamped, self-addressed return envelope



to Promise Card, Corvallis SDA Church, 3160 S.W. Western, Corvallis, OR 97333. ➔

Chad McComas is pastor of the Corvallis, Ore., Church.



FROM RUSSIA

cont. from page 2

GLEANER: So that barricade, instead of being an obstacle, became a catapult.

Television Exposure

JOHNSTON: Yes. When we arrived in St. Petersburg, only a few handbills had been passed out. No television, no newspaper, no radio advertising, no posters put up, either. We started Friday night with 375 people in an auditorium that seated 2,000. Can you imagine?

Fortunately, the conference was able to get an interview on television for me, and that interview came between Saturday night and Sunday morning, and was aired from St. Petersburg to the Finnish border. I had 10 minutes between the evening news and a speech by the mayor of Leningrad. And that really boosted our attendance on Sunday night. We jumped from 375 to 1,250. The downstairs was full most nights from then on. One girl who spoke English told me she

More Excitement Ahead

GLEANER: It does appear, since Operation Bearhug began, that mission giving is up, or at least, we have halted the continual decline of recent years.

JOHNSTON: The Northwest is leading the NAD at the moment in mission giving, and we will be evaluating to see if all the money that has gone into Operation Bearhug has had a negative effect on what has usually gone through the regular Sabbath offerings

channels. But before I proposed Operation Bearhug, I read very carefully in the writings of Ellen White what this might mean to our field, and if the down side of it might be that we would be emphasizing Russia so much that we would forget our systematic giving. I was encouraged to read that there would be a reflex action; that in giving to support foreign fields, we would find increasing support for the home field. There is evidence that this is already happening here.

My experience in Russia has shown me the

power of the Holy Spirit to move a whole nation. I have to say that we can open our hearts more, here at home, to make the mission of the church our first priority. It's not going to be finished anywhere until it's finished everywhere. And we need to realize there are many opportunities, many hungry people, here in the United States, who will study the Bible. We need to seek them out and see to it that evangelism is a priority.

The excitement of Operation Bearhug is only just beginning. ➔

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE

Expecting the Unexpected

By Doug Clark



The Walla Walla College Operation Bearhug team traveled to the Soviet Union in August expecting the unexpected. No one was disappointed! Although our flight around the world began on time from Seattle and returned on schedule, nearly everything in between was a surprise. The unexpected ranged from swarms of flies on air flights, to 95-cent-per-night hotel expenses; it included an unnerving, if unsuccessful, coup attempt to overthrow the Soviet government to the warm and wonderful response of Siberians to the gospel.

My group from WWC included four students: Laura Constantinescu, sophomore music and history major from Salem, Ore.; Tami Galusha, junior elementary education major from Grand Terrace, Calif.; senior David Springer from Auburn, Wash., majoring in theology; and theology graduate Larry Witzel (1991), who will be working this year with the Orchard, Wash., Church.

Basic Bible

The public meetings which occupied most of our time, incorporated a variety of student musical presentations — choruses accompanied by a guitar, flute solos and duets, and piano pieces. In addition, students were responsible for a health talk and a very popular children's story each evening. A brief archaeological slide program followed, which tied into the sermon. And, since our purpose was a broad-stroke introduction to the Bible and biblical themes, the sermons emphasized major concepts from the Scriptures' beginning to their end. Creation, heroes of faith under adverse circumstances, the pressing problem of a good God and an evil world, the gospel story and the second coming of Jesus provided the

basic subject material of the presentations.

Following a visit to the Moscow Church and the new theological seminary in Zaokski, our task was to conduct meetings as an initial evangelistic outreach for our small churches in three eastern Siberian cities. Because two of these cities hugged the Pacific Ocean of eastern Asia, the imagery of Americans and Soviet citizens extending their reach across the sea lent itself very well to the Operation Bearhug logo and program. Our goal was to share the gospel with our Soviet brothers and sisters and to learn from them, as well, about what it meant to live in a society once officially set against religion. This mutual sharing and the warm responses to our presentations only intensified our appreciation for bear hugging.

Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, a city of 250,000 on the Pacific coast of the Kamchatsky Peninsula, was our first stop. Among the surprises we enjoyed early on the trip (en route to Russia, in fact) was the discovery that we had no visa to visit this city; it was closed to all foreigners not specifically invited by government officials. A day and a half of hectic activity on the part of the local ministry of religion office and divine intervention finally resulted in a temporary permit allowing us to complete the series of meetings.

TV Interviews

By the time we left Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, our team had given seven two-hour programs, two 30-40 minute live television broadcasts, and one surprise (totally unexpected until three minutes before it began) one-hour program for the scientists and their families of an internationally recognized institute for the study of volcanos.

We left this city overwhelmed, completely non-plussed, by the intensity, sin-

cerity, and warmth of response we experienced from hundreds of new friends — church members as well as individuals and families newly acquainted with the gospel. There are no words in any language to describe our feelings. Our feeble Russian "spasiba (thank you)" hardly conveyed our deep gratitude to these people for their gifts and support. Their hearty bear hugs and attempts at "thank you" and "good bye" also only partially expressed how totally awestruck they were at the comforting and liberating message of the Bible.

We also left this city not knowing exactly how our future in Russia would unfold. Two days before our planned departure to Yakutsk, the news of the coup reached us as we entered our meeting hall on Monday evening, Aug. 19. Our limited sources of information initially indicated that President Gorbachev was ill and, therefore, only temporarily being replaced by the small group of hardliners in control. Only later, with the aid of a short-wave radio and a couple of chance calls to the states (these take hours to set up, in fact, sometimes even days), did we come to realize the seriousness of the situation in Moscow.

It was decision time. We agreed at the beginning of this project that Operation *continued on next page*



WWC team at Red Square six days before coup attempt

EXPECTING

continued from previous page



Bearhug would function in a democratic fashion. (We certainly didn't want another coup or a mutiny, for that matter.) So we took a vote. Although we never sensed any threat to our personal safety and well-being, since we were so far removed from Moscow, it did give us pause to realize that we were without visas in a closed city (likely for military reasons) and that our next stop was 1,200 miles inland, somewhere above the latitude of Anchorage, Alaska. Traveling to Yakutsk would put us in an extremely vulnerable position if a threatened nationwide strike of the country's only airline would have taken place.

Democratic Solutions

We discussed the problem, playing our purpose for coming to Siberia against not only understandable personal feelings, but also what our families, parents, and friends must be going through. We prayed about it, then tallied the vote. The decision was a courageous one — to proceed with our plans in spite of the potential of being stranded in a Siberian prison town and to inform our families of the vote. (Because of the telephone system in the interior, however, we had no further contact with the United States for a full week.)

Without knowing the outcome of the coup, we went to the airport for the trip inland. Upon receiving boarding passes for row #32 on our flight, we located the proper plane (there was no one to show us which was the correct one and there were six planes on the tarmac to choose from), only to discover that the craft had but 31 rows.

Beyond row #31 there was only a storage closet and the "water closet" with all the appropriate pleasantries, odors, and flies attached to unattended outdoor plumbing. There were, we are certain, enough flies on the ceiling of the plane to keep the jet airborne in the event of engine failure.

Only a day after our arrival in Yakutsk did we learn with some relief of the end of the ill-fated coup attempt. But we also found out then that, even with our tickets in hand, we had no seats for the flight out of the city and wouldn't be able to leave until after the date of our connecting flight out of the country. So, it appeared we were trapped. We actually, and quite miraculously, did work out new arrangements for the flight we wanted, only to see them dashed and our departure delayed a day for other reasons. This gave us one more night in our 95-cent-per-night hotel. By this time, we had come to expect the unexpected.

Our meetings in Yakutsk met with the same enthusiasm as in the previous city. Typically, from 200-300 people attended. Once the protective psychological barriers, formed from years of avoiding potential KGB informants and from disillusionment due to failed promises from leaders, gave way to trust, these gracious and grateful people exploded with enthusiastic applause at the good news they were hearing, most for the first time. The response was indescribable, simply beyond conception.

Our final meeting location was Komsomolsk na Amur, a military city established by young, idealistic communists in 1932. We had no visa for this city, either, and were forced to arrive too late at a connecting city to catch the commercial flight to Komsomolsk. Decision time again and the vote

was unanimous to find a way to honor the church's request that we come, a way which added new meaning to flight in the late 20th century. We managed, sight unseen, to charter a vintage (must have been from the 50s as we estimated two minutes before boarding) 12-passenger bi-plane for one way and then rode an overnight train on the return.

Although we only had three evening meetings in Komsomolsk, the rewards from that visit can only be measured with something other than a human yardstick. Not only was appreciation obvious among church members and the hundreds of people who attended. The team once again discovered and was overwhelmed by the depth of heartfelt expression — an unfettered outpouring of kindness and generosity that placed in unique and humbling perspective some of our attempts at giving ourselves. We feel that we came home with much more than we took (except for Laura who, unexpectedly, became separated from her appendix in a Honolulu hospital on the return).

Operation Bearhug provided a grand opportunity for Americans and Siberians to embrace each other across the Pacific in the light of the gospel. We want to thank God for the privilege we have enjoyed in being a part of its outreach and express gratitude to the people behind the project, especially Alf Birch of the North Pacific Union Conference and John Cress, Chaplain of Walla Walla College. To those who supported our trip and who prayed for our safety during momentous historical events in the U.S.S.R., we also owe a deep debt of thanks. Operation Bearhug will need your continuing help. We have only begun to hug this bear.

Doug Clark is dean of the WWC School of Theology.

Adventist EDUCATION in the Northwest

AAA Faculty Notes

• Tom Allen, Auburn Adventist Academy physics teacher, has received a grant from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center to do studies in their flow cytometry laboratory. Of teachers in private and public schools in the Pacific Northwest who applied for the grant, Allen was selected to fill the single opening in physics research because of his intense interest in laser technology.

Following completion of his work at the Hutchinson Center, Allen was also assigned a project in their flow-cytometry laboratory at the University of Washington.

• Auburn Adventist Academy teacher Tom Allen was selected to participate in the 1991 summer "Space Orientation for Professional Educators" program designed to provide a firsthand look at state-of-the-art technology. Allen spent one week at the Center in extensive historical and operations training from current and former NASA astronauts.

• Under the leadership of its new principal, D. Wayne Culmore, Auburn Adventist Academy will continue with modifications of its drug abuse awareness and prevention program, once known as youth to youth.

Janet Neumann

UCA Enrollment Takes Dramatic Jump

Upper Columbia Academy's year began with a bang, both literally and figuratively.

The Sunday evening of registration, 242 students began the new year with the traditional handshake and a not so traditional fireworks display, courtesy of the Associated Student Body.

UCA's enrollment also seemed to explode with approximately 40 more students than last year joining the "Lion's Pride." So large was the sophomore class (78 at last count) that additional sections in English, biology,

Reverie on a Dented Hubcap



Ed Schwisow

By Ed Schwisow

A few weeks ago, I bought a book called, *Why Trade It In?* My car had just turned over 394,000 miles, and frankly, like the old cowboy on his lame horse, the hardest part of letting go is deciding how to bring things

to an honorable end. So, I bought the book.

Well, wouldn't you know. The book tells me everything I've already learned about how to keep a car going forever. There's nothing — not one redeeming argument — about how the economy will be strengthened, how the starving will be fed, if I, only I, will buy that new red 1992 T-Bird.

Which means I could have saved the \$5.95 cover price on that paperback and picked up a couple of rebuilt hubcaps at the local Boring Junkyard.

But what really puts a piston through my oil pan is that I could have WRITTEN that book in a comfortable evening or two at my Commodore 64 computer. And with the royalty checks, I could be coasting (oops, bad word) home with a new long-block under the hood of my venerable 1976 Plymouth.

Long Live the GLEANER

Those who named and published the GLEANER for the first time on April 17, 1906, probably figured it would go through a few editions, then the Lord would come. But the Lord, in His mercy, has given us more time: time for Operation Bearhug; time to reach the world through radio satellites; time to glean the corners of the harvest in the Northwest.

Remember when the speed limit on the interstates sputtered from 55 to 65 mph, back in September 1987? Back then, I put larger tires on the Plymouth. It rode like a Thunderbird . . . well, almost. Now it's time to apply the same concept to the GLEANER.

Letters you've been sending me tell me it's time to put bigger tires on the GLEANER. It needs to go farther, faster, more nimbly, with greater touring elan.

Deeper Issues

We're going to try some new things in 1992. More GLEANER issues will be topical, looking more deeply, inquisitively, into fascinating questions (issues) about the

church, Northwestern in particular. If you readers don't approve, you can always write letters. You've never failed in the past.

New Stylebook

We're going to work on putting more articles, tightly condensed, in each issue. We feel that many of you are GLEANER browsers. You like your news quickly, not boiled away, but, yes, boiled down. Not superficial, but neither to the depths of the last amen. Happiness is news rightly apportioned.

For our writers and pastors, we'll release, by year's end, a printed, tabbed manual for GLEANER writers. The good things to do, the no-nos to forswear; a glimpse at the production process, the ways to use the system. The payoff to attentive writers will, indeed, be handsome.

Elementary Concerns

Last week, directors of communication from the local conferences of the North Pacific Union Conference spent two full days of their valuable time discussing with me ways to make the GLEANER a better vehicle of Northwestern information. (I learned, among other things, that local conferences are *extremely* interested in the content and process of placing material into the magazine.) These were some of their preliminary recommendations (subject to ratification by the GLEANER editorial board later this month):

(1) All news and announcements for conference sections will be submitted to the local conference offices. There it will be collated, processed, and sent on to the GLEANER office.

(2) Letters, advertising, milestones, births, weddings and obituaries may be sent directly to the GLEANER, or may be routed through the conference office. However, mailing them directly to the GLEANER may speed the process on these items.

(3) All material for GLEANER use should be typed, DOUBLE SPACED, with few, if any strike-outs per page. We will also accept material on computer diskette and will return diskettes to owners, if diskettes are labeled with return addresses.

(4) Newswriters will be encouraged to submit photos with their stories, and to attempt to condense their stories into extended captions, rather than lengthy articles of print. The intent of this recommendation is to make the GLEANER more browser friendly in its news sections.

(5) Material should be dated, and submitted to local conferences, within 30 days

of the conclusion of the event reported.

High Technology

The payoff for the GLEANER and the church will be profound. We will be able to nearly instantaneously scan materials directly to computer for editing. We will avoid errors of transcription and save valuable operator time by typesetting from edited disks. The GLEANER will emerge with fewer typographical errors, and with less personnel overhead. Your letters to us say it loud and clear; it's time to put new tires on the GLEANER.

Thanks for Your Help

Without the writing of Northwestern conference correspondents, church communication secretaries, pastors and laymen, the publication of this journal could not continue. We value those of you, especially, who "jump" at interesting events; who sense the tastes and inclinations of GLEANER

continued on next page



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readers, and reward them with good stories aptly written.

Letters tell us that the GLEANER is greatly loved and heavily read. The magazine is lay oriented, so much so, in fact, that we find that pastors often pass it by. This is, perhaps, because pastors lean more to topical information than to news of the Adventist culture. The GLEANER, while remaining true to our culture, will attempt to draw out this important readership.

A few letters have called for the GLEANER to be "retired." They make a plaintive case. But they're talking to the wrong editor. We need a vehicle like the GLEANER to help us travel together to the kingdom. It's the family sedan, and it's worked great for 86 years.

The only way we're going to "retire" this magazine is in changing the way the GLEANER rubber meets the road. Tighter gripping on the corners of change; less oversteer on the switchbacks of debate; punchier on the acceleration of running news; smoother in its tour of current church events.

I think we'll enjoy the ride together. 

LETTERS

Letters are welcomed for publication. The editor reserves the right to reject letters and where necessary, to edit for continuity and space requirements. Letters must be signed and should not be more than 150 words in length except, where, in the editor's discretion, more space is available. Address letters to Editor, Box 16677, Portland, OR 97216.

Praise Behind Bars

This is a special "Thank you" letter from all the Christians at Oregon Correctional Institution (OCI, Salem, Ore.) to all the brothers and sisters at New Life Celebration Church in Portland, Ore. Through their love and understanding many prisoners have found Jesus. . . .

When I decided to become a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, there were only four Adventists in OCI. The number (attending services) rose to 54 in less than a month, and made it the largest Christian congregation, in one denomination, in Oregon's prison system. . . .

I was baptized during a Sabbath service by Pastor Dave Snyder. The Sabbath service was the biggest turnout in the OCI chapel in my six years of being here. It soon became the talk of this prison. . . .

So all of us guys want to say thanks to Pastor

Dave Snyder and Chaplain LeRoy Klein for going through a lot of trouble in fighting to come in and preach to us. . . .

Mike Haynes
Salem, Ore.

Keep It Coming

My GLEANER arrived today and I just had to write. After reading the letters I felt you would like to know someone enjoys the paper, from the beautiful cover right through to the Person-to-Person, I don't miss any part of it. There is something interesting on each page. It is nice to hear what other churches are doing. Please keep it coming.

Bertha Lawson
Bonners Ferry, Idaho

 A bow, please, to the volunteer writers, one and all, who make this all possible! To you, writers, a sincere and welcome echo: "Please keep it coming!"

Lost Power

I read your editorial with interest in the GLEANER of Sept. 16.

I'd like to know what has happened to our power of evangelism here in the Northwest. . . .

We have not had a series of meetings. . . for close to 10 years or more, probably more. . . .

I am 67 years of age, but I still work. You guys sitting up there with a barrel of ink probably feel like writing me and asking why I don't get with it. I am not a preacher. If I was, I would make my living that way. But I could sure ask my friends, neighbors and relations to attend a series of meetings.

The last minister I asked about a series of meetings asked me how would be the best way to go about it. I told him that was his job.

Walden Davis
Roseburg, Ore.

Needs Large Print

We are regular recipients of the GLEANER. We enjoy the magazine very much but rarely are able to read all of it.

I just finished with much difficulty the letters in the front of the magazine. Now my eyes fail to focus for further reading. . . .

We get the *Reader's Digest* and another magazine in large print and are able to read them cover to cover. . . .

Has the GLEANER ever considered an issue in large print?

Grace Williams
Pendleton, Ore.

Likes History

Being interested in denominational history, I have enjoyed the articles by Doug Johnson on the history of the Adventist work in the Northwest.

Of special interest was the mention of the name of Elder Henry W. Decker. In the fall of 1878, Elder H.W. Decker held a tent effort in the small city of New London, Wis., resulting in the organizing of a church there in early 1879.

Among the converts were my great-grandparents, Gustave and Henrietta (Maas) Westphal. Their son, Frank H. Westphal, later was the first Seventh-day Adventist minister to be sent to South America in 1894. His brother, Joseph W., later joined him in 1901, and was the organizer of the work in South America, and later labored in Germany and Spain. Together with their wives, these two spent a total of more than 100 years in foreign mission service. Their direct descendants, counting spouses and in-laws, have spent well over 800 years in foreign mission service. . . .

I'm sure that Elder Decker little realized, as he held his meetings in New London, the far-reaching effects and results of his effort. I am thankful for it, as I have grandchildren and grand-nephews and grand-nieces who are sixth-generation Adventists because of him.

Franklin A. Messinger, D.D.S.
Billings, Mont.

Appreciates 'Old Friend'

Your invitation to "jot down your thoughts" has given me the perfect opportunity to do just that. It's been only recently that I've come to — and forgive me — appreciate the GLEANER.

It was about seven years ago that my Grandfather subscribed my name to the GLEANER. Since that time, I graduated from Academy, moved to Connecticut for a year, then back to College Place, Wash., then to Walla Walla, Wash., and now most recently to Seattle, Wash. All the while my faithful postmen delivering the GLEANER to each and every new location I had been.

I have been attending a Methodist Church with my husband and am really not satisfied with the fellowship, or lack thereof. I miss going to church on the Sabbath and I feel that the GLEANER is really my last link to the life that I miss so dearly.

I have been thinking about going to an Adventist Church here to find the fellowship that I need so that my Christian walk can be once again led to the right path that I suppose I have taken a few wrong turns on.

I really just wanted you to know what the GLEANER means to me. Like an "old friend" it finds its way to me no matter where I am.

Name withheld by request

GLEANER Covers Update

Those interested in submitting slides for 1992 GLEANER covers must have their slides delivered to the GLEANER office by Wednesday noon, Nov. 27. A limit of 10 slides per submission is in effect. The GLEANER pays \$50 for one-time use of selected photos. Slides submitted must have been taken in the Northwest, and each slide frame should bear the name and address of the photographer. A complete set of guidelines was printed on page 3 of the Sept. 16, 1991, GLEANER. Those who need copies of those guidelines should contact the GLEANER office immediately.

ABOUT THE COVER

Harold Wilson, Anchorage, Alaska, lists his occupation as "aircraft mechanic and photographer." This picture of the two puffins was taken on Round Island, 70 miles southwest of Dillingham in the Bering Sea. He writes, "Access is difficult and is regulated by state permit. It is a true wilderness experience. There are no facilities or services and one must bring everything. Tents must withstand winds in excess of 60 knots."

Wilson used his Canon F1 Camera with a 500 mm lens and Fuji 100 film.

Many whom God has qualified to do excellent work accomplish very little, because they attempt little.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 331.

area. . . . Through their Bible study groups, several Muslims have already been baptized . . . Golden invited me to come and baptize 23 people he and Emmi had led to a decision for Christ. The Lapanis didn't know I was bringing two new bicycles for them. I wish you could have seen their million-dollar smiles when they saw that matched set of bikes!

I wish, too, that I had words to describe that baptism event: the singing of the members as we walked two kilometers through villages and fields down to a small river; the hundreds of spectators joining us

as we moved through the area; the language of love spoken with big smiles; and the dedication of people stepping out from their family and cultural ties to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ.

I wish all my friends in the North Pacific Union Conference could have had the thrill of watching as the village headman (or chief), a Muslim, stepped into the pool to declare publicly that he was now a Christian. That same chief has given us a plot on which to build a church. He didn't just give us the land; he has been out there. With his own hands he has been molding bricks. . . .

Epilogue: In a faxed message dated Oct. 9, 1991, from the General Conference Annual Council in Perth, Australia, Bruce Johnston writes, "Elder Masoka of Malawi says, 'As a result of greater mobility with bicycles, we have doubled the baptisms in Malawi!'"

Before receiving the donated bicycles, most pastors in Malawi, with 20 to 40 churches each, walked to carry on their work. It was almost impossible to get a bicycle which, if available, would cost two to four month's wages and could take much longer to be delivered.

Africa's harvest is ripe. Wherever we build a church, there are whole villages that will join . . . filling it before it is finished. If you would like to have a part in building churches in Malawi, remember us on Thirteenth Sabbath in December this year.

For all the pastors in Malawi, the mission director, Wenson Masoka, and I say a big thank you to the people of the North Pacific Union Conference for what you did for us.

Please remember to pray for the wheels to keep spinning in Malawi. 🙏



This "oldie" bike is going to work many more years for the Voice of Prophecy Bible School, delivering lessons to the post office to be mailed.

Idaho Conference Bearhug Team Returns

By Russell Johnson

The political unrest, the flight over the North Pole and the enormity of what they have accomplished in Russia found the Idaho Conference Operation Bearhug team brimming with excitement as they returned from Russia, Oct. 17.

Though they experienced the aftermath of the recent coup, saw picketing for political power, and sensed the mass uncertainty, as Fred Cornforth, the group leader, says: "We felt we were under God's protection there."

The group mission was to share the good news of salvation with a gospel-starved people in Siberia. Gary Dennis, teacher at the Eagle, Idaho, school, left his changes of clothes behind for the people, when he left, a practice of other team members as well.

Robin Logan, a Gem State Adventist Academy senior, who served as evangelistic team pianist, gave away a supply of specially-printed bookmarks from her father's print shop in Caldwell, Idaho.

Steve McPherson, a junior from Gem state Adventist Academy, took a supply of pens, lapel pins and gum to share with the people. Both Steve and Robin were selected for the team by a vote of their fellow students.

Ed Scheresky, associate director of Idaho Conference trust services, had less culture shock than his teammates in Russia. Because of his Russian-American upbringing, he already spoke the language and understood the history, lifestyle and geography of the land. The whole group was surprised, however, by the extent of poverty, the poor public transportation and the evidences of past oppression.

The team visited three cities during their itinerary, all between the Caspian and Black Seas: Makhachkala, Nalchik and Grozny. Phoning home to Idaho from Grozny, a city of a million population, proved difficult. Only 12 phones in the city were equipped to handle international calls.

During a call for baptism, nearly 100 persons came forward in Makhachkala, out of



an attendance of 450. Six hundred attended the meetings in Nalchik. Results from subsequent meetings are being assessed and will appear as an Operation Bearhug report in the December issue of the GLEANER. 🙏

Russell Johnson is executive secretary and communication director of the Idaho Conference.

. . . A Christlike life is the most powerful argument that can be advanced in favor of Christianity. . . .

9 Testimonies, p. 21



Pastor Frank Dunn, right, baptized these people in Sitka on Sept. 14, left to right: George Eliason, Dana Van Mechlen and Tammy Jo Weissberg.

where he met Kathy Parsons. They were married a year later in Oregon

Frank and Kathy moved to Walla Walla College where Frank earned a B.A. in theology in 1983. They then accepted a call from the Alaska Conference to pastor the Valdez Church. It was there that their children, Evan and Kelsey were born.

In 1985, Frank began his graduate studies at Andrews University and earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1987. They then moved back to Alaska where they pastored the Dillingham and Aleknagik churches for approximately one year. From there, they



The Frank Dunn Family

moved to Sitka where they have enjoyed pastoring since 1988.

The Duns are now in the process of moving to the Kenai area where they will continue their service as pastoral couple of the Kenai and Homer district.

IDAHO

Romanian Baptized

The Twin Falls, Idaho, Sabbath school hosts a class in the Romanian language, led by Lucien Caval, the first Adventist Romanian to arrive in Twin Falls.

Recently, class member Georgel Saca requested baptism. Caval studied with him in the Romanian language and Pastor Floyd Arnold met with the Caval and Saca families to complete the studies.

Georgel was baptized on a recent Sabbath morning. As he was accepted into church membership, his parents, Toma and Lidia, his brother, Adrien, and Petra Vatui, Lucien's mother, were accepted into membership on profession of faith.

Pictured, back row from the left, are: Lidia Saca, Adrian Saca, Georgel Saca, Pastor Floyd Arnold, Roma Saca, Lucien and Gina Caval. Front row: Olga Caval, Petra Vatui and Betty Caval.



Vicki Arnold

True success in any line of work is not the result of chance or accident or destiny. It is the outworking of God's providences, the reward of faith and discretion, of virtue and perseverance.

Prophets and Kings, p. 486.

Conference to Host Major Youth Rally

An all-day youth festival hosted by the Idaho Conference at the Boise State University Pavilion is expected to draw between two and five thousand Christian Treasure Valley young people, Nov. 24.

The festival, billed as "Summit 91," will feature Christian composer-musician David Meece; Adventist minister/Christian rapper Rodney Draggon; inspirational speaker Bart Campolo; Christian athlete Nick Jones; former Miss Idaho Becki Trueblood; Christian musician Bryan Duncan and Christian vocalist Patty Cabrera.

Also featured will be Christian choirs from the Treasure Valley. Gary Rust, Oregon Conference Youth director, will also speak.

The 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. all-day Sunday event will be underwritten by ticket sales, and is being co-sponsored by KTSY-FM, the Idaho Conference Christian music radio station located on the campus of Gem State Adventist Academy.

"Calls have been coming in from all over the West Coast, Utah and Nevada, asking about this festival," says Fred Cornforth, Idaho Conference youth director. "We expect a tremendous turnout."

Cornforth, who returned last month from an evangelistic tour of Russia under the auspices of Operation Bearhug, planned Summit 91 as an expanded approach to youth ministries in which young Adventists, ministers and musicians can directly influence the Christian culture of the Treasure Valley.

Mike Agee, general manager of KTSY-FM, took an active role in planning and programming the 12-hour event. The station is co-promoting the event, as well, and those interested in individual tickets or special group-rate discounts can phone (208) 459-5879 (KTSY). Information is also available at all Treasure Valley Christian book stores.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

About Announcements

The GLEANER no longer accepts free announcements from outside of the North Pacific Union Conference. Because of a lack of space, no announcement will be run more than one time.

Deadline Schedule

Issue Date	Material Due at 11 a.m.
Dec. 16**	Nov. 22
Jan. 6	Dec. 13

Russia Report

The Hockinson Heights Church in Brush Prairie, Wash., will host a slide program report from the Soviet Union on Sabbath, Nov. 16, at 5:30 p.m. You will hear faith-building stories about the Internal Affairs government officials, radio and television news media and the miracle exit from Vladivostok just as the coup began.

Harvey and Kathy Corwin from the Oregon Conference Family Life Department will share experiences from their recent trip to Sakhalin, Khabarovsk, and Vladivostok.

Family Life, Ore.

A Family Life Ministries Workshop will be held on Sunday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Oregon Conference office, 13455 S.E. 97th Ave., Clackamas, Ore. You will receive a new planning manual, see training tools, hear about the 1992 FL Resource Manual, meet and hear 10 resource seminar speakers, and enter to win a five-star resort vacation honeymoon marriage retreat.

To reserve your free lunch at the Olive Garden following the workshop, call the 24-hour Family Life Line at (503) 654-6054 and leave your name and the church you represent. RSVP before Sunday, Nov. 10.

Portland Soviet Report

The Portland Adventist Community Services Center at 6611 S.E. Powell Blvd., in Portland, Ore., will host a Soviet Union report by Harvey and Kathy Corwin on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 1 p.m. For information call Barbara Nelson (503) 775-6741.

East Salem Addresses

Addresses are needed for the following: Wendy Crowson and Ron and Pat Wise. Send information to: Clerk, East Salem Church, 5575 Fruitland Rd., N.E., Salem, OR 97301.

Everett Concert

Rod Scherencel, pastor of the Graham, Wash., Church, a tenor soloist and recording artist, will present a concert at the Everett, Wash., Forest Park Church on Sabbath, Nov. 16, at 3:30 p.m. There will be a potluck supper following the concert.

Adventist Widowed

Adventist Widowed of Oregon, a support group for widowed men and women, will meet Nov. 10 at 4 p.m. at the Oregon Conference Office, 13455 S.E. 97th Ave., Clackamas. Sue Honnell, a Portland counselor and lecturer, is speaking on "Handling the Holidays and Special Occasions."

Meetings are the second Sunday of each month. For more information call (503) 652-2225, ext. 313.

Children's Visuals

Visual aids for children's Sabbath schools are urgently needed in many places, especially countries emerging from Communism. Following are addresses where these can be sent:

Eastern European and Soviet Countries — Richard Wilcox, c/o *Adventist Review*, 55 W. Oakridge Dr., Hagerstown, Md 21740. On the package near your return address, mark the name of the intended country (Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, or Russia). For an acknowledgement, send itemized list to Wilcox, c/o General Conference, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, MD 20904-1608.

For Other Countries — Inquire of FAITH ADVENTURES, c/o Lew and Frieda Tanner, 2521 Erin Way, Eugene, OR 97401.

Packaging Suggestions — Send only: 1) Good, used felt, painted and cut out, with ideas for use. Place in new ziplock plastic bags. 2) Packs of 10 to 20 neatly trimmed teaching pictures (religious, nature, animals, children or family) in new one-gallon size ziplock bags. 3) Appropriate Christmas and greeting card fronts, with no writing on backs, in groups of 100 and so labeled, bundled with rubber bands. 4) "Take-homes" such as memory verses with pictures, in 100s, so labeled, in small ziplock bags.

Mass Production — If your group is willing to color and prepare quantities of children's "take-homes," contact FAITH ADVENTURES.

Donating Funds or Materials — If your group wishes to provide funds for a Three-Year Bible Felts set (at \$70) for missions, send to FAITH ADVENTURES. Specify to which country. All donations will be acknowledged and are tax deductible. At present, felt yardage is needed.

Writer's Magazine

Christian Scribes, an organization of Adventist writers in the Portland, Ore., area, invites those interested in beginning or continuing a career in Christian writing to request a free introductory copy of the club newsletter, *Christian Scribes*. Christian Scribes is a professional association organized to assist serious Christian writers, especially new talent, in their quest for publication. Members meet on the second Sunday of each month, 1-3 p.m., at 10225 E. Burnside, Portland, Ore., in the board room of the North Pacific Union Conference office. Program items include presentations by prominent Portland-area writers, discussion and critique of members' manuscripts in process, and reviews of promising topics and/or styles in Christian writing. Phone Ed Schwisow, president, at (503) 255-7300, ext. 241.

Kelso Marrieds

The Kelso-Longview Church at 1624 E. Kessler Blvd., in Longview, Wash., will host a "Successful Marriage" class on Sabbath, Nov. 16, at 2:30 p.m., with speakers Harvey and Kathy Corwin. The Corwins will present ideas on how to keep intimacy and romance alive in marriage, share specific tips for marital oneness and give helpful suggestions for rekindling emotional closeness.

For information contact Pastor Philip Welklin at (206) 423-7344.

Green Lake Series

The 1991 Fall Lecture Series on Nov. 15 and 16 at the Green Lake Church in Seattle, Wash., will feature one of its own members, Alvin L. Kwiram, Vice Provost for Research at the University of Washington, presenting a Christian perspective of environmentalism.

The weekend meetings will begin Friday evening at 7:30, when Dr. Kwiram will discuss "The Environment and Christian Responsibility." The Nov. 16 Sabbath school program will feature a personal interview. Topic for the 11 a.m. service is "The Ecology of Faith."

The noon potluck dinner will be followed by the 2:30 p.m. lecture, "Greenhouse, Hothouse, Poorhouse." A reception will be held at 7:30 p.m., providing opportunity to meet Dr. Kwiram personally and continue with informal discussion.

Ethics Seminar, Ore.

Join other thoughtful and stimulating Christians at the 13th annual "Ethical Dilemmas of Our Time" seminar at the Sunnyside Church in Portland, Ore. Ginger Hanks-Harwood, Ph.D., from Pacific Union College will be guest ethicist at 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 15, and 2 p.m., Sabbath, Nov. 16.

Seven 10-minute papers will be opened for discussion. A 12:30 noon salad potluck on Sabbath and child care for both sessions will enhance your enjoyment of this weekend.

Call (503) 252-8080 for further information.

Rockwood Meetings

"Explore Prophecy 2000" meetings are continuing at the Rockwood Church, 1910 S.E. 182nd Ave., Gresham, Ore., at 7:15 p.m. each Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday through Nov. 23. Speaker is Robert Fetrick, Washington Conference Evangelist.

Child care is provided for children up to 4 years old, and Bible classes and crafts for those aged 5 through 9.

Evangelist Fetrick has lived in the Amazon jungles of Peru and the cosmopolitan city of Hong Kong. He has preached in Hungary and visited the Middle East. With pastoral experience with both rural and urban congregations, he understands the needs of people. Hear him present the positive Word of God, bringing peace and enthusiasm!

Sunnyside Concert

Alexander Henderson, an international recording artist from Boston, Mass., will be in concert 4 p.m., Sabbath, Nov. 23, at the Sunnyside Church in Portland, Ore. An offering will be taken to assist an urban mission school. For details call (503) 281-8596.

Bluegrass at Boring

The Sawtooth Mountain Boys, one of Oregon's top Bluegrass bands, will present a gospel concert, Saturday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m., at the Hood View Jr. Academy auditorium, 26505 S.E. Kelso Rd., Boring, Ore. For information, phone (503) 663-5611 or (503) 658-7594.

Salem Concert

The Belko Brass with Ed Wagner at the keyboard will be joined by vocalist Meryl Mote in a 4 p.m. concert, Sabbath, Nov. 9, at the Salem Central Church, 1330 Summer St., N.E. Hear about this California-based group's recent experience of helping at an evangelistic series in Magadan, Siberia.

A freewill offering will be taken. Their latest Chapel Record release, *Belko Brass Hymn Favorites*, and Meryl Mote's new book, *On Borrowed Time*, will be available.

Sojourners at Stayton

The Sojourners male quartet will present two concerts in the Stayton, Ore., Church: at the 11 a.m. church service and at 4:30 p.m., Nov. 16.

Mt. Tabor Classes

In addition to regular Sabbath school Bible study classes, the Mt. Tabor Church, Portland, Ore., will offer the following instructional classes at 9:45 a.m.

Nov. 2 and 9: "Twelve Steps to Overcoming Habits," taught by Karen Buchanan. **Nov. 16 and 23:** "How to Know God," taught by Ginny Allen. (Themes: "Prayer, Bible Study, and the Holy Spirit.") **Nov. 30 and Dec. 31:** "Enhancing Self-Esteem," taught by Dr. Bob Hunter.

The classes meet in the church at S.E. 60th and Yamhill Streets in Portland.

overall and first among PAA runners, finished the 1.9-mile course in 14:58. Cheri Klam crossed the finish line six seconds later to take third place overall.

"Toward the end I was trying to get Cheri to go faster but she had a sideache," Zachrisson said.

Klam wasn't interested in setting speed records. "I was too tired at the end to even care whether we'd won or lost," she said.

The girls found the course challenging. "It was a tough course," said Carrie Roy, who finished sixth overall in 15:17. "It was hot too, but I didn't stop to walk."

"We had run the course before (in practice) and we knew the first part was uphill and no shade," Kristin Shiroma said. "The course also gets narrow after the beginning so we knew we had to run faster at the beginning." Shiroma finished seventh overall at 15:29.

Roy said winning the meet was satisfying. "It was thoroughly enjoyable to receive a trophy," she said.

In the boys' 3.1-mile race Brandon Sanders placed second overall, coming in at 20:00.

Todd Hanchett, Scott Rivas, Jon Lovenguth and Jeff Youker finished 20:48, 20:59, 23:44 and 24:27 respectively.

Angie Kirkpatrick and Shelley Banpe

Academy Volunteers To Build Churches

The coming Christmas vacation will be unusual for select students from Columbia

Adventist and Upper Columbia academies. They will build a church for one of the Indian villages near Colegio del Pacifico in Sonora, Mexico.

For the past two Christmas vacations, groups of students from CAA have traveled to Colegio del Pacifico and have worked on various projects in area villages while staying at the school.

Until recently, little effort had been made to evangelize the nearby Indian villages. These are some of the poorest of all villages; recently, however, groups have been formed in Talamante, about five kilometers away, and at San Ignacio about 10 kilometers away. With great sacrifice, the group in Talamante was able to buy land and has been waiting for a meeting place to be built. CAA is committed to building a church for each of these three groups within the next five years.

To build an entire block structure in one short vacation seems too much to expect from a group of unskilled high school students. With this in mind, Dave Allen, mission trip director invited Olin Peach and students from Upper Columbia Academy to join them. Consequently, the CAA crew will be leaving for Mexico on Dec. 18, 1991, and the UCA group will be continuing the project to completion when they arrive around Dec. 29, 1991.

The students are now in the process of raising the necessary funds — approximately \$13,000 — for building supplies and travel. Readers may help with the project by sending contributions to the academies in the name of project participants.

Kenneth Dull



Auburn Woodworker Videotaped

One of the most extensive videotape series ever produced on woodworking features Auburn Adventist Academy teacher, Dale Hyde.

Hyde demonstrates woodworking techniques in six of the 39 videotapes in the series. The programs are aimed at woodworking students and serious woodworkers. The tapes are being distributed to public and private schools around the nation by Meridian Education Corporation of Illinois. Some of the tapes are also available in video stores, lumber and hardware outlets and large retailers, such as Sears. They are also being translated into Greek. A distributor in Singapore will sell to the Orient.

The producer of the Woodworking series, Roy Williams, became acquainted with Dale Hyde while shooting the student recruiting video for Auburn Adventist Academy last Spring. Williams said, "I wish I had met Dale earlier. He knew the subject of woodworking so well he made my job a lot easier. I would like to have used him in all the shows."



Auburn Elects Officers

The 93-member 1992 graduating class of Auburn Adventist Academy held its annual senior retreat, Oct. 4-6, at Camp Casey on Whidbey Island in the Puget Sound. Highlighting the weekend was the election of senior officers. Top to bottom, Larra Miller, treasurer; Angela Drury, secretary; Doug Quast, president; Donna Ahlers, spiritual vicepresident; Rick Armstrong, sergeant-at-arms; and Tae Kim, vice president.

Janet Neumann



Eagle School Operation Bearhug

Eagle, Idaho, church school students helped raise funds to buy Russian Bibles to send with a team of five persons from Idaho who left Oct. 1 on a three-week Operation Bearhug mission in the Soviet Union. The team held evangelistic meetings in three cities.

Eagle teacher Gary Dennis was one of the team. The students raised nearly \$500 to send with Dennis — enough to purchase 183 Russian-language Bibles. They were told that the average Russian needs to save an equivalent of \$150 in U.S. currency to buy a Bible, and calculated that the gift of the students was worth \$27,450 at the prices in the Soviet Union.

Pictured is the Idaho Conference Operation Bearhug team. They are, from the left, Gary Dennis, Ed Sheresky, Eagle pastor; Robin Logan; Fred Cornforth; and Stevie McPherson.

Shirley Rogers

State of the Union Report

A Year of Conflict and Victory



Bruce Johnston

By Bruce Johnston

The year began with a bang! Operation Desert Storm left indelible images of high-tech destruction. We watched in disbelief as the Soviet Union disintegrated, and with wonder as America emerged to stand

alone as the only world super power. It makes a tingle go up the spine of any careful student of Bible prophecy. We sense a world poised for final rapid movements. We entered this year with a deeper conviction that what we do must be marked with greater urgency.

To our astonishment God has suddenly opened windows of opportunity of which we never dreamed. We caught our breath on Aug. 19 and wondered if we had done too little, too late. I cannot begin to describe

the feelings I experienced, the anguish I felt when I heard of the Russian coup, and the relief when we learned it was aborted almost as soon as it began. Operation Bearhug could continue to be a channel of support, inspiration and action to help our brothers and sisters in Russia reap an unprecedented harvest. I think there is nothing in the history of our church to compare. Fifty-five Northwest Adventists in nine teams participated in youth programs, family life, health education and direct evangelism, resulting in 953 baptisms. New churches were formed.

I have no apologies for our response to Russia's needs. How could a Christian do otherwise? I do not believe that our involvement in a foreign field has broken our stride here in our own territory, which is our primary responsibility. I recall the words of Ellen White:

The home missionary work will be further advanced in every way when a more liberal, self-denying, self-sacrificing spirit is manifested for the prosperity of foreign missions; for the prosperity of the home

work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries afar off.

6 Testimonies, p. 27

In spite of a slow recovery in the economy, tithe gain in the North Pacific Union Conference has increased significantly. The North Pacific Union Conference has led all unions in the North American Division, throughout 1991, in percentage of tithe gain. That to me is a statement that our church members believe in their church and its mission. Interestingly, regular mission offerings, which have tended to be weak, have also increased. In addition, our people have supported their local churches and schools as well as conference and local projects.

Our schools have completed the 1990-1991 academic year and have now opened

Continued on page 13

Urgent Appeal: Food for Russia

Adventists in Russia are running out of food. The nations of the world, faced with a precarious global economy, can supply only token help.

The leaders of our union and conferences now appeal to you to go the extra mile this Christmas season to help raise \$40,000 to provide winter food for our Russian Adventists. Let's help them not only to survive, but also to carry on an energetic work.

This **Food for Russia Appeal** needs funding *urgently*. Each day the crisis deepens. Your funds will help buy food in Europe and allow ADRA to transport it by truck to Adventist centers in Russia.

Send your tax-deductible contribution *before Dec. 31* directly to:

Food for Russia Appeal
North Pacific Union Conference
P.O. Box 16677
Portland, OR 97216

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OPERATION BEARHUG REPORT

Operation Bearhug: What Hath God Wrought?

By Ed Schwisow

The conscience of the world today squirms as the black-feathered fiends of famine nest on the snow-dusted Russian steppes.

And as they did one year ago in helping to feed the starving Russian spirit, Northwestern Adventists are linking continents to bring physical respite to the Russian people.

Last year, cracks in a rusting curtain burst open. Communism had put the spirit of a nation to sleep, but as that spirit awoke, it sought food, as surely as a bear brought out of 73-year-long hibernation.

Northwest Seventh-day Adventists met that long-sleeping bear with a hug and a spiritual Northwest breakfast. Now, with physical starvation threatening, the church is acting again to feed its Northeastern neighbors. (See Urgent Appeal, p. 2.)

Operation Bearhug Beginnings

Shattering the illusion that action in the church takes months and even years of committee study, Operation Bearhug, a Northwestern Adventist outreach to the Russian people, was conceived and born in fewer than five months time.

In autumn 1989, the iron curtain had begun to crumple with the breaching of the Berlin Wall and the deposing of Eastern Bloc dictators. A window of opportunity had opened; yet Northwesterners were being given little opportunity to share their faith with their nearest out-of-division neighbors.

The feeling lingered with Bruce Johnston, North Pacific Union Conference president, in July 1990, as he attended the church General Conference session in Indianapolis. There, an idea began to gel in his mind: Why not ask the Adventist Russian leaders to share in a "sister union relationship" with the Northwest, whose Alaskan island coasts nearly touch Siberia?

The Russian leaders showed interest. Beset with a union territory larger than that of the United States and with only one ordained pastor, the offer of assistance came as an answer to prayer. General Conference coordinators approved the linkage. By October 1990, the idea had caught on among NPUC members, though "sister union" and "Northwest link with Russia" seemed trite, of little use to a kindergartner explaining

why he's giving away his piggy-bank savings to buy Russian Bibles.

But where "sister union" and "Northwest link" failed, "Operation Bearhug" caught on, helped, perhaps, by the graphic news coverage of "Operation Desert Shield," a plan for the United States forces to help defend moderate Middle Eastern governments. A commercial artist of Eastern European descent with a special understanding of Russian art and symbolism completed the two-bear "Operation Bearhug" logo within 10 days of commissioning.

"Operation Bearhug" was cross-cultural, clear of Communist overtones, and universally linked to the historical Russian bear and its fraternal bear-hug greeting. It could be translated, even to Northwest Hispanics, who grasped the spirit of "Operative Abrazo Ruso."

It caught on with the Russians, as well. When Northwest evangelists began to hold meetings in Russia, the Russian people would ponder in good fun "which bear this one looks like, the black or the white," depending on dominant physical proportions. "The white one is bigger and fatter," they said.

Continents Meet

In January, Alf Birch, then newly-elected North Pacific Union Conference Church Ministries director and coordinator of Operation Bearhug, bought a round-trip ticket to Moscow to confer with Adventist Russian leaders and to bring back to Portland the final Operation Bearhug proposal for 1991.

The first Northwest evangelist would set foot on Russian soil in May 1991, followed by eight more teams, the last to return in late October.

Divine or Divisive?

Now, during the winter of Russian discontent, Operation Bearhug is being evaluated and fine tuned, says Birch, who returned on Oct. 30 from his second conference with Russian leaders.

His written report, presented to the NPUC Executive Committee in a two-hour session on Nov. 20, notes strengths and weaknesses, but ends with a promising conclusion: Operation Bearhug will go on in 1992, or as long as the windows of gospel opportunity remain open.

Lest Operation Bearhug be seen as the only North American assistance going to

Russia, Birch points out that the General Conference is coordinating a great deal of additional physical and personnel outreach from North America to former Eastern Bloc nations. Some have questioned whether Operation Bearhug is needed, in the face of capable General Conference leadership.

"There's no question that the General Conference must coordinate this immense endeavor, and Operation Bearhug is cooperating fully with General Conference leadership," says Birch. "However, long before the General Conference published their plans, the North Pacific Union Conference had already established contacts in Russia and had made commitments. We feel that we have assumed a special and personal responsibility to the Russian Union, and we don't want to disappoint our Russian brethren."

So stimulating has been this cultural and missionary exchange with Russia, says Birch, that it is now being recommended that NPUC local conferences study the chances of linking up with local Russian conferences, not only in evangelism, but also in economic assistance. And, going a step further, as more churches are organized in Russia, Northwestern local churches can link with these congregations in physical, spiritual and cultural mutual support.

Results in 1991

On paper the impact of Operation Bearhug dazzles even the most severe critic. Nine-hundred-fifty-three persons were baptized as a result of contacts initiated by Northwestern evangelistic teams, accounting for a significant percentage of baptisms



Bibles are distributed to children, Oct. 28, 1991, at the first private school established by any Christian group. This school is known as the "Russian Christian Gymnasium of the Seventh-day Adventist Church," located in Tula, 150 miles south of Moscow. Funds for the purchase of these Bibles were partly raised by children and their teachers at Portland Adventist Elementary School.

OPERATION BEARHUG REPORT



in the Euro-Asian Division (formerly the Soviet Division) in 1991.

Total division membership will rise at a projected 18 percent rate during 1991, giving it the fastest rate of percentile growth in the General Conference.

"The model of Operation Bearhug is being closely observed by some unions in North America. It complements General Conference leadership and it adds a grass-roots dimension that has always existed in Seventh-day Adventist foreign missions," says Birch.

A Year of Learning

Nineteen-ninety-one has been a year of learning, and in his recent visit to Russia, Birch carefully sought the counsel of Russian leaders on ways to improve Operation Bearhug.

Suggestions were forthcoming. First, it was seen that Northwest evangelists, a minimum of three weeks in length, and that, only if a new theme is presented each night. A four-week campaign is seen as even more productive.

The Russian Union has determined to appoint a full-time coordinator of evangelism, and the North Pacific Union will be more explicit in profiling the personalities of those it sends. This will help in attracting media coverage, not only of preachers, but of medical and instructional support staff, as well.

The Russian Union has voiced deep appreciation of the cultural sensitivity shown by Operation Bearhug teams, in particular that of Bruce Johnston, who had researched the history and culture of Leningrad/St. Petersburg before his series of meetings. His historical understanding of the city assisted immensely in reaching the Russian people, and such preparation by Operation

Bearhug resource people sent to Russia is highly valuable, according to Russian leaders.

Operation Bearhug evangelism will be even more closely integrated with that of the General Conference in 1992, to allow for better use of English-Russian translators and Russian advance facilitation.

NPUC Financial Help

In 1992, all Operation Bearhug outreach will be funded by North Pacific Union entities, given the extreme financial difficulties facing the Russian church. Budgets will be prepared and submitted to Operation Bearhug by Russian leaders.

Teams in 1992 will tend to be smaller, consisting of a maximum of four persons each. Sometimes, larger groups can lead to complications in transportation and can absorb valuable translation talent.

Already, Operation Bearhug has assisted

the Russian Union by arranging for the donation of a powerful personal computer and laser printer, as well as facsimile machines for each of the Russian local conferences. The personal computer will be used at union headquarters.

Operation Bearhug will continue to supply Bibles and evangelistic lessons and slides. It will also help arrange for sister church relationships, and sending out of medical, dental and other health professionals, and the coordinating of evangelistic campaigns and leadership training, with emphasis on youth programs.

Operation Bearhug will also be active in helping to establish and build churches and church schools. (Adventists made Russian history in September by establishing the very first private Christian school since the revolution. The school functions in Tula, and has 54 students. The school remains in dire need of equipment.)



Alf Birch distributes Bibles to Sabbath school children at the Moscow church, Sabbath, Oct. 26. Funds for the purchase of these Bibles were raised by the Rockwood, Ore., earliteen Sabbath school class. Their leader at Rockwood Church is Shirley Jordan.



Faculty at the Tula School



On Oct. 28, 1991, Alf Birch hands over a fax machine to Pastor Mikhail Murga, president of the Russian Union Conference. Additional fax machines were donated to each of the Conferences as well. This will improve communications within that Union as well as contact about Operation Bearhug activities. These machines were donated by Adventist businessmen in Southern California.



OPERATION BEARHUG REPORT

Miracles

Several miraculous healings have taken place during Operation Bearhug evangelistic meetings. In another evangelistic campaign, special prayer has resulted in the lifting of severe drought conditions, in this case leading to the conversion of an airline pilot who recognized that the rain had come, against all meteorological predictions, by divine intervention.

Operation Bearhug has been blessed with audiences filled with highly-educated persons who often testify that "Adventists have a message for the heart as well as a message for the mind. We have never seen this in any other denomination." The St. Petersburg campaign concluded with a high number of physicians and lawyers forming the nucleus of a new church in the city.

Operation Bearhug teams have been saved thousands of dollars by airline representatives who, moved by the commitment of the team members, have forgiven most, if not all, charges for extra baggage.

Bread on Russian Waters

With few exceptions, Operation Bearhug funds have come directly from local churches, not from conference budgets. (Conference budgets remain tightly controlled and focused on domestic needs.) Children, adults, and teen-agers have helped with thousands of Bibles, as well as with airfare and evangelistic supplies. It remains a grassroot-driven ministry.

Yet, in casting bread upon Russian waters, Northwestern Adventists, far from forsaking needs at home, have increased benevolence

at a pace far above that of sister unions in North America. Likewise, Northwest church growth remains solid, with a prospect of an increase for 1991.

"For too long, we have allowed ourselves to focus on ourselves, on our problems, on our needs, on our structure, on our frailties. It's good to admit one's faults and to seek solutions. However, to become obsessed with the negative leads to selfish introspection and loss of faith in the outcome of our faith," says Johnston.

"We have given cheerfully, and continue to give cheerfully to Russia, with no strings attached and with no expectation of personal benefit. God has blessed Operation Bearhug, and through it He has blessed us."

Ed Schwisow is editor of the GLEANER.

My Eyes Fill With Tears

By Donna Reinking

As I looked over at Janice Renck seated next to me in the Aeroflot jet, I noticed that she was crying softly. "Are you wondering what we've gotten ourselves into?" I asked. She nodded. Leaving the Moscow airport had been a tense experience, and we were still feeling the anxiety. (Because of a ticket error, our team had been delayed by airport security and police in front of a screaming jet engine, as our translator straightened out the problem.) But even more on our minds was where we were headed — Sverdlovsk — hometown of Boris Yeltsin.

This city of nearly 1.5 million had been featured in an article in the June '91 issue of *Life* magazine. "Yeltsin's Backyard" spoke of a city with oppressed and desperate people looking for a new "hero." Its citizens were described as rude; factories had been on strike because there was no bread; there had been riots and smashing of windows because there was no sugar, and the city was so lacking in food that only mothers of babies could purchase milk if they had a doctor's prescription. Added to that, Sverdlovsk (now renamed Catherinesburg) had been closed to all foreigners for 70 years and had opened only this year. Just what would we find when we landed at midnight in this Siberian city on the edge of the Ural Mountains?

We all felt great relief when two hours later, we were met at the airport by a smiling group of conference workers and their wives, who not only gave us all hugs of welcome, but also gave us ladies beautiful floral

bouquets. In the lobby of our hotel we saw two large posters announcing our meetings and listing all of our names (in Russian, of course.) That was a thrill — even at 1 a.m.!

Our six-member team was led by my husband, Jim, evangelist for the Upper Columbia Conference. Other members included Janice and me from the Spokane Valley Church, Harold and Vanice Kostenko from the Walla Walla City Church, and Paul Volk from Port Townsend. Janice and I provided special music and presented the children's story each night, Paul had lectures on health, Vanice played piano, and Harold, who speaks fluent Ukrainian, was a great help in working with the people. (Harold became an instant "VIP" the night he played "Jesus Loves Me" on his saw!)

Changes in Plans

About a week before we left the states, Sue Patzer, wife of Upper Columbia's president Jere Patzer, said to me, "Don't be surprised, Donna, if things go very differ-

ently than you had planned. You will probably see firsthand how God will alter things according to His will and later you will understand why." Her words were absolutely correct!

We had originally been scheduled to hold six nights of meetings in both Sverdlovsk and Chelyabinsk, another city of more than a million in population and also in the Urals. However, the Lord intervened, and instead of going to Chelyabinsk (which was still closed), we stayed in Sverdlovsk for two weeks.

The morning after our arrival, as we headed for breakfast, we were surprised to meet a large team of pastors, conference workers, and musicians who had been sent to help with our meetings. There were smiles, hugs and warm greetings from our Russian workers. Everyone was so excited about our being there, and we found a city with more positive qualities than we had read about. Thank you, Lord!

Everyone was a bit nervous and in suspense the first night, since we had no idea how many would come (the only advertising



A new church is started with 140 baptized in Sverdlovsk.

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had been with posters). A fine auditorium which seated about 850 had been rented for our use. Approximately 600 attended the first night, and after TV, radio, and newspaper interviews, we increased to 800 the second night and nearly 1,200 the third! We discovered later that the management would not let any more people in. They were sitting anywhere they possibly could, even on speakers, and it was "standing room only." On the first day of our meetings we had a fine time passing out little handbills to the people in the streets and they took them with great interest, but a few days later we were told not to pass any more out because there simply was no more room for the people.

It was at this time that my husband, in consultation with the conference brethren, decided to have a baptism at the end of our series — something we would never attempt here in the states. But we could sense such a hungering for spiritual food among these people. They were like dry sponges soaking in every word of truth from the Bible. Many questions were handed in each night revealing to us that these people were giving very careful thought to the presentations. The mixture of people were from all walks of life, rich and poor, scientists, teachers, physicians, army officers, opera singers, and even the members of a ladies' rock band! Some were already believers and some were atheists, but they all wanted to know more about God.

Gifts of Gratitude

We were given many gifts of gratitude, including paintings and drawings by the students of two teachers who attended (they are now on display at the Spokane Valley School). One note given to my husband said, "Dear Jim, You have transformed my



Volga/Urulian Conference secretary Michael Begus, left; conference president Basil Demetrovich, center, and evangelist Jim Reinking



Left to right, Janice Renck, Harold and Vanice Kostenko, and Jim and Donna Reinking stand beside a billboard advertising their meetings. Each member's name was listed in Russian. Team-member Paul Volk is not pictured.

life. I'm done with smoking because of your sermons. We shall never forget you. God bless you!" Paul and Jim received "buried treasure" from a physician named Helen. Her father had been sent to prison in Siberia for 60 years because he was a Christian (he died there at age 90). He had buried beneath the floor of his house a cast-iron picture of Christ and other icons. She gave the picture to Jim and one of the icons to Paul. She wrote on a note to us, "You opened my heart for Jesus Christ."

During the second week of meetings we began a baptismal class attended by more than 300, and had our first baptism of 140 the last day of our series. I've read about these "mass" baptisms, but this was the first that any of us had ever experienced. The conference administrators who assisted us were overjoyed by this unexpected blessing of a new church, and we've been given reports that 400 people are continuing to attend services each Sabbath and are very excited about organizing. One of their first priorities is to form a choir.

There are so many memories, some good, some not so good (like the cockroaches in our hotel rooms and brown bathwater). Janice and I had the privilege to sing "People Need the Lord" in the prestigious Lenin University (attended by both Gorbachev and Yeltsin) and see a university student wipe tears from her eyes. At the same university we wanted to shout a "hallelujah!" when Paul boldly told these students, "For years the leaders of your country have filled you with lies, and the

biggest lie they've told you is that there is no God!" I remember the precious kiss of love from a young mother who pointed to heaven and said to me, "We are sisters," and the old peasant woman with tears in her eyes who hugged me and said, "In heaven there will be only one language." But the memory that continues to haunt all of us is of the overwhelming desire that these people have to know God and to know of His unconditional love.

A Touching Letter

The following excerpts from a letter say it much better than I can. It was written by a 66-year-old woman who was a communist as a youth, but in her late teens and early 20s had a great desire to know more about God. She was arrested when she was 22 and sent to prison and concentration camps for seven years where she was mocked and tortured. In her oppressed country such a story could be repeated thousands of times. She says to us:

"Who are you and how can I thank you for this miracle that you have revealed to our lost prodigal souls? I've read the Bible for four days. I can't understand why or what goodness we have, or how we could possibly deserve to get this precious gift, and to whom we should be grateful.

"How, where, and when is it possible to thank those messengers who are presenting this sincere fellowship with us? We are tired of being made fools of because of all the hate and brainwashing we've had through all our lives. In such a kind, friendly,



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trusting spirit you were talking to us about the most comforting and dearest topic in the world — about our Savior and God, Jesus Christ.

"These are special days. In spite of our hard and dull life I feel wings behind me. I get us happy in the morning and feel unexpected joy in my soul. All of my responsibilities are done so quickly in my kitchen, with only one desire, to come as soon as possible to the House of Officers so that I can again be with you and meet you. How much generosity and friendliness there is in you. I am so happy to see your smiles and

to hear your greetings. And your singing is outstanding. What wonderful voices — like honey pouring into my heart."

Whenever I read this letter my eyes fill with tears. I think of the millions like this dear woman who want to know Jesus, and I am so thankful that I was given an opportunity to have a part in this outreach. Adventists have prayed for nearly 75 years that the Soviet Union would open its doors and allow freedom of religion. These doors are now open and we must not take time to walk through in single file! We have to run through and take as much with us as

we possibly can. A pastor's salary is \$10 per month and conference funds are extremely limited. In the Volga/Uralian Conference where we had our meetings, there are 100 cities of 300,000 or more people with no Adventist Church, and there are 15 cities of more than a million with churches of 35 members or less. What a great opportunity we have to start a flame in this country and let the fire spread. Thank you, Operation Bearhug, for this great vision! ➔

Donna Reinking writes from Spokane, Wash.

Bearhug: Junkets for the Privileged?

By Ed Schwisow

Are those who visit Russia on Operation Bearhug gospel-sharing business enjoying the trips too much? Are the glowing GLEANER reports proof that these gospel bear-huggers find themselves on the claws of an ethical dilemma?

Some have suggested that the trips to Russia are somehow a reward for hierarchical privilege, and that administrators have arranged to reward themselves with round-trip Aeroflot tickets at tithers' expense. (Two recent letters to the editor note that one-way tickets to Siberia would be appropriate reward for such rascality.)

As one who has not yet received my round-trip tickets to Russia, and feeling, perhaps, professionally beset by having only secondhand accounts to report, I decided to seek evidences of junketry among our Russia-bound emissaries. This is what I have found.

First, those who travel to Russia usually invest hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of their personal and donated dollars in outfitting for the trip and for the buying of gifts to share with their Russian hosts. Spouses take leaves of absence without pay. Clearly, any enrichment from Bearhug travel is strictly cultural and spiritual.

Most of those who have traveled to Siberia have stayed in sub-standard (by western standards) hotels, sometimes so infested with vermin that whole nights have been spent in wakefulness. The blame for such accommodations cannot be laid to poor hospitality; the fact remains that in a dispirited and depressed nation, such accommodations may be the best available any-

where. The Bearhug travel cushion is strictly straw tick.

Every Bearhug account includes some mention of the number of pieces of luggage involved. The Jere Patzer team recently journeyed to Magadan with 57 pieces; they returned with 10. What had happened? The afore-mentioned giving did take place. But several of those boxes contained food and provisions for the team; Russia is nearing starvation conditions. Fishing for souls in Russia yields no caviar.

Are the teams busy? Especially in the large city crusades where Northwest administrators hold field schools to train pastors during the day and preach before thousands each evening, followed by small-group discussions long into the evenings, the experience is physically draining. Those with more complex itineraries in Siberia and elsewhere, likewise, invest daunting hours in meeting preparation and ministry. All evening banquets are strictly spiritual.

Are Bearhug teams qualified for their assignments? A look at the resumes of Bruce Johnston, NPUC president, and Don Jacobsen, Oregon Conference president, show that these men prefaced their entry into administration with years of effective public evangelism and seminary teaching. Jere Patzer, president of the Upper Columbia Conference, has spent nearly 10 years as a youth director; little wonder that in Russia he specialized in coordinating youth meetings. The remainder of the teams have all been led by current or former evangelists or by youth specialists. The baptisms (953 through Dec. 1, 1991) and the invitations to these teams to return to Russia show that Bearhug trips are professionally significant.

And amid all this coming and going, tithing, mission offerings and baptisms in the Northwest have been holding steady or increasing. The blessings of Operation Bearhug appear to be echoing back to the Northwest as evangelistic zeal and mission awareness.

If these trips are in any sense indulgences to privilege, the hundreds of slides, photographs, videos and anecdotes I have studied and heard have been most cunningly forged. If such a conspiracy of misinformation exists, these teams should be holding field schools at KGB headquarters rather than in seminaries.

If a round-trip Aeroflot ticket showed up on my desk tomorrow morning, what would I do? I do know that I would be humbled and driven to my knees in prayer, and that, furthermore, I would urge my brethren to seek a more worthy participant. Operation Bearhug is more than love and kisses; it's the embracing of an entire culture — hotels, food shortages, work schedules, coups and all — in the name of urgent, end-time outreach. It's serious, and it's the Lord's business. ➔

If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one.

9 Testimonies, p. 189

OPERATION BEARHUG REPORT



Magadan Team Reaches Youth

By Ruth Harms

From the Alaska Airlines jet, the first sight of the Union of Sovereign States (USS) territory, resurrected childhood images of a harsh and empty wilderness — an isolated land to which hundreds of thousands of prisoners of conscience were banished in the days of Stalin. Twenty-two prisons, or gulags, were in the Magadan Region of the Soviet Far East in those days, and it is estimated that only one out of every six prisoners survived the horrors they experienced.

In August, the city of Magadan, Russia, was the site of a spiritual "search and rescue mission" in which 17 persons took part. While in the city, members of the group, under the leadership of Jere Patzer, president of the Upper Columbia Conference, and his wife, Sue, held an eight-day series of evangelistic meetings, vacation Bible school programs for children and a youth rally for teens.

Support staff included the Belko Brass from California; Len, Ruth, Sherilyn and Renee Harms of Pasco, Wash.; Glyn and Rachel Marsh, Clarkston, Wash.; Sherrice Neil, Auburn, Wash.; Darin and Troy Patzer, Spokane, Wash.; and Jon and Cheryl Wagner, Pendleton, Ore. These individuals provided music, health education and family features, VBS stories and crafts, and technical expertise.

The team also visited with inmates and staff at a prison, conducted two live afternoon meetings and one television interview on health issues (particularly women's health problems), and had many appointments with government officials who are in a position to assist the future growth of Christianity in the city of Magadan.

The response was warm and enthusiastic everywhere.

- From 10-year-old Dema to Rachel Marsh, VBS teacher: "I've decided not to wait until I get older to accept Jesus. I'm going to do it now before my life is broken and used up."

- From Alex, a college student, to Sherilyn Harms, one of the teens, after the last meeting: "I just wanted you to know that I believe in God now."

- From the director of the prison to Jere Patzer after discussing plans for building a medical clinic in Magadan: "There are many words in Russian to express appreciation, but there are no words to express my appreciation." With that he removed his watch and gave it to Patzer.

Throughout the week the group had a

chance to visit openly with children and adults, Christians and atheists, Communists and non-Communists. The Russians wanted to know about America and about how being Christian affects people's lives. Their questions reflected their experience under an atheistic system:

- When the controversy between Christ and Satan was explained to one young man, he asked, "Is there any chance Satan will win?"

- A question asked over and over of the teens as well as the adults was: "In America, what do people think of you when you believe in God? How do people in school treat you? How does it affect your work?"

- One woman, after receiving as a gift artist Darrel Tank's picture of Jesus carrying the cross, studied it for a while, then walked over to someone in the group and asked, "Who is this?"

Christian work in the Soviet Far East is



Jere Patzer and a Russian army major answer questions at a prison near Magadan.

relatively new. The Alaska and Upper Columbia conferences have both participated in developing a relationship with the believers in Magadan, which is only a four and one-half hour flight from Anchorage, Alaska. In December 1990, Jim Osborne, pastor from Anchorage, made the first contact with Adventist Pastor Kirill Movelyan. He took Bibles to him and met with the minister of religious affairs of the Magadan Region to help establish a Seventh-day Adventist identity in this city.

Prior to this visit, Pastor Movelyan had been working for 18 months in Magadan. A native of Moldavia, Movelyan, his wife and two young children had chosen to be "missionaries" and travel to the Soviet Far East to establish a Seventh-day Adventist presence in Magadan.

In less than two years he has raised up a church of about 40 members. In addition, he has established a society of craftsmen which is available for believers who lose their jobs when becoming Sabbathkeepers



Pastor Kirill Movelyan with his wife and children



Sue Patzer, center, tells the children about Heaven during one of the afternoon meetings attended by more than 300 children.



OPERATION BEARHUG REPORT

and has begun to have meetings in the local prison. He plans to establish a half-way house for released prisoners and a home for the homeless there.

During the August meetings, about 100 individuals made commitments to continue having weekly Bible studies with the local pastor and church members. The August trip also resulted in commitments by government officials to assist in procuring land and scarce building materials for the construction of a church and medical clinic.

Maranatha Volunteers International are laying plans to build the clinic next spring. Personnel at the Walla Walla, Wash., General Hospital are studying ways to staff the clinic by sending medical personnel to Magadan on a rotating basis.

Needs in Russia today are greater than any individual or organization can hope to adequately address. But the Lord's arm is not shortened; miracles are taking place; and for Christians everywhere, now is the time to act.

Ruth Harms writes from Pasco, Wash.



Sherilyn and Renee Harms and Darin and Troy Patzer with Russian young people

Northwest Liberty Tour Features Roland Hegstad

The Great Northwest Liberty Tour of 1992 is under way.

It started last month when North Pacific Union Conference PARL director, Richard Lee Fenn visited Yakima's 35th Ave. Church, then continued on to Great Falls, Shelby, Butte, Hot Springs, Ronan, and Hamilton, Mont.; and Osburn, Idaho.

Liberty editor Roland R. Hegstad and his Northwest colleagues will be appearing next month in many Northwest locations. Check the list following — it's arranged by state (not conference), city, place, day, date, time, and speaker.

ALASKA

Anchorage: Conference, Tues. afternoon, Jan. 7. (Hegstad, Fenn address Alaska Conference Ministerial Council.)

Anchorage: Jewell Lake, Sabbath, Jan. 4, 9:30 a.m. (Fenn).

Anchorage: Northside, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m. (Hegstad, Fenn).

Anchorage: O'Malley, Sabbath, Jan. 4, 11 a.m. (Fenn).

Fairbanks: Friday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m. (Fenn).

Palmer: Saturday evening, Jan. 4 (Fenn).

Talkeetna: Sunshine, Sabbath afternoon, Jan. 4 (Fenn).

IDAHO

Boise: Central, Sabbath, Jan. 4, 4 p.m. (Hegstad addresses a major rally for the entire Treasure Valley.)

Caldwell: Sabbath, Jan. 4, 11 a.m. (Hegstad).

McCall: Camp Ida-Haven, Monday, Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m. (Hegstad, Justice address the Idaho Conference Ministerial Council.)

Moscow: Moscow-Pullman, Sabbath, Feb. 1, 4:30 p.m. (Hegstad).

Nampa: Sabbath, Jan. 4, 9:30 a.m. (Hegstad).

Payette: Friday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m. (Hegstad).

Sandpoint: Friday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m. (Hegstad).

MONTANA

Billings: Sabbath, Jan. 4, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. (Justice preaches to the combined Billings-Bridger congregations, then conducts a rally for all area churches.)

Bozeman: Conference, Sunday, Jan. 5, 7 p.m. (Hegstad, Justice, and Bill Whitney address the Montana Conference Ministerial Council.)

OREGON

Beaverton: Sabbath, Jan. 25, 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. (Justice's afternoon rally includes churches on Portland's west side.)

Gladstone: Gladstone Park, Sabbath, Jan. 11, 4 p.m. (Hegstad, Fenn, Justice, and Dan McCulloch conduct a major *Liberty* rally for the greater Portland-Vancouver area.)

Lincoln City: Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m. (Hegstad, Fenn, Justice).

Milton-Freewater: Stateline, Friday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m. (Hegstad).

Milwaukie: New Life Celebration (meeting at Portland's New Hope Church), Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m. (Hegstad, Fenn, Justice).

Portland: Stone Tower, Friday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m. (Justice).



Staywell

Make a Christmas Memory

By Janet Wilkinson, M.P.H.

What kinds of memories does Christmas bring to mind? A lot of work? Shopping, baking, decorating, mailing, and spending? Hurry, hurry, rush, rush?

Here are some ideas to help sweep away some of the unnecessary holiday clutter and focus on what's important.

A. Evaluate your traditions. Separate those that bring real satisfaction from the ones that are unrealistic, have lost their meaning, or are excessively time, money, and/or energy consuming.

B. Simplify some traditions. Buy fewer presents. Bake half the cookies and sweets you usually do. Instead of a seven-course dinner that leaves everyone stuffed, plan

five courses. Store up memories, not calories.

C. Create some new customs that focus on Jesus, family, and friends.

- Have children tell the story of Jesus' birth with a nativity scene or felts.

- Plan a Christmas tea with Grandma or a lonely friend. Grandma can share stories of her childhood.

- Have a birthday party for Jesus complete with prayer and gifts. Let children decorate the cake and blow out the candles.

- Say "I love you" to spouse, children, or parents with a personal message on a card.

- Read the Christmas story from a new version of the Bible or write your own.

- Buy some simple gifts to take to a needy family.



When thinking of past celebrations, people usually remember the special things they did together. This year, give your family and friends one of the best gifts . . . happy memories.

Janet Wilkinson, M.P.H., writes from Yakima, Wash.

You and Your Trust Services

If You Have a Will Now, Check to See . . .

By Dale R. Beaulieu

- Have I moved to another state since making this Will?
- Do I now live in a community property state? (In our union, Idaho and Washington are community property states).
- Are the beneficiaries still living? Are their needs still the same?

- Am I happy with my choice of executor and alternate executor?
- Do I still own the specific properties mentioned?
- Have I acquired new properties?
- Will my estate receive the full advantages of the marital deduction?
- Am I able and willing to add bequests to the charitable causes I support? (When you

name a charity in your Will, be sure to use its full, legally incorporated name.)

Contact your attorney or local conference Trust Department today if your Will needs to be reviewed.

Dale R. Beaulieu is assistant director of Trust Services North Pacific Union Conference.



CONFLICT AND VICTORY

Continued from page 2

again. We find an increase in academy and college enrollment but a drop in elementary. I admit that there are warts and freckles and imperfections in our schools, but Christian education still plays a vital role. We have more reason than ever to support and encourage our parents to support Seventh-day Adventist schools.

The 100-year hourglass is running low for Walla Walla College, 1991 marks a celebration that none of my college class members believed would occur, but here it comes. One hundred years! Celebrate or weep, but don't blame any delay on Walla Walla College. It has been here to serve this

constituency through every changing era and will continue to do so. Enrollment this year is above projections. Conventional wisdom said that enrollment this year would go down, but it has gone up. Niels-Erik Andreasen and his team of administrators and faculty are leading Walla Walla College toward objectives of academic and spiritual excellence.

Soulwinning remains a top priority. We have broken the 70,000 barrier in membership. One of the largest baptisms this year was in connection with a series of evangelistic meetings conducted by Evangelist George Rainey working with the Sharon Church. A new black church was established in Portland — a new, strong, black church!

Hispanics are setting an example I wish our Anglo churches would copy. We could end the year ahead of last year in soulwinning. It is too early at this point to tell. Oregon expects the best harvest in a decade.

While in Perth at Annual Council I renewed fellowship with W.L. Masoka, director of the Southeast Africa Union Mission. He sends thanks to the North Pacific Union Conference staff and all those who donated the needed, and much appreciated, bicycles to his pastors. More than 100 bicycles were given! "We have doubled our baptisms during the past year because of increased mobility," he stated. He continued, "Our pastors were able to double their contacts." Their baptisms rose from 3,000 to 6,000. We don't report these baptisms to the North

American Division. Celestial bookkeepers will know where to credit the baptisms! And I must hasten to add that the credit goes to Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It is not the work of man. We did not even think about baptisms, we just did it because we were impressed that there was a need and we could fill it. It is fun to make a difference through direct or indirect influence, and in the end we are really recipients of the blessings returned to us.

Our conferences have passed through another season of spiritual refreshment at camp meetings and convocations. Oregon met its challenge bravely. Gladstone has been the mother of camp meetings. It is a hard act to follow. Few had any illusions that the Portland Coliseum would duplicate it. But a highly condensed, yet deeply spiritual, experience rewarded those who came.

Two Sabbaths ago an elder of the New Life Celebration Church, near Portland, told me about a young woman he and his wife had brought to the Friday night meeting in the Coliseum. He said that she had been impressed by the sermon that uplifted Jesus. She said "I wanted to hold up my hand to indicate that I was accepting Jesus as my Savior and Lord, but my other hand held it down." Those familiar with the issues of the Great Controversy can understand the struggle that she went through. Since then, however, she has taken a series of Bible studies and has made her decision for baptism. Many others have experienced that same saving grace at the Coliseum and in all the camp meetings.

The Native American camp meetings were attended beyond expectation. I spoke at the one in Mission, Ore., in the Upper Columbia Conference. The spirit was beautiful. The Native American work has fairly exploded into new life. Monte Church, director of our Native American Affairs, says "My people know their church really cares." And not in just words only.

The GLEANER is functioning with a new editor. A lot of thought goes into editing the GLEANER and there is a strong commitment to the Northwest family. Ed Schwisow wishes to do all that is possible to pull the Northwest Adventists into a sense of family and mission.

There are many more exciting things that have occurred this year. What I have shared is but a few of many memorable events.

Someone may say "Thanks for the memories, but what about the future?" The North Pacific Union Conference has many challenges and many opportunities as we face 1992. I personally face it with increased confidence. The promises of God have sustained and ever spurred us on to greater exploits.

The momentum builds. The challenges include:

1. Giving our children a slice of the pie after we have let them help us cut it. It is their church too.

2. Strengthening family life. Our strength is no greater than the sum total of family life.

3. Helping our schools be centers of academic and spiritual excellence. And helping parents see the strength of our schools, that they are God's ordained agencies for our Seventh-day Adventist children. This is very critical. While secondary and college enrollments have increased, elementary enrollment has declined. Small elementary schools are quietly closing. This is a cause of great concern.

4. Increased stewardship of time, talents and money. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in my opinion, is a sleeping giant. If active participation by our members increased only 10 percent we would see wonders here in the Northwest.

5. Reaching and evangelizing the population centers with the relevant truths

committed to us for the end time.

6. Helping the caring church to be so in real life.

7. Inviting home those who have wandered away and making "home" a place that is warm, accepting and attractive.

8. Calling the dissidents and disenfranchised away from side issues that divide and inviting them to work with us in accomplishing the mission.

9. Reaffirming the truths that have made us a people.

10. A more effective, dynamic use of media to reach our population.

11. Greater flow of literature and more effective follow-up of interests.

12. Continued and strengthened encouragement for the Russian Union, our sister union in the Euro-Asia Division. 🐦

Bruce Johnston is president of the North Pacific Union Conference.

CONFERENCE NEWS

IDAHO

Labor Camp Ministry Reaches Hispanic Kids

The members of the Mountain Home Church recently began a new outreach program. Every Sabbath afternoon, church members from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Mountain Home, and the Hammett area, gather on the central interior lawn of the Hammett Labor Camp. The Branch Sabbath School begins at 4 p.m., directed by Ethylan Fesler, Martha Heisler, Caroline Ingram, and Annie Stricker, who speak Spanish. They begin by leading out in Spanish songs, accompanied by Pastor Mel Grasbass on the guitar. Within minutes, the Spanish children (an average of 20 each week) come running to join in with the songs and listen to Bible and nature stories provided by different church members.

As an added treat, Ethel Wilson gives a health talk. The first week the children were

each given a toothbrush in their favorite color, and on another Sabbath, a bar of soap. The hour-long programs end with cookies and juice, and memory verse cards and *Little Friends* handed to each child.

Because of the successes this year, the Mountain Home Church plans to start the Branch Sabbath School in the early summer of 1992. Members base their mission on the text: "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom heaven" Matthew 19:14.

Lorna Johnson



Because most Hispanic children are bilingual, songs are sung with both Spanish and English verses.

The first half gives information about ad-
ditions, the last half hour is devoted to
answering questions on air. The series is
underwritten by the Blalock Foundation,
allowing the station to purchase badly-
needed equipment.

With additional equipment, and close co-
operation from the Communication Depart-
ment at WWC, the station has been able
to produce higher quality productions.

If you have any questions concerning
BMBA, call the station manager, Lynelle
Childs, at (509) 529-9149. *Jim Roe*

Goldendale Baptism

Pastor Vernon Chase,
far right, is shown with,
left to right, David Will-
iams, Susan Williams
and Marty Enslow, who
were recently baptized
at Goldendale, Wash.



GENERAL NEWS

Northwest Multicultural Leader to Join Executive Team

By Ed Schwisow

By unanimous vote, the North Pacific
Union Conference Executive Committee,
in regular session, has approved the naming
of the current multicultural/regional affairs
director as assistant to the president.

The recommendation for this appoint-
ment came from the NPUC Administrative
Council, which has been studying ways to
enhance the executive presence of ethnic
leaders on the union level.

As assistant to President Wayne Shep-
perd, multicultural regional affairs director
and associate church ministries director, be-
comes a voting member of the local admin-
istrative council at North Pacific Union
Conference headquarters, and of the ex-
tended administrative council which con-
sists of the NPUC executive officers and
local conference presidents. These councils
set the agenda for the North Pacific Union
Conference Executive Committee, the high-
est church authority on Northwestern soil.

Shepherd retains all former departmental
responsibilities, as well.

New Committee Members

Elected to the NPUC executive commit-
tee were Byron Dulan, Seattle, Wash.; James
Osborne, Anchorage, Alaska; and Don
Keele, Boring, Ore. These replace board
members who have resigned due to retire-
ment and reassignments.

GLENER Items

Named as editor for the GLENER was

Ed Schwisow, Communication Department
director and formerly acting editor.

Also established was a GLENER editorial
board consisting of Paul Nelson, chairman,
Portland, Ore.; Ed Schwisow, secretary,
Portland, Ore.; Vicky Ballou, Portland, Ore.;
Ronald Carroll, Payette, Idaho; Byron Dulan,
Bellevue, Wash.; Mumtaz Fargo, Billings,
Mont.; Lenard Jaacks, Bothell, Wash.; Bruce
Johnston, Portland, Ore.; James Osborne,
Anchorage, Alaska; Jere Patzer, Spokane,
Wash.; Robert Rawson, Portland, Ore., and
Raquel Santillana, Wenatchee, Wash.

The editorial board considers all
GLENER policies that have to do with
processing and printing of editorial and
advertising copy submitted to GLENER, or
generated by the editorial staff.

Operation Bearhug

Bruce Johnston, NPUC president, and Alf
Birch, NPUC Church Ministries director,
and Operation Bearhug coordinator, pre-
sented a two-hour wrap-up report of achieve-
ments of Northwest laymen, pastors and
evangelists in Russia. Operation Bearhug is
a Northwest outreach to Russia, intended to
assist the Russian Union Mission materially,
evangelistically and educationally.

Birch reported that during the past seven
months, 55 Northwesterners have traveled to
Russia, resulting in 953 baptisms, evangelistic
education of scores of Russian pastors and the
distribution of thousands of Russian-language
adult and children's Bibles.

Birch, who recently traveled to Russia to
evaluate Operation Bearhug, said that a

"Food for Russia" plan is urgently needed
to help members remain in good health dur-
ing the winter. Also that local NPUC
conferences should form "sister conference"
relationships with local missions in Russia,
and that Northwestern churches should
carry that relationship to the local level
under Operation Bearhug coordination.

Youth Cabinet

Fred Cornforth, youth director of Idaho
Conference, and senior NPUC representative
to the North American Division youth cabi-
net of General Conference, presented a report
of interaction taking place on the North
American Division level to help prepare local
churches to better assimilate young people.
Also reporting was Mark Williams, an Au-
burn Adventist Academy senior, who is junior
member of the NPUC delegation to the cabi-
net. Both Cornforth and Williams suggested
that opportunity for rewarding involvement
must be presented to youth at younger ages,
especially to those reared in the church.

Publishing Board

An additional step in a plan, authorized
previously by the committee, was taken to
place Northwest literature evangelists
directly under a support system operated by
the North Pacific Union Conference office,
effective Jan. 1, 1992.

Under this plan, local conferences will
close their publishing offices; however,
approximately the same level of support for
literature evangelists will be given by district
publishing directors operating directly under
the auspices of the North Pacific Union
Conference office, at a conservatively-
valued annual savings of \$120,000, accord-
ing to Mel Lyon, NPUC publishing director.