



Ed Schwisow

When You Go Back to Church

By Ed Schwisow

Ed Schwisow is editor of the GLEANER.



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There's a passion for mission and ministry in Northwest Adventism in 1993 and it's time to look more closely at what local Adventist houses of worship have to offer us.

As Alden Thompson notes in his column this issue, the church is now rightly being recognized (and with biblical precedent) as a place where Christians of similar ideals, over-achievers, middling achievers and just plain underachievers can all gain strength together, and do it candidly without hurting feelings, without judging and without browbeating.

We all need the honest care of others; we all are strengthened by the disinterested offer of assistance; we all grow by offering the same to others.

And if, in the past, any particular congregation has allowed sentiments of a different order to call the tune, it's refreshing to note that, at heart, churches known as Seventh-day Adventist remain highly motivated to respond to need (see *Operation Bearhug*), highly caring for the world (see Adventist Development and Relief Agency) and highly conscious of a worldwide need for Jesus Christ (see *Global Mission*.)

Recent failings, it seems, lie at the door of some who may have turned aside from the "big mission," to micro-managing church image. ("We want a certain kind of fellow member; we want a certain kind of music; we want a certain kind of preacher, and if we can't have it all, we're going to lean on people until we get it, or we're going to stay home with our checkbooks. So there!")

The interesting thing is that the Lord has used the world situation to help reawaken us to the true motive for coming together in mission and in community.

The time is ripe to revive the society-tarnished words of John F. Kennedy and to declare: "I'm not asking what the church can do for me; I'm asking what I can do through the church." Aptly it has been said that in putting service to God and others first, all other needs will be added unto us.

Over the years, as I have debated the value of church attendance, as I've felt discomfort in ritualized "corporate worship," as I've looked for food for the soul and found only food for the mind, or worse, food for debate with fellow Christians, I've asked myself, "How should we approach going to church, and especially, going BACK to church?"

First, some thoughts about the "older brothers and sisters" who you'll find still going to

church. (And, by the way, they too may have been "out," for several years while you were gone; don't take anything for granted.)

Remember, the banquet for the prodigal seems to have been primarily for the benefit of those who had stayed by, and secondarily for the prodigal. Dad needed to cut loose! It was his joy that was being celebrated, not the comfort, necessarily, of the prodigal. Imagine, at least, the initial embarrassment of the prodigal, his guilt, his rage at a father who would make such a big deal about what the prodigal had hoped would be a private, behind-the-servant-quarters arrangement! But the celebration, or rite, of passage was necessary, in the long run. Joy left unexpressed will eventually be questioned, at another time, at another place. A wayfarer may be embarrassed when someone welcomes him back with a hug and tears. But such should be indulged. The memory, in time, will be precious to both.

But now, a word to the "older brothers and sisters," who stayed by. Remember, the returning brother or sister is probably not coming back to church to talk about how fine it was out there all alone. He's not coming back in order to slice off a contingent of membership to start a new cult or special-interest party in fringe land.

So talk about the future, where you plan to go as a church, by the grace of God, and seek his counsel on how he would like to see the church move, and how he can begin to help move the mission ahead. Talk about love for God, the Prime Influence in your life, and share your testimony and experience in prayer and devotions, no preaching, just conversational sharing, as the Lord directs. Do it openly, unaffectedly, without fear. It's what churches are for! Make the newcomer your trusted friend, then introduce him to other friends. Bring him into a study or support group. Concentrate on the joy of the Christian life, and how much the newcomer and his talents can add to the local church.

There's joy in heaven when a wayfarer returns. "Rejoice with me," is a divine commission. Have you recently come back to your church home; have you welcomed others back to church? Share your thoughts with your fellow GLEANER readers. We'd like to know your feelings, your observations, why you returned, or plan to return, to church fellowship, or what is keeping you from such a move. At this time in world history, the church needs all of us, and all of us need the church, as never before. Let's share together in issues to come. Share your experience with me through a letter or short (600 words or so) article. ➔

ABOUT THE COVER

According to photographer Eugene Lambert, Lost Lake is one of Oregon's finest scenic areas and certainly one of the most photographed. Lost Lake, 25 miles from Hood River and northeast of Mt. Hood, is the cover scene for the Feb. 1, 1993, GLEANER. Lambert took this picture in May 1987, at 9:30 p.m., with a Canon F1 camera and a 28-85 zoom lens on Kodachrome 64 film.



▲ Few if any seats remained vacant for the opening service in the sanctuary.



▲ Pastor Don Driver portrays Joseph in an opening presentation in the new sanctuary.



▲ Deacon's gather an offering, the first taken in the new sanctuary.



▲ A women's trio consisting of Doris Raines, Louise Driver and Pat O'Neil perform a Christmas seasonal number.

A Bearhug From the Heart

By Todd Gessele

Todd Gessele writes from Portland, Ore., where he is an intern in the North Pacific Union Communication Department.

Last Christmas I couldn't have bought a plane ticket to Moscow even if I had wanted to. Yet deep down inside I desperately wanted to be included in the excitement of *Operation Bearhug*.

My chance to become involved came when I received a memo stating that the employees at the North Pacific Union Conference office, that meant me, were invited to adopt a Russian extended family of 17 living in Portland, Ore., along with the support staff at the Oregon Conference office. For seven of the children it was to be their first Christmas in America! For the others, it was to be their third.

"Here's something I can do," I thought to myself. "Not everyone needs a plane ticket to Russia to become involved in *Operation Bearhug*." I kept reading. The memo suggested we divide ourselves up into groups and purchase a brand-new outfit for one individual in the family. A list of the each family member's sizes was attached.

When Kerrie, my wife, dashed by the GLEANER office

at lunchtime with a sandwich, I showed her the memo. We decided to participate in a Christmas that neither the Russian family nor those of us who adopted them will soon forget.

The morning of Dec. 22 was filled with excitement and wrapping paper. The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) boardroom began filling-up with gift wrapped packages of food, blankets, toys, warm coats and new outfits for each member of the family. Ethel Rieley and Della Keele of the NPUC office organized the gifts into piles for each family member. Lorraine Johnston brought a carload of packages from the Oregon Conference office. NPUC employees loaded the gifts into two vans and set off to pick up the Russian family.

Not everyone needs a plane ticket to Russia to actively get involved in Operation Bearhug.



▲ The Russian family which the Oregon Conference office staff and employees of the North Pacific Union Conference office adopted at Christmas watched the lighted Christmas ships pass by Waterfront Park in front of the Salmon Street Fountain in downtown Portland.

Colored strings of lights flashed past the van windows. The night was clear and crisp beneath southeast Portland's sleepy street lamps. As our vans pulled into a dark parking lot below the three-bedroom apartment, the 17 Russians were sharing, we wondered just how the evening would turn out. Previous arrangements had been made through a translator to take the Russian family to see the Christmas lights of

Do people really live in those houses?

Portland's Peacock Lane as well as the Christmas boats on the Willamette River. But tonight our translator was sick.

Smiling Russian faces greeted us and invited us in. The children's eyes were filled with excitement. What happened next was a like a grand game of "Actionary." We began to make motions to explain that we needed to unload some of the gifts we had brought for them or we wouldn't be able to all fit into the vans. They looked puzzled. Then the children caught on and began to rattle off Russian to their parents. Back outside they eagerly unloaded the gifts and we heard the children speaking English. We piled back into the vans and headed for Peacock Lane. For the rest of the evening the children served as our translators.

A horse-drawn carriage stepped right in behind our van and followed us as we drove down Peacock Lane. As



▲ Several of the children recite short works in Russian, one of which outlines the life of David.

the Christmas lights and outstanding yard decorations slipped slowly by our van windows one of the Russians asked "Do people really live in those houses?" When we assured him that they do, he told us that in Russia it is often difficult to find a single light bulb to replace one that has burned out.

We arrived in downtown Portland just in time to see the Hawthorn drawbridge lift and allow the Christmas ships to pass by. After a short stop at the Leonard Crale House, which was completely decorated with every Christmas item imaginable, and a live Santa Claus who passed out free candy canes, we arrived ready for hot chocolate and holiday goodies at Marcia Stanton's house in Northwest Portland. Marcia is the secretary for the NPUC Trust Service department. There we planned to give them their new outfits, gifts and toys.

After we had distributed the gifts, we were the ones in for the real treat. They began singing "Silent Night" in Russian and invited us to join them. Several of the children recited short works in Russian, one of which outlined the life of David. The evening ended with laughter as Don Keele played back the video footage he had taken that evening of our activities together. It all added up to a *Bearhug* style Christmas we shall never forget. 🐻



▲ Christmas American style, hot chocolate, popcorn balls and cookies greet the Russians at Marcia Stanton's house.



Building Blocks

The Puzzle of Parenting

By Lynette Anderson

Lynette Anderson is a social worker on staff with Project PATCH (Planned Assistance for Troubled Children), and writes from Clackamas, Ore.

Parenting is one of the most challenging occupations. Job descriptions and instruction manuals are not provided. Rewards are not immediate. Performance evaluations rarely come in, and the feedback received is not always valid. Little wonder that many parents feel inadequate.

The goal of Christian parenting is to guide children into responsible adulthood as committed Christians capable of serving society.

The problem is in that long and event-filled journey between Point A to Point B. The pink or blue bundle which arrived soon grows and attempts to control the family. Therein lies the challenge: When and how much control does one give the child?

Children must learn appropriate control early on. They must learn to control themselves and their actions and be responsible for the consequences, from learning to walk to whom to date. Self esteem and self confidence develop only as children take responsibility. Each success strengthens their confidence so they are eager to succeed at the next challenge.

But what about the child who doesn't succeed? How about the adolescent who consistently makes poor choices? What parent hasn't looked back and known there was a better way to handle a crisis? Since a second chance is not possible, perhaps some of the following suggestions will help:

1. Respect your child. Remember that he or she was created by God and has a special place in His plan. Find time for your child and demonstrate how much you love, value and accept him or her. It is by your actions that children learn how God values and loves them.

2. Be willing to apologize and admit when you are wrong. Children already know when you've blown it.

They will gain respect for you when they see you acknowledge and amend your errors.

3. Be consistent in your expectations. If the behavior of your two-year-old won't be appreciated at age seven, don't encourage it now. Don't allow jumping on the furniture unless it is going to remain a trampoline.

4. Are your rules or restrictions based upon your own upbringing or are they a matter of eternal consequences? Some children will and do rebel against matters of eternal consequence. Yes, your child knows your values and expectations but may seriously question the strength of your love and acceptance. The potential for a child to return after rebelling is greater if he or she knows mom and dad (and God) still love them regardless of their actions. (Luke 15 and Genesis 3).

5. Encourage children to make choices within appropriate and expanding boundaries. Small children must learn to face the results of both poor and wise decisions. While they are small, parents can help heal most hurts. The older the child becomes, the more difficult it is to impose external controls or correct wrongs.

6. Try a little humor. Anger may instill momentary fear, forcing the child to temporally respond, but humor will leave the child with more dignity and greater respect for you and your disciplinary measures.

Remember that life consists of a series of choices, and learning to make the right choice can hurt. Once a child has the self control to make good choices, he or she will also have ability to choose a positive Christian lifestyle. ➤

Project Patch: Confidential questions on family or relationship concerns may be made directly to Project PATCH by phoning (503) 653-8086 or writing Project PATCH at 13455 S.E. 97th Ave., Clackamas, OR 97015-9798.

Pre-Retirement Seminars in Seattle Area

Those now retired, or planning for retirement, who wish to better structure their retirement living, are invited to attend free seminars in the Seattle area this month.

The seminars will provide information on retirement options, lifestyle structuring, housing, leisure management, post-retirement employment, money management, fraud protection and common mistakes to avoid.

The seminars are sponsored by the Washington

Conference Senior Ministries Department, Jerry Brass, director.

Identical seminars will be held in the local Seventh-day Adventist churches, as follows. All seminars will convene from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Feb. 6	Tacoma (Central)
Feb. 13	Sequim
Feb. 27	Shoreline

For additional information, phone (206) 481-7171. ➤



IDAHO



Eastern Oregon Pastor Returns From Russia

"With the Russian economy a total disaster, people there don't have any hope," said Roger Martin, discussing a recently concluded evangelistic trip to Sochi, Russia. "That's what we tried to offer them—hope in the Lord."

Martin, who pastors the Baker City and Richland, Ore., churches, recently completed a five-week campaign in Sochi, a major city on the Black Sea. He was accompanied by his wife, Nancy, and church members Jerry and Toni Nickell.

Martin termed the campaign a success, with nearly 2,000 people a night, six nights a week, attending the sessions. Toward the end of the tour, 160 Russians were baptized, resulting in more than doubling the Adventist membership in Sochi and the establishment of a new congregation.

Jerry Nickell, team medical missionary director, said he could sense a thirst for spiritual things, but noted that much of this thirst is directed toward psychic phenomena and spiritism.

Advertising for the meetings was done by means of fliers and posters placed throughout the city by church members. As a result, team members were recog-

nized wherever they went.

During the campaign, 2,000 Russian-language Bibles were distributed to adults, and several hundred children's Bibles were also given away. The team visited schools, trying to give a quick overview of the Bible in one-hour presentations. The five-day stop smoking program and classes on nutrition were conducted for those interested, and clothing and teaching aids were given to area churches.

The Russians weren't the only ones affected by the campaign. The Americans learned that the people of Russia are, as a whole, loving and caring, and cited a number of instances where individuals went out of their way to assist them and display hospitality.

"They are also appreciative that the message had come to Sochi, and are thrilled with their newly found freedom to worship according to their beliefs," said Nickell.

During the years of communist rule, they could only meet secretly in homes, rotating the meeting places so the KGB wouldn't find them. It was common for pastors to be frequently interrogated.

Before the team left Russia, dignitaries presented Pastor Martin with a key to the city and extended their greetings to the people of Baker County.

Jay Sublett and Stella Carter

Students Help Others in Caldwell Fund-Raiser

The Caldwell Church Fun Fair on the afternoon of Nov. 15 was not only a fundraiser for different groups, it was a learning experience for some of the classes at the Adventist elementary school.

The third graders, under the direction of JoAnn Washburn, used this occasion to help learn responsibility for money and tithing as they sold popcorn.

The fourth-grade class had a fish pond with live goldfish to take home for those who could catch any. They also set up an obstacle course. They will be sending the money they raised to Russia, according to their teacher, Alda Willis.

A penny toss benefited the junior Sabbath school class in paying for needed supplies, and the cradle roll leaders sold desserts and baked goods to help pay for needed storage cupboards.

A community services booth with handmade quilts, kitchen towels, nachos and drink, attracted business, as did homemade bread being sold to raise money for the church organ fund.

Burgers and brownies from the women's ministries and deaconesses booth raised money for a needy family's Christmas gifts.

The Saturday Morning Wake-Up Club (earliteens) sponsored by Glen and Shelley Robinson, raised money for a mission project called Christians In Action, where they help others anonymously. To benefit this program they sold soup, chili, rolls and bread.

The most popular booth at the fair was the dunk tank provided by the eighth grade class and their teacher, Mark Quinn.



Roger Martin, pastor of the Baker City and Richland churches, participated in the baptisms of 160 people in Sochi, Russia, both in this pool and in the Black Sea.

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.
Isaiah 12:2 — Handbook of Scriptures to Grow On



Community services director Lurye Leinberger arranges homemade bread for sale at the Church Fun Fair.

Pendleton-Area Members Rejoice in Blessings of 1992

During the past year, the Pendleton, Ore., and Pilot Rock, Ore., churches have combined foreign mission outreach with local church growth in an unprecedented way, according to Duane McKey, pastor.

He cites the experience predicted by Ellen White in her book, *Gospel Workers*, on page 465 as descriptive of the situation in the district: "To show a liberal, self-denying spirit for the success of foreign missions is a sure way to advance home missionary work; for the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries far off."

Foreign Outreach

In the first overseas project of the past year, Carol Easley, a Pendleton church member, visited Zimbabwe and returned to raise \$5,000 to fill a shipping container with clothing for the poor of Zimbabwe. Both churches in the district collected the clothing, and Bessie McGuire, a member of the Pilot Rock church, went to San Francisco to oversee the packing of the container in association with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

In a second foreign venture, the establishment of a new church in St. Petersburg, Russia was adopted as a "Sister Church Project." More than \$8,000 was raised for a new church building in St. Petersburg and for felts and other supplies used in evangelistic meetings. The juniors in the Pendleton church raised \$350 from a Sunday car wash for the project.

During 1992, Pastor McKey held evangelistic meetings in St. Petersburg, Russia, and from those meetings, 405 persons were baptized in June, and an additional 150 were enrolled in baptismal classes.

At the same time, workshops and child evangelistic meetings were conducted by Joy Stewart, assisted by Don Stewart and Kathy McKey.

In August, Jon and Cheryl Wagner of the Pendleton church went to Magadan, Russia and helped with the Upper Columbia Conference project to con-

struct a church building and hold evangelistic meetings. Jon returned to Russia in October to oversee the completion of the church building project.

Thus far 278 have been baptized as a new church is being established in Magadan.

Local Church Growth

At the beginning of 1992, the church members began praying that the local church would be blessed with 92 baptisms in 1992 in the Pendleton and Pilot Rock churches. With the help of evangelists Dale Brussett and Bill Zima from the Mid-America Union, that goal was attained in August, despite the fact that the population base of the entire district is only 15,000 persons.

Brussett held a series of public evangelistic meetings which began in January. Zima followed up with a special home evangelistic series.

Following the Brussett meetings in February, a local GLIA (God's Love In Action) leader, Terrie Obrist, organized small Bible study groups on Wednesday nights where both newer and some older members continued to study Revelation seminar lessons, helping to firmly ground

new members in their faith. In October they studied last-day events.

Has all of the giving to foreign missions hurt giving for local needs? Apparently not, says McKey, for the local budget is in the black and tithe increased by \$25,000 during the first half of 1992.

In further local activities, the first Harris Pine Mills reunion was held the second week of August with Ralph Watts, ADRA president, as the featured speaker. The reunion, under the leadership of Jim and Sylvia Wells, gave time for greeting old friends and reflecting upon good old days, according to the pastor. Several hundreds of guests attended the reunion from "Everywhere, USA."

Also carried forward this past year was a tour of historical Adventist sites in New England with 40 participants and a youth Maranatha-type project to Hawaii organized by Pastor Mark Aiona.

The combination of foreign and local outreach has brought unparalleled blessings to the Pendleton/Pilot Rock District, according to the pastor, and continues in the new year.



Young members of a local Sabbath school division operate a car wash to raise funds for building a church in St. Petersburg, Russia.

I am living and strong! I look after you and care for you. I am like an evergreen tree, yielding my fruit to you throughout the year. My mercies never fail.

Hosea 14:8 TLB

Their Faith Shines Through Their Food

A marathon runner sits at a table, gulping down his cashew cheese lasagna.

"I've eaten here four or five times," he says. "I have a race in a week and a half so I am eating a lot of carbohydrates, very little fat and few sweets."

"I'm here to get my ice cream" says a teen as he walks in.

A group of college students ask for tea while business professionals chat over brimming plates.

The place is Eat Rite Restaurant, Adventist-member-owned health food store and eatery, featuring vegetarian cookery without the use of dairy products or sugar.

"Our goal is to enlighten the world," says co-owner Rahela Vrbeta. "Ellen White wrote that the health message is the right arm of the Three Angels messages. We are trying to use the simplicity of the right arm to open the door to people's hearts."

"See that sign," says her husband and business partner Boris Vrbeta. "It is the reason we are here." The "sign" consists of letters on the wall which read, "I am the living bread, — John 6:51." Beside the text is a picture of harvesters in a field.

"Our customers don't know it but they are the harvest," says Rahela. "For we are planting seeds which God will harvest."

"Many people come in here," she continues, "and we are able to tell them about the link between mind, body, and soul."

Rahela began experimenting with

what she calls, "a strict vegetarian diet" around 1970. "I used to be a gourmet cook," she says, "but I kept being impressed to cook healthier. One day I couldn't ignore the impression any longer. I vowed that I would begin cooking healthier even if it meant we would just eat peanut butter sandwiches."

Now a buffet with rice-filled cabbage rolls, vegetarian oat and sunflower-seed steaks, tofu burgers, wholewheat enchiladas and Mexican lasagna combined with a health food store which displays candy bars, take-home entrees, pastries, breads, natural seasonings and ice cream (Supreme Delight which will soon be marketed), Eat Rite Restaurant has come a long way since butter sandwiches.



Boris and Rahela Vrbeta, owners of Eat Rite Restaurant, stand in front of the sign that has become their motto.

And for dessert, why not some cooking lessons and Bible studies?

Cindy Chamberlin wrote this feature while serving last summer as undergraduate communication intern for the Upper Columbia Conference. She is now continuing her studies at Walla Walla College in College Place, Wash.



Gary Ewer, marathon runner of Spokane, Wash., gets an ice cream cone at Eat Rite Restaurant.

Hermiston Students Give Russian Bibles

Nineteen third and fourth grade students of Hermiston Junior Academy in Hermiston, Ore., are raising funds to buy Bibles for distribution in Magadan, Russia. To date, \$100 has been raised.

The project, begun last school year, was recently given another boost when it was learned that "people in Russia were tearing Bibles apart so as to share God's Word with as many people as possible."

After hearing the report, Ginger Brockman asked her pupils to respond "from the heart."

"We decided we could go without candy bars and little things we don't need," she added.

The funds will be sent to the Upper Columbia Conference, which will help facilitate the delivery of the Bibles.

Joyce D. Klocko

Clarkston Members Look Back on Good Year

As Clarkston, Wash., members look back on 1992, they note many blessings received during the calendar year, including spiritual renewal and church growth.

On March 28, Mandy Jo Hebard, a member of the junior division Sabbath school class, was baptized, followed by the baptism of Crystal Gardner, a member of the youth Sabbath school group.

Stan Savage, a former Baptist and Assemblies of God minister, joined the Clarkston church on May 2 by profession of faith. In his searching of the Scriptures, he became convinced of the importance of Sabbath observance. After months of study with Glyn Marsh, a local physician, he joined the church, and last month he began ministry as a Bible worker.

Karen Ellison, another junior Sabbath

school member, was baptized on May 23. Her grandfather is a minister and came to Clarkston to perform the service.

Ann Ferguson rejoined the Clarkston congregation by profession of faith on Oct. 10. A pastor in Newport, Ore., had helped her understand that "no one should be allowed to rob you of your faith and Christian experience."

Average weekly attendance has nearly doubled in the last three years. An increasing number of members are devoting their talents and expertise in ministry. Special musical programs are being presented quarterly. Support groups, home cells and study groups are springing up in homes as well as in Sabbath school. The result is greater outreach to others and a growing fellowship.

Sylvia Barnett

Have You Prayed Today?

Russian Sister Church Adopted By Puyallup Members



The Puyallup and North Hill churches have adopted a sister congregation in Serpuhkov, Russia, following guest evangelistic meetings conducted there by Larry Zuchowski, pastor of the two Washington congregations.

Seventy Russian persons were baptized after attending the five-week series last October and November, bringing the total Adventist membership in that town to 87.

"One of the things I learned first hand is that the people are the same everywhere. Whether in Russia or the United States, we all have a spiritual need that can only be filled by God," said Zuchowski.

Zuchowski preached two sermons a night, five times a week, in Serpuhkov, a city just south of Moscow. Each hall in which he preached seated 800. Wintry weather, lack of good heating in the facilities and many other hardships, did not deter the 1,200 to 1,300 people who attended nightly.

"The people in Russia have their priorities straight. While they may be physically hungry at times, they do not let their physical hunger supersede their desire to learn about God," Zuchowski said.

Looking ahead, the two churches now are banding together to raise \$50,000 to \$70,000 to construct a church building that will accommodate 300. Zuchowski said a facility is a necessity for the fledgling congregation.

"The people have to have a center out of which they can work. . . . They need to have something they can call their own," he said. "I can speak for the majority of my church members when I

say we are willing to do whatever it takes to raise this money so they can have a place to worship."

Approximately \$5,000, left over from the \$21,000 members donated for the mission, will go toward the building fund. The Washington Conference has given \$2,000.

Lenard Jaecks, Washington Conference president, said: "The conference is exceedingly grateful for the initiative of the congregations. It is one of the most enriching experiences for a congregation and a pastor. Having an opportunity to do this broadens, enriches and refreshes. The conference is very proud of the Puyallup church and the North Hill church."

Zuchowski hopes to visit the church this year to review progress.

Jennifer Wynn writes from Puyallup, Wash.



Pastor Larry Zuchowski, right, stands next to interpreter Andre Nikittin after one of the evangelistic meetings he conducted in Serpuhkov, Russia.



Pastor Larry Zuchowski meets with some of the younger people who attended the five-week evangelistic series in Serpuhkov, Russia.

WASHINGTON NEWS

AAA Students Go 'Where No Teen Has Served Before'

Thirty student volunteers from Auburn Adventist Academy are making plans to travel this spring into the jungles of Thailand to help to build a jungle school.

"The response was incredible," says D. Wayne Culmore, academy principal, of student response to the call for help. "Over 100 students were eager to go into the jungle, swat insects, endure tropical heat, live without electricity, bathe in the river, instead of

enjoying a leisurely spring break."

Of these 100, 30 will soon travel, as they say, "to boldly serve where no teen has served before," and to build the first permanent structure at a jungle school called Eden Valley Academy, on the Thai-Burmese border.

After the flights from Seattle to Bangkok, the group will board an all-night bus for the town of Mae Sot, transfer to the back of pick-up trucks for a 60-mile ride, and backpack an hour through the jungle to reach their destination.

"ThaiTrek is definitely not a vacation," says John Neumann, co-coordinator of the

mission project. "It's only for the most adventuresome, adaptable, committed young people, and we feel we've chosen just such a group. They will work harder than they've ever worked in their lives and will love it!"

A physician and nurse, parents of one of the ThaiTrek travelers, will also join the trip to provide medical check-ups for Eden Valley Academy students and area villagers as well as to care for AAA students.

Providing educational materials is also a part of the project. Books in all areas of study are needed, particularly in the areas of science and geography, to assist in the

By the refreshments there is also an offering stocking that gives people an opportunity to participate in the Christmas spirit of giving. Rather than collecting money for the church, however, the donations are given to Source Child Center, a local home for intellectually impaired and emotionally disturbed children.

"Because of the enormous exposure the drive-through gives us in our community," North Creek Pastor Karl Haffner explains, "we saw this as a good opportunity to give something back. So we brought the kids from Source Child Center to our church for the honorary ride in the carriage. Also, each night we collected donations for the center. It was something small we could do for the kids in our neighborhood."

After two-and-a-half hours of operating the drive-through, the 57 volunteers met in the church to share stories and unpeel the layers of coats. One of the excited volunteers was Arlyn Livingston, a nursing home administrator who lives within two miles of the church.

"In the first hour," Arlyn shared on Sunday night, "three packed vans and two full cars—all neighbors of mine—came through. They all had glowing reports about the drive-through. One friend said she was so impressed with the creativity of our church, she's planning to come to our worship service. Now that's significant!"

Significant indeed is Arlyn's story when you visit the posh neighborhood where these neighbors live. They come from exclusive estates—traditionally a very difficult market to reach with any religious message.

When asked about the future for the drive-through, Pastor Haffner remarked: "We'll keep doing it each year as long as it continues to be an effective tool in infiltrating this community with the story of Jesus. That's what this church is all about." 🐾



▲ Shepherds cower in the night.



▲ Herod raps a challenge to the Newborn.

KGB Founder's Son Brings Bearhug to America

By Ed Schwisow

Ed Schwisow is editor of the GLEANER and writes from Portland, Ore.

As a child, Leonid Fundo's relatives would point to a simple table in their living room and tell him: That table is where Lenin and Trotsky sat. It's where they planned the revolution with your grandfather."

The table became a relic of the days early in the century when Leonid's grandfather, Levi Matthew Braginski, had served as Bolshevik revolutionary apostle and co-founder of the KGB, the Soviet secret police.

"He was a revolutionary, just like I was when I became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1981," says Leonid in accented but fluent English. "That's what my grandmother told me. She said, 'You look like him, and now you're acting like him.'"

"The difference is that he wanted to bring hope through government. I've taken a different approach."

Leonid, at age 33, serves as assistant pastor of a Seventh-day Adventist church in Moscow, a congregation raised up to contain the overflow from recent evangelistic crusades.

"My grandfather was a Jew, as were 80 percent of the founding communists in Russia. Lenin was part Jewish himself. Most of the technical people of the day, the intelligentsia, were Jewish," explains Fundo.

"Many of them thought they were sincerely doing good for their people, though in the end communism turned out to be just another dictatorship. But it was different in one way: as embodied by Stalin, who was in training as a priest when he joined the communist movement, it became even more cynical and opportunistic than any czar had ever been before, including Ivan the Terrible."

Reared an atheist, he joined the "True and Faithful Witnesses," in 1981 after a crisis in his life had driven him to near suicide. This Sabbatarian church with its close ties to Seventh-day Adventist doctrine, was known as the "Catacomb Church," because of its emphasis upon remaining an underground movement and having no dealings with mainline communist society.

"This was quite a change for me, the grandson of the co-founder of the KGB," says Fundo. "But I had lost hope; I needed something to believe in. There was just nothing there without faith."

In late January, Fundo, his wife and two toddlers conducted a speaking tour in Western Oregon, under auspices of *Operation Bearhug*, which not only promotes evangelism and church growth in Russia, but also brings Russians to the United States to share first-hand accounts of their experience.

As he traveled, speaking up to three times a day, Fundo cradled a notebook filled with yellowing documents signed with flourishes of quill pens and bearing photographs of somber young men in turn-of-the-century Russian garb.

"These are original KGB documents from my grandfather's file," he explains. "These papers tell the story of his life."

The story is that of a young man in turn-of-the-century Russia with a brilliant mind and an even more incandescent urge to make things better for his people. He would serve as friend and counselor of the highest communist leaders until bad health, brought about by shock at the atrocities of Stalin, drove him from power, Leonid says.

"If he had not lost his health, he would have been killed by Stalin. Eighty million persons were killed. But my grandfather was permitted to live because he was now partly paralyzed from a stroke."

But Leonid is hardly paralyzed by his ministry, which includes a great deal of translating from English to Russian,

as he did for Bruce Johnston during a series of evangelistic meetings in St. Petersburg in 1991.

"The days are numbered for freedom of religion in Russia," he warns, "and we must do all we can now, before repression comes again. And we are already feeling it."

In 1985, Leonid left the "True and Faithful Witnesses," primarily, as he puts it, "because I felt they were emphasizing the wrong thing, the principle of loyalty above the principle of love, to an extreme degree. There was no smiling, no happiness. The emphasis was upon bearing up under persecution."

His belief that persecution will re-emerge in Russia, and soon, however, has not thrown him back into the arms of the Catacomb Church; rather, it has reignited his congenital fervor to move quickly in Russia, while the doors of full freedom remain open.

"There has never before been freedom in Russia," he pronounces with awe. "This is the true reformation; the first Russia has had, perhaps the last. This is the reformation the rest of Europe experienced 400 years ago. Now it's come to Russia."

He believes that the message of Seventh-day Adventism is an ideal theology for the Russia of today, a belief system that appeals to the mind as well as to the emotions, that helps in the here and now as well as in the hereafter.

He intends to remain "revolutionary," in Russia. "The same forces that have existed in Russia for more than 1,000 years remain, the forces of mysticism are strong, and gaining power. Now is the time to speak out, while people are listening, while they're looking for something, anything, better than the past.

"Already, Russians are being taught to look on the czarist past with pride, with a sense that this period was good, the communist era bad. In all of this chaos, people are looking for any kind of stability, and for Russia, stability has meant repression."

He works long into the night translating sermons and books for the Russian people, even as he travels from church to church, speaking out, thanking Americans for their help, urging them forward without delay, for the time is short.

"*Operation Bearhug* is only the beginning. Imagine that bear hug in heaven when we all meet there. This is just the beginning. I can hardly wait." ➔



Leonid Fundo and family recently toured the Northwest bearing the *Operation Bearhug* message, "Time is short."

StayWell The Gift

By Janet Wilkinson

Janet Wilkinson writes from Yakima, Wash.

It's undeserved. You can't earn it, win it or repay it. The gift is given freely, motivated by the love of the Giver.

The gift is grace, or salvation, and more. It's forgiveness. It's knowing you're accepted. It's extravagant love. It's freedom.

Yet, many Christians act as if there's something they must do to earn God's acceptance, something they must do to pay Him back. They think that if they work hard enough, they will earn His approval. But a gift is based on what the giver does, not on what the receiver does to earn it.

God longs for each of us to fully receive this gift. Ephesians 1:6-8 talks about the riches of God's grace which He has freely given us; that He has lavished on us.

It's a little like giving your spouse a dozen red roses for her birthday. That's riches. But if you want to give abundantly, lavishly, you send her 36 dozen roses. That's how much grace God desires to pour out on you.

How do you know if you're living in grace? How do you know if you've truly accepted His gift? For one, you are free. There's freedom from guilt. You stop feeling driven. The anxiety that comes from bondage begins to lift. There's joy!

Jesus says, "You did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the spirit of sonship. We are God's children." (Romans 8:15)

Freedom doesn't come from trying to be free by your own works or strivings. If the Son makes you free you will be free indeed.

Let HIM set you free. It's His gift to you. ➔



Mentor Graphics is a world leader in electronic design automation software and systems. The gift is the largest corporate or individual gift ever received by WWC.

Students will use the same electronic tools used by engineers who design integrated circuits used in telecommunications and entertainment systems, automotive and flight electronics and electronic appliances.

"This software will have a significant effect on senior design projects," says Larry Aamodt, assistant professor of engineering/computer science. "Students will have access to industry-standard programs for

design projects. They won't be limited by the design tools."

Because of the software's options and versatility, students can explore alternatives quickly, preparing them for an industry where speed from concept to marketplace is critical to competitiveness, he said.

"Competitive designs also require a team approach," says Aamodt. "This integrated software will give us this option."

At least two upper-division design classes will begin using this software winter quarter, 1993. Eventually, it will be integrated into all classes where simula-

tion is used.

The gift provides licenses for 10 work stations in engineering's SUN computer lab. The existence of the SUN lab was a key factor in the corporation's decision to donate the software. The work station was installed in 1991 and funded through a \$80,000 grant from the Murdock Charitable Trust.

Rosa Jimenez

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
Philippians 4:13 KJV



ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM/WEST



AHS/West Goes to Russia A Journey 'Good for the Soul'

It was time for Rodney Applegate, president of Walla Walla General Hospital, in Walla Walla, Wash., to leave Russia, and Ljubov Gordeeva, M.D., was bidding him good-bye.

"Son," she said, "you can leave my hospital, but not my heart."

Applegate replied, "I have one wish for you, babushka, that you will learn to know my Jesus."

"Maybe someday," she said. "Just maybe someday."

Gordeeva is the chief physician at the children's hospital in Magadan, Siberia. She and Applegate met and developed a close friendship during his recent trip to Magadan to deliver medical supplies in conjunction with *Operation Bearhug*, a partnership developed between Northwestern and Russian Adventists for evangelism and development.

With a population of 400,000 people, the city of Magadan formerly served as a penal colony with "gulags" where dissidents were exiled. Many Magadan residents today are descendants or family members of prisoners.

When Applegate, his wife, Marilyn, and their son, Mark, traveled to Magadan, they took with them medical supplies valued at approximately \$250,000 and weighing 245 lbs. The supplies, mostly medicines, were donated by Walla Walla General Hospital, its staff and physicians and

various pharmaceutical companies.

While in Magadan, Applegate was hosted by the director of the Ministry of Health for the region, Alexander Goncharov. Through this contact, Applegate was able to tour many of the medical facilities and learn much about the healthcare needs in the area.

"The people are in dire need of medical supplies we find commonplace. They have little or no supply of antibiotics, bandages and the simplest of equipment," said Applegate. "There are rumors of surgeries being done without anesthesia, for example."

While the supplies that Applegate delivered will be helpful, much more is needed. Since his return, Applegate has been working to help the Magadan Ministry of Health to stretch its budget by purchasing through volume discount contracts held by Adventist Health System/West and by arranging for shipment of donated equipment and medical supplies.

Goncharov was so impressed by Applegate's interest and willingness to help that he returned with Applegate for a visit to Walla Walla General Hospital.

While in Walla Walla, Goncharov was introduced to more than just how Walla Walla General Hospital provides healthcare for its patients. He also learned about how Seventh-day Adventist Christians run their organizations and live day-to-day. He stayed in the Applegate's home, sharing meals, mealtime blessings and



Ljubov Gordeeva and a staff physician visit with a mother and her two daughters, both of whom were admitted with meningitis to the children's hospital in Magadan, Siberia.

family worship time.

Although he spoke and listened through an interpreter during most of his visit to Walla Walla, Goncharov made it a special point to say goodbye himself, in English. While waiting for the plane that would start him on his journey home, he held up one finger to indicate that what he was about to say was very important.

"This visit with you has been good for me," he said in halting English. "This visit with you has been good for my soul."

Carol Tilstra Nash is a writer for the Walla Walla General Hospital communications department.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters Policy: Letters to the GLEANER editor are welcome. Letters must be signed and should not exceed 150 words in length. Letter writers are urged to limit their letters to commentary on editorial matter appearing in the journal, and should specifically refer to the issue date and article in question. Priority will be given to letters received by the editor within 45 days of the cover date of issue in ques-

tion. Letters which direct personal criticism at individuals will not be printed; conversely, letters which promote a person by name or description for gratuitous praise will be declined for publication. Highest priority will be given to letters which add information and commentary, pro and con, to material appearing in this journal. Address letters to Editor, Box 16677, Portland, OR 97216-0677.

Impassive Victim

I'm responding to Darrel Rue's article, "On Confronting The One You Despise," which appeared in the Jan. 18 GLEANER.

"Vernon" violated Rue's home and marriage. He was ill; a criminal. We excuse and allow people like him by saying, "It's God's job to judge," "Pray for love to change his heart," etc. But how does God "change a heart?"

It's documented that physical and sexual victimizers of adults and children are most effectively treated within a "structured" environment which may mean prosecuting so that they are required to receive treatment by mental health professionals. With help they acknowledge their crime, confront their true motivation to victimize and develop the "change of heart" which frees them from the compulsion to re-offend. It's still a miracle; an answer to prayer. It just isn't instant or easy.

Mr. Rue's "temple" was violated as was Christ's. His answer to prayer may have been the very God-given anger (urging him to protect himself) that he felt guilty about. I don't believe God requires me to be a passive victim but rather requires me not to be. I believe in loving myself as He loves me — in living not in the imitation of Christ's holiness, but rather living out my own wholeness as Christ lived out His.

Renee Haynes
Sandy, Ore.

Answered Mail

I was disappointed to read a letter in the Feb. 1 GLEANER complaining about editorial comments. Are these letters not addressed to the editor? If so, it would seem appropriate for the editor to comment.

Keep up the good work, everyone who is responsible for this excellent periodical!

Vivienne Rich
Sandpoint, Idaho

Rite or Left?

I am very interested in the Eat Rite Restaurant which was featured in the March 1 issue of the GLEANER. But where is it located? At College Place, Wash., or in Spokane, Wash.?

If it is in College Place I would like to go there some time, because we go through there.

We are especially interested in their non-dairy ice cream because it is so hard to find around here in the Northwest. Please let me know.

Ted Martsch
Othello, Wash.

■ *The Eat Rite Restaurant is located in Spokane, Wash. E.S.*

Testing the Spirits

Lynette Bender Mortenson, in her Feb. 1 letter to the GLEANER, writes that "most Adventists are really afraid of the Holy Spirit and back away from anything to do with His work." I am afraid some of us may give that impression, but there is a reason.

Having lived when the famous faith healer Dr. Price was making a sweep across America and Canada and was performing his many supposed miracles of healing by the power of the Holy Spirit (his claim), I find myself wanting to proceed with caution in this area. Dr. Price did end up in prison in Canada as the fake he really was, although thousands believe he was a victim of religious persecution.

I was at that time doing colporteur work in Canada. I have seen rows of people lying on the platform at his healing performances, some passed out as he raised his hands to them, others after he touched them. I met people as I went door to door who claimed to be healed, some still on crutches and one ill in bed. After questioning, they told me that he (Dr. Price) had told them to keep saying they were cured and they would be.

False claims of the work of the Holy Spirit are to be guarded against but in our carelessness let us not avoid His true work. I see it in the goodness and sacrificial love of His people in sending the message and Bibles to Russia, and in the groups who travel to build churches and repair orphanages and feed the hungry. The subject is worthy of our most earnest study....

Annie M. B. Jones
Mossyrock, Wash.

Sound a Warning

Regarding "When You Go Back to Church" (Feb. 1, '93), do you want a congregation where each member is preparing to enter the Holy City, the New Jerusalem?...

If we just teach love and peace to the guilty sinner, he will be standing outside the gates of the Holy City and perish with the wicked.

Rejecting truth is a fearful thing. We will be accepting all into the church... alcoholics, prostitutes, thieves, adulterers and murderers, and not be helping them. Then God will remove His protection from us.

Shelley M. Semner
Garrison, Mont.

■ *A jealousy for the good name and spiritual integrity of the church affects us all. We want the church to be pure, as Jesus does. Historic Adventism shouts a compelling warning, but offers an even more awesome assurance of escape. The balance of the two are the genius of the church with the three-angels' messages. As Ellen White might say, "This is historic Adventism in verity." E.S.*

Union Executive Changes

Alf Birch has been named executive secretary of the North Pacific Union Conference in Portland, Ore. He succeeds Paul Nelson, who retired Feb. 1.

Birch, who has served the denomination for 37 years in positions including a conference and union presidency and a division executive secretaryship, most recently served as strategic planning and church ministries director of the North Pacific Union Conference and as coordinator of Operation Bearhug, a plan of cooperative outreach with Russian Seventh-day Adventists.

A native of South Africa, Birch has served primarily in Africa and in the South Pacific Division. A graduate of Helderberg College, he holds a master and a doctoral degree from Andrews University.

A search committee has been established by the executive committee to recommend a successor to Birch as church ministries director. In his new role, Birch retains his coordinative function with Operation Bearhug.

In further personnel developments at the North Pacific Union Conference office, Wayne Shepperd, special assistant to the president, multicultural ministries director and associate church ministries director, has accepted a call to serve as vice-president for administration in the Pacific Union Conference, with offices in Westlake Village, Calif. A successor will be named by the NPUC executive committee. ➔

Standards Must Hold

Concerning your Feb. 1 editorial, there is another lesson which may be drawn from the Prodigal: There is no record that the father changed his lifestyle to keep his son at home, or to induce him to return. After the boy discovered what the world is really like, it didn't take him long to realize that the old man's way of doing things wasn't so bad after all, and when he finally found his way home, I'm sure he was happier than anyone that Dad hadn't changed a bit.

There is a message here for those who wish to relax our standards to make us more "attractive" to our young people, or to the world. Maranatha!

Clyde Bagby
Fredericksburg, Texas

■ *Absolutely true, Clyde, except that human perceptions sometimes deceive. The embrace of the father and his largesse toward the returning son were misunderstood by at least one bystander of that day, namely, the elder son. The father remained absolutely consistent in his standards; what he assumed was a new role as he rejoiced with his household at the son's return. If the breaking of traditions is essential to rejoicing with the returned, so be it. Standards must be upheld, among them that great commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." E.S.*



ALASKA

The Angels Sang

It was a grand evening in Tok, Alaska, for Betty Carolyn. Grandma and Grandpa had come all the way from Virginia. A touch of the golden sunset touched the edges of the western windows. Mom and Dad were subdued, yet excited.

Lights flashed as cameras whirred to record the moment in history. The congregation sang that Jesus loves the little children, and Betty Carolyn snuggled in Dad's arms, assured of her position, resting and ready for what was coming.

This was the day that David and Susan Crawford, proud parents of Betty Carolyn, had chosen to dedicate themselves, in a covenant relationship with God, to bring her up in His nurture.

The elders of the church joined David and Susan in a commitment to



Don Gibson prays the prayer of dedication as he holds Betty Carolyn, surrounded by her parents and Tok, Alaska, church elders.

support them in their endeavor to raise their child.

Angels must have rejoiced, picking up the note a half step, and singing as only angels can, "Jesus Loves the Little

Children." We love you, too, Betty Carolyn.

Don Gibson is pastor of the Valdez, Delta Junction, Tok and Glenallen, Alaska, churches.



Prophetic Leap in Kodiak

Recent evangelistic outreach in Kodiak, Alaska, has led to the baptism of 11 persons following a Prophecy Expo crusade by Leighton and Betty Lynn Holley, North Pacific Union Conference evangelistic team. Pictured left to right in front row are baptismal candidates Andrew Dowie, Nicholas Dowie, Priscilla Kalua'u, Jennifer Kewan and Roberta Kalua'u. In the back row, from left, are Mark Kozak, Joe Kalua'u, David Kelley and John Isen-

hower. Not pictured are Marc Gregory and Ed Christman.

Nearly the entire membership worked together to prepare personal invitations, conduct door-to-door visits and volunteer to work on the various committees in preparation for the crusade. Members continue to plan and pray for continuing growth in Kodiak in 1993.

Linda Kozak

Stevens to Embrace Russians With Bearhug Message

A fact-finding team representing *Operation Bearhug* is returning March 7 from Russia following a visit to the city of Khabarovsk to begin preparations for evangelistic outreach later this year.

The Alaskan group was comprised of Pastor Jim Osborne, coordinator; Jim Stevens, conference president; Bill Hinman, education director; Dr. Ray, Karen and Matthew Andreassen, Beverly Moody, Duane Wahlman, Roger Gildersleeve and Doug Chaffee. They were accompanied by Ed Jensen of Portland, Ore.

The group was mindful of counsel by Ellen G. White, an early Adventist writer, who wrote in the book "Testimonies to the Church", vol. 6, pg. 27: "Our brethren have not discerned that in helping to advance the work in foreign fields, they would be helping the work at home. 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."

Nita Hinman



OREGON



Living Waters in Brookings

Many church members, family members and friends of the Brookings, Ore., church gathered on the shore of the Chetco River recently to witness the baptism of five persons.

Shown above, from left, are adults Dick Guthrie and Pastor Jim Ball and young persons Nathan Garcia, Mark Mann, Michelle Wehtje, and Carrie Biegel. After the baptisms, the group gathered around a campfire, singing and rejoicing.

Joy Biegel, Kathy Chitwood



Power in the Blood Drive

On the heels of continuous snowstorms and below-freezing temperatures, the White Salmon, Wash., church sponsored its annual Red Cross Blood Drive on Jan. 7, even as the Red Cross faced dwindling supplies of blood on hand. Church members phoned previous donors and made 100 appointments, then phoned 49 others who were asked to donate if they could make it to the small town's Park Center. On the day before the drawing all 149 people were called again with "friendly reminders." In spite of the icy roads and bitter wind, 85 donors showed up, and 74 units of blood were donated, 14 units over the goal. Shown above is donor Everett Clark, who also coordinated the drive. He is attended by Carolyn Lusko.

Paula Montgomery

OREGON NEWS

McMinnville Hosts Mountain Climber As Youth Speaker

In response to requests that the McMinnville, Ore., church reinstate meetings for young persons, patterned after "MV" Sabbaths of years past, the church has begun a series of programs titled "Adventist Expressions."

McMinnville elders lead out in youth events held on the final Sabbath of each month. To share coordinative responsibilities, a different elder sponsors the program each month.

A recent event, hosted by Lyn Lambertson, featured Portland, Ore., mountain climber Jim Dixon, who told of his experience climbing Mt. McKinnley. Dixon, 65, says he plans to climb many more mountains, and remains in shape by running 10 miles three times a week and following a vegetarian diet.



Jim Dixon spoke recently for "Adventist Expressions" in McMinnville, Ore.

Also included in the first program was a report by Clif Walter, vice-president of the Oregon Conference, on his recent evangelistic crusade in Russia.

The leaders of the social committee planned and prepared a lunch of hamburgers with all the trimmings, at minimal cost, for those in attendance at the program. Proceeds were given to the local church school.

Mary Necker

Glendoveer Church Reaches Russians In Portland

Glendoveer church members in Portland have been able to help many persons, not only during the holiday season, but into the new year as well.

Last year, Glendoveer church members began bringing items from their kitchen cupboards in anticipation of the food boxes that would be given to families in need during the holiday season. A total of 45 food boxes were distributed during Thanksgiving and Christmas time.

In December, gifts for children were also provided. Members chose tags which gave information about a child's age and sex and purchased gifts for their chosen children. These gifts were distributed along with the food boxes. Thirteen chil-

dren had a happier Christmas because of this project. In all, 17 families representing a total of 35 persons were helped.

The Plyushev family members, recent immigrants from Russia, were among those helped. With six children, ranging in ages from 11 years to 9 months, the family has continued to receive assistance into the new year because of need as they begin life in a new country. Church members have donated furniture and household items.

On Feb. 6, Victor Plyushev and family visited the Glendoveer church to meet their new friends. The kindergarten class presented the visitors with a picture scrapbook made from greeting cards, magazines and calendars. A fellowship dinner was shared afterwards.

Another Glendoveer project has been the program, now in its fifth year at the church, to provide coats, hats and gloves

for Portland's homeless. This winter, 30 coats were donated and delivered.

Norma and Bill Berry, Glendoveer's coordinators for outreach projects, are pleased with the results this year. Volunteers put in 56 hours, distributing food, gifts and miscellaneous items valued at \$2,150.

Faye Farnsworth

Loewen was recognized for volunteering to teach grade 7-9 Bible class every day at the Kelso-Longview school in Washington. His students paid a surprise visit to take part in the award ceremony.

Loewen teaches Bible study methods and strongly emphasizes Bible text memorization. He recently helped his class to

raise \$235 to send to the Holbrook mission school.

Besides daily class commitments and pastoring three churches, Loewen supports the school by attending and participating in other school functions such as Christmas events, talent night, roller skating and occasional roller hockey.

Duane Wilson

Milo Girls Quilt With Class To Help Needy

Twelve girls in the "Home Projects" class last semester at Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, Ore., devoted one class each week to creating six quilts.

These quilts have been presented to the Milo Academy church to be given to families with special needs. Lisa Dukes, Amy Edge, Susan Edge, Jenny Findsen, Carolyn Henley, Michelle Jordan, Heather Knesal, Kayo Otani, Amy Schrader, Karen Snawder and Melani Snow created the quilts.

This semester, a new group of girls will be making single-bed quilts and sewing



Girls who created quilts during the past semester at Milo Adventist Academy show the results of their efforts in benevolence. Additional class members and quilts are shown in photo below.

stuffed animals to be given to an orphanage in Africa.

Bonnie Laing

School Pastor Of Year Award Given to Loewen

Willard Loewen has received the Oregon Conference Church School Pastor-of-the-Year Award. The presentation was made in Gladstone, Ore., Jan 7.

Presented by Ed Boyatt, Oregon Conference superintendent of education, the award is given each year to a pastor who exhibits outstanding support for the conference education system.



This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

1 John 5:14-15 KJV



Willard Loewen, right, receives congratulations from Don Jacobsen, president of the Oregon Conference, as Tyler Spencer, a student, looks on.

College Place Church Wraps Up Centennial

A Christmastide open house has officially concluded the celebration of the centennial of the College Place, Wash., village church, observed throughout 1992.

On the evenings of Dec. 15, 16 and 17, 1,200 persons stopped by the church as a part of the annual Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce Tour of Christmas Lights.

Church members met the 10 nightly buses and guided the groups through the church, ending each church tour at the fellowship room where punch and homemade cookies were served. The local pathfinder club provided decorative lighting for the driveway. A white tree in the foyer spread its branches over gifts of clothing with a sign which read, "To Russia with Love."

Many visitors commented on the beauty and inspiration of the music inside the church during the open house and of the impulse to worship inspired by the interior of a church they had long known only from the outside.

Elwood Mabley

The MIVODEN Miracle

"If I hadn't heard about Camp MiVoden, I probably wouldn't be baptized. I'm glad I'm walking in the footsteps of God. May God bless you, too."
— *Sherry D.*

In 1993 don't miss Camp MiVoden's Summer Youth Evangelism at its best!

For Free Brochure & '93 Camp Dates
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Spokane, WA 99219-9039
or call (509) 838-2761

Hermiston Missionary

Marci Brown, a member of the Hermiston, Ore., church, has begun a six-month stint of service in Romania, working with orphans in that country in association with International Childrens Care, Inc., (ICC) of Vancouver, Wash. Brown directs the ICC extension office in that country in this, her second six-month tour of duty in Romania.

Brown is a 1992 graduate of Walla College with a bachelor's degree in social work. Her responsibilities in Romania include visiting families which have been referred to ICC for assistance, drafting a social report on their circumstances and aiding those in need with food, clothing, bedding and care for special needs. The program also assists street children with regular food and hygiene. Hermiston mem-



bers, especially children, have assisted financially in supporting Brown who they regard as their very own "missionary to Romania."

Joyce D. Klocko

Gertrude herself had had a hip replacement and was unable to use the stairs. The building of the ramp enables her to attend church once again.

When the remodeling is finished, the church will have a larger foyer, larger rest rooms and a drinking fountain. The mothers' room has been moved to make room for the larger rest rooms and a coat closet. The nursery now is located in a place where mothers can feel a part of the service even while tending fussy children.

All remodeling and construction has been done voluntarily by church members.

Marilyn Graffe

*He tends his flock
like a shepherd: He
gathers the lambs in
his arms and carries
them close to his
heart; he gently leads
those that have
young.*

Isaiah 40:11 NIV

Ephrata Church Enhanced by Gift Of 'Willing' Giver

Members of the Ephrata, Wash., church are remodeling their church foyer and rest rooms, and a ramp for the handicapped has been installed, thanks to the

generosity of long-time member Gertrude Faa.

The story of the donation of the ramp began as Faa was drafting a will, including in its provisions funds for the building of a ramp. Upon hearing of this, her daughter, Helen Rawlins, suggested that she give the money now, so that it could be put to immediate use.

older members and an older person prayed for younger persons. One prayed for the sick and another for the cultural minorities.

"There were no wasted words and it was very specific and inspiring," Raines said.

Alf Birch, newly elected North Pacific Union Conference executive secretary from Portland, Ore., gave the sermon titled, "Church—Salvation the Basis for Community." The message presented four main themes from the biblical book of Ephesians.

Afternoon seminar topics taught specific methods of ministry including "How To Fire (Up) Your Pastor," "How To Lead Someone To Christ" and "How To Make Your Church User Friendly."

In the final meeting of all delegates, Jere Patzer, president of Upper Columbia Conference, challenged the congregation to take what they had learned and to put it to use in their own environments.

"There is nothing easier than getting saved," said Patzer. "That's solely God's sovereign work."

Salvation, he said, is different from discipleship. It is our choice to take up the cross, and to do so we must develop a "consistent spiritual life" by an act of will.

It takes dedicated commitment to prayer to produce a consistent spiritual life, he added.

"Institutions don't win people. People do," he concluded.

Jon Dalrymple serves as a communication intern for the Upper Columbia Conference and writes from Spokane, Wash.



Enthusiastic children show the spirit that characterized more than 300 of their young peers in meetings held during the convention.

WHAT DO YOUR YOUTH DO DURING THE SUMMER

Is their summer a vacation away from God, or a vacation with God

If you would like more information on how to have a Summer Youth Program at your church, talk with your pastor regarding the Summer Youth Pastor program sponsored by the Youth Department of UCC at (509) 838-2761



UCC Members Help Save Life of Russian TV Host

Katia Platonova, a 28-year-old Seventh-day Adventist television commentator from Magadan, Russia, has undergone successful surgery in America for a life-threatening heart condition.

Her travel expenses have been paid for by Colville, Wash., church members and professional care is being provided by courtesy of several Spokane, Wash., physicians.

The chances of her surviving a heart valve replacement in Magadan, even if she could have afforded the surgery there, were only 25 percent, she had been told. Such a procedure in the United States is successful 95 percent of the time.

"I just thought I would eventually die," she says through a translator. But through



Spokane, Wash., Baptism

Nora Khalil smiles at her Spokane, Wash., Central church family moments before Pastor Marlo Fralick baptizes her. Adventist influences in Nora's life can be traced back to a seminar led by Ivan Allen in which Nora's mother took her stand to join the church, and through the combined influences of both her mother and the Allens, Nora decided that she, too, wished to follow Jesus' example through baptism.

the generosity of caring people she is now, like the title of her television program in Russia, "On the Way To A New Life." She is being hosted by the household of Jere Patzer, Upper Columbia Conference president.

To make the surgery possible, Romeo Pavlic, M.D., senior cardiologist of the Heart Institute at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, has donated his services in coordinating Platonova's medical care. Following diagnostic testing and other preparation, Bill Coleman, M.D., performed the surgery at no cost to Platonova.

Doctors suspect that her heart trouble began when she contracted rheumatic fever as a child. Until meeting American Adventists in Russia, Platonova had made no plans to have the problem corrected.

Platonova's condition came to the attention of volunteers on a church construction site in Magadan last summer where Upper Columbia Conference members have paid for and built a 400-seat church, established an English language school which currently has 300 students, donated and delivered \$560,000 in medicines and held evangelistic meetings resulting in 278 baptisms.

Glyn Marsh, M.D., of Clarkston, Wash., performed the initial examination of Platonova in Magadan and helped make arrangements for her treatment in Spokane. She would have lived no more than three years without treatment, he said.

Jon Dalrymple



Operation Bearhug and The Rest of the Books of Acts

I heard a sermon by a colleague several years ago on Acts 29 and I have wanted to preach on this chapter ever since. Although I spend most of my time studying the Old Testament, I was particularly moved by the clear call of these verses in Acts to Christian witness in the modern world and their mandate to help shape the future of the expanding Kingdom of God.

On one hand, something is missing at the close of the book. It lacks the sense of an ending, as if something is absent.

We all know stories which come abruptly to a halt. They leave us unsatisfied. But unfinished stories also present opportunities, prospects for finishing them in creative and imaginative ways. Here are the closing words of Acts:

"And he [Paul] lived there [Rome] two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ quite openly and unhindered." Acts 28:30, 31 RSV

So here we are with an open-ended account. I like that. It suggests possibility and adds mystique.

Vibrant Reading

The other feature of this book which makes it exciting to read and respond to has to do with the vibrant, energetic activity that characterizes every story. The apostles (those sent with a message) electrified the world of the eastern and northern Mediterranean coastlines with the explosive good news of the gospel and expanding kingdom of God. They



During a visit to the Museum of Dostoevsky, Walla Walla College students now teaching in Russia are shown, from left: Greg Davis, Sandie Gross, Deanna Davis and Valentina Nikolaevna (local translator).

traveled, in fact apparently raced, if we are to catch the spirit of Acts, from Jerusalem to surrounding cities. From there they extended their witness to Syria, around the north-eastern shores of the Mediterranean to Asia Minor (Turkey), Greece and Italy.

One Concern

But it is here that I must confess to a concern I have about the book of Acts. There is more to Asia than meets the Mediterranean eye. If the original apostles, those initially sending and being sent, could only have seen beyond Galatia and the Black Sea to the north, they would have noticed Russia and perhaps visited and written about that, too. Which brings me back to Acts 29.

But first, another word or two about Russia. As most northwesterners know, *Operation Bearhug* has provided a marvelous opportunity for Adventists in the North Pacific Union Conference to extend the reach of the early apostles into northern and western Asia. A lot of organization, fundraising, travel and planning have gone into projects, and we offer our most sincere thanks for supporters past, present and future. Of course, *Operation Bearhug* is more than any of these. It's more than money and management; it's ministry. It's more than travel and touring; it's teaching. It's more than sitting and observing; it's sending and being sent. It's far more than programs, proposals, plans; it's people.

Russian Testimonials

Operation Bearhug is about people like a volunteer driver from the church in Khabarovsk who, while hurtling through rush-hour traffic, was regaling his "apostle" riders with vivid stories of the five automobile accidents he had miraculously survived; people like the woman who related seeing beams of light emanating from the



Charles Arias is the fourth member of the WWC language team now teaching in St. Petersburg.

Bearhug team members as they were singing gospel songs and making presentations on the stage; people like the old gentleman who stood up, pointing at me on the stage, proclaiming that in a dream he had seen Jesus and that I looked, acted and spoke like the figure he had seen; and people like the father of four who waited until we were almost to the train station late at night on our way out of town to announce: "I have waited until now to give you a gift so you won't feel obliged to respond with a gift for me. I know it's not much, but here are my pocket watch and chain. Thank you for coming."

Operation Bearhug is about people like these. It's about people sending and being sent. It's a story without an ending. Which all leads me back to Acts 29 and a set of new hypothetical verses.

A New Chapter

1 And it so happened that the sisters and brethren gathered together, as their custom was, in homes, churches, and institutions throughout the entire area of the Northwest for committee meetings. 2 Messages arrived among the apostles that small numbers of Christians in northern Asia were desperately in need of pastors, evangelists, teachers, and builders. "Can you come over to Russia and help us?" the messengers pleaded . . . 92 And so it was that Walla Walla College and the WWC Church joined forces by sending out first five, then four more missionaries to Russia. 93 The Steering Committee of sisters and brethren, with the generous help of numerous donors, commissioned Charles, Deanna, Greg, and Sandie before sending them to the city of the apostle St. Peter to preach the Kingdom of God and teach about the Lord Jesus Christ in the university, which they did quite openly and unhindered. . . .

Douglas R. Clark writes from College Place, Wash., where he serves as dean of the WWC school of theology. This story was excerpted from a sermon Clark delivered last summer as four WWC students were commissioned to go to St. Petersburg, Russia, to teach English, in context of the gospel, at a university in that city, where they are today.

physician on staff at PAMC, represent the church on the new board. John King, Legacy president and chief executive officer, will chair the new board.

Larry Dodds remains president of PAMC and also serves as chief executive officer of the new organization. Ed Cochran, formerly executive director of the

PAMC behavioral medicine division, has become director of operations for the jointly-operated venture.

Paula Wart



WORLD CHURCH NEWS



Bearly a Word Was Spoken...

Lucille Johnstone, an *Operation Bearhug* "shareholder" and member of the Sheridan church in Oregon, recently tied an attractive head scarf around the neck of her cuddly teddy bear and took him along with her to church to make an important appeal for *Operation Bearhug*.

After Lucille had invited the Sheridan church members to financially support *Operation Bearhug*, she left her bear quietly sitting on his stool, facing the congregation. With a bowl between his chubby legs and an inviting look on his face, he silently affirmed Lucille's appeal for support of rapidly-growing Adventist outreach in Russia.

By the time Lucille's bear was through with his silent campaign for *Operation Bearhug*, he had raised \$263, which the church treasurer passed on to invest in the Church Leadership Development Institute (CLDI) recently established to train lay leaders and pastors throughout Russia.

Alf Birch writes from Portland, Ore., where he serves as executive secretary of the North Pacific Union Conference and coordinator of Operation Bearhug.



Capitol Ideas

Clarence E. Hodges, president of Christian Record Services in Lincoln, Neb., spoke at the Nebraska State Capitol on the recent Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. He also interviewed Coretta Scott King, widow of the civil rights leader, by telephone on King's birthday.

Hodges stated that at Christian Record Services he sees how blind, deaf and others with physical impairments have succeeded and achieved in spite of doubts expressed by experts. "You can, if you think you can, achieve what has never been achieved by man," he said.

Hodges was appointed chairman of the Martin Luther King, Jr., International Affairs Committee in 1988 and 1989. The 20-member commission consisted of presidential cabinet members, governors, mayors, congressmen, religious leaders and union leaders. The purpose of the commission was to study and make recommendations on how to educate the nation on the holiday and the best ways to celebrate the holiday.

Without King, "there would be no Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and Sabbath observers would not have the freedom of religion in the work place we now enjoy," said Hodges. Christian Record Services provides personal, printed and recorded outreach and support for the deaf and the blind.

'Message' Now Available On Cassette

Christian Record Services is now producing "Message" magazine on cassette. The magazine is free to anyone who is visually impaired (20/200 vision or less) or who cannot hold a magazine because of a physical impairment.

"Message" magazine is published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church as an outreach publication primarily for African Americans. Dick Kaiser, Christian Record special services director and editor, says, "I receive many letters and telephone calls from readers who not only enjoy, but are blessed by, our various reading services. These services are currently sowing the gospel seed in more than 70 countries around the world and are allowing God's Spirit to perform the marvelous miracle of conversion—a factor which motivates each of us involved in the reading services program."

For information, contact Christian Record Services, 4444 South 52nd St., Lincoln, NE 68506 or phone (402) 488-0981.

Valerie Stricker

*He tends his flock
like a shepherd: He
gathers the lambs in
his arms and carries
them close to his
heart; he gently leads
those that have
young.*

Isaiah 40:11 NIV

**SIGNS
IS FOR SHARING**

Paul Nelson: A Study in Re-Firing

By Morten Juberg

Morten Juberg is former editor of the GLEANER and writes from Boring, Ore., where he has "refired" his own retirement career as a freelance writer.

Forty four and a half years is a long time to work for one employer. But for Paul and Barbara Nelson, those years working for the Seventh-day Adventist Church seem to be only a beginning for greater things to come.

Paul retired Feb. 1 as executive secretary of the North Pacific Union Conference, and has been succeeded by Alf Birch (See following story).

However, since retirement, life seems to have become

only busier for the meticulous multi-lingual who, in a pair of Nike running shoes, can keep up with most men half his age, and who could negotiate a business deal in the Japanese language, if necessary, while jogging the course.

While Barbara directs the Portland Adventist Community Services Center (PACS), Paul, since retirement, has accepted a position with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) as an area representative, contacting

businesses and corporations on behalf of the agency. It's a role which demands diplomacy and the ability to adapt, virtues which he has modeled throughout his pre-retirement life.

Suddenly he seems in demand internationally. At this writing, he is leading a delegation to the People's Republic of China for a three-week tour, visiting hospitals for ADRA International. Traveling with him are Larry Dodds, administrator of Portland Adventist Medical Center; Don Ammon from Adventist Health Systems/West; and Richard Gingrich, a Portland physician. They are holding week-long seminars dealing with hospital administration and nuclear medicine.

Russia also beckons, as the Quiet Hour has asked him to hold evangelistic meetings at Maykop in the southern section of the Russian Federation this July. Accompanying Nelson will be Scott LeMert, pastor of the Roseburg, Ore. Church; Elmer Hart, a retired physician; Duane and Kitty Alexenko and Marjorie Kruz.

Foreign service, in fact, has been a way of life for the Nelsons. The son of a church administrator, Nelson was graduated from Pacific Union College in the aftermath of

World War II with a degree in theology. It was at PUC that he met his wife-to-be, Barbara Watts, daughter of missionary parents, who had spent 12 years in Korea.

Call to Japan

Two years after his graduation, while the couple was interning in Central California, they were presented with an overwhelming challenge: a call to serve in the recently war-torn country of Japan.

The Nelsons accepted, fully aware that the situation as well as the language presented overwhelming obstacles. But, secure in God's providence to help them prevail where many, if not most, missionaries failed, they became the pastoral couple of the Kobe Church; at age 23, Paul became the youngest missionary in the Far Eastern Division.

"We spent three years in Kobe as a pastor-evangelist and took language studies while working full time," he said. "Later in our work we lived in various sections of Japan, but we never had one bad experience. We found the Japanese to be kind, gracious people."

Learning the language was an early priority. "You can do a lot of work through an interpreter," Nelson adds. "But speaking to them in their own language and understanding their culture really helps."

Soon he could converse in the strange tongue and began to preach without an interpreter. After three years in Kobe, the Nelsons moved to the southern island of Kyushu, spending several years there. In time, after various departmental assignments, Nelson became president of the South Japan Union Mission.

New Challenge

In his work he couldn't help noticing a neglected area of evangelism, another challenge to be faced. This was the city of Toyama in what is called the backside of Japan because it faces Korea and the China Mainland.

"We left administrative work to form an evangelistic team with another expatriate, Warren Hilliard, and his family. We chose Toyama, a city of 250,000, because it was a Buddhist stronghold and we had no church there."

Nelson smiles: "Japanese pastors were reluctant to go there because the city has only 20 days of absolutely clear skies a year. Moisture comes off the Japan Sea and spills rain there, held back by the Japan Alps."

But the two American leaders finally persuaded a couple of pastors to go with them to rainy Toyama. They also received funds from the division to build an evangelistic center, and the effort resulted in true showers of blessing. The team was able to establish a congregation of 75 members.

Every Japanese convert, says Nelson, represented a miracle. "Japan is a highly developed nation, and they claim their culture goes back to the beginning of the Babylonian Empire in 606 B.C. They feel their ways are superior to those of the West.

"It isn't easy to take a person out of that culture with



its strong family ties. An individual who accepts Christ is turning his back not only on his present family, which he loves, but also on departed loved ones whom he worships."

Family of Pastors

The Nelsons have not only met with quiet success in their formal ministry for the church, but their "home missionary" work has also been fruitful. Their three children, all born in Japan and home schooled at various times by Barbara, carry on the ministerial legacy.

Dwight serves as senior pastor of the Pioneer Memorial church at Andrews University in Michigan. Gregg heads up the pastoral team at the College View, Neb., church which serves Union College. Carrie, their youngest, and only daughter, is married to Keith Jacobson who pastors the Palo Sedro church in Northern California. The Nelsons have seven grandchildren.

More Recent Times

After a successful career in Japan, the Nelsons transferred to the Guam-Micronesia Mission where Paul served as president for four years. In 1972, Portland, Ore., became the Nelson's home and Paul served as ministerial

and stewardship director of the North Pacific Union Conference. Seven years later the family moved to Montana where Paul became conference secretary and later president for a combined total of six years.

His three years as president in the Idaho Conference were followed by almost five years as secretary of the North Pacific Union Conference.

As Barbara continues her work in local community services and as they both serve on special assignments internationally, retiring is hardly the word for the Nelsons. For them, formal retiring has become a time for re-firing their lives into new and interesting ventures around the world. ➔

"It isn't easy to take a person out of that culture with its strong family ties. An individual who accepts Christ is turning his back not only on his present family, which he loves, but also on departed loved ones whom he worships."

'Bearhug Man' Moves Up Alf Birch Moves into Top NPUC Organization Post

By Todd Gessele

Todd Gessele serves as editorial intern for the North Pacific Union Conference and writes from Portland, Ore.

When Alf Birch was elected North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive secretary on Feb. 18, succeeding Paul Nelson (see previous story), Bruce Johnston, NPUC president, made it clear: Alf Birch was, and would remain, "Mr. Bearhug."

As union secretary, he will continue to coordinate Northwest evangelistic cooperation with the Russian union in a sister-conference relationship known as "Operation Bearhug."

This, however, is about the only thing that has remained constant for Birch, who, while heading up a search committee to find his own successor, juggled multiple responsibilities while adjusting to his new role as executive secretary. That he has succeeded during the past two months, it is said, is due largely to his innate interest in and concern for people.

"You don't have to be Russian to see that Alf's interest in people is obvious," says Darlene Clark, his assistant. "Rarely can you meet him without encountering a warm hello, a little lighthearted humor, and an attitude of 'let's be about the Lord's business.'"

African Born

Born and reared in South Africa, Birch began working for the church as a student literature evangelist while earning the equivalent of a bachelor degree in theology at

Helderberg College. Since then his work has spanned the five continents of Africa, Australia, North America and Eurasia.

In 1972, at age 35, Birch was elected president of the Cape Conference where he served for eight years. In 1975, Birch earned his masters degree from Andrews University. After serving out his second term of presidency, he returned to Andrews University in 1978 where he presented a dissertation entitled "A Theological and Pragmatic Evaluation of Management by Objectives in SDA Conference Administration," and finished his doctor of ministry degree at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in 1980.

Towards Unity

Birch then returned to Africa and served for three years as secretary of the Trans-Africa Division. He became president of the South African Union Conference in 1984, where his skills in conflict management helped unify the work of the church in Africa.



"It's only when you actually function at the union conference level that you can begin to realize just how important a union's coordinating and strategic function really is," he explains.

"While I was there, the union committee was able to take a strong position against Apartheid. We developed a statement that we passed on to the government disassociating the Seventh-day Adventist Church from Apartheid. In a sense, perhaps, this later led to a merger between the Southern Union, which was predominately black, and the South African Union, which was predominately white."

On to Australia

In 1985, Birch transferred to the South Pacific Division (SPD) where he served as the director of church ministries and accepted two special assignments: strategic planning coordinator and coordinator of "Seventh-day Adventist Mission to the Secularized World." A number of projects benefitted from his interest in church growth, organizational planning and communication skills. In 1987, Birch helped to design a church ministries leadership manual for SPD pastors and a biblical and organizational profile of church ministries document.

In addition to being the managing editor of "Worship," a church ministries publication in 1988, Birch put together a strategic planning prospectus for the South Pacific Division, as well.

Bearhug is Born

In 1990, Birch was invited to serve as a missionary to the Oregon Conference where he remained for 15 months as director of religious education before accepting a call to travel north—seven miles north, to be exact—to serve the NPUC as church ministries director.

"When I arrived, the North Pacific Union Conference was just getting involved in the beginnings of *Operation Bearhug*," Birch explains. "It has been exciting to see how the idea has literally taken off."

He points to *Operation Bearhug* as an example of the kind of work the union conferences do well: "Because the

union is somewhat removed from the local church, there have at times been those who say we don't need the unions. I disagree. The idea of keeping the church together in terms of decision making, policy directions and the application of church practice are very important union functions.

"For instance, if each individual conference would have independently sent all the people who wanted to go to Russia at once, we would have absolutely exhausted the Russian church system when *Operation Bearhug* got under way. The union's role is to look at the big picture, to coordinate and to share what's working with local conferences that are often struggling with similar challenges. The success of *Operation Bearhug* is just another demonstration of the union's coordinating and mentoring skills in action."

The New Role

His new role calls on him to become, among other things, chief NPUC records keeper, creator of agendas and minutes and prime liaison with local conferences, sitting in on their committees, offering counsel, providing networking among them and aiding in the processing of calls and service requests. He also now serves on a number of administrative boards as either chairman or vice chairman. The union secretarial role, while often a quiet one where little public credit is received, nevertheless places him at the heart of union activity.

Regarding his new position, Birch says: "Structure for structure's sake is worthless, unless it serves a purpose and continues to meet real needs. Meeting needs is what this union does, and wants to continue to do well. Helping people become aware of the types of services our union organizational structure is able to provide is one of the larger aspects of my job."

It's a role Birch will fill with a bear hug and a smile—as a "people person" who happens to have learned, through world experience, that keeping records, files and agendas in top condition is just another way of ensuring that people ultimately will come first as their needs are served by the strengths of organization. ➤

Standing Room Only in St. Petersburg

By Todd Gessele

Todd Gessele is a communication intern for the North Pacific Union Conference and writes from Portland, Ore.

Bruce Johnston, president of the North Pacific Union Conference, is leading an evangelistic team which includes Duane McKey and Don Hiersche and which, as of April 20, had crossed the midpoint of a well-attended, five-week series of meetings in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Although the meetings began during Russian Easter weekend, there was "standing room only" on opening night in the St. Petersburg Gorky Cultural Center, which seats 2,500.

One woman in attendance had succeeded in inviting 180 other persons from her neighborhood of whom 165 had accepted.

St. Petersburg members have complained that the supply

of 75,000 meeting advertising handbills allotted to the campaign was insufficient.

The success of the meetings relates directly to the willingness St. Petersburg Adventists have shown to reach out to their neighbors and friends, says Johnston.

McKey, newly-named North Pacific Union Conference ministerial/church ministries director, and Don Hiersche, a layman from Pendleton, Ore., are helping Dorothy Nelson and her two sons, Richard and Jon, from Weimar College in California, who are conducting a "Health Expo" in conjunction with the series.

Team members have found that the Russian people have a great concern for both physical and spiritual health. ➤





Gem State Students Carry Gospel to Caldwell Homeless

An outreach that began as Gem State Adventist Academy students helped at a local shelter for the homeless is now giving students opportunities for Bible studies.

Throughout the school year, GSAA students have assisted at the Turning Point, a shelter for the homeless in Caldwell, Idaho.

The students have helped plan parties for children and provided help in the kitchen. But recently their outreach

activities took on a new dimension.

Bible studies were begun as an outgrowth of Bible classes, but soon took on a new dimension. "It started out that I did it for the grade," said Les Alley, sophomore. "But after I got the grade, I realized it was fun. So I continue to go for enrichment—self enrichment."

The students carry extra Bibles and lesson guides with them each week, never sure who will be meeting with them. "People come and go," says

Celena Eckley, sophomore. "New people, old people, but overall the ones who started still come."

Both adults and children attend. "The kids are so hilarious," said Celena, who coordinates the children's activities. "They get so excited whenever we arrive."

But the studies offer much more than simple social interaction. "They think about a lot of things because of the situation they are forced to live in, and as a result they ask some really deep questions, like, 'Why do people hate God?'" says Celena.

Questions like that demand deep thought, and must be answered because the children persist, seeking for answers, she says.

"They don't forget. They bug us until we give them an answer."

Today, the studies have evolved from mere assignments to be finished to an ongoing Christian lifestyle.

"We try to help other people come to grips with God," Les says, "to have a chance to know Him."



Les Alley, GSAA sophomore, and Jacob Shobe, GSAA sophomore, lead out in a Bible study at the Turning Point in Caldwell, Idaho.

Evelyn Hainey writes from Caldwell, Idaho, where she is on staff at Gem State Adventist Academy.

IDAHO NEWS

Academy Pastor to Take Leadership Post in East

Fred Cornforth, pastor of the Gem State Adventist Academy Church, announced March 13 that he has accepted a call to become assistant director for Adventist Resources Management Services (ARMS).

The new position is a hybrid, developed as a spin-off of the General Conference global mission, according to Cornforth. His responsibilities will be divided between the North American Division and the General Conference and will involve substantial travel.

In his new role, Cornforth will attempt to find or to create new outreach opportunities for secondary and college students, a function he has carried during his three years at GSAA.

"There was an outreach program in place at Gem State when I came," says Cornforth. "But only about 10 percent of the students were involved." A survey taken in November 1992 showed increased student involvement of 60 to 70 percent.

"I feel I have started a trend here," he says.

A high point for Cornforth came when the senior class decided to take on a short-term mission project as part of their class trip. "They came to us with the idea," he says. "Their whole process of thinking was other-people minded. I almost fell off my chair!"

One disadvantage of the new responsibilities for Cornforth will be lack of student interaction. "There is going to be one humongous void in not having the interaction with the students," he says.

"I coveted sermon time Sabbath morning, conversations with students in the halls between classes, being able to study with

them and help them work through their problems. That was the difficult part of the decision."

While at GSAA, Cornforth has served as academy pastor and conference youth director and has also carried responsibilities for Idaho Conference involvement in *Operation Bearhug*. He has also led out in a church planting project in East Boise.

Before coming to GSAA, Cornforth served in the Idaho Conference as Kuna/Meridian, Idaho, pastor, and, at another time, as pastor of the John Day/Long Creek district in Oregon.

Cornforth and his wife, Kelly, daughter, Kadie, 4, and son, Charlie, 2, will relocate to the Washington, D.C., area. Correspondence may be directed to them at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600.

Evelyn Hainey

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters Policy: Letters to the GLEANER editor are welcome. Letters must be signed and should not exceed 150 words in length. Letter writers are urged to limit their letters to commentary on editorial matter appearing in the journal, and should specifically refer to the issue date and article in question. Priority will be given to letters received by the editor within 45 days of the cover date of

issue in question. Letters which direct personal criticism at individuals will not be printed; conversely, letters which promote a person by name or description for gratuitous praise will be declined for publication. Highest priority will be given to letters which add information and commentary, pro and con, to material appearing in this journal. Address letters to Editor, Box 16677, Portland, OR 97216-0677.

people. I would suggest that Thompson owes a public apology to those whose zeal, whether well-guided or misguided, happened to be recipients of his verbal jabs. . . .

Lloyd Rosenwald, M.D.
Hope, Idaho

I do not understand why you let Alden Thompson's article in the April 5, 1993, issue be printed. It was not good. It was not biblical. . . I would like to quote it to you.

"If, however, we build a hierarchy of values which declares certain principles more important than others, then we move toward common ground.

"But then an uneasy implication emerges: human reason becomes the judge of the Bible. Is it safe to declare some aspects of God's word more important than others?

"I would argue that it is dangerous not to adopt such an approach."

For all of my forty-some years I have heard that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God." 2 Tim. 3:16. Now, according to the article that you printed, I can choose what I think is important. . . .

The other thing is where he says that we have only had a simple covenant to bind us together. That is true until 1872. The 1872 document was a declaration of beliefs. I cannot believe that you would print such things. . . .

Thank you for your help. May God bless you in your work.

Ron Hartwell
Cheney, Wash.

■ Alden Thompson's columns reflect his own views, not necessarily those of the publisher or editor. However, in our view, his columns generally help to bring important issues forward which we should well settle in our minds as Adventists dedicated to world mission. Alden Thompson believes and frequently quotes 2 Tim. 3:16.

Encouraging Note

I am glad to read in recent issues of the GLEANER that the churches in North America, especially in the North Pacific Union, are taking a greater interest in foreign missionary work. Now, it is proven that the more we invest in time and money in foreign mission work, the more the Lord will bless our missionary work at home base, and the stronger and more prosperous our churches become.

Instead of investing so much money in our schools and hospitals at home, the church ought to use much more of this money in building up the work in other countries, especially in Russia and Siberia, where a dollar invested will go much farther than here in America. What the church needs there are many self-supporting vocational schools, like they have in the southern states, where the students can go to school and learn a trade, grow their own food, etc.

"They (God's church) are to reveal an unselfish interest in the building up of His work in all parts of the world," writes Ellen G. White in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 73.

Ted Martsch
Othello, Wash.

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33 NIV

Dramatic Acclaim

A big thank you for Ken Campbell's letter in the April 19 issue of the GLEANER (regarding reports of theatrical productions in Adventist churches.) I agree whole-heartedly with him. In light of the (Ellen G. White quotation) in *Great Controversy*, page 463, that, ". . . church theatricals. . . have banished thoughts of God," why do we choose pathways contrary to His counsel?

Could it be many are not reading the little red books and so do not know? "Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to His people, because they do not read the books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings." Ellen G. White, *5 Testimonies*, p. 681. Let us repent of this neglect and turn to the Lord with a determination to study His Word and will. Let's set our priorities in the right place for "to disregard light is to reject it." Ellen G. White, *5 T*, 680. I do not want to reject Jesus.

Charlene Trott
Kennewick, Wash.

■ Amen on study of the red books! As you point out, Charlene, there is some specific counsel in Ellen White writings which appears to speak AGAINST certain practices which church members seem to ignore. Some very pointed counsel was given against theatricals, and, on first reading, may appear to offer a blanket condemnation of everything having to do with dramatics, including finger plays for children, recitation of poetry and telling or acting of parables. On another topic, some have asked if, in light of counsels against bicycling, God can truly bless our African pastors if they cleave to two-wheeled transportation? HOW and WHY should we read the red books, and HOW should we deal with prohibitions? Is "theatrics," as it was meant by Ellen White, applicable to pure, Bible-based religious drama? Letter writers, how do YOU read?

Roman-Red Flag

Perhaps you folk are not aware of the whole controversy here in Montana (regarding "Sad Day in Montana", April 5, 1993). On page 12 it was stated that Pastor "Brusett had attended a meeting sponsored by a non-Adventist Christian denomination, and that in so doing, in their eyes (Troy Church members), he was morally disqualified for the office of fact-finding advisor."

It is well-known in our area here that the meeting which Brusett attended was . . . Catholic-sponsored. . . .

According to *Great Controversy*, p. 565, "there are real Christians in the Roman Catholic communion . . . serving God according to the best light they have . . . but Romanism as a system is no more in harmony with the gospel of Christ now than at any former period in her history. The Protestant (SDA?) churches are in

great darkness, or they would discern the signs of the times. . . ."

Shelley Senner
Garrison, Mont.

■ The writer of the article was aware of what you say, and purposely chose not to use the name of the organization. The GLEANER, except in the letters column, rarely cites specific denominations by name. The phrases, "another Christian organization," or "a non-Adventist group," are used. The GLEANER, with sensitivity to non-Adventist readers, prefers to keep the focus on Adventism, and to avoid specific comparisons and contrasts with other denominations.

Paradoxical Issue

The April 5, 1993, issue of the GLEANER was the most interesting, yet the saddest I have read in some time. I am confused: First I read that, with tears in their eyes, the Montana delegates voted to expel the Troy congregation from the conference. Apparently there is no disagreement with the church members' theology, only with their methodology. . . .

Then in Bruce Johnston's feature, he states that one lesson we can learn from Waco is never to give our leaders blind obedience. If the Troy members are correct in their theology, why expel them for the fact that they are not bowing to "church authority"? Does church unity mean that we all submit to the authority of the church, or that, within the framework of the 27 fundamental beliefs of the church, we respect each others' differences? . . .

Do we not have enough work to do to reach people before it is too late, without disbanding a group of admittedly active lay evangelists whose theology is reported to be correct? . . .

I agree . . . that a strident attitude is not the best way to reach others. However, the Bible is full of examples of individuals who did manifest and reach others with strident attitudes. . . .

Janelle Wahlman
Sitka, Alaska

Thompson Takes Lumps

Imagine our dismay to find that Alden Thompson in his article on "Convictions" on page 6 of the April 5 issue, in the first paragraph, lumped in such disparate groups as the (former) Adventist church of Troy, Mont., the New York bombers and the Davidian cultists of Waco, Texas, into one group as to their convictions. For good measure he lumped in the Jonestown fanatics of a few years ago in the bottom paragraph of the first column of his article.

Granted that he was analyzing a word and not directly the people, but why must he choose some distasteful characters to liken their convictions to those of the believers at Troy? Could he not have chosen some admirable historical characters such as the Waldenses, as one example?

I do not know all of the believers in Troy, but I do know some of them, and they are lovely



MONTANA



From Distress to Victory in Cossack Russia

As they caught their last glimpse of the United States from their airplane window, Clarence and Renee McKey felt keen expectation as well as heightened trepidation.

The Missoula, Mont., pastor and his wife placed themselves, once again, in the hands of the Lord, as they had so many times before during their months of preparation for this, a five-week-long *Operation Bearhug* evangelistic visit to Russia.

They prayed earnestly as they journeyed the almost 5,000 miles to Novo-cherkassk, Russia, site of the Siberian campaign they were slated to lead.

"We were heading, like Abraham, to a land we knew not," says Renee.

Dismal News

Their apprehension soared as they left the airplane at Novo-cherkassk, a city of 400,000 people, and found no one there to meet them. As confusion mounted and authorities refused to release their luggage, a man who they later learned was Ivan, the conference secretary, arrived on the scene, but knowing no English, offered only limited assistance.

It was determined that due to poor communication in Russia, the evangelistic

team had not been expected for another week, and no interpreter would be available until then. No advertising had been done, nor a hall rented. Furthermore, local member morale was extremely low.

The area around the city, they were told, was inhabited by cossacks, known for their independent-minded ways. While religion had been suppressed in most of Russia during the Communist regime, Novo-cherkassk had retained seven of its Orthodox churches. Traditional religious ties were strong in the city; they would not be easily broken.

The bottom line, said the pessimistic local pastor and conference leaders, was that there was little hope for a "successful series," which they defined as the addition of perhaps 20 to 25 new members to the small local Adventist church.

Onward in Faith

But armed with a conviction that God had not sent them halfway around the world to fail, the McKeys set to work. Despite the language barrier, they were able to have stencils hand-cut and printed as advertising. They rented a hall with a capacity of 500 and organized the small congregation for action, all 18 elderly ladies, four men and several teens.

Having little or no motorized transportation, they did much of the pre-meeting organizing on foot, and when the meetings opened on a Friday, as scheduled, with both an afternoon and an evening session, 500 persons came in the afternoon and 300 in the evening.

These numbers grew, however, in days to come, until both sessions were completely filled, with 125 to 150 additional attendees lining walls and filling aisles.

Renee led out in the children's division and had between 20 and 120 young people in every session. Ages of those in attendance ranged from between two to 20 years.

"They were so eager to learn. Teens sang the primary songs right along with the little ones. When the babies got stickers, the mothers also wanted stickers on their hands. They were quiet and well mannered with an amazing attention span," she says.

Impressive Warmth

They were impressed by the warmth of the people. One Russian man told them of having been baptized as an Adventist some 50 years, after which he had been severely persecuted and isolated from the church.

He came to Pastor McKey with tears streaming down his face and quietly said: "I'm so happy that the church hasn't changed in all these years. You teach the exact same theology as I learned 50 years ago." A retired major in the military provided them with his own home to live in, moving elsewhere himself during their stay.

They were treated to food that the people themselves were unable to afford for themselves.

"They are a warm, loving type people. I've never been kissed by so many men in my life!" McKey comments.

Prophetic Wish

Early in the series, Galina, whose apartment they lived in, stayed afterward and wished them success. She told them, through the interpreter: "I hope

Continues on next page



Long known for lines of waiting customers, Russia, in recent years, has seen new kinds of lines, such as the one above, where people wait, not to buy, but to receive freely of the gift of grace through baptism and union with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

you will have a baptism of 70 times seven."

Her wishes may be nearly realized. In two baptisms, 105 joined the church, and though more than 300 had asked to be baptized, Pastor McKey felt that some needed more information before they made a final decision.

"Don't Pity Us"

"The members of the little church in Novoherkassk have a big job. They will be welcoming the 105 new members as well as nurturing, visiting and preparing the remaining group for eventual baptism. They need our continual prayer support," says McKey.

Despite all the turbulence in the lives of the Russian people, one of the newly baptized members summed up the feelings of God's family in Russia: "Don't pity us. Don't feel sorry for us. We are the happiest people in the world."

Welcome Home

And back in America, that same happiness echoed among Missoula and Stevensville, Mont., members as the McKeys returned to their congregations.

More than 60 members of those churches were on hand at 10:30 p.m., armed with enthusiasm and noise makers to greet them upon their return.

Among the happy greeters were their son, James, and daughter, Jean, both Mt. Ellis Academy students.

At a reception held that very evening, the McKeys, though weary from being out of the states for six weeks and in the air for almost 24 hours, let their enthusiasm overflow.

They told of humorous incidents, such as the time they had been invited to meet with the city mayor, but due to the language barrier and no translator during the first week of their visit, had not understood the purpose of the visit, and were

dressed in their sweat clothes as the car waited to take them to city hall. They explained how their hosts had finally succeeded in impressing upon them the need to change their clothing for such a meeting.

Members also shared a report of how the local churches had moved forward during the pastor's absence. Among other accomplishments, Missoula church members had held a Revelation Seminar and had started a new small-group study.

As the weary but radiant travelers returned to their home, Renee commented: "We have been told through Ellen White's writings that the church back home can expect to be blessed when it allows its pastor to go to a foreign field to labor."

Indeed, this has happened in Missoula and Stevensville.

Virginia Davis is a free lance writer and photographer and writes from Stevensville, Mont.



A tired but jovial McKey family rejoices at a midnight welcome-home reception given them by their church members from Missoula and Stevensville, Mont.

MONTANA NEWS

Mt. Ellis Academy Gymnasts Learn High-Flying Trust



The Mount Ellis Academy Acronastix, a combination tumbling/gymnastics team, recently toured the Montana Conference, performing for Seventh-day Adventist school and church audiences as well as in public schools.

The key to success is "trust," according to Scott Schafer, coach. In order to perform, each student involved must

trust the others.

The Acronastix performed their home show April 3 in the Mt. Ellis Academy gym. The program showed the importance of trusting others, and portrayed the kind of trust Christians can, and must, place in God to support them, even at the most testing moments of life.

Kim Unterseher

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Isaiah 40:11 NIV



UPPER COLUMBIA



For Russian Student, It's Academic: 'I Just Want to Study the Bible'

She speaks with an accent. Though she speaks well, she is not British or Australian—she's Russian. The 17-year old appears to wear a continual smile as she attends Upper Columbia Academy.

She smiles, not only because of the better way of life she finds in America. She smiles because, says she: "I just want to talk with people and study the Bible."

In the summer of 1992, Upper Columbia Conference *Operation Bearhug* volunteers paved the way for one Russian young person to attend academy in America. By covering expenses, volunteers hoped that the chosen young Christian would experience the freedom of a Christian education and dedicate his or her self to working for the church in Russia.

Irina Statsuk "outshone all others," says Sue Patzer, a volunteer, of the newly baptized young people in the Magadan Adventist church. "She was the right age, spoke some English and had a great attitude. And her knowledge and love for God seemed to depict a promising future leader for the Magadan church."

When Irina arrived at Upper Columbia Academy in December 1992, she began taking classes in Bible, Spanish, choir, piano and PE. "In Russia we don't have choices in school," she says, "They tell you what to learn . . . like chemistry. Yuk!"

Instead, Irina chooses to learn from the three different Bible classes she is taking. "Someday I would like to go to the new Adventist seminary in Russia," she says, "but that is for God to decide. I can just pray."

"What is so refreshing to me," says Peter Hardy, UCA Bible teacher, "is her interest in the Bible. She has an interest which you don't often see in kids her

age." Though she has difficulty understanding some of the English words in Bible tests and assignments, Hardy says, she is quick to ask questions and speak up in class. When she does finally understand a concept, "It's like a light coming on."

"Every day and every step I have a new surprise," Irina says. "Everything is totally different than I expected."

The hardest adjustment for her to make has been neither to a strange language nor to American customs; rather, it has been to see people take their religion for granted.

For the past 70-plus years, America has basked in freedom while Russians have hid their religious convictions under communist law. Now, with their new freedoms, Russians have broken their spiritual fast, but most have no memory of anything but communism.

"Russia is hungry," she says, "hungry for God."

This spiritual hunger led Irina to Christ at the age of 10. She spent the summer of 1985 in Moldavia with her grandmother, several thousand miles from her home in the Soviet Far East.

Nobody talked out loud about Christianity in the '80s, and since her father was a police administrator and a card-carrying communist, it was impossible to ask. But Irina had heard a few things about religion from her grandmother and others who had attended the Russia Orthodox churches before communism. If there was a God, she thought, she would just have to find out for herself.

"What was the purpose of this life? Where did we come from? What happens when we die?" she wondered.

Irina's desire for answers to these

questions led her to risk friendship with a trusted playmate whom she suspected of being a Christian. Her friend's family then risked their lives by sharing their faith with her. Irina accepted the gospel and gave her life to Jesus as she was drawn into the fellowship of the loving Baptist believers.

When her parents learned of her conversion, they were filled with both anger and anxiety. Her father feared for his whole family. But Irina was able to convince them to let her spend the school year with her grandmother.

When she returned to Magadan one year later, Irina searched for a church family in this, a city which had grown out of 100 or more Stalin-built labor camps. She was finally able to locate a Pentecostal group that met in secret at a private home. The common love for the Lord she felt there fueled her faith in Christ, though she did not accept all of their beliefs. Together they rejoiced over "Glastnos" and "Perestroika" as new freedom crept into Russian life.

In the summer of 1991, 17 Adventists from the Upper Columbia Conference began evangelistic meetings in the formerly closed city of Magadan. Irina noticed one of the poster advertisements, and when she and a Pentecostal friend attended, she recognized the answers to many questions she had had. Her friend pleaded with her to avoid being "led down the wrong path," but Irina wanted to know more.

She began Bible studies with a Russian Adventist pastor, Kirill Molyan. On Dec. 23, 1991, Irina was baptized. Since then her mother, sister and several friends have accepted Jesus as their Savior.

Irina is gaining more than just good experience from her stay in the United States. She is also building her understanding of the role of Christian education in an organized church. Her testimony continues to inspire students and adults in churches she visits.

But to Irina, these are simply add-on blessings the Lord has permitted. Of the main blessing of studying at Upper Columbia, she says: "I just want to talk with people and study the Bible."



Irina Statsuk, center, with several friends at Upper Columbia Academy

Jon Dalrymple is a communication intern for the Upper Columbia Conference and writes from Spokane, Wash.

Brewster Children Help Visualize Jesus' Sacrifice

A shout, "He is Risen," echoed through the Brewster, Wash., church sanctuary recently as Brewster students portrayed the resurrection of Jesus.

"In Celebration of Christ," a musical drama portraying events leading to and including Christ's triumphal entry, crucifixion and resurrection, was presented under the direction of Bob Finkbiner, principal and teacher of grades four through six at the local church school.

Finkbiner urged the audience to become part of the drama as a palm-branch waving crowd cheered the Messiah they supposed would bring deliverance from detested Roman bondage, then through the narrative to a view of Jesus, crushed with the sins of the centuries, longing for reassurance from His Father, from His disciples and agonizing in the garden, "Father, Your will be done!"

The mockery of an illegal trial before pompous accusers was portrayed, as the poignant music of "The Via Dolorosa" accented the terrible pathway to Golgotha for Jesus, beaten, bleeding, fainting beneath the heavy cross as the jeering mob shouted "Crucify Him!" Others, bewildered, sobbed as hardened soldiers drove ugly spikes into the flesh of their erstwhile



Brewster, Wash., students portray the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Healer. Then came victory with Jesus' gentle, powerful message, "I did that for you..." re-echoing through the Ray Boltz song based on Isaiah 53.

Narrators included Amy and Justin Brownfield, Danny Hanson, Justina Burns and Ed Van Tassel. Disciples were Justin Brownfield, Brian Hardin, Javier Garcia and Aaron Gillock; Jacob Powell acted as priest, Brent Hiltz, Pilate. Soldiers were Tim Hanson, Jeff Hardin and Justin

Holder. Other student participants were Kelly and Klancy Allen, Fernando Bautista, Kelsey Boyd, Amy Brownfield, Gabe and Justina Burns, Brissa Cortez, Olga Garcia, Kristen Gillock, Andy Hanson, Steven Holbrook, Courtney Knoop, Amanda Lopez, Tyler Marcellay, Jamie Miller, David Nielsen, Bobbi and Mark Riggan, Stuart Robertson, Sarah Trudeau and preschooler Lucila Bautista.

Verona Schnibbe

Hermiston Couple Goes to Siberia

Milton Johnson, M.D., and his wife Wanda of Hermiston, Ore., have traveled to Novakuznetsk, Siberia, to present 25 medical lectures during an evangelistic crusade.

The medical messages are presented as features of a series being conducted by Bill and Ann Davis of Ohio.

The voyage to Russia is a change of pace for the Johnsons who are known for their service as local Sabbath school teachers, church elder, church treasurer and deaconess. They are also grantors of the land on which the Hermiston church stands.

"We both believe that our lives have to

count for something," says Wanda of the couple's post-retirement dedication to short-term mission service.

"We are impressed that wherever and whenever God asks us to be involved, we want that as our mandate for service," adds Milton.

In addition to their dedication to helping others through the church, however, the couple keeps their minds and bodies active with hobbies which include rock collecting and lapidary, traveling, photography and reading books on natural science and archeology.

Wanda also enjoys art and painting, but claims a special interest in the couple's grandchildren.

Joyce D. Klocko

NASA Visitor Fires Imaginations at Ellensburg School

"...Three, two, one, blast-off!"

With these words the imaginations of young minds were launched into orbit recently when Fred Naehrer, educational representative of Ames Research Center, a division of National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA), visited Valley Christian School near Ellensburg, Wash.

While at the school, he presented a pro-

gram on the NASA mission, goals and vision for the future using evolving state-of-the-art technology.

In a spirit of community cooperation, Principal Carrie Tow invited local home schoolers and children from other schools to attend during the presentation. Accepting the invitation, more than 160 students with accompanying parents and/or teachers attended the three individual sessions planned during the school day.

Used in the presentations were display models of aircraft and spacecraft, film clips and other visuals. The first segment of the program introduced the concept of "aeronautics"; the second session featured the mechanics of a space shuttle launch; the third segment explored plans for the NASA space station "Freedom"; and during the fourth, and final, segment, students were invited to suit up in mock space suits, followed by a general question-and-answer time.

Naehrer noted that NASA plans to send astronauts to Mars by the year 2019, on the 50-year anniversary of the first step to be taken by a man on the surface of the moon.

"Study hard. Learn as much as you can. Enjoy life, and someday one of you may be the very astronaut NASA is looking for," Naehrer concluded.

Rana D. Faling





Ed Schwisow

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A Time for Human Billboards

By Ed Schwisow

Ed Schwisow is editor of GLEANER and writes from Portland, Oregon

The weathered cross sagged by the deep-rutted clay road. No one noticed it anymore.

For 30 years, now, it had stood at the outskirts of the South American town, placed there by zealous priests of the state church intent on halting the coming Adventists.

It now stood, forgotten, as the Adventist church multiplied membership, first with a church, then with a school and finally with a clinic. The pathetic cross still stood, but no one cared for it, no one prayed by it, no one feared it.

Placards in Russia

Our eyes turn, now, from South America to Russia. In late May, Bruce Johnston, North Pacific Union Conference president, returned from St. Petersburg, Russia, after a successful evangelistic crusade.

"On the first night of the meetings, there were people with placards on site denouncing us. It created interest and added to our attendance. We were kind of sad to see them go," he says.

Billboards in America

And yet, some who call themselves Adventists in North America have now adopted the very methods of "warning" that have proved so ineffective for so many years by foes of second-coming preaching. Sectarian, confrontational, partisan, disregarding of every higher nuance of tact—methods which, by their implicit aggression, always create sympathy for the attacked.

With the placement of anti-Catholic billboards, the Adventist name is made to flatter, through imitation, the "hex cross" mentality of "warning" that has helped strengthen the Adventist church wherever it has been employed against us.

And what amazes more is that the boards go up at a very time when hundreds of thousands are heeding the real church "warning," the one given by active and on-fire preachers and laymen who are reaching others, warning them through careful contact.

Ironically, the very book the billboard builders of our day claim to be modeling, *The Great Controversy*, tells of the boomerang ruin which public attacks can bring. The scenario is set in 16th century France, and reformation zealotry is running high:

"The French Reformers, eager to see their country keeping pace with Germany and Switzerland, determined to strike a bold blow against the superstitions of Rome, that should arouse the whole nation. Accordingly placards attacking the mass were in one night posted all over France. Instead of advancing the reform, this zealous but ill-judged movement brought ruin, not only upon its propagators, but upon the friends of the reformed faith throughout France. (*Great Controversy*, 224-225)

The Hex Cross

But, for a moment, return with me to the South American roadside, to the bedraggled hex cross on the hill.

One evening, in a post-Vatican II sermon of vast irony, the local priest was heard to exhort his flock in the local adobe chapel. The words were unexpected and set the village abuzz.

"And now, brethren," the priest had preached. "I ask you this year to fashion your lives and conduct as the Adventists do. Do not reproach our Lord with revelry, drunkenness and violence. Rejoice soberly, as our Adventist friends have shown us."

The blessings Adventism had brought to the community had been so profound, its influence so telling, that even the most biased observer had been compelled by conscience to acknowledge the fruit of its work.

The hex cross had been answered by billboards of a different nature—the billboards of active, caring, people, mingling, but not contaminated, in a morass of alcoholism, cocaine addiction and immorality.

Billboards of changed lives which, through good works and fearless disregard for the hex crosses of others, had persevered and prevailed.

In Summary

Can the Adventist "warning," of a soon coming Savior be done without confrontation? Undoubtedly not.

Despite every tact we exercise, the hex crosses of others will stand in our pathways. We can expect them, and, by faith, we must move forward and around them.

Perhaps it's because during my formative years I lived in the shadows of South American hex crosses; maybe it's because today my desktop is singed with fiery volleys from both inside and outside the church.

Perhaps it's because I've studied the Bible, individually, with literally hundreds of persons who would have slammed the door in my face had they sensed that I might have had any connection with billboards against a leader with whom they frequently disagreed, but whom they still called "Father."

With these students, nonetheless, we pondered Christian tragedies of the past and witnessed the beastly mutations wrought when secular politics and religion breed and inbreed. The evidence, once addressed, amply warns. Interestingly enough, when the information is presented with tact and conviction, the student himself will often be drawn to warn the instructor!

From all this evidence, I can only declare: the need today is not for billboards of cardboard and caricature, but of human billboards, activist for truth, tactful and understanding, modeling the fruit of the gospel.

When such billboards stand, the honest of heart of all persuasion will call us blessed. ➤

ABOUT THE COVER

West Chester Lagoon, just two miles from downtown Anchorage, Alaska, is a popular place for families to feed ducks and geese and a good place to shoot "Spic and Span." Literature Evangelist Ron Rigby shot this cover scene for the June 21, 1993, GLEANER, with a Canon F1 and 500mm lens loaded with Fuji 100 film.

laser laboratories and at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. In addition to being a Presidential Scholar at MSU, she was awarded a Montana Space Grant Scholarship in 1992.



Heather Thomas

You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into Glory. Psalm 73:24 NIV



Senior Symphony

On the fourth Sabbath of each month, Havre, Mont., church members and friends sing and share with senior citizens at a local retirement or nursing home. Shown in foreground with mandolin is George Walker. He is accompanied by

Pastor Jorge Maldonado, Eston Allison, Martin Michalec, Leane Michalec, Tim Teske, Pauline Wagner, Leo Beardsley and Casey Teske. Young persons from the church also participate in the ministry.

Ann Lamberton



OREGON



A Pen, a Pencil and A Lunch Pail for Russians

Students from kindergarten through grade 10 at Rogue Valley Adventist School (formerly Rogue River Junior Academy) recently collected 107 lbs. of school supplies and teaching materials to send to Russia.

Rosie Emori, a member of the Medford, Ore., church, who travels to Russia from time to time to help with church projects there, will deliver the goods. Alma Lee, school outreach coordinator, directs the program and notes that current conditions in Russia require that supplies be hand-delivered.

Over a two-week period of time students and teachers gave personal belongings or bought needed supplies with their own money.

One class spent some of its class funds for the mission project. Supplies included pens, pencils, crayons, glue, pictures, scissors, chalk, Bibles, disposable cam-

eras, coloring books, erasers, markers, paper and much more.

While these items are taken for granted in the United States, sister schools in Russia frequently function without basic supplies.

Some cash was also given for Russian teachers to use in buying items there. Besides the school supplies sent, some



Kindergarten students and their teacher, Tammy Fish, display some of the things that they are sending to Russia.

classes sent personal letters to Russian students, and others sent student artwork.

A copy of last year's school annual was also included so that Russian students could better visualize an American Seventh-day Adventist school.

In Russia, Emori turned the materials over to Raya Abadir, associate director of education for the Euro-Asia Division. The supplies will be divided among three Adventist schools in Moscow, Ryazan and Tula.

The school has already received letters of thanks from Russia. The letters not only express sincere gratitude, but beg for retired teachers or student missionaries to come to Russia and help train newly converted teachers in principles of Adventist Christian education.

David J. Davies is principal of Rogue River School and writes from Medford, Ore.

Vegetarian Meals Served During Prophecy Studies

Members of the White Salmon, Wash., church recently hosted a five-week Bible seminar, "Prophecy Speaks to Modern Man," resulting in baptisms of five who attended.

Ben Dale, pastor, conducted the meetings and baptized three adults and two



Pastor Ben Dale baptizes 11-year-old Willeta "Dee Dee" Berry at the White Salmon, Wash., church.

youths: Leonard Ferguson, Bruce McCoy, Barbara Garrett, Willeta "Dee Dee" Berry and Noah Peoples.

The seminar meetings, which were conducted on weekends, also featured vegetarian meals served between the morning and afternoon Sabbath meetings.

Organized by Margaret and Chris Ohlson, personal ministries leaders, the pre-planned meals introduced guests to food prepared with no meat, dairy products or refined sugars. Recipes were also made available to those interested.

Paula Montgomery



Pastor Ben Dale welcomes newly baptized members Leonard Ferguson, Bruce McCoy and Barbara Garrett into the White Salmon church.

Carson Creates Spotlight for Adventist Schools

Fifteen-hundred fifth-through-twelfth-grade students, teachers and parents from 16 area Christian schools gathered at Portland Adventist Academy on May 16 to hear Benjamin S. Carson, M.D., renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, speak.



Benjamin Carson, center, meets with Portland Adventist Academy students after challenging them to discover the excitement of stretching brain cells through reading, music and the pursuit of knowledge. Photo by Kight

Carson, author of "Gifted Hands," and "Think Big," was brought to the Portland, Ore., area by Portland Adventist Elementary School to help highlight the benefits of Christian education.

During a luncheon hosted by Portland Adventist Medical Center, a student from each school was recognized for outstanding achievements he or she had made in taking hold of challenges in life.

Paula Parkel, a teacher from St. Stephen School in Portland, wrote, "Our class feels that they really know Dr. Carson through his book, "Think Big."

Judy Denison, principal, said, "We were honored to have been included in the program for Dr. Ben Carson. You can never begin to imagine how deeply impressed we all were by this event."

Lynn Sleeth

Three Baptized In Rogue River From Series

A 10-week Ken Cox video crusade at the Rogue River, Ore., church bore its first fruits on Sabbath, April 17, when Pastor Verne Hyland baptized three who had viewed the videotaped series of Bible lectures.

Follow-up studies continue with a number of other candidates for baptism.

Russ Hoffman



Recently baptized candidates are introduced to the Rogue River, Ore., congregation, from left: Kathryn Hulbert, Pastor Hyland, Cassandra Mundie and Glenda Tracer.

Quiet Hour Team Visits Cedar Creek

Members of The Quiet Hour radio and television broadcast team recently visited the Cedar Creek church in southern Washington.

According to Bill Tucker, new president and speaker, a change in leadership has not changed the mission or goals of The Quiet Hour.

In the first meeting, conducted Friday evening, Tucker related personal testimonies from the latest evangelistic outreach to Russia made by The Quiet Hour. A 40-minute video entitled Russia Report, 1992, was then shown.

A Sabbath school program included

continues on page 14

more overseas mission experiences and the introduction of the "Wellness Weekend" evangelistic program concept in which local pastors and church members work closely with The Quiet Hour team in presenting the eight principles of NEW-START taught at Weimar Institute.

The approach appealed to many of the Cedar Creek church family and plans are being made for such a program to be held there in the near future.

In the afternoon, members of local church leadership were introduced to ways in which small groups could utilize "Search for Truth" study guides in a Bible-marking program that could appeal to community members.

Jim and Elna Swanberg

Pray Every Day!



UPPER COLUMBIA



Mail-Reading Son Hitches Dad to Borneo Dream

A busy physician, his eighth-grade son, a college student and a retired missionary dentist recently teamed up to serve for two weeks in Borneo.

The four, all Hermiston, Ore., church members, are Guy Oltman, M.D., his 15-year-old son, Josh, Tanna Alford, a college student and Ted Flaiz, D.D. While Oltman ministered to medical needs, Flaiz concentrated on dental care.

Josh and Tanna helped build a mission church in the jungle and joined 28 additional persons from the Upper Columbia Conference in constructing a 30'-by-60' cement block church to house a congregation of 300 in the village of Isu in northern Borneo.

The idea of the venture originated with Josh who had read about the "Youth Mission Adventure" in a mailer in which it was stated that both a physician and a dentist were needed to

accompany the youths.

The Oltman family members talked things over and decided it was "a good opportunity for a father-son venture in mission outreach," according to Dr. Oltman.

"The experience gives Josh a greater sense of bonding with his church and perception of its mission," he added.

Tanna is a local child care provider at a day care center and recently completed a year of college studies.

Dr. Oltman prepared for the mission trip by packing medicines he would be needing during his stay in Borneo. He also reviewed treatment procedures for tropical diseases.

Dr. Flaiz, who spent 23 years as a missionary and has visited 70 countries, setting up many dental clinics, found adjusting to Borneo to be relatively easy.

The group encountered hot, humid



Guy Oltman, M.D., and son Josh recently journeyed from Hermiston to Borneo to serve the medical needs of the people and to assist a group of young persons in building a jungle church.

weather during their March 21 to April 4 stay in Borneo. Each volunteer was responsible for his own travel expenses and also helped raise funds for construction materials.

Joyce D. Klocko

Redmond Community Servant



Mary Hale, 88, has been given a plaque honoring her for 50 consecutive years of service to the community services center in Redmond, Ore.

She began her work of helping people in 1943 when the organization was known as "The Dorcas Center." Neither snow nor ice has kept Mary home from her weekly Tuesday appointments at the center.

Nor has age slowed her in doing the things she enjoys. Besides working at the community services center, she enjoys gardening, sewing and quilting. The plaque expresses Redmond church members' gratefulness to Mary for the time she has given to help others.

Myrtle Bigelow

It only Takes seconds to pray!

Youth Rally "Rides High" With Sabbath Delights

A youth rally which a participant has called "the best youth rally I've ever been to because we actually did something that had a purpose," was held on Sabbath, May 1, on the Upper Columbia Academy campus.

Billed as the Bloomsdale Youth Rally, the event was coordinated by members of the Upper Columbia Conference youth ministries department.

The weekend theme, "I'm Riding High," was based on Isaiah 58: 13 and 14 which says, "If you call the Sabbath a delight and if you honor it by not going your own way. . . then you will find your joy in the Lord and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land" (emphasis supplied).

In his Sabbath-morning sermon, Gordon Pifher, youth ministries director, said, "It's okay to play Bible Frisbee on Sabbath, unless you know what Jesus did on the Sabbath." What Jesus did on the Sabbath changed peoples' lives, he explained.

Pifher went on to tell of a recurring dream in which he is forced to give up the Sabbath or give up his life. As his life "passes before my eyes," he realizes that the value he places on the Sabbath isn't so great. The reason, he says, is because of that "unpublished yet well-known Sabbath rule book," that he and every one else follows.

Because of a new doctrine, "The Doctrine of Rest," that has come into the Adventist Church, he said, the Sabbath has become "kind of boring," especially for young people.

"But if every Seventh-day Adventist donated one seventh of his week to doing what Jesus did," Pifher said, "the world would know what Seventh-day Adventism is really all about." Adventists would then "find joy in the Lord," he said.

Though one might not be able to heal diseases or feed 5,000 people with five barley loaves and two small fish, he or she could lovingly serve others, he said.

On the afternoon of the youth rally, "Riding High Experiences" were planned for the youths in downtown Spokane, Wash. Though rain may have driven many indoors, those attending the famous Bloomsday Race provided an opportunity to witness to thousands.

Each witnessing group, ranging from 15 to 100 youths, participated in the Sabbath-afternoon witnessing options.

These options included delivery of food and literature to 20 families involved in the Better Living Center; serving the noon meal at the Union Gospel Mission (a care center for men); and passing out flyers inviting people to a Christian music concert in Riverfront Park.

Several groups also took prepared meals to homeless people on the streets.

Another group conducted "Health Age Appraisals" (entering data on a computer to determine the health age of an individual) in the Lilac Bowl at Riverfront Park. This group also gave out advertisements for an upcoming health ministry in the Spokane area.

Thirty or 40 students were involved in clown ministries at Riverfront Park. Dressed as happy clowns and carrying huge bouquets of balloons, the students brightened the lives of hundreds of youngsters by giving them balloons with short messages about the love of God.

Still another group was involved in a Faith Adventures Workshop titled, "To Russia With Love." The workshop in-

cluded cutting out felts and paper articles to send to Seventh-day Adventists in Russia.

While working as a group on their project at Riverfront Park, the youths answered the questions of passersby and, in turn, asked them to help in sending a little joy to Russia.

Rain began to fall on the Faith Adventures Workshop almost as soon as the tables were set up but was not allowed to interfere with the program. Presenters continued their projects while dodging streams, withstanding winds and finding occasional shelter from the rain under tables and chairs.

"It was exciting to see so many [youths and members of the public] doing something for those who needed it," said Jim Lounsbury, a UCA student. "If Jesus were here He would have smiled."

So that the youths could gain a blessing from all of the activities, another group conducted a public relations ministry in which groups of three and four were sent as news teams to each of the activities. They reported the days' activities by photographing, writing and videotaping each group.

The videos were played at the final meeting of the rally on Saturday night and the photographs and writing were used for this article to help share the "Riding High" experience with those who were unable to be there.

Jim Lounsbury, Becca Hatley, Karah Hardinge, Geoffrey Greenway, Kirsten Elliott, Anthony Mohr and Frank Richie, all of whom attended the recent rally, were contributing reporters for this article.



Lisa Marie, a Christian recording artist, holds a concert in the rain at Riverfront Park.



An Upper Columbia Academy lion poses with several new friends at Riverfront Park.



WORLD CHURCH NEWS

You and Your Trust Joint Ownership

Several major ways are available to hold property in joint names; however, state laws vary as to the application of joint ownership, so before acting, you should seek proper counsel in your area:

"Tenancy in Common" means that each person owns an undivided interest in the property. Each may sell his/her own portion. Heirs of each take a portion of each. It just means that when "A" dies, his/her half interest isn't forfeited to "B". It belongs to "A's" heirs or passes according to his/her will.

"Joint Tenancy" means that all of the property passes to the survivor on death of one. While they are both alive, either joint owner can usually break up ownership even against the will of the other joint owner. But if the joint tenancy is not broken up, it is a gamble who will be the survivor and wind up owning the property.

"Tenancy by Entirety" is used only by legally married persons. In such cases, the entire property goes to survivor on the death of one. Neither may sell without approval of the other. These cannot continue after a divorce, and all property previously held in this way is assumed to be held as tenants in common—each holds undivided interest. This is, in effect, a special kind of joint tenancy between husband and wife, but recognized only in certain states. Survivor takes all and, unlike the ordinary joint tenancy, neither party can break it up without the consent of the other.

"Community Property" is still another type of plural ownership. Existing only in eight of our states, it has features shared by both the tenancy in common and tenancy by the entirety, to some extent. The states concerned are Ari-

zona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Washington.

There are important differences from one state to the next. It is not safe to speak of the law of community property as if there were only one. However, the underlying theory is that one-half of what either husband or wife earns while married and living in a community property state belongs to the other.

Title to property should be taken by a person only after consulting with his/her attorney because the effect on income tax, estate tax, death rights and so forth may vary.

George Carambot is associate director of trust services for the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and writes from Portland, Ore.

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Maranatha Yearly Event to Begin July 29 in Auburn

Auburn Adventist Academy in Auburn, Wash., will be the site of the 17th annual national convention for Maranatha Volunteers International, to be held July 29 to 31.

The event, which will focus on volunteerism, will bring together participants from across North America and will feature a variety of speakers, multi-image productions and special worship services in addition to member fellowship.

The convention theme "We are His Hands" will be keyed by Michael Ryan, director of Global Mission from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Ryan will share the goals and successes of Global Mission and will focus on the importance of lay service and volunteerism

in achieving world coverage of the gospel message.

The convention will begin on Thursday, July 29, with registration, followed by a banquet in the evening. On Friday, July 30, the convention will carry on organization business as members participate in worship, a Maranatha business session and several seminars.

Loren Dickinson, chairman of the department of communication at Walla Walla College, will present a seminar on the dynamics and importance of skillful communication.

In the afternoon, Roger Hatch, a Maranatha board member and Maranatha's 1992 Missionary of the Year, will give a seminar on effective leadership for successful short-term missions.

Wayne Schaffer and Lloyd Yingling, both expert brick layers and Maranatha board members, will give hands-on instruction on how to do masonry work.

Members who attend the convention will receive the latest information on several upcoming projects in Russia, Mexico and the Marshall Islands and will be given the first opportunity to sign up for many new projects.

The convention weekend follows a two-week work project on the Auburn campus where volunteers will make improvements in the administration building, the music building, the development/alumni building, the swimming pool and faculty homes.

During the work project, several evening excursions to local sites have been planned for the volunteers. The project begins July 14 and ends July 29.

Maranatha members with recreational vehicles are welcome and dormitory housing is available. For more information, write to Maranatha Volunteers International, 1600 Sacramento Inn Way, Suite 116, Sacramento, CA 95815 or call (916) 920-1900, attention Debbie P. Case.



Duane McKey

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When Pastor Needs a Bear Hug

By Duane McKey

Duane McKey is ministerial and church ministries director of the North Pacific Union Conference, and was, until this past April, pastor of the Pendleton, Ore., and Pilot Rock, Ore., churches.

Long ago and far away, as I was bidding the congregation farewell after church, a teenage boy approached me and said, "Wow, I sure wish I could be a pastor and only have to work a half-a-day a week!"

As a pastor, I had just finished a stressful 60-to-70-hour work week, and the words cut right through me. They hurt!

Most pastors work hard, under stress, facing some of the toughest problems known to man—broken hearts and disastrous home problems, to name just two. And all the while, they try to be versatile and to meet all manner of needs among their people.

While they're doing all of this, they often struggle with feelings of failure and guilt because they seem unable to energize more of their members to active ministry.

Some pastors add to these tasks and feelings a sense of jealousy because fellow pastors appear to be doing a far better job than they—more baptisms, better attendance and so forth.

It's hard to imagine all of this happening in the lives of our pastors until we reflect that pastors have absolutely no inherent advantage over the rest of us in terms of human frailty. (Do I hear some "Amen's" from the balcony?) It's true. It's reality.

And that goes for pastors' spouses and pastors' kids. They're real people; they're subject to the same fears and stresses all of us face.

Like us, they enjoy serving others. But, then, like us, they often feel taken for granted. Sensitive pastors (and, yes, most of them are sensitive people) at times feel like the tree in the parable of the "Giving Tree." The tree was always giving but never receiving, giving of itself—fruit, shade, joy, happiness—but never hearing, "Thanks."

It's true that 1993 is the "Year of the Pastor" by action of the General Conference. But an action voted in a meeting hall thousands of miles from home makes little or no difference to a Northwest pastor burdened to the point of breaking by the stresses of wooing and warning souls.

The best and most memorable things that will make a "Year of the Pastor" in any way special will be those little, but wonderful, things that will take place close to home. I've been a pastor for more than 20 years. So, let me suggest some ideas that can help YOU make this a special year for your pastor:

- Once a year plan a special event for your pastor or pastoral couple just to say "Thanks, we love you."

- Plan a card shower for a birthday or an anniversary.

- Honor the pastor on Sabbath morning. Steal the sermon time and surprise your pastor with special "hugs" and tributes.

- Honor your pastor's wife on Mother's Day or her husband on Father's Day.

- Send the pastoral couple for a weekend vacation to the coast, the mountains or some place they can enjoy together. (Offer to take care of the children for them, too).

- Make the Christmas season special for the pastoral family with special "hugs" of appreciation for the family's contributions through loving service, compassionate, caring sermons and so forth.

- After several years of devoted service, plan a "Hug Our Pastor Week." "Hug" your pastoral couple in as many ways as possible. Be creative.

- "Hug" the pastor by supporting the church programs, church services, evangelistic meetings, church ministries endeavors, church budget and so forth;

- If your pastoral couple is involved in *Operation Bearhug*, join your hands to theirs in support of a Russian outreach endeavor. (One pastoral couple in Montana, upon returning home from an evangelistic meeting in Russia, was overwhelmed when most of the church family showed up at the airport—late at night—to welcome them back.)

- Pray for your pastor daily and say, "Pastor, I am praying for you every day." (I have greatly appreciated these words from my church members.)

- When you or others must be critical of the pastor or pastor's family, try to (1) practice the Golden Rule, (2) remember how patient God has been with you, and pray that you can be that patient with your pastor and (3) read Matt. 18:15-17 and practice it.

- Finally, give gifts that say, "We appreciate you and love you." The most precious gifts sometimes cost the least.

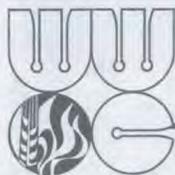
Once, right after I had accepted a call to pastor another church, I was given a mug with pictures of sheep on it and words that read, "There will never be another ewe."

I was overcome with emotion, but then, the sister who had given it to me explained that, several years before, when she had had cancer, the nurses at the hospital where she was being treated had given her that very mug when she was discharged.

Words cannot explain how warmly hugged I felt by that gift. This year, let's pass these kinds of "hugs" on to our pastors. The hugs we share with our pastors will bless us all. 🐻

ABOUT THE COVER

Photographer Eugene Lambert shot "Yellow and Red Stripes Trio," the July 12, 1993, cover scene, at Shore Acres on the Oregon Coast. Lambert often travels with the Oregon Color Slide Club on their field trips in May, June, and July three days before the full moon for best ambient light. On one of these excursions, he shot the cover scene using a Canon F1 camera with a 100-millimeter macro lens on bellows and Kodachrome 64 film.



WWC Bestows 321 Diplomas

Sunday, June 13, 1993, Walla Walla College (WWC) graduated 315 students from 14 countries and 27 states at an outdoor commencement service held on the WWC Centennial Green.

The commencement address was presented by Donald Rigby, professor emeritus of biology, and his wife, Donnie Rigby, professor emerita of communication. Niels-Erik Andreasen, Walla Walla College president, conferred 261 bachelor's degrees on 255 candidates, 60 master's degrees and presented four faculty awards.

Robert Rittenhouse, professor of chemistry, received a \$1,500 award for excellence in scholarship from the Burlington Northern Foundation. Verlie Ward, professor of education, received a \$1,500 Burlington Northern Foundation Award for excellence in teaching. The Tom and Violet Zapara Faculty Award in the amount of \$1,000 was presented to Pedrito Maynard-Reid, professor of biblical studies, for "distinguished teaching." James Nestler, assistant professor of biology, received a \$200 Excellence in Advising Award for outstanding student advising based on student evaluations.

Of the 255 candidates receiving bachelor's degrees, 76 graduated with academic honors, having maintained a grade-point average of 3.50 or above, and 21 received general studies honors by having maintained 3.00 grade-point aver-



Members of the Walla Walla College graduating class of 1993 await receipt of their diplomas.

ages in honors courses and a minimum overall grade-point average of 3.25.

Commencement services concluded with 101 peals of the college bell, commemorating 101 years of Christian edu-

cation at Walla Walla College.

Kimberlie Strobel writes from College Place, Wash., where she serves on staff of the College Relations Department.

Outreach Team To Set Up Church In Russia

Two Walla Walla College (WWC) professors and two students left for St. Petersburg, Russia, Sunday, June 20, to participate in *Operation Bearhug* evangelism.

The WWC team will spend a month in Pushkin, Russia, a suburb of St. Petersburg, where it will present evangelistic meetings during daylight hours and hold evening classes on topics such as practical Christian living, stress management and grief recovery. Team members will also work to set up an Adventist church in

Pushkin where there are currently four Adventist families.

Participating in the endeavor are John Brunt, WWC vice president for academic administration and professor of biblical studies; his wife, Ione; Darold Bigger, associate professor of religion and social work; Bigger's wife, Barbara; and WWC students, Laura Constantinescu and Trent Pierce.

College involvement in the Russian phase of Adventist Global Mission Strategy for 1990-1995 has developed rapidly from an initial outreach trip in 1991 to the development of an English language school in 1992 and finally to this most recent outreach endeavor.

Kimberlie Strobel

High Achievers Named to "Who's Who" Registry

The 1993 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" will include 41 Walla Walla College students who have been selected as outstanding campus leaders.

The students have been chosen based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success. The students are selected from more than 1,400 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states,

A Prayer for Russia

By Ed Schwisow

Ed Schwisow is editor of the GLEANER and writes from Portland, Ore.



Ed Schwisow



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As we go to press, word has arrived from Russia that steps have been taken by the Russian parliament to restrict public evangelism.

The legislation is reportedly strongly supported by the Russian Orthodox Church leadership.

According to the proposed constitutional provisions, only "approved" visiting religious speakers would be granted privileges of public forum.

Closing Window

This late-breaking story is but another indication that the "window of opportunity" created for the gospel in 1989 may be closing in Russia. We should pray earnestly at this time that God's grace may overshadow, in mercy, the *Operation Bearhug* initiatives that have brought thousands into the church during the past 28 months.

Some have suggested that the new constitutional provisions may not be signed by Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, and might thereby fail to become law. Others have cited evidence that these restrictive provisions are but interim articles added to an old constitution which will be replaced in the near future.

Others have noted that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has long been recognized by the government as a vital and responsible church, and that this recognition will continue to allow evangelism to proceed unabated.

But these are only speculations and offer no convincing evidence that the open window of religious opportunity in Russia may not be closing. One message is clear: the encroaching tide of materialism and possible repression are adding turbulence to the warm spring air that we have enjoyed for the past three years.

A nationalist call in Russia to stand up and partially or fully close an irksome and irritating window, is clearly growing in strength.

Still Preaching

Through initiatives such as *Operation Bearhug*, the Adventist church has set a new, progressive and unstoppable course for evangelism in the nation. And now, even as the window of opportunity shudders in the clutches of forces beyond our control, Adventist preachers, with prayers on their hearts and Bibles in their hands, are making their way to large population centers of the nation to employ every remaining moment of opportunity to share the gospel.

Paul Johnson, veteran evangelist and now pastor of the Sandy, Ore., church, told his parishioners on July 17: "We are going to Russia to preach the gospel in public meetings; and if we are not permitted to do so, we know that there are methods other than public meetings to share."

The next day, he and his team left for the city of Syktyvkar where they will remain until the end of this month.

New Approaches

The creaking in the hinges of the yet-open window underscores the importance, however, of new approaches to evangelism and nurture which began some months ago under *Operation Bearhug*.

High-profile preaching continues, but, now, specialists in home evangelism are at work helping to establish "home groups" throughout the nation.

In depressed economic times, and given the uncertainties of changing political attitudes, the home groups offer the advantages of speedier social integration of new converts into a Christian lifestyle.

Furthermore, in cases where immediate construction of new churches is impossible, it allows congregations to immediately begin to minister to new converts in an organized fashion. And, finally, it prepares Russian Adventists to survive as an organization, even if currents of religious freedom are stifled in the future.

Despite this emerging and fast-growing ministry of home churches, however, the need and potential for public proclamation remains great. There is yet a thirst for the gospel, as evidenced by the recent Mark Finley crusade in the Olympic Stadium in Moscow with daily average attendance of 17,000 people.

That crusade has been featured on NBC and ABC television networks as well as in "USA Today." The Global Mission of the church continues to make global news.

A Time for Prayer

Let us pray that the window of opportunity, though it may creak and shudder, and though political forces may grapple to board it up, will yet remain ajar.

And let us add to that prayer a plea that we will not be intimidated by the quakings and groanings in the window of opportunity, but that with Christian grace, we will attempt to remove all stumbling-blocks through a ministry of caring (as *Operation Bearhug* has modeled); that we will vigorously continue to add value to the nation as we minister to spiritual needs; and that, as we have purposed in the past, that we will leave those to whom we have ministered better citizens in their own nation because of what they have seen in Jesus.

Though events may baffle us; though currents may swirl and structures of freedom shudder, God will not leave unfinished what He has begun in Russia. Let us pray for courage and wisdom to meet the challenge in His Spirit at this time of crisis. 

ABOUT THE COVER

For the Aug. 2, 1993, GLEANER cover, photographer Loren Schisler used a Canon T90 with a Tamron 80-200-millimeter F2.8 zoom lens and Kodachrome 64 set at ASA 80 for this slide of a mink at NorthWest Trek near Eatonville, Wash.



OREGON



Oregon Teams Fly To Russia for Gospel Service

Remembering missionaries during bedside prayers is taking on new meaning for many Oregon Conference constituents as increasing numbers of their fellow members accept temporary mission assignments to Russia.

Last fall, the conference launched the Oregon Center for World Mission with the goal of turning church members into missionaries. These new-style pioneers, however, will not be building churches or preaching evangelistic sermons.

"Because of the restrictions of communism, Russian churches had remained small," explains Don Jacobsen, conference president. "Now that public evangelism is lawful, thousands have flocked to evangelistic crusades and been baptized by Western evangelists. The successes have created a whole new need."

A Russian pastor and his church of 50 or 100, for example, may be left with two or three hundred new converts after an evangelistic series, an overwhelming number of new Christians to try to assimilate.

Acknowledging this need, Oregon's missionary planning began to take shape. The conference had already planned to send evangelists to three Russian cities during 1993. What if the conference sent a supporting cast to help the local churches?

A schedule was established to send six follow-up teams to each city. The teams would include an Oregon pastor as a mentor for his Russian counterpart and lay members to model small groups, adult Sabbath school teaching, children's division specialties and skills in local church management of boards, committees and budgets.

Team members would spend approximately two weeks in their host city, then return to the United States as another team arrived, enabling each church to see an evangelist and up to 30 Oregon missionaries during a three-month period.

Before church members boarded planes, they would need to be sensitized to the Russian culture, and under the auspices of the Oregon Center for World Mission, Gottfried Oosterwal, a seasoned trainer of hundreds of missionaries, came to Oregon to conduct a mission institute.

Implementation began with a crusade conducted by Arnold Scherencel, conference evangelist, in the city of Tomsk, followed, last month, by the departure of Pastor Elden Walter of Springfield, Ore., for Barnaul and of Paul Johnson, Sandy, Ore., church pastor, for the city of Syktyvkar.

"It is our intent to refocus the attention, energies, and spiritual gifts of this

conference on the world mission of the Adventist Church," explains Jacobsen. "Those who volunteer for a global assignment will return to inspire their own congregations."

"God has given this country significant resources that can be used to bless the world," he adds. "I believe that every indication signals the need for a renewed urgency to our task of sharing the gospel—both at home and abroad."

Jay E. Prall is director of communications for the Oregon Conference and writes from Clackamas, Ore.



Vernon Pritchard, left, a member of the Bend, Ore., church, boards a plane for Tomsk, Russia, as a member of a five-missionary team, the first of many teams to visit Russian cities this summer in the wake of evangelistic crusades conducted by Oregon Conference preachers.

Canyonville Church Community Facility Expands

After nearly four years of building, Canyonville, Ore., church members have formally opened their new community services center and fellowship hall.

The building has been the cornerstone of a construction and renovation plan that has called for a new roof and glass-enclosed foyer on the church as well as remodeling of the adjacent school.

Landscaped islands have been created in the newly paved parking lot, and a fresh coat of paint has been applied to the interior of the church.

Ground breaking for the new building took place Aug. 16, 1989, reports Martha

Harder, news correspondent for the congregation. With the help of Maranatha Volunteers, the shell of the building was completed in just 14 days, making headlines in the local newspaper.

With the rising cost of materials, however, and an earlier under-estimation of total project costs, the building process stretched out longer than expected.

But by opening day, more than two-thirds of the third-of-a-million-dollar project bill had been liquidated.

Although the fellowship hall provides a comfortable resource for the church family, the hub of the building is its community services center.

Already a stop-smoking program has been held there, reports Jo Sanders, director. A soup kitchen for Canyonville needy is a fall priority. Earlier this year the center shipped 68 boxes to Adventist Develop-

ment and Relief Agency (ADRA), the denomination's international relief organization.

Since the clothes don't always arrive at the community services center in good shape, Nora Livezey must get involved as she and several neighbors in the Forest Glen retirement center mend garments for recycling.

Another agenda that has drawn lots of local interest is a quilting project sponsored by the Stahl Center for World Service at La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif. Grace Alice Mentzel's talents will help fulfill the school's plan to create 10,000 crib quilts for children in need at home and abroad. At least 18 of those quilts will come from the Canyonville center.

Women aren't the only ones who work at the center. Hiram Clark and Matthew



UPPER COLUMBIA



Magadan Miracle Church to Host Aug. 8 Dedication

An estimated one-hundred Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) constituents and other volunteers from elsewhere in the North American Division have traveled or are planning to travel to Magadan, Siberia, this summer to complete what has become known as the "Magadan Miracle."

One group of Magadan volunteers, led by Ted Lutts, UCC conference treasurer, and Jon Wagner are working long hours to complete the interior of the Magadan Adventist church. One of its walls, near the entrance, will be called the "Wall of Love."

On that wall will be listed the names of all donors who have made the Magadan church possible.

Another group of volunteers has been visiting Russian homes every day, delivering copies of the *Desire of Ages*. Through these contacts, other outreach ministries are being set up with the many families whose members express an interest in the services the North American volunteers offer.

Among these services are pastoral visitation, small-group evangelism and Bible studies. Each family is also being invited to visit a Magadan "Health Expo."

This month, the first-ever such "Health Expo" program, directed by Max Torkelsen II, UCC health services director, will be held in the fellowship hall of the church. The expo will consist of eight booths which will each emphasize a different natural good-health ingredient.

Blood pressure checks, health age appraisals and food demonstrations will also be included. "Smoking Sue" will make an appearance at the health fair to demonstrate the effects on the body of smoking. A special health-emphasis program will also be held for children.

In conjunction with the "Health Expo," a week-long church open house will be hosted. Because space is limited, activities will be repeated daily during the week to give all interested Magadan citizens a chance to visit the "Health Expo" and open house. The open house and "Health Expo" will culminate at the end of the week with the church dedication on Sabbath, Aug. 7.

The summer initiative will be capped by a four-week evangelistic crusade, beginning Aug. 8, led by Duane McKey, recently named North Pacific Union Conference church ministries and ministerial director and former pastor of the Upper Columbia Conference churches of Pendleton and Pilot Rock, Ore.

Wayne Hicks and his wife will direct children's meetings for the crusade and will assist Russian leaders in establishing pathfinder and teen clubs.

Jon Dalrymple

Energetic Pilot Rock Activities Unite Members

The small Pilot Rock, Ore., church is being strengthened by new members, new activities and new traditions.

A "Community Day" was held May 1 with Max Torkelsen II, Upper Columbia Conference communication director, as speaker for the church service and musician Tony Frost as featured guest for the Sabbath school program.

A custom-built church sign has been

unveiled. It reads "Pilot Rock Seventh-day Adventist Church" and portrays Jesus with His arms outstretched to the community. Beneath him are printed the words "Jesus is our Pilot and Rock."

The social committee has organized many activities to encourage fellowship. Among these events have been monthly birthday parties, a winter snow party, an old-fashioned biblical characters dress-up party, roller skating anniversary and baby showers.

To provide funding for these events, members have held a garage sale, a car wash, a potato feed and have picked mushrooms.

Identity with the community as well as an appreciation of the local church family members has been heightened through these events. Several new members have been added to the congregation, as well.

Vivian Taylor and Jo Ann Lintelman



A garage sale helps raise funds for church activities which are bringing members together and helping them, in turn, to reach out to the Pilot Rock, Ore., community.

Goldendale Fiddlers



helped with an evangelistic effort there.

The amateur hour hosted by the local home-and-school association included many other special numbers, and was coordinated under the leadership of Wayne Byers, retired pastor.

Depicting Jewish traditions as they perform a song from "Fiddler on the Roof" are, from left, Goldendale, Wash., church performers Julie Kostenko, Brittany Woodruff, Kami Kostenko, Randy Morgan, Kody and Jered Kostenko, Skylar Woodruff and Pastor Larre Kostenko. The male characters are shown wearing typical Russian hats purchased by the Kostenkos recently in Magadan, Siberia, while they



Is the Window of Opportunity Closing in Russia?

By Bruce Johnston

Bruce Johnston is the president of the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) and writes from Portland, Ore.

Russia is Changing

The conditions under which Duane McKey and I conducted the St. Petersburg OPERATION BEARHUG evangelistic series this spring were far different from those we'd experienced in 1991 and 1992. Previously, the Russian people were in desperate straits.

During our August 1991 meetings, the infamous Coup occurred and fear of recurring oppressions gripped the people anew. It was not clear whether the Russian people could secure their new freedoms. Food was scarce. Store shelves were nearly barren of goods and as the dream of a "Workers' Paradise" shattered, a sense of hopelessness set in. Desperate Russians reached out for any hope or meaning.

Secularism on the Rise

This year, the stores were full. Food was plentiful, if expensive. Long lines, so noticeable in the past, were scarce. Secularism and materialism were not. The newness of Western religion, proclaimed by scores and hundreds of evangelists from many denominations as well as a bedlam of fanatics, was fading as were the bargain prices for television advertising.

Decisions for God

In spite of this, hundreds attended the five-week evangelistic series held in St. Petersburg, Russia. Every night,

Russian people packed the St. Petersburg Cultural Center to hear about the love of God, the gracious teachings and atoning sacrifice of Jesus, the way of salvation through Him, the new life available to all who respond, the precious Sabbath and hope of His coming again to set things right. Attendance seemed to drop off slightly during Russian holidays but rebounded whenever the weather took a turn for the worse. In the end, 174 Russians were baptized and hundreds more continue to study. Words fail to describe the joy these people have found in Jesus Christ and in the beautiful truths of the Bible.

Changed Lives

A medical doctor came back stage after the first meeting. He was a patient in a hospital caring mainly for victims of the Chernyobyl nuclear disaster. He was himself a physical disaster worsened to the point of despair by the depression that showed so vividly in his face. When I saw him near the end of the series, only a month later, I did not recognize him, so remarkable was the transformation. Tobacco and alcohol were gone. He was running up to three miles a day, drinking lots of water and taking daily showers. He was singing the praises of the Health Expo conducted by Dorothy Nelson and family. The Bible had become his guide and Jesus his constant companion. He is today happier than he has ever been in all his life.

Elena, an engineering student at the Technological Institute, quickly learned English at the English Language School from Greg Davis, one of four Walla Walla College

graduates who are currently teaching there. During the evangelistic meetings, she discovered the faith in Jesus that has made Greg's life a strong witness to his Savior.

End of OPERATION BEARHUG?

What of the future? There is a religious liberty crisis in Russia as I write. President Boris Yeltsin is expected to sign a proposition to be included in the Russian Law on Religion so as to restrict missionary activities of foreign organizations and individuals lacking registration with the Russian government who are not linked to local religious organizations. Coupled with a drive by nationalists to identify Orthodoxy as synonymous with "Russianness", there is reason for concern.

It's too Early to Know

The upside of it all is that, to my knowledge, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is registered and is an indigenous religious organization. It is too early to know what this will mean for Russia and what the impact will be on OPERATION BEARHUG. We shall "stay the course," continuing to evangelize and respond so long as we are needed, wanted and allowed to serve, recognizing that church structure is forming, and our Russian pastors are becoming more effective in evangelism. 🌿



Dorothy Nelson's Health Expo attracted Russians of all ages to the St. Petersburg Cultural Center where the five-week evangelistic series was being held.



Bruce Johnston stands with Elena, a student who learned about God at the English Language School where four Walla Walla College students are currently working. She made her commitment to Christ during Bruce Johnston's evangelistic meetings in St. Petersburg.



One hundred seventy-four Russians asked to be baptized at the close of the St. Petersburg meetings. Many more continue to study with Russian pastors.

OPERATION BEARHUG's Goal Revisited

Our major objective is to assist the Russian believers to the point where they can carry the load without us. God guided us in establishing OPERATION BEARHUG. It remains at His disposal. Should the door slam shut? To change the metaphor, we shall cross that bridge with God when it becomes necessary.

Bruce Johnston

have recently been baptized largely because of the love and friendship they have experienced as pathfinders.

A total of eight pathfinders were invested and 82 honors conferred.

D. Reid McCrary

Yakima Members Study End-Time Events

Yakima, Wash., 35th Ave. church members recently began a study of last-day events many expect to occur shortly before the return of Christ to earth.

The study was launched with a series of eight sermons on the topic and circulation of 175 copies of the book "Crisis of the End Time" by Marvin Moore, which were given to those who agreed to read them in personal study of last-day events.

Copies of the book were also shared with both inactive members and shut-ins, and prayer-meeting attendance increased as topics relating to Jesus' coming were featured.

"The purpose of this effort is to raise an interest in the church to reach out to the community, helping people prepare for the Second Coming," says Pastor Gary Tolbert.

The sermons, books and prayer meetings have only been the first phase of the effort. The second step will involve sending out of a letter to most members of the local community offering a video or Bible course.

The third step calls for an outreach event to the community this fall.

Jennie Wilkinson

Blue Mountain TV Influential in Recent Baptism

Patty Brown recently joined the College Place, Wash., Village church through baptism and listed the local Adventist television station, Blue Mountain Broadcasting, as influential in her decision.

During a time of poor weather this past winter, Patty began watching Blue Mountain television and found a number of Christian friends among the hosts of the programs.

"Way before I considered becoming a Seventh-day Adventist, as I watched this channel, there were things I became interested in such as the health and cooking programs," says Patty.

The round-the-clock ministry of Blue Mountain TV and 3ABN was able to meet a need of which even Patty was not

totally aware.

Personal contact with Adventist neighbors who invited her to the Village church then created the bridge to fellowship for Patty.

Pathfinding Leads Two to Baptism

Ryler Adams and Heather Guidry were baptized this spring largely as a result of the camaraderie experienced with the St. Maries Seekers Pathfinders and their leaders. They began attending and experienced Christian fun as they camped out, modeled in the fashion show, built model rockets and joined in weekly meetings working toward honors.

Pastor Collette Pekar gladly shared Bible studies with Heather while Pastor Mark Pekar and Ryler studied together.

D. Reid McCrary



Pastor Mark Pekar baptizes Ryler Adams.



Pastor Collette Pekar baptizes Heather Guidry.

St. Maries School Invites President To Get Acquainted

An invitation was recently made by the St. Maries, Idaho, church school to Jere Patzer, conference president, and, his wife, Sue, to come and share a time of fellowship with the students and staff.

During the ensuing visit, the president encouraged the students to know their Bibles and to walk with Jesus so they would not be vulnerable to the types of deception experienced by followers of David Koresh in Waco, Texas.

His wife presented a historical sketch of the former Soviet Union, illustrated with dolls of Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, Bresnev,

Gorbachev and Yeltsin which fit one inside of another. She then tied this in with what the Upper Columbia Conference has been doing to help Adventists in Magadan, Russia, through *Operation Bearhug*.

The students also learned of the progress of "Zina," a Russian girl who had received life-saving surgery through the help of the Upper Columbia Conference and for whom they had made cards and prayed.

The home-and-school association then served a hot lunch with a "farm" theme under the direction of "farm cooks" Sue Clark and Gail Resser.

The president and his wife then remained to enjoy a rousing game of "steal the flag."

D. Reid McCrary



St. Maries, Idaho, students enjoy a visit by Jere Patzer, Upper Columbia Conference president, and his wife, Sue, shown in back row, center.



Cool Furnace

Kids at the Puyallup, Wash., Nelson Crane Christian School (NCCC) ended the school year on a hot note with their musical production of "Cool in the Furnace," May 20.

About 150 people attended the hour-and-a-half production, which centered on Daniel's faith and those of his three cohorts in the courts of King Nebuchadnezzar.

"(The kids) thoroughly enjoyed it," said Diane Meharry, NCCC's secretary and gymnastics coach. "They really got into the play; the acting was fantastic. They began to understand the . . . convictions and what faith really is."

Twenty-eight children from grades

one through four took part in the play. Shaun Rhoden played Daniel; Kilikinia Vega was King Nebuchadnezzar. NCCC's music director, David Church, directed the play.

While third and fourth grade teacher Pat Wister did much of the costuming, several of the kids from those classes also helped in sewing their own outfits, Meharry said. Wister also created the backdrop.

Weekly rehearsals began in January, and the intensive preparation paid off as the troupe was asked to give an encore performance at the North Hill church on June 5.

Jennifer Wynn



Moving Decision

New member Karen Scharpf stands with Pastor Marvin Humbert, who recently baptized her. Karen had been familiar with the Adventist Church several years back when church member Stan Schrader, who is a physical therapist in Elma, Wash., had introduced her to the Bible. Karen then began studies with the pastor, at that time Ed Eigenberg. A move took her to Sedro-Woolley, Wash., but when she moved back to Elma recently, she found her way to the Adventist church.

Cathryn Armstrong Beierle

Tools Sent

Having discovered the need for quality, long-lasting tools while working together during the project, nearly \$1,000 in hammers, planes, saws and chisels have been purchased and hand-carried by international travelers to EVA.

The cost of these tools was funded by surplus donations toward the ThaiTrek mission project.

Bibles Collected

When Mary Lou Bullard, a student participant in ThaiTrek, returned from Thailand, she was excited about her mission adventure and told her parents of the desperate need for English Bibles at EVA. That single comment set her mother, Laura Bullard, to work. So far, she has collected 11 Bibles and has delivered them to Auburn to be sent to EVA when another traveler heads to Thailand.

Students Sponsored

EVA students come from nearly destitute refugee families who have fled across the border to Thailand to escape the Burmese Communists. Since they have funds with which to pay for their schooling expenses, Helen Hall, their principal, searches for sponsors for her 350 students, grades K-12.

Hal Gates Returns To Russia to Help Fight Drugs

Pastor Hal Gates of the Poulsbo, Wash., church has spent much of the past year getting ready for a return trip to Russia, an event which took place this past May and June.

Last year, Gates was one of a four-member team to travel to Orenburg, Russia, for a five week series on health topics, the Bible and recovery from drugs and alcohol. The team was so well received by the people of Orenburg that an invitation for a return trip was extended by several dignitaries as well as an official of the KGB.

Much time and energy has been spent in preparation for the return trip by a 15-member team that left Sea-Tac airport Sunday, May 9, for the flight to Moscow and the 36-hour train trip into Orenburg.

The team consisted of six young persons, leaders, pastors, musicians and a

health professional who will be presenting a drug and alcohol awareness program to the youth there.

A Russian interpreter has returned with Gates to spend the summer in the Poulsbo area. He is available for speaking appointments by calling (206) 598-3808 or (206) 779-4746.

Park Johnson

Thailand Remains At Center of Auburn Outreach

Since the return of 41 Auburn Adventist Academy students and staff from their mission trip to Eden Valley Academy (EVA) in the jungles of Thailand, Auburn's students, staff and community friends have continued to assist the school.

They have acted independently upon their new commitment to the concept of global missions through follow-up projects.



Ed Schwisow

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Adventist Schools: Our Fast-Track to Mission

By Ed Schwisow

Ed Schwisow is editor of the GLEANER and writes from Portland, Ore.

As Adventist kids growing up in South America, we were "home-schooled" for a few years, long before the term became trendy in America. We "home-schooled" because it was the only way to be Adventist-taught in our own language as foreign mis-

sionaries.

Yet we looked forward to those furloughs back to the states when we could go to "real school," (and, coincidentally, not have mother's seemingly perfectionist hand at all times hovering over our progress.)

As children, we weren't sure why we "had" to go to Christian schools, or even if we did "have" to go. We had good friends at the local high and junior high; we liked them and they liked us, and at one point, with our local church personal ministries director, we were able to sign up a lot of them for Bible studies.

Special Calling

But those of us who attended Adventist schools, sensed that what our parents provided was best for us.

In their choice of schools, our parents were clearly telling us that they had dedicated us to a special calling; that they were deep-down serious about our lives being devoted to Christian service.

For us, going to Adventist school was a natural extension of the "home school" we'd had from birth. We'd been taught that the world urgently needed our ministry. Now we were being fast-tracked through our school system to meet that mission head-on.

Alternatives

We were the first, of course, to perk up ears when we heard other points of view. Some extremely intelligent and well-to-do professionals once explained to my parents that they sent their children to alternate schools because of "academic concerns."

Others, less well to do, told Dad that paying tuition lowered their standard of living, and that the sacrifice simply created too much family tension.

Others told horror stories of how relatives had been "ruined" by experiences in Adventist secondary schools. The cry "Anything but Adventist," echoed through the parlor.

Unconvinced

As kids, though, we found these views less than convincing. We'd been told that our academ-

ic performance, along with a majority of our classmates, was far above average, thanks to solid teaching and study habits. So somehow the academic argument remained just that—academic.

As missionaries, (and we'd already been missionaries in spirit long before we shipped South we'd "adjusted" our income down by about 80 percent, so the argument about standard-of-living tensions just never clicked, though we could understand someone not wanting to be "forced" to a pared-back way of living.)

And when friends or relatives told us "horror stories," we sensed that usually such horrors took place between individuals WITHIN institutions not BECAUSE of the institutions themselves. Snowballing egos sometimes did collide in the frozen shadows of intransigence.

Mature Reflections

Yet sometimes, it seems, the signals sent by some Adventist role models today say otherwise. Mission in life, fast-tracking to service becomes secondary to academics, to finances, to emotions.

But as Adventists we dare not so conform; we dare not allow home-grown values to be lost as our children seek their destinies in world mission.

If you as a parent are wrestling with decisions this month; if you find yourself caught between conviction and constraints, between finances and faith, between emotions and Christian education, remember:

(1) Local Adventist pastors are eager to counsel in complete confidentiality those who for reasons too numerous to mention feel insecure in their ability to raise all tuition costs.

(2) Adventist schools today seem to be undergoing revivals as profound as the ones we're seeing in Russia. To seek mission first and to allow the Lord to add the rest is clearly front burner-thinking;

(3) All Adventist schools are designed to be home school extensions: they're specialized, fast-track-to-mission stations for young people ready to get on with the business of preparing for and practicing mission.

We've dedicated the following feature section of this issue to a report on some of the latest things happening in these, our Adventist "home schools," where the cherished mission ingrained in young minds at home can expand under the guidance of fully dedicated specialists.

We owe this advantage to our church; we owe it to our children. ➔

ABOUT THE COVER

The Red Fox on Round Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Bristol Bay, Alaska, have no natural enemies, so they are not afraid of humans, says photographer Steve Lackie. He used a Canon EOS1 camera with an F2.8 80-200mm zoom lens and Fujichrome 100 film for this cover scene for the Sept. 20, 1993, GLEANER.

Senior Citizens Honored by Gresham Church

Approximately 85 senior citizens were recently honored at a Gresham, Ore., church Sabbath school and worship service.

Senior citizen invitees from the nearby Village church numbered 36, adding to the total number of seniors who enjoyed a Sabbath school tribute arranged by Nancy Godman and a worship service directed by Pastor David Peckham.

Seniors and youths worked together during the Sabbath school program as Columbia Academy student Suzette Kirnan and Walla Walla College junior Debra Godman led song service.

After opening prayer, Arthur Lickey presented a special feature: "Seniors: Benefit or Detriment." This was followed by a musical number "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" played by Ruby Bostwick, age 99, on her autoharp.

Because the sanctuary was crowded, a general lesson study was taught by Allen Iseminger, and the retirees' contributions to the Sabbath school lesson discussion showed that they were avid Bible students.

At the close of Sabbath school, "A Special Promise" card was given to each senior.

During a "family sing" time, Francis Fickess and group chose old-fashioned hymns to sing before the worship service began. Youth participants were Janel

Coleman, granddaughter of two Gresham seniors, who played a piano solo and Don Godman, Walla Walla senior, who had the sermon which contrasted the energy of youth working with the experience of age.

A luncheon prepared by younger church members under the direction of Cheryl Peckham was then served to seniors by Gresham church teens.

Lorraine Miller



Cookin' at the Creek

Members of the Fall Creek, Ore., church recently conducted a "Kids in the Kitchen" vacation Bible school during which a multi-generational group of current and past VBS alumni got together for a photo. Four generations from one family are represented, all of whom have attended or have assisted in vacation Bible schools, Sabbath school or camp meeting through the years.

In the back row, center, is Clara Roach, this year's kitchen supervisor. Her daughter, Evelyn Colley with toddler Tiffany Dempsey is to her right. Granddaughter Delaine Dempsey is to her left. Dempsey's daughters, Ashley, directly in front of her, and Nicci, in front of Clara, made salads and bread.

Bernalla Calkins



Silverton/Monitor Baptisms

Carl Rose, pastor of the Silverton and Monitor, Ore., churches, recently baptized five young candidates at Butte Creek. Shown in front, from left, are Ashley Ellison and Jelinda Dotolo, now members of the Silverton church; in the back row are Jarad Balance, Pastor Rose, Carol Adrian and Adam Black. The three latter candidates have joined the Monitor church.



TOUCH THE FUTURE
OREGON CONFERENCE EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

OREGON NEWS



Bear Hug Coming and Going

A special potluck at Sheridan, Ore., church was held recently in honor of Pastor Andy Wittenburg, wife Kathy and children, as the church welcomed the pastor back after a three-week Operation Bearhug trip to Siberia.



Standing Tall in Forest Grove

Forest Grove, Ore., church members and candidates' family and friends recently witnessed the baptisms of LaFleur Hamblin, her grandson Josh Madsen and Maria Barron. Shown in the left photo are, from left, Ryan Madsen, Shalline Madsen, Josh Madsen, LaFleur Dwyer Hamlin and Steve Madsen.

The right photo portrays Manuel Molina, Barron, her son Jesus and Anna Molina.

Family and friends who studied, prayed and shared with the candidates helped them prepare for their special time of commitment through baptism.

Geri Warmanen





WASHINGTON



'Bible Labs' Set Adventist Schools Apart from the Rest

Christian education and public education differ in many ways, especially as Adventist schools place emphasis on serving others.

Within the Washington Conference "Bible Labs" is the name given to a curriculum plan whereby students' knowledge of Christ is put to use in practical ways in the community and beyond.

Those who take part in "Bible Labs" try to meet human needs at all levels, from helping in basic survival to teaching about Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

One of the basic philosophies of Christian education is that it is Christ-centered, Bible-based and service-structured. The children and youths who attend Seventh-day Adventist schools are to be led to know Christ as their personal Savior, to develop a character and lifestyle based on biblical principles and to be trained to use their knowledge to serve others.

Students who are involved in the lives of others through service and outreach projects become acquainted with the needs of people and learn how their own talents and skills can be used to meet those needs.

According to Doug White, Kirkland, Wash., principal, "It is worthwhile to have a number of different projects because what appeals to one is different than what appeals to another student. However, most all students respond very well to assisting during natural emergencies, alleviating human suffering, especially with the elderly, and assisting individuals their own age."

He added that some of the most suc-

cessful "Bible Labs" projects for the junior academy-aged have included students helping to build a Project Patch ranch for troubled children in Idaho, helping to build two churches in Mexico and assisting Seattle homeless with food and clothes.

Younger students often work closer to home. Richard Rasmussen, principal of the Enumclaw, Wash., school, involves students in community improvement, environment recycling and reclamation improvements and drug awareness programs.

According to Rasmussen, "Many younger students are idealistic, but with guidance they develop some very good ideas into worthwhile community service projects and become excellent Christian witnesses."

Besides these local school "Bible Labs," the Washington Conference Office of Education coordinates an annual K-10 conference-wide project. During the 1992-93 school year the teachers selected a Bible fund-raising project for Russian evangelism as their main endeavor. The original goal was to raise enough money to purchase 1,000 Bibles; however, teachers and students became so excited about the project that they raised enough money to purchase more than 8,000 Bibles.

Students gave up weekly treats and did extra work for contributions toward the children's Bibles.

"I think that the inspiring motivator was that students saw the great desire of Russian children to have their own personal Bibles and because they could easi-

ly identify with the age group and particular need," says Sandy Vincent, upper-grade teacher at Fall City, Wash.

"I have seen children hug their new Bibles, cry when given a Bible and study them thoroughly because the Bibles mean so much to them," said Hal Gates, Poulsbo, Wash., pastor, who is one of several Washington Conference pastors who have traveled to Russia.

Students may begin "Bible Labs" with caution but often become extremely enthusiastic, say teachers. A student, for example, may question whether or not he will enjoy visiting a convalescent home. But after two or three visits he makes friends among the patients and begins to look forward to reading to them, conversing with them or doing small tasks for them.

According to research conducted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church known as "Valuegenesis," one of the most significant factors in stimulating faith maturity is service given to others. Through better living ministries, campus ministries, civic ministries, family circle ministries and person-to-person ministries, "Bible Labs" allow students to grow as they practice biblical principles. "Bible Labs" ensure that Adventist schools will remain distinctively different from all others.

Dale Johnson is superintendent of schools for the Washington Conference and writes from Bothell, Wash.



Kelly Richard, left, a seventh-grader, teaches Ryan Ronacker, a first-grader, during a "Bible Lab" session at the Nelson Crane school in Puyallup, Wash., where older students help younger students master their lessons.



Removing branches, splitting and helping remove wood of a tree felled in a neighbor's lawn by a wind storm is another example of a service project encompassed by "Bible Labs" in Kirkland, Wash.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters Policy: Letters to the GLEANER editor are welcome. Letters must be signed and should not exceed 150 words in length. Letter writers are urged to limit their letters to commentary on editorial matter appearing in the journal, and should specifically refer to the issue date and article in question. Priority will be given to letters received by the editor within 45 days of the cover date of

issue in question. Letters which direct personal criticism at individuals will not be printed; conversely, letters which promote a person by name or description for gratuitous praise will be declined for publication. Highest priority will be given to letters which add information and commentary, pro and con, to material appearing in this journal. Address letters to Editor, Box 16677, Portland, OR 97216-0677.

Unhugged Editor

I'm writing in regard to the July 12, 1993, issue of the GLEANER, in reference to the article by Duane McKey "When Pastor Needs a Bear Hug."

The article sure sounds like all pastors should be placed on a pedestal and petted and pampered and praised and presented with multiple gifts, etc.

It was hard to believe that our former pastor had actually written that article. It sounded so selfish and UNlike him to be recommending all this honor and gift-giving.

Needless to say, we felt much better when we found the following paragraph in our church bulletin the next Sabbath.

"Greetings from Pastor Duane. For clarification's sake . . . The recent article in the GLEANER by me was changed and edited drastically. The intent of the article was to show the many different ways that I had been hugged and loved as a pastor during the last seven years in Pendleton so that other churches might find ideas and ways they could hug and love their pastors. I felt the article did not come across that way. Thanks for understanding. Love, Duane."

We suggest you do something to clarify this situation, such as putting this letter in the next GLEANER without ANY editing.

Thank you very much.

Harvey and Jeanette Dodge
Pendleton, Ore.

Editorial Response: The article in question was delivered to us in somewhat rough form and we were asked by the author to edit it for available space and general GLEANER readership. Unfortunately, due to the busy schedule of Duane McKey at that time, we were unable to allow him to critique our editing before publication. We thank the Pendleton, Ore., membership for the fine treatment and education they afforded their pastor, and regret that, as edited, the story did not adequately convey the intended message to Pendleton church members, and perhaps to others as well.

Bear Hugs in America

I just want to praise the Lord for the evangelism efforts put forth by the Seventh-day Adventist Church to bring our Russian/Ukrainian brothers and sisters to biblical truth.

Due to the Russian Revelation Seminar in the Kent, Wash., church, a dear Ukrainian family I know now is attending my church on Sabbath.

Words cannot express my joy in worshipping with them and hearing them sing our hymns in their native tongue. They have accepted the Sabbath with faith as children.

It just gives me Jesus bumps all over! I would love to see a future article in this magazine about *Operation Bearhug* and all our Russian/Ukrainian/Romanian converts.

Sharon McCarty
Federal Way, Wash.

Time to Re-Focus

I have enjoyed receiving the GLEANER for the past five-and-a-half years. Alden Thompson's recent articles are thought-provoking and well put together. Since I am a fairly new Adventist and I don't have all of Mrs. White's information, I can only write what I know.

As we have passed through certain events, namely Waco, and now the billboards, our denomination is taking a societal beating. . .

Issues in the recent GLEANERS have also diverted our minds. . .

Mrs. White sums it up beautifully in *Steps to Christ*, p. 76. "When the mind dwells upon self it is turned away from Christ, the source and strength of life. Hence it is Satan's constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Savior, and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ. The pleasures of the world, life's cares and perplexities, and sorrows, the faults of others, or your own faults and imperfections, to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind. Do not be misled by his devices."

. . . Let's study page 76 and others will join us. Legalism and criticism and losing our focus on the Life Giver is dangerous.

Susan Schonbachler
Walla Walla, Wash.

Editorial Response: The constant challenge to GLEANER staff is to draw positive information from sometimes-unfortunate events and to quickly move ahead. But we also value and respect our reader's right and privilege to express their points of view, and many letters, we believe, have been helpful in supplying first-hand insights as we have wrestled with these issues in recent months.

Mature Reflections

My old classmate Paul Gordon makes his point about the dating of Ellen White's "mature reflections" (GLEANER, Aug. 2).

However, his warning against "judgment calls" seems to imply that there is some means for guiding our reading other than the reader's own judgment under the Holy Spirit. Such a warning conflicts with the attitude of Jesus, who asked, "What is written in the law? How readest thou?" (Luke 10:26) Notice that Jesus did not ask, "How readest the Sanhedrin," or even "How readest a consensus of the disciples?" . . .

Of course, motive is involved here. The young lawyer was not trying to enhance his own status or that of the establishment. Uncowed by his membership in the Jewish religious elite, he was earnestly seeking truth and—even more important—goodness. His honest search was honored by Jesus and recorded for our edification as individuals and as a church.

Frank C. Hutchins
Mountlake Terrace, Wash.

Jesus First

. . . GLEANER readers need to know just what influence these misguided projects (billboards which denounce the Pope while advertising *The Great Controversy*.) have done to the Adventist name.

We finished an evangelistic crusade in Winter Springs, Fla., March 13. I can't begin to tell you how difficult it was trying to get people to attend an evangelistic meeting when they knew these billboards were sponsored by over-zealous Adventists. . . Even with all the disclaimers issued by the Florida Conference disassociating the denomination from these people, we felt and heard the negative vibes from the residents as we invited them to the meetings.

Please don't get me wrong, I believe we have a most solemn commission to tell the world about the beast . . . but we need to get our priorities in the right perspective, making Jesus Christ, not the beast, the focal point of our evangelistic efforts. . .

Gordon Klein, Technical Director
Dimensions of Prophecy
Grand Terrace, CA

Use the Book

Today I received my first GLEANER since the April 5 issue. . . It would seem that one of your contributors objects to the use of *The Great Controversy* (GC) for outreach. A glance at the "Letters" columns indicates a diversity of opinion on the subject.

I have been using GC for my personal outreach for many years, with mostly positive results. Not all response has been positive, of course, but this is to be expected. Satan is not going to sit idly by when our methods are successful. If we are not generating opposition we are not doing our job. . .

Several weeks ago I received a letter. . . from a man in India, who, after I told him about the Sabbath, went to his Sunday-keeping pastor and asked whether these things were so. The pastor did not respond, so the man and several of his friends left that church and formed a Sabbath-keeping company. I had previously sent *The Great Controversy*, and they have asked for more.

There is power in *The Great Controversy*. Let's place it in as many homes as possible while there is yet time. Maranatha!

Clyde Bagby
Fredericksburg, Texas

Attention Photographers and Writers

Nearly 40 submissions to the 1993 "Personal Viewpoints Contest" have been received, and winners will be announced in the upcoming issue of the GLEANER.

Also, in the upcoming issue, guidelines for the 1994 "Cover Slide Contest" will be published. The yearly contest is held to facilitate photographers who have taken slides worthy of consideration as covers for the GLEANER. The contest opens Oct. 1, 1993, and runs through Nov. 30, 1993.

Those who wish to receive advance copies of contest guidelines should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the GLEANER. The contest is limited to slides taken in the Pacific Northwest and is open to all photographers who are members or regularly attending guests in Northwestern churches.



Seven-Legged Support

As Better Life Broadcasting TV cameramen set up to videotape in the Rogue River Valley area, curious on-lookers sometimes remark, "There must be a story behind that old tripod!"

That story began recently for Adventists in the area when George and Heather Villasenor, shown above, moved to the valley from Hollywood and joined the Grants Pass, Ore., church. George had been a film editor for many years, at one point working on the feature film "Annie" for 51 weeks. They brought with them the tripod, shown as it was once used for capturing film footage.

The more-than-50-year-old tripod, which has served not only to film the Pasadena, Calif., Rose Bowl and other football games, but also steadied cameras covering the activities of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Barry Goldwater, now has been put to use supporting the video cameras of Better Life Broadcasting.

The decision to donate the tripod came after the couple joined the Adventist Church recently and married. They then noted the many needs of Better Life Broadcasting, which is owned and operated by Adventists as a service to the community.

The gift "tripod with a story" now adds to its repertoire of history the account of how two very special people have been preserved along with their historic tripod to help support the television ministry of faith being carried out in the Rogue River Valley.

Ann Reed



Nautical Chords

Forty Milo Academy students shared their musical talents as members of the "H.M.S. Pinafore" cast during an on-campus April 10 production. The musical was directed by Merrill Barnhart, director of the Milo Music Department. Costuming and a professional quality backdrop added quality touches to the performance.



Warm Fuzzy For Russia

Ian Ellison and Sarah Wilson trace the progress made by the Silverton, Ore., church bear as it climbs toward its fundraiser goal of sending two persons to Russia on an *Operation Bearhug* mission. As funds came in from donations, yard sales and special offerings, the bear continues his upward climb. As a result, the Silverton congregation has been able to send Pastor Carl Rose and Stan DeFehr on a three-week evangelistic mission to Russia. The Monitor, Ore. church, where Rose also serves as pastor, is assisting with travel expenses for Virginia, the pastor's wife.

Betty Nelson

Conference Helps Survivors When Spouses Die

The death of a spouse has been rated as one of the most stressful of all changes in life. To gather up the shredded and tattered pieces of life and to go

on living requires help.

In August of 1989 I came home from work at the Oregon Conference office to find my husband sleeping peacefully in his chair in the family room. It was a sleep from which he never awakened. He was 57, too young to die. In the days and months that followed, there were many times when I asked God, "Why did you leave me alone?"

A few months after losing my husband, I began attending a support group for widowed women at a Baptist church in Portland, Ore. It was apparent to me that Adventists needed a similar program, and as I shared my concern with others, I was asked to develop a support group for the widowed members of our church.

But I wasn't emotionally prepared to take on such an enterprise. Instead, I first attended a grief release recovery program.

But after completing that program, started brainstorming with other Adventist widows in the Portland area and with the director of women's ministries for the Oregon Conference.

Eventually we formed a committee of nine Adventist widowed people who felt the need for encouragement, ourselves, as well as for all widowed people, both men and women, in the greater Portland area.

Statistics show, for example, that in a comparison of widowed and married men of the same ages, widowed men die four times as often from suicide, three times as often from accidents, 10 times as often from strokes and six times as often from heart disease.

Today, a support group for widowed men and women, known as Adventist Widowed of Oregon (AWO), exists.



WORLD CHURCH NEWS

Largest-Ever Russian Adventist Crusade Calls on Northwestern Members for Direction

The largest evangelistic crusade ever held by Adventists in Russia has been conducted with the help of 16 staff members from the North Pacific Union Conference. The crusade ended July 31 with more than 4,000 requesting baptism.

Held in the Moscow Olympic Sports Stadium, the meetings drew crowds of up to 20,000 a day. More than 8,400 people, including 2,500 regular members, attended Sabbath services in four existing churches and eight new locations around the city after presentation of the biblical case for observance of the seventh-day Sabbath.

The 16 Northwesterners were among a staff of 100 from North America who worked with hundreds of Euro-Asia Division church employees and laymen from the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Heading the North Pacific contingent was Don Gray of Washougal, Wash., who served as crusade director for Mark Finley, crusade speaker. Finley currently serves as speaker/director of *It Is Written*, an Adventist-sponsored telecast originating in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Gray, who though retired, remains active in world evangelism, was accompanied by his wife, Marjorie, who organized tours for the staff on their days off.

Glenn Corkum, pastor of the Volunteer Park church in Seattle, assisted in training pastors in an evangelism field school which ran during the cru-

sade, and his wife, Beverly, assisted in the information center.

Corkum was among several staff evangelists who provided the first Sabbath-morning sermons in eight new churches being formed as a result of the crusade.

Bob and Eileen Nutter of Washougal coordinated the Bible school, working with 12 Bible instructors to correct lessons handed in by the Russian attendees.

Richard Schwartz of Portland, Ore., coordinated a central supply service which distributed Bibles and lessons to the crusade staff in the main auditorium. His wife, De Nelda, assisted in tour arrangements.

All other members of the central-supply team were from the Pacific Northwest and included Lynn and Lucretia Creitz of Portland, Carol Lilley of Sun River, and Rose Irene Tininenko of Billings, Mont., all of whom have family roots in Russia. Walter and Denise Wandersleben of Molalla, Ore., also served with the central-supply task force.

Elmer Unterseher of Portland, served as personnel pool coordinator, and his wife, Betty, served in a secretarial pool.

A Portland layman had funded the travel costs of Wandersleben, Unterseher and Schwartz, and they, in turn, had funded their own spouses' travel expenses.

In preparation for the meetings,



*In a secluded corner of the Moscow Olympic Stadium, Bob and Eileen Nutter spend hours correcting Bible lesson answers written by Muscovites who attended the *It Is Written* evangelistic meeting in July.*

Moscow Adventists had distributed 25,000 copies of the first in a series of Bible lessons. As a result more than 17,000 people completed the lesson series and many attended the Olympic Stadium meetings.

As in Finley's previous Moscow evangelistic meetings, every Russian who attended at least three meetings received a free Russian Bible. Apparently hungering for the Word of God, more than 20,000 people had qualified by the end of the third week of meetings.

By the third Sabbath more than 100 people had been baptized in a lake near the Euro-Asian Division office, a baptismal site which was used for several successive weeks thereafter.

More than 4,000 people requested baptism, and by early August, 1,800 had been baptized. Among them was a representative of the Russian Ministry of Culture, a former Russian trade representative to Vietnam with his wife and daughter and a top Moscow criminal lawyer who at one time served with the KGB secret service.

These baptisms bring church membership in Moscow to almost 6,000.

Continues on next page



Up to 20,000 persons attended individual meetings of the evangelistic crusade, leading to more than 4,000 requests for baptism and the founding of eight new church groups of believers.

Three years ago, when Finley conducted his first crusade there, only 700 members were meeting in one church.

The third Finley crusade in Moscow during the past three years, this crusade was one of scores of Adventist evangelistic meetings scheduled among the former republics of the Soviet Union this year.

The future of public evangelism conducted by non-Russian speakers remains uncertain in light of a new law passed by the Russian Parliament, and as yet unsigned by President Boris Yeltsin, which prohibits such outreach.

An opening session of the crusade was televised live by satellite on Adventist Communication Network, as hosted by Al McClure, commentator and North American Division president on July 2, and was viewed by many Northwesterners.

C. Elwyn Platner is communication director of the Pacific Union Conference and served as North American correspondent for the recent Russian crusade. He writes from Westlake Village, Calif.



Glenn Corkum, front left, assists in coordinating a field school for seminary students and pastors during the *It Is Written* evangelistic campaign in Moscow. Here he huddles with the pastoral team which formed a new congregation in the Litva area of Moscow.



Walter Wandersleben of Molalla, Ore., chats with a Russian translator, Natasha Ivanov, and Arthur Weaver of Detroit, Mich.



Surrounded by piles of Russian Bibles and Bible lessons, Don Gray and Richard Schwartz plan a strategy for distributing materials during the meetings.

Monument Valley Ends Plan to Move

After three-and-one-half years of intense negotiations with the Navajo Nation to build a new hospital in Kayenta, Ariz., the Monument Valley Mission and Hospital General Board recently voted unanimously to withdraw its offer to the tribe and to concentrate fully on expansion and renewal of the current facility in Monument Valley.

"We have taken hold of our destiny and placed it firmly in God's hands," says Ray Carney, president of Monument Valley Hospital.

"We have come a long way from the crisis of 1991; however, there is still a long way to go. But the board's vote of confidence and their solid commitment to keep this mission open moves us into the future with great strength," he added.

The financial picture at the hospital has improved dramatically during the past two years, and because of this, the board did not see a move into Kayenta as essential.

The only hospital within 100 miles, Monument Valley serves a Navajo population of 35,000. In addition, hospital emergency services are available to more than 350,000 tourists annually who visit the area.

EDITORIAL continued from page 2

by those passing through the hospital or its adjacent professional office building. Nearly 1,000 of these "moving" messages are distributed free each week.

An Entering Wedge

Because of Portland Adventist's reputation and sphere of influence, other Oregon hospitals are in AHS/W today. Tillamook County General Hospital is a case study of the effect Adventist health-care can have.

Seventeen years ago community leaders approached Adventist health-care professionals asking that the 49-bed hospital be managed by AHS/W. Three physicians were then on staff. Today there are 14, a dozen of whom are Loma Linda University graduates. Adventist employees now swell the local church and school. Tillamook County General Hospital and other managed/leased facilities enable AHS/W to demonstrate the love of Christ through outstanding health-care delivered with compassion when and where it is needed.

Stewards of Our Legacy

Having been personally involved with Portland Adventist since 1967, I've had the privilege of seeing the institution grow, develop and nurture in its community through humanitarian endeavors, health and wellness activities and mission outreach.

As chairman of the board, I can assure GLEANER readers that the hospital's commitment to mission is as strong and vibrant today as it was a 100 years ago. ➔

Pray continually.
1 Thessalonians 5:17

Send Signs Today



IDAHO



Doors Begin to Close in Russia

Accounts of highly trained KGB agents infiltrating and harassing Adventist believers and of members copying Bibles by typewriter under blanket-draped tables were brought recently to the Enterprise, Ore., church by Russian visitors.

Pastor Michael Oleinik, his wife, Lidia, and Pastor Victor Kortchuk recently told of their years as Adventists under communist rule and of impending, and perhaps even more severe, repression as state religion gains strength in democratic Russia.

They came to Enterprise by arrangement of Floyd Arnold, pastor, and Dennis Burt, a local member who had made their acquaintance during their visit a few days earlier to Idaho Conference Camp Meeting in Caldwell, Idaho.

Oleinik had recently been a student at Walla Walla College, studying English and theology. He spoke fluently as he gave his report and provided translation for his wife and Kortchuk.

Oleinik began the report by telling of his mother's girlhood conversion and of the persecution she had endured, first from her father and later from her husband. Then tragedy had struck, leaving her a young widow with three small sons. The example of her Christian life, however, has been a telling influence in the decisions of all three of her children to be Adventist pastors, he said.

KGB Infiltration

The Russians told of ways in which the KGB once infiltrated the Christian community with agents who appeared sincere in their faith. So well were they trained that they were sometimes able to compromise the Christian community for up to 30 years without detection, they said.

Lidia Oleinik, daughter of an Adventist pastor, told of her family members hiding to avoid detection while typing copies of the Bible. The typist would sit under a table with blankets covering the sides to muffle sound and obscure light from lanterns as they typed 16 carbon copies at a time on onion-skin paper. On a good day one could type as many as 60 pages.

These copies were distributed among church members with prayers for divine

protection. She recalls that once the police came to arrest her father and she had had to run and hide the copies of the Bible that she had been typing.

Siberian Experience

Kortchuk said that at age 21 he had felt a divine call to become a pastor. The president of the Siberian Conference had given him an exam (no seminary training was available) and when he had passed that examination, he had been given a pastoral assignment. On the way to that assignment, his suitcase had become lost. He was about ready to turn around and return home, but first prayed that God would help him find his suitcase so that he could continue on his way to Siberia.

A guard at the station began to harass him about the time that a stranger appeared with the lost suitcase. The guard seemed to be on the verge of arresting him when a phone call distracted him and Kortchuk was able to slip away. He now preaches in some of the largest cities in Siberia.

He is pastor of three of those churches and travels 2,000 miles to get from one boundary of his conference to another. A destination within 300 miles is considered to be "in the neighborhood." The Siberian Conference, however, has now been divided into two and will soon be divided into three parts. Even today, budgets demand that a great deal of travel be done by foot, he said.

Evil in the Gaps

The Russians told of the persecution



Pastor Victor Kortchuk, Lidia Oleinik and Pastor Michael Oleinik spoke at the Enterprise church.

they had grown up with and of their faith in God which helped them to endure. The fall of communism, they said, left many gaps in society, and evil has quickly filled many of these creases in Russian life, they said.

They spoke of an earnest hope that the church could spread God's word quickly. The door to evangelism by outsiders is fast closing, they said, and false prophets and preachers are coming into Russia and are deceiving the people, allowing the Russian Orthodox Church to point its finger at all outside evangelists and to urge that they be banned.

Early Repression

Many city councils have at least one Russian Orthodox sitting with them, and these representatives can effectively prevent outside religious groups from obtaining property and permits to build churches.

The persecution under the communists may, in the end, prove to be less severe than the measures which the Orthodox Church may eventually take against all other religions, they said.

Anticipating difficult times ahead, Oleinik is studying to receive a theology degree in the United States. Such a degree will give him greater ability to circulate and preach. Furthermore, an education and the ability to speak in English will place him in a position of higher esteem and influence in the upper echelon of Russian society.

This level of society now exerts vast control on what can and cannot be taught and by whom it may be taught.

The Russians believe that the open door for evangelism will soon be shut and that persecution may well follow.

In his remarks, Oleinik referred to the beautiful mountains that surround the valley in which the town of Enterprise is situated, and he quoted from Isaiah 52:7: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"

A twinkle of humor shone through his eyes as he said the word "feet."

Robine Parks writes from Joseph, Ore., where she is communication secretary of the Enterprise, Ore., church.



MONTANA



Trust Services

Morris Brusett, a Montana native and pastor of the Helena/Boulder district for the past four-and-one-half years, has been named Montana Conference director of trust services and stewardship. A graduate of Walla Walla College, Brusett served in key Montana state government positions related to finance prior to his call to pastoral ministry.

He is married to the former Geri Scheller, a graduate of Montana State University with a degree in home economics/foods and nutrition. The Brusetts have two sons, Kevin, a minister teaching Bible at Orangewood Academy in California, and Kent, a physician in Connecticut.

Perry Parks

Mountaintop Event Greet Mt. Ellis Enrollment of 88

With an opening enrollment of 88 students, Mount Ellis Academy has begun its school year with further development of a strong spiritual, academic and social climate.

A communion service was held on the first Sabbath of the school year in which instead of washing each others' feet, faculty and local church leaders washed the students' feet. Throughout the school year, regularly scheduled outreach activities organized by the Bible classes are planned for Sabbath afternoons.

On Labor Day, approximately 30 students and staff managed to run, walk, or crawl to the 3,000 summit of Mount Ellis where lunch was delivered by a helicopter. From there, the victors of the annual Mount Ellis climb viewed their world from a new opening-of-school perspective.

MONTANA NEWS



OREGON



Oregon Conference Evangelism Finds Success in Russia

Dan McCulloch, pastor of the South Salem, Ore., church, returned from Barnaul, Russia, on Aug. 17 with wife Mary and son Greg after they all had served as team members during a successful seven-week evangelistic effort in that city.

It was the second of three evangelistic campaigns by Oregon Conference ministers in Russia this year under *Operation Bearhug*, a program of gospel and cultural exchange between the North Pacific Union Conference and the Russian Union.

The first team, led by Arnold Scherencel, evangelist, and Rick Silvestri, pastor, had flown into Tomsk, Russia (pop. 338,000) in April. Both Tomsk and Barnaul (pop. 439,000) are four time zones east of Moscow, and Barnaul is 400 miles south of Tomsk.

McCulloch's team was led by Elden Walter as evangelist with his wife, Judy; the McCullochs served as the pastoral component of the team; Sharon Gorham and Christine Hartbauer provided music; and

Jim and Jacque Byrkit held sessions on health and medicine.

The third team, under Paul and Corleen Johnson of the Sandy, Ore., church, included Pastor David Schmidt, wife Donna and others. The team traveled to Syktyvkar, Russia (pop. 125,000), located 650 miles northwest of Moscow. (See next issue for further details on the Syktyvkar campaign.) The Johnson team returned to the Northwest in late August.

Each series of meetings is being followed up by six lay training teams of six members each, and each team is scheduled to remain in Russia for two weeks.

A Russian mission fund has been established in the Oregon Conference for Sabbath school materials and help for the teams.

The recent evangelistic campaigns and ongoing follow-up were first envisioned early this year during a regularly scheduled Oregon Conference ministerial meeting where attendees were to outline final plans for a "Heritage Tour" of Adventist landmarks.

Instead, unified reaction among the ministers to the yet-open windows to Russia led to a decision to give Russia pri-

ority in travel and enrichment plans this year.

Those variously talented in evangelism, pastoring, music and health sciences have been included on each outreach team to Russia.

E. LaVerne Neighbors



Dan and Mary McCulloch, shown with son Greg who served as team photographer in Russia, are members of the South Salem church where McCulloch serves as pastor. The three had active roles in a successful evangelistic campaign conducted recently in Barnaul, Russia, a city of 439,000 population.

OREGON NEWS



WASHINGTON



Value of Teachers Recognized in Special Service

The Washington Conference has held a Ministry of Teaching Commissioning Service in connection with the recent conference camp meeting in Auburn, Wash.

Although such services have been conducted elsewhere in the North American Division, it is the first such service held in the North Pacific Union Conference.

During the commissioning service, it was emphasized that the ministry of Christian education is a sacred calling and a high and noble work.

Teachers who were commissioned met criteria set by an ad hoc committee of the conference K-12 board, had been advocated for the commissioning by their local pastors and had been highly involved in church activities, including Sabbath schools, music ministries, pathfinders, women's ministries, interim pastorships, youth ministries, church elderships, lay Bible ministries, Maranatha volunteer projects, conference constituent committees and conference or union executive boards.

Most of the teachers had also been involved in community service activities such as Children's Hospital, Make-a-Wish Foundation, community or county substance abuse advisory board and state service project organizations.

Participants in the service included Lisa Bissell, vice-president of student affairs at Walla Walla College, who emphasized the leadership characteristics of Christian teachers, and Erma Lee, associate North



Lisa Bissell illustrates principles of Christian leadership during her presentation for the commissioning service.

Pacific Union Conference director of education, who presented the litany and commitment statements.

According to Patti Revolinski, associate superintendent of Washington Conference schools, the commissioning was a reaffirmation of her commitment to teaching.

Teachers commissioned were Tom Allen, Dea Bienhoff, Jim Beierle, Rita Callahan, John Dorland, Carleen Jones, Hans Krenz, Ron Miller, Karen Nuessle, Gail Orr, Richard Rasmussen, Patti Revolinski, Harold Richards, David Tripp, Sandy Vincent, Dallas Weis, Doug White, Dan Wister, Carolyn Withrow and Ila Zbaraschuk.

Dale Johnson

Adventist World Leader Adds Sense Of Togetherness

G. Ralph Thompson, secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, recently led out in services at the Maranatha church in Seattle.

Thompson spoke on the subject "Victorious Living." Carrie Falls, a local elder and member of the Washington Conference Executive Committee, stated, "It is nice for our leaders to regard the importance of the local church by making a local worship service their focus from time to time."

Wilson DeLancy, local first elder who helped arrange for the visit, is a personal friend of Thompson.

Keith Boyd, conference trust officer, Lenard Jaecks, conference president, and Jonathan Butler, local elder, also took active parts in the Sabbath service. Boyd summed up the sense of the church family when he said, "Having one of our world leaders with us on Sabbath morning makes all feel part of the big family."

Lenard Jaecks

Puyallup Members Bid Farewell To Zuchowski

Puyallup, Wash., church members said good-bye to Larry Zuchowski, their pastor of nine years, on Aug. 14 with a special communion service and farewell potluck. Zuchowski has been named pastor of the Edmonds, Wash., church.

Members also gave him a plaque commemorating his years of service with the congregation, a photo album and a large, framed photo of Mt. Rainier.

"The nine years of ministry at Puyallup have had a profound influence on my life, both as a Christian and as a pastor," Zuchowski said. "The members have been my friends and family. I will never forget the privilege that has been mine to serve this wonderful group of people."

Zuchowski will remain indirectly involved with the Puyallup church through its Serpuhkov, Russia, project. The congregation, in alliance with the North Hill and Auburn, Wash., churches, is building a church for those baptized during Zuchowski's evangelistic series in Russia in October and November of last year.

Pastor Jim Berglund and his wife, Shelley, from the Centralia, Wash., church have since been welcomed as new pastoral couple for the Puyallup church.

Dan Wister, Nelson-Crane Christian School principal, Shirley Meitzler, church secretary and Lorena Jeske, recording clerk, presented the gifts to the departing minister. Special music was provided by Cynthia Warner, Sandy Caban and Nancy Culver. Bob Paulsen served as master of ceremonies.

Jennifer Wynn



Larry Zuchowski, departing Puyallup pastor, thanks members for nine years of rewarding ministry. Photo by Don Altman.



OREGON



Prayer/Small Group Conference Convenes Nov. 7

Small groups, patterned after early Adventist cottage meetings, have nurtured hundreds of Oregon members and have led to baptisms in many churches.

Begun in 1988, large conferences on the subjects of prayer and small groups have combined prayer and worship with ministry training.

Sponsored by the Oregon Conference and facilitated by the North American Division, the joint sessions have been held in Colorado, Georgia and Oregon. This year's local events will be held at the Beaverton, Ore., church, Nov. 7-13.

Last year a pastor wrote that he had come prepared to resign from ministry, but left finding renewal in Jesus and love and understanding from other participants. An elderly gentleman shared that for the first time in 40 years he felt relief from a guilty past. God had healed his brokenness.

Sessions offer more than education; they frequently become an experience of powerful inspiration and an opportunity for spiritual revival.

Prayer and small group conferences continue to be a central part of Oregon's outreach and nurture strategy for 1993-1994. For more information call (503) 652-2225, ext. 210 or ext. 228.

Helen R. Smith

Assistance in Time Of Need Leads To Gresham Baptism

Lorrie Fitzpatrick, a former client of the Gresham, Ore., community services center, has joined the church through baptism.

Her contact with the community center came at a time when she needed assistance, and at the Gresham center she received the required help. Soon she began coming to the center, not to receive help, but to give donations of her own, including clothing and household items for others in need.

She then joined the community center as a volunteer and became a top recruiter for other volunteers from among her acquaintances.

Vida Homan, a local volunteer, supplied Lorrie with a Bible and a copy of *Steps to Christ* while the entire staff sup-



Family Time at Pleasant Valley

Six candidates have recently been baptized into the Pleasant Valley church south of Portland, Ore., including Joseph Gibson, son of Larry Gibson, local pastor.

Shown in the front row, from left, are Lindsay Parker and Joseph Gibson; in the back row, from left, are Shonda Calvert, Kelli Parker, Erica Aaltonen, Andrew Worley and Pastor Gibson.

Erica Aaltonen, who has attended Pleasant Valley church since the church was started and known as the Da-

mascus company, was also baptized. Kelli and Lindsay Parker, a mother and daughter, were baptized together.

The baptism of Shonda Calvert declared her victory over many obstacles and her re-dedication to Jesus. Andrew Worley, whose family has attended the Pleasant Valley church for some time, through baptism signalled the bonding of another young Adventist life to Jesus Christ.

Linda Johnson

plied love and Pastor Dave Peckham gave her Bible studies. At her baptism, the entire community center staff stood at the front of the church as witnesses.

A repeat performance is planned in the near future as another volunteer staff member has begun attending church regularly and has joined a Sabbath school class.

"Our success with these people is not based on our ability to give Bible studies, but it is based upon our love and respect for our clients. We know that Jesus loves each of them as much as He loves us. We praise the Lord for letting these people come to our center and for giving us this taste of the reward that awaits the faithful," says LaVon Henrich, community services co-director.

Alma Gyland

Bee Attacks Fail To Roust Redmond/Bend Members

Bend and Redmond, Ore., church members braved attacks by yellow jacket bees to hear a report from Russia and to enjoy other outdoor church events at Jack Creek campground on Sept. 11.

Sabbath school began with a song ser-

vice accompanied by guitars, followed by words of welcome from Jim Gladden. Scripture was presented by the juniors, led by Lance and Machel Carter, who recited the Beatitudes.

Ron Jahn then gave a report about a recent trip he had taken to Russia. For church service, discussion groups met to consider various issues and then presented their findings to the whole congregation.

After a potluck meal, energetic members went hiking, while others stayed at camp to visit. Still others went on a scavenger hunt.

The day ended with worship by a bonfire and time for roasting marshmallows and making popcorn. Although hands were sticky, faces were dirty and many had been stung by yellow jacket bees, members voted to hold outdoor services again in 1994.

Machelle Carter

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray.

James 5:13

Gibson Describes Church's Trials and Triumphs

Ty Gibson, director of Light Bearer Ministry of Malo, Wash., held a short series of evangelistic meetings Aug. 20, 21 and 22 at the BakerView Adventist School in Bellingham, Wash., speaking on "Trials and Triumphs of the Remnant Church."

Gibson and his associate, James Rafferty, began Light Bearer Ministry about eight years ago. The minister focuses on the distribution of advent literature printed on the ministry printing press in eastern Washington.

The organization distributes literature worldwide, with special emphasis on Africa, South America, Europe and Bulgaria.

Ernestine Belts



Ty Gibson draws lesson from the Word of God.

Halvorsen Opens Large Tacoma Public Crusade

A five-week "Revelation Now" evangelistic crusade with visiting speaker Ron Halvorsen, church growth/evangelism director of the Southern Union, Decatur, Ga., has begun at the Sherwood Inn, 8402 South Hosmer, in Tacoma, Wash.

The crusade meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. on each of the following evenings: Oct. 18-19, 22-25 and 29-30; Nov. 1, 5-8, 12-15 and 19-20. The crusade is sponsored by the Tacoma Central, Tacoma South Side, Puyallup, Federal Way, Mount Tahoma, Lacey and Bonnie Lake, Wash., churches.

Todd Gessele

Pray continually!

WASHINGTON NEWS



WORLD CHURCH NEWS

NPUC Executive Committee Actions Historic Vote Moves Publishing Administration to Pacific Press

Northwest literature evangelists will begin working directly with Pacific Press Publishing Association (PPPA) of Nampa, Idaho, in the distribution of books, beginning Jan. 1, 1994, by vote of a Sept. 16 session of the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) Executive Committee.

The vote effectively begins to remove the North Pacific Union Conference headquarters from administrative involvement in the door-to-door sale of Adventist literature, and ratifies a five-year contract between NPUC and PPPA for PPPA to direct literature distribution in the Northwest.

Talks regarding the transfer of administration from NPUC to PPPA control have been in process for nearly three years, and extensive documentation has been amassed to project the effect of such a move. The Sept. 16 vote, however, makes the transfer official. The Mid-America Union as well as the Canadian Union also have voted to place their door-to-door sales operations directly under press administration under similar agreements, effective Jan. 1.

"It's interesting to me that the North Pacific Union actually came up with the idea and approached us regarding the pos-

sibility of Pacific Press providing this support for literature evangelism, but, in the mean time, two other unions have heard of these conversations and have actually voted to turn over operations to us, even before this has come to a vote here," said Robert Kyte, PPPA president, during executive committee discussion of the motion.

It is estimated that the consolidation will cumulatively save the three unions \$300,000 each year in administrative costs. Kyte noted, however, that up to \$1 million dollars may be invested by the press in start-up costs for the new administrative task and debt-servicing responsibilities it will incur.

"It should be noted that we have every incentive for this plan to succeed," said Kyte. "We're in the book-selling business, and we want to see literature evangelism expand under our administration. We are willing to invest our own money to make it work."

Bruce Johnston, NPUC president and board chairman, noted: "We want it understood that the publishing program in the Northwest is not a failing program in any sense. Sales have been consistently up in recent years, and last year were up seven-percent over the year before. We're turning

over a successful program to Pacific Press, but we feel that at this time, and given the press's willingness to take on this responsibility, that it administratively makes sense to make this move. Money saving is not our primary interest in this consolidation, but, yes, it is apparent that some money will be saved, and that's just one among many factors that indicate to us that this is a positive step."

Kyte noted that PPPA is "committed" to following a strategy of sales management similar to the successful one developed and employed by the union. This strategy involves the segmenting of territory into sales districts and the placement of on-site sales specialists for local level management, literature evangelist recruitment and sales coaching.

PPPA is currently in the process of staffing its operation and it is anticipated that several NPUC publishing department staff members will be selected to work on the PPPA team.

Under provisions of the action, an interim review of the contract will be made not later than Dec. 31, 1996, and a transition committee was established to consider, among other things, how existing accounts

WORLD CHURCH NEWS

receivable and staffing ramifications can best be handled, according to Alf Birch, NPUC executive secretary.

Trust Director



George Carambot was elected director of trust services for the North Pacific Union Conference

George Carambot, 56, associate director of the North Pacific Union Conference Trust Services Department, has been elected to succeed Leonard Ayers, director, who retired Aug. 21.

In discussion of the appointment, Carambot was singled out for his technical understanding of trust administration, his organizational skills, his mental command of trust service information and his ability to explain technical processes to non-professionals.

Carambot has served variously as a pastor-evangelist, as a foreign mission and union mission president in the Inter-American Division, as a student finance director at Pacific Union College and, for the past 14 years, in trust services-related operations.

He began work in trust services in 1979 in the Northern California Conference as a trust officer, becoming secretary/treasurer of that conference's association in 1980. In 1985 he became associate director for planned giving at Loma Linda University and in 1987 became director of that multi-million-dollar program.

From 1989 to 1992 he served as director of trust services for the Upper Columbia Conference and came to the North Pacific Union Conference office as associate director this year. During his years in the Upper Columbia Conference, his trust services program was commended with top accreditation by the North American Division, one of the first in the denomination to be so rewarded.

Life Talk Radio

In further action, the executive committee voted to recommend to the North American Division and to the Adventist Media Center that Life Talk Radio, a supportive ministry of the church located in Yakima, Wash., become affiliated with the Media Center.

Life Talk radio is pursuing plans to broadcast interactive, call-in-style and interview-format programming that will be broadcast by satellite and can be re-broadcast by local radio stations. Programming will be designed to acquaint and interest the

listener in Adventist-Christian doctrinal and lifestyle themes.

Other Actions and Reports

In a special report, Adventist Health Systems/West administrators reported that overall operations continue to post financial gains and that debt as a percentage of total assets continues to decrease.

Operations in 1992 did well financially and indicators project an even better year in

1993, said Frank Dupper, president.

Despite unrest in Russia, *Operation Bearhug* evangelism and discipling ministries continue in Russia, with the expectation that Russian leadership will continue to shoulder more and more of the evangelistic load as infrastructure in the Euro-Asian Division develops. A full report of *Operation Bearhug* will be published in the Dec. 13 issue of the GLEANER.

Ed Schwisort

**North Pacific Union Evangelistic Crusades
Fourth Quarter, 1993**

Evangelism is an important part of the Vision for Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A number of evangelistic campaigns have been scheduled across the North Pacific Union this fall. For the success of these campaigns the pastors and evangelists conducting the meetings need your support in two ways. First, and most importantly, are your intercessory prayers. Next, if you live in an area where a meeting is being conducted, invite a friend to attend with you — perhaps a former member, a non-attending member, or someone who is not aware of truth as it is in Jesus.

Evangelist	Crusade Location	Crusade Dates
Alaska Conference		
Don Gibson	Delta Junction, AK	Oct. 15-Nov. 13
Leighton Holley	Juneau, AK	Oct. 29-Dec. 11
Steve DeLong	Jewell Lake, AK	Nov. 6-Dec. 11
Brian McMahon	Ketchikan, AK	Nov. 6-Dec. 11
Duane McKey	Petersburg, AK	Nov. 12-Nov. 20
Idaho Conference		
Chester Schurch	La Grande, OR	Oct. 2-Nov. 13
Montana Conference		
Ernest Toppenberg	Plentywood, MT	Sept. 10-Oct. 20
Leighton Holley	Bozeman, MT	Sept. 10-Oct. 23
Oregon Conference		
Terry Zull (Revelation Seminar)		Gladstone, OR
Sept.-Nov.		
Arnold Scherencel	Vancouver, WA	Sept. 13-Oct. 23
Ben Green	Bend, OR	Sept. 15-Oct. 30
Rick Silvestri	Yoncalla, OR	Sept. 27-Nov. 11
Harold Lee/Han Bong Lee	Portland, OR	Oct. 1-16
Allen Handysides (Cox video)	Eugene, OR	Oct. 9-Nov. 21
Verne Hyland	Merlin, OR	Oct. 9-Dec. 19
Elden Walter	Springfield, OR	Oct. 15-Nov. 12
Eliseo Orozco	Hillsboro, OR	Oct. 16-Nov. 27
Arnold Scherencel	Silverton, OR	Oct. 18-Nov. 23
Dennis Pumford	Newport, OR	Oct. 18-Dec. 13
Upper Columbia Conference		
Bob Mix	Yakima Fairview, WA	Sept. 14-Dec. 9
Helmut Kramer	Ephrata, WA	Oct. 2-Nov.30
Rick McCombs	Spokane Countryside, WA	Oct. 1-Nov. 6
Ken Cox - video	Omak, WA	Oct. 2-Nov. 6
Dennis Crabbe/Jeff Kinne	Farmington, WA	Oct. 23-Nov. 24
Jairo Tenorio	WW Valley Spanish, WA	Oct. 23-Nov. 30
Washington Conference		
Rod Scherencel	Centralia, WA	Oct. 8-Nov. 20
Ron Prest	Shoreline, WA	Oct. 15-Nov. 20
Bob Fetrick	Shelton, WA	Oct. 15-Nov. 20
Manuel Cabral	Seattle Spanish, WA	Oct. 2-Nov. 29
Manuel Cabral	Kirkland, WA	Oct. 2-Nov. 29
Cindy Tutsch	Kent Rev. Seminar, WA	Sept. 28-May 5
Ron Halvorsen, Sr.	combined area: Tacoma churches, WA, Bonney Lake, WA, Puyallup, WA, Federal Way, WA, Lacey, WA	Oct. 16-Nov. 20

Yours in the Blessed Hope, Duane McKey, Secretary, NPUC Ministerial Association



Ed Schwisow

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A Story Well-Sooted for Thanksgiving

By Ed Schwisow

Ed Schwisow is editor of the GLEANER and writes from Portland, Ore.

"He sat in my office, a young man of quick eyes and gait. He'd materialized, unannounced, semi-expected, on time.

He sat in the semi-padded chair, leaning forward, ready to share. He'd been to Russia, he explained. Lived there for several months. Had learned to speak Russian pretty well (was this guy bright or something?) And, yes, he'd love to go back, someday, after he finished at Walla Walla College.

"I'd like to share with GLEANER readers the experience I had there," he said. "I can't keep it to myself; I want to share."

I gave him the go-ahead to write it out for us. But before he left, I asked him how he had developed his intense involvement in missions. How did it all start?

What he told me that day, I now share with you, and I challenge you to read it with your family around the Thanksgiving table. It's a story well-sooted for Christmas—a story that comes swooping down the chimney of experience and catches us square in the heart.

"It was five years ago, time for Christmas vacation! We were ready for fun in sunny California with relatives. Sightseeing, shopping, Christmas eve and presents—piles and piles of presents. I wondered how my relative would like the novelty tie; how his wife would like the book of funny stories I'd bought for her. They already had the niceties of life, but these presents were unique.

"As time to open the gifts drew near, excitement grew. The appointed 'Santa' called out names as he handed out brightly wrapped packages from the huge pile. All furniture had been removed from the center of the room to make way for the outlandish pile of gifts. As the mound of presents shrank, individual heaps of gifts grew conspicuously.

"Several of the presents might have been termed useful; but were they all worth the expense? Could our money have been better spent on things of real importance?

"After our time of sharing, a family member

put into words what many of us had already been thinking. 'What if adult family members pledged their future gift money in a Christmas pool for truly needy projects?'

"We discussed the idea and decided that each family would donate as the Lord impressed them and the 'pooled' money would go to a selected mission project.

"The idea caught on because, well, we'd all been thinking much the same thing, but most of us hadn't known how to share the idea tactfully with the rest.

"Five Christmases have now passed—Christmases filled with thankfulness for the opportunities the Lord has given us. Children receive gifts as usual, but they too are included in the planning, choice and reporting of the yearly project.

"For our first project, the pooled funds built a church in the Philippines. The second year we bought pews for a church in the Dominican Republic. The following year our gift was a new public address system for the chapel and chimes for the bell tower at the Zaoski Seminary in Russia.

"The next year we supplied a computer for seminary students, and financial assistance was given to worthy students.

"Last year a CD-ROM drive and expanded memory for the computer was donated to allow the Russian seminary students to share the gospel in a newsletter with outlying churches.

"Our family's idea of what Christmas means has changed from self-centeredness to a feeling of gratitude and a longing to share with others.

"When our family Christmases are over, our hearts are filled with a 'high,' a high that comes from doing something for somebody else. There's nothing like it; heaps of gifts are fun, but nothing compared to this!

"Has your family had enough of the hustle, bustle and stress of Christmas, the endless wrapping and shopping and bills? Why not choose a mission project instead, and enjoy the spirit of the Christmas season? The Christmas spirit truly lives when we share with those truly in need."

"I'd like to share with GLEANER readers the experience I had there," he said. "I can't keep it to myself; I want to share."

ABOUT THE COVER

Margaret Annala of Hood River, Ore., shot the cover scene of the Nov. 15, 1993, GLEANER, in her garden. "Winter weather decorates the lange holly in my garden, while springtime brings flocks of cedar waxwings to feed on the berries," says Annala. She used a Pentax LX camera and Kodachrome 64 film.

A Whaler's Prayer



Nathan Noongwook

When I first came to the Savoonga church in July 1992, I met Nathan Noongwook, a faithful Seventh-day Adventist

since his baptism on Nov. 10, 1957. Born April 9, 1910, he came to Alaska's St. Lawrence Island as a whaler and has been an elder in the Savoonga church.

As I visited him in his home, I asked him what he wanted to see happen in the Savoonga church. He said: "I want my people in the village to know about the Sabbath and that Jesus is coming soon. I want more people in church."

He had seen Savoonga membership grow and plateau at a total of 19 in 1980, but not one new member has joined since then, and church attendance has dropped off dramatically during the past four years. The root cause seems to be that no full-time pastor now is living in the village, and without this leadership, most stay away from Sabbath worships except when a pastor is present.

On many Sabbaths Nathan has been the only member to attend the church. All alone, he has sat by himself, meditat-

ing, singing praises to the Lord and reading Scripture.

Since those days, we've put a 25-inch color TV and video player in the church so that members can view the Nome service on Sabbaths when I'm not in Savoonga. This has helped attendance some, but still there have been no baptisms.

This month we are beginning a six-week evangelistic program in the Savoonga church, using slides. I will be staying in Savoonga most of the time for visiting and nurturing. We are hoping to revitalize the members who have not been attending and to bring others into the faithful fellowship of the church.

We request your prayers as these meetings continue, that Nathan Noongwook's hope for the Savoonga church will become a reality.

Len Tatom

Alaska Women Send Russian to Medical School

During a women's ministry retreat this year in Alaska, Beverly Moody, a member of the Aleknagik church, told of meeting a young Adventist woman in Russia who had a desire to become a physician.

While laying the groundwork for the recent Khabarovsk evangelistic series, Moody had met Vallyan, 20-year-old daughter of Pastor Nicoli Tersi.

"What do you want to do with your life?" she had asked the woman.

"I want to be a physician," Vallyan had answered without hesitation, "but I could never earn enough being a store clerk to attend medical school here in Russia."

"How much does it cost?"

"About \$800 U.S.," Vallyan replied. "I would go if I could."

Today, Vallyan is studying to be a physician, thanks to Alaska women's ministries, whose members opened their purses and raised \$840 for Vallyan.

Someday another Russian Adventist physician will minister to her people because of the witness of one woman at a women's retreat in Alaska.

Todd Gessele



Because Beverly Moody, left, has shared the story of Vallyan Tersi, right, with Adventist women involved in women's ministries, the pastor's daughter now is able to attend medical school in Russia.



IDAHO



Blowing Own Horns Only Part of Band Touring Plan

Music and service will combine during an upcoming Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA) band tour that will take the musicians to Tecate, Mexico, as part of a music tour and mission trip.

The tour will include performances in Salt Lake City, Utah, Southern California and Mexico and will provide a variety of learning experiences for band members, says, Mark Becker, director.

"In addition to performing, learning

through cultural experiences and participating in tourist-type activities, we will be doing something for someone else while on our tour," he said. "I am pleased that the band members are interested in helping others who need our help."

Band members are looking forward to the added dimension of the band tour. Says Alison Preszler, a freshman flutist: "I have never been on a mission trip before or out of the U.S. Doing something for someone who is not as blessed (as I am) is rewarding.

"I sit in my house and am comfortable and don't make it a point to under-

stand the needs of others."

The band's mission trip will be a follow-up to two previous GSAA visits to Tecate. During Christmas break a group of GSAA juniors and seniors will also be in Tecate continuing work begun by other groups, including the 1993 senior class.

The GSAA juniors'-and-seniors' mission trip will take place Dec. 26 to Jan. 6, while the band's mission trip will be from Jan. 30 to Feb. 8.

Evelyn Hainey

Pray Continually.

ing burger buns made from the plastic bag bread dough.

That evening a program drew the week's activities to a close with songs, recitations, a 10-minute video and graduation. Crafts were displayed in the foyer and refreshments, consisting of the cookies made by the children, were served.

On the following Tuesday, the grand opening of the North Valley Community Service Center was held. Guests of honor were Letitia White, local businesswoman, who stood in for the Merlin mayor; Christopher Kephart, vice-president of the Oregon Community Services Federation and Betty Benson, Southern Oregon Federation president.

The success of both the VBS and the grand opening were largely due to the completion of Phase 2 of the North Valley church building program.

Myra Pena



Classics, Not Clunkers

Cascade Locks Marine Park was the site for the annual "Classics Campout," Sept. 9 and 10. "The Classics" are students of Columbia Adventist Academy from the 1930s and 1940s of whom 83 attended the recent campout.

In a Friday evening coordinated by Ermadean Walker, Cliff and Maxine Fellows led out in music and Kenneth and Alcyon Fleck gave an update on the work of International Children's Care, Inc.

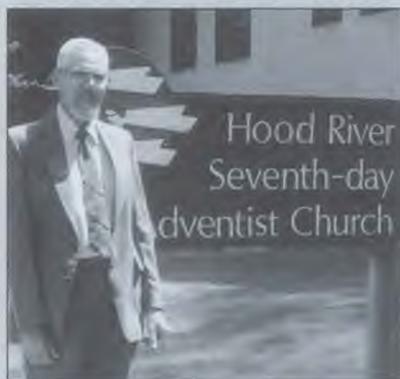
Viola and Dean Van Tassel led out in

a Sabbath program which featured Cliff and Mary Walter and their account of a recent visit to Siberia.

Many campers took a two-hour river trip on the Stern Wheeler, followed by a relaxed evening around a huge fireplace in the pavilion.

The Classics will meet next year at the Holiday Surf Lodge in Depoe Bay, Ore., Sept. 9 and 10. Reservations should be made early.

Howard Cusic



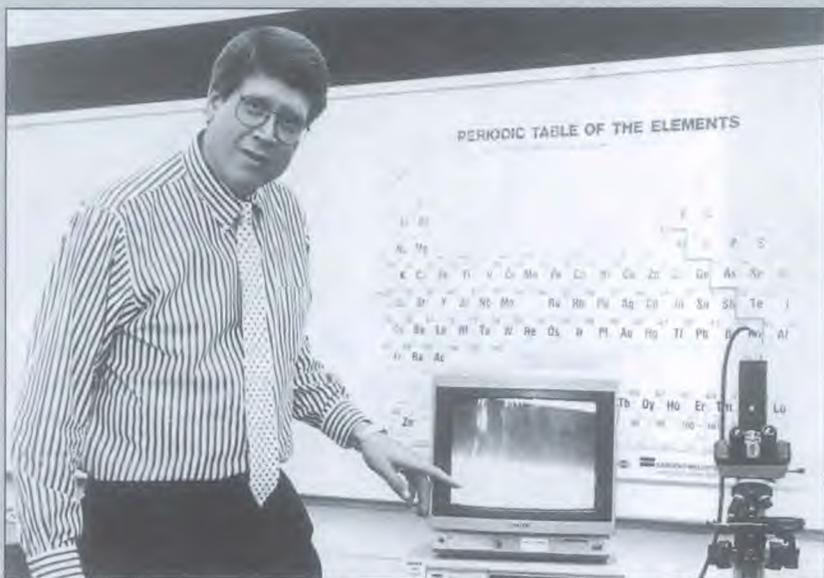
Hood River Missionary

Hood River, Ore., members recently determined to sponsor one of their own as a missionary to Russia in response to a plan launched by the Oregon conference last fall to send teams of lay persons to the former USSR to work with an Oregon pastor who would be trained and sensitized to Russian culture. The teams assisted in the Russian churches as these were organized, especially helping Russian pastors after the baptisms of new members.

Ron Lee (above) was nominated to join Pastor Elden Walter's group which left for Bornaal, Russia, on July 27 and returned Aug. 16, and members have been moved by the joy and inspiration of Lee's reports since his return.

"I have had a once-in-a-lifetime experience to be able to assist the evangelistic team and work with the Russian people," says Lee.

Joyce Gallentine



Video Microscope at PAA

The Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) science department has stepped into the 21st century with the addition of a new high-tech teaching instrument. The department recently acquired an Alphaphot Nikon microscope with video camera, monitor and printer. The printer, manufactured by Sony, is state-of-the-art and can produce a photograph-like print in less than 30 seconds.

"This is a wonderful teaching tool in the classroom," says Terry Verlo, PAA biology/chemistry instructor, shown with the new equipment. "This equip-

ment produces details that cannot be seen with student microscopes."

The printer will be used for individual student projects and for research. "We feel that the best way to learn is to have as close a contact with nature as possible," says Verlo. "This equipment will allow entire classes to observe nature as closely as possible."

The equipment purchase, part of a master plan to upgrade the entire department, was made possible through the generous gifts of several families and a grant from the school.



Alf Birch

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'Whispers of Amazing Developments'

By Alf Birch

Alf Birch writes from Portland, Ore., where he serves as executive secretary and Operation Bearhug coordinator for the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC).

The Global Mission partnership between Adventists in the Northwest and Russia, now well known as *Operation Bearhug*, is about to complete its third year, prompting those personally involved to tell me, "It's been a life-changing experience!"

Since *Operation Bearhug* was launched in 1991, 641 visa applications have been processed by Darlene Clark, *Operation Bearhug* office secretary; 33 evangelistic campaigns have been held in Russia by Northwest sponsors resulting in 5,516 baptisms; at least a dozen official training programs for pastors and laity have been conducted; and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on airfares and accommodation needs, public evangelism, Bibles, literature and church supplies, training programs, church buildings, various types of equipment, motor vehicles, food shipments and other development projects.

None of these funds came from any of the church's organizational budgets. They came sacrificially and willingly from children's piggy banks, widows' mites, savings accounts, fund raising initiatives and other private sources, some from outside of the Northwest.

Operation Bearhug has tapped the creative talent of our people in Global Mission work. For example, Dudley Snarr, a layman from Vancouver, Wash., has become a food and equipment broker by locating tons of supplies and arranging for their shipment to many places in Russia and the Ukraine. Physicians Arnold Petersen and Walter Emori, together with attorney Lloyd Summers, have conceptualized, organized, and worked with Russian counterparts to establish the *Russian Adventist Medical Association*, through which almost 300 physicians were brought to Moscow this past summer for the first-ever medical convention of Adventist physicians in Russia.

The Magadan church building project, sponsored by Upper Columbia Conference, received the willing support of hundreds of people from several conferences in the Northwest.

The Washington Conference enlisted a Russian evangelist and imported a team of Russian musicians to spearhead a campaign in Kent.

The Oregon Conference established its own Center for World Mission, aimed at keeping alive the missionary flame ignited by *Operation Bearhug*.

The Walla Walla College Alumni Association and College church sponsored, and are maintaining, a language school in St. Petersburg, and a number of NPUC churches are vigorously fostering sister churches in Russia. The story is unending.

The challenge to train pastors and laity to cope with the assimilation of thousands of new members into the Russian Adventist family has given birth to the *Christian Leadership Development Institute (CLDI)*. Erich Baumgartner, CLDI director, and John McGhee, who has recently been invited to serve as the associate

Ministerial Association secretary for the Euro-Asia Division, have worked with the Division and Zaokski Theological Seminary leaders to design a curriculum and "Biblical Education by Extension" training model to identify and equip candidates for the more than 200 pastoral vacancies. This ground-breaking concept in theological education may well be applied again when other opportunities for evangelism open up among receptive people groups elsewhere in the world.

Our Global Mission experience through *Operation Bearhug* has also yielded some important insights, teaching us that members want to be personally involved in mission projects and that periods of high receptivity to the gospel can be relatively short. We have seen that the Russian people's erstwhile quest for the security of the gospel has declined markedly over a three-year period—yet, the church is now in a wonderful position to continue to grow.

The Euro-Asia Division is now established in Moscow, and its activities through its unions and conferences are being coordinated more effectively than heretofore.

We believe that it is essential, during this time of opportunity, for us to fully cooperate with our Russian evangelists as they increase their level of evangelistic outreach in their motherland. We are continuing to receive requests for direct assistance in evangelism, as well, and we are honoring those requests.

However, the NPUC has also been asked to provide ongoing expertise to help train local church leaders, pastors and evangelists as they assimilate new members into hundreds of home Bible study and fellowship groups. Experience now shows that these home groups are beginning to multiply as Sabbath congregations grow. But to meet this request we urgently need financial resources for books and related materials to be written to complement these training programs.

We now need to make sure that the work we have done in Russia is firmly consolidated so that when other Global Mission opportunities arise elsewhere, we can also meet those challenges. There are already whispers of amazing developments and exciting strategies that will challenge the best in us for Global Mission involvement abroad as well as here in our own backyard!

We have learned much from our experience with *Operation Bearhug*. When new waves of mission opportunity arise elsewhere in the world, let us pray that the spirit of *Operation Bearhug* and the lessons we have learned through it will find us ready and willing to move forward as we reach through windows of opportunity to the uttermost parts of the world. 

ABOUT THE COVER

"Watch Out" is the title of the cover scene for the Dec. 13, 1993, GLEANER. Photographer Gary Haynes took this picture of his son, Tyson, at Timberline near Mt. Hood. He used an F-1 Canon camera and Kodachrome 64 film.

OPERATION BEARHUG



Operation Bearhug: A Year of 4,561 Victories

By Duane McKey

Duane McKey is ministerial association secretary and assistant Operation Bearhug coordinator for the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC).



It was about 3 a.m. when I was awakened by a swarm of mosquitoes on the third floor of my small hotel room in St. Petersburg, Russia, and for some time I stood by my bed "battling with mosquitoes," as my translator, Valery Ivanov, phrased it.

But things only got worse. In the course of battle, my bed went crashing to the floor. Finally, at 4:30 a.m., the mosquitoes sounded their retreat, and my bed was repaired.

Three hours later, feeling somewhat sorry for myself, I left my hotel to go to a dollar shop in a European hotel where I hoped to buy some mosquito spray.

While changing Metro lines in downtown St. Petersburg, I noticed a young child with his mother. At that particular hour of the morning there weren't a lot of people on the Metro, and I was able to sit near the young lady and her child. Through sign language I learned that his name was Evan and that he was six years old. When we finally arrived at our destination, I bid them goodbye and walked over to a little stand where I bought some breakfast, including two bananas.

I ate my breakfast, but only one of the bananas. Then I made my way to the bus stop where I was to continue my trip. When I reached the bus stop, I again saw the woman with her son standing nearby. They looked fragile, even undernourished. I glanced down at the banana (the remainder of my breakfast) and then looked at the little boy. Then I leaned forward and handed the banana to Evan. His eyes got as large as silver dollars as he glanced up at his mother and shook his head "no." I insisted and shook my head "yes." He looked again and then reached out with both hands and took the banana.

I expected that little Evan would immediately peel the banana and quickly devour it, but he just held it. No doubt it was quite a prize. Bananas had not been available in St. Petersburg until about that time: he'd probably never had one before, as the price of the fruit represented about one-thirtieth of what his mother could earn in one month of work.

My bus came. I boarded it and sat near a window, looking down at Evan and his mother. He was still holding the banana in his hands. Then he released one hand, put it to his lips and threw me a kiss. My heart was touched as tears began to run down my cheeks. I was, after all, lonely for my own family back in the States, but I was also aware that when my children had been that age, they never had had to do without any fruit they wanted.

When I arrived a few minutes later at the hotel dollar shop, there was no mosquito spray, but by that time it really didn't matter. I realized more fully than ever before what *Operation Bearhug* is all about. It involves not only giving of what we have, but accepting, in turn, what the Russian people have to give us—love.

I'm sure that members of the many *Operation Bearhug* evangelistic teams to Russia could tell similar heart-warming stories and experiences. Sharing the good news of Christ's return not only changes other lives; it also changes our own.

During the past two years we have had 24 evangelistic campaigns in Russia with 4,561 baptisms. This year alone we have had 234 Northwest people involved in evangelistic campaigns through *Operation Bearhug*.

In the series I've been personally involved with during the past three years in St. Petersburg and Magadan (two with Bruce Johnston and two by myself), my life has been changed. I have seen more than a thousand people come to the Lord. Each is special. There seems to be a heavenly glow of joy and peace about their faces as they come up out



of the waters of baptism to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

In the following pages of the *GLEANER*, we want to pay tribute not only to those of you who have been involved directly in Russian outreach, but to those of you who have prayed and given sacrificially to make *Operation Bearhug* possible. ➔



OPERATION BEARHUG

Reaching the Children of the Bear

By Marklynn Bazzzy

Marklynn Bazzzy writes from Portland, Ore.



The call to serve as children's minister for a Voice of Prophecy Crusade to Siberia came unexpectedly to LaRose McCluskey, a member of the Rockwood church in

Portland, Ore. have been baptized, and since then, many more have indicated an interest in committing their lives to God.

But the story goes on. Igor, who translated for LaRose in Perm, was baptized last June and requested a copy of LaRose's slides so that he could continue the work she began among the children.

Meanwhile, LaRose and her eight-year-old son, Lloyd, are again headed to Russia to help Igor with his first children's crusade, and Lloyd himself, for the first time, will be telling stories of Jesus to the Russian children.

"It is so exciting for me to give these teaching tools to Igor for his first crusade," LaRose says. "There is a real hunger to hear God's Word in Russia." 🐾

*"I finally said to God
'I will go wherever
you want, Lord. Just
show me You will
provide.'"*

Portland, Ore.

At the time, she was presenting the children's program during Evangelist Kenneth Cox's Portland Revelation Seminar, and at first she resisted the request to go to Russia, using her own four children as excuses.

But soon the needs of the children in Russian to hear God's word overcame her resistance. The turning point came in a curious way. While drawing pictures for a children's lesson on heaven one day, LaRose was having difficulty drawing a duck.

"I never dreamed of praying for a duck, I just wanted one to look at while I drew," she says. The next morning a duck appeared in her backyard and stayed until she had finished her drawing.

"I finally said to God 'I will go wherever you want, Lord. Just show me You will provide,'" she remembers. "That afternoon a patient of mine offered to pay part of my plane ticket for the trip."

Once LaRose decided to go, plans quickly flowed into action. Patients helped buy Bibles; friends and relative donated printing expenses for 1,000 lessons; Crayola donated more than 1,000 packs of Crayons; and her fellow Rockwood members helped color, laminate and cut the lesson sheets.

"God can do anything we need for His work. We just need to ask," she says.

Two thousand pounds and 31 boxes of luggage later, LaRose arrived in Perm, Russia, ready to teach the children about God, and more than 1,600 children came to two sessions each night to study about Jesus.

"I tried several illustrations to show the children what God is like. But it wasn't until I told them that God is like a pearl that their faces lit up," LaRose remembers.

"In Perm, gems stones are abundant, and the children understood that God is valuable." The children took notes and were able to learn to recite the Ten Commandments, the Three Angels' Messages and other Bible doctrinal passages, she adds.

One of the greatest thrills came as she handed out Russian Bibles. "It gave me immense pleasure to see the children clutch the Bibles to their chests as tears streamed down their cheeks in happiness."

More than 200 children requested baptism, 89 of whom



LaRose, her shepherd's staff and her 31 boxes were often the main attraction wherever she traveled.

OPERATION BEARHUG

Mission Impossible? 'The Witness,' a Christian Musical, Plays in Russia

By Bradley S. Ellis

Bradley S. Ellis took part in "The Witness" production as communication director in Russia and writes from Portland, Ore.

We never thought of ourselves as missionaries nor did we expect the warmth or gratitude we received from the Russian people. It all began so simply—with a single request.

While in Russia with the Khabarovsk Adventist church group and Pastor Nicholi Terzi, exploring sister city church possibilities, Ed Jensen and Roger Gildersleeve of Portland, Ore., mentioned "The Witness," a musical drama about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, then being performed in Portland.

The Russians became so enthusiastic that someone asked: "Please, please, can you bring the good news of 'The Witness' to the Russian people?"

Later, when Roger asked Pastor John Kendall, director of "The Witness," about the possibility of taking the production to Russia, he leaped at the chance, for he was also told that there were Russians willing to help perform the Bible-based musical.

It quickly became a youth mission project as Andrew Turner, Jamila Miller, Elizabeth Shreve, Eric Greene, Alicia Frederick, Rachel Lavell, Julie Dove, Alan Kaiser, Necole Wishart, William Wilcox, Bill Shawler, James Kendall,

Tiffani Null and Monica Dooley from the Portland area prepared to travel with "The Witness."

In addition to these cast members, others were contacted to help with the behind-the-scenes work: John Clark, Charles Steahly, and Glen Edgerton for stage building; Cathie and Rebecca Clark, and Cynthia Steahly for costumes; John Gobble and myself for administrative support;

Pedro Octubre, Jr., for musical direction and keyboard; and Jeanette Edgerton and Rosemary Baker as chaperons.

Satan, however, seemed unwilling to let "The Witness" travel. Plane reservations on the Russian airline, Aeroflot, were lost, though later recovered, and the Russian Orthodox Church proposed a bill to the Russian parliament to restrict public evangelism, though the president never signed it.

Finally, after two months of practicing, listening to tips from other travelers to Russia and packing everything from water filters to snacks, we left the United States on Aug. 8, landing about 12 hours later at the Khabarovsk airport.

With only 14 days to prepare before our first performance, American and Russian singers began rehearsing together, with Ena Byathtold, choirmistress of the Topolyhot School of Music.



For so many years, communism disallowed the teachings of Christianity. This is the first time that more than 60 Russian cast members experience the story of Jesus Christ.

OPERATION BEARHUG

"We were with some of the most excellent singers of Khabarovsk. We were really impressed with the skill, the talent and the commitment," remembers Pastor Kendall. "We came in touch with the Russian soul—the Russian 'duxa,'—in a most wonderful way."

Discouragement threatened, as well, as plans for performing "The Witness" in the main theater in Khabarovsk fell through, forcing the production into a smaller hall, one formerly used by the KGB.

"The Teatra Drami was a smaller theater, more for dramatics than for a musical," John Kendall said. "It was primarily a KGB theater. You saw the hammer and sickle emblem all the way across the upper balcony."

But the business of getting materials for building and painting the stage, choosing principle singers and picking out costumes for the cast continued. Soon after arriving in Russia, Pastor Kendall realized that he would have to rewrite the script, not because of the length, but in order to simplify the message of Christ, since it would be presented to many Russian people who had never heard of the story of Jesus before.

And as rehearsals continued, apprehension grew.

"Through the process of rehearsals, the song-learning and all the hard work, we did not see a lot of the Russian feelings. All we saw was the work that was being done. Sometimes it was frustrating or discouraging for the Russian people who were not understanding what they were doing. Were they grasping? Was it changing their lives? But as we moved through the process, the response we got was surprising," says Alan Kaiser, who portrayed Christ in "The Witness."

But when opening night came, we realized it was worth what we had gone through. "We saw transformations there that I could not believe, in a two-week period," Glen Edgerton said.

One of the Russian men, Igor, had tears streaming down his face while watching the cross scene during the performance. "Why did they have to kill Him? He was such a good man," he said.

Monica Dooley, who played Mary Magdalene, added, "You could look at the people and you could see the change happening. The passion, pain, everything in their faces looking up to Christ on the cross was so real."

One of the heads of the musical institute of Khabarovsk came backstage at the end of one of performances and told us, "You are pioneers. This is the first time ever the gospel, the story of Christ, has been told in this way where the Russian people could see and sense the power of the cross."

Even Gene Dent, the non-Adventist production designer from Portland, remarked to Pastor Kendall, "All the songs, the things we put together, that's all fluff. The reason that this has an effect on the Russian people is the story—the story itself."

The day after the last performance, we met with the Russian cast for one last time in the city park. Gifts were exchanged and several of the Russian cast members gave testimonies of what "The Witness" had done in their lives.

Sveta, our translator, told us: "I was raised in the family of communism. I did not know who God was. During one very emotional practice, I felt something unusual. I entered

the room where Alan was sitting, and he was crying. I hugged him, and he said, 'I love you.' He was just like Jesus. Thanks to everybody. You opened the door to God."

After long goodbyes from our Russian friends at the airport in Khabarovsk, we boarded the Aeroflot airplane. Flying home gave us time to think about what we had just accomplished in Russia. We were missionaries. We were witnesses to the Russian people of the character, friendship and love of Christ through "The Witness."

As a group, we came back with a change in attitude toward the people of Russia. Blessings that we were hoping to give to them, came back to them tenfold.

Would we do it all over again? Yes! 🙏



Seeing Christ crucified was very emotional for many Russian "Witness" players, especially for Alexi Paftochoy, who played Judas. He apologized to 'Jesus' (Alan Kaiser) later for being the one responsible for the crucifixion. Both American and Russian cast members experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, as, for two weeks they stood together proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ to the people of Khabarovsk.

OPERATION BEARHUG



"I Lived in a Russian Barrel"

By Brian Snarr

Brian Snarr is a senior at Walla Walla College and wrote this article shortly after his return from Russia to his home in Vancouver, Wash., this past summer.

Light filtered into my room. I felt my toes extending beyond the blanket into the frigid air. The thin metal sides of the round house that was my home, commonly called "barrels," could not keep out the last of the Russian winter cold.

Although hot water ran through radiators under the length of the 25-foot floor, the warmth available did little to stop the wind blowing through the cracks in the door and window.

Taking one final look at my Kazakh roommate, Paul, I zipped up my down-feather jacket and headed outside into the snow. Although I had never been much for rubber boots and a wool cap, they became my closest and favorite companions that early spring.

I looked around and saw scarred whiteness everywhere. The ice now hardened on top of the snow was slick. Almost 50 other "barrels" lay on top of the snow, housing students and families.

Smoke ascended from chimneys in the neighborhood as signs of early morning life. This was Zaokski, Russia, where I was to live and study for the next five months.

After eating my first meal of pickled cabbage, bread and kasha, I walked out to the field that would soon be my work, my study and my sustenance. There, I met Jacob Mittleider. He had come to the Adventist college to work with the people of the Russian Commonwealth and to begin an agricultural study program to help increase production of precious food so necessary for survival.

I would be studying the same things as all other students who had entered the study program—my choice. I had come from Walla Walla College where I had been studying physics. But Russia, and the work of the church in Russia, intrigued me. And I figured that the best way to learn was to come to Russia in a reverse *Operation Bearhug* experience, to learn about what God is doing in their land.

At eight o'clock in the morning—and no later!—we lined up for role call and the day's instruction. My fellow students came from Moldova, Russia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Romania, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and other unpronounceable places.

Our 1993 season began with planting and transplanting tiny seedlings that would, in due time and with proper care, produce fresh food for the summer and provide food to can for the winter. Without it, many could starve.

As I worked through the cool mornings, spading foot after foot of hard soil, I began to feel like one of them. I was living, learning, and working with them. Even before I could speak the language, I heard joking and laughter all over the field. I saw the intensity of labor as they acknowledged that a whole church or factory could be depending on their efforts for food.

As I learned a little more of the Russian language, I listened in as workers from vastly different backgrounds, cultures and regions discussed gardening and religion—almost in the same breath. I saw the sparkle in their eyes and joy on their faces as we harvested fresh produce.

When evenings came, so did supper and social life. Day after day I was invited into their homes to experience a tremendous outpouring of love. On the street we saw cold, hard expressions and empty eyes. But in the homes of fellow Christians, barriers broke down and everything flowed with a force I had never known in the United States.

Even though we Americans have a lot to give, Russians give a lot without having a lot to give. They are masters at making a meal from nothing or giving a party for someone in the midst of almost insurmountable, pressing need.

As summer came and the days warmed up, I took many walks among the white-barked birch trees and abundant flowers of the fields and forests with my new friends. As we listened to cuckoo birds and roasted potatoes in the coals, we talked of life and of dreams. Exchanging ideas and cultures became a bonding experience that made me realize how similar we are to the people I grew up fearing during the cold war.

Some aspects of life are different. They are worried about growing food to feed the masses and how to survive the winter, and we are worried about the toaster burning our bread. They are lucky to find fuel after waiting in a four-hour-line at the gas station, while we get upset when the automatic garage door fails to open on cue.

There are constant problems with water supply and pressure in the homes, yet there are numerous wells. Pickled cabbage and zucchini with bread loses its appeal when eaten three times a day in the winter. But it is part of life in Russia. It is a life of simplicity; a life that has been lost to most of us. They are taking walks in the forest when we are watching the latest sex-scandals on TV.



Brian Snarr in Russia lives the life of a Russian, learning the secrets of productive agriculture.

OPERATION BEARHUG

We can learn from their simplicity and hard work. Funny, I never even noticed that they didn't have 1,001 shades of lipstick and eye shadow.

The security of a government that did all of their thinking for them is now gone. Inflation is skyrocketing and crime is beginning to increase. Amidst all this commotion, the greatest cry is to fill the void that the godlessness of communism created.

This void cannot be filled through capitalism or socialism. Many are trying to fill the void with immorality, smoking or escapism. Yet this vacuum can only be filled by God.

What is freedom without God? It is only another prison. We exist in a prison land of habits.

While I was there, I witnessed the joy on people's faces when some of their physical needs were met. I worked with people whose lives were changed because they came in contact with God through His people in Russia. I worked with students who came to the college to take agriculture, found God and were baptized.

I saw bus load after bus load of people coming from great distances to view the school and its programs. I was with community members who came week after week to the Adventist church just to hear a choir sing music that had been suppressed for 70 years.

I saw some 300 people who were baptized through the efforts of the seminary students. I heard stories of hundreds of people in small churches throughout the country waiting and hoping for a real sermon from a real pastor. I heard the cries of "Praise to God!" coming from the lips of hundreds watching as hundreds more were baptized in Moscow from Mark Finley's meetings in July.

I saw God moving in Russia, and it has touched my life

in an unparalleled way.

I wonder how much of what we fill our lives with in the States is really necessity. The simplicity and unselfishness of people who have been through more than we can understand touches my heart. Their spirit of triumph that overcame so much adversity inspires me. I will never forget the songs and jokes and smiles of my friends in Russia.

I can now go forward with a new vision of God as I study to become a teacher. God reached out and profoundly touched my life by allowing me to live among the Russian people for five months. We all have so much more to learn FROM the Russian people, as we share the gifts God has given us WITH them. 🌿



Students at the seminary where Brian studied live in "barrels." These accommodations may be upgraded soon, as the seminary facilities are improved.

A Call to Communion

By Don Gray

Don Gray writes from Washougal, Wash.; however, a great deal of his time, recently, has been spent in ministering evangelistically to the Russian people.

I sat transfixed as I watched the communion service unfold in Pahana church in Moscow. Never have I seen such a solemn celebration of communion as I witnessed that day in that new church. The auditorium was filled with eager participants. In fact, that church has to hold communion on two successive Sabbaths to be able to get all of the people into the services who wish to participate.

We now have five times as many baptized members in Moscow as we had in 1991, but this has created a problem, and we can help the Russians solve it. Where there was only one church in 1991, we now have 12 churches that long to celebrate communion with the new believers that have joined during the past two years.

Their great need is communion equipment. Church members here in the United States can simply go out and buy the supplies needed, but it would cost at least \$300 to supply each of these 10 new congregations with the materials that they need.

Just before I left Russia last summer, the pastors of the

new churches came to me and asked me if we here in America could not help them get communion sets so they might all celebrate communion on the same Sabbath.

If any of you reading this article know of any surplus or unused communion sets, please send them to *Operation Bearhug* at the North Pacific Union Conference office. Or if some of you would like to contribute toward this need, send your checks to *Operation Bearhug*, in care of the North Pacific Union Conference.

And as you consider these communion needs, also remember that Russian evangelists, who will be carrying more and more of the outreach load in their territory, also need projectors and slide sets, which we here in America can acquire for them. As you consider the needs of *Operation Bearhug*, consider what you can do to help supply these two urgent needs through a gift to the Russian Adventist church.

Thank you for your help in behalf of our Russian believers. 🌿

OPERATION BEARHUG

Operation Bearhug Statistical Review 1993

Campaign Dates	City	Evangelist	# Baptism	# in Bapt. Class	High Attendance	Average Attendance
April 9-May 15	Saratov	Phil White	155	30	1,200	900
April 18-May 22	St. Petersburg	Bruce Johnston	174	150	2,000	800
April 30-May 30	Elista	Chuck Stout	40	80	300	250
April 30-June 05	Tomsk	Arnold Scherencel	149	35	700	600
May 14-June 5	Orenberg	Hal Gates	129	150	1,300	1,100
June 25-July 17	Pushkin	John Brunt	12	60	300	200
June 4-July 10	Khabarovsk	Jim Stevens	335	40	1,500	1,000
July 2-Aug. 14	Barnaul	Elden Walter	125	215	700	500
July 9-Aug. 7	Togliatti	Ron Preast	385	100	1,000	800
July 16-Aug. 14	Ivanovo	Gerald Schulze	121	80	600	450
July 23-Aug. 27	Syktyvkar	Paul Johnson	35	20	290	200
Aug. 8-Sept. 4	Magadan	Duane McKey	126	20	800	450
Aug. 27-Oct. 2	Pyatigorsk	Steve McPherson	48	100	500	400
Sept. 24-Oct. 30	Chelyabinsk	Leon Ringering	196	100	900	700
Oct. 1-20	Taganrog	Russell Johnson	80	40	500	400
TOTALS			2,110	1,220	12,590	8,750

Operation Bearhug Participation Summary 1993 Evangelistic Campaigns

<p>April 9—May 15 Saratov 950,000 pop. 390 Adventists Phil White, evangelist 155 baptized Jan White 30 baptismal class Stan Beerman Dr. Dean Dietrich Lois Dietrich Dr. Helmut Stutz Lillian Stutz</p>	<p>May 14—June 5 Orenburg 900,000 pop. 374 Adventists Hal Gates, evangelist 129 baptized James Allen 150 baptismal class Carrie Allen Joe Buchi Christopher Donovan Jean Hart Kevin Kibble Genevieve Kibble Tim Madding Natasha Pedley Braden Pewitt George Sidley Mamie Sidley Mark Trethewey Ashley Wade</p>
<p>April 18—May 22 St. Petersburg 5.5 million pop. 1,127 Adventists Bruce Johnston, evangelist 174 baptized Marionette Johnston 150 baptismal class Dr. Fred Hardinge April Hardinge Don Hiersche Duane McKey</p>	<p>June 4—July 10 Khabarovsk 650,000 pop. 105 Adventists James Stevens, Evangelist 335 baptized Rita Stevens 40 baptismal class Douglas Chaffee Kathryn Chaffee Robert Elliott James Osborne Roberta Osborne Jean Poole Bradley Pooler Steven Pyle</p>
<p>April 30—May 30 Elista 100,000 pop. 11 Adventists Charles Stout, evangelist 40 baptized Glen Albertson 80 baptismal class Jamie Autrey Chester Schurch</p>	
<p>April 30—June 5 Tomsk 500,000 pop. Arnold Scherencel, evangelist Margaret Scherencel 120 Adventists Pastor Rick Silvestri 149 baptized Rod Scherencel 35 baptismal class Lynn Scherencel Rodney Scherencel</p>	

25 individuals in six follow-up teams

OPERATION BEARHUG

Eleven individuals involved in pre-meeting preparation; follow-up team:

- Karen Andreassen
- Matthew Andreassen
- Don Gibson
- Terri Gibson
- Beth Creviston
- Dean Davidson
- Nina Davidson

June 25—July 17 Pushkin 150,000 pop. 0 Adventists
 John Brunt, evangelist 12 baptized
 Ione Brunt 60 baptismal class
 Laura Brunt
 Darold Bigger
 Barbara Bigger
 Laura Constantinescu
 Trent Pierce

July 2-Aug. 14 Barnaul 700,000 pop. 130 Adventists
 Elden Walter, evangelist 125 baptized
 Judy Walter 215 baptismal class
 Dr. James Byrkit
 Jacqueline Park-Byrkit
 Sharon Gorham
 Christine Hartbauer
 Dan McCulloch
 Mary McCulloch
 Greg McCulloch

17 individuals in four follow-up teams

July 9—Aug. 7 Togliatti 1,000,000 pop. 4 Adventists
 Ron Preast, evangelist 385 baptized
 Jeanene Preast 100 baptismal class
 Jealynn Preast
 Jana Preast
 Harold Ellison
 Violet Ellison
 Arlene Koehl
 Waldemar Koehn
 Donna Koehn
 Mark Weir

July 16—Aug. 14 Ivanovo 750,000 pop. 10 Adventists
 Gerald Schulze, evangelist 121 baptized
 Genevieve Schulze 80 baptismal class
 Ernest Wallen

Joyce Wallen

July 23—Aug. 27 Syktyvkar 300,000 pop. 120 Adventists
 Paul Johnson, evangelist 35 baptized
 Corleen Johnson 20 baptismal class
 Dr. Lyle Mohr
 Judy Mohr
 David Schmidt
 Donna Schmidt
 Peter Schmidt

15 individuals in four follow-up teams

Aug. 8—Sept. 4 Magadan 150,000 pop. 350 Adventists
 Duane McKey, evangelist 126 baptized
 Wayne Hicks 20 baptismal class
 Jeraldene Hicks
 Louis Gillian
 Sandra Pride
 Jere Patzer
 Belko Brass

An additional 113 individuals were involved in Magadan building project and evangelism.

Aug. 27—Oct. 2 Pyatigorsk 200,000 pop. 155 Adventists
 Stephen McPherson, evangelist 48 baptized
 Sharon McPherson 100 baptismal class
 Jaymee Frimml
 Steven Frimml
 Stan Hudson

Sept. 24—Oct. 30 Chelyabinsk 1,300,000 pop. 230 Adventists
 Leon Ringering, evangelist 196 baptized
 Delores Ringering 100 baptismal class
 Terry Campbell
 Beverly Campbell
 Nancy Campbell
 Peter Thomas
 Bruce Volk

Oct. 1—Oct. 30 Taganrog 700,000 pop. 60 Adventists
 Russell Johnson, evangelist 80 baptized
 Mary Johnson 40 baptismal class
 Edward Scheresky
 Grace Scheresky



I would like to participate in 1993
 OPERATION BEARHUG projects, as follows:

- A public evangelistic campaign in Russia* \$ _____
- Russian Bibles (approx. \$1 each) \$ _____
- Church Leadership Development Institute (CLDI) \$ _____

Make checks payable to *Operation Bearhug*, and mail to your local Conference president's office, or North Pacific Union Conference, 10225 E. Burnside, Portland, Ore.

*Campaigns cost approximately \$8,000 each.



ALASKA



Alaskan Evangelistic Team Baptizes Nearly 400

As the North Pacific Union Conference has tackled the enormous task of supporting evangelistic outreach to Russia through *Operation Bearhug*, the Alaska Conference has adopted the Russian Far East Mission as its sister organization.

This mission has a population of 10 million people, and in late 1990, the first Adventist American contact was made with these Russians as I visited our members in Magadan and delivered 440 Bibles to them.

This year, during the months of June and July, 14 Alaskans in three teams supported James Stevens, conference president, as he held meetings in the city of Khabarovsk. This city, with its more-than 700,000 residents, lies along the Amur River, only a few kilometers from the China border.

Before the meetings began, there were only 200 Adventists in Khabarovsk, meeting in two churches. One congregation was Russian-speaking

while the other served the 100,000 Koreans living in the city.

The evangelistic meetings were held in the largest hall of the Khabarovsk Cinema, with seating for 800. One-thousand-four-hundred people came to the two opening sessions, but the Adventist interpreter had not yet showed up, so a local interpreter was hired.

After a few nights, however, she informed us that she would not be available the next night. But God seemed to take control of the situation, for we found in the audience a recently-baptized, English-speaking history teacher who was willing to try translating.

The teacher did so well that the Russian Far East Mission has since hired her as the mission's official translator.

On one dramatic evening, during the Bible class portion of the meeting, as Stevens spoke of the benefits of healthful living and of the evils of alco-

hol, he was "blessed" with an unexpected illustration when an inebriated man stumbled in the side door and fell to the floor in front of the crowd.

Alaskan team members became fast personal friends with the Russian people and saw many of them baptized. The first baptism was conducted in the Amur River on July 10 for 160 candidates, and by the time the meetings were finished, a new church had been formed with a total of nearly 400 newly baptized members. Many who were baptized came from other Russian cities where they have returned to share their faith.

Alaskan Adventists who traveled to Russia for the crusade include Ray Andreasen, wife Karen and son Matthew, Douglas and Katie Chaffee, Roger Gildersleeve, Bill Hinman, Edward Jensen, Beverly Moody, Jim and Rita Stevens, Duane Wahlman, Jim Osborne and Roberta Osborne, Bradley Pooler, Jean Poole, Bob Elliott, Steve Pyle, Don and Terri Gibson, Dean and Nina Davidson and Beth Creviston.

Equally vital to the success of the crusade were church members from throughout the conference who contributed funds to make this *Operation Bearhug* outreach possible.

Jim Osborne writes from Anchorage, Alaska, where he serves as Alaska Conference church ministries director and Operation Bearhug coordinator. He also pastors the Northside church in Anchorage.



Russians, both pastors and lay persons, helped with the meetings.

Kodiak Church Adds New Members

The Kodiak, Alaska, church recently completed an evangelistic series presented by Ron and Sue Patterson from Amazing Facts. The meetings were instrumental in adding two new members to the congregation—one through baptism and another through profession of faith. Others are continuing to study, and additional baptisms are expected.

Now that the series is over, several small group Bible studies are being held in church homes throughout the Kodiak

area, this to cement beliefs and to continue to spread the "Good News" to non-member neighbors and friends. Kodiak members have expressed a sense that the Lord is coming soon and an eagerness to spread the gospel throughout their community.

Linda Kozak



Shown, from left, are Pastor David McLauchlan, Kodiak pastor; Juan Sanchez, new member by profession of faith; Carl Burch, member by baptism; Virginia Norton, baptismal class student; Lorna Arndt, who attended all meetings and accepted the seventh-day Sabbath; and Sue and Ron Patterson, Amazing Facts evangelists.