



# RELIGIOUS

## PROJECT SVOBODA: BEARHUGGING RUSSIA WITH LIBERTY AND LOVE



A Response of Northwest Adventists to Global Mission

By Richard Lee Fenn

**H**ere is a personal letter I received early this past autumn. Read it—and then I'll tell you all about it.

Who wrote this letter? Mikhail P. Kulakov, Secretary-General, Religious Liberty Association of Russia. You've heard of Pastor Kulakov, Russia's patriarch of Adventism, first president of the Euro-Asia Division of the General Conference—a biblical scholar now working on a new Russian translation of the Scriptures.

Who joined him in signing?

Vera Boiko, at the time a member of Parliament and the president of the Religious Liberty Association of Russia; Genrikh Alexandrovich Mikhailov, chief of President Yeltsin's Office of Interconfessional Relations; and Yuriy Petrovich Zuev, specialist in church-state relations at the Institute of Public Policy.

Dear Mr. Fenn

Today is the last day of our stay in the U.S.A. The time passes so quickly. It was filled with many significant events: meetings with interesting people and discussions which we hope were mutually beneficial. Everywhere we met genuine interest in Russia and best wishes toward its people.

Our visit to the Adventist church in which you used to be pastor will remain for us an unforgettable experience.

It was a pleasant and unexpected surprise for us to get on our way to the church your kind letter.

Today while leaving for Moscow we carry in our hearts deep feelings of gratitude to all of those who gave us the opportunity to make this visit.

We are extremely moved by your kind interest to us. Please, believe us that this is a mutual feeling. We do hope that such meetings will have their continuation, and the next will happen in Moscow. We wish you to enjoy good health and have success in your fruitful life and noble ministry.

Sincerely yours,

Vera Boiko, Genrikh Mikhailov,  
Yuriy Zuev, Mikhail Kulakov

Sponsored by the Religious Liberty Association of the Northwest as a mission of *Operation Bearhug*, Project Svoboda provided the Russian Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists with three grassroot-level seminars on religious liberty ministry in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Nizhniy Novgorod, and this immediately after the historic, first-ever, open-to-the public Congress on Religious Freedom conducted by the Religious Liberty Association of Russia. Project Svoboda personnel attended and participated in the congress.

Through a series of unplanned circumstances I became the personal contact in Russia which led to Vera, Genrikh, Yuriy, and Mikhail coming to America to attend a major seminar on religious liberty issues conducted by the Council on Religious Freedom.

Our Russian quartet later visited the General Conference in Silver Spring, Md., and Montecello (in Charlottesville, Va.), the home of Thomas Jefferson.

In San Francisco for CRF's seminar ("The Alienation of Our Unalienable Rights"), my Russian friends participated fully with some of America's foremost legal authorities on religious freedom.

RLANW's general vice-president, Diana Justice, and Vice-President for Legal Affairs Lesli Genstler and I were there with them.

It was grand. Simply grand.

The Religious Liberty Association of the Northwest was the sponsor of Prof. Zuev's American odyssey. He is a delightful gentleman. "Ven you come to Russia again?" he asked me the last time I saw him in San Francisco.

As a member of President Yeltsin's staff, Genrikh Mikhailov is in a powerful position to do much in behalf of religious freedom. We believe he has. We believe he will continue to do so.

And Vera Boiko? Well, she was actually traveling in Virginia when Boris suspended the Supreme Soviet. She knew what it could mean: No more office in the Russian White House. And that is exactly what happened. Vera lost her seat in Parliament.

So, of course, this story is not over. The Project Svoboda team—John V. Stevens, Sr., and Lee Boothby, president and vice-president of the Council on Religious Freedom, and yours truly—awaits an early opportunity to return to Russia to work with Genrikh and Yuriy and others on issues of deep common interest.

To continue to demonstrate our belief that their red, white and blue and our red, white and blue must always represent the highest national values: Fairness. Justice. Freedom for all.

And, yes, to exchange those bear hugs of liberty and love.

Now, what about Project Svoboda? ("Svoboda" is Russian for freedom.)

Months in the planning, it finally happened this past May.



## Russian Time of Trouble Presages End-Time Events

Ivan Tomaily, president of the Russian Far East Mission, spoke recently at the O'Malley Road Church in Anchorage, reflecting on changes in Russia during the past eight years.

During this time period, he said, total church membership has jumped from 7,000 to 50,000.

His remarks in Anchorage came during a nearly two-week-long itinerary in which Tomaily spoke at various Alaska Conference churches. His visit came as a direct result of *Operation Bearhug*, a North Pacific Union Conference initiative of cultural and evangelistic exchange with the Russian Union Mission. Within this initiative, the Alaska Conference has adopted the Russian Far East Mission as a sister conference.

Teams from the Alaska Conference have conducted an evangelistic campaign in Khabarovsk and are planning to hold other meetings in cities located in the Russian Far East Mission territory.

In his remarks, Tomaily spoke briefly of the persecution which church members suffered during the years of communism. Pastors who refused to join the Communist Party were often imprisoned, and he considered himself lucky for being sentenced to a mere three-year term for having started a new church.

Church members who refused to allow their children to be educated by communists were denied educational and economic opportunities, and members of the KGB would infiltrate local congregations, though members could tell who they were by their use of alcohol and tobacco. Infiltration attempts failed, he said, but families and homes of pastors were nevertheless watched carefully.

Since the Communist Party would never interfere with weddings or funerals, both were used for evangelism, he added, and church members were well prepared to take advantage of every opportunity. As many as 10 speakers would take part in such events, and literature would be distributed.

Repression began to lift in 1985, however, as political prisoners were set free and people were allowed contact with fellow believers from other countries. Today, foreign missionaries may speak freely about Christianity.

He reported that in June of 1992 there were 1,017 Adventists in the Russian

Far East Mission and 13 new churches. In little more than one year, that total has risen to 3,000 members in 33 churches with 19 full-time pastors.

Of the churches, four are owned by the mission, including the one in Magadan, built by Northwestern volunteers from the Upper Columbia Conference; one in Khabarovsk; a two-story building in Vladivostok shared with Baptists; and a fourth building recently acquired in Ohotsk, now being renovated.

When asked what the churches need, Tomaily responded: "The church needs only one thing. We need that which makes it faster to finish Jesus' work."

The Far East Mission headquarters is located 6,500 miles from Moscow, at a topographical center among its churches. Mail service is undependable, making it almost impossible to distribute supplies of Bibles and other literature except by hand delivery.

He thanked members of the Alaska and Upper Columbia conferences for their contributions, noting that an evangelistic team visiting the Far East Mission last June took Bibles and Christian literature written in Russian. One set of donated slides costing \$200 was used at three separate evangelistic series, resulting in more than 800 baptisms.

Upon his return to Russia, Tomaily took several additional sets of slides as well as badly needed slide projection equipment. Perhaps more important than these, however, are the prayers of Alaskans who have been blessed by his visit to the Alaska Conference.

Audience members reflected that Tomaily and the Russian Christians he represents have faithfully endured a time of trouble comparable to what many expect will occur just prior to the return of Jesus Christ. The example of the Russian people may well encourage them during that time.

*Dottie L. Frasier-Tremont*



## Nome School: A Growing Concern

The student body of the Nome Adventist Elementary School (NAES) in Alaska has more than doubled in size since last year. Twenty-six students are now enrolled in grades one-through-eight; enrollment last year stood at 12.

On Oct. 11, the students and their teachers, Tami Burrell and Ruth Farnsworth, hosted an open house for parents and friends, with emphasis upon computers, the display of fossils, petrified wood, reading activities and sharing of journals.

A number of the participating students are shown above with teachers Burrell, second from right in back, and Farnsworth, back row, right.

The students added to the visual displays on open-house evening by wearing red sweatshirts decorated with a white apple logo and the NAES name.

During the open house, which was attended by Bill Hinman, Alaska Conference superintendent of schools, the students also shared musical numbers and served refreshments.

In further activities this past fall, students have taken part in community affairs by displaying posters with messages against the use of illegal or addictive drugs during Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 23-31. The posters were placed in the lobby of the local post office where all 5,000 city residents receive their mail.



*Ivan Tomaily, president of the Russian Far East Mission, speaks in Anchorage, Alaska.*

NATIVE MINISTRIES NORTHWEST AND THE ALASKA CONFERENCE ANNOUNCE —

## 1994 Western Alaska Native Camp Meetings:

**\*NOME**

January 20-22  
Nome SDA Church

**SAVOONGA**

January 23 - morning  
Savoonga SDA Church

**\*ALEKNAGIK**

January 27-29  
Aleknagik SDA Church

**GAMBELL**

January 23 - afternoon  
Gambell SDA Church

# Family

\*Nome and Aleknagik camp meetings begin at 7:00 Thursday evening and end Saturday evening.

**Speakers:**

Ken Crawford, Alberta Conference Native Ministries Director • James Stevens, Alaska Conference President  
George Crumley, North American Division Treasurer • Shirley Hon-Spencer, Physician • Rick Westermeyer, Physician  
Monte Church, Native Ministries Northwest Director • Robert Rawson, North Pacific Union Treasurer

Music by Art Church and Ed Makovsky

**For more information call:**

Jim Kincaid — 907-488-1793; Alaska Conference — 907-346-1004; Native Ministries Northwest 503-255-7300



ALASKA NEWS



## IDAHO



### Payette Youths Organize to Serve Others

The youth department of the Payette, Idaho, church, only recently organized, is growing in participation as it develops a program for community ministry.

The goal of the new department membership is to minister to one another and to the community, rather than to expect others to minister to them, according to Ron Hessel, youth pastor.

"We wanted to involve the youth in doing Sabbath school for each other and for the community," says Pastor Hessel.

Rod and Shari Wilson have accepted leadership of the youth department. "I am glad to share my time with the young people of my church," says Rod. He and Shari recently organized a successful fund-raiser

during which youths got together at an Adventist Book Center sale and sold meatless hamburgers, or "shamburgers."

Already active in the community, the youths have held a Sabbath school program for residents of Royal Villa Residential Care Center in Payette and are looking forward to presenting a monthly worship service program.

Dwight Zitek

### Ministry to Spirit Can Follow Physical Help

Magic Valley Community Services Federation members who met recently in Twin Falls, Idaho, were told that those served in physical ways must also be invited to share in the Adventist spiritual experience.

George Shaver, pastor of the Mountain Home/Wood River, Idaho, District, noted in his devotion theme that in helping people with their physical needs, one builds a trust relationship/friendship that naturally can lead to invitations to attend church services and eventually to become members.

Adventists sometimes make it hard for people to become interested in their church because many church members fail to issue invitations, he said. He quoted a statement

*I am with you  
always, even to the end  
of the world.*

Matthew 28:20 TLB

IDAHO NEWS



# OREGON



## Oregon Center for World Mission

*"The Lord Appointed Other 70 Also . . ." Luke 10:1*

### The Saga of Oregon Center for World Mission Volunteers

Was Gabriel really holding airplanes in the palms of his hands? For those with a fear of flying but with a passion for helping the Russian people, the answer is a resounding "Yes!"

Could God heal a brown recluse spider bite in miraculous time so that the owner of a cabinet shop could head for a ministry assignment in Russia? Absolutely!

Would a kidney infection and an emergency stop at a Stockholm hospital prevent an Oregon church member from reaching her ministry post in Barnaul, Russia? No way!

These are testimonies of some of the 70 Oregon Conference church members who recently left the comforts of home for the uncertainties of a different culture. With Bibles in their suitcases, prayers at their parting, and ministry talents bundled into cheerful hearts and faces, they became missionaries for the nineties.

Oregon's strategy was simple. Take evangelistic teams into the Russian cities of Tomsk, Barnaul and Syktyvkar. But don't stop with preaching and baptizing. Send waves of church members and pastors to help the existing membership assimilate the hundreds who would join the church.

Late last year Oregon's Russian missionaries gathered on a Sabbath afternoon to share individual experiences and to create a colorful collage of memories. Though not all had been in the same place at the same time, there was a strong reunion flavor.

Collectively, they loved their Russian brothers and sis-

ters. All discovered that flexibility was the key to cross-cultural networking. Many talked about their hopes to return to Russia.

For some of Oregon's missionaries, there would be chapters that might not be known until the Kingdom. Bible studies and baptismal classes were continuing even as many of the Americans boarded planes for home.

In the city of Tomsk a minister from another denomination had come to observe the children's programs. His fascination with the Sabbath school felts from America created a bond, and before the Americans left, one team member was impressed to give the Russian pastor a three-year set of felts. They had become a way to reach his heart; would their message also lead to a greater understanding of the Bible?

It had been a life-changing experience for both the Americans and the Russians. The span of many time zones and cultural diversity had been reduced to a small community of closely knit hearts. And the Spirit's enriching power had turned strangers into brothers and sisters.

Some might call it mission service. Some might see it as evangelism. Some might describe it as cross-cultural networking. But God simply describes it as Kingdom work!

*Jay E. Prall is director of the Oregon Conference Communications Department and writes from Clackamas, Ore.*

*"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."*

Mark 16:15

OREGON NEWS

*Remember! God will always love you.*



## Oregon Center for World Mission

### To Oregon Members, with Love 'This Paradise Time'

Under the leadership of Pastor Elden Walter, an evangelistic series was held here in Barnaul, a capital of the Altai Territory in Siberia. During the weeks between July 2 and Aug. 14, 1993, brothers and sisters from America worked together with local church members in this effort which doubled our church membership.

Being the first crusade ever, it made a great impression on the people of our city. Between 600 and 700 people of all ages came night by night. We enjoyed the music performed by the team. It was a perfect performance.

A series of stop-smoking lectures was given by Pastor Dan McCulloch. Seventy people attended; 12 stopped smoking and three were baptized.

Following the crusade, 10 home Bible-study groups were organized and more are being planned. Home churches are important! In this way we are able to give new believers and those who would like to know Jesus our attention.

Three more teams of our American brothers and sisters followed. They visited home churches, made friends with newcomers and shared their own experience and those of their churches back in America. They supported us in all that we undertook. We were extremely glad to work together for the sake of those hungry to know Jesus.

Our American friends brought a lot of visual aids for children's Sabbath school. Judy and Dan McCulloch started this ministry of showing God's love to children. Others who followed continued building these special children's programs, even taking them to Glyaden, a Russian-German village 390 kilometers away.

Our children were delighted with all they saw and heard. We need your prayers for us. Because of our rapid growth, our church faces many challenges. Our praying house is small; consequently we must rent public buildings on Sabbaths. Many members live far away and having no car is a real problem. Special thanks to our brothers who gave financial help in these areas.

Our church would like to thank President Don Jacobsen and all churches in the Oregon Conference. We are grateful to all who ventured to leave their homes and come to Russia in order to bring the gospel. Now we have lots of friends in America. We pray and believe that God will prolong this paradise time and send many others to see us.

We wish you good health and success in your personal and spiritual lives.

Pastor Vasily Oleinick  
Barnaul, Russia



Vasily and Maria Oleinick

This letter was translated from the Russian by Vera Tarssova.



# Oregon Center for World Mission

## Jesus: Heartthrob of Converted Russian Youths

The following are responses given by 10 young persons who answered one simple, two-part question: "What has Jesus done for you and what would you like to do for Jesus?"

I have challenged these young people to plan evangelism next summer. Already several of them have their own home churches.

In Russia much of the church leadership is done by the youth. In Syktyvkar, for instance, the head elder is 19 years old and the woman responsible for all the younger children's programming is also 19.

*Alvin Glassford is pastor of the Glendoveer church and served recently in Russia in evangelistic outreach. He writes from Portland, Ore. The responses were given in Russian and have been translated by Vera Tarssova.*



*"I want to preach throughout the world. I want to organize crusades like Pastor Elden Walter. I love Jesus."*

Svetlana Petuklova



*"I want to see more believers, more people who love Jesus. I want to help people to know and to come to Jesus Christ."*

Olesya Novichkova



*Jesus is my consolation and my salvation. He is the essence of all my life.*

Slya Litvinov



*"I want to tell all the people about salvation through Jesus Christ, as we are short of time."*

Konstantin Trophimov



*"Jesus Christ means my rebirth, my future happy life."*

Euvgenig Molchanov



*"The aim of my life is to bring happiness to those who do not know Jesus' love. Jesus' love will be with you."*

Mikhaie Oleinick

*Continues on next page*



# Oregon Center for World Mission

## Converted Russian Youth *from previous page*



*"I am so glad that Jesus gives me great hope and confidence in future days."*

Andrei Kruck



*"The most valuable thing in my life is life. I live because of Jesus. Jesus means life for me."*

Homutov Stamslav



*"It is Jesus who has become my Lord, my personal Savior and my very close friend. It is He who has given me salvation, peace and comfort in my soul! He loves me and gives me forgiveness and eternal life."*

Elena Kruck



*"I want to follow Jesus Christ. I don't want to break his moral commandments and I want to help people to come to Jesus."*

Tatjana Sukrina

## Pastoral Patchwork

When members of the Tillamook, Ore., church wanted to surprise their pastor with warmth and affirmation, church board members asked the 1992 social committee to come up with an idea. They did, arranging to secretly give each church family a quilt block to design and on which to inscribe the family name. For nearly three months, the nearly 300 people involved were able to keep the quilting project a secret from the pastor.

When the quilt was ready, the church family gathered for sundown worship and asked the pastor to tell them a story from his mission experience. Then, using a "this is your life" theme for both the pastor and his wife, "Midge" Olson read a story of the couple's lives as members of the congregation acted out scenes, culminating with the presentation of the quilt. Shown, above, are members of the social committee and the pastoral couple: Bill Johnson, left, and Ken Mitchell hold up the quilt, as, from left, Jay Graham, Marilyn Graham, Larry Slawson, Linda Slawson, Sue Smith, Pastor Bill Smith, Mildred Olson and Wayne Olson stand in the foreground. Ed Meelhuysen, also a member, was not available when the photo was taken.

*Shirley A. Thomas*





Ed Schwisow

# Rousing the Advent Team

By Ed Schwisow

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

"Tell me," a young basketball player asked. "If the church were a team, how would you rate it? Maybe we need some new plays, new management, you know, a few trades, maybe a personnel overhaul?"

Aside from the tinge of sacrilege we feel in the query, the question is good and the typology apt.

The Apostle Paul, if living today, might chuckle, "That's a good one, kid; when I write my epistle to the Seattlites, I'll tell them to keep playing like the Supersonics."

The Adventist denomination is a team. We're organized on paper; we've got a play book a library long. We've got the talent, the brains, the Coach, the films, the scouts and the young talent coming up from the lower divisions.

We've seen potential in streaks—note *Operation Bearhug* stats. But sometimes we seem less impressive at home.

We've had great players—and we do now. Great centers like James White; power forwards like J.N. Andrews; small forwards and fleet guards like J.N. Loughborough and H.M.S. Richards, set the character of the team, and team psychologist/visionary Ellen G. White told us we were bound for championship glory.

Some tell us that the play book's being rewritten; that the team's off course and that point shavers are to be found in the front office.

Not so, folks—and even IF so, these certainly are not our biggest problems. The team clearly has championship potential, and the fundamentals of success remain firmly in place.

## Why Organization?

Organization was allowed—in fact, encouraged—among the remnant of advent believers to bring unity, to increase efficiency and to avoid duplication of effort.

Teamhood would boost morale; it would help the team endure hard times together "as one" even as Christ with the Godhead are one. And "as one," it was hoped, the team would be efficient, encouraging one another, sharing the burdens and focusing glory on the Owner.

The team's championship-hungry, folks. Let's admit it: All heaven is championship-starved. But the team seems lukewarm, apathetic

and self-doubting, despite brilliant potential.

That's what tires the soul—not the toil, but the tension of knowing that though the design calls for an imminent championship season, some team members seem unconvinced and unwilling to dedicate everything they have to victory.

But things are changing—as they must—as championship hour nears. The potential is here, the play book is open, the Coach is shouting encouragement. Allow me to mention a few ways we can individually enhance our efficiency on this team:

1. **Simplify the life and lifestyle.** One can "keep in tune" with society (know the competition) without adopting its play book. I fear we frequently (and often inadvertently) jimmy our own game plan by cultivating cravings, desires and values that pander to the opposing coach's approach. Let's confidently, in prayer and fasting, turn our eyes full-face toward our goal and allow our feverish, fretful, compulsive excesses to be drowned in a sea of God's forgiveness and forgetfulness.

2. **Greater love and respect for all team players.** Let's treat one another royally, as heirs to championship crowns. Let's not be too concerned with sifting through the team to ferret out imposters. When the true, loyal players do their jobs well, imposters will be exposed by their own stat sheets. As implied in the parable of the wheat and tares, royal treatment of all plants may be good for the tares, but it's even better for the wheat.

3. **Glory in the diversity of our team.** Because I cannot—or have not been asked to—play starting center, makes me no less a team contributor than my seven-foot-two brother in the faith. Praise God, we ARE NOT a team of all centers, or forwards, or guards, or coach's scouts, or tacticians, or team doctors or cheerleaders. As a team, we combine our strengths—we pass the ball to one another, and we express continual encouragement and support. We REJOICE in our diversity of talent and on-floor gifts.

May God bless us this year in our quest for glories unseen, untold and unimagined as we plan together for championship crowns. 🌿

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## ABOUT THE COVER

The cover for this Jan. 17 issue features a photograph by Robert Rouillard of Tacoma, Wash. A steady climb though a forest leads to Crystal Peak where two lakes and the added attractions at times of elk and mountain goats make it a desirable hikers' spot in Mt. Rainier National Park. The photographer used a Pentax Sportsmatic camera and Fuji 100 film.



## Russian Trio Attends PAA

Three Russian Orthodox students from Russia now attending Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) say they are trying hard to blend into their new student body and "want to be normal students." Rimma Beil, left, Svetlana Valueva, center, and Tanya Zhulova come to PAA from Ryazan, Russia, and are staying with Adventist families in the Portland, Ore., area. They were introduced to the possibility of attending PAA last year when they met Ken Schmidt, a Portlander who was a volunteer builder for the church in their hometown. They find the school acade-

mically and socially stimulating and, says Svetlana, "The teachers and the principal are very awesome." They were first introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Russia and agree that attending Seventh-day Adventist church services in this country has been fulfilling.

During their time in the United States they have been able to do quite a bit of traveling and have visited Mt. Hood, the Oregon Coast, the Pendleton, Ore., Roundup, California, Disneyland and Hawaii.

Lori Henriques



## Milo Senior Officers

The Milo Adventist Academy Senior Class has elected officers as follows, from left, front row: Nicole Wurscher, social vice-president; April Gandy, president; Meriah Ayer, religious vice-president. Those shown in the second row, from left, are Ivette Fimbres, senator; Kristi Schreiner, sports coordinator; Marcelo Garcia, chorister; and Sandi Carpenter, fund-raiser. In the back row, from left, are Amy Pumford,

senator; Clarissa Larson, treasurer; Kelly Reed, secretary; Jason Snow, sergeant-at-arms; Kaarsten Schoepflen, historian; Heidi Puntney, senator; and Melody Darrow, senator.

Senior Class Recognition will take place on the Days Creek, Ore., campus Feb. 11 and 12. Family and friends are invited to attend recognition services.

Bonnie Laing

## New Stained Glass Created for Roseburg Church

On Sabbath, Oct. 2, 1993, the Roseburg, Ore., church unveiled a 6-ft.-by-12-ft. stained glass window depicting the "Crucified Christ." Worshipers spilled into the aisles and joined voices in song as they viewed the masterpiece above the balcony. The window, which is the crowning touch of a two year remodeling project, shows Christ on the cross looking upward to the Father. Below the Apostle John comforts Mary as a Roman centurion looks on. Red and white flower motifs representing the "Lily of the Valley" and "Rose of Sharon" are set into the cobalt blue border of the stained glass window.

This is the second window Lars Justinen, an Adventist artist from Nampa, Idaho, has designed for the Roseburg church. The first, unveiled a year ago, is located behind the platform. He designed the "Second Coming of Jesus", a 4-ft.-by-10-ft. piece, with the balcony window in mind.

"In these two windows we have the two greatest moments in man's history," states Justinen. "There is a resonance, a complementary echo between the two. As the congregation beholds the emblem of Christ's return, the speaker beholds a reminder of Christ's sacrifice as a backdrop to all present and a constraining context through which to speak."

Members donated hundreds of hours to build the stained glass windows. Jeri Lynn Fletcher took time off from her work in ICU at a local hospital to help with the project.



Tom Zoeter built an iron frame to hold nine panels. Duane Fletcher and Gerald Casebolt coordinated the glass cutting, leading and installation. Linda Palmer and David Monger assisted. Now the stained glass is backlit and visible to the community in the evenings.

Bill Copeland

*The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

James 5:16 NIV

## Challenge of Home Mission Confronts Youth Leaders

More than 200 Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) youth leaders and pathfinder staff members were challenged to become missionaries state-side during a recent youth leadership retreat at Camp MiVoden.

Titled "Come Touch the Stars," the weekend event featured four general sessions, a Saturday night banquet and 35 seminars and craft workshops.

Featured speaker Gary Meister, director of the Christian Aid Center of Walla Walla, Wash., emphasized the need for Christians to be missionaries in the United States.

"I had great plans to work overseas in the 'mission field,'" said Meister, but instead the Lord led him to the Walla Walla Christian Aid Center where he planned to work for a short time before leaving for Africa.

As time passed, Meister chose to extend his short time at the Christian Aid Center and later became its director.

The homeless or welfare recipient is not always the instigator of his own predicament, he said. "It can happen to a lot of people. You're laid off . . . get behind on rent . . . ruin your credit . . . have no relatives to turn to. Suddenly no one will rent to you or give you a job, and you're forced into welfare."

Meister cautioned youth leaders to beware of parents' sensitivities when attempting to help their children. An incorrect approach "may make the parents feel worse about themselves because it tells the kids that Mom or Dad couldn't provide for them."

Youth groups should reach out to the needy by helping them help themselves, he

said. An example of this concept in action is seen at Meister's Christian Aid Center's Christmas store where needy families are allowed to come in and choose from a roomful of donated toys and to 'purchase' a gift at no cost.

Meister said that needy people value assistance but appreciate, as parents, the dignity and credit of selecting and preparing gifts for their own children.

"Come Touch The Stars" organizers from the UCC Youth Ministries Department arranged for 35 seminars, known as "stellar sessions," where leaders could study with the help of experts.

Stellar session subjects ranged from how to avoid child abuse, by Rick Johnson, to "Topsy Turvy Hike Instruction," by Derald Haney. Other seminars included "Creative and Effective Song Services," by Cheryl Wren, "How to Develop Spirituality in the Club," by Ron Whitehead, "God's Guidance System" by Barbara Folkenberg and "Throwing E. G. White at Youth," by Gordon Pifher.

After a seminar on effective reporting for youth leaders, Lisa McLeod, Coeur d'Alene youth Sabbath school leader, said, "I feel really motivated to write articles for the GLEANER now."

Bonsai plant training, taught by Dave Skillingstad as a trial pathfinder honor being developed by Skillingstad and the Lewis-Clark pathfinder club, was featured among many other topics during the training seminars.

The Saturday night banquet patterned itself after a Russian tea party, called "chai" in Russian. As guests arrived at the banquet, they were seated by hosts dressed as Russian military personnel. The banqueters listened to the music of Dadushka



"Dadushka" (Grandpa) Gordon Pifher strolls among the banqueters during a Russian-style reception as he plays his accordion and visits with the people at the Youth/Pathfinder Leadership Retreat.

[Russian word for grandpa] Pifher on his accordion as they waited for their bosch and potatoes.

The evening ended with a video report by Wayne Hicks, associate youth ministries director, on the new pathfinder club organized in Magadan, Russia. The video program showed several of the events that the new Magadan club staff organized while Hicks worked in Russia as a team member of the UCC Operation Bearhug project.

"It was really powerful," said John Solomon, youth pastor at Spokane, Wash., Linwood church, "because you could tell they were excited about the activities they were doing. They had enthusiasm!"

Since all but one of the pathfinder staff in Magadan are teenagers and all are newly baptized members of the church, Hicks asked each pathfinder club to specifically mention a designated Magadan staff member in their prayers during the next six months.

Jon Dalrymple

## Focus on Heaven Keynotes Record-Setting Camporee

Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) pathfinders began their 1993-1994 season by focusing on the theme "What on earth are you doing for HEAVEN'S sake?" during a record-setting weekend camporee at Freeman Creek Campground, Dworshak State Park in Idaho.

Paul Jenks, Upper Columbia Academy chaplain, challenged the 864 pathfinders and staff to do something "for heaven's sake," and it didn't take the group long to do just that.

On Sunday morning, club members put their wheelbarrows, rakes and shovels to work and used dirt which rangers had brought in by dump-truck-loads to fill holes and low spots at campsites.

Not only did pathfinders say that they

had a great time being of service, but the rangers said they were thrilled because they had never had the time nor manpower to do the needed leveling themselves.

The rangers noted with regret, however, that they had miscalculated the pathfinders' capabilities, saying: "We should have hauled in twice as much dirt. We drastically underestimated how much these pathfinders could do!"

A Saturday-evening program featured Steven Arrington, an ex-felon, Navy Seal, drug runner and Jacque Costeau expedition leader. Using slides and video, Steven shared his life story of adventure which included diving with great white sharks, being convicted with auto-maker John DeLorean and finally accepting Jesus Christ.

Unlike some with similar experiences, Steven was able to tell of his mistakes without glorifying them. He will return to tell his story at the UCC Bloomsday Youth Rally, April 29-30.



Gordon Pihfer, Upper Columbia Conference youth director, shares "love notes" written by pathfinders to their friends and staff during camporee Sabbath vespers.

Pathfinder teddy bears traditionally are given at fairs and camporees only to the youngest staff offspring in attendance, and this year, Othello's club director, Cindy

Johnson, was given the bear for her new daughter.

However, another "young lady" in attendance also received a pathfinder bear. Mamie Griffin Collins, who will be 100 years old on Jan. 18, remarked when receiving her pathfinder bear "Now, what can I do for the pathfinders?" Mamie is the mother of Delbert Griffin, Pendleton, Ore., pathfinder director.

A video program featuring Russia's one-and-only pathfinder club, the Maga-



Steve Arrington, featured camporee speaker, fires a Civil War replica cannon during flag-lowering ceremonies.



As a community service project, pathfinders fill holes and low spots in the campground with hauled-in dirt.

dan "Life Savers," was presented, after which UCC pathfinders agreed to raise money for Tanya Misharina, a 17-year-old Magadan club counselor, who has a birth defect but whom the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children has agreed to examine

and treat in Spokane, Wash.

Already, UCC Pathfinders have raised more than \$1,500 toward her expenses to come to Spokane for possible corrective surgery in February.

Wayne Hicks



## Old MacDonald Had a Fund-Raiser

Junior academy students at Sandpoint, Idaho, benefitted from fund-raising activity during a recent "Harvest Party" built around the theme of Old MacDonald's Farm.

Among the many attractions at the party were game booths which included a "fishing pond," a "pumpkin patch," "Farmer John's dog," a "duck pond," a "jail house" and an old-fashioned photography booth.

An auction was held at the end of the party to help raise money for the ninth-and-10th-grade classroom students' trip to Washington D.C. Money was also raised for each of the other classrooms during the event.

Shown are teen-aged students who decided to try out the Old MacDonald Western photography booth.

Anita Kaylor

# WANTED WANTED WANTED

Camp MiVoden is now accepting applications for summer staff for *Super Summer '94*. Join us for a life-changing experience. Call now: 509-838-2761

### UCA

Monday, January 17  
1994

Appointment sign-up sheets will be available in the principal's office.

### WWVA

Tuesday, January 25  
1994

Appointment sign-up sheets will be available in the office.  
509-525-1050

### WWC

January 26-28,  
1994

Appointment sign-up sheets will be available in the Chaplain's office.  
509-527-2343

## Fire Prevention Modeled at Sandpoint

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade at Sandpoint Jr. Academy in Sandpoint, Idaho, recently learned how to respond to emergencies involving fire from Neil Wallace, a visiting firefighter.

The fireman told students to say "No" to playing with matches and cigarette lighters. Students also role-played "Stop, Drop and Roll" procedures to extinguish flames on one's clothing or body.

At the close of the fire safety demonstration, the firefighter entered the classrooms in firefighting gear as if a building were truly on fire and showed students what to expect and how to respond if they were stranded in their rooms during a fire.

Anita Kaylor



# WASHINGTON



## Russian Church Of 100 Given Church Building

About 100 new Adventists in Serpuhkov, Russia, now have their own church building, thanks to members of the Puyallup, North Hill and Auburn, Wash., churches.

Members of these churches have helped raise the full purchase price for a church building as part of an ongoing missionary outreach from America to Serpuhkov, a city of 60,000 population south of Moscow.

"The people there were literally jumping for joy when they learned they had a place to worship," said Bob Paulsen, a coordinator from the Puyallup church. "They were actually crying. They had tears in their eyes over this."

Once a theater, the two-story building seats between 250 and 300 people, and while it sold for \$45,000, the actual market value of the building in its current condition is \$125,000, Paulsen said. The building is fully paid for, he said.

The next step for the three churches will be to fund, or find funds, for complete remodeling of the building. Coordinators have two estimates for renovation, Paulsen said. The first—which would remodel the sanctuary, foyer and provide windows, doors and heating—is for \$35,000. The second estimate is for \$85,000 and would cover renovation of the entire building.

The three churches now have about \$25,000 in pledges and cash-in-hand for the project, Paulsen said. Maranatha Volunteers International also has approximately \$20,000 from outside donations that it is giving for the work, he added.

Help with renovation costs may also come from local conference resources of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Russia. Local conference officials have indicated an interest in using part of the building for conference offices in return for payment of one-third of renovation costs, Paulsen said.

The new Adventist congregation will have some interesting neighbors, as the building is located kitty corner to the Serpuhkov headquarters of the Russian Orthodox Church, which has at times resisted the missionary work of other faiths.

Efforts to construct or to obtain a church building began in late 1992 after Larry Zuchowski, former Puyallup church pastor, had presented a two-month evangelistic series in the city.

About 100 were baptized as a result of those meetings, and since then they have been worshipping in "Lenin's Palace of Culture," the hall in which the evangelistic meetings had been held.

Those interested in learning more about the project may phone Bob Paulsen at (206) 863-1700.

Jennifer Wynn

## Youth Department Summer Outreach Focuses on Brazil

Mission trips to Brazil to conduct evangelism and to build a church in July and August of this year are being planned by Washington Conference youths.

Two teams of young people will travel to Nova Hartz, Brazil, the first to build a much-needed church and the other to hold evangelistic meetings.

Currently the Brazilian church members meet in a small living room in a member's home. Land for the new building has already been acquired and construction is under way, but most of the labor will be handled by Washington Conference youths this summer. The second team will conduct an evangelistic series in the new church. Also scheduled is an excursion trip to Iguacu Falls, the largest waterfall in the world.

Those interested in taking part in the mission enterprise should contact the Youth Department of the Washington Conference headquarters by phoning (206) 481-7171.



## Issaquah Reborn

Weekly attendance at the Issaquah, Wash., church near Seattle has nearly tripled during the past 18 months, and many non-Adventist visitors and monthly baptisms are adding continuously to the congregation which previously averaged only 22 in attendance on Sabbath mornings.

"Worship is a positive and uplifting experience that I wouldn't miss!" says one member. Members credit a newly kindled outreach orientation, the local musical ministry of Ken Roberts and a climate of love and acceptance for much of the turn-around in the worship environment.

Adventist families and young adults

are streaming in, as are the unchurched. A baptism service is scheduled each month following the monthly fellowship meal and places a special focus on the wonder of new life in Christ through baptism.

In the past three months, four have been baptized, and more are making plans for baptism. Shown with me in the left photo is P.J. Balsley, right, baptized Sept. 25. In the right photo are candidates Mike and Gayla Newland (baptized Oct. 23) with their baby, Bryce, who was dedicated on the day his parents were baptized.

Pastor Dan Linrud

*When the Spirit of God comes into a man, he gives him a worldwide outlook.*

Unknown

# God and I Are Partners

As told by Zepha Conner

I am truly happy and at peace with my Lord in our investment rose garden. I refer to the garden as "ours" because the Lord is my Partner. My beautiful roses are dedicated to His investment at three-for-a-dollar.

Like the original gardener, Adam, I walk among my beautiful roses with my Lord-Partner and call them all by name. Their array of colors—yellow, pink, lavender, scarlet and the occasional splash of orange, fill my heart with praise.

Ring, Ring. I hurry inside to the answer the telephone.

"Good morning, Mrs. Conner. This is your church pastor."

"Good morning, Pastor. How are you today?"

"Just fine. The wife and I are happy to be settled in our new house. Mrs. Conner, would you challenge our congregation to do an investment project this year? Your roses have been such a success story. Why don't you use them as an example? What is your goal this year?"

"Sure, Pastor. I'd be happy to help. My goal? I haven't decided yet. Did you say this Sabbath?"

"Yes, this Sabbath in Sabbath school. Thank you, Sister Conner. Goodbye."

My hand was shaking as I placed the phone on the receiver. I am truly happy in our investment rose garden, but speaking in front of church makes me truly scared!

"Oh, Lord, You know I'm afraid. Please help me challenge your people. Lord, help me set our goal for our investment roses."

Sabbath morning came. I fearfully anticipated speaking in front of all those people at the Walla Walla City Seventh-day Adventist Church. They needed

"challenged" for investment and I wouldn't disappoint the Lord. Earlier in the week during my evening devotional I had decided to tell the congregation that my goal for this year was \$500, a hefty goal of nearly \$100 more than the year before.

"Dear Lord," I prayed. "Please send Your Holy Spirit to put words in my mouth. You know I'm scared, Lord, and that I might forget what to say. Thank you. Amen."

I challenged in the best way I know how. I told the people about my roses. I said, "And this year my goal is \$600."

Afterward in my church pew my head was spinning. Six-hundred dollars! I'd said \$600! I had asked the Holy Spirit to give me words and He had. Now I must leave it at \$600, but how could I ever reach that goal?

Each morning I prayed, "Lord bless our roses and send buyers for them. Many people came to buy roses at three-for-a-dollar or 35 cents each. The girls' dean, Ilo Hutton-Hare, from Walla Walla College came many weekends and bought roses. Men came and took roses to their wives or sweethearts. Some roses went to the sick and several weddings were adorned with the Lord's roses.

October came; winter was just around the corner in the Walla Walla Valley. I turned in \$500 to our church treasurer—all but the small change. Time was short for the \$600 goal and our investment roses. Frost was coming almost every night and I was \$100 short of the goal!

On Friday, Walla Walla College bought two dozen—\$8. Three men bought six roses each—\$6. Then it was my turn to take flowers for our church bouquet, so I used two dozen in that bouquet—another \$8 toward the goal.

On Sunday morning I prayed, "Lord, I don't know why I ever said \$600 was my goal, but thank You for sending buyers

for all the roses. No way can I ever reach my goal, but You can do anything. Thank you."

Two hours after my prayer the phone rang.

"This is Jean Vories," the caller said. "Can I come and get some roses to dry?"

"Sure, you can get any you want," I replied, "but the frost is making them pretty rough looking." She came and we gathered 144 roses.

As soon as Jean left, I counted my investment money. With the sales I had made earlier in the week, Jean's check and the small uncounted change, I had \$100.03. I counted it over and over and over again. \$100.03. Three cents more than the \$600 goal!

I knelt there in the middle of my kitchen floor and said, "Praise the Lord! You can even sell frostbitten roses."

After that I sold \$10 more from buds that opened. \$610.03. Praise the Lord. God and I are partners!

*Phyllis Chamberlain writes from Bothell, Wash., where she is an office secretary at the Washington Conference headquarters.*

## My Investment Covenant for 1993

In grateful acknowledgment of God's countless blessings on me and my labors for His glory, and for the finishing of the worldwide task of the Church, I enroll as an Investment worker:

Name: Zepha Conner

Address: 808 SW Davis St. College Place, WA 99324

My Project is: \$600.00

from investment roses

# ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM/WEST



## Life-Saving Care Offers New Hope To Russian Child

As Valeree Shegai recovers from brain surgery, his eight-year-old mind whirs with thoughts of the life-saving events that have brought him to Portland, Ore.

Born of Korean descent, Valeree comes from Tashkent, capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan, three hours south of Moscow

by air. The fourth largest city in the former Soviet Union, it is home to approximately 300,000 Koreans, most Stalin-era exiles or their descendants.

The life-saving events for the lad began last July as a quest by Harold Lee, M.D., of Portland for his own Korean roots brought him and his family to Tashkent last July.

A physical medicine/rehab specialist at Portland Adventist Medical Center, Dr. Lee also had an interest in the state of medical treatment available in the city, and

so, upon his arrival, the local Korean Adventist church pastor had taken Dr. Lee to visit the Shegai family.

Valeree and his mother both belonged to the local Korean Adventist church, but they had been unable to attend for many months because of Valeree's large brain tumor. The boy had not walked for two years and could now scarcely talk.

Dr. Lee sadly noticed the disturbing hydrocephalus, an enlargement of the skull caused by fluid pressure buildup.

Immediately he requested Valeree's medical records and found that he was diagnosed as having a benign brain tumor.

Because of the lack of medical expertise and technical supplies for the necessary surgery, however, the medical community in Tashkent offered little help and no hope. They had sent Valeree home to die.

Determined that the boy should live, Dr. Lee contacted Lawrence Franks, M.D., a well-known neurosurgeon in Portland, who accepted the invitation to perform the surgery, concurring that the tumor was most critical because it was blocking fluid circulation in the brain.

Without surgery, Valeree would soon die. Yet, there was still a major puzzle piece missing—a hospital which would donate its facilities for the operation. So Dr. Franks presented the problem to Larry Dodds, president of Portland Adventist Medical Center. Without hesitation, the administrator offered to help.

Immediately, Dr. Lee's wife began the process of arranging visa and passport papers for Valeree and his mother. Initially, she met with resistance from the Uzbekistan government, but not to be deterred, she sent a written complaint to the government requesting to know why a dying boy should not be allowed to travel in order to have his life saved through a humanitarian effort of the U.S. consulate.

Only then were the papers quickly approved, and with the \$3,000 round trip tickets donated by the Korean Church Council Sponsors, Valeree and his mother arrived in Portland on Oct. 13.



Valeree celebrates life during the Christmas season at Portland Adventist Medical Center. From left are Lawrence Franks, M.D., Valeree, Harold Lee, M.D., and his wife, Sylvia Lee, and Valeree's mother.

Dr. Franks performed the intricate surgery at Portland Adventist Medical Center as Dr. Lee observed. The tumor had penetrated dangerously deep, presenting some complications.

In the end, though, the operation was a complete success and Valeree was released from surgery into the pediatric unit for recovery.

Just a few months later Valeree began walking around his hospital room. Today, he and his mother are staying in the nursing dormitory next to the hospital while he undergoes out-patient rehabilitation.

He smiles and talks with Dr. Lee and the nurses, speaking a little English as he points proudly to all the gifts he's received from visitors and friends.

In a few weeks, he and his mother will return home to Tashkent. With further rehabilitation and therapy, Valeree should enjoy full recovery and soon be out running with his friends.

Valeree says in perfect English, "Thank you very much!" to his new friends at Portland Adventist Medical Center for his precious gift of life.

Lana C. Parra



## WALLA WALLA COLLEGE



### Key Posts Filled By New Personnel On College Campus

Several new Walla Walla College faculty members have been appointed for the 1993-1994 school year.

Accepting positions on the College Place, Wash., campus are Sheila Clark, assistant librarian; Cindy Fleischer, associate professor of social work and sociology; Trudy Klein, assistant professor of nursing; Todd Morton, instructor of psychology; and Janice Staab, assistant professor of philosophy.

New non-tenure appointments were accepted by Dora Sue Redford, assistant professor of nursing and Sandra Zaugg, instructor of English-as-a-second-language (ESL). Curtis Wuellner, instructor of engineering, was appointed to a one-quarter term.

Three part-time faculty members were hired for one-year appointments: Susan Bungard, instructor of ESL and English; Kimberley Rowell, instructor of ESL and English; Malinda Saturno, instructor of biology; and Stanley Green, assistant professor of engineering.

Three faculty members are returning from study leave with new non-tenure

appointments. Kraig Scott, instructor of music, recently graduated from the Eastmen School of Music with a master's degree in musicology, artist diploma and a doctorate of music arts in organ performance. Julie Scott, instructor of business, graduated with a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing from William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration of the University of Rochester.

Also returning from a leave of absence is Karen Tetz, instructor of nursing at the Portland campus.

Becky Schwartz



## ALASKA



## 'Who Is Responsible for Those Bibles?'

My Russian guest finally leaned back, stretched, yawned, and began to relax as the Alaska landscape of towering snow-covered peaks rose around us.

We had met during the summer of 1993. Ivan Tomaily, Russian Far East Mission president, had asked many questions about Alaska, its history, people, geography and the church. He now was here on his first visit to the United States. Even though he had traveled from half a world away, he was still excited about being here and was looking forward to meeting the people in my home church.

In our conversation of the summer before, Tomaily had asked about the person responsible for the Bibles he had used at an evangelistic series in a small interior town of Russia.

He had come back from the experience of evangelism with great enthusiasm. He told me of the people of all ages who had given their hearts to Christ. His enthusiasm was contagious as story after story tumbled out.

I thought of that evening as the Alaska landscape rushed by. Snow glistened from the trees, lakes gleamed back their icy winter smile, and distant mountains had taken on their white mantle of the season. The picture was a far cry from the 95-degree weather we had experienced near the Chinese border in Russia.

Now we used down jackets instead of short sleeves, heaters instead of rolled-down windows. He slept and I drove. Both he and I were looking forward to his meeting with the person who had financed the Bibles and who he wanted to

thank in person.

Our meeting in Delta Junction was scheduled for 7 p.m. Tomaily wanted to be there early so he would have a little time to get acquainted with his interpreter. His conversation was interrupted shortly, however, as I introduced him to Carol Holley, who had donated the Bibles. I wish you, gentle reader, could have seen the look on his face. I wish you could have shared that moment, because it is impossible to describe.

The best way, perhaps, is to share with you what he said at the end of his talk that evening. It went something like this: "I'm not here to describe to you the living conditions in Russia and solicit your help to improve them. I am not here to describe the persecution of those who tried to follow Christ during

our 70 years of bondage. I am not here to ask for anything for myself or for my family. However, I am here to ask for your assistance. I and the pastors who I represent, want to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the area of the world for which we are responsible. We want to share with those who have never had a chance to hear, and if you can help, please do."

Some had already helped. Two-hundred-sixty-five persons had been baptized using the Bibles. Tomaily was deeply grateful for that help, the help he received while here, and the help he knows is coming as he works to complete the gospel commission in the Russian Far East.

*Don Gibson writes from Delta Junction, Alaska.*



*Ivan Tomaily recently met Carol Holley during a visit to Delta Junction, Alaska.*

*Remember! God will always love you.*

# WASHINGTON



## Russian Evangelists Preach Gospel on American Soil

*Operation Bearhug*, which began with the call for Northwest pastors and lay people to reach out to Russia, is now bringing Russian evangelists to American soil.

The story of this unexpected mirror-image, reflex action in America began in 1992 when Pastor Vasily Stoyer and a team from Russia visited more than 15 churches in the Washington Conference to share reports of evangelistic advances in Russia.

At a particular Bellingham, Wash., meeting during the tour, 50 Russian and Ukrainian non-Adventist Christians attended, and on subsequent Sabbaths, a number of them again visited the Bellingham church, leaving Pastor Ken Parker and his wife, Brenda, wondering how best to minister to visitors who spoke little or no English.

At last Pastor Parker made contact with Michael Oleinik, a Russian pastor who had come to study theology at Walla Walla College, and in September, Pastor Oleinik came to Bellingham and met with those who had an interest in learning more about the



Pastor Michael Oleinik, left, stands with new converts Sergei, Vera and Vladimir, Brenda and Ken Parker, at right, worked to bring Oleinik to Bellingham to reach out to the Russian-speaking community.

Advent message.

He returned again that December and with Pastor Parker baptized three of the first interests, Bellingham residents Vera and Vladimir, and Sergei, a young sailor from Vladivostok to whom they had witnessed and with whom they had shared the book *The Great Controversy* by Ellen G. White.

Washington Conference leaders were quick to see the possibilities of asking Pastor Oleinik to conduct a full-message

crusade in an area with a high concentration of Russian immigrants, and so the city of Kent was chosen, and in July 1993, Pastor Oleinik and a Pastor Korchuk, visiting from Novosibirsk, Russia, opened evangelistic meetings in the Kent church with more than 100 Russians in attendance.

Pastor Oleinik's wife, Lydia, provided special music for the meetings, and Kevin Kibble, local pastor, and his wife, Gennie, also assisted with music and visitation.

From Bellingham, Vera and Vladimir came to help, and on the night when Pastor Oleinik presented a message titled "The Mark of the Beast," more than 160 Russians filled the church to hear the prophetic presentation.

At the close of the crusade, more than a dozen people indicated their desire for baptism, and nine of them have become new members of the Kent church.

Pastor Korchuk has since returned to pastor his church of 400 members, and Pastor Oleinik is pursuing graduate studies in ministry, but they have left behind a nucleus of new Russian church members to continue sharing the light of the Advent message with their countrymen living in Washington.



Pastors Michael Oleinik and Kevin Kibble stand stage-center in back with members of the Russian group recently baptized in Kent, Wash., in a unique demonstration of the reflex action of *Operation Bearhug* interaction with Russian Adventists.

Dave Weigley is ministerial director of the Washington Conference and writes from Bothell, Wash.

# The State of the Union

By Bruce Johnston

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



Bruce Johnston

**D**uring 1993, church members have witnessed, gathered into groups to support and pray for one another and reached out to show caring love. Many have faithfully attended evangelistic meetings to support and bring friends. Still others have given Bible studies.

Two-thousand-ninety-five were baptized or received on profession of faith. (An additional 2,500 were baptized in Russia. *Operation Bearhug* is not dead!) In spite of the "graying" of the church, tithes were up 3.8 percent. Our people have put the Lord to the test and have found Him faithful.

These accomplishments occur not in the office but in the local conferences and churches. *And please remember: any glory for the achievements that have been evidenced are due to God alone and to Him we give our praise.*

Literature evangelists left a million dollars worth of truth-filled literature in thousands of homes. Teachers have day by day taught and influenced thousands of our boys, girls and young people.

I am very proud of our schools and teachers. Perfect? No, but deserving of support!

Adventist hospitals have quietly influenced thousands. Portland Adventist Medical Center in a survey of more than 5,000 hospitals in the United States ranked among the top 100.

Evangelists have hit the "sawdust trail" preaching, visiting, persuading, teaching and baptizing. Pastors have faithfully shepherded our people and evangelized. They come under fire from some quarters. Many feel beat up, lonely and discouraged. Have you told your pastor (and his family) how much you appreciate them?

Our conference presidents with their administrative and departmental teams have led the church positively and courageously.

I am thankful for the consecrated and professionally competent North Pacific Union Conference office team. Four are completing their first year: Alf Birch, executive secretary, who has brought much administrative depth and breadth; George Carambot, director of the Trust Department, competent and professional; Roscoe Howard, special assistant to the president and director of regional affairs, to name only a few of his "hats," is recognized for his professional and caring skills; and Duane McKey, ministerial secretary and coordinator of church ministries, who brings a wealth of effective church growth and pastoral skills marked by competence and friendliness.

Last year was a history-making year for Publishing and HHES as they were transferred to the Pacific Press. I want to express appreciation to Bob Rawson, treasurer, for gracefully accepting this delegation of responsibility and carrying it through professionally and in a caring way.

Thanks also to Mel Lyon, Warren Gough, Nils Lee and the Pacific Press under President Bob Kyte and team. We have confidence to believe that it will be a step forward in spreading our literature.

### Areas of Concern

1. *The spiraling cost of Christian education.* We are not

promising any panaceas nor do we wish to raise expectations, but I have asked Don Keele, director of education, and his team to give in-depth study to this need.

2. *The breakdown of family values and morality.* The culture around us is in near chaos and, within, our value system is challenged. Immorality, divorce, abuse and debt are only a few of the influences that are undermining the home today. Many are hurting. They need help.

3. *The loss of prayer power.* The communication "super highway" to the control center of the universe is open. The greatest, most underutilized power must become a priority.

4. *The lack of Bible study.* Much confusion and disorientation have resulted. We must recapture the dependence upon the Word that once marked us as a people.

5. *Worship without life.* Many of our churches swing like rusty gates every Sabbath. There is little evidence of the life and vitality that ought to be found among God's people. The challenge is to make our churches "user friendly," centers of redemptive love.

6. *Diminishing stewardship.* The slippage we see in this arena is not just evidence of spiritual problems, but also one of nearly overwhelming debt on the part of many families. They need help.

7. *Negative attitudes toward evangelism.* Some churches have by board action prohibited public evangelistic meetings. This is nothing short of tragic. They are more receptive people out there than we can imagine. We must never come to the place where, looking back, we say, "We should have preached with greater earnestness, fervor and frequency while we had an opportunity."

Unfortunately, public evangelism is seen by many as an interruption. Much more thought needs to be given at the local church level to integrate evangelism into the life of the church through the year.

8. *Inadequate preaching of the distinctives of the Advent message.* I hear of churches that say: "We do not preach doctrine here on Sabbath morning. We uplift Christ and His love to meet the needs of the people." I am truly thankful that so many are uplifting Christ and His love. We also need doctrine in Sabbath preaching. Doctrine, rightly preached, is truth about Jesus, about God and His plan of salvation and about His church which is the Body of Christ.

Take the Sanctuary, for instance. It tells us that God is Holy and above the broken law there is a Mercy Seat; that there is a judgment in which the wrongs and evils and unfairness and suffering are to be made right; that there is a finality to the domination of evil. It teaches us that Jesus is now at the control center of the universe for us to heed our need.

God help us if we make the truth about Jesus dry and uninteresting, just the passing on of information.

9. *The need for a paradigm shift from merely being members to becoming disciples.* It's time for us to "walk the talk," to move beyond profession to deep commitment and action, moving into the furrow of the world's needs to become there, not a part of the problem, but a part of the answers to its hurts and needs.

## GLEANER

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## ABOUT THE COVER

A Rufous hummingbird's nest was discovered in a bush near the home of Della Rodman, pathfinder club leader of the Eugene, Ore., church, and Willard Colburn, a Eugene church member, used a Nikon FE camera and Fujichrome 100 film to capture the scene.

# Executive Committee Names GC Delegates

By Ed Schwisow

**D**elegates from the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) have been named to the General Conference session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church which will be in session June 29 to July 8, 1995, in Utrecht, Netherlands.

In an action by the NPUC Executive Committee on Feb. 24, the following were named: Alfred E. Birch, Robert L. Rawson, Roscoe Howard, Lenard Jaecks, Don Jacobsen, Stephen McPherson, Perry Parks, Jere Patzer, James Stevens, Niels-Erik Andreasen, Rod Applegate, Vicki Ballou, Ron Carroll, Mumtaz Fargo, Ed Gienger, Don Keele, John Libby, Jim Osborne, Raquel Santillana, Tom Stanyer. Alternates named were Byron Dulan and Scotti Thorp.

In addition to these regular delegates, Bruce Johnston, Ruth Komarniski and Charles Ferguson, who serve on the General Conference Committee, were selected.

In processing the selection of delegates, a Delegation Selection Committee comprised of representatives from each local conference met to nominate the delegation and to present it to the Executive Committee for action.

## Literature Evangelism

In a report presented to the Executive Committee, Robert Kyte, president of the Pacific Press, noted that the

*He also called for a return to the fundamentals of the faith by membership at large, positing that the time is at hand for complete dedication to the Lord and to His message and for a revival of primitive godliness in the church.*

transition of literature evangelism administration from the North Pacific Union Conference to Pacific Press is yielding benefits in terms of continued high interest by prospective literature evangelists in joining the door-to-door sales force.

He noted that under the new program, latitude is being given to literature evangelists to adjust suggested retail prices on their own in cases where the list price might prove to be a prohibitive financial burden in the course of the sale.

He also noted that four have already been baptized in the Northwest this year as a direct result of the ministry of literature evangelists, and that applications from prospective literature evangelists for employment currently stand at 50, a good sign.

## Officer Evaluation

Alfred C. McClure, North American Division president, presided during a portion of the Executive Committee session in which the final outcome of an evaluation by Executive Committee members of the three officers of the North Pacific Union Conference was discussed.

The evaluations of Bruce Johnston, NPUC president;

Alf Birch, NPUC secretary; and Robert L. Rawson, NPUC treasurer, showed immense support by the executive committee of the performance of the three officers, according to McClure.

Documentation shared with the committee showed that each officer had exceeded a general rating of four on a scale of five in overall performance, and that in most cases the composite ratings approached the top "5" threshold.

## President's Report

In a report presented to the committee (a condensation of this report was published in the March 21 GLEANER, page 2) Johnston reported that 1993 had been a year of change and accomplishment in the North Pacific Union territory, and commended staff and committee for their roles in those developments.

He also called for a return to the fundamentals of the faith by membership at large, positing that the time is at hand for complete dedication to the Lord and to His message and for a revival of primitive godliness in the church.

In a report presented by Alf Birch regarding numerical growth in the church, it was noted that baptisms in the Northwest had exceeded 2,000 during 1993 and that work by Northwestern evangelists and lay persons had led to the accession of more than 2,500 through *Operation Bearhug* evangelism in Russia during 1993.

In his report, Robert L. Rawson, treasurer, noted the correlation of cost-of-living increases in the church with giving patterns in various Northwestern conferences over a span of several years, suggesting that conference giving which has not kept pace with the economy is directly responsible for financial difficulties faced in some conferences.

He also noted that North Pacific Union Conference expenditures had remained considerably under-budget for 1993 due to careful management. This report was based on as-yet unaudited statements for calendar year 1993.

## Global Mission

In further significant action, \$15,000 has been appropriated by the North Pacific Union Conference to assist in the establishment of a strategic new outreach in East Boise, Idaho.

Twenty-thousand dollars was also allocated for development of a strategically located new church in Redmond, Wash.

## Revolving Fund

In amendments made to Revolving Fund policy, church-improvement loans can now be issued through the fund in addition to loans for emergency repairs such as roof replacement, heating system replacement, air-conditioning replacement and asbestos removal.

Under the new policy, it was noted, improvement loans will be limited to loans for repairs and improvements which do not qualify as "major" improvement projects. ➤



## Gospel Adds Six Tines to Forks Church

Six new members have joined the Forks, Wash., church following their baptisms. Four members of the Swinth family were baptized on Feb. 5, and are shown with Pastor Daryl and Loreta Perry above. From left are Pastor Perry, Bill, Darin, Corey, Loreta Perry and Karen.

Shown below are Randy and Jill Slonecker with Pastor Perry on the day of their baptisms. The couple was baptized after gaining victory over tobacco through a Breathe Free program. The baptisms took place on



Feb. 12, and all candidates have been warmly welcomed into the local church family.

*Diane Cowles*

## Prophecy Meetings Bring Year-End Centralia Harvest

Several baptisms have resulted in the Centralia, Wash., church from the evangelistic ministry of Rod Scherencel and his wife, Lynne, during a five-week "Focus on Prophecy" crusade held last autumn.

Local members Marilee Stafford, Violet Douglas and Mike Kier served crusade visitors in special ways, including offering transportation to and from the meetings.

In their follow-up work, a great deal of

interest in further Bible studies was shown as visitors gained victories over tobacco and other vices.

On Sabbath, Dec. 4, Beulah Vannieuwenhuizen and Margaret Donaldson were baptized, and a second baptismal service was held on Jan. 1 for Shirley Murphy, who gave a testimony of the many miracles which had happened in her spiritual life since attending the crusade meetings.

Crusade music was provided by various Centralia members as well as by guest musicians, including music by Rod and Lynne Scherencel themselves.

*Carlton Blackburn*

## Bellingham Church Members Create Original Musical

Bellingham, Wash., church members offered the community a special Christmas-morning Sabbath service last year, and the event attracted several non-Adventist visitors.

Bellingham members Doug and Darla Laughlin had taken the story of the birth of Christ from the pages of *The Desire of Ages* and, in setting it to music, created a special

musical program titled "Following the Star."

The program was directed by Doug Laughlin, and the choir was directed by his sister, Sharon Jones, from Hermiston, Ore.

Doug and Sharon are children of Art and Nettie Laughlin of the Bellingham congregation.

Many members took part in the program, in the choir, in the narration and in illustrating parts of the story. The program was written and designed in large part by Doug and Darla Laughlin, and the presentation was made with the help of a large cast of actors, musicians and script adapters.

One visiting family member noted that they greatly appreciated the spiritual quality of the presentation and thanked Bellingham members for providing a meaningful way to spend Christmas morning.

*Nancy Ingersoll*

## West Seattle Loans Pastor To Russia

Terry Campbell, pastor of the West Seattle church, has returned from Chelyabinsk, Russia, where he served as member of an evangelistic team during a six-week crusade.

His wife, Beverly, and daughter Nancy also traveled to Russia with him.

The Campbells' journey to Russia became a church-wide project as many members helped provide support materials. Some supplied felt sets, others cut out teaching props, while some collected soap, shampoo, dolls, medical supplies and food.

Quilts were made and tied to be given at the Chelyabinsk hospital, and money was raised to buy 300 children's Bibles.

While the pastoral family was away, members looked forward to receiving FAX messages from Russia for sharing on Sabbath mornings.

After the family returned, a real Russian dinner prepared by Beverly and church members highlighted an evening of fellowship. Some members had simply been given a recipe to prepare at home and to bring that evening, and the Russian food was found to be simple but delicious.

At that time, Pastor Campbell showed a videotape recording he had made in Russia, and members were able to take note not only of the Russian scenery and surroundings but also of the faces of the Russian people.

Members report that viewing the videotape seemed to melt away the miles and to create a better understanding of and greater love for Christian brothers and sisters in Russia.

*Lou Palmer*



*Pastor Rod Scherencel, Washington Conference evangelist, uses slides to emphasize important Bible truths.*

## Columbia Adventist Academy Honors Miller, Peeler

Underclassmen Sarah Miller, 15, and Ben Peeler, 16, recently shared student-of-the-month honors at Columbia Adventist Academy in Battle Ground, Wash.

Sarah, a freshman, was chosen by classmates as class president and student-of-the-month because of her positive and involved leadership.

She enjoys collecting music boxes and intends to study to become a nurse.

Ben, a sophomore, was also chosen as student-of-the-month, cited for his ability to "contribute positively by always being in a good mood and making everyone around him have a great day."

His fellow students also commented that he is a good example of a Christian who enjoys life and who shares that enjoyment with those around him.

Ben spends his spare time snow-skiing and playing basketball.

Kelly Bock

# Healing



## BROKEN LIVES & COMMUNITIES

May 10, 1994  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

A video-teleconference on **Sexual Abuse in the Church** focusing on prevention and healing featuring professionals such as **Dr. Marie Fortune** and

**Dr. Larry Graham** with presentations, questions and answers designed for laity, clergy and other church leaders. To register, call the 24 hour Oregon Conference Family Life Line at (503) 654-6054. The Teleconference will be held at the Oregon Conference Headquarters at 13455 SE 97th Ave., Clackamas, Ore. For registration fee information call (503) 654-6054.



## UPPER COLUMBIA



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## Alaskan Speaker Breaks Attendance Record in Ione

Pastor James Osborne and wife Roberta of Anchorage, Alaska, who were personally instrumental in opening the doors for Adventist *Operation Bearhug* outreach to Russia, recently spoke at the Ione, Wash., church, attracting visitors from many sur-

rounding churches.

During his visit, Osborne showed a video program on Russia, giving an update on Adventist ministry in that country.

In anticipating the visit of the Alaskan pastor, local church members called many friends and relatives, inviting them to come and to enjoy the Sabbath in Ione.

As a result, many came long distances from such towns and cities as Colville, Deer Park, Newport, Marcus, Seattle,

Spokane and Wenatchee in Wash.; Orofino, Edgemere and Sandpoint in Idaho.

The small church was filled to capacity with 111 adults and children, the most ever counted in attendance at an Ione church service since the church was established 46 years ago.

After church all went to the local senior center for potluck and visiting, followed by a time of singing and music.

"What a blessing we received;" "It will be a long time before I forget this Sabbath;" "Praise God for this Sabbath day," were remarks overheard following the special Sabbath.

"I just can't believe it. God's hand was really with us," said another member.

Bob Hargrave

God Is  
Love

Your Life," featuring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary students then presented brief biographies of notable Black Americans followed by a musical number.

During his visit, Lofton told of his childhood in Spokane, Wash., where he grew up in as a member of a Black minority representing between two and three per-

cent of the population.

While in public high school, however, he became the first Black associated-student-body president and the first member of his family to attend and graduate from college. He now has two sons enrolled in college.

He spoke of living nonviolently and described education as the key to a good

future and as a way to combat discrimination.

Kirkland students have thanked Wrenna Clayton and Gail Orr for helping to put together the program of special events for Black History Month.

Angela White, Grade 9  
Jennifer White, Grade 8

## Rainier Auditorium Schedule

Washington Conference Camp Meeting, June 16-25, 1994 • Auburn Adventist Academy

Emphasis of the day	Family	Missions	Education	Literature Evangelism	Health	Community Services	Youth	Ethnic Day	Evangelism
	FRIDAY June 17	SABBATH June 18	SUNDAY June 19	MONDAY June 20	TUESDAY June 21	WEDNESDAY June 22	THURSDAY June 23	FRIDAY June 24	SABBATH June 25
6:30 a.m. →	Peter Neri	Peter Neri	Peter Neri	Peter Neri	Peter Neri	Peter Neri	Ernie Bursey	Ernie Bursey	Rose Otis
Family Devotion Time									
9:30 a.m. →	Ted Wick	9 a.m. SABBATH SCHOOL	Prayer Workshop	Ramona Greek	Ramona Greek	Fred Washington	Rose Otis	Rose Otis	9 a.m. SABBATH SCHOOL
11:00 a.m. →	Gary Patterson	WORSHIP HOUR 10:45 a.m. Leo Ranzolin	Commissioning Gary Patterson	Ted Wick	Leo Ranzolin	Leo Ranzolin	Leo Ranzolin	Leo Ranzolin	WORSHIP HOUR 10:45 a.m. Lenard Jaacks
12 p.m. Lunch					1 p.m. ABC Sidewalk Sale	1 p.m., ABC Second Chance Sale	1 p.m. ABC Sidewalk Sale	1 p.m. ABC Pre-owned Book Sale	
2:30 p.m. →	Prayer Growth	2:30 p.m. Children's Concert 3:00 p.m. Mission Pageant	Men-D. Morris Rainier Auditorium Women-R. Greek AAA Church	Classes	Classes	Classes	Classes	Classes	2:30 p.m. Musical Concert 3:00 p.m. Global Missions Arrington & Victor Czerkasij
4:00 p.m. →	Prayer Growth	Youth Challenge Brazil & Bearhug	Book Sale	Classes	Classes	Classes	Classes	Classes	
5:30 p.m. Supper				Picnic	Backup for Picnic				
June 18, Thursday Derek Morris 7:30 p.m. →	Derek Morris	Family Life Rene Quispe	Family Life Rene Quispe	Calvin Rock	Calvin Rock	Calvin Rock	Calvin Rock	Calvin Rock	Calvin Rock

### YOUNG ADULT SCHEDULE • Academy Church

9:15 a.m.		Sabbath School							Sabbath School
10:45 a.m.		Derek Morris							Ernie Bursey
7:30 p.m.	V. Czerkasij	V. Czerkasij	V. Czerkasij	V. Czerkasij	V. Czerkasij	V. Czerkasij	V. Czerkasij	V. Czerkasij	V. Czerkasij

## Neuharth Gives Russia Report

Lucy Neuharth, who was part of the 1993 Fetrick/Koch evangelistic team to Skov, Russia, painted clear pictures of her experience when she spoke recently in Port Townsend, Wash., at a womens' brunch.

On a prior trip to Russia, Neuharth had taken along some sewing thread, not knowing why, and had discovered that Russian women were badly in need of thread. So the evangelistic team took lots of thread over with them and it, along with the gospel, was joyously and gratefully received.

Neuharth related how supplies had to be carried a mile and a half to the meeting site, using "Bus 11"—one's own legs. During the meetings, more than 200 children would crowd into a hot room and eagerly share the too-few chairs, hoping to

receive a Bible.

An assistant school principal requested Bibles for his 40 teachers because he "had seen that Bibles make children kinder and more helpful." In Skov, they gave away more than 500 children's Bibles, one to a four-year-old girl who had fallen from a bridge and broken an arm and knocked out four teeth.

Neuharth noted that Russians take spiritual things very seriously. One day she observed three or four Russian girls weeping and praying in the next room. Not knowing the trouble or understanding the language, she went over, knelt down and prayed with them. The problem? One girl no longer felt as close to the Lord as when she had been baptized some months earlier.

"If only we would do the same," Neuharth told those at the brunch, "...if we would go to a friend and have that

friend pray with us when we're feeling distant from God!"

At the conclusion of Neuharth's talk,



Lucy Neuharth holds a Russian children's Bible which she plans to give away on her 1994 trip to Russia.

Larissa, a young Russian guest of the Neuharths, sang several songs in her native tongue and spoke briefly about growing up in Russia. Those who attended the brunch invited Neuharth to share another report after her 1994 trip to Russia.

*Fannie L. Houck*



### Camp-Bound

A church dinner hosted last year in Snohomish, Wash., helped send 19 children from the community to Sunset Lake summer camp. Three girls from the church sold enough tickets to the dinner that they each earned a free scholarship to camp. From left, Lisa Miller holds the first-prize ribbon next to Jennifer Johnson who landed a close third behind Heather Hendy, herself a red-ribbon, second-prize winner. Pastor Bill Roberts and Terry Bolton, Sunset Lake camp director, helped me present the awards.

*Eunice Ream*



### "Revelation Now" Baptism

After "Revelation Now" evangelism conducted last fall by Ron Halvorsen in Tacoma, Wash., Daniel Wibberding, age 13, asked Dan Knauff, pastor of the Bonney Lake church, to baptize him. According to Daniel, Ron Halvorsen's real-life stories convinced him to accept Jesus. His brothers, James and Lonnie, Jr., stand behind Daniel, who is shown in the front row between Pastor Dan Knauff and his parents, Lonnie and Ronda Wibberding, as he is voted into church membership.

*Barney Shortridge*



### Port Angeles Musical 13th Sabbath

Seven children of the Port Angeles primary department recited the beatitudes and provided special music for the adult Sabbath school department during the April 2 13th Sabbath program. Primary leaders Thelma McCoy and Jerry Ley worked with Charlie Moore, Lachelle Moore, Corrinne LaPrise, Shavik Pearson, Sherri Jacobs,

Stephanie Ledbetter, and Jessica Ledbetter to prepare for the presentation.

The 13th Sabbath church service continued the musical theme with instrumental and piano solos and a vocal duet with Della Floyd and Dallas Campbell, shown right, with the church choir.

*Gary Ledbetter*

### Pioneer Physician To Korea Dies At Age 94

George Henry Rue, a long-time resident in the Washington Conference, died Oct. 18, 1993, in Nordland, Wash., at the age of 94.

A 1924 graduate of the College of Medical Evangelists, now Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Dr. Rue was a major figure in pioneering the Adventist medical work in Korea.



*Henry Rue, M.D., pioneer Adventist physician in Korea*

He went to Korea in 1929 after practicing medicine in California and Washington state and worked in a clinic in Soonan in northern Korea.

In 1931 he established a clinic and later a hospital in Seoul. His first wife, Mae Ames, died during that time in Korea.

World War II required his return in 1941 to the United States where he prac-

ticed until 1947 in Montebello, Calif. Before returning to medical missionary service in Korea, he met and married Grace Lea.

During the Korean war he helped many Korean people evacuate the danger area and served as personal physician to the American consulate staff and the president of Korea at that time.

# Committee Contends with Time of Major Personnel Changes

By Ed Schwisow

**T**he impending election of a new Walla Walla College president affected the prayer and discussion of a somewhat subdued gathering of the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) on May 11 in Rosario Beach, Wash., on the campus of the Walla Walla College Marine Biological Station.

In his remarks, Bruce Johnston, committee chairman and president of the North Pacific Union Conference, called for a time of special prayer as the selection process of a new WWC president continued, and even as the selection of a new president for the Oregon Conference had begun.

In one of its first actions of the day, the committee had accepted the resignation of Don Jacobsen, former Oregon Conference president, and formally voiced its appreciation for his creative role on the committee through the years.

Jacobsen, shortly before, had accepted a call to serve as administrative assistant to the president of the North American Division in Silver Spring, Md., a post previously filled by Gary Patterson, also a native Northwesterner, who has since accepted a General Conference position as field secretary.

## Position Filled

The Oregon Conference presidency has since been filled; however, the election of Alf Birch, then-sitting NPUC executive secretary, on May 26 as Oregon Conference president has since created an administrative vacancy at the North Pacific Union Conference.

The search, meanwhile, continues for a Walla Walla College president following the resignation, effective July 1, of Niels-Erik Andreasen who has accepted an invitation from Andrews University to serve as president of that General Conference institution in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Jere Patzer, president of the Upper Columbia Conference, chairs the Walla Walla College Presidential Search Committee, which was created by and reports to the Walla Walla College Board of Trustees. The Walla Walla College president is an ex officio member of the NPUC Executive Committee.

## Communication Assistant Director

Todd Gessele, who has served as communication intern for the North Pacific Union Conference since July 1992, was chosen by committee action to serve as assistant communication director.

The appointment of Gessele effectively adds no personnel to the department, however, as no one is being called to fill the internship role when the 1992 Walla Walla College communication major formally becomes a department assistant next month.

## Project PATCH

Robert L. Rawson, NPUC treasurer, noted that in recent years, Project PATCH, a supportive ministry of the church to assist troubled children, has grown from a "ministry" to

a virtual "institution," with the acquisition and further development of a ranch site valued at several millions of dollars north of Boise, Idaho.

Given the incremental growth of Project PATCH, he noted, both legal and administrative wisdom called for a re-evaluation of the "close relationship" between Project PATCH and the North Pacific Union, with a view to allowing Project PATCH greater independence and scope of action.

In his remarks, Johnston noted that the North Pacific Union supports absolutely the mission and ministry of Project PATCH, as directed by its founder, Tom Sanford, and wishes the transition to greater autonomy for Project PATCH to be a positive one.

Following these remarks, the committee voted to extend a three-year line of credit to Project PATCH of \$100,000 to be used for operational expenses; that the line of credit will be secured on the trust deeds of ranch property; that the interest rate on any outstanding balance will be calculated at the same rate employed for revolving fund loans to churches and institutions; that the line-of-credit will be reviewed by the NPUC Committee after 18 months; and that the NPUC reserves the right to end the line of credit by granting Project PATCH a notice of 90 days.

The vote followed a presentation made by Sanford in which he noted that the line of credit would be extremely helpful during this transition time, for though Project PATCH consistently meets its operating expenses, a certain seasonality to giving patterns sometimes requires the organization to dip into line-of-credit resources.

Johnston remarked that the North Pacific Union Conference will not change in any way its policy of publishing information about Project PATCH in the GLEANER and granting it forums for exposure in other ways designed to help it inform its Northwestern constituency of its activity and mission.

## President's Report

In his report, the chairman noted that reports of exceptional receptivity to evangelism in the Northwest continue to reach his office, and that *Operation Bearhug* will continue to create ties between Russia and the Northwest.

He stated that because of rapid church growth in Russia, the former Russian Union has now been divided into two unions, and that the Northwest will carry on its special sister relationship with both. 

*When the Spirit of God comes into a man, he gives him a worldwide outlook."*

*Unknown*



## Ringing Out the Year

The Hermiston, Ore., Junior Academy Bell Choir has enjoyed a busy year of performances and innovation under the direction of Ginger Brockman. Recently, the group attempted special sound effects with mallets and plucking of the bells during two numbers at the school spring festival con-

cert, which featured the school band, girls' chorus and the beginning band. The bell choir performed at the school Christmas program, at the Country Haven School near Pasco, Wash., and at the Hermiston Kiwanis Club during the school year.

Joyce Klocko



## Airborne Act

Hermiston Junior Academy (HJA) students in grades one through nine recently put on a scarf juggling act during a home-and-school program. Their physical education teacher, Debby Melnychenko, has also taught the 62 students to juggle bean bags.

Melnychenko is in her first year of

physical education teaching at HJA. She holds a bachelor of science degree in physical education and a master of science degree in elementary education. Her husband, Perry, is the associate pastor of the local church. The couple came to Hermiston from Canada.

Joyce D. Klocko

## "Unfailing Love" Unites All Ages At Brewster Fest

Brewster, Wash., pathfinders recently hosted a "Friendship Banquet" for the church based on the keynote theme "Unfailing Love."

According to Judith Nielsen, M.D., pathfinder leader, although the banquet tied in with the Valentine's Day season, the

event celebrated a multitude of friends—many single—whose friendship and encouragement are valued.

In a heart-themed setting, guests were punctually attended by alert young club-member waiters, and in the warmth of shared friendships there were notes of love and appreciation—some read aloud—circulated express-delivery by the pathfinders.

"A friend is one who can be trusted with your secrets, one who remembers you

in his prayers," reminded Bruce Henne, who read snatches of friendship attributes.

Musical selections throughout the evening came from vocal and keyboard artist Paul Madden, Mandy Golden, violinist, Joel Kirk, guitarist, and Aaron Gillock at keyboard.

Chief chefs, cheered by the banqueters, were Rose Holder and Judy Trudeau. Among others helping with the party were pathfinder assistants Judy Golden and pastors Stan Beerman and Jorge Tenorio in addition to Tom Golden and Ron Nielsen, M.D.

Brewster Blazer pathfinders on duty included Kristen and Aaron Gillock, Sarah Trudeau, Rachel Williams, Erika Cruz, Brenda, Olga and Javier Garcia, Joey Hardin, Fernando Bautista, Brent Hilts, A. J. Soto, Victor Tenorio and David Nielsen.



Teacher Maribeth Burns helps her students enjoy a time of friendship with colorful heart cookies. Shown with their teacher, from left, are Joel Holder, Kim Trudeau, Zach Jones, Reagan Pariseau and Christina St. Clair. The cookies were prepared by "Moms in Touch" members who work with and pray for students to tie together the Brewster generations in Christian fellowship.

## Colville Adventists Help Young Russian Conquer Disabilities

Tanya Misharina, a recently baptized young Russian woman in need of orthopedic care, is now receiving treatment in the United States thanks to local conference pathfinders.

The 18-year old woman, who has mild cerebral palsy and a club foot, is being treated at Shriners' Hospital in Spokane, Wash., after Upper Columbia pathfinders and Colville, Wash., members helped raise money for her expenses. Treatment for her condition was unavailable in her homeland.

Tanya became acquainted with Colville members last summer during a health fair and church open house which Colville members, including Dave and Laura Schwimmer and Colville pastor Steve Huey and daughter Elisa helped hold in Magadan.

Sensing the kindness and acceptance of the group, Tanya, who was used to being made fun of by others, began to attend church with her twin sister, Anya, and both were baptized.

The trip to the United States for surgery has been made possible primarily through fund-raising conducted by 12 Upper Columbia Conference pathfinder clubs and the personal involvement of Wayne Hicks, conference pathfinder leader, his son, Shannon, and the Schwimmers.

Tanya stayed with the Schwimmers in Colville this past spring while awaiting surgery at Shriner's Hospital. During that time, she served as a teacher's aide three days a week at the local Adventist school.

"Many prayers are ascending for Tanya, and she has been a delightful guest," says Laura Schwimmer. "She has been learning English rapidly."

The Schwimmers also admit to having learned a great deal of Russian during Tanya's visit.

Barbara Christensen



Tanya Misharina is surrounded by friends and loved ones who helped her come to the United States for orthopedic surgery. Shown, from left, are Shannon Hicks, Laura Schwimmer, Dave Schwimmer, Tanya, Wayne Hicks, Shawn Hicks and Anya, Tanya's sister.

UPPER COLUMBIA NEWS



### Memorable Convictions

Beverly Thompson, a primary department leader at the College Place, Wash., Village Church, believes young people should memorize Scripture while they are still young, and many of her 45 Sabbath school students recently repeated all 13 memory texts for the first quarter of 1994. Kneeling in a deco-

rated Bedouin tent are a few of the primary members who recited all memory texts last quarter, from left: Talea Anderson, Alicia Runnals, August Radke, Andrew Westlund, Andrew Cockerham, Sara Grizzell and Cherri Runnals.

Dave Evans

### Thirty-Seven UCA Students Build a Church in Mexico

Imagine little children watching in amazement as 37 individuals pile out of a bus with various tools and supplies in hand. What must they think as they watch the light-skinned strangers working together from early morning to dark, building a new church in a matter of days?

The 1994 Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) mission project has been to construct a church building in Toledo Corro, Los Mochis, Mexico, and during the week of Feb. 7-11, the 37 hard working students poured all the cement floors, completed the electrical work, roughed in the plumbing, installed the roof, stuccoed some walls, and all but completed the block work.

The church site is located directly across the street from a school, which offered many opportunities for UCC students to interact with the little children of the neighborhood.

Upper Columbia Academy Maranatha coordinator Olin Peach feels a goal of a mission trip must be more than just building a church.

"Hopefully a good impression will be made by our group on the people of the area. A favorable impression can help the local congregation in their work."

The local people are not the only ones whose lives are impacted. Student Marcus Mundall observes, "This was my first mission trip, but it won't be my last. I hope to return to Mexico as a full-time missionary in the future."

Patty Marsh

### WWVA Elects First Semester ASB Officers

Walla Walla Valley Academy (WWVA) students have elected Kim Peterson as their first semester associated student body (ASB) president. Elected officers for the

WWVA 1995 school year are: Kourtney Bowes, vice president; Julie Williams, social-vice president; Rudy Scott, spiritual-vice president; Deanna Johnson, secretary; Nate Wiss, sports coordinator; Laurilee Reiber, public relations; Nathan Hatley, sergeant at arms and Kip Retzer and Kara Joliffe will serve as WWVA's banquet coordinators.



## Roping in \$1,182 for Health

Thirty-five students at Lewis County Adventist school, including first-grader Sunny Roberts, have raised \$1,182 for the American Heart Association on "Jump Rope for Heart Day," March 17.

All 86 students took part in the event, which lasted 90 minutes. Jump-roping has been part of the Chehalis, Wash., school's physical education program for the past two years. It has increased student fitness while preparing them to raise funds for the Heart Association.

## Carlson to Lead Outreach Team to Large Russian City

Dennis N. Carlson, Washington Conference executive secretary, has announced plans to lead an evangelistic team to Bryansk, Russia, a city with little exposure to Adventism.

The city of 500,000 is located 220 miles southwest of Moscow, and the request for service comes from the Russian Union.

Carlson will be joined by his wife, Ann, daughter, Julie, and Julie's friend, Kevin Kuzma, as well as Ken Parker, pastor of the Centralia, Wash., church and his wife, Brenda.

Parker has experience in pastoral work for Russian people in the Washington Conference and as pastor of the Bellingham, Wash., church, facilitated

Russian-language outreach which resulted in the baptisms of a number of people.

"A lot has changed in the Washington Conference in the last three years since the first Washington Conference *Operation Bearhug* team left for the Volga-Ural region," says Dave Weigley, Washington

Conference ministerial director, who led the very first group from the conference.

Plans call for study of the role of the Washington Conference in global evangelism during the Washington Conference Camp Meeting being held this month, he said.

## AAA Students Spend Spring Break in Europe

Foreign-language students from Auburn Adventist Academy's Spanish and French classes have experienced first-hand language practice during a "Spring Break European Study Tour" to England, France and Spain.

Coordinated by Renan Serrano, AAA's foreign language teacher, 21 students along with 12 staff members and parents participated in the 10-day tour.

"Our goal was to expose students to the differences in economy, culture and history around the world and to break down boundaries while exploring new places," said Serrano.

"It was great for the students to see that despite the language differences, people

around the world still survive, take care of their responsibilities and go about their daily business."

Only a few students in the group had ever been out of the United States, so a great deal of learning took place before the plane lifted off for Europe. In addition to learning what behavior and customs are appropriate in other countries, each student was required to keep a daily journal of the trip in order to earn the 2.5 elective credits offered by AAA.

Skilled guides greeted the group in each airport and escorted the students through the historical and cultural centers at Versailles, Windsor Castle and El Prado.

The "England/France/Spain Tour" held during Spring Break was the first of AAA's International Study tours. Plans are under way for a 1995 Spring Break Study Tour to the British Isles.

Janet C. Neumann



Auburn Adventist Academy's first group of "International Study Tour" students, staff and parents gather at the foot of the Eiffel Tower in Paris to celebrate the second phase of their three-nation tour.

*The worst thing that happens to a man may be the best thing that ever happened to him if he doesn't let it get the best of him.*

*Apples of Gold*

# Ten-Day Washington Camp Meeting Emphasizes Blessings of Reaching Out to the World

By Mike Edge

*Mike Edge pastors the Startup, Wash., Seventh-day Adventist church and served as a reporter and media center contact person during the recent camp meeting.*

**C**ontinuing mission adventure through service locally and abroad was the underlying emphasis at the Washington Conference Camp Meeting, held June 16-25 on the campus of Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA).

Meetings in seven languages began shortly after sunrise and continued until after sunset, so attendees of all ages and races had a variety of activities, classes and special services from which to choose.

Calvin Rock, Leo Ranzolin, Victor Czerkaskij and Derek Morris emphasized the importance of having a central relationship with Christ, for without such a relationship an individual can find no motivation to share Christ's message with the world.

Camp meeting attendees witnessed the dedication of missionaries soon to go out to Russia, Brazil and Redmond, Wash., and heard reports from Russia, the South Sea Islands as well as from Seattle. 



*Leo Ranzolin, General Conference vice-president, emphasizes "A New Vision for Service" in his Sabbath morning sermon.*



*Victor Czerkaskij from Southern College speaks to a packed young-adult audience about practical, Christ-first, Christianity.*



*Lenard Jaecks, Washington Conference president, challenges the Sabbath morning crowd to keep the mission alive.*



*More than 400 gathered in the new Spanish tent for Sabbath services. The Spanish group is just one of the several camp meeting ethnic identities, including Samoan, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Russian, Tongan and Cambodian which held services at camp meeting.*



*A city of recreational vehicles and tents housed nearly 3,000 camp meeting campers who stayed on the campus of AAA. More than 4,000 additional people turned out each weekend to attend the convocation.*



*Serena and Brenda Aufderhar sing of Jesus' love before the almost 3,000 gathered in the adult auditorium for Sabbath school. Brenda, and her two children, are an integral part of the Family Life Department, headed by Brenda's husband, Mike Aufderhar.*



*As a part of a graphic review of world missions, Katsuichiro Moriyama from the Seward Park church and Sun II Lee, Seattle Korean Central church pastor, portray the sharing of the gospel in the orient.*



*The smiles of children were seen all over the campgrounds as they listened to mission stories and stories of Jesus. In addition, recreational activities were offered for children of all ages.*



*Calvin Rock, left, General Conference vice-president who spoke in the main auditorium, is introduced by Lenard Jaecks as the evening speaker. His subject was "Seeing Christ—Windows On His Saving Grace."*



*Pastor Jay and Debbie Coon, new pastoral couple for the Global Mission project in Redmond, Wash., share their vision for this growing area, as Dennis Carlson, conference executive secretary, and Redmond lay-leaders look on.*



*Dave Weigley, conference ministerial secretary, emphasizes the wonderful opportunity of Net '95, the live, nationwide satellite evangelistic series with Mark Finley and C. D. Brooks, speakers. Currently 20 churches in the Washington Conference are signed up for the Net '95 crusade to be held in January and February 1995.*



*"I like living in a tent," says Vladimir Rossiitsev, one of the growing number of Russian Adventists in the Washington Conference.*



*Cindy Tutsch, new senior youth director for the Washington Conference, speaks of the joy of service and the wonderful experiences of the youth involved in this summer's Seattle Youth Challenge.*



*Steve Arrington, ex-felon for drug-running and chief diver for the Jacques Cousteau Society, relates the story of his "journey into darkness" and the wonderful reality of hope and salvation.*

There are 80 "people groups" of one-million or more population in Bangladesh which as yet have no exposure to Seventh-day Adventist outreach, as defined by Global Mission demographic studies.

In the Philippines, likewise, there are many unreached aboriginal groups, some numbering in the tens of thousands, still living in spiritual darkness, according to Stanyer.

On April 1, GO began sponsoring Adventist missionaries in two of these tribal locations, one among the Aetas in Pampanga Province and another among the Tau't Batu on the island of Palawan.

Additional requests for assistance have come to GO from the Seventh-day Adventist Mission of Sri Lanka and the East Indonesian Union.

During a recent seven-month period,

more than 90 percent of all funds expended by GO went directly for stipends and materials to overseas missions. Low overhead is achieved because many administrative costs are underwritten personally by GO leadership.

For example, Stanyer recently went to both the Philippines and Bangladesh at his own expense to survey activities and needs in those countries.

He reports that after six weeks of on-site study in these lands, he is convinced that God is using GO in a wonderful way to bring the light of the gospel to many who would otherwise perish in spiritual darkness.

Those interested in receiving more information should write to Frank Stanyer at Gospel Outreach, P. O. Box 8, College Place, WA 99324.



GO missionaries Dilip and Jui Hagidok pioneer mission outreach to a population group of Hindus in Bangladesh.

## Former Distrusting Members Called to Illinois Pastorate

When Arnet and Lorraine Mathers moved to St. Maries, Idaho, about four years ago, they came looking for a "vine" into which they might be grafted.

Though distrusting of the Adventist organization, they remained members of the church, seeking within it for a local congregation where they would be needed and which could benefit from their talents.

Such a place they discovered in the St. Maries church, and local members acknowledge that they have been made "more complete" as a church because of the ministry of the Matherses.

But, alas, if grafting can take place, so can amputation, and Arnet and Lorraine recently accepted a call to the pastoral ministry from the Illinois Conference.

A special season of prayer was held for them as Pastors Mark and Collette Pekar, along with local elders and others, sought God's blessing on the Matherses as they leave St. Maries for a new work.

*D. Reid McCrary*



## Buffalo-Bound

Rose Marie Walter from Walla Walla Valley Academy (WWVA) in College Place, Wash., has been awarded a stipend by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as one of 17 invitees to participate in this year's "Summer Seminars for School Teachers."

The five-week seminar she is attending is titled "Nathaniel Hawthorne, in Detail and in Context," held at State University of New York at Buffalo and directed by Robert Daly.

Sixteen participating teachers from the United States and one from St. Petersburg, Russia, were selected and received stipends of \$2,825 each to cover travel, study and living expenses.

Walter has taught junior and senior English and advanced placement (AP) English at WWVA for five years.

*John M. Deming*



Arnet and Lorraine Mathers (holding hands at left) are shown in prayer with fellow members as they prepare to leave St. Maries for pastoral assignment in the Illinois Conference.

*Remember! God will always love you.*



## Guardian Angel Translates Way into WWC Hearts and Dreams

"Guardian angel" Valentina Nikolaevna Pilatova sits in history professor Roland Blaich's office at Walla Walla College (WWC) and muses about America.

"I feel much healthier here," she says, "and I have much less stress. And there is so much fresh air! We don't have much of that in Russia."

As main English-Russian translator for the North European/Russian Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, headquartered in St. Petersburg, Valentina has earned her nickname "guardian angel" from foreign Adventist visitors whom she greets upon their arrival in Russia.

Yet she charges no fees for the translating, volunteering her time out of love for her church.

WWC faculty involved in *Operation Bearhug*, a program which has brought together thousands of Northwestern and Russian Christians in joint gospel ventures during the past three-and-a-half years, recently invited her to campus.

According to Dr. Blaich, chair of the WWC history and philosophy departments as well as WWC *Operation Bearhug* organizer, there were several reasons for doing so.

Valentina, he says, is the main *Operation Bearhug* contact for Americans in that portion of Russia and is one of the few Russian Adventists who can speak fluent English and tell first-hand of the Russians' needs and concerns.

And as the main contact between the WWC graduates who teach English at St. Petersburg University of Transportation Systems and local university teachers, "she needs to have a feel for who she is representing," Blaich says.

### An Angel is Born

One of Valentina's most memorable experiences with WWC *Operation Bearhug* missionaries began in 1993, not long after her own baptism.

Her road to Christianity had begun as a child of Communists in a household where her father served as a political officer in the Soviet army. Religion, or the mention of it, was expressly forbidden.

It was from her grandmothers, both Russian Orthodox members, that she first learned to pray—a practice she carried into adulthood.

"I kept praying and asking the Lord to help me. I was working as a teacher when a group of pastors from the United States and Sweden came to visit. Their interpreter

and bus driver were Seventh-day Adventists.

"They gave me a New Testament. I read it through in two days and two nights.

"I had searched for the truth in books. All this truth I found in the New Testament," she says.

So it was that after further studies and baptism, this "guardian angel" welcomed an evangelistic team headed by John Brunt, WWC academic dean, and wife Ione as well as Darold Bigger, former WWC church pastor, now on the WWC theology staff, and wife Barbara, who had come to Russia to raise up a fledgling church in Pushkin.

The new congregation was indeed planted, though "the church is still only a baby," says Blaich, "and that baby needs care now. We must support it. Valentina is the main contact we have with that church—she is the one who can speak English."

### Church Building Needs

Of the three congregations in St. Petersburg, only one has a permanent home, and the local conference operates out of its president's living room.

The Loma Linda University church has been raising funds to build a church in St. Petersburg, but \$400,000 of the needed \$600,000 must still be raised, and the Pushkin congregation also needs a church home. Valentina has been able to do some fund-raising for these causes while in the United States.

### "Confirm Faith"

While at WWC, Valentina, who has taught school for nine years, wrote down some of her reactions to what she has seen at the college and placed them on the desk of Doug Clark, professor of biblical studies and dean of the School of Theology.

"My own philosophy of Christian higher education is that to be Christian it ought to confirm. To be education it should also challenge. If college courses do not confirm faith and provide affirmation and a strong basis for constructing and maintaining a life of faith, they are not Christian. At the same time, if classes do not challenge one's thinking and logic, do not lead one to be honest with the evidence, or allow one to settle for easy answers—whether they are correct or not—they are not education.

"From the very beginning I could feel the atmosphere of a Christian school," she



Valentina Nikolaevna Pilatova, a fluent English-Russian translator, is known in Russia as "guardian angel" by visiting Adventists from North America.

wrote, "which means from my point of view that the relationships between the students and the teachers are full of love and care..."

### Healing an Angel

While in Russia, the Brunts and Biggers discovered that Valentina had very poor eyesight and also needed dental care.

"A translator must be able to read!" Dr. Blaich comments.

So the Loma Linda University Seventh-day Adventist Church put together a team of eye specialists who were committed to helping Valentina see clearly again, even if it might require surgery. A Walla Walla, Wash., dentist, Don Kellogg, worked with a Loma Linda dentist to care for her dental needs.

In addressing the eye problems, she was given a thorough eye exam and fitted with glasses that brought her vision to 20/40 without a need for surgery.

It was a fitting miracle of technology and grace for WWC's "guardian angel" in Russia.

For more information on Walla Walla College *Operation Bearhug* projects and outreaches, contact Dr. Roland Blaich, History Department, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324.

*Kristin Bergman* of College Place, Wash., is a Walla Walla College student writer for media relations.

## 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.

### Juxtaposed Debate?

Your article on Page 3 of the August 2 GLEANER, intrigues me. You [ask] "Were the two indicated articles in the June 6 issue contradictory?" and "Shall such apparently opposite viewpoints be presented more times in "organized, juxtaposed debate"?"

As a septuagenarian, and a 60-year Bible student, I answer "No" to the first question, and a guarded "Yes" to the second.

My reasons... are these:

1. ("No") In agreement with yourself and what we feel the majority of our members believe, I am of the opinion that God wants us to be prepared knowledgeably for last-day events, while at the same time helping to give the gospel to the world through direct involvement or/and missions offerings.

2. (Guarded "Yes") Presenting "organized, juxtaposed debate" as mentioned would be interesting to those who are well-grounded in the love of Jesus, His Gospel, and His Word. However, this might be too much "strong meat" to those who are still "babes" in learning about our Savior and His messages to us... Perhaps once a month or twice a quarter would be good...

*Pearl L. Pflugrad  
Portland, Ore.*

### Devil's Deception

I am pleased to speak to the issue of the King James Bible (KJV). I often wondered why so many were determined to change the KJV and found out why when I saw Dr. Joe Greshams on Three Angels Broadcasting station.

He had written sermons about this and made videos of same. The names of the videos are "Devils Deception" and "Which Bible..."

This question of Bible [versions] is somewhat like the AIDS crisis. As in that, scientists, doctors, hospitals and even the C.D.C. refuse to take a stand regarding the danger from AIDS. Our leaders refuse to take a stand on the devil's deception that has permeated our denomination.

*Rosie Wilkins  
Springfield, Ore.*

### Commendable Series

I wish to commend Alden Thompson for his very scholarly series on Bible versions. I found his articles balanced and very well documented. I'm glad to see someone finally challenge the staunchly held tradition that requires people to have a degree in King James rhetoric before they can read the Bible. The road to eternal life is narrow enough without needing to throw in language barriers. I hear too often the attitude that,

"If it (the KJV) was good enough for Paul and the apostles it is good enough for me." Thank you for challenging this mindset and for paving the way to a greater freedom in both understanding and expressing God's truth.

*Atom Biggs  
Spokane, Wash.*

### Gift Enclosed

This money is for Russian Bibles [in reference to recent articles about Russian evangelism.]. Yes, I know I've already sent \$12 to you for Russian Bibles, but my family and I have given more. It's mostly my money. In all I've sent \$35.

I am 11-and-a-half years old and I'm a twin. I am running two clubs with 10 members in each. They are called "Christians Help" and "Help Others and Our World."

I'm leader of this money project our family is working on.

Nobody, as far as I'm concerned, is awake yet. The time is 6:33 a.m. and it's a Wednesday. We usually get up at around 5:45 a.m. I guess everybody slept in!

I must go to read my Bible and pray. God bless you.

*Carol Ann Phillips  
Cottage Grove, Ore.*

### No Cognition

The phrase "cognates of higher education" was used in the August 1 issue of the GLEANER article about our new WWC president. Of the five definitions of the word "cognate" in my Webster's New World Dictionary, none seem to fit. What is the meaning of this phrase?

*Kerry Forschler  
Renton, Wash.*

■ The word "cognates" was used as a plural noun quoting from Dr. W.G. Nelson's resumé as we received it here. The word "cognates" in our view, and in several dictionaries, means "related subjects," as in "I'm taking courses in literature and basket-weaving as cognates to my doctoral pursuits in archeology."

### Verdict for "Liberty"

Since becoming a judge eight years ago, I've been the grateful recipient of "Liberty" magazine. Recently, I had an informative conversation with two Adventist attorneys who told me that judges around Washington state receive the magazine because of the

generosity of Northwest Adventists.

Although I've only had the opportunity to see one issue of the GLEANER, I am very pleased that you also are openly addressing first-amendment questions. As a jurist, I've been constantly aware of the danger that can be posed by any philosophy which tends to mix church and state functions...

I am currently a candidate for the Washington State Supreme Court. But regardless of the court in which I am privileged to serve, I will continue to enjoy the broad, intelligent and occasionally bold perspective that "Liberty" magazine offers.

*Larry King  
Mason County District Court  
Shelton, Wash.*

### Academy Enrollment Up by 20

Northwest senior academies as of Sept. 6 have recorded an enrollment increase of 20 students compared to the same time last school year. Total enrollment now stands at 1,799, up from 1,779, and is distributed as follows: Auburn Adventist Academy 345; Cascade Christian Academy, 44; Columbia Adventist Academy, 174; Gem State Adventist Academy, 167; Milo Adventist Academy, 189; Mt. Ellis Adventist Academy, 77; Portland Adventist Academy, 257; Upper Columbia Adventist Academy, 322; Walla Walla Valley Academy, 224.

### Contest Winners Announced

Winners of the 1994 "Personal Viewpoints" contest were announced on Sept. 5. Of the 31 personal-experience stories, seven were selected as winners and four as runners up.

Winning this year are Lana Fletcher of Chehalis, Wash.; Helen Heavirland of College Place, Wash.; the author of "He Touched Me," of Kennewick, Wash., whose story will appear under a penname; Les Leno of Boring, Ore.; Vera Nelson of Hayden, Idaho; Doris Joan Petersen of Canyonville, Ore.; the author of "Dave's Story," from Spirit Lake, Wash., whose story will appear under a penname; and Deloris Woerner of Athena, Ore.

Runners up this year were Ronald J. Beardsley of La Center, Wash.; Lou L. Lovall of Portland, Ore.; Dorothy M. Miller of College Place, Wash.; and Sandy Zaugg of College Place, Wash. Submissions by runners-up are deemed to be of highly publishable quality and may be published in the GLEANER at a later date by arrangement with the authors.

Other than awards issued to winners of the "Personal Viewpoint" contest, the GLEANER does not purchase editorial rights to material appearing in the publication. Contest winners each receive a check of \$25.

*Shari Smith*



### Shepherds in the Schools

Five Washington Conference pastors have been honored for exceptional involvement in and support for local Adventist school activities.

Shown with me are award recipients (left to right) Kevin Kibble, Kent; Ron Halvorsen, Jr., Tacoma Central; Bruce Koch, Burien; and (at extreme right) Hal Gates, Poulsbo. Not shown is recipient Leon Ringering, former pastor of the Everson/Ferndale/Lummi District, now in the Alaska Conference.

The honored pastors typically supported the conference "Bible Labs" program, a student Bible-study plan, pro-

moted fund-raising to buy *Operation Bearhug* Bibles for Russian evangelism, conducted weeks of prayer, sponsored baptismal classes, provided weekly worship or chapel services, were available for weekly formal and informal interaction with students and gave strong support and recognition to principals and teachers.

They were also seen as being actively involved in conflict resolution and offering spiritual leadership for local schools and school boards.

*Dale Johnson*  
Former superintendent of schools



### Beautifying Burien

Downtown merchants in Burien, Wash., continue to praise Burien, Wash., students for their work in cleaning and painting sidewalk flower pots in "Olde Town Burien" and planting flowers in the renovated planters.

The all-day community services activity for both upper and lower-grade students was the last "Bible Lab" project of the 1993-94 school year. The project was overseen by Susan Keating, upper grade teacher, and husband Jeff. Shown at work, from left, are sixth-grader Breanne Pete, seventh-grader Steve Kirk and first-grader Angela Newman.

*Tricia L. Caldwell*

*Help me never to judge another until I have walked two weeks in his shoes.*

### 'Banner Year' Takes Holy Spirit To Conference Schools

During the 1993-94 school year, the Washington Conference Office of Education emphasized the working of the Holy Spirit for children and adolescents in conference schools.

Activities included having students make felt banners that reflected their understanding of how the Holy Spirit could work in their lives.

The designs were sketched on paper, cut out on felt and put on burlap backings and hung by wooden dowels.

The purpose was to integrate course content, such as religion and art, while inviting students to develop concepts they could build into their behavior as Christians.

*Dale Johnson*



### A Child is Reborn

Joseph Cowles made his commitment to Jesus Christ and was baptized on June 4 in the chilly waters of the Sol Duc River by Pastor Mike Edge.

*Diane Cowles*

*Just as the air we breathe is necessary to our physical existence, so faith is absolutely necessary to our spiritual existence.*

# Operation Bearhug: Should it Go Global?

By Bruce Johnston

Bruce Johnston serves as president of the  
North Pacific Union Conference and writes from Portland, Ore.



Bruce Johnston

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**O**peration Bearhug is now winding down another season of miracles in Russia. The heart-hunger of millions of Russians has intensified, even as the novelty of Americans coming for evangelism has tapered off, especially in the very large cities.

Long lines to buy food and other commodities in Russia are almost a thing of the past, but prices have escalated, and the specter of hunger remains. Crime is rampant. Multitudes are awash in fear and uncertainty.

People find themselves torn between the freedom of democracy and the security of the old order, which, while oppressive, put food on the table, paid the rent and utilities, guaranteed employment and provided universal health-care.

There's a painful sense of hopelessness in Russia: The hope only Christ can give is desperately needed, even as the doors of opportunity for evangelizing remain open.

True, opposition by the dominant church has increased, and the training of Russian pastors and laity (with significant input from *Operation Bearhug*) is resulting in more effective evangelizing of Russians by Russians. But there are still millions of highly responsive Russians who need us.

Now, we have been invited by the Euro-Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists (former Soviet Division) to continue and even to expand "sister relationships" with conferences in Russia. We will continue to send people to help in evangelism, but we will especially focus on sending carefully selected resource people to assist in training programs for nationals.

Ask any Northwest Adventist who has returned from Russia (more than 750 so far!) whether the door is still open and whether evangelism still works, and I am confident you will get a positive response. I have never met anyone who has returned from an evangelistic mission who does not say, "It's a life-changing experience."

This is the genius of *Operation Bearhug*: **People get involved with people!** People not only give willingly of their money, but they participate in the mission that their money makes possible.

### I Need Your Counsel

Now, two other divisions of the church have asked for our help, and we have been invited by the Global Mission office of the world church to work in still a third. I would like to know how you feel about this, but before you respond, let me first help you focus clearly on the issues.

I would sincerely like to know if you agree that

we should expand the concept of *Operation Bearhug* to involve more people in more places both at home and abroad. (We certainly would be derelict to neglect the work here in the North Pacific Union to concentrate only on work abroad, and we must not bite off more than we can chew.)

The offering that has traditionally been taken every five years, prior to each General Conference session, has been used for some special project like Adventist World Radio Guam (1985) and Adventist World Radio Europe (1990). I am excited about the plan for the 1995 General Conference offering, for it differs in a wonderful way. Called *Hands Across the World*, it will be used to fund special projects that we can get involved in both locally and internationally during the next five years.

Approximately 85 percent of the money given in North America will remain in the conference where the offering is given, and its use will be coordinated with lay volunteers involved in both local and international special projects.

This visionary plan, I believe, will lead to the greatest General Conference offering ever given, for it makes it possible on a scale wider than we've ever seen before for people to get involved with people, to bring hope and to plant the church widely around the world.

Here is my thinking: We could unite *Operation Bearhug* with *Hands Across the World* to embrace the world. We need plenty of the warm, caring love here at home, don't we? And many other places need us too. Why can't we export *Operation Bearhug* globally and accomplish more both here and in needy lands? Why can't we have our members, and especially our young people, involved in mission more than ever before in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church? 

On Nov. 19, 1994, beginning at 9:15 a.m., in the Walla Walla Valley, Robert Folkenberg, president of the General Conference; Alfred McClure, president of the North American Division; Mike Ryan, director of the office of Global Mission, and others who have had dynamic, first-hand experience in worldwide soul-winning, will conduct one of the most inspiring *Hands Across the World* events of the year.

Your North Pacific Union and local conference leaders will be there, and we would love to have you there too. **YOU ARE INVITED!** Make plans right now to come. Watch your GLEANER for further details.

## ABOUT THE COVER

Eugene Lambert of Portland, Ore., who recently retired from the North Pacific Union Conference, captured this cover shot near Troutlake, Wash. He used a Canon A2E camera and Kodak Lumière film to capture these "Vine Maples in the Fall".

## West Seattle Member Dedicates Year To Russia Venture

For Nancy Campbell, a member of the West Seattle church, a life-changing trip to Russia has led to her decision to dedicate a year of her life to teaching English in that land.

West Seattle members held a "bon voyage" party on June 18 to bid her well as she left a good job in the United States to serve the Russian people.

Her decision to go to Russia came last fall when she visited Russia with her parents, Pastor Terry and Beverly Campbell.

"When I was going to college, if someone would have told me I would be a missionary, I wouldn't have believed them," she says, but the six-week trip showed her the great need in Russia and persuaded her to volunteer her time to serve.

She reasoned that many could do the job she was performing in America, but not all could help the Russian people during a time of gospel opportunity.

She plans to remain in Russia for at least one year, and though her parents and fellow church members miss her, they are happy that she is "doing the Lord's work."

*Lou Palmer*

## Pathfinder's Fair Honors 87 Newly Baptized Members

More than 500 pathfinder club members, staff and visitors, among them many of the 87 pathfinders baptized during the



*Eighty-seven pathfinder club members were baptized in the Washington Conference territory during a recent 12-month span of time, and the new members were given special recognition during closing exercises at the 1994 annual fair.*

previous year, recently attended the annual Washington Conference Pathfinder Fair held at Auburn Adventist Academy in Auburn, Wash.

The theme, "Growing God's Way," bannered the auditorium as each club showed through booth themes and exhibits how its members had grown "God's Way."

Some club members had learned first aid, while others exhibited crafts they had made with rest homes residents. Members of one club had made a quilt for someone who was ill.

Club team members took part in drill-and-marching exercises during morning fair activities, and in the case of the Marysville, Wash., club, the drill team con-

sisted of only one participant who nevertheless went on to earn a first-place ribbon.

Afternoon events were held for junior and teen-aged pathfinders and included a rope-making event, a pancake flip (over a seven-ft. line), a stretcher-lashing and rescue event and a Bible-text hunt.

The following 15 clubs received the "Top 2000" club award at the fair for outstanding citizenship and achievement: Arlington, Capital City, Cascade Eagles, Enumclaw Naches Trail Blazers, Everett Eagles, Forks Oceaneers, Graham Heir-Born, Mount Pilchuck, Port Orchard Pioneers, Puyallup Valley, Sequim Valley, Shelton, Olympic Trail, Tacoma Central Seekers, Tacoma High Hikers and Winlock.

*Terry Bolton*

## Evangelistic Turn-Out Amazes Grays Harbor Members

An evangelistic series which began last April 2 has resulted in the baptisms of 20 new members at the Grays Harbor church in Hoquiam, Wash., amazing old-time members with the intensity of interest shown by their neighbors and friends.

Visiting evangelist John Earnhardt and his wife, Crystal, were assisted by Pastor Dan McGee and his wife, Joy, during the springtime crusade.

McGee had prepared for the evangelistic crusade by cultivating Bible-study interests, and local members had invited friends and family to attend the series of "Amazing Facts" crusades.

On opening night, 67 non-members attended the meetings, and attendance had increased to 82 non-members by the second week of the series.

Though several area pastors advised their members not to attend the meetings, many continued to participate throughout

the crusade, and at baptismal services held April 29, April 30, May 14 and July 16, a total of 20 were baptized and received into local church fellowship.

Long-time local members commented that they had never before seen such interest by community members in attending evangelistic meetings, and plans now call for the church to hold yet another similar series of meetings in 1995.

Members are praying for another outpouring of the Holy Spirit on those who come to hear the end-time gospel as announced by the three angels of Revelation 14.

## New Seniors Club Asks Volunteers to Help Build Chapel

Members of "SAGE," an organization of Washington Conference senior members and retirees, has chosen as its first formal project the refurbishing of a 300-seat chapel at the conference youth camp,



*Rachel Mehl of the Arlington, Wash., church lashes together a stretcher during an afternoon event at the 1994 Washington Conference Pathfinder Fair.*



# OREGON



## Massive Turn-Out In Russia Taxes Mt. Tabor Team

Nan Stagl, a four-time evangelistic team volunteer to Russia, recently assisted Roland Lehnhoff as he ministered to an evangelistic crowd in Vitebsk, Bello-Russe which included 1,200 children with little or no religious background.

Fellow church members from the Mt. Tabor church in Portland assisted in funding the evangelistic series, and for this crusade provided sets of Sabbath school felts for the Adventist church in that city.

Religious training and health lectures were integral parts of the total crusade program which so far has resulted in the baptisms of 300 persons.



*Nan Stagl, left, presents Sabbath school felts to a local pastor in Russia. The complete set was donated by members of the Mt. Tabor church in Portland, Ore.*



## Festive Scandinavian

Pastor G. M. Richardson of the Veneta/Junction City, Ore., district, was a guest speaker for the Scandinavian Festival held last August in Junction City. His theme, "Harvest Festival" was well received by a crowd which broke previous attendance records for the festival. Scandinavian food and music, colorful costumes and crafts added to the festive texture of the four-day yearly event.

*Ione Richardson*



*Twelve-hundred children turned out for evangelistic meetings conducted by Roland Lehnhoff and his evangelistic team in Vitebsk, Bello-Russe.*

## Horsemen's Group Organizes Rides In Southern Oregon

The newest chapter of the Adventist Horseman's Association has been organized in Southern Oregon.

Known as Southern Oregon Adventist Riders (SOAR), the chapter was formed in February and is the first such Adventist organization in the Oregon Conference.

Elected officers are Dan Miracle, president; Shirley Middlestetter, vice-president; Marlene Miracle, secretary; Brian VonBargen, liaison officer; and Greg Middlestetter, chaplain.

The stated aim of the group is to strengthen Christian experience through fellowship with all believers and to promote opportunities for horse-lovers and

their friends to associate, says Miracle.

Since its organization, SOAR has sponsored rides at Roxie Ann trail, Lily Glen horse camp, Roger Black's cabin near Dead Indian Memorial Road, Marble Mountain in Northern California and Hamaker Meadows near Diamond Lake.

During one of those rides, a child's horse began to act up and a Baptist rider dismounted and attempted to settle the horse down. In the process, his tiny hearing aid, which was similar in color to the color of the forest floor, was knocked to the ground and lost.

Without faltering, the man asked everyone to pray with him that he would be able to locate his hearing aid. When the search resumed after prayer, the device was found about six inches behind a hoof of the only horse that had not been prancing around during the search. A thanksgiving prayer was quickly offered, and the horse-

men have thanked their Baptist friend for his good example of faith.

SOAR is open to all individuals who enjoy riding with fellow Christians. GLEANER readers are urged to extend invitations to riders who may wish to participate.

Turnout so far has ranged from between 40 to 60 individuals for each ride.

For more information, contact Marlene Miracle at (503) 826-2440.

*Terry Whitted*

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5, 6*



Bruce Johnston

# 'Honey, I Shrunk the World'

By Bruce Johnston

Bruce Johnston serves as president of the North Pacific Union Conference and writes from Portland, Ore.

**D**oes it seem that someone has shrunk the world? Zapping through the channels, I see people and events from all parts of the globe. People cheer U.S. troops in Haiti (or beat their fellow Haitians on the street). U.S. tanks rumble toward the border of Iraq. . . People are forced from their homes by an earthquake in Japan.

Now, through CompuServe and my computer, I can talk to church leaders in Russia, and it's only a local call! I'm only a day by jet from almost anywhere on earth. It does seem like somebody's shrunk the world.

## Daniel's Vision

That's good, because we have a big job and little time. When the angel told the prophet Daniel that in the end-time ". . . many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased," (Daniel 12:4) he was not talking primarily about modern travel or a shrunken world.

The angel was referring, instead, to the book of Daniel, especially the closing chapters where the great truth about Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary is enfolded.

People's eyes would run to and fro on its pages, earnestly seeking knowledge of God while others would be literally on the move trying to find people to explain what had been hidden until the end-time.

## Without Knowledge

Now, here's the challenge. In the end-time, knowledge is exploding. We're in the Information Age. But the world of people whom God so dearly loves is almost completely without the knowledge of Daniel and Revelation. (The books of Daniel and Revelation are one, for both books are at the heart of the Three Angels' Messages to be given to the world.)

Between 1840 and 1844, William Miller, preaching from the prophecies, so earnestly stirred New England that hundreds of thousands embraced his message. Nothing like it has happened since in North America. He did it with horse-and-buggy transportation—no microphones, radio, or television—a Bible and an immense burden to share with people that Jesus is coming again.

## We Must Do Better

To help us think reflectively and responsibly, I ask, "How are we doing here in the NPUC?" Can we be satisfied? Can we say the work is almost done? I believe that we must do better—*incredibly better*—for at the rate we are going we can never say "Mission accomplished."

Our world has shrunk. We have incredible means of transportation and communication. There are more of us. The Holy Spirit is available in all His wonderful power.

I'm not asking those who are sharing the Good News just to work harder. I'm appealing that we all unite with greater focus and intentionality to share the Bible truths we know and love.

Let's covenant to reach everyone in our territory—about 10-million souls. I know it seems impossible. I know it's a challenge beyond our present means. I know it's bigger than we are. But God is equal to it! Would you agree that it's time to stop playing church and mobilize for the greatest advance ever?

## Hands Across the World

*Hands Across the World*, an exciting Global Mission plan to reach the world, is to be launched in connection with the coming General Conference Session in 1995. It's a plan that includes thousands of volunteers. *People will be involved with people.*

Your conference president has special *Hands Across the World* projects which call for planting churches, caring ministries, building churches, sharing literature, conducting Revelation Seminars, inviting people to enroll in Bible studies, holding evangelistic meetings, training, radio, TV. . . (I'm running out of space to mention more. Some haven't even yet been thought of. I predict that the creativity of Northwest Adventists that drives *Operation Bearhug* will be unleashed.)

There will be projects both at home and overseas. I have just talked personally with our leaders in Russia. They earnestly desire our continued help. Africa is asking us for a *Bearhug* relationship. Romania is pleading. Cambodia in Southeast Asia, ripe for harvest, is calling us to help. How can we refuse? (The General Conference offerings that will be taken in your church will help make this vision a reality.

*Continues on next page*



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## ABOUT THE COVER

The cover slide, "Brown Bear on Brook Falls," was taken by Gary Lackie of Anchorage, Alaska, in Katmai National Park. "The falls are on the Brooks River. Bears come here to feed on salmon," he says. Gary used a Canon 630 EOS camera and an 80-200mm lens and Fujichrome 50 A.S.A. film.

## I Shrank the World

Continued from page 2

Make no mistake, it will take sacrifice to make it so. Otherwise it will be just talk around an empty slogan.)

Your conference leaders join me in inviting our youth, every ethnic group, every senior citizen, every person regardless of age or gender, to be involved. Thousands of volunteers will be needed. Will you unite with us in praying, planning and working in the most exciting adventure on earth as *Operation Bearhug* embraces the world to share Christ? 

### Join Me Nov. 19

On Nov. 19, Robert Folkenberg, General Conference president, with a galaxy of others, will be our guest in an inspiring, unforgettable all Sabbath *Hands Across the World* event in the College Place Village and Walla Walla College churches. You are invited! Please come share the joy. Spend the day with us! If you need Sabbath lunch, kindly phone the North Pacific Union Global Mission Office at (503) 255-7300, ext. 250, for a free meal ticket.

Bruce Johnston

## 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.

## Bible is Essential

Regarding your defense of Alden Thompson's July 11 article on Bible versions printed in the Sept. 5 edition of the GLEANER, Ellen G. White does indicate that people in dark regions will be judged differently. Our Heavenly Father knows their response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. To use these possibilities to reason that the Bible is "...not essential to salvation/..." is a quantum leap that no Christian in the Western World can make.

For you to put Scripture on the same level as nature and Christian lives is also problematical.

How do we learn of God in nature without the Scriptures? Nature is both cruel and non-cruel. Which aspect is guidance for salvation? The world is full of misinterpretations of nature from "scientific" Darwinism to New Age Pantheism.

How do we know a life is Christian without the Bible? In fact, how did you learn that you were "...saved by grace through faith?"

"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

Greg Lundquist  
Victoria, Texas

## Check the Original

I am curious as to why people compare the more recent translations to the King James Version (KJV), as if the KJV were the standard by which all translations are to be judged.

The fact is, the KJV is another translation in a long line of English translations that preceded it. It also has been repeatedly revised. The traditional KJV, in use today, was revised in 1767 by Benjamin Blaney.

You see, the original 1611 KJV would be unintelligible to the English-speaking person of today.

The wisest action for us would be to compare all translations to the original languages,

and thus minimize present-day cultural and theological bias. So, the next time you encounter a divergent reading in a modern translation when compared to the KJV, don't just assume it is wrong. Rather, do a little research and try to find out how the original language reads.

Dean C. Tupper  
Spokane, Wash.

## Protestant Voices Speak

I do not go along with the reasoning of your Sept. 19 editorial article. The Bible was printed in 1430 onward and then translated into the languages of Europe. Printing established a new thing in the world—Protestant principles. The gift of the sailing magnetic compass saw those principles come to America. The churches that taught these Protestant principles gave education here in America for the first 80 years. Yale and Harvard were the first colleges. They were established to train ministers.

Ellen White tells us in *Great Controversy*, page 441, that the United States is based on Republican and Protestant principles. And she tells us further that these principles will increase in brightness to the close of time (page 126). These principles are still taught in many Protestant churches by faithful, godly preachers and followed by their faithful members. We are further told that these will join us toward the end of time (page 464)...

Elmo Kindaid, Jr.  
Walla Walla, Wash.

## Pure Religion

In regard to the Aug. 15 article about the work of independent ministries, I have been approached often by those who are working "independently" from the body...

I am a single mother of three boys... and am in a very, very low income group... Just a

## Cover Slides Needed

The GLEANER is pleased to announce the continuation of the 1995 GLEANER cover slide contest to acquire quality photography from which to buy one-time use rights for covers of 1995 issues.

Photographers should take note of the following contest guidelines:

1. All submissions must be original slide transparencies suitable for display in vertical orientation at or near full frame and must arrive in the GLEANER office by noon, Nov. 23, 1994.

2. Preference will be shown to slides in 35-millimeter format.

3. Only original slides will be considered. Slide copies will be automatically disqualified.

4. Each photographer may submit up to 15 transparencies. Submission of greater numbers of slides by a photographer will disqualify his entire portfolio for the year's contest.

5. Only slides taken of scenes within the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington will be considered.

6. Each slide entered must have an inscription on its frame bearing the name and address of the photographer.

7. Photographers should, upon request, be prepared to supply model releases for any recognizable persons appearing in winning entries.

8. Suggested subject matter includes nature topics with strong centers of interest; church activities, including baptisms, pathfinder events and outreach; and appropriate seasonal still-life material. Christian creativity is encouraged; judges will favor the tastefully unusual.

9. Winning photographers should be prepared to supply, upon request, information on where a slide was taken, names and/or species of featured animate or plant life and make of camera and film used.

10. With payment of one-time rights per winning slide, at \$75 per slide, the GLEANER retains the right to hold the winning slide in process for 60 days from the date of announcement of winners.

11. All slides, including non-winners, will be returned via regular first-class postage at GLEANER expense, or may be picked up by prior arrangement in person by the photographer during regular GLEANER business hours, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., and Fridays, 8 a.m. to noon, in Portland, Ore.

12. All submissions should be either hand delivered or mailed to the GLEANER, 10225 East Burnside St. (hand delivery only), Box 16677, Portland, OR 97216-0677.

Edwin A. Schwisow

year ago an older son needed much help with his drug abuse, rebellious attitude and misguided direction in life.

If it had not been for the conference and its support financially for the Project Patch program, I would have lost my son! They kept my son at Project Patch ranch at their expense and my "mere pittance." Now my son attends Milo Adventist Academy at his request...

How could I ever work "independently" from the church? Are they not doing the pure religion of Christ (James 1:27)?

Let us stay with the whole, the body, the church, and support it despite its faults, because of its Christian attributes.

Name Withheld by Request

*Global Mission*

***Hands Across The World***

North Pacific Union Conference

P O Box 16677

Portland OR 97216

Place  
stamp  
here

# My Pledge...

choose to participate in Global Mission through

- Praying** daily for *Hands Across The World*
- Sharing** *Hands Across The World* with my church family
- Volunteering** my services for a *Hands Across The World* project
- Giving** a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- A **one-time gift** of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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**North Pacific Union**  
**Hands Across The World**

# ***Hands Across The World***

*Houses are built by human hands, but a home is built by human hearts - your heart. And one of the best exercises for the heart is to reach out and touch someone. That's what HANDS ACROSS THE WORLD is all about. By establishing 2,000 new congregations worldwide by the year 2,000, men, women, boys, and girls who now have little opportunity to learn about Jesus will hear of His loving gift of salvation. How can you help? By intercessory prayer, by volunteering your skills and time, and by your financial support. Kindly complete the attached card and drop it in the mail.*

Planned NPUC *Hands Across The World* projects are:

- Evangelistic meetings in Russia
- New churches in Romania, Zimbabwe, and Mexico
- New churches in Alaska and Oregon
- New churches for Native Americans in Idaho and Montana
- Small group training in Russia
- International youth volunteer service opportunities from the Oregon Conference.
- Global Mission project in Asia and Africa
- Positive Life radio expansion and "Reaching out '95" in Upper Columbia Conference.
- Distribution of *Steps To Christ* and *Desire of Ages* in Idaho Conference

**NOTE:** Funds you donate will support both international projects organized by the General Conference, the North Pacific Union, and your local conference plus at-home projects within your conference.

See you November 19 at the Walla Walla College Church or the College Place Village Church, beginning at 9:15 a.m. See the editorial for more information.

# A Skeptic's Review of Bearhug

By Edwin A. Schwisow

Edwin A. Schwisow edits the GLEANER in Portland, Ore.



Edwin A. Schwisow

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**S**keptical we were, those of quill and ink, when back in 1991 *Operation Bearhug* first stretched forth its paws and opened a Pacific passageway between Northwestern and Russian Adventism.

With that opening, we were told, would come an inevitable tidal effect—a “reflex” action—that would bring immense benefit to the Northwest as we focused on sharing the gospel abroad.

Nevertheless, those of us whose inkwells often run deeper than our faith wells, wondered at the time at the shift from “domestic issues” to “foreign affairs.” Why did leadership want us looking elsewhere? Was there a coming crisis at home?

Even so, we thought, *Operation Bearhug* would be a good thing—it would make great GLEANER copy! But to have dreamt—out loud, at least—that it would imprint its psychic paw-prints as *the* story of the past five years, would have appeared in print as wild-eyed presumption.

### Spinach-Like Aftertaste

Now, nearly four years later, as we wince at the spinach-like aftertaste of vegetarian crow, we can bask in the specifics of that once-illusive *Bearhug* “reflex.”

For example, today, the Alaska Conference, birthplace of *Operation Bearhug*, leads the North American Division in percentage growth, and other early-*Operation Bearhug*-intensive conferences are hot on Alaska's heels.

In the second quarter of this year, the North Pacific Union led the division overall in per-capita financial as well as accessional growth.

In fact, the folks in Alaska tell me that percentage net growth this year will exceed that of church-growth-champion conferences in the Inter-American Division.

And, using a term native to Alaska, we're assured that the “pipeline” of people preparing for baptism and eager to attend evangelistic meetings in 1995 is full.

### Trickle-Down Evangelism

This is nothing less than an amazing turn-about from days in the North Pacific Union when the good old “trickle-down evangelism”

theory held sway.

The “trickle-down” theory, as I understand it, said that if you nourished the saints at home, kept them happy in a homogeneous congregation and pastored them with charisma, evangelism would trickle down to the community and would eventually leach beyond to the world field.

I mean, this was Protestant church-growth orthodoxy! And to chronicle *Operation Bearhug* and its politically incorrect ursine leap from the diving-board of domesticity past every filtration system to the brine of the international deep seemed like radical revisionism.

And yet, that leap of faith has brought a day without parallel in our times, and rational explanations still elude us. Surely, some say, this is a blip—a feast-bump in the python line of Northwest history.

### Hands Across the World

But the Richter-line seems unwilling to settle. We see no impending “reflex fatigue:” the folks from Sweet Home, Ore., for example, where public evangelism helped double church attendance earlier this year, to my knowledge have taken no board action to rename themselves the “Sweat Home” church in gasping epithet to the taskmastery of the Holy Spirit.

In fact, the very term “*Operation Bearhug*” now seems to be embarrassingly insufficient as a metaphor for spreading the gospel, personally and intentionally, from the Northwest.

A new phrase is needed—and is now gaining prominence—to express the vision *Bearhug* gave us.

### “Hands Across the World”

Less than a month ago, in College Place, Wash., Robert S. Folkenberg, world church president, formally introduced the concept of “Hands Across the World” and challenged the Northwest to reach beyond Russia to the world field in the spirit of the Arctic bears.

“Hands Across the World,” said Folkenberg, should be a plan of Northwesterners, by Northwesterners and for Northwesterners to interact with the world church “Global Mission” in reaching unreached people groups.

“Hands Across the World,” he said, fills a  
*Continues on next page*

## ABOUT THE COVER

Kenneth Penner of St. Charles, Mo., skipped class to capture the cover shot he calls “Bridge in the Snow” while he was attending Walla Walla College with a Canon Ftb camera and Kodachrome 64 film.

void—a deficiency—which *Operation Bearhug* never got around to considering, and that is, “How do we channel the reflex action to our own territory as the Holy Spirit opens our windows of opportunity?”

### Our Response

After careful consideration, North-western conferences have answered Folkenberg's challenge.

Next year, Alaska has determined to organize a new group in Togiak and to strengthen presence in Katzebue while, internationally, raising up a church in Khabarovsk, Russia, and establishing a new church in southern Mexico.

Idaho plans to distribute *Steps to Christ* and to offer *Christ's Object Lessons* and *The Desire of Ages* to every household in its territory; to spearhead establishment of a Native American church in Blackfoot; and to open two or more Spanish-speaking congregations in southeastern Idaho, while internationally cooperating with Russia's North Caucasus Conference in a sister-conference relationship.

Montana has stretched its arms out to the Native American Crow and Northern Cheyenne tribes in southeastern Montana and internationally will maintain strong ties with church-development projects in Belgorod, Russia.

Oregon has targeted fast-growing Clark County in its territory north of the Columbia River for creation of a new congregation. It has covenanted, as well, to carry the gospel more deeply into ethnic groups in the conference and to target Oregon's many unchurched with innovative outreaches, while internationally sending more and more young people on shorter-term mission assignments and holding evangelistic meetings next year in the former Soviet Union, Africa and South America.

Upper Columbia is developing a multiple-media strategy to contact every home (617,000 addresses) in its territory with an invitation to consider the Bible as the source for answers to life's perplexing questions.

It will also utilize “Positive Life Radio” more effectively by beginning to add local content to its transmissions outside of the Walla Walla Valley; and, internationally, members will help conduct Sabbath school class action unit training in the Ukraine and Russia and carry forward mission projects in Asia, Mexico and Africa.

The Washington Conference will continue to sponsor extensive door-to-door activity through “Youth Challenge” and “Restore Ministry,” (both literature-evan-

gelistic ministries); will carry forward plans to establish a church in Redmond, Wash., and will target what it calls “struggling” churches in its own territory for special assistance. Internationally, it envisions projects in Russia, Asia and South America.

Meanwhile, from North Pacific headquarters in Portland, emphasis focuses on keeping up the sister-union relationship projects with Russia, assisting in projects in Asia, Inter-American and Euro-African divisions, and establishing new churches in Romania and Zimbabwe.

### Clarion Overture

All told, *Operation Bearhug* has been a clarion overture to the main drama now unfolding. Its spirit is embracing the world, leaving in its wake pondering writers and theoreticians who stretch to explain the “reflex” effect of the *Bearhug* plunge.

But as wise men and skeptics stretch their minds, Northwest Adventists prepare, in faith, for stretching of another order—the stretching out of “Hands Across the World.”

## News Copy to be Mailed Directly to GLEANER

**A**s of Jan. 1, 1995, news, announcements and notices submitted for GLEANER publication may be sent directly to GLEANER editorial offices in Portland, Ore.

This change alters past policy which directed writers to submit all local-church-related news reports for the GLEANER to local-conference correspondents.

Manuscripts and photos mailed to local conference offices will continue to be trans-shipped to the GLEANER; however, conference correspondents have voted approval of the new procedure and are encouraging writers to correspond directly with the Portland office, said Ed Schwisow, editor.

### Conferences in Loop

“We're not removing conference correspondents from the GLEANER news loop in any sense,” he said. “But as of January, technology will allow conference correspondents to view GLEANER materials on their computer screens immediately after the close of issue deadlines. This means that they will have the same access to materials as they would were they to physically review the articles on their desks.”

The change in policy was voted Nov. 17 by the GLEANER editorial board as recommended by conference communication directors this year.

### More-Timely News

He noted that the new process will “help speed delivery of news and opinion to our subscribers,” and he urged writers to promptly submit news reports for publication.

“We will give higher priority this new year to stories whose authors are able to file their reports promptly. We need to have news reports in our hands, at the latest, within 30 days of the conclusion of any event, preferably sooner.

“I am continually amazed at the faithfulness of those who write for the GLEANER. We need now to work together to make our news sections more and more current.”

### Longhand?

“Now, more than ever, it's important that GLEANER news writers make every effort to have their copy typed, and that those who have access to a Macintosh or IBM-compatible computer place their copy on computer disks and enclose those disks with a printed copy of their material,” he said.

GLEANER will return all computer disks which are labeled with the writer's name and address and which identify file name(s) for articles and brand of word processing used.

Handwritten reports—especially multi-page articles submitted in long-hand—are the most difficult to process and may in some cases be delayed in publication, he said. Typewritten articles—even those not generated on a computer and which do not arrive accompanied by a disk—can in most cases be readily processed.

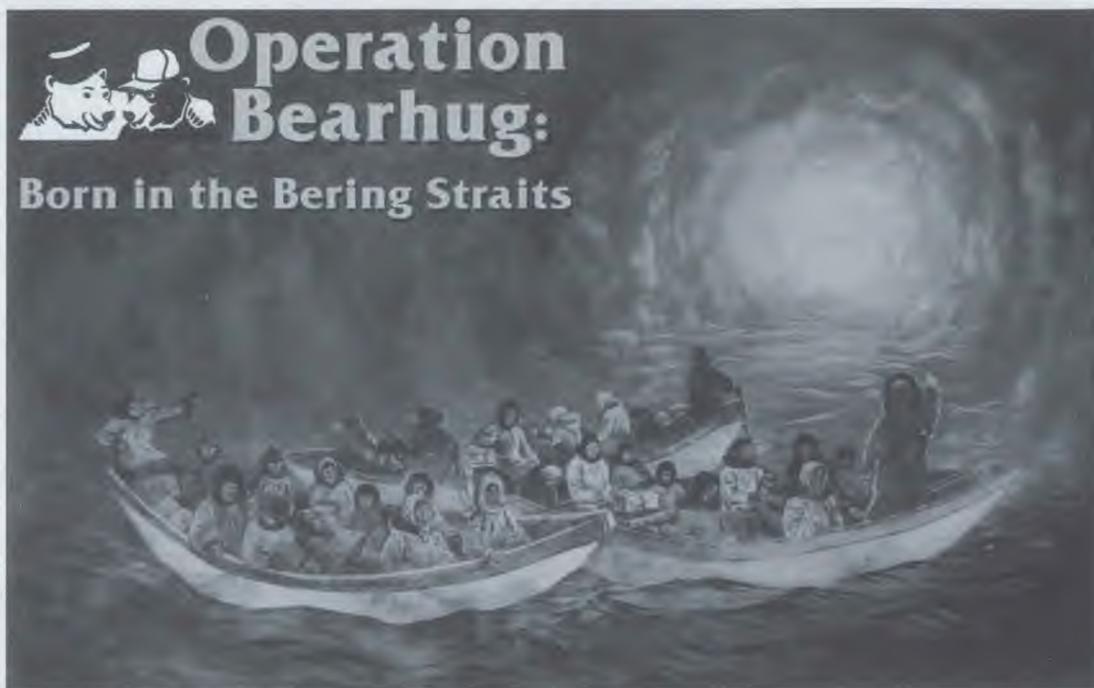
### CompuServe

Schwisow noted that a plan is also under study to allow submission of news and opinion materials via CompuServe and to place GLEANER articles in the “Adventist News” section of SDA On-line Forum for speedy retrieval by those who have personal computers with access to CompuServe files.

Those who wish to comment on this proposed plan may communicate with Todd Gessele, GLEANER editorial assistant, CompuServe Number 74617,371, or write him at the GLEANER.

*Shari Smith writes from Portland, Ore., where she serves as GLEANER advertising and copy coordinator.*

## OPERATION BEARHUG



## Operation Bearhug: Born in the Bering Straits

By Todd Gessele

Todd Gessele serves as GLEANER editorial assistant and writes from Portland, Ore.

As jets whisk evangelists and goodwill delegations from Seattle to St. Petersburg; from Moscow to Montana; from Caldwell to the Caucasus; and from Oregon to Orenburg; we often forget how *Operation Bearhug* camaraderie between the North Pacific Union and

Russia began.

Since 1991, in fact, *Operation Bearhug* has been the means of drawing more than 6,300 Russians into Adventist fellowship. And yet, this mighty outreach might never have happened had it not been for the evangelistic lead taken by Adventist Native American Eskimos in Alaska.



Gerry Tungiyon shows the coordinates on a map of Siberia where he first met his relatives after years of separation.

### Families Divided

In the early 1900s, Native Eskimos living on St. Lawrence Island in and around Gambell, Alaska, frequently traversed the 32 miles of treacherous Bering Straits waters on hunting and whaling expeditions to visit relatives who lived in coastal Siberia.

But then the oppression of Stalinism set in, and it became next to impossible to cross the ice-locked straits in the winter or to rendezvous in summer to exchange family news and supplies in the traditional way.

It was not until 1988 that Yupik-speaking Eskimo people on St. Lawrence Island were once again allowed to visit the Soviet Union to relocate long-lost relatives and friends as the Iron Curtain slowly crumpled into the Straits under the weight of its own antiquated armor.

### In Search of Family

It was during this time that Gerry Tungiyon, an Adventist Yupik teacher at Gambell High School, took six students on a cultural exchange program to the city of Providenya, USSR, only a 20-minute flight from Gambell, to perform traditional Yupik Eskimo songs and dances.

While in Russia, he took a side trip to New Chaplino to try to make contact with his relatives. Suddenly, he was approached by a man who asked, "Are you Gerry?"

"Yes," Gerry responded, "but how do you know me?"

The man showed Gerry a picture his sister had sent him of Gerry and his wife, Eva, which the Russian Eskimo had studied intently for 40 years so that he would be able to recognize Gerry if he ever were to visit.

And so began a cross-cultural exchange of Yupik-speaking Eskimo relatives that continues to this day.

### Archbishop Invites Adventists

At about this same time, Archbishop Frances Hurley of the Archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska, contacted Igor Pavlov, a Russian who had been appointed director of religious affairs in Magadan, Russia, regarding the possible establishment of a Catholic presence in that Siberian city.

Pavlov's response was favorable, but, as if guided by divine insight, he stated that he also wanted other

# OPERATION BEARHUG

Christian denominations—including specifically Seventh-day Adventists—to be included in any discussions that might lead to a stronger Christian presence in that region.

Acting on Pavlov's request, the Archbishop felt compelled to contact Ron Watts, who was then president of the Alaska Conference, to request Adventist participation in discussions between religious leaders in Anchorage and Magadan.

Watts asked James Osborne, then Alaska Conference ministerial association secretary, to participate in the inter-church discussions, the first of which Pavlov held in Anchorage. Russian Pastor Kirill Movelyan was also included in the discussions.

## An Appeal

At the time of his visit to Anchorage, Pastor Movelyan was invited to speak at the Anchorage Northside church on a Sabbath afternoon. His pleas for Bibles for his people elicited a freewill offering of \$1,300.

A few weeks later, Osborne joined a delegation of six people that traveled to Magadan for a second round of inter-church talks. He took 440 Bibles with him, which the Adventist pastor distributed during the following two weeks.

This dramatic opening of doors added further evidence that Alaska had somehow been divinely chosen as the opening breach in the iron curtain for the preaching of advent Christianity.

## Missing Eskimos

Meanwhile, in July of 1990, Gerry Tungiyon flew again from St. Lawrence Island to New Chaplino, this time with wife Eva, to visit the relatives he had found on his first trip to Russia.

When it came time to eat, everyone gathered around a small table, and Gerry told his wife, "I will pray before we eat."

Faced with curious glances at the mention of prayer, Gerry explained to his long-lost relatives that "before we eat, we pray and ask the Lord's blessing."

Only a few words about Christianity were discussed at this time, however.

"I didn't want to go too fast so as not to frighten them from understanding about God's plan for their lives," says Gerry. "But my wife and I overheard them talking to others, explaining that we worship God in heaven and that we pray to Him every day."

Before returning to Gambell, he remembers, "I told them that we pray for them, too, and invited them to visit us at Gambell."

A short while later, four walrus-skin boats filled with women, young people, and Russian men indeed did set out to visit Gambell. Halfway across the straits, the boats became separated, lost in heavy fog. Only one craft managed to make it to land at Gambell on the western tip of St. Lawrence Island.

The others remained lost at sea and were in imminent danger of being caught by swift ocean currents.

Gerry and his wife prayed with the group on land for the safety of the Russians in the three boats, imploring the

Lord that the boats might be able to land safely somewhere, and that those aboard would discover God's ability to lead in even the foggiest weather.

For three days there was no word. Then on the evening of the third day, the lost boats landed safely at Gambell.

When everything was unloaded, two of the elderly women related how that on the third day, while they seemed hopelessly lost in the fog, they had remembered what they had learned around the dinner table from Gerry and his wife about God and prayer.

So the women had prayed to "the God of the people of Gambell" while the men continued to stand watch in the boats.

Suddenly a tunnel-like passage the width of the boats opened through the fog and extended toward land. A strange, calming feeling came over them. Although the sea remained rough, they managed to guide their boats through the opening fog directly to the safety of Gambell.

"Your God is very strong," one elderly woman said. "Nothing can match Him. He has cared for us. I have no objection to Him, and I believe in Him," she said when Gerry told the visitors he had been praying for them.

Such early developments in Alaska were among the stories prominent in the heart of Bruce Johnston, North Pacific Union Conference president, as he presented to his executive board in Portland the needs and opportunities for outreach in Russia.

The term *Operation Bearhug* seemed to embrace the warmth of fellowship and faith-sharing—the supernatural opening of a "window of opportunity," figuratively portrayed by the divine passageway through the fog.

And so the logo of the two bears was born, drawn directly from the experience of the polar-bear hunters of Alaska who had embraced one another after years of separation across the narrow Bering Straits dividing the continents.

The two-bear logo, in months to come, would become a virtual trademark of goodwill which Russian custom officers came to instantly recognize and respect.

The rest is history. But we should never forget that it was the faith and rewarding Providence that hears all men in every language as they pray that sowed the seeds for what has become a landmark experience in the history of outreach by Northwestern Adventists to the world. 🐻



*Children in the Arctic enjoy life, despite extremely cold weather that can threaten life and limb of those unprepared to face St. Lawrence Island winters.*

*God's promises are sure!*

## OPERATION BEARHUG



## Bearhug 1994: What Hath God Wrought?

By Duane McKey

*Duane McKey serves as church ministries and Operation Bearhug coordinator for the North Pacific Union Conference.*

**W**hile looking intently at the American pastor/evangelist, with tears in her eyes, the "Babushka" grandmother held the Bible to her breast and said gently, "Spasiba; bashoi spasiba," or "Thank you; thank you very much."

She then sank to her knees and kissed the Bible affectionately. This was her first Bible. As tears rolled down her cheeks, she repeated, "Spasiba."

Touching people's lives for Jesus has been what *Operation Bearhug* has been all about for Adventists in the Northwest—touching people's lives for Jesus in the former Soviet Union.

And it's all been done as part of a larger goal of "Global Mission," to reach every people group in the world with the message of the returning Christ.

Since 1991 when *Operation Bearhug* officially began, more than 706 visa applications have been processed by Darlene Clark, *Operation Bearhug* office secretary in Portland, Ore.

More than 33 evangelistic campaigns have been held in Russia by Northwest sponsors, resulting in 6,332 baptisms. In addition, many training programs have been conducted for pastors and laity, and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on airfares and accommodations.

Public evangelism, Bibles, literature, training programs, church buildings, various types of equipment, tons of food, motor vehicles, and other project developments have been made possible because of gifts, prayers, and volunteer service.

The following are just a few glimpses of how Northwest involvement has affected and touched people in Russia.

A Russian woman, Denatara, comments, "I was changed when I accepted Christ into my life. I took Bible courses from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and I began to find the truth as it is in Jesus, which was explained to me in

the Holy Scriptures. I was baptized March 24, and my life began taking on new meaning. My relationship with my children improved. My husband, who had been separated from me for 18 years, returned home. I feel the love of my Savior, which I accept in my heart. He kept me from disease and gave me spiritual and physical fitness. He gave me hope for the future and eternal life."

Another new Russian Adventist, Clara, testifies that "I will never forget how I was filled with music in my soul on the day I was baptized. Something happened to me. I now have a feeling of joyful rest and a surety that whatever happens in the world, even though it may be bad, God is with me. He will help me touch other people's lives. I found out that God is alive and that He cares for me. Each day I'm surprised at myself. I am able to smile all the time. Even when I stand in long lines at the shops. Even in terribly uncomfortable situations that I'm in, I smile. I love my God. I love to read my Bible and go to church on Sabbath. Living for Jesus is a great joy for me. I'm sorry for one thing—that my way to God was so long and that before I found God there were so many sins. Soon I'll be 60 years of age, but I still feel very happy that I came to Jesus. Because He has forgiven me, I am a new person. Thank you."

Alexandra writes, "When I came to the water to be baptized, I cried. I can't describe what happened inside me. Everything inside me seemed to be moving. There was great victory in me. I felt myself free—very free. As I read my Bible and find my questions answered, I understand that we are living very close to the second coming of Jesus. When I realize this, the hair moves on my head. Thank you very much for the Bible. This beautiful book is a super book. Don't forget me. Until the next meeting in the heavenly city, may God keep and bless you. With great respect and love, your sister in Christ."

When Tonya went to a concert hall to attend a series of meetings, she reflected, "I had a million questions. I talked to the pastor about these questions. It was very interesting and calming to my soul. When I was baptized I know I found the Lord. Jesus gave His life for me, because I am the

*Photo at Top: Through Operation Bearhug, this large St. Petersburg university is being reached by Walla Walla College students who are teaching English as a means of sharing Christian interaction with young people thirsting for the gospel.*

# OPERATION BEARHUG

worst sinner, and He wanted to change me. I have come to God now, and I will never, never let Him go."

Olga writes, "I am old, and my life is already going to the sunset. I was so excited to receive a Bible free of charge. That is very important to me. I have always longed to have a Bible of my own, but I could not afford to buy one. When the American pastor began to preach, I couldn't understand the English words, but I could understand his gestures and emotions. We had an excellent translator. All of the audience was very attentive. I loved to visit these meetings. I loved the atmosphere. I began to study the Bible course. Then I was baptized and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Since that time, every Sabbath I attend the morning worship. How good it is to be in the church. What a peaceful atmosphere. What beautiful music. When we come to the church, it is like an ointment to our wounds. We are so tired of this life with its difficulties and problems. We are very friendly with each other at church. Oh, how I long to be at church all week long. I'm so happy to meet my friends on Sabbath morning. What beautiful people we have in our church. Our pastors and teachers are so kind. It's just beautiful. Now I have found out what Jesus means to me. I pray every day. I am sorry for one thing—that I came to my dear Jesus so late. Forgive me, Lord. I thank you for everything. Amen."

These are the stories made possible by the thousands through *Operation Bearhug*—stories of touching people's lives for Jesus. From our very first missionary trip back in 1991, when Dave Weigley took that boat excursion up the Volga River, stopping at cities like Saratov, I've been excited.

You see, Saratov is where my own grandmother was born. My involvement in Russia with *Operation Bearhug* has been a double blessing.

But as we have touched lives in Russia, our own lives have been touched too—our lives have been changed forever.

Ellen White foresaw that this would indeed happen, writing in 1900 that "The home missionary work will be farther 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. It is in working actively to support the necessities of the cause of God that we bring our souls in touch with the Source of all power" (6 *Testimonies* 27).

How true it is that the reflex influence of touching lives in Russia has blessed us here. This year—1994—has already become one of the best years for baptisms in the history of this union.

Interestingly enough, Alaska—that land where *Operation Bearhug* was born—has had more baptisms than in any single year in the history of the conference, and next year, Alaskans look forward to even greater blessing, again, due to the spirit of outreach and power of God expressed through reflex influence.

And the same applies to other Northwestern conferences, as for 1995 we have an unprecedented number of evangelistic campaigns planned.

We recognize that *Operation Bearhug* is a project of Global Mission. And now, as we reap the blessings of that outreach, we're compelled to admit that our vision should be expanded. Perhaps the embrace of the two bears should encompass other lands as well, by extending Northwestern "Hands Across the World."

And so, we see an inevitable expansion of *Operation Bearhug* to include a vision of "Hands Across the World," to touch places such as Africa, South America, and Asia while continuing to minister to our very special sister unions in the former Soviet Union.

With the experiences we've had and lessons we've learned through *Operation Bearhug*, we should not hold back from sharing that bear hug with the world.

As we move ahead, we will be able to touch many other lives and to continue to receive the blessings of the reflex influence that Ellen White spoke about almost 95 years ago.

Let us pray that God will continue to move in a mighty way here in the Northwest, as we reach around the world and touch other lives for Jesus. 

## Operation Bearhug Statistical Review 1994

Campaign Dates	City	Evangelist	# Baptisms	# in Bapt. Class	High Attendance
April 29-May 28	Tambov	Perry Parks	20	30	450
June 10-July 2	Kirov	James Reinking	162	30	350
June 10-July 23	Komsomol 'sk na Amure	James Osborne	81	20	900
July 1-July 24	Bryansk	Dennis Carlson	120	60	600
July 1-July 30	Novokuznetsk	Phil Shultz	55	70	500+
July 23-Sept. 3	Gomel (Belarus)	Arnold Scherencel	204	400	2,500
July 29-Aug. 27	Biysk	Don Gladden	85	50	550
Sept. 10-Oct. 15	Kamensk	Don Mansell	20	30	550
Sept. 17-Oct. 29	Yeysk	David Glass	69	38	450
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>816</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>6,850</b>

## OPERATION BEARHUG

*Bear Hugs by the Container*

By Edwin A. Schwisow

**F**or months at a time, Dudley and Ginger Snarr's maroon Ford Taurus hibernates outside of its usual spot in the couple's Vancouver, Wash., triple-wide garage.

It's not that the couple relishes defrosting the car windows at great length each autumn morning. Rather, it's because the well-secured garage is usually piled high with donated supplies ranging from a complete dental lab to top-quality used medical supplies and staple foods bound for Russia.

During the past four years, the ministry of this middle-class Adventist couple has accounted for gathering and arranging for transportation for nearly two-million dollars in supplies bound for Russia.

"It all started six years ago," says Dudley, "when as a family we decided to stop giving Christmas gifts to adults in our extended family and to invite them to join us in giving the money we would all spend on such gifts to projects overseas."

Uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews joined in the plan, and the benefits soon translated into help for church building projects in Latin America and the Philippines, and when the windows of opportunity opened in the Eastern Bloc, to Russia.

The benevolent impulse coupled with Dudley's gift for analysis and diplomacy (he works as an appraiser for Housing and Urban Development—HUD—official in charge of projecting costs for multi-family housing projects contracts) have helped stoke that love affair with missions to one that today can only be expressed by the boxcar container-load.

Food, medical supplies, used electronic equipment

for dental and ophthalmologic physicians—nearly a million pounds have gone to Russia by the millions of pounds and are being used to help the Russian people. But getting the donated material to Russia is less than half the problem, says Dudley.

As word-of-mouth information about the couple's interest in sending supplies to Russia has spread, offers to donate surplus goods have poured in, mostly from secular, non-Adventist sources.

"I can tell you right up front that the problem is not in finding good things to send; it's far more difficult to dis-

tribute the goods than it is to send them," he smiles.

"Even when the materials are distributed equitably, it can excite feelings of jealousy. This is not what Russia needs! What it needs is planned distribution to alleviate suffering, and our gifts must be given in a way that safeguards dignity and creates, rather than alienates, potential friendships."

Amazingly, Dudley's analytical mind has been able to ferret out ways to make this happen.

For example, the Snarrs were asked recently to help send an anonymously donated shipment of 34 tons of much-needed commercial seeds of varieties adapted to the Russian climate.

When faced with the probable donation, he contacted high church officials in Russia—with whom by now he has first-name rapport—and apprised them of the situation.

With them he was able to devise a method of distribution which would avoid creating economic dislocation among Russian seed companies while channeling the needed supplies to those in desperate need of them for spring planting.

"Our plan is always, and foremost, to ask our Russian Adventists to take the lead in distributing that which we send," says Dudley. "Before we ship anything, we call on the local church boards to put together a plan which outlines the quantity of goods which the local membership will use, themselves, and to then allocate the remainder to distribute personally to neighbors."

This approach has had providential results for the morale of the people, says Dudley. It carries the *Operation Bearhug* message that Adventists elsewhere, in more prosperous climes, are fighting Russia's monster problems right along with them.

And added to this benefit is the blessing the Russians receive in becoming legmen for carrying relief to their neighbors—something they have no resources to provide on their own.

And these supplies have proved providential on many occasions, say the Snarrs, in silencing certain religious voices in Russia today whose major argument against Adventism has been that *Operation Bearhug* has come to prey on the emotions of the downtrodden and to harvest their resources through tithes and offerings, leaving nothing in return.

Because the Snarrs are able to keep their shipments of donated goods consistent with U.S. State Department regulations, which call for supplies to be confined to agricultural, medical, and food aid, (they actually send clothes too, but use the clothing as packing and space-fillers among the major payloads), the Snarrs have been able to call on the Federal Government for shipment expenses for the tons of supplies they have sent.

"If you have the will and the way to bring together supplies for Russia, please contact me, and I'll be glad to help you in any way I can," says Dudley.

Dudley and Ginger Snarr can be contacted by phoning (206) 256-9676. 🌿



Ginger and Dudley Snarr inspect medical supplies bound for Russia.

## OPERATION BEARHUG

## Speaking in Tongues In the City of St. Peter

By Kristin Bergman

*Kristin Bergman is a student writer who serves in the Walla Walla College office of college relations in College Place, Wash.*

**W**alla Walla College (WWC) graduates are making a difference in Russia. Last year three of them chose to lead out in *Operation Bearhug* outreach in aptly named St. Petersburg, recognized as the most cosmopolitan, multilingual of Russian cities.

Greg Davis, a 1992 psychology graduate, became interested in Russia during his senior year.

"I wasn't sure what to do with my life," he recalls. "So I prayed about it." Impressed to serve in Russia, he contacted Chaplain John Cress.

"Pastor Cress told me that Walla Walla College didn't have a program in Russia," Greg says. "I bugged him for two months. Then, one day, he told me he'd had a call asking for English teachers to go to Russia. I said, 'Here I am, send me!'"

During his first year in Russia, Greg worked 20 hours a week as an English-language teacher at the St. Petersburg University of Transportation Systems, instructing students and university faculty.

In the evenings, he taught English to local Adventists. He also taught an English Sabbath school class at the St. Petersburg Central Adventist Church.

Then, he returned for a second year, serving as director of the English school and began a Bible study class at the university for about 15 Russians of all ages while broadening existing relationships with school administrators.

Greg believes attending WWC influenced his desire to serve in Russia. "Service is the purpose of Walla Walla College," he says. "It's part of the school's motto, and it's emphasized in the education you receive."

He believes that the emphasis in *Operation Bearhug* of forming relationships with people benefits American teachers and their Russian students.

"The program allows us to form relationships with the people. They learn to respect and trust us."

By the time he was preparing to return to the U.S. this summer, it was obvious to Greg that the Russian people had developed a great love for him.

"The Sabbath before I left, the church had a special 'send-off,'" he says. "During the service they said, 'Two years ago, America sent us a missionary to teach us English. Now we are sending one of our own back to America to teach them about us.' They meant me. They had accepted me as one of their own, that much."

Karin Thompson, a 1991 music performance graduate, developed an interest in missionary service after finishing her master's degree in 1993 at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore.

"I knew about *Operation Bearhug* through my involve-



*A recent class of English students taught by Walla Walla College graduates in St. Petersburg*

ment with Walla Walla College," remembers Karin. "I wanted to go overseas when I finished my master's degree, and I was interested in that part of the world."

Once in Russia, Karin taught English with Greg and soon fell in love with the Russian people.

Like Greg, Karin hopes to return to Russia. She now lives on the East Coast and has begun work on her doctorate in musicology at the University of Maryland. Her service in Russia, she says, "helped me come to discover how meaningful it really is to serve people."

Ralene Schilt, a 1993 humanities graduate, was the third member of the WWC *Bearhug* team during the 1993-1994 school year. She returned to St. Petersburg last August to spend a second year teaching English at the university. Before she left, she was interviewed by her hometown newspaper in Calimesa, Calif.

"Teaching in Russia is both a challenge and an opportunity," she told the reporter. "My time in Russia has been an invaluable experience."

Ralene is joined in her work this year by two 1994 graduates, Tracy Haney and Jolynn Fisher. In a recent message to Roland Blaich, chairman of the WWC history department and *Bearhug* sponsor, they said: "The university is pleased with our performance. We believe the program will continue to grow and prosper with each new year."

For more information or to contact the WWC *Bearhug* team, call Roland Blaich at (509) 527-2851 (office), (509) 529-4466 (home) or write to him at WWC. ➤



*Greg Davis, Ralene Schilt and Karin Thompson*

## OPERATION BEARHUG

# How the Russian People See Operation Bearhug

By Ted Wilson

Ted Wilson serves as president of the Euro-Asia Division and writes from Moscow, Russia.

**O**peration Bearhug officially began in Russia when M. Murga, then president of the Russian Union, returned a phone call to Bruce Johnston, president of the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC), back in 1991.

During that long-long-distance call, Murga remembers Johnston asking him: "How may I help you?"

Murga responded that each Russian church member needed to be equipped as a missionary and that he was intent upon developing church pastors and leaders in Russia who could lead their members to become dynamic disciples of Christ.

Murga was calling for a missionary *vision*, coupled with missionary *action*, that would result in a missionary *movement*. Four years later, it is time we reflect on *Operation Bearhug's* impact by asking the question, "How has *Operation Bearhug* helped the Euro-Asia Division?"



Ted Wilson, president of the Euro-Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists

## Missionary Vision

Through miraculous intervention in 1992, God provided hundreds of NPUC prayer warriors who supported Bruce Johnston and Alf Birch, then NPUC *Operation Bearhug* coordinator, in the organization of the Church Leadership Development Institute (CLDI) under the direction of Eric Baumgartner, assisted by Russian Union leaders Vladimir Predulyuk, Valery Ivanov, and John McGhee.

Resulting from dynamic seminars attended by 90 percent of all Russian Union leaders and pastors, a decision was made for each church in the Russian

Union to become a missionary training center through the use of small groups, according to Bible principles underscored in Ellen G. White writings.

Today that vision is continuing to build momentum in the two newly organized unions in Russia and throughout the entire Euro-Asia Division (ESD). Not only is the ESD Church Ministries Department focusing on this vision by organizing Sabbath school action groups and home Bible fellowship groups, but the entire team has identified 1995 as a year especially dedicated to lay evangelism and to inspire "Every member (to be) a worker for God."

Next month, six regional lay-evangelism missionary congresses will be held for nearly 3,000 delegates representing the nearly 1,000 churches in the Euro-Asia Division. The theme for this congress is quite long, but pretty much tells the story: "Every Member a Mis-

sionary, Every Pastor a Teacher, Every Small Group a Team, Every Church a Family."

Inspiring, fresh experiences will highlight this congress. Many of these soul-winning testimonies will be shared by small-group leaders who were trained in the CLDI. Praise God for the missionary vision of *Operation Bearhug*.

## Missionary Action

More than \$2 million have been given by Northwest "Bearhuggers" for training seminars, evangelistic campaigns, health education, Bibles, Sabbath school supplies, and church buildings. God has multiplied these gifts.

Today, more than 6,000 new Seventh-day Adventists are sharing salvation with their friends and families because someone in the NPUC wrote a check, planned an itinerary, got on a plane, preached a sermon, used outdoor plumbing, went hungry, and interceded in prayer. Praise God for the missionary action of *Operation Bearhug*.

## Missionary Movement

During the past four years, this division has tripled its membership and now has a membership of 100,000. This phenomenal growth in the context of political, socio-economical, and spiritual change could not have happened without the involvement of the world church. *Operation Bearhug* involved the Pacific Northwest for such a time as this.

Adventism in the cities of Saratov, St. Petersburg, Elista, Tomsk, Orenberg, Khabarovsk, Barnaul, Togliatti, Ivanovo, Syktyvkar, Pyatigorsk, Pushkin, Chelyabinsk, Taganrog, Kamensk, Komsomolsk, Kirov, Novokuznetsk, Bryansk, Tambov, Biysk, Yeysk, Magadan and Gomel, which together represent a population of 12 million, will never be the same because of what Northwesters have done. *Operation Bearhug* has led Northwesters to conduct evangelistic campaigns, build churches, visit homes, and strengthen the church in so many ways in these cities.

The harvest is not yet over. In fact, it has only just begun. But a transition is necessary. It is time to put every resource into training of ESD members as missionaries.

From April 16 to May 2, 1995, for example, the ESD needs 20 "Bearhuggers" to spend 18 days to help division leaders train members. Volunteers from the Pacific Northwest will be teamed with volunteers in Russia and translators in a short training and orientation in Kiev. The training teams will then be sent out to hold training sessions the following week. We need qualified applicants who are successful small-group leaders. Duane McKey, NPUC *Operation Bearhug* coordinator, has details.

As we look to the next four years, let us pray that God expands *Bearhug's* missionary vision, multiplies her missionary action, and continues her vital contribution to a missionary movement, not only in the Euro-Asia Division, but throughout the world. 🌿