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Buds sprout beside thorns

Beside a source of pain,
a thorn on a rose branch,
shoots a source of promise,
a bud ready to burst alive.
From blood-red new branches
woven together in brambles
barren from winter chill,
From the base of a prickly thorn,
new life overcomes death,
slowly emerging, growing
hour by hour, day by day
from red to orange to yellow
into a green array of leaves
hiding the thorn
clothing the plant
liberating the life within.
Hope sprouts in the midst of suffering
reminding of the coming rose
that gives beauty to see
that has aroma to savor
that bears fruit to nourish
It's spring's promise
for resurrection and renewal
as it drinks in nutrients
of sun and soil.
Every season shares in the cycle
of suffering and dying,
of celebrating and birthing:
Winter leads to spring,
A cross leads to an empty tomb,
Slavery breaks away to freedom,
War creates longing for peace.
Hate transforms to love—
with faith that God
runs and renews creation.



Photo and verse by Mary Stamp - Progress report on page 10

The Fig Tree Show debuts

After Dave Noble prepared a five-minute video for the May 2003 launching *The Fig Tree's* 20th year, he invited editor Mary Stamp to do "The Fig Tree Show" through Comcast Community Productions.

In March, the first two shows aired on channel 14, featuring Mary interviewing Austin DePaolo, the director of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Family Outreach Center, and Deidre Jacobson interviewing Mary Rathert, director of the Women's Drop In Center.

Two interviews will air in April, one at 6 p.m., April 5 with Cliff Evans and Jane Comerford, CSJ, of the St. Joseph Family Center, and one at 6 p.m., April 19 with Bonnie Churchwell, the Rev. Linda Crowe and Garold Steed on the CROP Hunger Walk.

Dave trained as a volunteer producer with Comcast originally to do shows with two other nonprofits. He previously did a show on the CROP Walk, combining videos about the Mid-City and Spokane Valley Meals on Wheels and the Second Harvest Food Bank that receive a quarter of the proceeds from the local walk. He has also produced a show, "Stories Near and Far" about local storytellers.

The interviews that will air in May will feature *The Fig Tree* staff and volunteers recounting their 20 years and a follow-up on the Institute for Action Against Hate Conference.

For information, call 535-1813.

Earth Day activities educate and challenge

Seven environmental groups are planning Spokane's 2004 Earth Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 17, at the Gondola Meadows in Riverfront Park.

The Procession of the Species begins at 1:45 p.m., with children and adults in costumes of endangered species parading from the butterfly at the north entrance to the Gondola Meadows.

There will be music, speakers, poetry, children's activities, a climbing wall and displays by organizations promoting environmental protection, education and sustainability.

To recognize the 30th anniversary of Expo '74 in Spokane, the theme is "Tradition of Environmentalism: Keeping Expo 74's Promise." Earth Day started in 1971 to educate people and engage them in political activism to save the environment.

Participants will consider how far Spokane has come since environmental laws—the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act—were passed 30 years ago. Earth Day 2004 will also look ahead to the next three decades, asking: "What can Spokane expect to be like in 2034? Will we clean the Spokane River so it is a safe place to swim and fish? Will there be more urban open space for quality living and more public transportation? Earth Day will introduce proactive choices

Organizers are the Lands Council, the Kettle Range Conservation Group, Sierra Club, Green Sanctuary at the Unitarian Universalist Church, the Spokane Community College Student Environmental Program, the Green Party and the Spokane County Air Pollution Authority. For information, call 838-4912.

Lands Council educates, advocates
See page 12

National ecumenical leader will speak at Fig Tree's 20th anniversary in May

A national ecumenical leader, the Rev. Bob Edgar, will join in *The Fig Tree's* 20th anniversary, May 20 and 21, bringing insights from the national setting to engage with local faith leaders on poverty, communications, dialogue and diversity.

"His presence reflects our role in communications to connect people and give them access to different perspectives to nourish their faith journeys," said editor Mary Stamp.

Each event includes opportunity for Bob to share his experiences and perspectives from working with the 36 Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox member communions representing 140,000 congregations connected with the National Council of Churches.

At 7 p.m., Thursday, May 20, he will discuss the NCC's "Mobilization to Overcome Poverty" and hear from representatives of the Spokane Alliance, the Valley Center and VOICES. The event

will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 316 E. 24th Ave.

For a fund-raising breakfast to support *The Fig Tree* newspaper and its plans for an interactive website, Bob will focus on *The Fig Tree* as a model of ecumenical communications. The breakfast will be from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., Friday, May 21, at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar.

At a noon luncheon at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1620 N. Monroe, Bob will discuss the new shape of ecumenical and interfaith dialogue nationally, including the emerging Christian Churches Together, which includes Pentecostal, Evangelical and Catholic churches, as well as NCC constituents.

Local respondents include Kateri Caron, director of the Interfaith Council, Bishop Walt Mize of Christ Holy Sanctified Church, the Rev. Randy Hyvonen of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ, and

Bishop Martin Wells of the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Diversity issues—hate, racism, human rights and education—will be the focus of an intercultural dessert and celebration at 7 p.m., Friday, May 21, at Highland Park United Methodist Church, 611 S. Garfield. Along with Bob's report on national efforts to overcome violence and racial injustice, local human rights and racial justice leaders will report on their work.

The gathering will include music by the Covenant United Methodist Marimba Band and dancing with the Africa Support Group.

While the breakfast will be the focal point for raising funds for *The Fig Tree*, there will be pledge cards and an appeal at each event. For information, call 535-1813. To attend the breakfast, call 328-0822.

Related article on page 3

Religion News Briefs Around the World

Ecumenical News International, PO Box 2100
CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111
Fax: +41-22 788 7244 Email: eni@eni.ch

Canadian church leaders warn government

Vancouver, Canada (ENI). Twenty leaders of major Canadian denominations urge Prime Minister Paul Martin to have Canada abandon any plans to join the United States in its Ballistic Missile Defense strategy. "The squandering of resources in the vain pursuit of technological immunity from nuclear weapons is an offense against the Creator's will," they said.

Danish Christians instruct Muslims

Copenhagen (ENI). The Danish Islamic-Christian Study Center, is developing a program for Christian pastors to instruct Muslim volunteers, including imams, in pastoral care. This training will enable Muslims to provide free spiritual counseling to patients of their own faith in hospitals. They hope the initiative will spread to rest homes and prisons.

Religious groups stress 'European spirit'

Warsaw (ENI). At an inter-church rally in Poland, about 500 lay representatives of churches and other religious organizations from 15 eastern and western European countries called on lay Christians to co-operate to rebuild a "Europe of the spirit." They believe the unity of Europe is too important to be left only to politicians. It must be born in meetings of citizens, they said.

Patriarch urges Serbs to refrain from revenge

Sofia (ENI). Serbian Orthodox Church Patriarch Pavle held a prayer service and issued an appeal to Serbs to refrain from revenge after a flare-up of ethnic and religious tensions in Kosovo in which at least 22 people died. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization announced it would send 1,000 extra troops to Kosovo in response to the violence.

Tensions escalate among Dutch Protestants

Amsterdam (ENI). The largest Protestant church in the Netherlands seeks to head off the threat of schism as it prepares to merge with two other Protestant denominations in May. More than 60 church councils in the Netherlands Reformed Church told the church synod they do not want to belong to the united church. More than 50 congregations started legal proceedings to keep their denominational name and church property.

Church of Sweden members, funds dwindle

Stockholm (ENI). Since the separation of state and church in 2000 when church revenues were untied from general taxation, the (Lutheran) Church of Sweden has lost more than 200,000 members. "In the short-term, we are talking about low losses. One percent fewer members per year in the last three years is not alarming," said Gunnar Nygren, the archbishop's financial controller, "but in the long-term, say 10 years, we will face serious consequences."

Kenyan churches promote destroying landmines

Nairobi (ENI). Churches in East Africa welcome a promise by countries in East Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region of Africa to destroy stockpiles of landmines by November and to refrain from using, making and transferring the weapons. The plan was made at a conference in Nairobi on landmines, organized by the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross and the governments of Kenya and Canada.

Group supports bomb detectors for Israel buses

Jerusalem (ENI). An interfaith organization is giving \$7 million to provide Israel with explosive detectors on buses to prevent suicide bombing attacks and improve the security of Israeli residents, said Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founder and president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. The organization decided to provide the funds after the 21st suicide bus bombing—164 deaths and 777 people wounded—since the

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Sunrise Service features two preachers

The 2004 Community Easter Sunrise Service will be a celebration of dance, song and proclamation featuring two preachers, the Rev. Rick Melin, executive presbyter of the Inland Northwest Presbytery and the Rev. John Tusan, director of the Greater Spokane Association of Evangelicals.

"He Is Risen!" is the theme that will be carried out in their messages, as well as in music by youth of the North Hill Christian Church and by Hamblen Park and Whitworth Presbyterian churches.

The service begins at 6:30 a.m., Sunday, April 11, at the Greenwood Memorial Terrace cross, 211 W. Government Way.

The service is sponsored by the Interfaith Council with Fairmount Memorial Association.

The Interfaith Council continues to prepare the sunrise service

as part of its interfaith dialogue and education programs, along with the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and Guatemala Dialogues.

The council also continues Camp PEACE to teach youth to be leaders embracing people for their differences in race, religion, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, gender and ability.

In addition, the organization sponsors the local CROP Hunger Walk, the Circle of Caring for the faith communities to protect women and children from sexual and domestic violence, and a Legislative Education Program.

The Interfaith Council's Advocacy Action Network works for policies that benefit the marginalized, disenfranchised, and vulnerable by expanding efforts to end hunger nationally and internationally. Nearly one in ten U.S.

households experiences hunger or the risk of hunger, according to Bread for the World.

Many congregations and faith communities offer free meals or assist with local food banks response to the rising level of hunger in their communities. Along with these direct services, people of faith work for changes that address the root causes of hunger in our world, said Beth Poteet, the council's legislative educator.

In April, the council will host Advocacy Trainings for congregations and faith communities. These trainings will include information on the basics of advocacy, the spiritual underpinnings of advocacy, tools for being an effective advocate and suggestions on organizing an advocacy team in a congregation or faith community.

For information, call 329-1410.

Fairfield church hosts Easter breakfast

In Fairfield, First Presbyterian Church is hosting a free ecumenical and community pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon, Easter Sunday, April 11, at the Community Center.

While pancakes are served downstairs, there will be an informal community worship service from 9 to 9:45 a.m., led by local clergy, before the churches' regular services—which begin at 10:30 and 11 a.m.

Ione Felgenhauer considers the

breakfast a way to draw the community together to celebrate.

Both the Seventh Day Adventist Church and Zion Lutheran expect members to participate.

First Presbyterian and Zion Lutheran, as two churches declining in strength, voted recently to accept a Covenant of Cooperation.

They have formed a combined pastoral call committee to search in both denominations for one pastor to serve the two churches in a shared ministry, much like the

28-year shared Lutheran-Presbyterian ministry in Potlatch, Idaho, Ione said.

"Our congregations have much in common," she commented, aware of the local relationship and the national Formula for Agreement among Reformed churches—the Presbyterian Church, USA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the United Church of Christ and the Reformed Church in America.

For information, call 283-2416.

Group promotes peace through education

Without education or jobs, many young people in Israel and Palestinian territories lose hope, said Larry Roberts of Spokane's Living Stones of Ibillin.

That organization recently became a chapter of The Pilgrims of Ibillin, a national support group for Father Elias Chacour and the Mar Elias Educational Institutions in Ibillin near Galilee in Israel.

Father Chacour will be in Spokane to present his "Visions of Peace" at 10 a.m., and again at noon on Saturday, April 24, at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar St. Offerings collected at these events will be used to fund the educational institutions.

The seven schools Father Chacour founded include a kindergarten, an elementary school,

a high school, a technical college, a teacher resource center, a gifted children's school and a new university.

The institutions bring together Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Druze students, faculty and staff in Israel to provide education that will lead to productive jobs.

More than 4,000 young people from 70 towns and villages throughout the Holy Land are receiving an education that advances real hope and, thus, the possibility of peace, Larry said: "Without hope, there can be no peace in the Holy Land."

In 2001, Father Chacour visited

Spokane and shared his vision of peace in the Middle East with thousands of people in 20 locations.

After he returned to Israel, those who heard him formed the Living Stones of Ibillin, a nonprofit fundraising, educational and support group to assist the schools.

The Living Stones of Ibillin seeks to raise \$31,500 to equip and staff a computer lab for a new elementary school, which will initially accommodate 300 students, but will need to be expanded rapidly to serve an additional 500 students, said Larry.

For information, call 448-0554.

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Bob Edgar embodies churches' solidarity with people

Since Bob Edgar took office, the National Council of Churches has been reshaping its life and mission, focusing its energies major initiatives in the areas of overcoming poverty, protecting the environment, fostering inter-faith understanding and building international peace.

As general secretary of the NCC, he visits areas of the nation and world where people of faith act in solidarity with their brothers and sisters to challenge issues and policies that diminish their lives and impair faithful living.

For example, in March, Bob visited the Marshall Islands, where he saw the ongoing devastation from 65 nuclear tests between 1946 to 1958. His visit was part of the 50th anniversary of Operation Bravo, an atmospheric H-bomb test on the Bikini Atoll.

He then joined other religious, scientific and medical leaders calling for a halt to the post-Cold War nuclear arms race as immoral and unnecessary.

"People continue to live with the physical, emotional and spiritual scars, plus the environmental hazards nuclear testing brought," he said in a March 8 statement about nuclear disarmament.

"Death, cancer, other diseases and dislocation have resulted from the tests. We still do not know the full extent of the damage," he said. "However, we do know it is time for global nuclear disarmament to become a reality. It is morally wrong and environmentally detrimental."

Bob said people of faith who care for God's creation and about the people God created can challenge governments to promote global nuclear disarmament.

"We must ask why we continue

to construct weapons that can destroy us, rather than building systems and structures that save lives and help all persons reach the potential for which God created them. I believe that the same expertise and know-how used to build weapons of mass destruction can be used to build bridges of hope," he said.

"If we have the power and the will to create something that could annihilate all of humankind, surely we can summon the will to provide adequate and affordable health care for every American. Surely, we can find ways to support public education and our children. I know we can find ways to live a more peaceful and harmonious existence."

He challenges people to recognize that "it must start with us," calling Americans to lead the way internationally because with the role as the world's only superpower comes responsibility.

"For 'to whom much is given, much is required,'" he quoted from Scripture, suggesting some of what is required:

- To "use our status to make the world a better and safer place for generations to come."
- To "recognize that what we do for the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters, we do for God, as we are taught in Matthew 25:40."
- To take a stand for what is right and just.
- To "take a stand so that we no longer live under a cloud of fear that one day the world, and all the people in it, will be destroyed by nuclear weapons," he said.

"The National Council of Churches and others in the faith community are committed to continue working tirelessly to make



The Rev. Bob Edgar, center, visits with the Rev. John McCullough, director of Church World Service, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Rev. Major Jennison, president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention during a January 2004 visit in Cuba for the consecration of a new Greek Orthodox Cathedral there.

Photo by Fred Morris for the NCC

sure the madness of the nuclear arms race ends and peace and justice prevail," Bob affirmed.

An ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, he came to the Council from Claremont Theological School in California, where he was president from 1990 to 2000. An optimist, futurist and coalition builder, he brought a school on the brink of collapse back to institutional health.

Bob served six terms as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, the first Democrat in more than 120 years elected from the heavily Republican Seventh District of Pennsylvania. His election and service demonstrated the bipartisan, ecumenical quality that

marks his life and ministry.

In Congress from 1975 to 1987, he led efforts to improve public transportation, authored community right to know provisions of Super Fund legislation, co-authored the bill for the all-volunteer service, fought wasteful water projects and supported environmental goals. In 1987, holding to his belief in term limits, he stepped down from office.

His career also includes pastorates at United Methodist churches and stints as a teacher, college chaplain, community organizer and director of a "think tank" on national security issues.

He has four honorary doctoral degrees along with a bachelor's

from Lycoming College, Williamsport, Pa., and a master of divinity from the Theological School of Drew University, Madison, N.J.

For information, visit the NCC website at nccusa.org.

Compiled from NCC press releases

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- 7 p.m. Thursday - 'Mobilizing to Overcome Poverty' St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 24th and Grand, Spokane
- 7:30 a.m. Friday - 'Credible Religious Communication' Benefit Breakfast for The Fig Tree's communications ministry First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar, Spokane
- Noon Friday - 'Progress in Ecumenical/Interfaith Dialogue' Lunch catered by Women's and Children Free Restaurant - RSVP \$7 St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1620 N. Monroe, Spokane
- 7 p.m. Friday - 'Overcoming Violence: Celebrating Diversity' Celebrating in music & dance with the Covenant UMC Marimba Band Highland Park United Methodist, 611 S. Garfield, Spokane

CALL 535-1813 or 328-0822

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Sponsored by the Interfaith Council of the Inland Northwest with Fairmount Memorial Association

6:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday
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Volunteers and immigrants form community in Yakima

More than 10,000 hours of educational services for 406 adults and 284 children translate into changed lives as Mexican immigrant women learn to speak English, earn diplomas, drive cars, enhance parenting skills, use computers and find jobs.

They find a culturally welcoming atmosphere at the Yakima Interfaith Coalition's La Casa Hogar, located in a house that has the feel of a Mexican home, complete with lace curtains and canela—cinnamon—tea cooking on the stove.

The Rev. Dave Roberts of First Baptist Church, board chair, said women are making progress, children are preparing for school and volunteers are forming community with those they serve.

Four women now work part-time with La Casa Hogar.

"Our desire is to be a pacesetter in the nonprofit community as we recognize and include new immigrant neighbors into the fabric of the Yakima Valley," Dave said. "What we do is a bargain on our \$87,800 budget."

The Coalition also funds emergency services that assisted 9,468 people in 3,156 households with medicine and other resources during 2003.

Operating at risk with limited funds reminds director Carole Folsom-Hill of the 10 years she ran her own balloon delivery and décor business, before she responded to a call to ministry and attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

Carole came to Yakima 30 years ago to work in public health, earned a master's degree in counseling at Central Washington University, worked for Comprehensive Mental Health and then the City of Yakima Community Development before starting the balloonery.

Without completing seminary, she returned to Yakima to work six years as HIV/AIDS case manager with the Yakima Valley Farm Worker Clinic. She has been with the Yakima Interfaith Coalition (YIC) and La Casa Hogar for more than five years.

Carole guides the Yakima Interfaith Coalition's 29 member faith communities to support cooperative action to be proactive in the community and involved in mission that goes beyond the charity of writing a check.

"It's often hard to move church people outside of their four walls. Many churches today spend much time on maintenance and survival," she said, aware that it's hard to deal with the complex problems of housing and laws that mean immi-



Women join in a cooking class at La Casa Hogar. Photo by Carole Folsom-Hill

grants often have to wait 13 years before receiving their papers.

Several congregations in the Yakima Interfaith Coalition and other organizations have found ways to be involved.

- Central Lutheran, a founding member of the YIC, provided office space for the first eight years, leadership for projects, transportation to Holden Village, playground equipment, flower gardens, clothing donations, household goods and financial services. Twenty volunteers come from the congregation, which has increased its giving 240 percent.

- First Presbyterian was the service delivery site for several years, followed by the Congregational Christian Church.

- Ten years ago, the Sisters of Providence offered the current location, a house at 106 S. Sixth, at a token rent.

- The church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Yakima Stake, involved more than 100 people from 11 units of their Relief Society to make items for the YIC Learning Basket parent education program, coordinated by Kathleen Hales. They have made diversity dolls, quilts, felt boards and pieces, and provided baskets.

- La Casa Hogar and the Yakima Interfaith Coalition are also teaming up with Tacoma Goodwill Industries' Yakima Vocational to offer displaced homemakers services to empower them to overcome employment barriers through training in interpersonal skills, confidence building and self-esteem.

- The YIC also collaborates with the Program Assisting the Homeless (PATH) of the Central

Washington Comprehensive Mental Health to build relationships in the community to foster support for homeless people and those who serve homeless people.

Because of its role as the major service provider for the Hispanic community, the YIC receives United Way funding. It also received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a state-of-the-art computer lab.

La Casa Hogar educates Hispanic women. They come to learn English so they can complete the requirements for a general equivalency diploma and improve the lives of their families.

"We seek to build a sense of community. Many women come to join their spouses here. Often, the husband's family comes, too, but hers does not, so we are the family for many of these women," said Carole, who often attends baptisms and baby showers.

Because La Casa Hogar provides child care, the women are able to attend classes. About 50 women participate each quarter, but 90 are on a waiting list. Many come for four or five years. Then the children can enter Headstart.

An example of the empowerment La Casa Hogar and the Yakima Interfaith Coalition foster was expressed recently by a woman artist. She was one of 21 artists offering an original painting for the Hidden Artist Auction that was

part of the YIC's first major fund-raising dinner and auction. About 300 clients, homeless people, students, congregation members, nonprofit organizers, business people and wealthy community members attended.

The artist appreciated the op-

portunity to share as a "fledgling artist," because having her piece auctioned and bought gave her confidence in her skills while it supported the outreach of the organization.

For information, call (509) 457-5058 - www.lacashogar.org.

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Anuak widows, orphans receive Spokane donations as a gift of hope

By Deidre Jacobson

When widows and children of Anuak men murdered in a Dec. 13 genocide in Ethiopia received the \$2,000 collected at a Jan. 25 memorial service at First Presbyterian in Spokane, they received the donations as a gift of hope.

"For them, it was a sign that "God is on the way, because someone far away is praying for them," said Agwa Taka, an Anuak refugee who resettled in Spokane 15 years ago.

The Anuak tribe has had a long relationship with the national Presbyterian Church, USA, which began a project with them in the 1950s. Their missions have provided health care services, schools and traditional Christian ministry. Most Anuak are Christian.

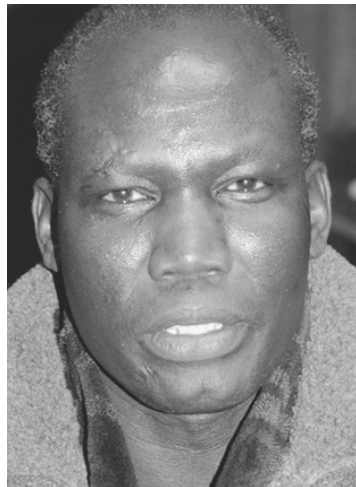
Money raised at the memorial was sent through Presbyterian missionaries in the region. They report that the Gambella Christian Women's Hope Ministry distributed about 100 Birr—the equivalent of \$12 each—to about 1,000 households.

The women's group was organized to support Christian women in Gambella whose husbands were not believers. Women were not allowed to attend church without their husband's permission, missionaries said. So they went to homes of women to pray with them and teach them about the ways of Christian life. As a result, many husbands came to believe in Jesus.

Because there are many widows from the AIDS epidemic and many women in poverty, members of the ministry who had jobs began donating money to support them, to sustain them both spiritually and physically.

After the massacre, life became desolate for women in Gambella. There were many new households with women and children alone, whose husbands were murdered or had fled in fear for their lives. The women had the option to stay or flee to overcrowded refugee camps in Sudan.

Although the Anuak have been



Agwa Taka

persecuted for many years, there have been increasing outbreaks of violence and imprisonment recently. The area has been further destabilized by the recent discovery of oil on Anuak land.

The violence was triggered by an attack on a United Nations vehicle, resulting in the deaths of eight Ethiopian officials. According to Genocide Watch, no evidence of Anuak involvement in the attack was found, yet the Anuak were blamed.

Homes were burned and killing continued over many days. Women and young girls were raped. Thousands of Anuak fled to the Sudan, swelling the refugee camps in Pochalla.

Although the Spokane memorial service was for 90 specific

people, Genocide Watch's official count includes more than 416 men and boys. Many are missing.

To raise funds and educate people in a wider range of churches, Agwa and the Anuak in Spokane have also connected with Immanuel Urban Ministries of First Covenant Church to form the Anuak Bara Hope Ministry.

The Rev. Lawrence Hudson, founder of Immanuel Urban Ministries (IUM) said: "Our first goal will be to spread the word about the atrocities committed against the Anuak. Second, we will request donations and send them to Gambella through the Presbyterian missions."

He hopes to arrange for the Spokane Anuak to speak at congregations through IUM's connections with Mission Spokane, the Interdenominational Minister's Fellowship Union and congregations. Just as First Covenant is voicing pleas through the national and international associations of Covenant Churches, which have mission work nearby in Sudan, Lawrence encourages other local churches to alert their wider church ministries to the concern.

When Anuak spoke at a recent IUM event at First Covenant, they raised \$1,300 more in donations.

World Relief Spokane has also advocated on behalf of the Anuak

in response to the massacre.

Mary Lou McDonough, volunteer coordinator for World Relief, met with Galen Carey of the international advocacy arm of the organization. He reported that there are now 60,000 refugees in the Pochalla camp in Sudan near Gambella with about 1,000 new refugees arriving every day.

Galen urges the Spokane community to continue to promote public awareness and advocate with federal representatives for an official inquiry. He is concerned the United States may be providing funds to the militia responsible for the atrocities.

For information call 458-8923.

Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry

The Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry is a non-credit program designed to help train, equip, and support lay men and women to serve more effectively as lay pastors and in other lay pastoral positions.

Program Format

The Diploma program consists of:

- Completion of eight required foundational courses in four, week-long modules of study (Monday - Friday) each summer on the Whitworth campus over two successive summers (two weeks each summer);
- Completion of two additional on-line and/or weekend elective courses offered between each summer of study;
- Pre-class reading assignments (and/or other assignments) to be completed prior to each week of study;
- Post-class papers or projects to be carried out in one's local ministry context.

The eight required foundational courses are:

- Survey of the Old Testament
- Survey of the New Testament
- Church History
- Introduction to Pastoral Care & Counseling
- Christian Theology
- Worship and the Sacraments
- Church Administration & Polity
- Preaching Principles and Practice

In addition to the foundational courses offered during the summer, elective weekend seminars (Friday evening, all day Saturday) and/or online courses will be offered periodically throughout the year.

Program Schedule

Summer morning courses meet from 9 a.m.-noon, and afternoon courses meet from 2-5 p.m. Students can take all four modules or can pick and choose those modules (or parts of modules) that most interest them. Because of the pre-class reading required for each summer session, the **deadline for applying for the Diploma program is May 1, 2004.**

Summer Program Courses

Summer # 1 2004 June 14-18	Module #1 (week one) Morning course: Survey of the Theology of the Old Testament Afternoon course: Pastoral Care and Counseling
Summer # 1 2004 June 21-25	Module #2 (week two) Morning course: Survey of the New Testament Afternoon course: Worship and Sacraments
Summer # 2 2005 June 13-17	Module #3 (week one) Morning course: Church History Afternoon course: Administration and Church Polity
Summer # 2 2005 June 20-24	Module #4 (week two) Morning course: Christian Theology Afternoon course: Principles and Practice of Preaching

Program Faculty

The faculty for the Lay Pastors' Seminary consists of Whitworth College faculty and staff and other qualified instructors from the community.

Program Costs

Tuition for each one-week module is \$500 (\$250 for each course). Tuition for the elective weekend seminars/on-line courses is \$250. Room and board on campus is about \$200 per week (Sunday evening - Friday evening). Books and materials are extra.



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Inner-city missions in college prepared OMEGA director

Having matured in faith through involvement in Intervarsity Christian Fellowship inner-city mission tours during his studies at the University of Iowa, Chris Lavenz came to Spokane in October to be part-time youth minister at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church.

Two weeks later, he also became the part-time director at OMEGA, an ecumenical outreach center in a house at 1918 W. Chelan, next to the church.

For spring break 2001, he assisted with a new coffee house and youth center seeking to lower crime in Pittsburgh. In Los Angeles during the summer of 2002, he taught sixth grade African Americans and Latinos English skills at a Christian preparatory school. In St. Louis during spring break 2003, he tutored children in a church-related program.

"I grew up in the Disciples of Christ Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and became more serious about my faith because of the way people befriended me and helped me see and feel God as part of Intervarsity gatherings. The inner city experience developed my heart for the poor," said Chris, 23, who earned a bachelor's degree in religious studies from the University of Iowa in 2003.

Coming from a low-income family, Chris understands what it



Chris Lavenz

is like for a family to lack money. His parents were determined their children would study and "avoid the mistakes" they felt they had made, he said.

"We lived a middle-class life, getting by on limited funds and having food on the table. It was tough sometimes in the winter with high heating bills," he said. "So I understand the people coming to OMEGA, the Outreach Ministry for the Emerson Garfield Area."

Its covers Division west to the Spokane River and Wellesley to Indiana. Ten churches support the

effort—Emmanuel Presbyterian, Central Baptist, Knox Presbyterian, Pilgrim Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran, Our Savior Lutheran, Jefferson Street Christian, St. Andrews Episcopal, St. Anthony Catholic and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox.

Founded 13 years ago, OMEGA offers a food bank, clothing closet, utility assistance, gas and laundry vouchers, bus tokens and the support of services from Catholic Charities, such as home chores and rides for low-income and disabled people.

OMEGA is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays and first and third Saturdays, and from 3 to 5 p.m., Wednesdays.

"We generally have a steady flow of people, but not as many as Our Place, a similar center in the West Central neighborhood, because more middle-and upper-income people live along the river and near Wellesley. We have 12 to 15 clients each time," he said.

In November 2003, OMEGA served 118 families with 396 people and in December, 81 families with 227 people. In addition, an airline pilot donated 141 blankets to be distributed.

Churches and agencies refer people. Those seeking assistance may come up to six times a year and up to twice a month.

Churches and individuals are the primary sources for food, clothing and financial donations.

"I feel compassion for the people and gratified about what I am doing. I am frustrated when I see that some people cause their own problems—paying for their habits of drinking, drugs or smoking and not having money to pay a utility bill," Chris said.

"I realize, however, that it's human to err. Our role is not to judge but to help people," he said. "OMEGA is a faith venture. Jesus preached most about serving and helping the poor."

For Chris, the faith dimension of his work with OMEGA is simply to love and sympathize with people. People do not have to be in a church or promise to go to church to receive assistance.

The center also has posters, fliers and a resource and referral directory available about programs and events to help people move beyond where they are, he said.

One flier promoted a personal finance seminar in January at the Rock of Ages Christian Fellowship to teach about credit use and abuse, budgeting and identity theft. Another flier offered free tax help. A poster on the wall gives contact information for domestic violence victims.

"The people who come make

their own decisions to use these resources," he said.

"I hope the love we show and the resources we offer empower people to feel Jesus' love and compassion. Many may not feel loved in their daily lives," he said.

OMEGA's more than 20 volunteers also help convey that love in their first-hand contact with people who come for help and in sorting food and clothing.

"I like the first-hand contact," said Chris, "seeing John and asking about how his job search is going. People come to trust us."

OMEGA continually needs volunteers—especially young people—to help lift boxes, sort and meet with people.

Chris also reaches low-income neighborhood families, children and youth as youth director at Emmanuel Presbyterian.

About three high school students, 12 middle school students and 10 elementary students meet Wednesday evenings.

"I hope to spark their interest in God and Jesus. They seem to yearn for faith, hungry for something and not realizing they are searching for Jesus. At least they are looking to the church for something other than the gang influences in the neighborhood."

For information, call 325-1839.

Newport woman uses her computer as a tool to teach about AIDS

From her home in Newport with dial-up connection to the web, Ruth Calkins educates people about 14 million AIDS orphans in sub-Saharan Africa.

For her, they are included in Jesus' call to "suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

"We must care for children, wherever they are," she said. "Some of the children most desperately in need live in Africa, where AIDS is pandemic."

Many orphans under the age of 15 have been forced into the adult world by circumstances they cannot control. When their parents die, some live with grandparents—usually grandmothers—who have few resources to feed them or send them to school.

"Many grandmothers care for ten or more grandchildren in a society where grandparents depend on their children to care for them in old age," said Ruth who lived in Nigeria from 1962 to 1973 with her late first husband, Martin Hutchinson, then an agricultural specialist with USAID.

After earning a degree in history at Rutgers University's Douglas College in 1948, Ruth

married in 1949 and first went overseas to Ceylon in 1959.

Living in Nigeria, she developed a kinship with Africans and became aware of the struggle for food, the threat of malaria, the limited health system and the cost of education—all exacerbated by droughts, floods and warfare.

They returned to the United States and lived in Arlington when Martin died in 1974. In 1977, she married George Calkins, a nuclear scientist. When they retired, they lived in West Virginia and then Arizona before moving a few years ago to live near her daughter in Newport.

A 1996 PBS special on AIDS stirred Ruth's desire to "do something." She decided to start a website reporting current statistics. She contacted schools, churches and local service clubs, and writes letters to the editor.

"To add AIDS to the many problems in Africa is unthinkable, but it is there," said Ruth, who grew up Methodist, became Quaker and now is in the Newport United Church of Christ.

She has set aside her hobby of composing music to develop the website, www.africanAIDSOrpha

ns.org, to report on AIDS orphans in Malawi, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. The website links to organizations helping AIDS orphans: World Medical Fund, Volunteer in Uganda, Alliance for Youth Achievement and Wherever the Need.

Ruth said orphans without relatives try to stay together as a family. The oldest assumes responsibility for younger siblings. The "head of the household" may be as young as eight.

Many are orphaned a second time when their grandparents die. As a last resort, they may go to cities, and join street children, begging for food or turning to theft or prostitution.

"They grow up without parental guidance or family life. The future looms as a nightmare for a generation of young adults without education or basic moral knowledge," she said.

Ruth described African village life: The small mud-and-thatched-roof huts with holes in the walls allow light and also insects in, so malaria is rampant. The ground is bare, hard, sun-baked dirt. Outside each hut is a cooking fire. Women pound yams and cook

them into a mush. Everyone eats from the cooking pot. The village well may be a half mile away. Women cultivate small plots to grow vegetables. Men, who work in cities for months at a time, may visit prostitutes.

That social setting led to the quick spread of AIDS to Southern Africa and the rest of the world when the AIDS virus appeared in Uganda in the 1980s, Ruth said.

Church groups helping alleviate hunger and disease in Africa also care for orphans. Uganda now offers a basic education for AIDS orphans, covering tuition.

"Little by little, countries try to stem the tide washing over them," Ruth said, "but the task is overwhelming. More than 11 million Africans have died, and 30 million live with the HIV virus. In South Africa, a quarter of the population may die from AIDS."

"AIDS deaths in Africa more

than equal deaths from the Black Death in Europe. Every seven weeks, as many die from AIDS as died in the Vietnam War. Every three years, as many die as died in World War I," she said. In sub-Saharan Africa, life expectancy dropped from 67 to 42 years, according to a United Nations report.

Even if the infection rate dropped to zero tomorrow, the number of deaths from AIDS would rise for many years, Ruth said. This pandemic claims people in their most productive years, creating shortages of teachers, doctors, nurses, government clerks and other workers.

For information, call 447-5957.

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Homeowners break ground for Blitz Build

Six families broke ground with golden Habitat for Humanity shovels in a March 20 "Meet the Neighbors" gathering and ground blessing for Spokane's 2004 Blitz Build.

Two triplexes will be built from June 12 to 25 at 2605 E. Boone.

The goal of a Blitz Build is to complete several houses within 13 days. Construction supervisors, trades people, architects and other volunteers develop a day-by-day plan to complete the construction in 10 days and then finish it with carpets, electricity and landscaping.

Additional home sponsors and volunteers are needed.

Laurie Dolan, director of Special Projects with Spokane Schools, which is sponsoring half a house, recognized 30 years ago as an elementary teacher in West Central Spokane that safe, decent, affordable housing was critical for children to progress in education. Half of her class had moved between the time their class picture was taken and when it arrived back.

"When children move, they lose three months of learning. Roots and lifelong friendships promote learning," she said.

Other sponsors of houses are Providence Services of Eastern Washington and the Valley Churches Ecumenical Build.

Speaking for Providence Services, Barbara Savage said building houses builds community and contributes to life in Spokane.

Ryan Yohe, chair of the Valley churches, which will build half a home, listed participating churches: Holy Trinity Lutheran, Mill-



Three families break the ground for their new Habitat homes.

wood Presbyterian, Opportunity Presbyterian, Redeemer Lutheran, Spokane Valley Baptist, St. John Vianney and Zion Lutheran, plus Hamblen Presbyterian.

Women Helping Women has donated \$7,500 to a "Women's Build" home and momentum is building to have that part of the Blitz Build 2004.

The families to live there are:

- Georgia Bullchild and her 15-year-old daughter, Selah;
- Phuong Ngoc Tran and Thuy Doung, who came from Vietnam five years ago;
- Sergey and Alexandra Korovin and their four daughters, who moved from Russia three years ago;
- Mikhail and Lyudmila Si-

gitov, parents of five children, who moved from Kazakstan five years ago, fleeing religious and economic turmoil;

• Makarata Uwimana, a single mother with three children, who immigrated here from war-torn Rwanda five years ago, and

• Vladimir and Nadezha Grichanniyy and their four children, who came from the Ukraine three years ago.

Ken Isaak led a prayer, blessing the foundation for the houses, the homes created, the families and the community.

Habitat for Humanity provides decent affordable housing for low-income families who do 500 hours of sweat equity.

For information, call 534-2552.

CROP Walks aid refugees, Iraqi children

During the spring, Spokane, Cheney, Yakima and Milton-Freewater will participate in CROP Walks to aid refugees and assist the All Our Children efforts in Iraq.

The Spokane/Cheney walk begins with registration and pre-walk activities at noon, with the walk starting at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 25. Walkers may choose to go either 2-K through Riverfront Park only or that stretch plus along the Centennial Trail to Greene St. Bridge for 10-K. For information, call 326-5656.

Yakima's CROP Walk starts at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 1, at Central Lutheran, 1604 W. Yakima.

Milton-Freewater's walk will begin at 3 p.m., on Sunday, May 23, at Yanis Park.

"This year we are particularly thinking of refugees, those who have been forced from their homes by war, drought, or whatever calamity has befallen them," said Lynn Magnuson, re-

gional director of Church World Service/CROP in Seattle.

"For instance, a third of the 12 million people in Angola are refugees. Our hearts go out to these families who need food, medical care, education, shelter—everything we take for granted.

Because some refugees walk hundreds of miles for food and safety, CROP Walks have people walk in solidarity with them to raise funds to ease their burdens.

"Because we also recognize the needs of our neighbors close

to home, 25 percent of the funds raised are returned to fight hunger in local communities," she said.

Church World Service is among 55 faith-based and non-governmental organizations present in Iraq through its partners—local people, faith groups and organizations. CWS has provided aid with their assistance through the 1991 war, the sanctions and today's war. They support projects to restore economic stability and provide health care, clean water, safe food and new shelters.

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Woman names room in retreat center after mentor

While eight rooms will be named for people from the Bible, a conference room in Fran Green's new retreat center at Jump Off Joe Lake will honor the Rev. Louisiana Moore, who died March 13, just before *The Fig Tree* had an interview scheduled with her daughter, Alice Doss, and Fran.

Louisiana, who was ordained in 1969 at Full Gospel Mission for All Nations in Spokane, was one of the first African-American women ministers in the region. She started Mount Zion Holiness Church and was pastor until selling the building last year.

"We grew up going to church every Sunday, Wednesday night and Friday night," said Alice. "I was a soloist and my son, Anthony, was choir director. Family were ushers, musicians, worship leaders and staff for this 100-member congregation.

"We did it with joy, because she ran the church and adult



Louisiana Moore

family homes with love and humility, attributing all to God: 'It's not me doing it. It's God. I'm but an instrument,'" Alice remembers Louisiana saying.

Although she wanted everyone to be saved and felt compelled to tell of Christ's love and suffering, she was not pushy, said Alice.

"She taught people to respect themselves and people around them, to be brazen about what they do and to give God the glory," her daughter continued.

Louisiana was also one of the first African-American women to run an adult family home in Spokane, when she opened Moore's Boarding Home in 1976.



Fran Green and Alice Doss look through photographs of Louisiana Moore.

One of seven children born to a farm family in Una, Miss., in 1927, she grew up in Prairie, Miss., and ran her own beauty parlor. Louisiana moved to Spokane in 1962, and Alice followed in 1964. In Spokane, Louisiana married Grant Moore, Jr.—her third husband, also a minister at Full Gospel Mission. He later moved to Alaska.

Her experience at a nursing home led Louisiana to open the adult family home that launched other family members and seven other local African Americans into the adult family care home business.

"Mother Moore welcomed everyone and treated everyone as family, even though she had plenty of family with seven children, 22 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren," Fran said.

"Sometimes homeless people would see the residents sitting outside and stop to visit. Some

would come in—nasty, dirty and stinky—and she would greet them with a hug, offer them a chance to bathe and give them a meal," she added.

Alice is retired and lives at 648 S. Arthur, one of the three homes she ran until recently. Her son now runs three homes, including one next door. Her sister Bessie also has a home.

Life in the homes and church life intersected. Many residents attended Louisiana's church, where they found they could express themselves and praise God without being ridiculed because of their mental health, developmental disabilities or dementia.

"These people have the love and humility many of us strive for," Alice said, explaining that adult care is for people who can be more independent than those in assisted living.

Many have guardians, because they have lost contact with family.

Some support for residents comes from the state. The rest comes from Social Security income or from their other assets.

The maximum an adult family care facility can house is six.

Fran said Louisiana inspired and encouraged her to go into the adult family home business seven years ago. She was mentor and consultant while Fran developed The Green House, where the residents are multicultural and inter-religious—African-, Native- and European-Americans, Catholic, Baptist and Pentecostal.

"She taught her techniques, philosophy and unselfish ways," Fran said. "She showed me the difference Jesus made in her life. Now my life has meaning and purpose.

"Adult family care is a ministry of feeding and housing people. We measure success by the lives we touch. I hope I carry on her caring spirit."

She now manages three homes, along with the Christian retreat center on three acres at Jump Off Joe Lake, where she offers space for clergy and laity to gather for meetings, retreats and relaxation.

For information, call 535-2005.

Observance recognizes Anne Frank's 75th birthday

The 2004 Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Observance, will focus on the theme, "Inspiration from a Young Girl's Diary: Hope for Unity and Peace," honoring Ann Frank.

The service will be at 7 p.m., Sunday, April 18, at Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave.

"Unity and peace are the dream of many children, but many children like Anne Frank were robbed of their childhood and their lives. Had Anne survived this genocide, she would now be celebrating her 75th birthday," said Sue Larue, of the organizing committee.

"Six million Jews of all ages perished under Nazi tyranny, pun-

ished only for the fact that Hitler considered Jews a lesser race," she continued. "It is our sacred duty to preserve the memories of the Holocaust."

Organizers plan the annual commemoration not just as Jews, but as human beings fighting hatred to remind the world of

how people can be cruel to each other and to counteract efforts of those who try to rewrite history to convince others the Holocaust did not happen.

The observance honors both those who died and those who survived and rebuilt their lives.

For information, call 747-3304.

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 Cataldo Dining Room - Gonzaga University

Peter Steinfels is the former editor of *Commonweal* magazine, and more recently former religion editor for the *New York Times*. He is also the author of an important new book on the many crises facing the American Catholic Church entitled:

A People Adrift

The talk and series are free and open to the public.
 For more information, contact Patrick McCormick
 (509)323-6715 or mccormick@gonzaga.edu

Peace rally draws participants from around region

Among more than 250 rallies in the United States on March 20, reflecting on the year of war in Iraq, one at Franklin Park in Spokane drew more than 200 people. About 20 other people stood nearby on Division with pro-war and "peace through strength" signs.

For the peace rally, there were mock coffins and stakes in the ground with strips of white cloth bearing names of Americans and Iraqis who have died.

Ali Salaam, David Shepherd, Aida Jassem, Susan Smith, Wael Saleah and Jason Moore were a few of hundreds of names on the stakes, later carried as the group walked along Division and Francis Streets and back on Addison.

Twelve from Newport, about 10 from Bonners Ferry, several from Coeur d'Alene and some from Colville joined the War Means Death Rally and memorial for those who have died in the war.

Kitty Klitzke of Veterans for Peace showed a photo of herself 10 years ago as a 17-year-old in the Army Reserve. She joined because recruiters who came to her high school promised her education, a job and a good income.

"No one said the best way to serve people might be to change governments democratically. We need to educate people to create conscientious objectors, rather than sending young people to fight

to preserve the wealth of those in power," she said.

Gonzaga University philosophy professor Tom Jeannot spoke of the "insatiable appetite" of the war machine, now ready to strike any time anywhere. He said those gathered to protest the war and call for peace are part of the global majority seeking to uphold international law.

He challenged the "permanent drive to war—warism," and reminded listeners that just war is a last resort, not pre-emptive.

Chris Hannigan Luther of Coeur d'Alene, regional coordinator for Witness for Peace, said terrorism is not new. Latin Americans have been fighting terrorism taught at the School of the Americas for decades. Latin American police and military learn such counter-insurgency techniques as blackmail, torture and executions—techniques they have used to undermine democracy in Latin America, she said.

Mike Kress, of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, reminded that with the misery war unleashes, people's lives are ravaged as one group uses violence and humiliation to force its will on another.

He quoted Martin Luther King's concern about the spiritual death that comes as war injects hate, pain, disfigurement and death. He believes that if people equate



A decal on 13-month old Aidan Cooper's cheek proclaims the message that "Peace is possible!" His father, Scott Cooper, director of Catholic Charities' Parish Social Ministries and a member of the local chapter of PAX Christi, had a matching decal on his cheek during the rally.

their tax dollars with bodies torn apart by bombs and bullets they may be able to turn from spiritual death and "undergo a radical revolution of values" so they will pursue peace.

"Peace-loving people must continue to unite on the road to pre-emptive peace," he said.

For information, call 838-7870.

Prayer touches many lives affected by war

The National Council of Churches called faith groups to hold peace vigils in March to mark the anniversary of invading Iraq, mourn the dead, pray for all affected and direct energies toward a peaceful future.

They suggested prayer for:

- More than 130,000 U.S. troops in danger in Iraq, more than 535 who have died, thousands who have returned with physical and mental injuries, and their families—many are in churches.

- The hundreds of thousands of people who have lost their lives in Iraq from war, dictatorship and

economic sanctions—some are family and friends of members of U.S. congregations, including three assassinated Iraqi religious leaders with whom a NCC delegation met last year.

- Hundreds of thousands of people in the United States and around the world whose lives are diminished by the war but who are not included in official casualties: people living in poverty, veterans having benefits cut, children whose schools lack books and

families with no health insurance—in a war economy, the cost of destruction in one place is paid for by deprivation in others.

"Together let us raise our prayers for peace and justice everywhere in God's creation," they said. "Inspired and informed by our faith, let us transcend uncertainties and insecurities of this moment in history. Assured of God's love, let us think, plan and work for the kind of world that reflects God's will for humanity."

Out Place benefit set

The West Central Ministries Players will give a readers theatre presentation of the Neil Simon comedy, "God's Favorite," at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 25, at Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway.

The Rev. Homer Todd of St. Paul's United Methodist, the Rev. Tom Soeldner of Salem Lutheran, Sister Irene Knopes of St. Joseph's Catholic, Sandy Brockway of Westminster Presbyterian and Sister Shirley Robert of Our Place will present the contemporary slant on the biblical story of Job as a fund raiser for Our Place outreach ministry serving the West Central neighborhood.

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Seminar fee underwritten by RSVP, Spokane. There is a \$12 per person charge to cover lunch and facilities. Call Karen Wynne at 344-7787, ext. 161 for information. This is a non-denominational seminar for church leaders, ministry teams and strategic thinkers.

Modern prophet's words of wisdom nudge people's faith journeys

"I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap, and then you grow wings." *William Sloane Coffin*

The current age has given us a number of sages and prophets of justice and peace. One of these is the Rev. William Sloane Coffin, who has led an active life as chaplain at Yale and at Williams, senior minister at Riverside Church in New York City and anti-war, civil rights and nuclear disarmament activist.

His latest book, *Credo*, has arrived in time to nudge us along our journey toward Easter, reminding us of great and small matters that God would have us attend to.

It is a short book—fewer than 200 pages of quotations—covering nine broad categories of faith and life. Most are quotations from his work. Some are quotations he particularly likes, such as Thomas Mann's

"War is a coward's escape from the problems of peace."

Coffin's health no longer allows him the stamina to do the sustained work of writing. His publisher's idea for a book of quotations was turned over to an editor who read through his sermons and speeches and selected excerpts for him to consider.

"Seldom has an author owed so much to an editor," Coffin comments in his preface.

In this instance, *Credo*, published by Westminster John Knox, may be a misleading title. Coffin does not mean simply "I believe."

"I have given my heart to" is the extended meaning for him, and he has given his heart to faith, love, social justice, economic justice and peace: "To know God is to do justice. To recognize this impla-

cable moral imperative of faith represents the kind of good religion that mixes well with politics."

In his foreword, James Carroll comments that the sermon is Coffin's form and the Scriptures his native language. Certainly some of the longer quotations amount to small sermons and deserve to be mulled over at length.

This book is not a page-turner, but it is one to be kept at hand, to be picked up often. Even what first seems to be little more than a wisecrack often gives pause, such as: "Clearly the trick in life is to die young as late as possible" or "Hell is truth seen too late."

Quotations are not labeled with dates and places, giving the book a contemporary feel. After all, the issues of peace and justice don't change much as humankind continues

to insist on trying to solve problems with war and other forms of violence:

- "The Cold War was devastating to warm hearts. The divine commandment to love your enemy was changed into an imperative to hate all Communists. Hatred became a patriotic virtue.

- "Come to think of it, attacking worldwide poverty could be our best defense policy. It certainly would marginalize extremists and slow down the recruitment of new terrorists."

Carroll sets the scene for reading with a wide ranging appreciation of an extraordinary life.

This book is one to read slowly, a bit at a time, because there are jewels to be turned and admired, morsels to be savored and a quiet but triumphant Amen at the end.

Nancy Minard - editorial team

Outsourcing American jobs impacts living standards of middle class

The issue of jobs continues to be a high priority for mainstream America. Jobs have been the economic engine that has sustained the living standards, democratic principles and religious values we have cherished for more than 200 years.

Today a new dynamic in the workplace, outsourcing jobs overseas, threatens the American middle-class standard of living. The economic impact could affect our basic institutions, including churches.

Is our American culture in peril? How can this be in America, of all places?

Recently outsourcing, the larger picture of globalization and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have attracted some media attention, even though terrorism, 9-11, the war in Iraq, bombings in Spain and celebrity scandals dominate the news.

On Main Street, the lack of good jobs still tops the concerns list. Outsourcing has increased at a phenomenal speed. Since 2000, 2.3 million good jobs have been lost, primarily to India and China. First, it was

manufacturing jobs, with the northeastern states most vulnerable. Now, Michigan and Ohio are suffering. Outsourcing has recently moved into the service field, where many jobless had found temporary work. Customer-service centers are being developed abroad. They teach local people English and train them for the jobs. The work forces in these countries do the jobs much cheaper, so corporation profits soar.

Globalization in the broad sense has always been a "given" in our multi-racial and pluralistic society. New technologies are welcomed as a measure of economic progress. We have encouraged free trade, particularly the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico. The incentive for improving the living standards in Mexico, however, has not materialized. We say we are for free trade, but is our trade free?

Globalization has a "dark side" today. Corporate management has emerged with a vengeance. It is now dominating the trade

pattern. It is in complete control, and its policies take precedence over national government laws and regulations. This is a far cry from what was envisioned in Adam Smith's conservative economics, which proclaimed that neither labor nor capital should cross national borders.

The WTO has no national borders. It is corporate-managed. It seems to be a global system created with corporations having all the rights and governments having the obligations—with democracy left in the dust.

What can be done? There have been some programs offered to re-train jobless workers and to open opportunities for creative ideas, but a recent survey noted that only one in five workers who participated a program has found employment.

A tax code has been proposed for closing loopholes that make it easy for corporations to move their business overseas. Both Presidential candidates favor strengthening trade agreements. Opponents cry, "Popu-

lism!" Corporation officials say, "This is just another form of international trade. Cheap labor overseas means consumers here can buy cheaper imports." However, can a jobless worker buy any shoes? Outsourcing is good for corporate profits.

Global trade as practiced today with corporate management was established in 1995. The WTO met in the "Uruguay Round." There were proponents of fair trade, disputing corporate management. The rules decided on included the WTO forerunner, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Its measures rarely disputed the corporate management premise. Opponents continue to support free trade, if it is fair and regulated.

Will the corporate management policy in its present form impact our religious and family values, democracy and middle-class way of life we value so intrinsically? These questions must be answered, and the workplace is the defining area.

Jo Hendricks - contributing editor

Newsletter Excerpts

Sounding Board

Reflections

Each year, some students on college campuses are wounded by groups holding unhealthy control over them. Students are recruited when they are lonely, hurting, isolated or having trouble academically.

Healthy religious groups, like healthy relationships, are open and honest. Healthy groups:

- have easy entrance and exit;
- encourage members to think for themselves and accept their questions and doubts;
- are open about sponsors and beliefs;
- affirm other healthy religious traditions;
- respect a student's need for study time and other activities, and
- respect a member's relationships with family and friends.

The goal of campus ministry is to empower students and to engage them in healthy religious community.

The Rev. Gail Stearns
Koinonia House - Washington State University, Pullman

Where did we come from? Why are we here? What is the point of it all? These questions are the source of the world's religions, philosophies and science.

In reading Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, along with works by Scott Peck, these questions re-emerge.

We each see the world from our own vantage point. No two persons see the world the same way. We each have our own genetic make-up that predisposes us to a certain brain chemistry, physical body and emotional disposition.

Then we have the "family of origin" stuff

that infects every portion of our lives. We each develop at different rates with differing abilities and gifts that manifest along the way. Some of us love math, and some don't. Some love to sing, and some can't. Some love to watch sunsets day after day, and some believe if you've seen one you've seen them all.

We also develop differently in our spiritual awareness.

Some folk's life experience is full of chaos, and religion is like a life saver in a stormy sea. Others find stability in religion and hold to it because it offers a corrective for their lives—an external conscience telling them what is right and wrong. For most of them, God is a "Being" outside themselves, transcendent.

Some are full of critical awareness and find little use for religion, but still feel need for it. Some spend time "de-constructing" the images, stories and metaphors of biblical thinking—wondering if the bush Moses encountered was *really* burning. Many of them are ethical and socially involved with an internal sense of right and wrong.

Others experience the unity of all being and life as One, a super-ordinate, inter-dependent happening in which each person is a thread woven into the overall tapestry of this Oneness of all being. God is inherently imminent, intimately part of everyone and everything, connecting each of us.

We each live in a slightly different universe, but we all live in next-door worlds, seeking to come together in our faith journeys to share our struggles and joys as we meet.

The Rev. Michael "Redhawk"
Rice-Sauer - Covenant Christian



The bud on the rose branch 12 days later begins to green and form tiny leaves.

Spokane Alliance recruits volunteers for campaign

The Spokane Alliance seeks volunteers to join 300 others in a campaign to prevent the Spokane Transit Authority's proposed cut-back in services in July.

More than 250 people participated in the Spokane Alliance's Action Assembly in February at Spokane Falls Community College to hear non-riders' testimonies supporting a .3 percent sales tax increase—three cents on

\$10 excluding food and prescriptions—with an accountability measure. Two Spokane Transit Authority board members spoke on the alliance proposal.

On Feb. 25, the STA Board voted to put on the May 18 ballot a request for authorization to impose that tax increase.

Five board members opposed the alliance's position of no sunset clause and voted for a 2008 funding reauthorization election.

Of 53 testimonies on Feb. 25, 51 supported the alliance proposal, reflecting a similar ratio in eight hours of testimony at previous meetings, said an alliance spokesperson.

The alliances' strategy team decided to continue the campaign to win the election May 18 and show

its ability to make a difference.

In the Alliance Bus Ride Campaign on Feb. 28, 45 people invited bus riders to share the impact cutbacks would have on them.

"An overwhelming majority said we could count on them to vote 'yes,'" said Cathy Gunderson of Highland Park United Methodist Church.

The Neighborhood Canvassing effort seeks people to engage in brief person-to-person conversations with voters, visiting them door-to-door. The goal is for 50 to 100 volunteers to be trained to make visits Saturdays, March 27, April 3, 17, 24 and May 8. A phone bank started March 29, with volunteers contacting voters.

In addition to the STA cam-

paign, the Tax Team heard Kristin Pula of the Research Associate Institute for Washington's Future present a power analysis of Washington's tax structure and propose a time frame for researching this issue.

The Jobs Team continues its work on apprentice utilization and green building.

The alliance now has a website at www.spokanealliance.org, updated daily.



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Jewish-Muslim Peace Walk comes

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb of the Jewish Peace Fellowship and Abdul Rauf Campos-Marquetti of the Muslim Peace Fellowship will discuss their Jewish-Muslim Peace Walk in a program at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 6, at Unity Church, 29th and Bernard.

The fellowships are part of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The walk is an effort to nurture interfaith, intercultural dialogue as a way to move people from oppression through nonviolence to affirm their shared existence on earth. They seek a just solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, said Nancy Nelson of the Peace and Justice Action League.

For information, call 838-7870.

Mass honors birth mothers

Bishop William Skylstad of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane will offer a Mass to honor birth mothers of babies placed for adoption at noon, Friday, May 7, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, at 1503 W. Dean.

The service, sponsored by Catholic Charities, celebrates the motherhood of women who have given babies up for adoption and recognizes all touched by adoption.

There will be an open house from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Anne's Children and Family Center, which offers programs supporting children and families.

For information, call 358-4258.

GSAE program addresses lawsuits

The Greater Spokane Association of Evangelicals is presenting a program on "Hidden Dangers in the Church" to address how churches can deal with a lawsuit.

The presentation by Geoffrey Swindler, a local attorney, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday, April 13, at First Covenant Church, 212 S. Division.

He will address who might sue a church, how can a church be prepared and what steps a church can take.

For information, call 487-7429.

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Calendar of Events

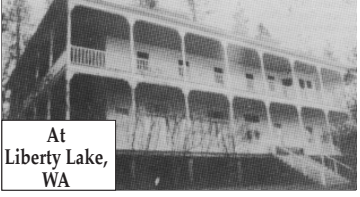
- Apr 2 • Simpson Duvall Lecture by poet-author Kathleen Norris, Cowles Auditorium Whitworth College, 7:30 p.m.
 - Apr 5 • The Fig Tree Show on St. Joseph Family Center, Channel 14, 6 p.m.
 - Apr 7,9 • Free health screenings for diabetes, children's dental, children's asthma, alcohol, HIV, mammograms, and health insurance eligibility, The Emmanuel Center, 600 S. Richard Allen Ct., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - call 324-1670
 - Apr 11 • Easter Sunrise Service, Greenwood Memorial Terrace, 211 S. Government Way, 6:30 a.m.
• Fairfield Community Easter Breakfast, First Presbyterian in Fairfield, 8 a.m.
 - Apr 13 • "Hidden Dangers in the Church," Greater Spokane Association of Evangelicals program on lawsuits, First Covenant, 212 S. Division, 10 a.m.
 - Apr 17 • Earth Day Celebration, Riverfront Park, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., p. 1
• Procession of the Species, Riverfront Park, 12:45 p.m., p. 1
• PAX Christi prayer and preparation for non-violent action, St. Joseph Catholic, 1503 W. Dean, 9 - 11 a.m.
 - Apr 18 • Holocaust Observance, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th, 7 p.m.
 - Apr 19 • Peter Steinfels, "A People Adrive," Barbieri Court Room, Gonzaga University School of Law, 8 p.m. - call 323-6715
• The Fig Tree Show on CROP Walk, Channel 14, 6 p.m.
 - Apr 24 • Father Elias Chacour presentation on "Visions of Peace," First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar, 10 a.m. and noon
• Rebecca Nappi, "For Better or Worse: The Pilgrimage of Married Life," Clare Center, 4624 E. Jamieson Rd., 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - call 448-4887
 - Apr 25 • Spokane-Cheney CROP Walk, Martin Centre at Gonzaga University, noon registration, 2 p.m., walk - call 326-5656
 - May 1 • Yakima CROP Walk, Central Lutheran, 10 a.m.
- April 4. Sunday. "The Virtue of Non-Violence" Discussion of Buddhism and Confucianism as a way to explain the virtue of nonviolence. Dr. Nick Gier at North Idaho Unitarian Church, Coeur d'Alene.
- April 7. World Health Day
- April 13. Tuesday. Panel Discussion on Colombia: "Globalization, Guns and Greed" Beth Poteet and Paddy Inman

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The Lands Council serves as watchdog for region

Rein Attemann's love of the outdoors from years of hiking, camping and canoeing as a Boy Scout led to his advocacy for mountain caribou and forests with The Lands Council in Spokane.

Environmental education, protection and sustainability are on Rein's daily agenda as one of the Lands Council's staff of eight people, board of 15 and partnership with other nonprofit conservation groups.

He focuses on two projects—Protecting the Selkirk Mountains and Forest Watch. The other programs are the Wildfire Protection Program, the Urban Forest Council, Water Watch and Environmental Education.

As a youth, Rein spent much time outdoors in the Green Mountains of Vermont and the White Mountains of New Hampshire, so he chose to study natural resources at the University of Vermont, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1993.

He worked with Greenpeace and the Vermont Public Interest Research Group before applying for the job with the Lands Council and coming to Spokane in 2000.

Rein readily transferred his love of the outdoors to the Selkirk and Colville forests, applying what he learned about natural resources at a school oriented to resource extraction in forests and mines. He gained understanding of mindsets of those in government and corporations. More than 65 percent of his classmates now work for federal and state agencies, about 30 percent for private industry and two percent with nonprofits.

From his perspective, timber companies managing their own land often put short-term profit ahead of long-term sustainability. With Forest Watch and the Selkirk Project, he is a watchdog for the Idaho Panhandle and Colville National Forests on timber sales, road building, winter recreation and protection of the "highly endangered" mountain caribou that lives only in the Selkirk Mountains of Northeast Washington and North Idaho.

"We hold the national forests accountable to national environmental laws. So we have access to media and rapport with state legislators and the Congressional leaders," he said. "It doesn't seem to matter who is President, the National Forest Service still allows logging old growth forests, access for motorized recreation vehicles, threats to endangered species and degradation of water quality.

"Motorized vehicles, such as all-terrain-vehicles (ATV) and snowmobiles, have immense con-



Rein Attemann works to protect wildlife in the Selkirk Mountains, especially mountain caribou.

sequences for water quality, soils, wildlife and trees. Snowmobilers love open land and crossing open areas, like clear-cut areas that have been replanted. If they run on two feet of snow around three-foot saplings, they may rip off the tops and destroy the new trees.

In addition to damage to habitat, motorized vehicles may drive away caribou and wildlife with their noise and exhaust.

So Rein is often in dialogue with Forest Service officials, giving input needed for better management. He knows the Forest Service lacks funds for enforcement personnel to control ATV and snowmobile damage in wilderness areas.

"The mountain caribou are old-growth dependent. They need large tracts of undisturbed old growth. Logging and road building over the last 30 years have fragmented habitats. Improved technology for motorized vehicles makes them more powerful, able to access more remote areas."

A trans-boundary census by British Columbia records 1,800 mountain caribou, with 41 in the Selkirk region, monitored by radio collars on caribou transplanted in the 1990s. In March, Idaho Fish and Game does an aerial census.

Rein said one economic value of mountain caribou is wildlife viewing. At motorized vehicle meetings, he hears people say they have not seen lynx, cougar or caribou for years.

"If the drivers stop and wait on a mountain for a few hours, they may see some," he said.

"Mountain caribou migrate seasonally from 4,000 to 8,000 feet above sea level where they access their food source, arboreal lichen. Snowmobilers now reach those heights.

"Ecologically, when one species

disappears, the species dependent on it refocus their prey selection, and may decimate other species in a domino effect, taking pieces out of the puzzle one by one, impeding the way the system operates. Caribou are prey for cougar and wolves. At the turn of the 1900s, there were hundreds of caribou in the Priest Lake area."

Rein said the Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies to protect mountain caribou.

"As humans destroy, manipulate and fragment habitat for caribou, they also affect bull trout, which are also endangered. If we do not curb the damage and restore areas, the ecosystem we are part of will collapse," said Rein, who considers humans "too smart for our own good," as we develop at an unsustainable rate.

He enjoys doing environmental education in schools and presentations to groups on mountain caribou. He has worked with children to create mountain caribou costumes for the Procession of the Species and for events in other communities from Sandpoint to Nelson, B.C., to Portland.

Rein described other projects of the Lands Council, which has an office at 423 W. First:

- Water Watch seeks to clean the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane rivers and the Rathdrum Aquifer.
- A staff attorney files law-

suits against Forest Service for timber sales violating federal environmental laws. Five are pending. The Administration's Healthy Forest Restoration Act has rewritten federal regulations to weaken them, opening the door to extensive logging under the guise of reducing fuel and protecting communities and homeowners from wildfires while taking away the public's right to appeal proposed projects.

• Staff of the Wildfire Education Program, started two years ago with Forest Service funds, visit Pend Oreille and Stevens county landowners to offer development plans to protect them from fires—cutting down or pruning trees, cleaning gutters, moving firewood away from the house and keeping a hose handy. Then the Washington Department of Natural Resources implements the program free. This emphasizes protecting homes and communities by creating a defense around them, rather than logging back country, which the Healthy Forests Restoration Act allows.

• The Urban Forestry Council focuses on planting native trees and preserving old growth in the city limits. They educate people about tree companies promoting their services door-to-door. People pay them to remove a tree, and then the company sells

the logs at a mill. Trees marked in Coeur d'Alene Park to be cut were saved when the Lands Council questioned cutting them.

"It's overwhelming. Every day there is a new issue. We need to focus and choose where we can make a difference," Rein said.

Currently, the Lands Council urges people to write the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management in Nelson to challenge a B.C. government proposal to change mountain caribou management zones and logging guidelines for the southern-most herds. The Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan does not protect endangered species, Rein said, so it undermines the international effort to recover the trans-boundary population.

The Lands Council advocates a moratorium on current and proposed logging and winter recreation tenures in core caribou habitat until new guidelines that reflect the crisis situation of mountain caribou are approved.

For information, call 838-4912.

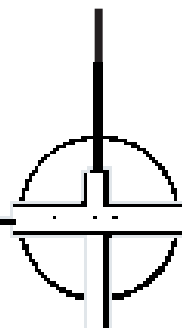
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 Preacher: Vic Pentz, Senior Pastor Peachtree Presbyterian Church
 Bible Teachers: Richard Mouw, President Fuller Theological Seminary
 Convocation: Rebecca Pentz, Assoc. Professor, Hematology and Oncology in Research Ethics, Emory University
 Jack Fortin, Executive Director, Center for Lifelong Learning, Luther Seminary
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 Sign up sponsors now for a 10-K or a 2-mile walk
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 A project of Church World Service & the Interfaith Council of the Inland Northwest
