



Students not only learned about issues of compassion, mercy and justice — they were transformed by them

Putting Feet to their Faith



PHOTOS BY OWEN SALEE AND ERIKA BECKSTROM
Teens dressed in ethnic clothing and walked the streets of Seattle on "Refugee and Immigration Day."

By Rick Lund

Conference News editor

A six-day conference in August at Seattle University was designed to raise awareness for Biblical social justice issues among high-school students in the North Pacific Conference.

"Feet to Faith" drew more than 100 students from Covenant churches in Washington and Oregon to address such issues as immigration, homelessness, racism, creation care and poverty.

Even leaders of the conference, however, admit the experience may have even exceeded the planned curriculum. Not only did the students learn how to take action against social injustice – thereby putting "feet to their faith" – many also either made first-time faith decisions, or saw their faith emboldened as they wrestled with issues of compassion, mercy and justice.

"There are kids who made significant commitments in their faith," said Rev. Carolyn Poterek, senior-high youth pastor at Trinity Covenant (Salem, Ore.), one of the organizers of the event. "And there are those who recommitted their faith, who came back to trust the Lord with their lives, first and foremost.

"They decided 'I want to make my life a model of what

Christ told me to do. I want to love my neighbors. I didn't know a lot of things before I came here. I didn't know what was happening in the world. I do now."

Rev. Chad McDaniel, associate pastor of student ministries at Bethany Covenant (Mount Vernon, Wash.) perhaps said it best:

"(Feet to Faith) was not just about getting information on these issues, but to be transformed by these issues."

Each day focused on a different aspect of compassion and justice:

International Day: Students carried 5-gallon jugs of water

on their backs for only a fraction of the distance people in impoverished countries do to retrieve water on a daily basis. Speakers included Rev. Jim Sundholm, director of Covenant World Relief, and Kirk Anderson, director of foundation relations and major gifts for Seattle-based Water 1st International.

Refugee/Immigration Day: Students dressed as refugees to experience what it was like to be a foreigner. They also learned how difficult it is to get through various state department, health care, and food checkpoints. The speaker was Cal Uomoto, director of World See **FEET TO FAITH** Page 5



Students take a reflection hike in Discovery Park on "Creation Care Day."

Blue, Pietrzyk to speak at Leadership Matrix March 7 in Kent



The North Pacific Conference will hold a "Leadership Matrix" conference on Saturday, March 7 at Kent (Wash.) Covenant Church.

The concept of a matrix – something within or from which something else originates, develops, or takes form – perhaps best illustrates the goal of reframing the missional DNA of the NPC.

Keynote speakers for the day will be Debbie Blue, ECC Executive Minister of Compassion, Mercy and Justice, and Dan Pietrzyk, ECC Director of Sustaining Pastoral Ministry.

Come and join others from Covenant churches around the Pacific Northwest as we endeavor, as Alan Hirsch says in his book *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*, to move beyond the instinct to "huddle and cuddle" in our churches, to a church that is characterized by adaptive leadership, focused on Kingdom values and behavior.

Registration fee is \$35. Blue will speak at 9:30 a.m., Pietrzyk at 1:30 p.m. Seminars for different ministry interests will take place throughout the day on the following topics: Global missions, community ministry, worship arts, youth ministry, leadership development for church chairs and lay leaders, and leadership development for pastors.

More information is available on the NPC web site (www.covchurch-npc.org) or by calling the conference office at 206-275-3903.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Swedish choir to perform at 50th Julfest on Dec. 7

The 50th annual "Julfest" will be held Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. at Seattle First Covenant Church.

Julfest, which celebrates the Covenant's Scandinavian Lutheran heritage, features Christmas music and a traditional St. Lucia procession.

This year's golden celebration of 50 years of music, tradition and faith includes a special treat. A guest choir from North Park University's sister college — SVF in Jönköping, Sweden — will perform.

If you would like to sing with the adult festival choir, rehearsals begin Nov. 2 at 12:30 p.m.

Contact mark.safstrom@gmail.com or the church office for info (206) 322-7411. Välkommen!



Jan. 16-19: "MUD" high-school retreat at Cascades Camp and Conference Center.

March 7: "Leadership Matrix" at Kent (Wash.) Covenant Church.

April 23-25: North Pacific Conference Annual Meeting at Eastridge Covenant Church, Clackamas, Ore.

June 25-28: Covenant Annual Meeting, Red Lion Inn, Portland.

July 12-17: CHIC high-school conference at University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Henry Greenidge receives Irving C. Lambert Award

Rev. Henry Greenidge is the 2008 recipient of the Irving C. Lambert Award, which honors excellence in urban ministry.

The award was presented to the Irvington Covenant pastor on June 25 at the Evangelical Covenant Church's Annual Meeting in Green Lake, Wis.

The Urban Commission administers the award through the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Greenidge is retiring from full-time ministry and was honored at a retirement party on Sept. 27 at Irvington Covenant. He is currently serving as interim worship pastor at Newport Covenant in Bellevue, Wash.

For more than three decades, Greenidge has served the local church as well as the broader denomination in areas of compassion, mercy, and justice, as well as worship and Christian formation.

In presenting the award, Palmberg noted that he was superintendent of the North Pacific Conference when he first met Greenidge 18 years ago. The pastor was planting a multi-ethnic church, something Palmberg noted was rare in the Covenant at the time.

"He did it despite the advice that it wouldn't work," Palmberg said. The president added, "This denomination has an incredible debt of gratitude to Henry Greenidge. Many African American pastors found their way into the Covenant Church through him."

The Lambert Award is the latest in a series of honors presented to Greenidge. North Park Theological Seminary granted him an honorary doctorate in 2007. In 2002, Greenidge received the Drum Major for Justice Award from the Skanner News Group during ceremonies in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Greenidge refers to the area surrounding Irvington Covenant as the "green zone," a term he coined to contrast with past red lining, a now-outlawed practice engaged in by some banks, real estate, and insurance companies to keep certain ethnic groups out of a neighborhood. "The green zone stands for growth," he has said.

Greenidge guided the founding of Irvington Village, a Portland retirement community in which 70 percent of the 104 units were reserved for Medicaid recipients. When it opened in 2002, ECC President Glenn Palmberg said, "When God called Henry into Covenant ministry, he called him for more than local ministry. Henry has made an impact on the entire Portland community. He has emerged as a real leader. The Covenant Church is proud to have someone so beloved and respected in



Rev. Henry Greenidge addresses the delegates at the Covenant Annual Meeting after receiving the award. Greenidge, former pastor at Irvington Covenant, is retiring from full-time ministry.

Portland."

Covenanters also have been blessed through his participation in worship teams that ministered at pastors' conferences, denominational annual meetings, and the Feast. Paul Lessard, who played alongside Greenidge, referred to him as the "pastor emeritus" of the worship teams.

Greenidge also served on the Book of Worship Commission and has served on the executive board of the North Pacific Conference.

Greenidge's passion for community ministry formed as he watched his father, who was a pastor, minister to the residents throughout South Bronx, N.Y. Greenidge earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Nyack Missionary College in Nyack, N.Y. He studied youth ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and became an ordained minister in 1975, receiving a ministerial license from the Covenant in 1988.

Greenidge began as a music director in New York, then served as Young Life area director in Seattle and as associate pastor for Maranatha Church in Portland before becoming pastor of Irvington Covenant.



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Rev. Tamara Buchan leads Missio Lux's first public worship service.

“We don't just go to church ... we are the church”

Missio Lux “communities” to meet in small-group settings on average of three Sundays a month

By Rick Lund

Conference News editor

Nearly 150 people were in attendance at the first public worship service for Missio Lux Covenant Church on Oct. 5.

The following Sunday, no one showed up for worship. Or the Sunday after that.

The plan for Missio Lux – the name is Latin for “Mission of Light” – is to meet as a large group one Sunday a month. The first service was held at Pine Lake Covenant Church, and future monthly services will be held there.

What happens the rest of the month sets the Sammamish, Wash., church apart from most churches. Missio Lux will meet in “missio communities,” or small groups. The groups will meet in homes or other public places — such as coffee shops — and can decide their own schedule.

By not meeting every Sunday in a church building, the congregation can devote more time and money to ministry in the community and to each other, says Pastor Tamara Buchan.

“By removing the comforts of a church building, the people realize that they are the church,” said Buchan, who for the past five years was pastor of adult ministries at Pine Lake Covenant, which has planted Missio Lux.

“We don't just go to church ... we are the church.”

Missio's priorities for ministry, says Buchan, are “mission outreach, day-to-day relations and authentic friendship with one another.”

The church was active in the community well before its first worship service.

Last July, members went to Occidental Park in Seattle and served 1,000 meals to the homeless. They also distributed coats, blankets, socks, gloves and made themselves available to pray. Missio Lux returned to Occidental Park in October to feed the homeless and hand out clothing.

Church members also are being trained to lead discussions following the showing of “Call and Response,” a documentary on human trafficking that is playing in theaters across the country. With assistance from its sister church, Pine Lake Covenant, Missio Lux also funds education of 32 Sudanese children at \$100 per year so they can attend a boarding school in Kenya.

Intentionally ministering to each other, Missio Lux also holds a healing prayer service on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Buchan spoke to the congregation at its first worship service about Joshua's desire to cross the Jordan River into the land God has set before them.

“It was a celebration of what God has done to this point,” Buchan said, “and what he's going to do from this point forward.”

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Portions of this article were taken from the Covenant News).

CHURCH PLANTING UPDATE

Five new churches launched in North Pacific Conference

The pace of church planting has accelerated in recent months with five new starts and a potential adoption in Boise, Idaho.

Six groups from the North Pacific Conference recently participated in a Church Planter Training event sponsored by the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism in Denver, Colo.

Attending from the NPC were representatives from Helena, Mont., Bellingham, Wash., Issaquah, Wash; Dundee, Ore., Bend, Ore. Two pastors from parenting churches, John Jenks, North Bend, Wash. and Paul Peterson, Bellingham, also attended.

Here is an update on each of our new church plants.

Headwaters Covenant

City: Helena, Mont.

Pastor: Matt Randles
mattandmer@hotmail.com

Sponsored by the Evangelical Covenant Church in Helena, where Randles has served as associate pastor. Headwaters Covenant held a “sneak” preview service on Oct. 16, and was to hold one service a month in November and December. Weekly services will begin early in 2009. The church will be meeting in downtown Helena.

Dundee Covenant

City: Dundee, Ore.

Pastor: Art Matheny
art@dundeecovenantchurch.com

Dundee Covenant is being parented by Countryside Community Church in Sherwood, Ore.. They held their first preview service at the elementary school on Oct. 26 in Dundee, with one service a month in November and December. The launch team now includes 40 adults, most of them from Countryside.

Bellingham

City: Bellingham, Wash.

Pastor: Chris Eltrich
celtrich@ccsr.com

This church is being parented by Bellingham Covenant. Chris has identified an area near downtown, Leonard Street, as the site for the new church. A preview service will be held in November with weekly services beginning early in 2009.

Missio Lux

City: Sammamish, Wash.

Pastor: Tamara Buchan
tamara@missiolux.org

This church is being parented by Pine Lake Covenant in Sammamish. Tamara had been on staff at the church as an associate pastor. Their launch service was held on Sunday evening, Oct. 5. It's model of ministry is built around three key ministries and is supported by a series of home communities and ministries to the community.

Icon Covenant

City: Issaquah, Wash.

Pastor: Kyle Reynolds
kizo20@hotmail.com

Icon's first preview service was held on Sept. 21, with another service scheduled on Oct. 26. The church is being parented by Cascade Covenant in North Bend, Wash. The church meets in the community center of the new Issaquah Highlands community.

Potential church plant and adoption

Common Ground

City: Boise Idaho

Pastor: Tom Bowen
tom@virtualground.org

This two-year old independent church has contacted the North Pacific Conference and is exploring possible affiliation with the Evangelical Covenant Church. Several persons who have attended Covenant churches in the past are part of the congregation. It's possible that this church may seek affiliation with the Covenant early next year.

It's back to the future for pastoral interns as NPC preaches importance of one-year stints

By Rick Lund

Conference News editor

Pastoral internships in the Covenant have traditionally given students a break from academic study – usually in the third year of seminary – to work alongside a supervising pastor.

This model of “on-the-job training”, however, has begun to fade in recent years. In today’s world of multi-tasking and competing demands, many seminarians either do internships part-time while going to school, or they fulfill their internship credits before or after seminary.

The North Pacific Conference is turning back the clock. For the second straight year, three students from North Park Theological Seminary are devoting yearlong internships in the Pacific Northwest.

They are: Elizabeth McColl at Cascade Covenant (Bend, Ore.); Mark Roberson at Tigard Covenant (Tigard, Ore.) and Sarah Robinson of CedarCreek Covenant (Maple Valley, Wash.).

The three seminarians do what Covenant interns used to do for a better part of a year – they preach, teach and lead under the tutelage of an established senior pastor and mentor. It’s a good test to see if one is cut out for the ministry.

Rev. Timothy Johnson, the Covenant’s Director of Field Education, and Rev. Mark Novak, superintendent of the North Pacific Conference,

each know the benefits of pastoral internships. They served one-year internships when they were young seminarians.

“For me, my year of internship between by second and third year at North Park Seminary was instrumental in clarifying the call of ministry,” said Johnson. “To spend a full year in teaching and preaching, to become accustomed to the ebb and flow of ministry, the rhythm of ministry, really played a big role in my development as a pastor.”

This unique transformation from student to pastor is what Johnson and Novak wanted current seminarians to experience. To help make that happen, the North Pacific Conference has become the first conference in the denomination to subsidize interns.

“In our development of pastors, we’ve drifted away from the full-year, internship concept,” said Johnson. “Mark and I wanted to encourage the full-year experience, and make that happen in the North Pacific Conference.”

Last year’s NPC interns were Kristen Kronberg at River Ridge Covenant (Olympia, Wash.), Erika Beckstrom at Sunset Covenant in Portland and Chris Birkland at Arlington (Wash.) United Church.

This year’s group is just as rich in diversity and talent. One is an African-American from Chicago. Two are women – one from the British Isles, the other raised in the Lutheran church and from the Midwest.

Elizabeth McColl



Church: Cascade Covenant, Bend, Ore. (Scott Johnson, pastor)

Home: Edinburgh, Scotland.

Areas of responsibility: Teaches Confirmation, helps with worship

team, small-group ministry and women’s ministry. Elizabeth is also passionate about encouraging and facilitating prayer ministry with the congregation.

Did you know? Started her life after college as a musician. She trained as a viola player at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

What she hopes to learn this year: “My calling to be a pastor has surfaced fairly recently, so I wanted to be at a Covenant church specifically to find out just what it means to be a pastor. So that is what I hope to learn – the daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly rhythm of pastoring a Covenant church. Cascade is led by a sole pastor, so there are opportunities for me to be involved in all areas of ministry, which means that I get to see it all! My overriding learning goal for this year is to continue to discern whether this is to what God is calling me.”

Long-term goal in ministry: “To have the courage to go wherever God wants me. I would love to find a way of using my music gifts in my call, and that could mean a path to becoming a worship pastor.”

Mark Roberson



Church: Tigard Covenant, Tigard, Ore. (David Greenidge, pastor)

Home: Chicago.

Areas of responsibility: Preaching, teaching Sunday School and

building a small-group ministry at Tigard. Since arriving at Tigard in July he has been a guest speaker at a youth retreat, was co-chairman of the church’s annual carnival and participated in feeding programs for children of low-income families.

Did you know? Growing up on the south side of Chicago, Mark came out of a dysfunctional and abusive family. He lived a few years homeless, until he found Jesus People USA. That’s where he was introduced to the Covenant.

What he hopes to learn this year: “I have always understood my abilities as a minister to my age bracket or my ethnicity. At Tigard I hope to understand my talents within the context of a diverse body of believers. I have taught VBS to 10-year-olds, spoke to teens about self-awareness and had lengthy dialogue with seniors in Sunday school. I hope to add to my knowledge and insight through being uncomfortable.”

Long-term goal in ministry: “I have been very interested in justice ministry and the possibility of planting a church in the inner city. I hope to extend the impact of the Gospel to the relationships that we have throughout our lifetime.”

Sarah Robinson



Church: CedarCreek Covenant, Maple Valley, Wash. (Kenton Johnson, pastor)

Home: Fort Wayne, Ind.

Areas of responsibility: Includes leading the church’s youth ministry (fourth grade-high

school), preaching, teaching Sunday School, helping out with worship and being a part of the leadership team.

Did you know? Grew up in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. A Presidential scholar at North Park Seminary.

What she hopes to learn this year: “I have a lot of “ministry” experience through the jobs and organizations I’ve been a part of in the past, but I have never worked in a church setting. It was very important for me that I have an opportunity to get a feel for the ebb and flow of church ministry, as well as what longer-term ministry felt like. I want to learn how to balance my life better so I can have a sustainable ministry. CedarCreek is a wonderful place to do this, as it is a loving and encouraging environment with members who are passionate and involved in the life of the church.”

Long-term goal in ministry: “It is clear that God has called me into ministry, and God has guided my every step as to where I am supposed to be. Unfortunately, God doesn’t give me the steps too far in advance! Clearly God has called me into the Covenant Church, for what specifically I’m not sure yet.”



NEW PASTORS

WILEY HEIGHTS (Yakima, Wash.)

Mark Swanson, *senior pastor*

Mark Swanson is the new pastor at Wiley Heights Covenant in Yakima, Wash.

Swanson for the past three years has been Associate Pastor for Youth and Family at Prairie Hills Covenant in Sioux Falls, S.D. He began his ministry at Wiley Heights on Oct. 21.

Swanson is a graduate of North Park Theological Seminary and North Park University. He also attended Covenant Bible College in Strathmore, Alberta.

Mark and his wife, Megan, are expecting a baby boy in March.

"I am excited to see how Wiley Heights Covenant can partner with what God is doing in Yakima and around the world," said Swanson, "by being a part of a community of people that are growing as followers of Jesus and sharing God's endless love with others."

THE WELL (Corvallis, Ore.)

Matt Mills, *senior pastor*

Matt Mills began his ministry at The Well Covenant Church in Corvallis, Ore. on Oct. 1.

Mills was on staff for the past 10 years at Ocean Hills Covenant Church in Santa Barbara, Calif. He also served at Montecito (Calif.) Covenant from 1996-98, and prior to that spent at year at the Anglican Church of Sydney.

Mills is a graduate of Fresno State University and Fuller Theological Seminary.

Matt and his wife, Kirsten, have two children: Gage, 7, and Walker, who will turn 4 in December.

"My vision for The Well is still developing as I get to know the people and what makes the Well distinct in Corvallis," said Mills. "My overall vision is walk the journey of faith with the people of Corvallis helping them to know, love, trust and follow Jesus Christ."

WEST HILLS (Portland)

Bree Stairs, *youth pastor*

Stairs joined the staff at West Hills in September.

Stairs grew up at McMinnville (Ore.) Covenant church, completed her undergrad education at George Fox University and served as a youth intern at Countryside Community Church in Sherwood, Ore., before attending North Park Theological Seminary.

She served as a resident director of Ohlson House at North Park for two years before taking the position at West Hills.

"I am excited to live life with the students and community of West Hills," she said. "hopefully challenging them to love the Lord, love justice and love each other in authentic community."



FEET TO FAITH, from page 1

Relief of western Washington

Race Day: Students interviewed several people in downtown Seattle to discover where and how people perceive racism and how the church contributes to those perceptions. The speaker was Ernie Cathcart, director of Casey Family programs and a member of Emerald City Bible Fellowship in Seattle.

Homeless Day: Students carried their possessions for 12 hours, purchased dinner with a budget of just \$3 with the understanding many in the world live on \$1 a day. Students also collected cardboard boxes for their "shelter" later that night, which would take place at the parking lot of Newport Covenant Church in Bellevue. The speaker was Edward Sumner of New Horizons.

Creation Care Day: Students celebrated the beauty of creation while walking through Seattle's Discovery Park. The speaker was LeeAnne Beres, executive director of Earth Ministry.

The students typically listened to speakers early in the day, then hit the streets of Seattle to "experience" that day's issue. Perhaps the most poignant "field trip" experience was the one planned to illustrate the plight of the homeless.

"When you're sleeping outside and you have to carry everything with you all day, it's tiring," said Jeff Parker, a high-school student from Trinity Covenant, Salem, Ore. "\$3 for dinner doesn't go far. You sleep on the ground under a streetlight with all the traffic going by. It really makes you feel like 'this is hard. I wouldn't want to do this every day.'"

Teaching and real-life experiences such as these drove home each day's topic.

"Every day was powerful in a different way," said Poterek. "Working with World Relief and living the life of a refugee had a huge impact on a lot of students. Racism, and for the first time hearing about white privilege, was new to many students."

For Parker, it was getting past the tendency to stereotype people of a different race.

"What makes us better than anybody else where we can label people like we label a can of food in the grocery store?" Parker asked himself. "What makes us think we can read their label without even talking to them? You can pick your can of food from a label in a grocery store, but you shouldn't be able to label people. "(I learned) that 'everybody's the same.'"

We need to stop viewing them as 'them' and view them as 'one of us.'"

On the final day of the conference, students gathered at Newport Covenant to talk about what they learned, and what their next step might be.

Two girls who attend a high school with a large Hispanic population want to start an "Against Racism" club in the school. Another boy wants to confront his father about his long-standing grudge against African-Americans.

"I pray that the Lord would give me the power to do so, cause I respect him and love

him with all my heart," the boy told the large group. "But he outweighs me by 200 pounds."

Students from several Covenant churches in Oregon are talking about doing a "water relay" to raise money to build wells in other countries.

More than a year in the planning stages, Feet to Faith is the first conference of its kind to be held in the Covenant.

"We chose to do it in the North Pacific Conference because Krisann Jarvis Foss (NPC director of conference ministries) gets it, loves it and has a heart for that," said Marti Burger, director of youth and family ministries in the Covenant's Department of Christian Formation. "We also have a great core of youth pastors there who were excited about this. And Carolyn Poterek has been a mainstay (in the area of social justice) in this conference."

Several Covenant churches helped make Feet to Faith happen. While Newport Covenant helped host the Aug. 6-11 event, five NPC churches made and donated lunches for the whole group: Midway, River Ridge Covenant, Bellingham, Cedar Creek and Highland. Ralph

Hammersborg (Quest) barbecued meat on his big BBQ trailer for the lunch on the final day of the conference.

Other staff included Leah Klug and Caenisha Warren of Quest, and about a dozen NPC youth pastors. Burger was joined by Luke Parmerlee from the ECC Department of Christian Formation.

"This response to Feet to Faith of people wanting to be involved was amazing," said

Jarvis Foss. "It was a blessing to work with this group of organizers."

Burger hopes other conferences in the Covenant will hold similar seminars.

"We really want to raise awareness," Burger said. "A lot of these kids learn about these issues in school, but they don't get to do it in a Christian context."

It is within that Christian context that a necessary but not surprising byproduct came from this conference — by learning more about Christ commands to help the "least of these," hearts were softened to become more like Christ.

"We have a group of about 14 people here," said Parker, of his youth group, "and I know at least four of them have been touched by the Lord during worship. Attitudes have changed. It's been a life-changing week."

Said Poterek:

"We're here to encourage and support our kids as they grow into disciples, to follow Christ as those who want to be faithful with their feet, really walking it and living it."

"To me that's the No. 1 mission of the conference, as youth pastors, as we pour ourselves into our kids -- to give them better tools, to continue discipling our kids in the area of compassion, mercy and justice. They're the church, too, and they're going to be bringing the church into future generations."



Students also spent one night in cardboard boxes in the Newport Covenant Church parking lot to get a feel for what it's like to be a homeless person.

Independence Family Camp attendance highest in nine years

Nearly 1,200 attended the three Family Camps at Cascades Camp and Conference Center this past summer, and the Independence Family Camp was the largest since 1999, the "Decade of Blessing" 10-year celebration in 1999.

Approximately 633 attended the July 2-6 Family Camp, second only to the "Decade of Blessing" 10-year celebration nine years ago. Special speakers were Ruth Hill, Executive Minister of Women Ministries for the ECC, and Rev. Harvey Drake, pastor of Emerald Bible Fellowship in Seattle.

Labor Day Family camp drew 304, with Rev. Brian Wiele of River Ridge Covenant Church in Olympia, Wash., as speaker. The Memorial Day camp drew 215.

Youth camps drew more than 1,000 campers, with many making significant spiritual decisions.

"Twenty-five percent of the kids who shared with us, shared that they made a "significant" decision for God," said Rob Mohrweis, Cascades' associate director. "Significant" meant the camper became a Christian, rededicated his or her life to Christ, committed to growing though more prayer/study of the Bible, and/or felt that God was calling them to ministry.

Mohrweis praised the Cascades summer staff, calling it "amazing, the best in years. Very spiritually healthy, they grew and bonded a lot." He also singled out Kelsey Holloway, a North Park Theological Seminary student who interned with the camp as camp pastor to the staff.

Looking to the future, the camp is working with Thurston County to have Cascades' master plan re-approved.

"Much to our surprise, we were notified this year that it had expired and as a result cannot go forward on any of our new building projects until it has been re-approved," Mohrweis said.

The final log cabin will be



Youth campers go for a trail ride at Cascades Camp.

finished this year. The camp also hopes to begin construction on the new Madrona Lodge in 2009.

SPOKANE, WASH. First Covenant turns 120

First Covenant Church of Spokane celebrated its 120th anniversary on Oct. 4.

A handful of Swedish families who had recently arrived from Minneapolis, Minn., helped form the nucleus of the church that began in the summer and fall of 1887. A year later, the worshippers organized a formal church called the "Swedish Christian Church" of Spokane Washington Territory. The name was changed to "The Swedish Tabernacle" in 1906.

First Covenant eventually purchased land at its present site, Second and Division, and built a church and Sunday School building. That building was later condemned, and the present building, "First Covenant," was completed in 1950. Both Swedish and English services were conducted until the late 1950s, when it became English only.

Many of the past and present members have served as missionaries in foreign countries, leaders in Covenant colleges and

in leadership positions of the denomination.

Many changes continue to take place in the neighborhood. There is a coffee shop across the street, the Farmers' Market uses the church parking lot on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and a new multi-story motel is scheduled for completion just behind the church. As a result of these changes, the church congregation may consider a location change in the future.

Anniversary festivities began with an open house during the day on Saturday, Oct. 4. That evening a celebration banquet was held at the Red Lion Inn in Spokane.

SEATTLE Pastor's son recovering from drive-by shooting

Emerald City Bible Fellowship pastor Harvey Drake says his son, Terren, is recovering well after being seriously injured in a drive-by shooting in August.

"He's a walking miracle," Harvey says. "We couldn't be happier at the way things are turning out."

Terren, 26, was the passenger in a vehicle that had stopped at a traffic light near Qwest Field around 2:15 a.m. on Aug. 20. A passenger in the rear seat of another car at the light suddenly started shooting.

One bullet struck Terren in the hand and passed through a cell phone he was using, causing damage to his jaw and chin. He moved to protect the driver, and the second bullet hit him in the back, ricocheting off a rib and into his shoulder.

Terren underwent eight hours of surgery to repair his jaw and hand. He was expected to undergo another surgery in October to rebuild his chin.

Emerald City Bible Fellowship has rallied around the family, Harvey says.

"The church community has been incredible. Andrea (Harvey's wife) and I also are extremely grateful to the Evangelical Covenant Church family for their support during this season in our lives," he said.

MOUNT VERNON, WASH. Bethany hands out school supplies to 1,100 children

Bethany Covenant Church handed out school supplies to more than 1,100 children

at its annual "Back-to-School Blessing" on Aug. 23.

The event drew the largest turnout in the four years the church has hosted the event, which caters to area families who can't afford the rising costs of back-to-school shopping.

More than 1,600 people, most of them Hispanic from Mount Vernon and the surrounding area, attended the event.

Besides handing out 1,155 school supplies, the 158 volunteers from 14 area churches also distributed:

- 880 backpacks.
- 500 bags of clothes.
- 400 Bibles.

Volunteers also served up a free breakfast of pancakes and sausage to more than 1,200. A crew of stylists from a local hair academy gave 88 free haircuts. A prayer station was also set up in the church, and 810 people were prayed for and blessed.

World Vision and Wal-Mart donated school supplies and clothing. Other contributions came from churches, businesses and Kiwanas clubs.

"The event went beyond what we could imagine," said Rev. Vicki Lund, associate pastor of children and seniors ministries. "There's a great need in our community for this kind of help."

EUGENE, ORE. A Weekend in Narnia

Valley Covenant Church of Eugene, will host a weekend lecture series "A Weekend in Narnia" Nov. 21-23.

Lecturers will be Michael Ward, author of *Planet Narnia: The Seven Heavens in the Imagination of C. S. Lewis*; Terry Glaspey, author of *Not a Tame Lion: The Spiritual Legacy of C. S. Lewis*; and Richard Purtill, author of *C. S. Lewis' Case for the Christian Faith and Lord of the Elves and the Eldils: Fantasy and Philosophy in C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien*.

The three authors also will participate in a panel discussion prior to the Sunday morning worship service. Pastor Stephen Bilynskyj's sermon will be preaching on "Looking for the Lion."

For a full schedule of events, contact Valley Covenant at 541-345-0055. Suggested donation for the weekend is \$5 per person, \$2 for children.