



NORTHWEST NEWS

NORTHWEST BAPTIST SEMINARY@ACTS

...RECRUITING, TRAINING AND SUSTAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MINISTRY LEADERS

NORTHWEST PEOPLE

BY DR. LARRY PERKINS

“...it became quite clear that while I could do science and all the academics involved, it was not my passion. God had something else for me...”

Andy Chan - Northwest/ACTS second year M. Div. student serving at Peace Baptist Church in Vancouver, BC.

I had only been attending University one week when I committed my life to Jesus Christ. Over the course of the summer prior to this, all of these influences came together. God opened my eyes to see how the worldly aspirations that I was pursuing were unsatisfying and futile and that only by His grace and forgiveness would my life have real meaning and purpose. As you might expect, my parents were somewhat concerned. Throughout my childhood and adolescent years, my parents helped me in many ways, but they remain Buddhist in their religious affiliation. Tension often came when I held firm that my Christian convictions would not permit me to participate in our family's Buddhist religious traditions. Yet, as time has passed, they gradually have become more accepting of my decision.

Andy, where did you grow up? Tell us a little about your family.

I was born in Hong Kong, but my family (my father and mother, Henry and Serena, my older sister, Ada, and myself) moved to Vancouver when I was two years old. The concerns about the conclusion of British rule in Hong Kong were the primary motivation for my family's relocation. However, the majority of my extended family chose to remain in China. I marvel at my parents' courage in making this decision – moving our family to a country whose language and culture were completely foreign to them.

After completing high school at Killarney Secondary and a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Chemistry and a minor in Religious Studies at the University of British Columbia I began to work for “Mad Science” and continue to enjoy that teaching opportunity even today.

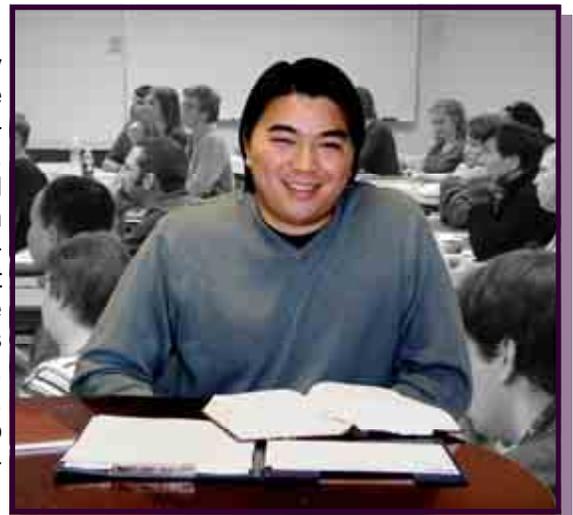
How were you introduced to Christianity?

During high school some of my friends were Christians and so we sometimes talked about Christianity. One of my teachers, Mr. Epp, who taught Social Studies and sponsored the school's Christian fellowship club, had a godly passion and love for people that showed. I also participated in the volleyball team and the coach was Mark Laird [NBS M.Div. Alumnus 1988], pastor of Peace Baptist Church. We developed a friendship and so I got involved in the church's volleyball outreach ministry.

From the onset of my Christian life, there has always been a deep sense of commitment to ministering to others. In my church I received strong initial training and so growth occurred through early exposure to ministry involvement. The opportunity came to be a counselor at Camp Qwanoes for several summers and this experience challenged me to learn more fully what I believed, developing the ability to share it with young people. At church I also became involved in

What led you to decide to train for ministry leadership?

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Andy Chan at Northwest@ACTS



Andy leading worship at Peace Baptist Church

youth ministry and worship.

Then one summer I contracted mononucleosis at camp and had to come home to recover for several weeks. The only thing I could do during that time was rest and read. God used that time to help me discover that my program of study at University was not really focused in the direction God had for me. The

career that I had been pursuing up until that time was to become a High School science teacher. The next semester at University, as I was sitting in one of my Chemistry courses, it became quite clear that while I could do science and all the academics involved, it was not my passion. God had something else for me and that was serving Him in church ministry. Leaders in my church, who mentored and encouraged me, noted God's gifting in my life. One of the elders, Drago Adam, took time to talk with me and help me discern things clearly. And so there were various people influential in this process. Alongside of this call, what also quickly became apparent was my lack of preparation and training and so I realized my need to receive some formal education to better equip me for the task of pastoral leadership.

What challenges did you face as you came to this decision?

First, I felt I was young and quite inexperienced. Here I was, graduated from University, called by God to become a pastoral leader, but at 22 years old, I felt so young.

Second, there was the financial challenge. But this was answered by the scholarship program that Northwest Baptist Seminary has established whereby, with the support of the church, the costs of tuition are divided equally among the student, his church and the Seminary.

And then, there was coming to actually apply to Seminary. Coming from a secular, undergraduate background, I naturally had many questions and concerns. The contacts with Dr. Anderson and Dr. Perkins were helpful here.

What program are you completing and what do you find challenging about it?

This semester I am half way through the Master of Divinity Degree program. This is a three year program that helps people prepare for church ministry leadership.

Peace Baptist Church, where I am interning, is a smaller, urban church. As I study I am challenged to understand how the principles I am learning in Seminary can be applied helpfully in such a church setting to stimulate healthy church development. Together with my mentor, Pastor Mark, I have had rich opportunity to explore what will work best for the good of the city-church that is situated in a pluralistic, post-modern community. This past year, for example, I initiated a

re-visioning process at our church and was able to preach an eight-week series that focused on equipping our congregation with evangelistic passion and values. This semester I will be involved more significantly in small group ministry leadership with an emphasis on team-building and vision development. Personally, being involved in the ministry leadership of a smaller church keeps stretching me. I also find that my work with "Mad Science" provides me with many contacts with non-believers. 80% of my friends do not follow Jesus. So I feel a great burden to share Christ and learn how to do this well through my church and through my personal network.

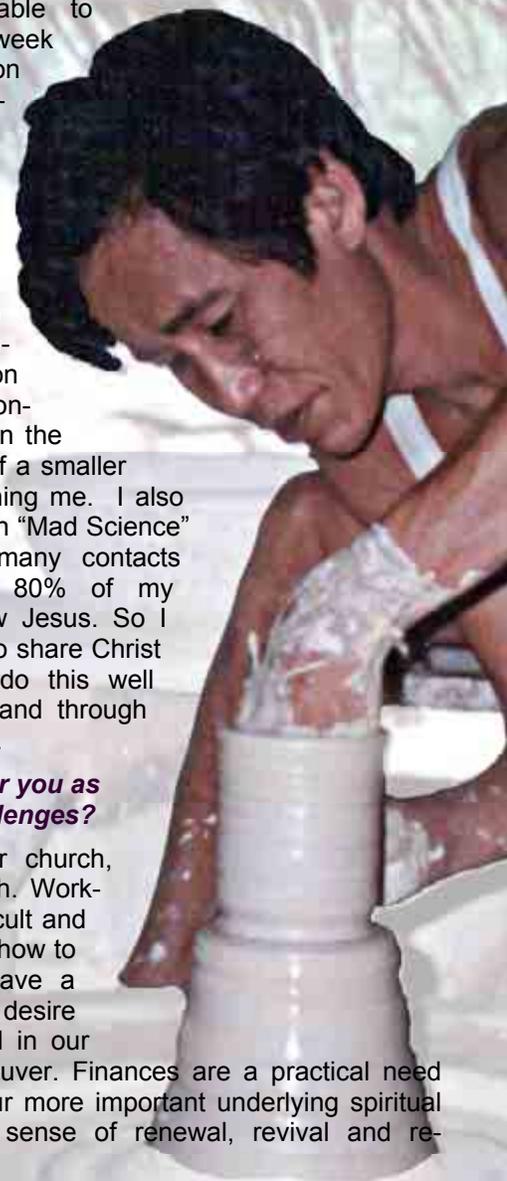
How can we pray for you as you face these challenges?

Please pray for our church, Peace Baptist church. Working in the city is difficult and we struggle to know how to do this well. We have a heart for the city and desire to see God honored in our community in Vancouver. Finances are a practical need that we have, but our more important underlying spiritual needs are a fresh sense of renewal, revival and re-visioning.

For myself personally, I am continually faced with the challenge of balancing my commitments to my job at "Mad Science", to my studies, and to my church. It is a heavy pressure. Every day I need God's help and I pray that He will provide me with the discernment and courage to do this well.

While I am sure of God's calling, I am still not clear exactly how to fulfill this. So I need more discernment about this. I appreciate and am very indebted to the wonderful church family at Peace for the ministry opportunities that are there. But whether they will be able to support an expanded ministry leadership staff is unknown. So I need to understand how God might lead me in the future to extend what God has started at Peace. My heart is there.

(continued on page 4)



THE KILN

NORTHWEST PEOPLE ON ASSIGNMENT

THE POTTER TAKES A LUMP OF UNFORMED CLAY AND FASHIONS IT FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE. IT IS HIS HANDS THAT DETERMINE THE SHAPE, THE SIZE AND THE FUNCTION TO WHICH THE RAW CLAY WILL EVENTUALLY BE CRAFTED. BUT IT IS IN

THE KILN THAT THE PLIABLE CLAY IS TESTED AND HARDENED INTO A USEFUL VESSEL. IT IS THE KILN THAT PROVES THE WISDOM AND SKILL OF THE POTTER.

MARK NAYLOR

Part of my job with Northwest involves Bible translation projects for the Sindhi people in Pakistan. A common complaint against academic institutions is the "ivory tower" mentality and "armchair missiology" of those involved in academic institutions but not active in field work. Northwest is well aware of this danger, and as a result not only permits, but actively encourages my involvement in the Bible translation projects.

Translation has been an important part of my ministry since 1987 when I began to work with the Old Testament Muslim Sindhi translation project. At present this has expanded to include 3 projects: The Old Testament which is nearing completion, a study New Testament and the New Testament in Hindu Sindhi. I travel to Pakistan twice a year and work on translation checking during my time in Canada.

The original common language Sindhi translation was prepared for a Muslim audience and is thus

unacceptable to Hindu Sindhis and believers with a Hindu background. Because the difference between Hindu and Muslim Sindhi is primarily a matter of vocabulary with synonyms exchanged through a "search and replace" command, an initial draft of the New Testament was easily prepared. Translators are presently working through the manuscript and making corrections according to initial translation decisions. However I will need to do an exegetical check once the corrections are finished and a number of important decisions will need to be made at that time. For example, the word for "worship" in Muslim Sindhi has a strong nuance indicating the physical stance of prostrating oneself. In Hindu Sindhi the primary word for worship contains much baggage denoting idol worship. Research will be required to ensure cultural appropriateness of the terminology.



Khidmut is a joint venture between FEBInternational and Northwest Baptist Seminary coordinated by Mark Naylor. It is designed to enable quality academic education coupled with field experience and training that prepares key individuals for cross-cultural ministry. With a threefold partnership between a church, FEBInternational and Northwest Baptist Seminary, a program can be established that ensures quality training, a mentored ministry environment and a financial plan that enables the student to complete the program debt free and well on the way in raising support.

Khidmut includes a semester with the Gateway program which seeks to equip the cross-cultural worker to handle the interpersonal conflicts and stresses that arise in unfamiliar settings. Successful completion of the first year requirements prepares the student for graduate studies in a Masters' program through NBS@ACTS.

We are now receiving applications for September 2005. If you would like further information about the program please contact Mark Naylor (email: mark.naylor@twu.ca, phone: 250-652-6226).

DR. LYLE SCHRAG

Heart for Ministry is an interactive learning experience designed to help Emerging Leaders assess God's Higher Call. It can be used as a Bible Study and there are guides for both a Pastor/Mentor and Emerging Leader/Student. Sessions include readings, guided discussion, and assessment tests that answer: *How can I discover the unique future that God has for me? What is the next step I need to take into this future?*



Heart For Ministry materials will be available for order from Northwest Baptist Seminary by the end of January.

PURSUING GOD'S HEART – CONFIRMING GOD'S CALL

is a **Retreat for Emerging Leaders AND their Pastor/Mentors – designed to help you:**

1. Clarify the elements of personal direction and calling...
2. Discover the possibilities for a real future in ministry...
3. Design a personal course of growth...

Date: May 13-14, 2005

Place: Charis Camp, Chilliwack, B.C.

Fee: \$75.00 per person

Space: limited to 40 people

Registration: beginning February, 2005

WWW.NBSEMINARY.COM

One day, when I am laying on my deathbed scrolling through my life, I am going to think about the past six months. I will always be grateful to the NBS board for allowing me the privilege of serving a half-year sabbatical at Spurgeon’s College in London. When I first spotted the full-size statue of C.H. Spurgeon outside the college chapel, I was reminded of two of my



Dr. Kent Anderson with the statue of Charles Spurgeon in front of Spurgeon’s College

former mentors. I thought first of Don Hills who taught me preaching twenty-five years ago as a young Northwest student and who loved to quote from the “prince of preachers.” I thought second of Ian Bowie, my pastor all those years ago who owned a complete set of Spurgeon’s sermons. I remember as a teenager being impressed by the multi-volume “Metropolitan Pulpit” that graced Pastor Bowie’s shelves. Now here I was standing in the shadow of the great preacher.

My primary project while at Spurgeon’s was to write a major new textbook on preaching for Zondervan Press.

The book is intended to cover the field of biblical preaching today, describing the choices preachers need to make, and the possibilities for sermon structure. I am pleased to say that I have completed a draft of appear in the next time).



The Anderson family and friends with Oxford in the background

the book and hope to see it year or two (these things take

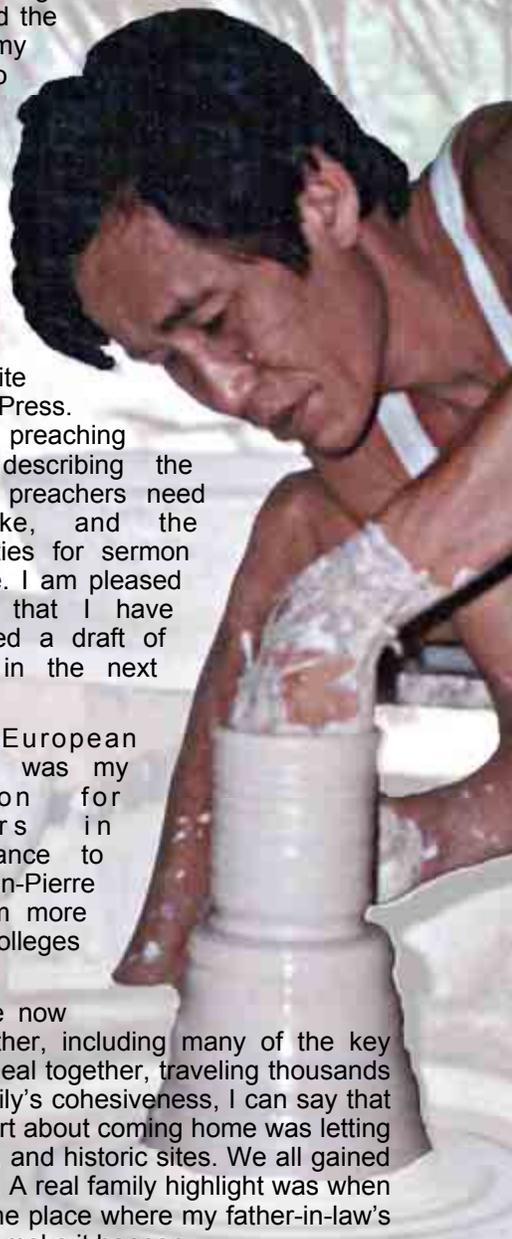
A further goal was to network leaders and missionaries. A keynote address to a “Passion for Preaching” meeting of Dutch northern Holland. I also had spend a few days with Fellowship missionaries, Dave and Ruth Bunn, as well as Jean-Pierre and Abby Greth in Belgium, talking about ways that Northwest can serve them more effectively. Another highlight was our visit to Belfast and to the seminaries and Bible colleges in Northern Ireland.

with European highlight was my “Passion for pastors in the chance to

Perhaps the greatest benefit, however, was more personal. My three children are now teenagers and capable of serious conversation and we shared all of them together, including many of the key discussions with leaders about theology, the church, and the future. If eating every meal together, traveling thousands of miles in very small vehicles, and living in near poverty conditions is a test of a family’s cohesiveness, I can say that we passed that test. I have wonderful children and a very special wife. The hardest part about coming home was letting go of the intense experience we had together visiting galleries, museums, cathedrals, and historic sites. We all gained an education, learning as much from each other as we did from what we were seeing. A real family highlight was when we were able to take my in-laws to the Outer Hebrides of Northern Scotland to find the place where my father-in-law’s grandmother had come from. This was important to him and I was thrilled to be able to make it happen.

We enjoyed fellowship in a number of diverse churches – from evensong at Christ Church, Oxford, to the rambunctious worship at Hillsong London, to the privilege of hearing John Stott preach (twice!) at All Souls Church in Central London. These experiences enriched and informed me.

The people at Spurgeon’s College were wonderful to us, giving us opportunity to participate in their community and in their lives. We return home refreshed and ready to re-engage the work that God has for us here. Having seen how leadership development happens in other parts of the world, I am more intent than ever that we find and prepare good people to lead our ministries for years to come.



(Andy Chan—continued from page 2) **Andy, as you look forward, what goals are you setting for yourself?**

God seems to be growing within me a burden for second generation people in the Asian-Canadian context. Being raised in such a culture, I know the struggles that we face discerning our identity – who are we and how can we discern our roots and life focus? I have found direction in Christ, but many of my friends struggle to know themselves. I want to help them find the life that God desires them to have in Jesus. May He help me touch the lives of these people for Him.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

DR. LARRY PERKINS

Does Baptist Identity Matter?

Friends tell me that religious labels no longer matter in our postmodern world. I would love to believe it, but I fear the reality is different. If religious labels no longer mean anything, why are the media so concerned about 'the religious right'? Why are the media so quick to paint some politicians as 'evangelicals' and then dismiss them as irrelevant or dangerous?

But maybe it's just old labels that are getting tired. So we like 'community' churches and we want personal 'spirituality', but to get more specific and talk about Baptist spirituality or Baptist churches seems narrow, divisive, and just plain modern. So what's in a name? (I think someone else asked that question a few centuries ago!)

It's good to pause and ask ourselves who we are and what name will identify us the best. Sometimes we get labeled by hostile groups. I do not imagine that the followers of Jesus in Antioch thought the label 'Christian' was particularly flattering. Our denominational moniker has a similar origin – unfriendly groups took our most distinctive religious practice and named us after it – Baptists! But our forefathers rejoiced and embraced a name that many considered an affront. This was their brand, despite its scorned nuances. Out of their harried experience key values such as religious freedom, the gathered church, and the Lordship of Jesus Christ became dominant elements in Evangelicalism.

But we are in a new century, a new place, and a new cultural paradigm. So does Baptist identity matter? It is good to emphasize our oneness with other genuine followers of Jesus. This is biblical, this is the Spirit's desire, this honours God. We know that such labels will disappear around God's throne. So we cannot let our labels unnecessarily and harmfully hinder God's Kingdom work. Our cooperation together as God's people gives witness to this reality.

Personally, our identities matter a great deal to us. Our roots give definition and solidness to our sense of place. Genealogical investigation intrigues us and sometimes we spend considerable determining our origins – particularly if we have lost our connectedness. Intuitively we know that our roots help us to understand ourselves, our values, and our place in time. The same holds true when we consider the heritage of our Christian family. While we may initially become partners in a particular faith community without much thought given to its heritage, sooner or later we will find ourselves asking:

- ◆ Why does this group understand the Christian faith in this way?



- ◆ Why does this group of Christians practice these things?
- ◆ How does my connection with this Christian group link me into God's larger kingdom work that has continued over the centuries?

Such questions help us explore the nature of our Christian identity personally and collectively. The more clearly we understand these things, usually the more we value the emphases the group embraces. Coherence deepens. Alternatively we may find ourselves agreeing to disagree, respecting the difference but continuing to partner in kingdom work. We will find ourselves appreciating some aspects of our group's identity and less enamoured about other matters. But this same love-hate kind of relationship defines most family contexts in some way.

Our Baptist name retains importance. As a distinctive family within the larger context of Christendom we stand, hopefully with humility, as reminders to our kinsmen in God's kingdom that some very specific values continue to be important for Christian life and witness. Our emphasis upon baptism as the rite of initiation into God's family as people confess their faith in Jesus Christ elevates the importance of this sacred ritual for Christian spirituality.

When we link the priesthood of the believer to issues such as competency to understand Scripture, and when we respect the voice of Christians in setting the direction of ministry and affirming ministry leadership, and when we honour the ability of Christians to carry forward the ministry of the local church, then we model a vision of church that is important for other Christians to reflect upon. As we seek to live out our commitment to religious freedom in our culture, we hold others accountable to a high commitment to human dignity and responsibility.

Our **Baptist Identity** conference planned for March 11-12, 2005 helps us reflect together on our 'family' history, values, and place in God's Kingdom.

WWW.NBSEMINARY.COM



How do we equip people to minister in our Canadian Pluralistic culture from a denominational perspective? That is the purpose of our upcoming conference, **Being Baptist in our Religiously Pluralistic Culture**. Our goal is to equip pastors and church leaders to deal with this cultural reality in a way that is faithful to the Scriptures and effective in the proclamation of the gospel today. Dr Harold Netland, our keynote speaker, is a recognized expert in this field, with both pastoral and Missionary experience. His two books, *Dissonant Voices* and *Encountering Religious Pluralism: The Challenge to Christian Faith and Mission*, have set the standard for a faithful biblical response to this question within evangelicalism. He is a dynamic speaker and presents the issues in a clear and helpful way. Along with him we have an excellent collection of scholars, pastors and denominational leaders, all from the Baptist tradition, who will be leading breakout sessions on related issues.

Baptist Identity Conference

DATE: March 11-12, 2005

TIME: 9:00 AM to 4:30 COST: \$75

LOCATION: Fosmark Centre, Trinity Western University Campus

The John H. Pickford series in basic Christian doctrine called **Principles of our Faith**, developed and taught from a Baptist perspective by Dr. Archie Spencer, is available for presentation in your church as an adult study either in a Sunday Christian education format, a mid week study series or as a weekend seminar.

Dr Spencer has also developed a series called **Christ and Culture** as a follow up, or a stand alone series, offered in the same formats. For more information call NBS at 604-888-7592, or visit our website at www.nbseminary.ca.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our yearend was December 31st. We are thankful to God for a balanced budget. The generosity and commitment of many people contributed to this and we are grateful to each one. Our goal for gifts this past year was \$82,000, including \$12,000 for financial aid. We received \$86,000, including \$20,000 for financial aid. In addition, a one-time estate gift of \$72,000 was received for our financial aid endowment.

As we turn our focus to this new year, our goals are slightly greater. In order to achieve the ministry goals that we believe God has given us, we are setting our target for gift income at \$89,000. The increase is modest but important. If we achieve this goal, then it will enable us:

- ◆ To increase student financial aid;
- ◆ To implement our in-church leadership development initiatives, encouraging the growth of emerging ministry leaders in our churches;
- ◆ To implement our new Khidmut program of missions leadership training;
- ◆ To continue our work of developing youth pastors;
- ◆ To be a strong partner in the ACTS Consortium, training pastors, counselors, Bible Translators, chaplains, missionaries, and many others for Kingdom ministries.

If you are seeking a way to make an impact through your stewardship investments, then the task of developing a new generation of ministry leaders for God's church is surely critical and of great value. Thank you for considering Northwest in your giving this year.

The audited report for this past fiscal year is under preparation. We anticipate its completion by the end of March. If you desire to receive a copy of the statement, please contact Dianne Gleave at 604-888-7592.

NBS@ACTS Spring Enrolment

There are 360 students enrolled at ACTS Seminaries this Spring Semester. Each student is registered with one of the six partner seminaries within ACTS.

This semester there are 49 students registered with Northwest Baptist Seminary.

EVENTS SPONSORED BY NORTHWEST

BAPTIST IDENTITY IN THE CANADIAN CONTEXT CONFERENCE WITH DR. HAROLD A. NETLAND	MARCH 11, 12, 2005
FEBBC/Y CONVENTION—EMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST, VERNON	APRIL 25—27, 2005
EMERGING LEADERS' RETREAT—PURSUING GOD'S HEART—CONFIRMING GOD'S CALL—DR. LYLE SCHRAG	MAY 13, 14, 2005
FEBCAST CONVENTION—FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, EDMONTON	MAY 26—28, 2005
SMARTER FAMILIES CANADA CONFERENCE 2005 WITH DR. DAVID CONGO AND MRS. JANET CONGO	JUNE 3-4, 2005

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NORTHWEST DEPENDS ON THE GRACIOUS GIFTS OF ITS FRIENDS, BOTH CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUALS