

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Volunteer crews are coming in waves to give the inside of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses at 808 Wyoming a much-needed facelift.

The first two weekends of September, volunteers from the Goodland and Colby congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses tore out the old wallpaper, took down the blinds, removed wallpaper paste, pulled up the carpet from the adjoining apartment (where traveling overseers and speakers spend the night) and tore out walls and tile from the restrooms.

Crews from eastern Kansas came this weekend to patch and texture the dry wall and set tile. Wednesday through Sunday, more volunteers from across Kansas will paint the walls, lay carpet, install a new furnace and air conditioner and put fixtures in and finish the restrooms.

Through the whole project, Goodland volunteers (including some who live in Sharon Springs, Burlington and Kanorado) will provide lodging and meals for the workers. After the work is completed Sunday, workers and members of the congregation plan to meet for a study of an article in The Watchtower and to watch a DVD production of the work.

The Kingdom Hall needed to be remodeled, said the Goodland Congregation's presiding overseer, Dan Lucas. It was last redone in 1988. Besides, he said, the Kingdom Hall gets so much use. There are meetings for Bible instruction three days a week, and members meet here almost every day to go out in the door-to-door preaching activity.

The Goodland elders met with the Regional Building Committee of Jehovah's Witnesses for Kansas last August, Lucas said, but were originally just planning to get new carpet and chairs. Then, he said, they decided it wouldn't be much more work to paint the walls.

After the project was voted on by the congregation, Lucas said, the circuit overseer visited the congregation and pointed out that as long as the congregation was taking out a loan from the Watchtower Society for the remodeling, it would be best to replace the furnace and air conditioner and remodel the bathrooms as well.

After the costs of those improvements were determined, he said, the congregation voted to approve the project. Then it was scheduled and the building committee arranged for volunteers.



Larry Williams, Kanorado, and his son Tyler (above) tore tile out of the men's room at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses earlier this month. Andy Rials, Wichita (right), walked on stilts to do drywall work at the hall on Friday. He was among the volunteers working with the Regional Building Committee. Dan Lucas, Goodland, (below) measured the area for tile around the drinking fountain Friday.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

The building committees are made up of three or four overseers, Lucas said, and volunteers who are construction professionals work with the committee on projects. The committee sends out letters to volunteers in the trades that are needed, Lucas said, and the volunteers let them know whether or not they are available.

"The purpose of having volunteers who are tradesmen," he said, "is so we don't take as much time away from the preaching work."

They do the work faster and better, he said; it doesn't take these guys a lot of time. They bring their tools and equipment from their businesses, he said; the building committees don't have to buy any.

Most of those here this weekend are from the Wichita area and Lawrence, Lucas said; by the time the project is done, probably 60 people from all over Kansas will have come to work.

They pay their own way here, he said, and volunteer their time, but because of the way projects are organized, each person is only here a



couple of days.

The crews get some help to reduce their expenses while here. Most of the congregation is helping with food and lodging, Lucas said.

Three hot meals are served at the site each day, and most of those who travel in stay with someone in the congregation even though they don't know each other.



The willingness to volunteer and to share with others, Lucas said, including those they don't know, is because of Bible principles. The Apostle Peter says to "have love for the whole association of the brothers," he said; it's a worldwide brotherhood.

There are over 95 branches around the world, he said, and the halls are built the same way. Volunteers often travel in from other countries to do the work.

The volunteers show the attitude of the prophet Isaiah, Lucas said, who was asked by Jehovah who He should send to do His work and responded, "Here I am, send me."

The building committees were first designed to build Kingdom Halls quickly, Lucas said; after the

foundation cures, the rest is built from the ground up in four days. Remodeling is something the committees got into later.

All Kingdom Hall projects or remodels go through the committees, Lucas said, because of the organization — to have the volunteers, to be organized and because the committees can negotiate better rates for supplies.

The Kansas committee handles construction projects all over the state, he said, so they can buy in bulk. There's not a lot of expense that way.

"We can spend our money better for gasoline to go out in the ministry," he said.

Insurance company hits \$1 billion milestone

The parent company of a Goodland insurance business hit a major milestone in June, with over \$1 billion in property and casualty written premiums.

Shelter Insurance, a Missouri-based company, is represented in town by agent Jim Alcorn. He said the company now brings in over \$1 billion per year.

"We create \$1 billion worth of business every year," Alcorn said. "It's quite a milestone."

He said it is especially exciting to see the company excel because it is a relatively small insurer.

"Shelter is not a nationwide insurance company," he said, adding that the firm offers insurance in 13 midwestern states, from North Dakota to Oklahoma and from Colorado to Illinois.

Alcorn said although he didn't go, Shelter celebrated the occasion at their headquarters in Columbia, Mo.

Shelter has become one of the only 65 insurers in the country to hit the \$1 billion mark, Alcorn said.

Reaching the landmark, he said, will help show customers how the company is investing and making good choices to keep premiums low.


"I believe it will help control premium costs," he added.

Shelter started by selling car insurance in 1946. Since then, the company has grown to become the 62nd largest property and casualty insurer in the country with more than \$3 billion in assets.

The company employs 3,260 people and about 1,300 agents, including Alcorn in Goodland, and offices in Atwood and Hays.

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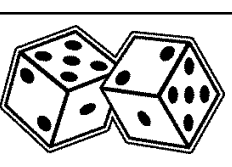


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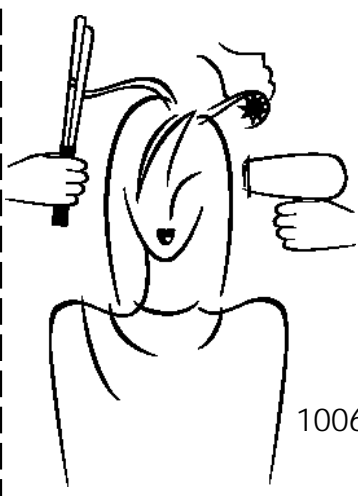
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student of the week



Name: Kara Angelos
Parents: Scott and Shelly Angelos
Grade: Senior
Age: 17
We've nominated this student because: Kara always has a positive attitude and a smile on her face. She is fun to be around in school. She always tries her best, and she is a very good cheerleader
Student Comment: My favorite subjects are history, english and art. What I'll remember most about

Goodland High School are the crazy cheerleading trips, especially to Wellington and Sonic, and the friends I've made. They're the best.


Activities involved in at school: Girls Athletic Association, cheerleading and track.

My choice of movies, books, and games: Movies; What About Bob, My Big Fat Greek Wedding, Emma and Casablanca. Music: anything but twangy country and heavy metal. Books: Peace Like a River, Night, The Diving Bell and The Butterfly.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: Go to college in Utah.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: Married with a family and working.

Favorite Quote: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi



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