

EDITORIAL
HIS STORY, OUR STORY

PERSPECTIVE
NO ITINERARY,
ONLY A PROMISE

JUST LIKE JESUS
WHAT IF

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN NATION DEBATE AND THE HOLOCAUST

...AND HOW SHOULD ADVENTISTS RESPOND?

DEC
2018
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He put a new song in my
mouth, a hymn of praise
to our God. Many will see
and fear the LORD and
put their trust in him.

Psalms 40:3

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JOHN FREEDMAN

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*“Varied Thrush Eating Crab Apples”
in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho,
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of Coeur d’Alene.*



HIS STORY, OUR STORY

L

ong ago, on the Judean hills surrounding the city of Bethlehem, a small group of blue-collar laborers were on the night shift. Conscientious, curious and honest, they believed in God and hoped for the soon coming deliverer of Israel. On this night, God granted them the privilege of being a part of the most important story in the universe.

God first sent them a message: “Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger” (Luke 2:10–11).

The message is inclusive — “for all people.” No one is excluded. All humanity is included — no matter who you are, where you live or what you have done. A Savior is born for all people. He is not born for Himself, nor just for Israel. A Savior is born for all people — good and bad, rich and poor, young and old.

The message is personal, “to you.” A Savior has been

given as a gift from God to you. Wrap your minds around that for a moment. The Savior, who is Christ the Lord, has come to forgive your sin, deliver you from the power of sin and recreate His character of love in you. Because it’s personal, you have a choice to make. You must decide for yourself what to do with the Savior born for you.

Check it out. See if it is true. Open your mind and heart to the possibility. Seek a personal relationship with your Savior. He was born for you and will live in you through the power of the Holy Spirit. He comes in peace for He is the Prince of Peace.

Only in finding peace with God are we able to find true peace with each other. Whenever church members turn their focus from Jesus to other issues, the evil one quickly sows seeds of discord and discouragement. Unity, even in the church, cannot exist without a complete surrender to Christ. It cannot happen unless His people receive the anointing of His Spirit.

The gift of His Spirit has never been more important than now. Our church is filled with flawed people — you, me and host of others. We cannot consistently share our Lord’s

message or fulfill His mission without allowing His Spirit to change us into His image. No human efforts to bring unity among us will succeed, unless we have each made Jesus the primary focus of our life.

Many of our members throughout the Northwest have intensely followed some of the recent dialogue over unity and compliance throughout the world church. You may be troubled about how our church will truly bring differing groups of people together in common mission, when we disagree on the fundamental nature of our church governance. I share your concern.

But, as prayerful discussion continues, let me assure you of several constants throughout the North Pacific Union Conference: 1) We will recognize Jesus as our Captain and look to Him to chart a course through the wind and the waves; 2) we will focus beyond human politics and policies to share the distinctive, Christ-centered, Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness with our communities; 3) we will support our local conferences, churches and members in brightening the corners where they are in the Pacific Northwest with the light of Jesus’ love; and 4) we will promote



AUTHOR

John Freedman

AN APPEAL FOR UNITY IN CHRIST

additional avenues for young men and women to grow into leadership roles for our church.

Jesus was born in one of the darkest times of human history. He left heaven because imperfect people like us needed a Savior. And now, here we are at the end of 2018, waiting for Jesus to come again as the darkness of this world thickens. Like that small group of Judean laborers, we too can enter the greatest story in the universe. Let's not get distracted from His story. This Christmas season, point your family and friends to Jesus, the Prince of peace, the Light of the world!

John Freedman, North Pacific Union Conference president

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY VIEW OF THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WHICH VOTED 34-2 FOR APPROVAL AT ITS REGULAR MEETING ON NOV. 14, IN COLLEGE PLACE, WASH.

Our prayerful mission is for each member within the North Pacific Union Conference to be empowered to share the distinctive Christ-centered, Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness with their communities. We embrace this mission and the scriptural truth of our Seventh-day Adventist fundamental beliefs.

The recent world church discussion on unity leads us to express unequivocal support for our church's Fundamental Belief #14 on Unity in the Body of Christ. It states, in part, "In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation."

In light of these principles and the example of Christ-like forbearance in the church portrayed in Acts, we unreservedly endorse the official response of the North American Division (NAD) to the document approved by the General Conference (GC) executive committee: "Regard for and Practice of General Conference Sessions and General Conference Executive Committee Actions." With the NAD, we:

- » Recognize Christ as the head of our church;
- » Reject trends toward centralized, hierarchical governance reflected in the newly voted GC document and support existing policies that make every leader responsible to his or her constituency;
- » Affirm the unique unity and diversity that our church structure affords to maintain global values and identity while effectively implementing our common mission.

In eager support of our world church mission, we recognize the unique call of God upon both men and women for ministry. As we move forward together, we prayerfully entreat God's Spirit to inspire attitudes and actions within our global movement that reflect the character of Christ in every decision, every interaction.

May God grant us each wisdom and Spirit-led power to find our ultimate unity in Christ, prayerfully advancing His mission together.

Respond to any *Gleaner* topic by emailing talk@gleanernow.com.



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AMERICAN CHRISTIANIA DEBATE THE HOL

...AND HOW SHOULD ADVENTISTS RESPOND?

A'S NATION AND OCAUST

By **GREGORY HAMILTON**
Northwest Religious Liberty Association president



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST MEMBERS in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the United States are often conflicted in their view of the constitutional separation of church and state. After all, Christians are no different than the average citizen in favoring that which seems to favor them. But deep concerns accompany any move to nationalize freedoms for one group and restrict them for others. Recent history has profound lessons for those who truly value liberty and justice for all.

These lessons were in stark display during a powerfully unique seminar conducted October 1–2 at the North Pacific Union Conference in Ridgefield, Washington.

The majority of more than 60 who attended were Adventist professionals from throughout the United States, including attorneys and capitol pastors who make up the advisory board of the Northwest Religious Liberty Association (NRLA). One quarter of the group had no affiliation with the church, including two keynote speakers from Baylor and Pacific Lutheran universities. The common bond: Respectful support for religious liberty was shared by all.

During the seminar, this distinguished group focused on discussing common concerns between America's Christian nation debate and harsh lessons drawn from the Holocaust. To undergird such a serious agenda, Gregory W. Hamilton, NRLA president, and his assistant, Rhonda Bolton, put together a robust lineup of speakers and presentations.

The guest speakers included some of the most qualified experts in the nation on the subjects of the founders' intentions regarding the constitutional separation of church and state, its current rapid erosion, and the dangers of Christian nationalism through the historical lens of the Holocaust in Germany.

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN NATION DEBATE

Derek H. Davis, retired director and chairman of the J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies at Baylor University in Texas, highlighted the discussion of America as a Christian nation. He asked if the nation's founders intended to establish a Christian nation by law. Was there a crucial distinction made by them between secular-legal and cultural constructs with the intent of safeguarding pluralistic religious realities? To what extent did they intend to separate church and state, as well as religion and the state? Like the constitutional founders, is there a distinction to be made today between a culturally religious nation and a Christian nation by law? If so, why is such a distinction important for the evangelical

world and the Seventh-day Adventist Church to understand?

Such questions are admittedly rhetorical considering today's dangerous emotional thirst for Christian nationalism and control of the government. But they are questions that continually need to be kept before our church and the nation.

Davis' five lectures included 1) a sweeping overview of the historical philosophical influences on the founders, 2) a close examination of the language of the eleven drafts of the religion clauses of the First Amendment and how the founders intended to do more than just prevent the establishment of a national church or prevent nonpreferential establishments of religion, 3) an analysis of the emergence and growth of church-state separation

Deep concerns accompany to nationalize freedoms for and restrict them for others.

in the nation's first half-century, 4) the concept of a "Christian nation" in light of the religious beliefs of the principal Founding Fathers, and 5) a close look at the strengths and weaknesses in recent court decisions.

Davis is the author of many books, including *Religion and the Continental Congress, 1774–1789: Contributions to Original Intent*, *The Oxford Handbook of Church and State in the United States*, and *Original Intent: Chief Justice Rehnquist and the Course of American Church-State Relations*.

• National advocates of religious liberty gathered October 1–2 on behalf of the Northwest Religious Liberty Association to explore America's Christian Nation Debate and the Holocaust.



any move
one group

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM AND THE HOLOCAUST

One of the highlights of the two-day seminar was listening to Robert Ericksen, who is Kurt Mayer Chair in Holocaust Studies at Pacific Lutheran University and author of *Complicity in the Holocaust: Churches and Universities in Nazi Germany*.

Ericksen is the world's leading expert on the relationship between Christian nationalism and the Holocaust in Germany. He serves as a leading consultant to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., and Holocaust museums internationally.

Ericksen spoke on how an advanced, highly educated, Christian nation grew to enthusiastically accept and support Nazi ideology. He explained how churches and universities found in Adolf Hitler a national savior to restore the honor of Germany following World War I.

More important was his explanation of how the unbridled enthusiasm of the Christian right — Protestants (especially Lutherans) and Catholics and their lack of criticism for Hitler's persecution of the Jews — made them thoroughly complicit in the ultimate crimes of the Holocaust. How so? They supported Hitler because of his nationalism and focus on family values. His pathological anti-Semitism did not directly affect them, and history records they actually fostered and encouraged it. In doing so, they revealed their own deeply entrenched anti-Semitism.

For example, Gerhard Kittel, the leading German Lutheran and Protestant theologian of his day and a lexicographer of biblical languages, was an enthusiastic supporter of the Nazis and harshly critical of Jews. Yet he was a pious and ardent man of Christian devotion and ritual, which belied his rampant anti-Semitism.

Kittel's widely spread views galvanized Christian prejudice in ways that made the Holocaust possible. In a recently published research essay in *Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte* (vol. 31/2, 2018) titled "Devotion, Protestant Voters, and Religious Prejudice: 1930s Germany and Today's America," Ericksen notes that "voter analysis and other sorts of evidence show us that Kittel was not alone. It was voters in the most pious Protestant regions of Germany that led to Hitler's appointment as chancellor in 1933."

One month after Hitler had been sworn in, the German parliament (Reichstag) building was destroyed by fire. This Reichstag conflagration was blamed on insurrection attempts by communists and socialists. The ensuing panic led theological moderates to persuade political moderates in the Reichstag to give Hitler a two-thirds majority to pass an "Enabling Act" that gave Hitler absolute dictatorial authority to follow through with his ironic promise to "make Germany great again."

In effect, Ericksen pointed out, Germany's intellectual and spiritual leaders gave the highly religious population permission

to participate in the Nazi regime — and thus in crimes against humanity. Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Niemöller were representative of a small minority of dissidents among the clergy. But it was churchmen and academics — including a clear majority of theological moderates — that "provided the rationalizations and adjustment of moral norms that permitted ordinary Germans to accept and even implement the regime's brutal and murderous policies."

In answering questions following the lecture, Ericksen pointed out how Hitler's propaganda slogan, "Make Germany Great Again," is eerily like what we hear today. The difference is that Germany truly was under international economic duress and humiliation, a catastrophic national meltdown in the aftermath of World War I.

Ericksen suggested unfounded fear and paranoia could have the effect of a self-fulfilling prophecy in which America begins to head down the same road of dictatorship, even during relatively peaceful and stable economic times. In doing so, America would be committing a self-inflicted wound that would have catastrophic consequences for the world community. The potential trigger? A rapid series of events that would create internal instability like in pre-World War II Germany.

The group engaged with Ericksen's presentation was clearly challenged to make contemporary applications. What would it take for religious leaders in the United States to welcome nationalistic reforms, all in the name of evangelical priorities? Or has it already begun to happen? Is it unthinkable that Christian churches would allow desired ends to justify horrific means, as did their Christian brothers and sisters in Germany decades ago?

Perhaps it is good to remember Martin Niemöller's prophetic and now oft-quoted warning — a warning to all of us: "First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me."

(From left) Alan Reinach, Derek Davis, Robert Ericksen, Greg Hamilton and Lincoln Steed.



TODAY'S TUG-OF-WAR

Is it unthinkable that Christian churches would allow desired ends to justify horrific means, as did their Christian brothers and sisters in Germany decades ago?

Lincoln Steed passionately making an observation during the seminar on church and state.



OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Nicholas P. Miller is director of the International Religious Liberty Institute and professor of church history at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Miller spoke on the Protestant Reformation's influence on the constitutional founders.

He warned how factions on the far right and far left are creating a self-destructive path for our country's constitutional future as a democratic republic.

Hamilton opened the conference by highlighting how Thomas Jefferson's and James Madison's debates with Patrick Henry in the Virginia Assembly in 1776 — over what constituted true religious freedom and how far to separate church and state — ultimately influenced the drafting and ratifying of the First Amendment of the Constitution.

Other presenters, including Kevin James, pastor; Alan J. Reinach, attorney; Edward Woods III; and Lincoln Steed, *Liberty* editor, provided additional layers to the overall theme.

One thing is abundantly clear from this recent conference: Those who most closely follow the trajectory of religious liberty in this nation and around the world are concerned. They see powerful forces seeking to reinterpret the Establishment Clause provision in the First Amendment. Those forces hope to do away with the separation of church and state so that government will support religious institutions and dogmas with the intent of solving the moral ills of our nation.

Led by constitutional and historical revisionist David Barton, there is a movement afoot called “Project Blitz” that seeks to overwhelm and influence state legislatures to introduce and pass bills that will eventually overthrow the constitutional separation of church and state. They also desire to eliminate certain aspects of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment: 1) the restriction of direct government funding of religious institutions, 2) free speech restrictions on faith-based organizations that receive funding for charitable social work, and 3) equal constitutional protections for women, ethnic minorities and same-sex people. Establishing the United States as a Christian nation by law is their main goal — to restore what they perceive to be “the good old days.”

Admittedly, there is a religious/secular tug-of-war going on. The religious right is reacting to the secular left's efforts in recent years to marginalize the free exercise of religion. Those extreme efforts have failed to recognize government must have a sufficient compelling interest when lawfully denying or restricting the constitutional right of individuals and institutions of faith to exercise and maintain their religious mission

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution clearly lays out prohibitions for the American government to promote or infringe on religion. It specifically uses the indefinite article “an” and not the definite article “the,” which might otherwise be construed to apply only to a national or state-sponsored religion. The article “an” essentially means “any.” The so-called religious establishment clause begins the amendment, which also speaks



OUR CHURCH'S PROPHETIC MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITY

and practices. They have attempted to defeat state religious freedom restoration acts that ensure the right of institutions to hire only those who meet their mission standards and purposes and ensure that business owners and employees are not forced to violate their conscience and their rights to free speech. The recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the Masterpiece Cake situation highlights this war over whose equally guaranteed rights will prevail.

Both forces are harmful to our constitutional health, and yet the nation's founders anticipated this severe tension. That is why they created an internal check and balance within the very wording of the First Amendment to prevent the country from being overrun by either extreme in the great church-state debate — a puritanical versus godless society. Remove this balancing safeguard and our nation's constitutional guarantees will be lost and, with that, our civil and religious freedoms.

Sandra Day O'Connor, retired Supreme Court justice, summed it up best: "The religious zealot and the theocrat frighten us in part because we understand only too well their basic impulse. No less frightening is the totalitarian atheist who aspires to a society in which the exercise of religion has no place."

What is the Seventh-day Adventist Church's prophetic mission in the United States of America and around the world? The Three Angels' Messages and gospel commission are clear, as are the lessons of history. Lest we become complicit in repeating the sins of the Holocaust, we must be steadfast in promoting strict principles of democracy, respect and religious liberty — not just on behalf of Adventists, or Christians, but for people of all nations and faiths.

In this currently divisive and polarizing climate, we must fortify ourselves with a sound worldview regarding church and state. This will help us diplomatically dispel myths and promote the truth in a balanced and effective manner in our public testimonies and activities when called upon to be faithful ambassadors for Christ to our neighbors and fellow church members or at the highest levels of government. This is the mission of the Northwest Religious Liberty Association (NRLA). This is one of the vital missions of the church and of every Seventh-day Adventist church member. Now is the time for contemporary Josephs and Daniels to step forward.

Regardless of which perspective one tends to favor regarding the constitutional separation of church and state, we need to speak up and not be passive. As John Hancock once wrote, "I conjure you, by all that is dear, by all that is honorable, by all that is sacred, not only that ye pray but that ye act." Find a way. Even if you think it is a lost cause, write your congressperson and take a group with you to let your voices be heard. Our country's future, and our freedom to speak the truth, depends on each of us.



to the freedom of speech and the press. The implications of the amendment are unequivocal, not hard to understand.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

LÍDERES DE GRUPOS PEQUEÑOS Y LAICOS EN LA CONFERENCIA DE UPPER COLUMBIA

RECIBEN EL ENTRENAMIENTO DE VIDA: GPS

El pastor Tony Anobile, vice presidente para ministerios multilingües en la División Norteamericana y la oficina de ministerios Hispánicos dirigida por el César De León, con el equipo fino de entrenamiento, visitaron a nuestro equipo de pastores, líderes de grupo y demás laicos activos en nuestra conferencia de Upper Columbia el 11 de octubre. La reunión tomó lugar en el auditorio Faith Assembly en Pasco, Wash., y tenía el propósito de introducir al pueblo hispano a una nueva visión evangelística para inyectar *vida* y *salud* a los Grupos Pequeños (GPs) actuales; y también para empoderar la creación de nuevos GPs saludables.

Desde nuestras primeras reuniones de planificación, nos dimos cuenta que el tener una convocación de entrenamiento de esta magnitud en un jueves de tarde sería un gran desafío logístico. Sabíamos que la mayoría de nuestros líderes de grupo y laicos iban a tener que salir de sus trabajos e inmediatamente partir para nuestra reunión en Pasco. Esto involucraría el manejar varias horas para llegar y después varias horas de manejo de regreso a casa muy tarde. Esto nos impulsó a buscar a Dios en ayuno y oración para que

El hiciera la obra de unificar los corazones de nuestros líderes administrativos, nuestros pastores locales y sus equipos laicos, para que éste evento alcanzara los propósitos planificados. ¡Dios contestó nuestras oraciones de una manera *poderosa!* Primero, Dios se hizo presente desde muy temprano ese jueves de mañana. Pudimos palpar Su humilde y gloriosa presencia entre nuestro equipo ministerial local y nuestros equipos de finos voluntarios que viajaron a Pasco para servir con actitudes radiantes y altamente enfocados en su responsabilidades. Los líderes y demás laicos celebraron la oportunidad de congregarse con el los doctores Alejandro Bullón y César De León, mientras que ellos introdujeron la visión del Pastor Tony Anobile, **Vida: GPS**, que significa **Grupos Pequeños Saludables**. ¡Lo que esperábamos que fuera simplemente otra reunión de entrenamiento, se convirtió en un evento inspirador de alabanza y adoración transformacional que resulto en una lista de más de 300 nuevos líderes de GPs a través de nuestra conferencia.

Nuestro evento comenzó a las 5:50 p.m. con una cena exquisita preparada para los líderes que llegarían al evento directamente de sus

trabajos. Mas de 220 personas fueron servidas y cenaron con los anfitriones de la cena, el César y Carolann De León, antes del comienzo del evento. El presidente de nuestra conferencia, el Minner Labrador Jr., le dio comienzo a nuestro evento con una amena bienvenida donde el enfatizó la importancia de abrir nuestros hogares Adventistas como iglesias pequeñas. Sampaguita Dalisay (cantante invitada) siguió con un concierto vocal hermoso que ayudó a sintonizar nuestras mentes y corazones a la influencia del Espíritu que nos recordó que el compartir a Jesús es nuestro mayor privilegio y deleite.

En lo que suele ser uno de los planes evangelísticos más ambiciosos propuesto por nuestra División Norteamericana — el de *dedicar aún más de nuestros hogares hispanos* para formar GPs Adventistas que brillarán con el evangelio de Cristo en cada vecindario de nuestras comunidades — se comprometieron *117 nuevas personas* para ser entrenadas como líderes de GPs en preparación para la **cosecha evangelística Vida: GPS**. Este evento nacional unirá a **todos los GPs a través de todo Norteamérica**. **Juntos alabaremos a Jesús e invitaremos a nuestros amigos que han**

formado parte de nuestros grupos, Vida: GPS, a tomar decisiones bautismales como nuevos discípulos de Jesucristo.

Este próximo abril 2019, nuestra división Norteamericana presentará al Alejandro Bullón como orador principal en el evento Vida: GPS. El acompañará a los miles de líderes de GPs a través del internet, para cosechar los frutos y presentarlos a Jesús a través del bautismo. Nuestro presidente de la conferencia de Upper Columbia, el Dr. Minner Labrador, invita a todos los que están leyendo este reporte a contactar al vice-presidente de nuestra unión, el César De León, si tienen alguna pregunta sobre el proceso de registración o para obtener el material de entrenamiento que fue distribuido a los líderes de grupo actuales. ¡Abramos nuestros hogares para permitir que Dios los torne en pequeñas congregaciones para Su Gloria!

Walter Pintos-Schmidt, director de ministerios multiculturales en la Conferencia de Upper Columbia

Photos online at glnr.in/113-10-accion



David and Mitzi Shinen, with their family, were sent to Alaska in 1959 to translate the New Testament of the Bible.

More online at
glnr.in/113-10-ak_yupik

ALASKA CELEBRATES YUPIK BIBLE RECORDING

Wycliffe Bible Translators sent two young linguists, David and Mitzi Shinen, to Gambell in 1959. There, they learned the language for a few years and started the difficult task of translating the New Testament of the Bible.

Faith Comes By Hearing representatives traveled to Gambell in February to record Yupik speakers reading the New Testament. The process took two months — from the end of February through mid-April. Shortly after their visit, the translation became available on MP3, CDs, as an Android app, in their Bible.is app and on their website.

In September, Wycliffe had the Yukon's executive prysbyter, Curt Karns, organize dedication services for the completion of the work, with the theme "All for the Glory of God." The services included singing in English and Yupik, Bible readings, recognition of the translators, and talks by project sponsors and the Wycliffe director.

The services were held

in Gambell, Savoonga and Nome in September. In Gambell, Paul Marlow, Arctic Mission volunteer, prayed during the dedication of the Bible. In Savoonga, Chester Noongwook, church elder, had the opening prayer. Leon Ringering, pastor, had the opening prayer in Nome.

Noongwook shared Rev. 14:6, the first of the Three Angels' Messages: "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue and people."

Chris Koonooka, Gambell Church communication leader



Chester Noongwook gives opening prayer.

WRANGELL STAYS FAITHFUL TO GOD'S CALLING THROUGH VBS

Each year Alaska's Wrangell Church members conduct Vacation Bible School throughout Alaska as part of their church outreach. The summer of 2018 was full of mountain-top experiences and low valleys.

First the mountaintops: The team was blessed to reconnect with old friends in communities they've served before and to see the children growing. At one of the locations, the group was told about one of the boys who left with his parents on Sabbath after VBS church. As he got into the car and on the drive home, he told his parents, "We forgot to pray." His parents were perplexed at first. After a few minutes, they realized that the boy had been listening to the sermon where the pastor spoke of praying in a car.

And then there were the valleys. After five years of doing VBS, the Wrangell team faced a challenge they had never encountered: no children. To say the team was disappointed would be an



Wrangell Church VBS team members (from left) Tiffany Eilertsen, Jackie Eilertsen, Charlie Meigs, Brooke Reynolds, Sam Eilertsen and Dena Meigs consider VBS an outreach to other communities.

understatement. While there are possibly many reasons for the lack of participation, none of them mattered. What did matter is that the theme for 2018 — Prayer Warriors — suddenly took on new meaning for the team. Each night every member was at the church praying, singing and even laughing despite their disappointment.

The team learned failure or success in man's eyes does not matter. What does matter is staying faithful to God's calling no matter the outcome.

Brooke Reynolds, Wrangell Church member

TREASURE VALLEY SEES NEW DAY IN SCHOOL ADVERTISING

As the leaves blew across the grass in the fall of 2015, three pastors — Randy Maxwell, Don Driver and Troy Haagenson — sat down in the music room of the Boise Valley Adventist School to collaborate on a five-year spiritual growth plan. They had no idea God was about to reveal to them a way to advertise four church schools in the Treasure Valley of southwest Idaho using an integrated threefold marketing approach. The brochure coming off the press on Sept. 4, 2018, was proof the three-year dream had finally come alive.

The small committee of pastors had two questions that dominated their early conversations. Don Driver asked, “How can we change the narrative about our schools within the membership of the Idaho Conference and the broader community?”

Another question soon followed from Troy Haagenson: Was it possible to market local Adventist schools as a unified educational system?

Key to answering these two questions was the creation of a central website. Randy Maxwell suggested the name “Adventist Advantage.” A generous gifting of the web domain AdventistAdvantage.org from a private owner nurtured the vision. Brochures and



AdventistAdvantage.org features informative and attractive content for people interested in learning more about Adventist education in Idaho's Treasure Valley.

radio ads could now direct interested people in the Treasure Valley to the website so the advantages of Adventist education could be further explored. Each of the four schools retain their own website and personalized brochures, but AdventistAdvantage.org now offered a platform to advertise broadly with additional material that funnels interest to the local church schools.

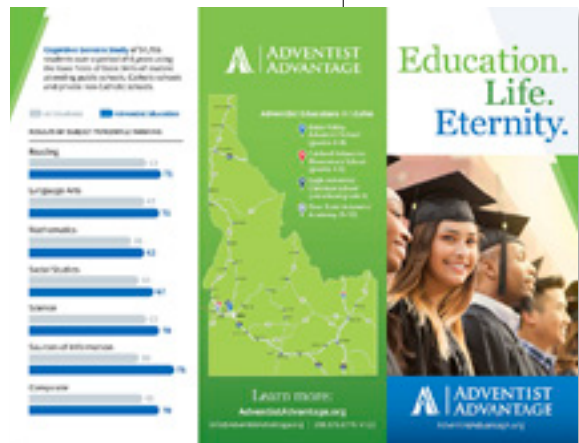
Collaboration among the Idaho Conference board of education, local principals, board chairs, pastors and school boards solidified this new way to advertise Treasure Valley's Adventist schools. Additional support for the vision came when the North Pacific Union Conference awarded the Adventist Advantage effort a technology-matching grant for creative outreach in 2016.

Parents commonly gauge reputation, spiritual environment and academics as key factors in selecting a private Christian school. Adventist Advantage creates a platform to share transformational stories, student achievements and educational advantages with the local community. Simon

Chung, a sixth- through eighth-grade teacher at Boise Valley Adventist School, says, “I am excited about the opportunity the website offers my students to post class video projects.”

As 6,000 educators met in Chicago for the 2018 North American Division Teachers' Conference and students began their summer migration into fall enrollment, Adventist Advantage moved forward with an exciting platform to let the local communities know that the Adventist schools in their neighborhoods are viable options for Christian education. The impact of Adventist education is a narrative worth repeating.

Troy Haagenson, Cloverdale Church pastor



The combined Treasure Valley brochure came out on Sept. 4, 2018.

RADIO MINISTRY SPREADS THREE ANGELS IN ROUNDUP

The radio ministry in Roundup continues to reach our community and outlying areas with Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) programs and a weekly, locally produced show.

A small group of members from the Roundup Church anchor the Monday afternoon program, *Let's Talk About That*, which they broadcast from the church basement. This program was developed by Andrew Raduly, pastor, and Kay Dickerson. It was decided to continue this outreach after Raduly accepted a call to Virginia.

Dickerson plus Jane Ostby, Nora Dimmick and Norma Trent are the main speakers for the program. Currently the emphasis is a Voice of Prophecy Bible study. Norm Ostby and Roy Dickerson give local technical support.

The show is also broadcast live on the radio's Facebook page. This helps the message reach members and listeners outside the range of the low-power FM station.

KQLJ, broadcasting at 105.5 FM in Roundup, is another way for God to spread His Word.

Norma Trent, Roundup Church member



BILLINGS GETS 'SHOT IN THE ARM'

Visitors and members of the Billings Church received a proverbial evangelistic “shot in the arm” from Jim Howard, General Conference Sabbath School and personal ministries associate director, on Sabbath, Oct. 6. A convocation entitled “Grow Montana” took place with the goal of preparing lay people to do discipleship activities in their community.

Howard delivered the sermon for the church service followed by a two-hour learning session in the afternoon. He shared small segments of his own journey of faith, from

being raised by Adventist parents to not attending church and finally deciding to read the Bible. The words Howard read in the Bible cut through the pretense and pride he had held in his heart. His journey led him to a full commitment to Christ as a believing member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The passionate emphasis of Howard's afternoon presentation was on making disciples for Christ. The session was aimed not only at church leaders but lay people as well. The model was fashioned after the steps in a harvest

cycle: preparing the soil of the heart, planting seeds of spiritual truth, cultivating the growing spiritual interest, reaping a harvest of spiritual decisions and preserving the harvest through intentional discipleship. For inquiry and resources see, grow.adventist.org.

Howard offered practical strategies, such as showing effortless ways of giving Bible studies along with the free resources available on DVDs. The highlighted programs can be located at biblestudyoffer.com.

Howard also highlighted Total Member Involvement — a full-scale, world-church evangelistic thrust that has the goal of involving every church, every administrative group, every

outreach ministry, every member to reach others for Christ and tell of His soon coming. For more information, go to tmi.adventist.org/about.

At the conclusion of the afternoon session, Howard distributed free copies of *Discipleship Handbook*, which focuses on the fifth part of the “harvest” cycle — preserving the harvest through intentional discipleship. Each participant left equipped with ideas and resources for doing discipleship work in the community.

Renae Young, Montana Conference education superintendent

Read more online at glnr.in/113-10-mt_billings

RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL HOSTS 28TH ANNUAL APPLE FESTIVAL



T

he 28th annual Riverside Christian School Apple Festival was held in Washougal, Wash., on Oct. 14. As in the years past, church and school volunteers spent two Sundays making apple pies and apple dumplings. They made and froze more than 450 pies and 1,050 dumplings. On the day of the festival, volunteers served slices hot with ice cream to eager customers.

The day of the festival was sunny and warm. The gorgeous fall day brought hundreds of people to the school. More than 30 vendors sold goods ranging from salsa, candied nuts, baked goods and face painting to home décor, sauces and honey. Kids enjoyed pony rides and goats, a jumpy house, pumpkin painting and the dunk tank. The Washougal/Camas Fire Department brought their fire truck for a fun hands-on activity for the kids. The pie-eating contest for younger ages was also a huge hit.

The Apple Festival is Riverside's biggest fundraiser of the year. It is also a huge outreach opportunity for the school. A portion of vendor sales and 75 percent of the sales from the booths and activities



More photos online at
glnr.in/113-10-or_riverside

directly benefit Riverside Christian School's classrooms and students. A quarter of the funds raised goes into financial aid to help more students have a Christian education.

Part of this year's funds will go toward an expansion and remodeling project, for which the church and school are partnering. Being intentional about the mission of "Together as One," the church and the school are united in their mission to serve the families in their community.

Merrill Caviness, Riverside Church pastor, says, "One of the new things that has happened this year is that I, along with Lynda Logan, are teaching Bible at Riverside. The relationships built between our church and school family is what keeps our community going. Loving Jesus and knowing Him is something we strive for every day." He also points out that "the Apple Festival is important because it allows us to reach out and connect to those outside our walls."

As part of the community service outreach program, students and teachers visited



local businesses and handed out posters advertising for the upcoming festival. They returned to distribute pies and dumplings to the sponsors as a thank you.

Tymi Wright, Riverside Christian School's principal, says, "The Apple Festival provides the perfect opportunity for our students to be actively

involved in a huge community outreach project from start to finish. Our students view first-hand how church and school can work together as one team to create a successful event that reaches over 1,200 people every year in a positive way. Our students can take what they learn from project-based learning in the classroom and

actually apply it on a larger scale for our biggest fundraiser of the year."

The school's other large event is the upcoming school auction in April. To learn more about Riverside School, visit riversidesch.com.

Julie Natiuk, Riverside Christian School Apple Festival participant

WOMEN GATHER IN REDMOND FOR RETREAT

W

omen from the Northwest attended the Oregon Christian Women's Retreat Oct. 12–14 at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond.

“Up From the Ordinary” was the theme for this year's retreat with Jean Boonstra, Voice of Prophecy associate speaker, as the keynote speaker



Be sure and check out a blog designed for young women, called [gorgeous2god](http://gorgeous2god.org), at gorgeous2god.org, where young women can anonymously ask any questions on life issues.

Next year's retreat will be Oct. 4–6, 2019. For more information on women's ministries, contact Terrie Leen Griebel at terrie.griebel@oc.npuc.org.

Terrie Leen Griebel, Oregon Conference women's ministries field coordinator



Jean Boonstra was the keynote speaker at the Oregon Christian Women's Retreat.

telling stories of unordinary women in the Bible who were used by God to do extraordinary missions.

Erica Jones, North American Division women's ministries associate director, talked to 17 teens about self-image, dating and deepening their walk with the Lord. The teens found Jones passionate and engaging as she discussed some of her own struggles and missteps in life.

There was something for everyone during the weekend with breakout speakers Joyce Choe, Jana Lee and Deborah Turner and the third annual 5K run/walk with Rachel Griebel.

Oregon women's ministries partnered for a third year with Impact Hope, founded by Hans and Mindy Thygeson, by taking an offering to help Congolese high school girls living in Rwandan refugee camps to attend Adventist boarding academies to obtain a high school diploma while learning a vocational trade.

Mindy Thygeson and Terrie Leen Griebel presented a current slide show/report of their trip to Rwanda in December 2017 and January 2018, showing the 60 sewing machines the women's ministries offerings in 2017 provided for the new vocational training school. The previous year, 2016, more than \$54,000 was raised to send 98 Congolese high school girls to school. Each year there is a need to continue support to keep these girls in school.

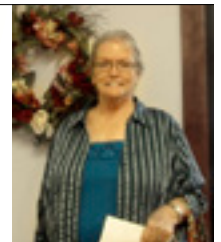
This year \$31,000 was collected at the retreat. With a \$20,000 matching donation, \$51,000 was raised to send at least 85 refugee girls to school.

It was a wonderful spiri-

tual weekend with testimonies and women praying together and sharing their stories.

If you missed the retreat you can watch the livestream recordings by going to orgwomen.netadvent.org or on Facebook @WomansMinistries.

FALLS CITY CELEBRATES BAPTISM



Virginia Elaine Webb was baptized Oct. 6 in the Falls City Church by Lary Brown, pastor. It was a very special day, as her 95-year-old mother, who had prayed for her all her life and was from the Palmer (Alaska) Church, was present along with all four of Webb's children with their families.

Webb grew up with Adventist grandparents, and her mom was an Adventist. She attended church off and on

all her life. She loved Jesus and held to the Adventist beliefs but never really made the commitment to be baptized. She recently became convicted she needed to be baptized.

The whole Falls City Church celebrated this special occasion. It's a reminder to “never stop praying for your children.”

Larry Scofield, Falls City Church communication leader



The Day of the Scarf was a fun day for sophomores in Profe's Spanish classes.

PAA STUDENTS CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE

Students enrolled in Spanish classes at Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) celebrated Hispanic Heritage and Cultures Month (mid-September through mid-October) through events, contests and special cultural



Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH) students celebrated new inductees while enjoying Mexican sopes made by Spanish teacher Rita Barrett, who also happened to be celebrating her 60th birthday.

experiences supported by the school's chapter of the national Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH), an honor society for students learning Spanish.

The festivities began with El Grito Día de la Independencia, the holiday to celebrate Mexico's independence from Spain. Spanish class students discussed Mexico's history and were treated to traditional sweet breads by PAA Spanish teacher Rita Barrett.

That same day, SHH and the art and language

departments announced a contest in which students would design original posters with the theme "Beyond Burritos" to help fellow students to discover the great variety of Latin American foods.

PAA's "Chef Stef" — Stephanie Torgerson Gimse — supported the effort by planning a month of daily lunches featuring foods from Latin American countries. "If you want to know a culture, you need to know how and what they celebrate," says Torgerson Gimse. "Food is always a part of celebrations."

PAA Spanish classes also celebrated Día de la Raza (Day of the Race), which is the celebration of the many Latin American countries' heritages, ethnicity and cultural influences. The festivities wrapped up with the SSH initiation lunch to celebrate 10 new inductees.

"The SSH has reached a milestone this school year," says Barrett. "We will have 11 students graduating with red SSH honor cords this school year. ... our highest number of graduates in a school year yet."

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent

More online at glnr.in/113-10-or_paa

More online at glnr.in/113-10-or_milo

MILO CREATES PROJECT BLESSED HOPE

Tragedy struck the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, Nov. 5, 2017. Twenty-six people were killed and 20 injured in a church shooting. The news spread like wildfire and soon reached a little Adventist boarding academy in Days Creek.

The news happened to come during Milo Adventist Academy's week of prayer. Everyone, including the entire sophomore class, was on their knees, praying for those hurt and for those who lost a loved one. During a class meeting later that week, the sophomores decided they wanted to do something, anything, to help the church.

Ideas flowed, people talked, and suggestions were made. Finally the class decided to buy a painting for the Sutherland Springs church. They chose one created by Nathan Greene titled *The Blessed Hope*. It de-

icted the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and people rising from their graves to meet Him in the sky.

Project Blessed Hope had been born. Now they needed money to buy the painting, frame it and ship it.

The class decided the best way to raise the funds was by selling chocolate. Over the next six months, the students sold chocolate bars to fellow students, staff and people in their own hometowns to complete the project.

The class did something incredible and, to some, impossible. They put their heads together and trusted God to do the rest. They saw people in need, acted on it and were used by God to serve others. They are watching for more ways they can make an impact as juniors at Milo.

Samantha Fullmer, Milo Academy junior



Last year's (2017-18) sophomore class started the project, which they finished this year as juniors.



More online at
glnr.in/113-10-uc_dental

SPOKANE DEVELOPS FREE DENTAL/MEDICAL CLINIC

Spokane's Better Living Center in eastern Washington has been part of the local Adventist church's outreach to the community since 1976. For many years it served as a clothing bank and a center for offering health classes to the community. Cooking classes and stop-smoking classes were often presented there. It then became a food pantry connected with Second Harvest Food Bank.

But the board was seeking ways to expand the center and reach clients with Bible studies. Now about 30 people are studying with four different church members who volunteer at the center.



The west side of the Better Living Center will soon be remodeled into a dental/medical clinic.

Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) Adventist Community Services director; Cindy Williams, UCC wellness coordinator; and Gayle Haeger, executive director of the center, met with several community health leaders to explore specific community needs that could be met. With one accord they all named dental health as the greatest need.

About that time, Tom Cho, a dentist who had recently relocated to Spokane from the Seattle area, noticed the center and felt it would make an ideal place for a free dental clinic. After hearing Cho's vision and praying about it, the board voted to begin finding donors to make the dream a reality. To their amazement, the exact amount needed was raised in about three months.

Construction is underway and due to be completed by year's end. Many dental professionals have volunteered to be part of this ministry. If you feel led to become part of this ministry, please email Gayle Haeger at gayleh@uccsda.org for more information.

Gayle Haeger, Upper Columbia Conference urban ministries coordinator



DANIEL JEFFERY

Camporee provides a great time to "hang out."

PATHFINDERS LEARN OF GOD'S RECKLESS LOVE

Upper Columbia Conference held its Pathfinder Camporee at Camp Fife near Goose Prairie, Wash. In addition to typical camporee activities, the clubs did a service project to help clean up Camp Fife.

Rachel Wright, Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder coordinator, had the opportunity to interview some of the kids and staff about the weekend at Camp Fife. The Spokane (Wash.) Trailblazers said the meeting place had nice seating and was a great place where everyone could enjoy the program comfortably, without the distractions of the cold or rain. Many of the clubs enjoyed the multiple trails around Camp Fife. Yakima (Wash.) Braves appreciated having staff from Camp Mivoden in Hayden, Idaho, come to Camp Fife to lead music and other activities.

When asked about the benefits having camp staff involved in Pathfinders, Jeff Wines, Upper Columbia Conference youth, young adult and family ministry director, replied, "I think there are many factors. Having young adults being in leadership and learning leadership at camporee helps them learn and be

examples to the Pathfinders."

The Pathfinders also enjoyed guest speaker Craig Harris. A staff member from College Place (Wash.) Torchbearers said having Harris show the kids how easy it was to learn a Bible verse and memorize it was something



DANIEL JEFFERY

Smiles and laughter marked the weekend.

they can take away and use in their everyday lives.

When Harris made an appeal Saturday evening, 117 young people made decisions for baptism. That must be evidence that the reckless love of God is still magnetic.

Zack Mitchell, Upper Columbia Conference youth and family life taskforce worker, and Rachel Wright, Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder coordinator



Much more online at
glnr.in/113-10-uc_pathfinders

HUNDREDS OF SMALL GROUPS FORM IN UCC



More photos online at glnr.in/113-10-uc_smallgroups

A recipe for a successful weekend conference is to make it convenient for the attendees. But God's recipe was different in Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) recently.

This is a busy season when people work long hours. Organizers wondered if there would be a good turnout to a small-group weekend at Faith Assembly Auditorium in Pasco, Wash., beginning on a Thursday, Oct. 11. Church leaders were traveling to Pasco to introduce a new vision on healthy small groups for church growth. Organizers hoped local church leaders would drive long hours and make the same round trip all weekend.

Knowing the challenges, they began fasting and praying for the Lord to manage this weekend. They hoped this event would unite hearts of the

leaders, the local pastors and UCC administration for this event.

"God answered with a powerful response," says Walter Pintos-Schmidt, UCC multicultural director. "First, He made himself present from the very beginning. Early in the morning the day was led by God's almighty presence." Those who came had amazing attitudes and were sharply focused on the task. Local church leaders celebrated the opportunity to meet with Alejandro Bullon, international evangelist; César De León, North Pacific Union Conference vice president for Hispanic ministries; and Tony Anobile, North American Division (NAD) vice president of multilingual ministries.

What was expected to be one more training event became an amazing, transform-



JAY WINTERMEYER

ing worship experience. By the day of the event, the list of new leaders willing to participate in the vision of LIFE-Healthy Small Group grew to more than 300 from all around the UCC region.

"The event started with dinner at 5:50 p.m. for leaders coming directly from work," says Pintos-Schmidt. "Two-hundred twenty people sat at tables with the hosts Carolann and César De León for more than an hour before the event started." The session began with Minner Labrador Jr., UCC president, who greeted the leaders and explained how relevant it is to allow God to develop small study groups out of our Adventist homes.

Then Sampaguita Dalisay lifted up Jesus in concert. Her music allowed participants to feel the presence of Jesus.

Training began to equip and empower church members to hold small meetings in their homes. The goal is to have a home in every block in

town. More than 100 leaders became involved in one of the most ambitious spiritual and community outreach-oriented programs of the NAD.

In April 2019, the NAD will host Alejandro Bullon as the main speaker of an online event. The hope is for those in small groups in members' homes will heed the call for baptism.

Church leaders who would like to participate in these small group meetings should contact César De León. Registration and materials are available for training and participation.

Each home can become a small place of worship, allowing God to bless it for His glory — God's recipe for success. For more information on LIFE-Healthy Small Groups, go to vidagps.org.

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant



JAY WINTERMEYER

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT KICKS OFF THE YEAR AT UCA

“**W**hen students write about something deeply personal and meaningful, they write well,” says Michelle Melendy, counselor and English teacher at Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash. She witnessed this during the 2017–18 school year when she gave her English students an assignment to write a devotional. The submissions were some of the students’ best work.

This gave Melendy an idea: Why not have the students compile their devotional thoughts and publish a book? Publishing a book matches the project-based learning model toward which UCA is transitioning. Teachers brainstormed together to turn the idea of writing a devotional book into a multidisciplinary project.

Project-based learning can integrate a number of discrete disciplines into a meaningful whole. The project began in Bible classes with pastors exploring with students the spiritual elements of a good devotional thought. This idea then transitioned into the English classrooms where teachers worked with the students on grammar and paragraph structure.

The next step was for algebra I students to use formulas to calculate prices and profit margins for the book. Simultaneously, the computer applications class worked on formatting the content for publication. Students partici-

pated in an art contest to create the book cover.

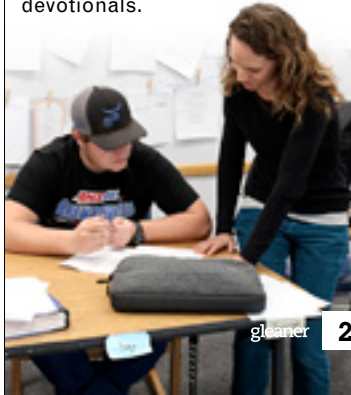
When students read a catchy introduction to a story, they looked at the elements necessary to grab the audience’s attention and added those to their devotional thoughts. Several students plan to publish their own books, a task that had previously seemed too daunting. Algebra I students can now refute the myth that they will never use math skills in real life. In addition to the classroom learning, students can add the title of “published author” to their resumes.

“The fire of your heart is the light of your path,” says Max Lucado in *Let the Journey Begin*. UCA staff pray the students’ hearts will be on fire for Jesus and this passion will not only light their path, but also be felt through their writing for the devotional book.

To order your copy of the devotional book, email info@uca.org.

Shelley Bacon, Upper Columbia Academy recruiting and communication director

Melendy spearheaded the project and worked with students on writing their devotionals.



DELMARIE NULL

Goldendale members commemorate retiring the debt on their Better Living Center on July 1.

GOLDENDALE CHURCH BURNS A MORTGAGE

The Goldendale (Wash.) Church members celebrated on July 1 the retiring of the debt for their Better Living Center. The event included the burning of the mortgage — four years ahead of schedule.

The church voted in 2012 to build a multipurpose building to relieve a crowded fellowship hall and create space to hold outreach programs. To expedite the project, funds were borrowed from the North Pacific Union’s revolving fund.

The building was erected with much help from members, under the direction of Carlyle Mason, and named the Better Living Center (BLC).

Weekly Sabbath potucks, ladies’ prayer group, women’s ministries, Bible marking class-

es, Pathfinders and Adventurers clubs, and prayer meetings are among its weekly uses. It also accommodates needs of the church’s soup kitchen program and monthly plant-based meal.

The BLC has been well-used for social events, outreach programs, lifestyle programs, medical screening events, evangelistic series, children’s church and many wonderful programs put on by the local church school.

Yearly events include the Adventist Book Center’s book and food sale and, in December, Journey to Bethlehem. The facility was designed to also serve as an emergency shelter.

Delmarie Null, Goldendale Church communication leader

PASTOR SERVES THROUGH CRISES

When Greg Griffitts got into the patrol car for the first time in Hermiston, Ore., he didn't know he'd be sitting in many more police vehicles in the future.

Almost five years ago, Griffitts was approached by another pastor friend who had been serving as a police chaplain. "Greg, I think you would really enjoy chaplaincy," his friend said.

"At the time, I didn't think I could squeeze in one more thing into my busy schedule," Griffitts admits. However, he agreed to meet with his friend and find out more about serving his community in this unique role.

Over lunch, Griffitts' friend shared what it's like to be a chaplain and handed Griffitts the paperwork to apply to serve in his local community. Griffitts subsequently decided to donate a year of his time to volunteer with the Hermiston police force. That year has turned into almost five in two different police departments.

"Police chaplaincy has provided opportunities for training and service in dealing with emotional trauma caused by tragedies that pastors don't generally receive," says Griffitts.

Recently an accident occurred in a local business that resulted in the death



JAY WINTERMEYER

Greg Griffitts decided to volunteer as a chaplain for a year. Serving almost five years has opened doors to relationships with the community.

of an employee. A number of employees witnessed the incident, several of whom tried desperately, but unsuccessfully, to rescue their co-worker. Naturally, this tragedy caused emotional trauma to all the employees, but the trauma was especially severe to those who were on the scene.

Griffitts' local police department called him in to help the needs of the first responders following the accident. Griffitts says, "I went to help the police, but the person whom I found in greatest need was the store manager. During our brief visit, I learned that the company wanted to do a debrief for the employees, but had no idea of what to do."

Griffitts offered his services, and a few days later he and a critical incident team listened to 15 of the employees share their stories and helped them deal with their loss. The next Monday they conducted a formal debrief that was attended by about 50 employees.

"Through this debrief process," Griffitts says, "our team members, who are all Christians, were able to minister to spiritual as well as emotional needs of those hurting people."

Serving as the local police chaplain and being there to serve in that hour of deep crisis has opened the door to relationships with the community that is still bearing fruit.

Griffitts was recently called by the store manager for advice on another matter, and that would never have happened if it hadn't been for the critical incident stress management training that made it possible for Griffitts to be involved in this incident.

Griffitts says, "Many of the employees know I'm the pastor of the local Seventh-day Adventist church, and the positive connection that they have with me also extends to my church."

Jay Wintermeyer, Upper Columbia Conference assistant to the president for communication

GROWING TOGETHER IN JESUS

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE SESSION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the 60th Regular Session of the Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at Auburn Adventist Academy Church, Auburn, Wash., on Sunday, April 28, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports of conference activities since the last Regular Conference Session; to elect officers, departmental directors, Conference Executive Committee and the Board of Education for the ensuing quinquennium; for strategic planning; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

The Large Committee will meet on March 31 to elect the Nominating Committee for the Session, and the Nominating Committee will begin meeting on April 14.

Instructions have been sent to pastors, clerks and first elders of each organized church concerning delegate selection and other preparations for the Conference Session.

Douglas L. Bing, president

Craig H. Carr, secretary

T

ogether in the last five years, we joined in prayer and ministry to reach western Washington with the distinctive, Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness. We desire to encourage all to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus.



We asked each ministry department, church and school to find action-oriented applications to nurture our community of faith. This became our ACTS acronym: **A**dventist Christian education, **C**oaching leaders, **T**otal member involvement and **S**piritual growth.

We find inspiration from the early

church in Acts 2, where we see a solid model for ministry today:

- » **The church was together when the Holy Spirit fell on the early church — a true miracle (Acts 2:44).** The diversity of believers represented different ideologies (from zealots to Roman government tax collectors) yet were united with the Holy Spirit's blessing.
- » **The church earnestly prayed for God's will as they proclaimed the gospel (Acts 2:42–43).** The Bible doesn't say they agreed on every topic. They simply grew together in their spiritual walk, and, as they did, the Holy Spirit fell, allowing each person to be

totally involved with their unique spiritual gifts to share the gospel.

- » **The church continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and the fellowship of praying and breaking bread (Acts 2:46).** In the daily coaching of new believers, the apostles kept educating believers in Biblical approaches to life and ministry — both in small groups and at the temple.

Adventist church co-founder Ellen G. White writes: "What the Lord did for His people in that time, it is just as essential, and more so, that He do for His people today. All that the apostles did, every church member today is to do. And we are to work with as much more fervor, to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit in as much greater measure, as the increase of wickedness demands a more decided call to repentance" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 33).

We can, as a diverse family of faith in Washington Conference, continue to grow spiritually together and be totally involved in applying our spiritual gifts. Let's continue to grow together in Jesus!

Doug Bing, Washington Conference president



More photos online at glnr.in/113-10-wa_public

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FIND SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Fifty-five public high school students spent a late October weekend at the first public high school retreat in several years at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson. Between retreat activities, Will Ramos, “The Ghetto Preacher,” delivered a series of powerful messages, encouraging the youth to keep going because they’re worthy of God’s love and the blood of Jesus.

“Your mess will become your message. Your misery will be your ministry, and your pain will become your platform,” said Ramos. “You’re going to go through seasons of suffering, pain, depression ... but I’m going to encourage you to continue on because it’s worth the fight.”

During one activity, youth were split up into separate groups and were challenged to get to know each other over a game of Jenga. But this was no ordinary game of Jenga. As each block was chosen, the student had to answer a question attached to the block.

“At first, I didn’t want to get out of my group of friends,” says Schdiamon, a public high school student and

member of Mount Tahoma Church in Tacoma. “But it was really fun. It allowed us all to get to know each other.”

One student admitted it was not her decision to attend and had not wanted to go, but she ended up having fun after all.

“God isn’t just the Sabbath or a church,” says David Salazar, Washington Con-



KATIE HENDERSON

Willy Ramos, “The Ghetto Preacher,” delivered a powerful message, encouraging the youth to believe that they are worthy of the love and sacrifice of God.

ference youth director. “The purpose of this public high school retreat is to help them understand that, wherever they are, they can carry Christ with them.”

Katie Henderson

Fifty-five public high school students spent time getting to know each other and connect with God during the public high school retreat at Sunset Lake Camp.



KATIE HENDERSON

WASHINGTON

LIVING GENEROUSLY, SHARING FAITHFULLY // CONFERENCE +

KATIE HENDERSON



Students have fun interacting with the horses at Sunset Lake Camp during outdoor school.

OUTDOOR SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH PATHFINDERS AND ADVENTURERS

What is your favorite thing about outdoor school? If you were to ask a student, many of them would say they loved fishing, the lake, interacting with the horses, or even getting to touch an alligator or snake.

This year, Washington Conference outdoor school had a new component. In partnership with Pathfinders and Adventurers ministries, 190 fifth- and sixth-grade students had the opportunity to earn Pathfinder honors in horses, mammals, animal tracks, rocks and minerals, and canoeing.

Outdoor school, held at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson, focused on the

creation week and challenged students to discover how the world around them relates to their lives.

“I love getting the schools together and watching them bond,” says Craig Mattson, Washington Conference vice president for education. “My favorite part is fishing with them. Some of the kids haven’t even been fishing, and it’s fun to see their joy of catching and releasing their first fish.”

Katie Henderson, Washington Conference communication intern

More photos online at glnr.in/113-10-wa_outdoor



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



Donors raised \$110,000 for special academic projects at Auburn Adventist Academy.

AUBURN DONORS CONTINUE GENEROUS LEGACY

When Nadia Diaz was a freshman at Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA), she heard about the Committee of 100 that funds special academic projects.

“I saw joining as an opportunity for me to learn what goes on within the committee,” says Diaz, who is now a sophomore in college. “It was a chance for me to advocate for the classes that may not have extra funding, like the art classes.”

The Committee of 100 began 25 years ago as a giving society with a handful of donors who each contributed \$500 annual membership dues. Since then, the Committee of 100 has funded \$1 million worth of academic improvements and now represents 120 giving households.

“The generosity of this group has ripple effects across this campus,” notes Peter Fackenthal, AAA principal.

“As the generosity and support of AAA grew, we

saw a need to update our name to Committee of 200,” says Jay Coon, AAA vice principal for growth and development. “We have designated committee members who will be finalizing the name, updating the constitution and bylaws, and nurturing membership.”

The committee met for a brunch business meeting on Oct. 14, during which they raised \$110,000 for additional science and lab equipment, technology improvements, safety upgrades, student residential support, and more.

“People want to give back to Auburn,” says Brandon Richards, growth and development representative. “It’s really awesome to see how God is working within our community to support our students and staff.”

Stephanie Case, AAA media literacy student

More online at glnr.in/113-10-wa_legacy

DEAF ADVENTISTS ENCOURAGED TO SHARE GOSPEL

The lights flicker for attention. Conversation continues. Leaders motion for attention repeatedly. Forty people in the room finally settle down. Church begins with a familiar ebb and flow.

And yet something is significantly and powerfully different: There is no extra sound in the room beyond an interpreter keeping the hearing portion of the audience informed.

This is Big Deaf Day at Washington’s Puyallup Church, the second such event of the year, which drew an audience from Washington, Oregon, Tennessee and parts of Canada.

If you’ve never joined a deaf worship service, it is worth experiencing. The worship experience is moving and meaningful — and you must pay close attention, from the joint signing of the opening hymn lyrics and heartfelt prayer requests to poetry about the holiness of heaven and an animated sermon

by guest speaker Jeff Jordan who shared his “profoundly deaf” life story, identified how God intervened in his life and gave a specific challenge to the audience.

“The Great Commission says to spread the gospel to each culture and language,” Jordan says. “Deaf work is growing through struggles and frustrations. We tend to focus on limitations, but God doesn’t. Offer yourself to God. God can use you, your eyes and your hands to make a difference. God will open doors for you, and you need to be prepared to give glory to His name.”

Find and connect with “Washington Conference Deaf Ministry” on Facebook and YouTube.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

More photos online glnr.in/113-10-wa_bellingham

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER





+ More photos online at glnr.in/113-10-wa_bellingham

BELLINGHAM TIMELINE

- 1893** Mission work began in Bellingham
- 1894** Elder J.E. Fuller arrived, 18 charter members established, and various meeting places rented
- 1920** Land purchased at 910 N. Forest Street
- 1921** School first opened
- 1923** Church facility opened and dedicated
- 1948** New school facility finished
- 2014** Church facility sold to join the school campus
- 2018** New church facility completed

BELLINGHAM CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF SERVING WELL

This year, Adventists are marking 125 years of ministry in Bellingham with the completion of a new church facility on the sister ministry campus of Baker View Christian School.

When volunteer hours were recognized during the grand opening of the new church facility, the four-year individual total of volunteer hours ranged from 40 to 320 hours. Local volunteers were

twice supported by Maranatha Volunteers International to complete the 16,000-square-foot facility.

“We all had a part to do with building this sanctuary,” says Gerald Langley, Bellingham Church elder. “We built this building to bear fruit, and, like Gal. 6:9 says, the time will come when we will reap the harvest.”

In addition to the grand opening on Sept. 22, the

Bellingham congregation also welcomed their new pastoral couple, Ron and Marion Shultz, from Illinois. The congregation anticipates continuing their heritage of serving well as they minister to their local community and pray toward reopening the school soon.

Heidi Baumgartner

SINGING UNITES WHATCOM GENERATIONS

Singing “When the Saints Go Marching In” with gusto and with rhythm instruments in hand, children of the Bellingham area enter a local rehabilitation center. They gather into formation and then offer to share their instruments with the residents so they too can sing and play along.

“We encounter visually impaired also and assist them to feel their instrument for the first time,” explains Diane Vyskocil, Bellingham Church member and ministry coordinator. “To accommodate those hearing impaired, we sing

‘Jesus Loves Me’ twice, including sign language. I reference it as ‘singing with our fingers.’ They love it.”

“I felt really happy singing to the elderly people and loved to see them smile,” says 13-year-old Laura.

The Sabbath afternoon program, scheduled for every third Sabbath, usually includes acknowledgement of those who served in the military. When the children find a World War II veteran, they practice their salutes and sing “I’m in the Lord’s Army.”

“At first, I didn’t want to



go, but once I started singing I was glad I came,” says Sorrel, a junior high participant. “I think this was the best Sabbath afternoon I’ve had for a while.”

Emma, 8, adds, “I liked talking about Jesus to the people, and I wanted to help spread the joy of Jesus’ life to them.”

Danny, 7, agrees. “I like singing with the other kids to the elderly,” he says.

“We sing Bible-based songs, knowing that exposure to God’s Word positively affects the mind,” Vyskocil says. “We are very aware that the vibrant energy of youthful voices coupled with interaction time effectively lifts the spirits of these residents.”

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

WWU NURSING PROFESSOR PRESENTS LECTURE ABOUT CHRONIC PAIN

K

ari Firestone, Walla Walla University (WWU) professor of nursing and associate dean of the WWU School of Nursing, presented the annual WWU Distinguished Faculty Lecture in November on the WWU campus.

Firestone's lecture, "Lost voices: A biopsychosocial perspective on chronic pain," addressed the significant health problem of chronic pain in the United States and issues such as what is chronic pain; can thoughts, emotions and behaviors really influence pain; and how can we challenge long-held assumptions about

chronic pain and approaches to treatment.

After graduating from WWU in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Firestone worked directly with those in pain before completing a Master of Science in Nursing degree from California's Loma Linda University in 2006. In 2016, she completed a Doctor of Philosophy degree in nursing science at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland.

Firestone's clinical and academic interests have centered on advancing health for children and families, with particular focus on enhancing



Kari Firestone, Walla Walla University (WWU) professor of nursing and associate dean of the WWU School of Nursing

ing quality of life through management of chronic illness, symptoms and pain. In addition to her master's thesis and doctoral dissertation, which both focus on pain management, Firestone has published

numerous peer-reviewed articles on the topic for journals such as *Communicating Nursing Research* and the *Journal of Pain*.

She is the recipient of grants from the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare, the American Nurses Foundation and the Society of Pediatric Nurses. Her current research focuses on provider perceptions of access to care and treatment priorities for pediatric chronic-pain patients in rural communities.

Watch a recording of the lecture at wallawalla.edu/DFL.

Kim Strobel, WWU university relations supervisor



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DIVERSITY: OUR COMMITMENT IN ACTION

Walla Walla University (WWU) is on an important journey, one that brings focus to our mission statement, which affirms that “every person is created in the image of God as a being of inestimable value and worth.”

Last April, WWU president John McVay announced eight areas of diversity focus that the university would immediately pursue in keeping with its mission. Since then, students, faculty and staff have developed implementation steps and measurement opportunities for each of these areas:

- » Modifications to curriculum, both inside and outside our classrooms, to support diversity education;
- » Expanded diversity education for university faculty and staff;
- » Policy and procedure revisions to remove barriers to progress in diversity;
- » Improved feedback mechanisms for our campus family;
- » Recruiting enhancements that will attract diverse students, faculty and staff;
- » Regular diversity conversations and engagement with stakeholders;

- » Assessment and annual reporting through a diversity scorecard;
- » Increased resources and staffing committed to diversity-linked events and roles.

This plan, called “Our Commitment to Diversity,” is being shepherded into action, and progress will be reported annually. “The specifics of the plan aren’t just talk; they are an important foundation from which the campus family can take positive, deliberate, measurable steps toward fostering a more diverse campus community — the kind of community that inspires creativity and compassion and that develops young professionals equipped for a diverse world and future,” says McVay.

Pedrito Maynard-Reid, WWU assistant to the president for diversity since 2008, says, “Our university family has committed to fostering a respectful and durable pattern of diversity that will enrich each individual, strengthen Walla Walla University and bless the world we serve. This plan is our road map and holds us accountable as we work to provide every student and employee with a safe environment and to model an atmosphere of inclusion and harmony.”

Read “Our Commitment to Diversity” and learn more about our action steps at wallawalla.edu/diversity.

Jodi Wagner, WWU vice president for university relations and advancement

WWU WELCOMES 12 NEW FACULTY



Walla Walla University is pleased to introduce 12 new members of the university faculty: (front row, from left) Amanda Lewis, assistant professor of social work; Licci Zemleduch, instructor in business; C.J. Brothers, assistant professor of biology; Eunice Muriu, assistant professor of nursing; Mike Hellie, assistant professor of health and physical education; (back row, from left) Monique Vincent, assistant professor of history; Hilary Dickerson, pro-

fessor of history; George Perez, assistant professor of business; Doug Thomsen, associate professor of engineering; Cristian Neacsu, associate professor of music; (not pictured) James Foster, assistant professor of computer science; and Ryan Mowat, associate professor of engineering.



Cunningham 50th

Les and Anita Cunningham celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary first with family and relatives in Billings, Mont. They later took a trip to Sweden where they, along with their 14-year-old granddaughter, Leah, visited relatives and friends.

Anita was born and lived in Sweden until 1962, when she immigrated to the U.S. After attending La Sierra College in California and graduating from Glendale Adventist Hospital School of Nursing, she met Lester, who was stationed in Los Angeles serving in the Army at the time.

Lester's home was in Atascadero, Calif. After the Army, he worked for the California Division of Highways then pursued a degree in civil engineering at Walla Walla College in College Place, Wash.

After Anita's graduation, they got married Aug. 20, 1968, at the Vallejo Drive Church in Glendale, Calif. Their first home was in College Place, where Anita worked as a nurse at Walla Walla General Hospital. Lester completed his degree in 1971 and went to work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, later getting a master's degree in engineering from Colorado State University. They are charter members of the Walla Walla Eastgate Church and are still members there.

The Cunningham family is blessed with Christine Wells of Connell, Wash.; Martin and Rhonda (Spencer) Cunningham of Johnson City, Tenn.; and 5 grandchildren.

Gessele 50th

Glen Gessele and Marybeth Watkins were married on Aug. 12, 1968. It all started at Union College in Lincoln, Neb., where they met the fall



Glen and Marybeth Gessele

of 1966. Glen was from North Dakota and Marybeth from Louisiana. They were married in Jonesboro, La., a couple of months after both graduated from Union College.

They were part of the Kansas Conference as a pastoral couple until 1979, when they moved from Enterprise Academy in Kansas and joined the Oregon Conference.

Marybeth was a stay-at-home mom while their sons were home and then worked as an in-home hospice caregiver until retiring in 2017.

After 23 years in pastoral ministry, Glen transitioned to the Oregon Conference planned giving and trust services department, where he continues working on a part-time basis. They have lived in the Laurelwood area near Gaston, Ore., since 1979.

The Gessele family includes Todd and Gioni Gessele of Oregon City, Ore.; Chad Gessele of Portland, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Hain 60th

Ruby and Dieter Hain of Walla Walla, Wash., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in the Havstad Alumni Center on the campus of Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash., on July 1, 2018. Family and friends joined them from as far away as Canada and the island of Bali in Indonesia. The event was organized by Merle Hildebrand and Colleen Vercio, nieces of the bride. Their nieces' father, James Campbell, was the master of ceremonies.

Ruby was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. Dieter was born in Germany. Following World War II, he worked for the United States occupation forces as an interpreter. His adventures are recorded in Sandy Zaugg's book *Escape*, published by Pacific Press in 2007.

Ruby attended Canadian Union College (now Burman University) in Alberta and graduated from Walla Walla University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She and Dieter married on June 16, 1958, while he was a pastor in Alberta.

During their professional life, they worked in Alberta, Ohio, California, Washington, Maine and New Jersey — Dieter as hospital chaplain and Ruby as registered nurse.

The Hain family includes Mark and Doina (Kacmar) Hain of Reno, Nev.; and Timothy Hain of Bali, Indonesia.

Rowland 100th

May (Stroud) Rowland celebrated her 100th birthday on Feb. 18, 2018, with friends, family and her church family at North Cascade Church in Burlington, Wash.

May was born on March 1, 1918, in St. Paul, Minn. After

graduating from Saint Paul High School, May, along with her parents and three siblings, headed west in search of greater opportunities, settling in Bayview, Wash.

She married Ken Rowland in 1942, and they celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary at the North Cascade Church as well. They have lived on Garden of Eden Road in Sedro-Woolley, Wash., for most of their married lives.

May was a homemaker, beautician and a bookkeeper for the family business. She taught in the juniors Sabbath School. Both Ken and May enjoyed SAGE (Seniors in Action for God with Excellence) mission trips. With her interest in healthful living, May (with help) had a garden again this year.

May enjoys spending time with her and Ken's family, including their daughter Sharon (recently deceased) and son-in-law Bob Littlejohn of Lewiston, Idaho; son and daughter-in-law, Gael and Geraldine Rowland of Sedro-Woolley. They also enjoy their 4 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Sterling 65th

A reception was held on Aug. 36, 2018, at the St. Helena (Calif.) Church's fireside room in honor of Claude and Doris Sterling's 65th wedding anniversary with 90 people in attendance.

Claude was born in Chehalis, Wash. In 1939, he was baptized in the old Centralia (Wash.) Church because the Chehalis Church did not have a baptistry. From fourth to ninth grade, he attended church school in the Centralia Church. He then attended Auburn Academy, graduating in 1947. Next came Walla Walla

College, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in engineering in 1951. He then worked as an electrical engineer at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash.

Claude would frequently visit his parents in Chehalis. During the winter of 1952–53 while at church, he met a young lady by the name of Doris McNeil. Her family home was in Curtis, Wash., and Doris graduated from Boistfort High School. Doris was working at the Steck Clinic in Chehalis and was taking Bible studies to learn about “The Blessed Hope.” Doris was baptized in



Claude and Doris Sterling

the spring of 1953 in Chehalis. Claude and Doris’ friendship grew rather rapidly, and they were married in the Chehalis Church on Aug. 30, 1953.

The couple made their home in Bremerton until in the spring of 1954, when Claude was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served at Fort Monmouth, N.J., and was later reassigned to First Army Medical Lab in New York City. After discharge in 1956, the couple returned to Bremerton to Claude’s former job.

In June 1957, the couple had a son, Rodney. Later that year, Claude accepted a position at Pacific Union College (PUC) in Angwin, Calif. For 22 years,

Claude worked for PUC in various levels of facilities management, ultimately as associate business manager.

A second son, Keith, was born in 1959. Doris was a stay-at-home mom until the boys started school, then she worked part-time as bookkeeper for the college Chevron station. As the boys became Pathfinder age, Claude and Doris became Master Guides and were involved with Pathfinders for several years.

Claude accepted a call in 1979 to serve as director of telecommunications at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California, where he managed the installation of \$3 million worth of telephone equipment. The pair made their home in Yucaipa, Calif., and were active in the Yucaipa Church.

In 1981, Claude received a Master of Business Administration degree in management from California’s Golden Gate University. During this time, Claude and Doris participated in many weekend campouts with the Palomar Nature Club.

Claude accepted a position in 1983 with a telephone equipment manufacturer Northern Telecom and had an office in Walnut Creek and later Santa Clara. The Sterlings made their home in Martinez and became members of and served the Concord Church.

Soon after moving to Martinez, they were able to acquire a new motor home and spent many weekends with the El Dorado Nature Club. Doris worked in the trust department of the Northern California Conference during this time.

Claude took an early retirement in 1992, and they moved back to their home in Angwin, where they are still able to live comfortably by themselves with

some help from their two sons. For nearly 22 years they were members of the Elmshaven Church, where Claude and Doris served. Retirement provided opportunity to camp with the El Dorado Nature Club as well as travel by motor home, plane and cruise ship. Most recently they have been members of the St. Helena Church.

Claude and Doris have two sons, Rodney and Keith, and one granddaughter, Kelli Anne, who teaches fifth and sixth grades at Orangevale Junior Academy near Sacramento, Calif.

Stone 50th

In September 1966, Curt Stone, a police science major, met Maggi Brodie, a home economics major, at Sierra College near Rocklin, Calif.

After graduation, the couple was married on July 8, 1969. Curt became a deputy sheriff at Truckee, Calif. He later returned to school and acquired a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice in 1972 from California State University, Sacramento. Curt was also awarded an Advanced Certificate from the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training.

Curt and Maggi became Seventh-day Adventists in the 1970s after Maggi attended an Adventist meeting in Reno, Nev.

In later years, they moved back to their hometown in Nevada City, Calif. Maggi stayed home with their children, and Curt worked for the probation department.

In 1985, the family moved to College Place, Wash., where Curt, a former U.S. Army medic, enrolled in nursing

school. After Curt became a registered nurse, the family moved to Colville, Wash., where Curt worked as the night charge nurse in a long-term care facility for 24 years.

After retirement, the couple moved to Dayton, Wash. Maggi is the director of the Dayton Adventist Community Service Center, and Curt is a deacon in the Dayton Church.

Curt and Maggi have three children and two grandchildren. Their oldest daughter, Tricia, is the school counselor at Walla Walla Valley Academy. Granddaughter Lauren is a sophomore at Walla Walla University.

FAMILY BIRTHS

FRANCO — Noe Gabriel was born Sept. 22, 2018, to Ruben and Vanesa (Hernandez) Franco, Tillamook, Ore.

REED — Reagan Elizabeth was born Sept. 17, 2018, to Tyler and Morgan (Davis) Reed, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

KORONKO-KNAPP

Amy K. Koronko and Ashton B. Knapp were married Sept. 30, 2018, in Hillsboro, Ore. They are making their home in West Linn, Ore. Amy is the daughter of Kelly and Melody (Humbert) Koronko. Ashton is the son of Dwight Knapp and Anna (Pfeiffer) Knapp (deceased).

FAMILYATREST

AGNETTA — Rowena (Truxton), 97; born in Holly, Mich.; died Aug. 8, 2017, Watertown, N.Y. Surviving: sons, Daniel, Berrien Springs, Mich.; Robert, Watertown; and 2 grandchildren.

ANDERSON — Roy Burton, 92; born April 25, 1926, Mount Vernon, Wash.; died Aug. 22, 2018, Moses Lake, Wash. Surviving: wife, Johanna B. Woerdenbach, Tonasket, Wash.; son, Dean Anderson, Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada; daughters, Linda Ingram, Kamloops; Terry Hamilton; 3 grandchildren, 10 step-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

BAZE — Nina Mae (Davis), 87; born Aug. 31, 1930, Dinuba, Calif.; died June 8, 2018, Shelton, Wash. Surviving: sons, Herbert Jr. and Benjamin, both of Shelton; Jeffrey, Salem, Ore.; daughters, Arnita Maxwell, Salem; and Kimberly Beckman, Shelton.

CAMPBELL — Rachel Ann, 80; born March 17, 1938, in Michigan; died July 29, 2018, Hillsboro, Ore. Surviving: a stepbrother.

CLARIDGE — Lawrence Lorenzo, 95; born Feb. 20, 1923, Bison, S.D.; died Aug. 31, 2018, College Place, Wash. Surviving: sons, Ron, Reno, Nev.; Rick, Walla Walla, Wash.; daughter, Cindy Weber, Pomona, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

CURRIER — Joy Luzanne (Tucker), 89; born July 22, 1928, Portland, Ore.; died Dec. 22, 2017, Riddle, Ore.

Surviving: sons, Randall, Grants Pass, Ore.; William, Adair Village, Ore.; daughter, Carol Nelson Sumerlin, Riddle; 8 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

EDWARDS — Charles Garland, 91; born Sept. 25, 1926, Muncie, Ind.; died Sept. 7, 2018, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, June Day Edwards, College Place, Wash.; sons, James and Robert; sister, Alice Princess Msumba Siwandhla; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

GILL — David Edward, 81; born March 29, 1936, Portland, Ore.; died May 4, 2017, Portland. Surviving: wife, Marsha (Rogers) Miller Gill; sons, Danny, Portland; Jon, Warner-Robins, Ga.; stepson, John Miller, Portland; daughters, Debbie Yost, Troutdale, Ore.; Kathy Rygg, Salt Lake City, Utah; Jennifer Gill, Clackamas, Ore.; 15 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

GRAHAM — Robert W., 87; born July 27, 1931, Walla Walla, Wash.; died Sept. 28, 2018, Klamath Falls, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Teresa Panossian, Klamath Falls; Leora Ragan, Yreka, Calif.; and 5 grandchildren.

HILL — Donald Fredrick, 89; born June 6, 1929, Flint, Mich.; died Sept. 23, 2018, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Donna Lee (Redfield); son, Denton, Caldwell; daughter, Debbie Wood, Caldwell; and 2 grandchildren.

KROLL — Edward, 84; born March 3, 1934, San Francisco, Calif.; died June 21, 2018, Shelton, Wash. Surviving: wife, Shirley (Martin); son, Edward, Pleasant Hill, Ore.; and daughter, Tambra Bullock, Lincoln City, Ore.

LEE — Virginia (Nick), 82; born May 5, 1936, Mobridge, S.D.; died June 5, 2018, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: son, Dan, Nampa; daughter, Sydney Ashland, Eugene, Ore.; brothers, Edwin Nick, Phoenix, Ariz.; Jack Nick, Sierra Vista, Ariz.; Jim Nick, Sacramento, Calif.; sisters, Edie Guthrie, Yucaipa, Calif.; Donna Matchette, Fairfield, Mont.; and June Nafziger, Benton Harbor, Mich.

MAGEE — Marilyn (Olsen), 88; born Nov. 10, 1928, Fountain Green, Utah; died Oct. 19, 2017, Wenatchee, Wash. Surviving: son, Ron, Delta Junction, Alaska; brothers, Homer J. Olsen, Gig Harbor, Wash.; Steven T. Olsen, San Francisco, Calif.; sister, Winifred Dahl, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; 5 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

MARQUETTE — Stanley, 69; died June 10, 2018, Sequim, Wash. Surviving: wife, Ina.

MCINTOSH — Shawn R., 60; born June 21, 1958, in California; died July 20, 2018, in Washington. Surviving: sons, Joseph and Zachary; mother, Vicki Reed, Marysville, Wash.; brothers, Toby McIntosh, Anchorage, Alaska; Bill McIntosh, Arlington, Wash.; Kevin Kelly, Everett, Wash.; sisters, Glenus Cooper, Henderson, Nev.; Nicki Fager-

lie, Stanwood, Wash.; Dawn Moisanen, Arlington; Erin Westvang, Marysville; and 2 grandchildren.

MYERS — Duane, 76; born Aug. 19, 1941, Portland, Ore.; died April 8, 2018, Everett, Wash. Surviving: wife, Ann (Emmert) Myers; sons, Lyle, Bellingham, Wash.; Neil, Burlington, Wash.; daughters, Rachell Myers, Everett; Cathy Payne, Kihai, Hawaii; and 5 grandchildren.

PALMER — William Salton, 92; born June 26, 1926, Solusi Mission, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Africa; died Aug. 24, 2018, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: wife, Marjorie Palmer; daughters, Judy Gill, Des Moines, Wash.; Jan Skau, Gresham; 2 grandchildren and a grandchild.

PETRIE — Eugene “Gene” Marvin, 86; born Feb. 12, 1932, Sebeca, Minn.; died Oct. 2, 2018, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Betty (Zacharias), Milton-Freewater, Ore.; sons, Gene, Spokane, Wash.; Timothy, Graham, Wash.; Steven, Walla Walla; brother, Clifford, of Kentucky; sister, Lorraine McMillan, Athena, Ore.; 7 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

REYNOLDS — Lyla L. (Ovas), 94; born Jan. 8, 1924, Minneapolis, Minn.; died Sept. 20, 2018, Portland, Ore. Surviving: husband, Donald G. Reynolds; son, Dean, Hamburg, Penn.; daughter, Cynthia Fearing, Gresham, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

RIDLER — Gail Monroe, 80; born Oct. 11, 1937, Greenfield, Iowa; died Aug. 26, 2018, Dayton, Wash. Surviving: wife, Louella (Brunken), College Place, Wash.; sons, Monte, Vancouver, Wash.; Perry, College Place; daughters, Pamela Schweiger, Blythe, Ga.; Diane Schramm, Hot Springs, S.D.; Laura Ridler, Beaverton, Ore.; brother, Lloyd Ridler, Lohman, Mo.; sisters, Margaret Chamberlain, Jasper, Tenn.; Evelyn Peterson, Avon Park, Fla.; 12 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

ROHLF — Doreen Adele (Black), 89; born Nov. 11, 1928, Yakima, Wash.; died Aug. 12, 2018, Medford, Ore. Surviving: husband, Earl “Blondie”; daughters, Irlene Rohlf, Eagle Point, Ore.; Connie Dunks, Springfield, Ore.; Sharon Westergard, Rogue River, Ore.; 5 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

SMITH — Linda Lee (Martin), 71; born Jan. 3, 1947, Eugene, Ore.; died July 24, 2018, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: son, Daymon, Eugene; daughter, Darcy Ornelas, Springfield; brothers, Sidney Martin, Eugene; Synn Martin, Blue River, Ore.; sister, Susan Johnson, Eugene; 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

SMITH — Susie Irene (Watson), 91; born July 23, 1927, Tupelo, Ms.; died Sept. 8, 2018, Eagle, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Bill Duncan, Boise, Idaho; George Duncan, Tacoma, Wash.; David Duncan, Orting, Wash.; daughter, Debbie Lang, Meridian, Idaho; 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

SORENSEN — Betty Louella (Heinrichs), 81; born Feb. 18, 1937, Borden, Saskatchewan, Canada; died Aug. 2, 2018, Roseburg, Ore. Surviving: husband, Neil Clifford Sorensen; son, Melvin Neil Sorensen, Sammamish, Wash.; daughter, Laura Lynn Sterner, Roseburg; brother, Harvey Lloyd Heinrichs, Newport Beach, Calif.; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

SOULE — Larry Dean, 83; born March 18, 1935, Portland, Ore.; died Sept. 16, 2018, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: wife, Freida (Knopp); sons, Gary, Bainbridge

Island, Wash.; Larry Jr., Portland; John, Modesto, Calif.; daughter, Sheryle Haberly, Burlington, Wash.; 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

SPEKKER — Norman Cecil, 80; born Feb. 26, 1938, Kendrick, Idaho; died April 17, 2018, Lewiston, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Stella Mae Spekker; son, Karl; and a grandchild.

STEWART — Barbara Lee (Smick), 96; born Sept. 19, 1922, Endicott, Wash.; died Sept. 24, 2018, Renton, Wash. Surviving: son, Gary D., Renton; a grandchild,

2 step-grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

WARD — Charles Reuben, 90; born Nov. 13, 1927, Viola, Idaho; died Aug. 7, 2018, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: son, Jeffrey, Portland, Ore.; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

WESSMAN — Gloria (Jones), 83; born Nov. 16, 1934, Middletown, Ohio; died May 31, 2018, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Marlin, College Place, Wash.; Tim, Meridian, Idaho; 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

WOLD — Duane Richard, 87; born Oct. 11, 1930, Scobey, Mont.; died June 1, 2018, Billings, Mont. Surviving: wife, Dolores; daughters, Claudia Brisbin, Lonna Lindsay and Renee Albert; 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Aug. 20, 1948–
Nov. 17, 2017

GORDON ARTHUR MILLER

Gordon Arthur Miller of Turner, Ore., passed away from complications of a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurism on Nov. 17, 2017, in Loma Linda, Calif.

Gordon was born in Portland, Ore., to Donald Blair and Wilma Arlene (Hall) Miller. He married Julie K. Stevenson on Feb. 29, 2004, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

After graduating from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 1975 and completing his residency, Gordon moved to Salem, Ore., where he practiced ophthalmology from 1979 to 2015.

Gordon also passionately provided eye care in developing countries. He founded Adventist International Eye Services (AIES) and established ophthalmology programs in Mexico and Madagascar.

Living a Christ-led life permeated all facets of Gordon’s work, church life and civic activities. He taught Sabbath School for many years and served as Marion County Republican chairman. He was a dedicated, generous, responsible and principled Christian man who is and will be truly missed.

Gordon is survived by his wife, Julie K. (Deegan) Stevenson Miller; step-children, Matthew Kent Stevenson, Erin Brooke Steinman and Christopher Grant Stevenson; mother, Wilma (Hall) Miller; siblings, Edward Blair Miller and Barbara Arlene Rebok; and 2 step-grandchildren.



The *Gleaner* also accepts expanded obituary announcements with short bio and photo. For submission and cost info, contact info@gleanernow.com or call 360-857-7043.

Go to GleanerNow.com/contribute to submit family announcements.

The North Pacific Union Conference *Gleaner* accepts family listings as a service to members of Adventist churches in the Northwest. While this information is not intended as an endorsement of any facts or relationships represented, the *Gleaner* does not knowingly print content contrary to the biblical beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

Dec. 1 — Local Church Budget;

Dec. 8 — World Budget: NAD Adventist Community Services;

Dec. 15 — Local Church Budget;

Dec. 22 — Local Conference Advance;

Dec. 29 — Union-Designated.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

WWU Christmas Concert

Dec. 7 — Join us on campus for the annual WWU Christmas Concert with performances at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Both performances also will be livestreamed at wallawalla.edu/concert.

Kirkland WWU Alumni Event

Jan. 11 — WWU alumni are invited to welcome the Sabbath with a complimentary meal and vespers on Friday at 6:30 p.m. at the Kirkland Church, 6400 108th Ave. NE, Kirkland, Wash. Please RSVP at wallawalla.edu/alumni/events, email alumni@wallawalla.edu or call 509-527-2631.

Puyallup WWU Alumni Event

Jan. 12 — Join fellow WWU alumni on Sabbath, at the Puyallup Church, 902 Shaw Rd., Puyallup, Wash. WWU

president John McVay will speak for the church service at 11 a.m., followed by a church potluck with dessert provided by WWU and a campus news update.

OREGON CONFERENCE

Christmas Cantata

Dec. 15 — Please come join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Valley View Church will be presenting a Christmas cantata, *The Glory of Christmas Celebrating Christ's Birth*. This delightful musical experience is directed by Ruth James. The event is free and begins at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Come early for the best seating at 3677 South Stage Rd, Medford, OR 97501. For more information, call 541-773-6097.

37th Annual Christmas Vespers

Dec. 21 — Lloyd Wescott and the Sunnyside Church at 10501 SE Market St., Portland, Ore., will present the 37th annual Christmas vespers Friday evening at 7 p.m. Invite your friends and enjoy an evening of Christmas music presented by some of Portland's finest musicians. Bring your musical score and participate in the finale — Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah*. An offering will be received to support feeding Portland's homeless each Sunday morning in O'Bryant Square in downtown Portland. Refreshments will be served after the program.

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Seventh-day Adventist Church
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

HEALTH MINISTRIES



UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Missing members

The Linwood Church in Spokane, Wash., is looking for the following missing members: Keeta Abbott, Chad Alexander, Chelsey Andreasen, Margie Berg, Laura Berg, Barbara Bonner, Charlotte Bray, David Bray, Deborah Christianson, David Christianson, Leah Christianson, Michael Conant, Daniel Crane, Gary Danks, Donna Daymude, Brandy Daymude, Christine Denbroder, Cameron Ferguson, Melissa Ferguson, Raymond Foster, Ruth Foster, Evelyn Francis, Max Fry, Larry Gesik, Evelyn Gesik, Stephen Glover, Laura Grinnell, Brenda Hays, Terry Homburg, Leith Hopkins, Connie Johnson, Ashley Johnson, Judy Kelly, Laverne Kettley, Gary Kintner, Elizabeth Kintner, Wendi Knapp, Steve Kokkinen, Patricia Kram, David Kram, Jerry Larsen, Maranda Laws, Russell Laws, Kay Lee, Leah Lehmann, Gene Lindsay, Brandon Maddox, Bill Martin, Deborah Martin and Jennifer Meyer. If you have any information, please contact the Linwood Church at 509-327-4400 or email@linwoodsda.org.

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT GLEANERNOW.COM/EVENTS.

North Pacific Union Conference Directory

5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642
360-857-7000 • fax 360-857-7001 • npuc.org
Monday–Thursday 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

President John Freedman	Information Technology Loren Bordeau
Executive Secretary, Evangelism Daniel Cates	Associate Daniel Cates
. Bill McClendon	Legal Counsel André Wang
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Undertreasurer Robert Sundin	and Family Ministries César De León
Communication Steve Vistaunet	Evangelist Brian McMahon
Creation Study Center Stan Hudson	Native Ministries Northwest Steve Huey
Education Dennis Plubell	Public Affairs, Religious Liberty
Elementary Becky Meharry Greg Hamilton
Secondary Keith Waters	Regional Affairs, Multicultural
Certification Registrar	and Outreach Ministries Byron Dulan
. Deborah Hendrickson	Trust Chuck Simpson
Early Childhood Coordinator	Treasurer Allee Currier
. Golda Pflugrad	Women's Ministries Sue Patzer
Hispanic Ministries César De León	Youth and Young Adult Rob Lang

Local Conference Directory

ALASKA CONFERENCE

6100 O'Malley Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99507-7200
907-346-1004 • alaskaconference.org
Kevin Miller, president; Melvin Santos, v.p. secretariat; James W. Jensen, v.p. finance

IDAHO CONFERENCE

7777 Fairview
Boise, ID 83704-8418
208-375-7524 • idahoadventist.org
David Prest Jr., president; John Rogers, v.p. finance

MONTANA CONFERENCE

175 Canyon View Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-3101 • montanaconference.org
Elden Ramirez, president; Matthew Kirk, v.p. administration and finance

OREGON CONFERENCE

19800 Oatfield Rd.
Gladstone, OR 97027-2546
503-850-3500 • oregonconference.org
Dan Linrud, president; David Schwinghammer, v.p. administration; Brian Gosney, v.p. finance

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

3715 S. Grove Rd.
Spokane, WA 99224
509-838-2761 • uccsda.org
Minner Labrador Jr., president; Doug R. Johnson, v.p. administration; David Freedman, v.p. finance

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S.
Federal Way, WA 98001
253-681-6008 • washingtonconference.org
Doug Bing, president; Craig Carr, v.p. administration; Jerry S. Russell, v.p. finance

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

204 S. College Ave.
College Place, WA 99324-1198
509-527-2656 • wallawalla.edu
John McVay, president; Volker R. Henning, v.p. for academic administration; Steven G. Rose, v.p. for financial administration; Doug Tilstra, v.p. for student life; Jodeene Wagner, v.p. for university relations and advancement

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NAMPA ABC

1350 N. Kings Rd., Nampa, ID 83687-3193
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19700 Oatfield Rd., Gladstone, OR 97027
503-850-3300
M–Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
F 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

UPPER COLUMBIA ABC

3715 S. Grove Rd., Spokane, WA 99224
509-838-3168
M–Th 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

COLLEGE PLACE ABC

505 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324
509-529-0723
M–Th 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
F 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

AUBURN ABC

5100 32nd St., Auburn, WA 98092-7024
253-833-6707
M–Th 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
F 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Classes

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a faculty management/marketing. Teach marketing and related courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Have an earned

doctorate in marketing and sufficient teaching experience in marketing at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Be actively engaged in research, service, student advising and supervising student projects. andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_5.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks faculty – nursing. The assistant/associate professor of nursing holds a faculty appointment and has academic, service and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the nursing department. This individual demonstrates competence in didactic, clinical education, teaching and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate levels. andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_6.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to jobs.wallawalla.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks associate/full professor of public health, nutrition and dietetics. The associate/full professor of public health, nutrition and dietetics holds a faculty appointment having academic, service and scholarship responsibilities consistent with

the mission and philosophy of the department of public health, nutrition and wellness, the school of health professions and Andrews University. This individual demonstrates competence in didactic education, teaching, research and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate levels. andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_8.

Events

FARMERS AND GARDENERS (AdAgrA's) 5th annual Adventist Agriculture Association conference, Jan. 15–19, Portland, Ore. Since 2013 AdAgrA encourages, supports and mentors those who wish to follow God's agriculture plan. Great information and inspiration for how and why Adventists need to be in the garden. Registration and information, adventistag.org.

NAD HEALTH SUMMIT 2019 "Healing of the Nations." Designed to provide training, networking and inspiration for anyone involved with or interested in health ministries. Jan. 20–26, 2019, Albuquerque, N.M. Register at nadhealth.org. For more information, contact 443-300-8845 or summit@nadhealth.org.

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Sunset Schedule

	December 7	14	21	28
ALASKA CONFERENCE				
Anchorage	3:45		3:41	3:41
Fairbanks	2:50		2:41	2:39
Juneau	3:09		3:06	3:07
Ketchikan	3:18		3:16	3:17
IDAHO CONFERENCE				
Boise	5:08		5:08	5:11
La Grande	4:10		4:10	4:12
Pocatello	4:56		4:56	4:58
MONTANA CONFERENCE				
Billings	4:30		4:30	4:32
Havre	4:24		4:23	4:25
Helena	4:41		4:41	4:43
Miles City	4:17		4:17	4:19
Missoula	4:48		4:47	4:50
OREGON CONFERENCE				
Coos Bay	4:41		4:41	4:43
Medford	4:39		4:39	4:41
Portland	4:27		4:27	4:29
UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE				
Pendleton	4:11		4:11	4:13
Spokane	3:58		3:58	4:00
Walla Walla	4:08		4:08	4:10
Wenatchee	4:11		4:11	4:13
Yakima	4:15		4:15	4:17
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE				
Bellingham	4:14		4:14	4:15
Seattle	4:18		4:18	4:20

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U-DAYS

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Walla Walla University

NO ITINERARY, ONLY A PROMISE

I once read a story about a young cartographer who returned to his ancestral village to create the first map of the area. When he completed his work and the beautiful new map was crafted, he showed his father what he had done. His father was not pleased.

The map was technically accurate, but the father lamented that it did not capture the story of the land. The lines and squiggles said nothing of the injury he sustained climbing a particular mountain or the torrential rain that could occur in one part of the jungle. It didn't reveal the time a villager was nearly mauled by wild animals while relieving himself by the river. The map couldn't tell the story like a local, which meant travelers might not be fully prepared for the direction their adventures could take them.

This story not only illustrates the differences between how oral and print cultures think but also a stark truth: The map is not the territory, not the whole picture.

Have you ever gone on a trip where things didn't go as planned? When I recently flew to Virginia for oral exams, I had a series of irritating incidents, trials and debacles that tried to prevent me from taking my test. For example, because I didn't want "hangry" professors overseeing the process, I woke up early on test morning to

fetch something special for them. With some prior sleuthing, I knew they would love treats from Amazing Glazed. Arriving there early, I found a handwritten sign: "Closed due to family illness." Having passed my exams now, I can say with sincerity I hope they all recovered. That morning I may have wished it was Ebola virus.

What to do?

Panera Bread and Starbucks didn't have the white chocolate macadamia nut cookies my major professor desired. As precious minutes ticked away, I had to settle for a Subway cookie in the nick of time before the exam. Nothing I planned seemed to work.

No doubt you have your own stories. Getting sick, hurricanes on a tropical vacation, car troubles, hidden fees and surprise expenses, lost bags, and lost sanity are all part of the fun of making plans that don't always work the way you anticipated.

We have grown accustomed to often unrealistic expectations — having everything work exactly the way we have painstakingly planned. In the early 1960s Daniel Boorstin wrote a book called *The Image*. Its ideas are still applied by journalists and theorists today. In one chapter he talks about how we have changed from travelers to tourists. Speaking of the planned and reactive luxury of our travel experiences, Boorstin writes, "The tourist gets there



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce



We have grown accustomed to often unrealistic expectations — having everything work exactly the way we have painstakingly planned.

without the experience of having gone. For ages the sensation of going there was inseparable from the experience of being there. Now, when one risks so little and experiences so little on the voyage, the experience of being there somehow becomes emptier and more trivial” (p. 96).

After all, is it really an

adventure if you’ve already planned how everything will transpire?

I recently finished preaching a series on Romans in which I reflected on Paul’s “plans” to visit Rome “by way of Spain” (see Romans 15). Yet anyone who has read Acts 21–28 knows Paul’s plan took several adventurous detours

including accusations, arrest, beatings, imprisonment, shipwreck and a venomous snake bite to boot before being taken as a prisoner under house arrest to Rome. Not exactly a tour you would advertise in a travel brochure. This chapter made me wonder what we might miss if we simply approach the adventure of faith

as a preplanned and tidy travel package.

In a world of manufactured experiences, the life of faith becomes program management instead of unscripted conversations with others. And when a church doesn’t have enough programs or activities, we feel like it has nothing to offer. Instead of believers who take risks in developing new friendships, becoming involved in the life of a local community or seeking healthy conversations with different people, we wait for programs that meet our personal preferences.

Do we have a real relationship with God if we get to script the entire thing? Do we even have room for true adventure anymore? I am challenged by Jesus’ words in Matt. 28:19–20 to “go” to all the world and share His love. He doesn’t give us an itinerary — only the promise of His presence. Maybe it’s time for less control and more faith in the adventure God holds out for us.

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor



HE CAME, HE LOVED, HE CONQUERED

W

ho's afraid of a nursing infant? Herod, one of two despots in the Christmas story. The infamous ruler recognized in baby Jesus a genuine threat to his kingdom of coercion.

Foreign dignitaries had arrived from afar, inquiring the whereabouts of heaven's royal child. Herod sensed trouble for his domain of darkness. He launched a plot mercifully thwarted: "Flee to Egypt," God's angels warned Joseph, so baby Jesus won't be killed. Instead, Herod himself soon met his demise.

Now Bethlehem's savior, meek and mild, came back home to Palestine. Nazareth was a nasty place to nurture the Messiah, yet Jesus emerged untainted and triumphant.

"Behold the Lamb of God," the Baptist forerunner of the Advent proclaimed (John 1:29). The savior ascended from the Jordan River as God's Spirit descended upon Him.

At that moment Jesus officially became our Messiah, the anointed One (Acts 10:38).

When we today are baptized, it is not to "follow His example," as we are admonished in well-intentioned but mistaken exhortations. Baptism into Christ means owning and embracing God's Lamb as our personal Messiah. We thus exchange fallen Adam's old

humanity for our new identity in Christ. He is the "last Adam" (1 Cor. 15:45), head of a new human race — His church, God's final remnant.

Following Christ's baptism, the Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. The enemy approached Jesus questioning His identity: "If you are the Son of God, prove it." Jesus saw no need to prove anything to the devil, nor should we. "It is written" in Scripture is sufficient to assess and access Christ's salvation.

CHRISTUS VICTOR

Having conquered the devil in the desert, *Christus Victor* came home to Nazareth and launched His ministry. That Sabbath day He proclaimed, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor." (Literally, to *goodnewsify* us!) Also "to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed" (Luke 4:18).

"Set at liberty" inadequately translates *apostello* — the verbal form of "apostle." Amazingly, God sends us forth as His apostles of liberty even as we suffer oppression — actually, "being crushed." In other words, we don't need personal accomplishment or human approval for God to send us forth among our friends and enemies as



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His vendors of liberating love. So if we are feeling crushed by present circumstances, God intends to use that trauma to enhance rather than diminish our ministry. This is equally true for women as for men.

What a beautiful inaugural message for Christ's mission as Messiah! Yet the entrenched establishment refused to hail their hometown hero. Jesus was inclusive with heaven's love and grace, which offended them. Those first-century sabbatarians imagined they controlled the synagogue with once-saved, always-saved status as God's elite remnant. They

flattered themselves as having an exclusive franchise on His truth. Yet so angry they became at their own Messiah that they tried to throw Him over the cliff outside the city, into the valley of Megiddo below. Jesus slipped away unscathed and unhindered. He survived to triumphantly declare at Calvary, "It is finished!"

THE OTHER DESPOT OF CHRISTMAS

Back to Herod now, the notorious despot — a word derived from the Greek "*despotes*." Surprisingly, this is one of the names by which God

describes Himself! How could this be?

Consider what "despot" means — having sufficient power to coerce compliance. No need to seek consensus. For the world, overwhelming power of a despot inevitably corrupts the community being governed. *By contrast, God ordains and empowers us to serve without force or fear* "that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may ... know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:17–19).

Following Christ's victo-

rious death and resurrection, His followers suffered continuing oppression. God heard the prayers of the Jerusalem church and paroled Peter and John. Triumphantly "they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord [*Despotes*], who made the heaven and the earth ... to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place" (Acts 4:24, 28).

Christus Victor came to this earth "that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery" (Heb. 2:14,15). Heaven's *Despotes* of love sets us free!

You see, Herod wasn't the only despot in the Christmas story. Simeon in the temple recognized in baby Jesus the eternally powerful Lord from heaven. So he announced, "Now I can die in peace, O *Despotes*" (see Luke 2:29).

This Christmas we can acclaim liberation and empowerment in Christ. He came, He loved, and He conquered.

Martin Weber, retired from denominational service, is a hospice chaplain.



JUST LIKE JESUS

WHAT IF

Y

esterday Herod's troops murdered my son. "He might be the Fake King," they said, "so Herod, the Real King, says all pretenders must die. Tough deal."

They tore him from my arms and killed him. No checking parent-age. No apologizing. No questions. Nothing. Just murder — heinous, hateful, ignorant and cruel. Yesterday.

Today I am battling hate. I hate the soldiers, the king and their cruelty. I hate the eastern magi who came to my town searching for Israel's Messiah. I hate the shepherds who came dancing into town singing angel songs and searching for a newborn in a manger. And I hate the God who sent His Son to my town and then abandoned me to the cruel king and his empty-hearted soldiers.

Why did the Nazareth family slip away without warning us of Herod's hatred?

Where is the "peace" promised in angel songs?

Who will dry my tears and comfort the mother of my son?

God's Savior child has cost me my son! I beg God to let me die with him.

Those were my words 30 years ago, my heart shredded as I clutched the broken body of my son.

Today, standing in a silent crowd on a hill near Jerusalem, I heard my own wrenching cries of loneliness and pain burst from the bloodied lips of a dying Messiah. He too called for his Father and received no answer. Yet, in Him I heard no hate. At the end He surrendered, His heart broken, dying as I have wanted to so many times.

Today's sky was even blacker than my sadness, as if

Jehovah Himself was mourning His own dead Son.

I watched them take Him down, mother and friends weeping as I had wept. Hands closing eyes as I had closed the eyes of my son. A linen sheet, much nicer than mine. A small group carrying Him to a forgettable cave.

I have listened to this criminal Messiah for some weeks and have chosen to believe. Maybe it's the way He wept with those who weep and loved when others would have cursed. Maybe it is my desperate hope to believe my own son did not die in uselessness. Maybe it is because His words

filled my heart with hope.

The hill has been swathed in expectation, as if Someone somewhere is taking a deep breath.

This Man was not normal. He was bigger, better, wiser, kinder. Like the love He proclaimed.

He was the Messiah the shepherds and magi sought. Of that I am sure.

Because of Him, my son died. Yet, in Him, I have shed my hate and accepted His love.

I wept when they beat Him, when the blood flowed from His crown and when He screamed out His loneliness.

I wept when He died.

Now night has come, but my soul trembles with urgency. If the angels' song is true, all graves are about to burst open and all lungs fill with the breath of Heaven.

I weep no more.

Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference storyteller and storyteller



AUTHOR




Dick Duerksen

answer. Yet, in Him I heard no



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PERIODICALS

Our Wish for a Christ-Centered Christmas

— *Gleaner* Staff

A
glowing
fireplace
with yuletide
log, children
caroling in the
streets, brightly
wrapped packages
— these are images of

Christmas so many
hold dear.

But when the Word became flesh,
there was little celebration, no red
carpet, not even a welcome mat. If

not for the *heavenly choir*
or star in the sky, even the shepherds and
wise men would have skipped the occasion.

The **Son of God**, considering the plight
of His creation, took a long look at the glories of
heaven, stepped into His jeweled chariot and swept
over the edge of time and space to become one with us,
so we could become one with Him. That great leap of faith
brought Him here the first time. His unqualified love will bring
Him back.

Those who welcome Him back will be those who have chosen to
take the priorities of **HIS KINGDOM** to heart: "Inas-
much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to
Me" (Matthew 25:40).

Looking from self to the needs of others, may *His values* be at the
centerpiece of your holidays this year.