


EDITORIAL
PUTTING JESUS IN HIS PLACE

PERSPECTIVE
BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

NORTHWEST NEWS
NATIVE ART

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



IT DOESN'T HAVE
TO END THIS WAY

OUR VANISHING YOUTH AND WHAT CAN BE

MAR/APR
2020
VOL. 15, Nº 2



But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3:13

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March/April 2020
Vol. 115, No. 2

Gleaner (ISSN 0746-5874) is published bimonthly for a total of 6 issues per year by the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®, 5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642. It is printed and mailed at Pacific Press Publishing Association®, 1350 N. Kings Rd., Nampa, ID 83687-3193. Subscription rate: \$13.50 per year. Periodical postage paid at Ridgefield, WA 98642 and additional mailing offices.

OUR MISSION: Connecting Northwest Adventists with news and inspiration.

POSTMASTER: send all address changes to: North Pacific Union Conference *Gleaner*, 5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642
Phone: 360-857-7000
info@gleanernow.com
gleanernow.com

SUBMISSIONS: Timely announcements, features, news stories and family notices for publication in the *Gleaner* may be submitted directly to the project manager at the address listed under Postmaster. Material sent directly to local conference correspondents may be forwarded to the *Gleaner*.

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PUTTING JESUS IN HIS PLACE



AUTHOR

John Freedman

Have you heard the story about the young father reading the morning news while his little daughter played on the floor next to him? It made for some nice father-daughter time, but there was one problem: The little girl's cheerful banter and frequent queries prevented any reading.

As much as he loved her, the father wanted to finish the article he had started. Glancing around in an attempt to find something that would interest her, he spotted a possible solution. A mission flyer he had received in church was sticking out of his Bible. It had a map of the world on one side.

The father found a pair of scissors and cut up the world map. "Here honey," he said to his daughter. "Daddy made a puzzle for you to play with. Put this together and see if you make a map."

With that, the father returned to his tablet, confident he'd have plenty of time to finish the op-ed piece he had been reading.

In no time at all his daughter piped up and said, "Daddy I'm done!"

Surprised he looked down

to find the map fully assembled.

"That was fast," he said.

"How did you put it together so quickly? You don't know anything about geography."

His daughter replied, "There's picture of Jesus on the other side of the map. I knew

when I had Jesus in the right place, the whole world would be all right!"

It's a cute story, but the little girl was right: When Jesus is in the right place, the whole world will be a better place. The only hope for our angry, confused, dark and polarized world is Jesus. The same is true of our personal life, our family life and our church life.

In Revelation, Chapter 3, John tells a story of the Laodicean church. They're keeping Jesus outside the door, and He's knocking to gain entrance. In fact, He is even calling out to those on the other side of the door: "If anyone hears my voice and opens the door ... " (Rev. 3:20).

The members inside the house truly believe they are fine. Based on what John writes, one can easily imagine them saying, "We don't need anything, Jesus. We're busy and are doing a lot of good work. You should spend your time with those who really need help."

In spite of the brushoff, Jesus isn't rebuffed. He keeps knocking ... day after day. Why? Because those on the other side of the door don't realize their deep need for Jesus.

If we take an honest look at this passage, this story is all about us — God's people living right before Jesus returns. On our own, we are destitute. Our need for His faith, His righteousness and His Spirit is an issue of life and death.

Jesus belongs on the inside — inside our hearts, our families and our churches. When we give Him His rightful place, we will have success sharing Jesus with our broken communities and world.

WHEN JESUS IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE A BETTER PLACE.

Spiritual strength and vitality will be seen in our churches. Instead of losing 60–70% of our young adults, we will retain them inside the church and receive others from outside the church.

In this issue of the *Gleaner* we feature our North Pacific Union Conference sponsored, local conference and church led Growing Young initiative. This initiative keeps Jesus front and center and seeks to follow His methods of discipleship. We're helping churches find ways to invest in young lives and involve them in the fabric of faith, our church and Christian living.

I invite you to read the stories. Churches are taking young adult engagement seriously and lives are being changed. Rejoice with us over those who have returned and those who have found faith in Christ for the first time.

Engaging our youth doesn't require us to compromise our beliefs. It does require us to put Jesus in the right place. When He is at the center of our lives and our ministry, people of all ages will see Jesus and be drawn to His love shining through us.

*John Freedman, North Pacific
Union Conference president*

Tell us what you think.
talk@gleanernow.com.



+ PICTURE THIS



A little more than one in 10 people go hungry every day in Idaho. See how one church is trying to lower this number.

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Discover how one small neighborly gesture has turned into a long-term service partnership.

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Giving blood saves lives. Find out what one church did to make a difference.

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If God had a closet, what would it store? Learn how the Lacey Church is serving their community through a simple clothing ministry.


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Arctic mission service can be remote and challenging. Find out what the Alaska Conference says they are doing and how you can help.

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IT DOESN'T HAVE TO END THIS WAY

OUR VANISHING YOUTH AND WHAT CAN BE

T

HE BAD NEWS

You've seen it. You may have even watched it happen around you. Many of our churches are shrinking and aging. Walk into almost any Adventist church, and one can easily see the absence of young people. There is no denying this reality.

In most churches, this slow death is rarely an overnight process. They fade slowly as the years go by, often quietly losing momentum and vitality. Until one day they are completely empty.

A light goes out. A ministry dies.



Pastors and members gather and pray during an Growing Young Adventists Summit focused on church revitalization and young adult engagement.



AN UNACCEPTABLE REALITY

Studies like ValueGenesis have accurately pointed out the realities and challenges of youth and young adult disengagement. We're not unique as a denomination. Churches across the country are both shrinking and aging as more young people check out.

But there is hope.

There are congregations bucking this trend. Despite the tide, some churches are swimming upstream and thriving with people of all ages. What is it about these life rafts in the sea of decline that allows for vitality and growth?

THE BEST NEWS

Are you ready for the good news? Your church can grow young too. Extensive research has discovered six core commitments that keep teenagers and young adults coming back for more.

Contrary to what many fear, this doesn't require changing our beliefs or our mission. It's not about giving up our distinctive

Christ-centered message of hope and wholeness in order to woo young adults back. When a church begins the journey toward revitalization, members will likely find their church becoming what they've always dreamed it could be.

This ray of hope is something we at the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) are passionate about. We believe it's possible for our churches to grow and thrive as we engage our young adults. This belief is so important to us, we've built it into every one of our four strategic priorities:

- » Young adult engagement;
- » Leadership development;
- » Growing healthy churches;
- » Growing healthy schools.

Here at the NPUC, we've heavily invested in finding churches who want to seriously engage in what it takes to build a thriving community of believers. You may have heard about it. We call it Adventist Northwest Growing Young Cohort or Growing Young Adventists.

“THE SIX GROWING YOUNG STRATEGIES ENGAGE CHURCH LEADERS WITH THEIR YOUNG PEOPLE AND STRENGTHEN CONGREGATIONS TO REACH THEIR COMMUNITIES FOR JESUS.”

WHAT IS GROWING YOUNG?

The Growing Young initiative is a learning journey toward revitalization and community. Churches who participate:

- » Challenge young people (in fact, all members) with Jesus' message in ways that inspire them;
- » Develop younger leaders intentionally through natural leadership opportunities;
- » Fuel an atmosphere of warmth where everyone feels welcome;
- » Become better neighbors to those in the community.



Pastors Harry Sharley and Austin Greer are eager to see what God has in store for the Yakima 35th Avenue Adventist Church as they intentionally look for ways to grow young.

This initiative is not just a seminar you send your pastor to. This is a yearlong intentional journey that involves pastors and lay people from across your congregation. It helps you:

- » Reflect with your members on where you are and what got you there;
- » Ask meaningful questions about your values and goals as a church;
- » Expand your vision beyond trends and tricks;
- » Make the best use of your limited time and resources;
- » Craft a focused plan to reach young people like never before.

IS IT WORKING?

The NPUC just finished up our 2019 Growing Young Cohort. We rejoice that 45 churches joined this intentional learning journey for revitalization. Over the last year these churches have greatly improved their capacity to love well and lead well for all generations. Since we introduced the initiative in 2018, more than 55 churches have participated.

*TRACY WOOD, NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION
YOUTH DIRECTOR*

We're not content to stop there. Today local church teams all across our union are implementing customized strategic plans to continue growing in 2020 and beyond. We're just beginning our second year of church mentorship with our 2020 cohorts. We're seeking to build thriving Seventh-day Adventist churches for all generations, while helping churches grow younger, by reaching, loving and empowering youth and young adults more effectively.

IT'S TIME TO GET INTENTIONAL

Walk in the door at the Yakima 35th Avenue Adventist Church, and you might be tempted to say it looks like many others in North America, complete with an aging congregation.

Take a second look, and you'll find something more. Behind the 1960s multicolored chartreuse and orange stained-glass windows, there's quiet determination.

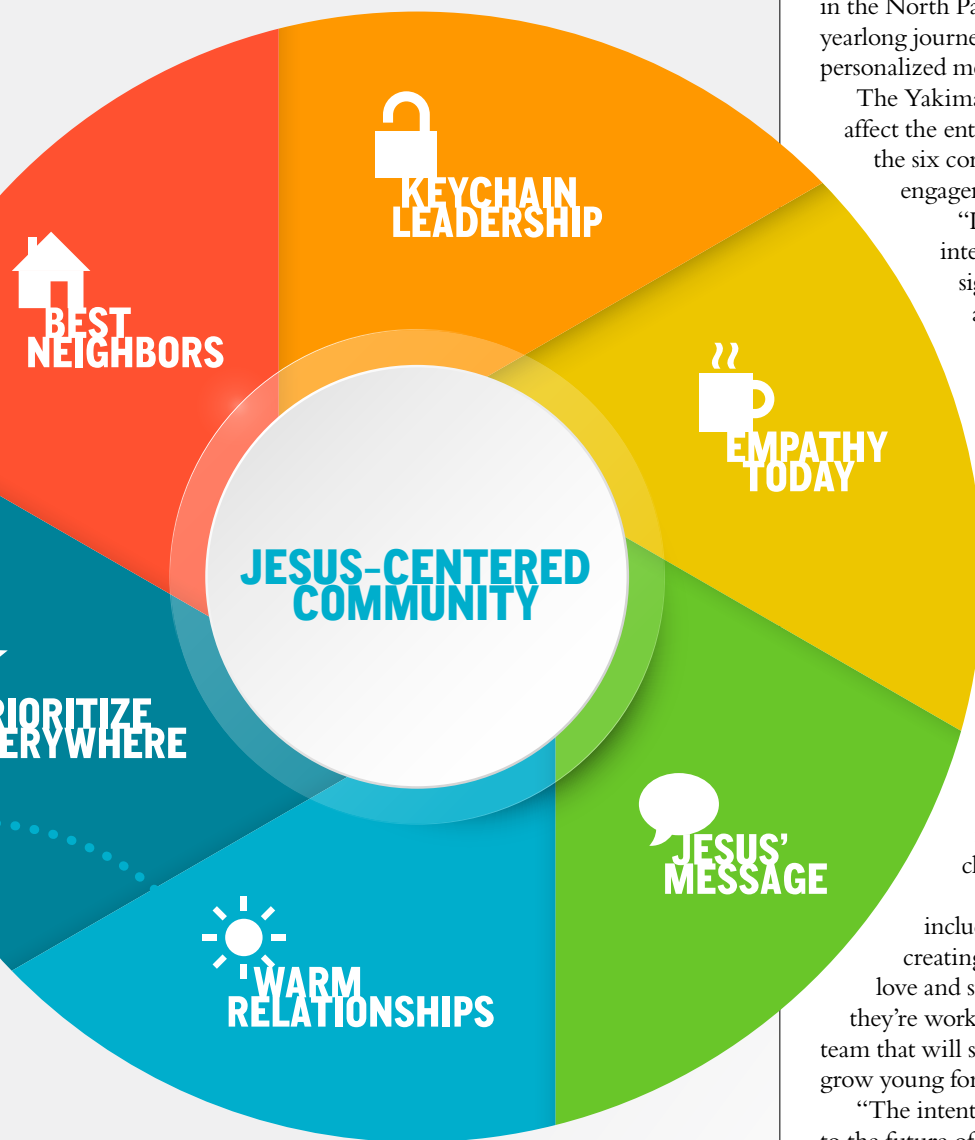
Harry Sharley, senior pastor, says it's about making a difference in the community and a desire to point people to Jesus. "We have a lot of good things happening here," he says. "At the same time there's more we need to do. We need to engage youth and young adults in ministry."

The church board and pastoral team recognize if they don't do something now, eventually they will run out of members. There's no reason for this to happen, says Sharley.

"There are many young adults who used to attend our church. We just need to connect with them," he explains. "When the opportunity arose to intentionally do something about this problem, I was immediately interested."

**GROWING
OLD** ←•••••

WHAT IT TAKES



A Solid Beginning

Sharley and pastoral intern, Austin Greer, were invited to be a part of the Growing Young Cohort with other churches in the North Pacific Union. The church embarked on a yearlong journey that includes two training summits and personalized mentoring for pastors and church leadership.

The Yakima Adventist Church began taking steps to affect the entire culture of the church. Their actions reflect the six core commitments that impact young adult engagement.

“I’m really proud of our church members. The intentional actions they are taking is sending a signal of care and commitment to our young adults,” says Greer. “We have a core group now that meets each week with others showing interest.”

Indispensable Commitment

The key factor here is that Yakima members are committed to finding ways to show youth and young adults how vital they are to church ministry. Research shows when young people are involved in ministry, they most often choose to remain engaged.

The church’s commitment is evident in a very public way. Worship service roles, traditionally reserved for elder statesmen, are being filled by young adults. While the church’s mission and message remain the same, the voices are certainly changing.

Young adult engagement is more than including young people up front. It’s really about creating community where people of all ages find love and support. As Sharley and Greer move forward they’re working to build a multigenerational leadership team that will steer and guide church plans and activities to grow young for the kingdom.

“The intentional steps Yakima is taking are so important to the future of our church,” says John Freedman, NPUC president. “I praise God for the churches, like Yakima, that are beginning to tackle this challenge. I believe God will use us in greater measure as we nurture healthy Christ-centered communities of hope and wholeness.”

THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO

1 Commit to pray for those seeking to revitalize churches across the North Pacific Union. Your prayers are so important.

2 Visit growingyoungcohort.com to learn more about how you can grow your church young. Watch the documentary.

3 Register your church for the next Growing Young Cohort session. Registration opens October 1, 2020.

DRIFTING ON ACID, GROUNDED ON FAITH

What happens when you intentionally engage young adults in ministry? What impact can it have on your church? More importantly, what does it do for young adults?

Tylor Watts can tell you firsthand. He grew up in an Adventist home but drifted away. Intentional engagement saved his life.

Baptized at age 13, Tylor says, “I didn’t really have a reason to get baptized. It’s just what people did.”

“I got to the place where I was regularly doing acid with my friends,” says Tylor. “I feel like I was being messed with by spiritual powers. I was really paranoid.”

Tylor hit rock bottom New Year’s Day 2016. He was at a friend’s house, high on drugs, when he began hallucinating that he was part of a sacrificial ritual.

“I did not want to die, so I ran away,” says Tylor. “It was after midnight, and I decided I was going home. The problem was I lived 7 miles away, and it was sleeting outside.”

Tylor alternately ran and walked through the icy darkness trying to keep warm. Mentally Tylor was beating himself up for getting himself into his current situation. “I felt like there was no way out,” he says.

Cold and desperate, Tylor flagged down a passing car. The driver turned out to be a sheriff, the last person Tylor wanted to see while high on acid. Following a confrontation with the authorities, he was handcuffed and taken to the hospital.

After being released to his parents’ custody, Tylor began the painful journey to sobriety.

“The next two weeks were complete mental torture,” says Tylor. “My brain was so messed up, I was scared to even drink water because I thought somebody was going to spike my drink and kill me.”

Slowly, the Holy Spirit began leading Tylor up a different path. Instead of experimenting with drugs, he tried reading the Bible. He also attended a seminar series by Brian McMahon.

“God gave me a foundation for my life,” says Tylor. “Instead of being swayed back and forth by all these paranoid thoughts, I finally knew God was my shepherd, protecting me.”

Tylor found support and community through his church family. He found purpose by serving at Camp MiVoden and Oregon Conference Camp Meeting. One day, his pastor asked him if he would consider becoming the young adult leader for the church.

Even though he didn’t know what to expect, Tylor accepted the new leadership responsibility. He kept the weekly game nights going as well as Sabbath School classes every week. Then he began looking for ways to add on to that.

By intentionally including Tylor in ministry, his church gave him a loving alternative to the negative community he’d walked away from. They gave him purpose and meaning instead of aimless drifting.

Today, Tylor wants to see other young people engaged in ministry. He is currently leading his church through the Growing Young initiative.

“One of the reasons why I think Growing Young is so important is because I see myself in the young people we’re trying to reach,” says Tylor. “Growing Young is important because it puts the focus on intentionally seeking out those who are drifting and bringing them back into the community. It’s about showing them we really care about them, that we love them and want to support them.”

Jay Wintermeyer, Gleaner editor



“GOD GAVE ME A FOUNDATION FOR MY LIFE. INSTEAD OF BEING SWAYED BACK AND FORTH BY ALL THESE PARANOID THOUGHTS, I FINALLY KNEW **GOD WAS MY SHEPHERD, PROTECTING ME.”**

NATIVE ART CONNECTS WITH HEARTS

Native American and Native Canadian people are “visual” people. From childhood they have been raised on stories and illustrations to learn how to get through life.

Over the past 18 years, we have found tremendous success in Native outreach when we use special artwork and video productions like the *Native New Day* and *Native New Life* video series. The baptisms over this period of time have increased more than 112%.

To make this unique outreach happen, it takes special people like Jeannie Spratt. Spratt is a lovely lady and an accomplished artist who worked for the *Review and Herald* for many years. During her time there, she worked as an associate of Harry Anderson, another well-known Adventist artist.

On her own merits, Spratt was a rare, fantastic find for the Native ministries here in the Pacific Northwest. She has painted nearly 200 religious and Native-themed works of art and made them available to the North Pacific Union Conference for ministry use. She and her husband, Bob, have a long history with Native ministries, and Bob served

as principal for the Mamawi Atosketan Native School, currently the largest Native North American Adventist school in Alberta, Canada.

God brought the Spratts, with their love for mission outreach in North America, at just the right time. Here is a small sampling on Jeannie Spratt’s artwork that has been used in Native outreach.

If you need to use any of this artwork for outreach, contact the North Pacific Union Native office at 360-857-7037 for permission. We are eager to see these beautiful illustrations used for ministry and outreach.

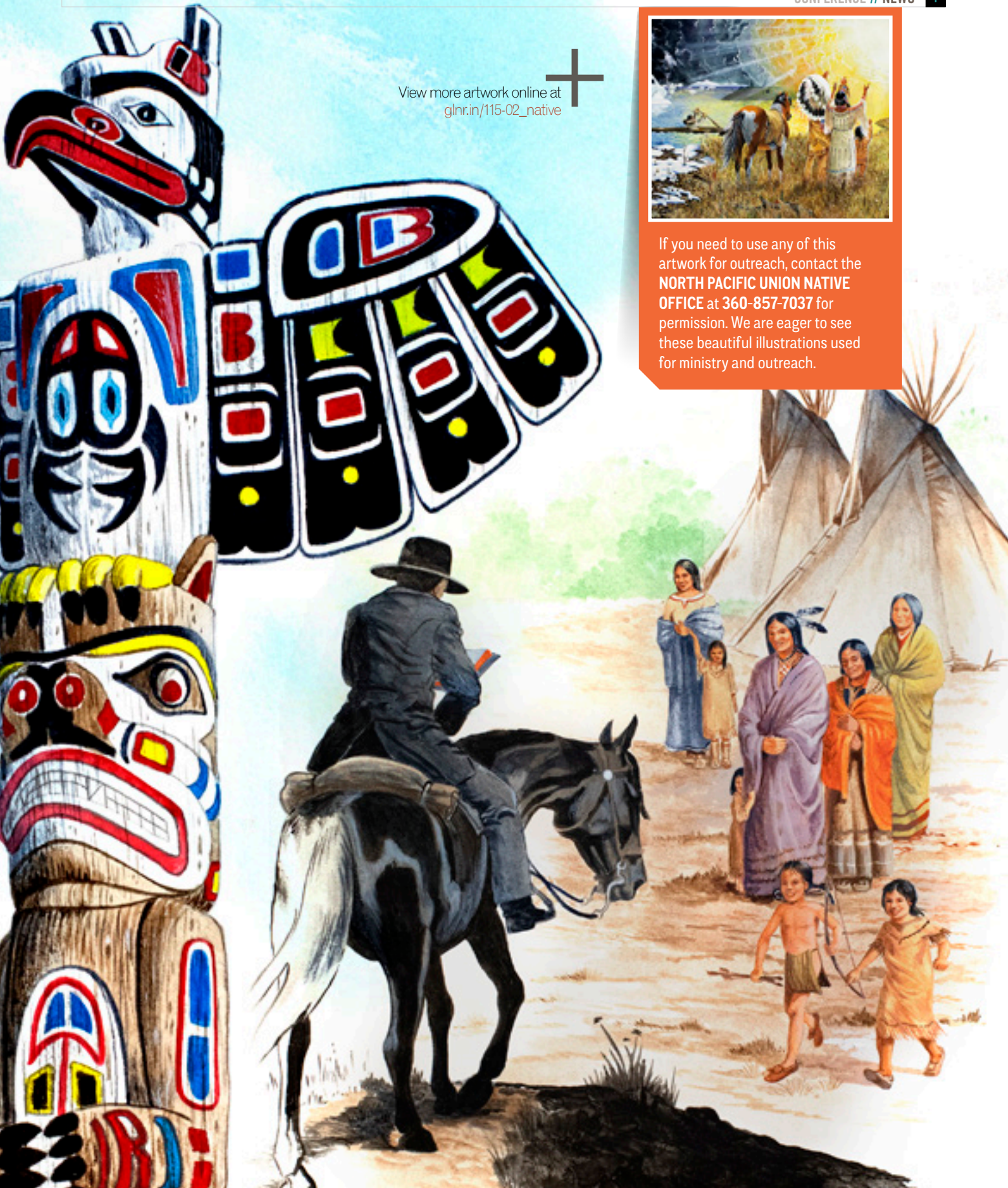
Steve Huey, North Pacific Union Native ministries director, and Monte Church, North Pacific Union Native American Ministries associate director



View more artwork online at
glnr.in/115-02_native



If you need to use any of this artwork for outreach, contact the **NORTH PACIFIC UNION NATIVE OFFICE** at 360-857-7037 for permission. We are eager to see these beautiful illustrations used for ministry and outreach.



¿UNA SERIE DE COSECHA EN DICIEMBRE?

A quien se le va a ocurrir tener una serie de cosecha en diciembre? Bueno, cuando unos detalles logísticos empujaron la serie evangelísticas del otoño para diciembre en la Iglesia Hispana de Vancouver, dirigida por el pastor Samuel Castro y su esposa y pastor Belinda Rodríguez, me pregunté cómo personas iban a querer llegar a la iglesia por una semana, solo faltando unas semanas antes de navidad.

Como todos sabemos, el mes de diciembre es una de las épocas mas ocupadas para el comercio. Después de reunirnos con el pastor Castro y su junta directiva, ellos respondieron muy positivamente a la idea de tener una campaña evangelistica dirigida a la restauración y sanidad emocional de la familia. Se lanzó la semana aprovechando que la iglesia de Vancouver ya tenía la tradición de regalar canastas de Navidad. Después de su programa Navideño que tomaría lugar al final de esta serie.

Durante un almuerzo el primer sábado de la serie: "Salud Relacional: Como Dios Nos Cambia," el Espíritu Santo dirigió a mi esposo César De León, y a mi nos dirigió a

sentarnos con una familia muy especial. Siguiendo nuestra costumbre, les pedimos que nos contaran su historia. El esposo nos comenzó a contar que el había sido un miembro adventista activo algunos años atrás. Después de un divorcio y las complicaciones de la vida, el se había alejado de Dios. Durante esos años había conocido a su presente esposa y se había casado con ella. A raíz de que su esposa le estaba diciendo que ella quería asistir a una iglesia, él le respondió, "Si estas decidida a ir a una iglesia, ve a la adventista porque ellos siguen la Biblia mejor que cualquier otra iglesia." Su esposa rápidamente buscó y encontró que la iglesia adventista que les quedaba más cerca era la iglesia Hispana de Vancouver. El sábado, ella y su familia se alistaron y llegaron a la iglesia por primera vez. Para su sorpresa, descubrió que algunos hermanos ya conocían a su esposo y lo saludaban con mucho cariño. Ese día supo que su esposo, no solo había sido un adventista, sino que había sido miembro y líder de esa misma iglesia años a tras.

Es maravilloso ser testigo del trabajo del Espíritu Santo. Este hermano, ex-adventista fué prácticamente arrastrado a su antigua iglesia

aproximadamente cuatro semanas antes de las reuniones, por una esposa católica. Este es el caso de un católico ganando a un cónyuge a la iglesia adventista. Durante las reuniones, esta preciosa pareja y uno de sus hijos jóvenes aceptaron a Jesús como su Salvador personal a través del bautismo.

No existe un mal tiempo para compartir, predicar o enseñarles a otros las buenas nuevas de restauración, reconciliación y transformación que solo puede proveer Jesucristo. El pastor Samuel dice: "El mayor gozo de nosotros como ministros de este evangelio en Vancouver es seguir viendo familias tocadas y transformadas por el Espíritu Santo. Estoy agradecido por todos nuestros miembros que en equipo han compartido las buenas nuevas al total de 29 almas que aceptaron a Jesús este año." ¡Te invitamos a entrar en el GOZO de ver a personas siendo transformados

y sanados por el amor y la gracia de las buenas nuevas de Jesucristo!

Carolann De León, Conferencia de la Unión Pacifico Norte del ministerios hispanos y familiares asitan director



Grupo de nuevos miembros que fueron aceptados como miembros de la iglesia hispana de Vancouver en diciembre a travez de bautismos y profesión de fe.

This group of new members was accepted as members to the Vancouver Spanish Church family in December 2019 through baptism and profession of faith.

A REAPING SERIES IN DECEMBER?

When logistical complications pushed the autumn evangelistic series at Washington's Vancouver Spanish Church to December, we wondered if anyone would attend. Would anyone come to a week of meetings just a few weeks before Christmas?

December, as everyone knows, is one of the busiest shopping seasons of the year. That didn't deter co-pastors Samuel Castro and his wife, Belinda Rodriguez, and the church board. They enthusiastically voted to go forward with a December reaping series

focused on family relationship restoration and healing.

The church already had a tradition of distributing generous Christmas baskets. Each year, following the annual Christmas program, members take baskets brimming with pantry staples and other goodies to families in their community. This tradition has built relationships with neighbors and would work perfectly the series.

During potluck on the first Sabbath of our one-week series, "Relational Health: How God Heals Us," the Holy Spirit arranged for my

husband, César, and I, to find two seats with a very special family. Our custom is to ask people we've just met to share "their story" with us. The husband shared he had been an active Adventist at one time in his life. After a life-altering divorce and the life complications that followed, he abandoned his walk with God and began to live the life of an unbeliever. During that season, he met and married his wife.

Recently, his wife had begun to tell him she wanted to find a church to attend. After listening to her husband about wanting to attend a church, he begrudgingly told her, "If you are set on attending church, it will have to be an Adventist church because the Adventists follow the Bible more closely than any other religion I know." With that, she immediately began to search for an Adventist church near their home.

When Sabbath came, she got herself and their blended family of four ready and showed up at the Vancouver Spanish Church. When they arrived at church that Sabbath, she discovered, for the first time, that her husband was not only a former Adventist but he had attended that very church many years before.

It's amazing to witness the Spirit at work. This former Adventist was practically dragged to church four weeks earlier by a wife who didn't know she was going to be the instrument used by the Spirit to bring healing to their home. Seven days later, this precious couple and one of their adult sons accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior through baptism.

There is no bad time to share, preach, teach or share the restorative, reconciliatory, transformational gospel.

Castro says, "The greatest joy that we have as ministers of the gospel in Vancouver is to continue seeing families touched and transformed by the Holy Spirit. I am grateful for all of our church members who have been actively involved in sharing the good news to the 29 souls that accepted Jesus Christ this year."

We invite you to enter into the joy of seeing individuals and families transformed and healed by the good news about the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Carolann De León, North Pacific Union Conference Hispanic and family ministries assistant director

(From left) Ever Jorge, a Bible Worker; César De León; and Samuel Castro, pastor, stand with newly baptized members of the Vancouver Spanish Church.

De izquierda a derecha, el obrero bíblico, Ever Jorge, Dr. Cesar De León y el Pastor Samuel Castro con el grupo de nuevos miembros, recién bautizados de la iglesia Hispana de Vancouver.



CREATION CALLS FOR URGENCY

After spending nearly 40 years in the rural Arctic, I am more convinced every day that the Bible has it right. Isaiah, Chapter 51, says, “Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed” (ESV).

We are living in a time with unprecedented changes in our world happening on a regular basis. While the debate over climate change and global

warming is heated, I’m not writing this article as argument for or against these issues. I simply want to tell you that what I see in the Arctic underscores what I see in Scripture.

The high Arctic is ground zero for observation of these phenomenal events the Bible talks about. Take for example what geologists call a “slump.” There’s a well documented slump on the Selawik River in northwest Alaska. This slump did not happen because of heavy rain but instead by the sudden melting of permafrost. A few years after it first appeared, the slump was even more pronounced.

After several years, the Selawik River slump is visibly more pronounced.



Selawik Arctic Mission Adventure volunteers Edna and Jose Estrella are making a difference in their community.

Fly over the Alaska tundra and you’ll see another now-common sign of our aging earth: a drained lake. This phenomena can occur overnight as if someone pulled the drain plug.

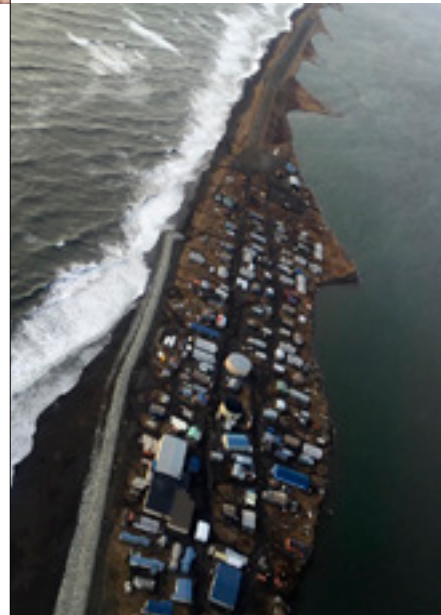
A more threatening situation is the coastal erosion happening due to the reduction of ice cover during ferocious fall and winter storm surges. A number of coastal villages are threatened with imminent destruction. A good example of this is the village of Kivalina.

This small village is perched on a barrier island between a coastal lagoon and the Arctic Ocean along Alaska’s west coast. As their island narrows, the villagers are divided on whether to move



The formation of this “slump” on the Selawik River of northwest Alaska was due to the sudden melting of permafrost several years ago.

to higher ground about 7 miles inland at the possible cost of \$250 million or to stick it out on their ancestral lands, come what may.



Coastal erosion is impacting villages across Alaska, similar to what is happening to the village of Kivalina.

What does this have to do with us as a church and our mission? Here in Alaska, these signs of our earth growing old



**“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ... For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.”
Romans 8:19, 22 ESV**



add a sense of urgency to what we do and how we live. There are people groups who have yet to hear the preaching of the Three Angels’ Messages.

At the moment God has put in place a kind of temporary delay “... not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9, ESV). Here in the Alaska Conference, we believe it makes very good sense to invest time and resources where the need is great and while the opportunities exist.

That’s why the Alaska Conference has started the Arctic Mission Adventure (AMA) initiative. AMA envisions the recruitment of both financial resources and volunteers suited to the task of living and serving in the remote rural high latitudes of the Arctic. AMA, at the same time, is developing a cadre of Alaska Native leaders who are being trained in church administration, preaching, teaching and worship leadership.

AMA is more than a vision. We have volunteers already making a difference. Take for example Jose and Edna Estrella, AMA volunteers based in Selawik, who are

making a large difference in this village of nearly 1,000 people. Similarly, Tony and Airen Sherman have spent more than eight years in the village of Shungnak. After spending the summer and fall doing medical work in Delta Junction, they returned in early November for another winter in the far north.

This vital initiative wouldn’t happen without crucial partnerships of finances and physical resources. Adventist World Aviation is



Arctic Mission Adventure volunteers Tony and Airen Sherman have spent more than eight years serving the village of Shungnak.

AMA volunteer, Tony Sherman, gives Shungnak kids a ride on his four-wheeler.

collaborating with AMA to provide transportation support to reach these precious villages.

If you would like find out how you can get involved in an Arctic Mission Adventure, contact Tobin Dodge, AMA director, at the Alaska Conference office.

Jim Kincaid, Alaska Native ministries director

Thank You

GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER FOR EVERYTHING Eph. 5:20

Thanks to our Arctic Missions family for your generous prayers and support! Because of you, AMA met the generous \$100,000 match challenge offered by Adventist Community Services. God is Good!



LONGTIME MIDDLETON MINISTER RETIRES

Longtime lay minister Alvin Schnell of Caldwell retired Sabbath, Sept. 28, 2019, after many years of leading the congregation at the Middleton Church. The event was marked by about 100 guests for a luncheon.

Schnell first retired from his dental practice in October 2018 after seven years in Lancaster, California, and 41 years in Caldwell. Though unpaid, Schnell — with his wife, Coral, and mother-in-law, Mary Perry — has held many Bible studies, completed many community service projects, held prayer meetings and fulfilled countless



Alvin and Coral Schnell are all smiles during their retirement reception luncheon.

emergency needs for all these years.

The Schnells, along with Alvin's sister and brother-

in-law, Melvin and Evelyn Wageman, began sharing Bible truth in Middleton in October 1999 through an evangelism series and then Bible study. The conference recognized the Middleton group of about 50 people as a church in 2000. The members first met in an old auto repair garage. A beautiful church building on Cemetery Road was built in 2009, with Melvin Wageman as the contractor.

The Schnells have built a home in Arizona but have promised to visit when they are in Idaho. The Middleton Church family has appreciated the many years of the Schnells' selfless service. They will be sorely missed. Elders and deacons will be leading worship services, prayer meetings and Bible studies. Dan Ross, another lay pastor, has volunteered to minister one to two times per month as well.

Lynne Lent, Middleton Church communication leader



TREASURE VALLEY LAUNCHES MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

many more photos online at glnr.in/115-02-id_foodpantry



After nearly two years of planning, the Eagle Church's community services team launched the Treasure Valley Mobile Food Pantry on Nov. 18, 2019. The first stop was at the Garnet Church in Wilder.

The mobile pantry began as a dream for David and Nikko Hess, Eagle Church members. Their dream became a reality only after many months spent fundraising, finding a truck and trailer, going through three inspections, holding three training sessions and doing paperwork.

The volunteers who run the mobile pantry are learning as they go, fine-tuning

Terry Beucler (right) holds a guest's bicycle while a box of food is secured on it.



Volunteers prepare the trailer for the distribution process.

their processes. The second distribution was at the Parma Church later in November. Fourteen families, representing 48 people, were served that day. One person came by bike and attached his box of food to the back, assisted by Terry

Beucler, Eagle Church interim pastor.

When asked what this food source means to her, one woman said, "It makes a huge difference to us, helps us provide good food to our children. My husband works full-time, but it is difficult to feed our family without having additional sources like this. It's so nice to have fresh fruit and vegetables to choose."

An additional Eagle Church outreach is distributing boxes of food, as a partner with the Idaho Food Bank, to seniors at low income senior complexes. This part of the pantry began six months before getting the trailer and truck. Seniors sign up with the Idaho Food Bank, and various organizations around the Treasure Valley deliver

the boxes. In addition to the food provided by the Idaho Food Bank, Eagle Adventist Community Services packages fresh fruit and vegetables for the seniors as well.

The Hesses and the Eagle Church are praying this ministry will grow. They are open to working with all churches, regardless of denomination. They feel



Once the shopping is complete, volunteers help transfer food from baskets to bags or boxes.

they are doing what Christ commanded in Matthew 25: feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty. The team looks forward to serving many more communities as other churches come on board.

Eve Rusk, Idaho Conference communication director



EVE RUSK

MONTANA CELEBRATES RITTERSKAMP'S RETIREMENT

more online at 
glnr.in/115-02-mt_ritterskamp

Don Ritterskamp, a lifelong minister of the gospel, was shown appreciation for his 40.2 years of service during two recent retirement celebrations: a local church gathering in

a delicious tropical meal as the congregants expressed “aloha” (goodbye) and “mahalo” (thank you) to the Ritterskamps for their years of faithful service. They were presented with farewell cards, a money tree, and other gifts and words of appreciation.

Don Ritterskamp faithfully opened every sermon with a prayer and recitation of Isaiah 40:8: “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

The Ritterskamps were honored by colleagues during the annual Pastoral Meetings held at the Montana Conference office in Bozeman. Though weather conditions nearly threatened travel plans for the honored couple, they arrived to find a room full of



people happy to wish them well during their transition to a less scheduled stage of life.

Elden Ramirez, Montana Conference president, had the privilege of presenting Don Ritterskamp with a certificate of appreciation for his service

time. Matthew Kirk, Montana Conference vice president for administration, presented a certificate on a lighter note — with the title “License to Chill.”

Knowing Don, he will follow the adage “once a pastor, always a pastor,” even in his retirement. His life has been and will continue to be one of ministry and helping those around him. While post-retirement plans are not finalized, the Ritterskamps



Patti and Don Ritterskamp enjoy a Hawaiian luau celebration from the Missoula and Superior churches in honor of their retirement.

Missoula and another during a pastoral gathering at the Montana Conference office.

With temperatures below freezing and snow and ice on the ground outside, more than 75 friends from the Missoula and Superior churches gathered Sabbath evening, Jan. 4, in the warm gymnasium of Mountain View Elementary in Missoula to bid a fond farewell to Don and Patti Ritterskamp, who have ministered in the district for the past seven years.

A festive Hawaiian luau theme was punctuated with vibrant color decorations and



The Missoula and Superior church members braved snow and ice to celebrate Don and Patti Ritterskamp.



Elden Ramirez, Montana Conference president, presented Don Ritterskamp with a certificate of appreciation and Matthew Kirk, Montana Conference vice president for administration, presented a certificate on a lighter note — with the title “License to Chill.”

will always continue to share the gospel.

Hugo Mendez, Missoula Church member, and Renae Young, Montana Conference education superintendent

more photos online at
glnr.in/115-02-mt_bozeman



PEOPLE LIVE WHEN PEOPLE GIVE

During the summer of 2017, a Bozeman Church member toured the United Blood Services (UBS) blood bank in Billings with 18 students from various backgrounds. While the shortage of blood was being discussed, it became apparent Christians were viewed as unwilling blood donors.

The tour guide emphatically stated it was difficult to engage churches in blood drives. He made many failed attempts engaging his own church.

A representative from UBS (now Vitalant) was invited to present the idea of a church-hosted blood drive to the Bozeman Church. The church board and the pastor were excited and voted to open the church doors to a blood drive three Sabbaths a year.

For several weeks prior to each drive, a banner advertises for donors in front of the church. The drive is also announced on the local Christian radio station and on Facebook pages like Secret Bozeman. Vitalant moves into the church fellowship hall with their equipment and staff. The Bozeman Church recruits donors and provides a potluck meal.

To date, 239 donors have donated blood and an estimated 326 lives have been saved. Every two seconds someone in America needs blood. Only

3% of eligible donors donate blood. If only 10% of eligible donors donated, there would be no blood shortage.

If your church would like to host a blood drive as a way of giving back and engaging the community, email Ashton Walters at AWalters@vitalant.org or call 209-768-9358. Vitalant is the regional blood supplier for Montana, Idaho and Wyoming.



Joella Foust, Bozeman Church member, and Melissa Stuber, Bozeman Church clerk



GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

Blood is one of the most precious gifts you give another person – the gift of life. A decision to donate your blood can save a life or even several, if your blood is separated into its components. Safe blood saves lives and improves health. Blood transfusion is needed for:

- » Children with severe anemia, often resulting from malaria or malnutrition;
- » Women with complications of pregnancy, such as ectopic pregnancies and hemorrhage before, during or after childbirth;
- » People with severe trauma following man-made and natural disasters;
- » Many complex medical and surgical procedures and cancer patients.

Blood is also needed for regular transfusions for people with conditions such as thalassemia and sickle cell disease and is used to make products such as clotting factors for people with hemophilia.

Regular blood donations are constantly needed because blood and its components can be stored for only a limited time. To give blood or schedule a blood drive for your church or school, visit redcrossblood.org.

BREAKING 'BREAD' TOGETHER

Jim Jenkins was searching for a way to connect with his unique congregation. After pastoring in the Montana Conference for 18 years, Jenkins was assigned to the Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) Church, along with the Bozeman and Livingston churches he was already pastoring. This meant nearly a third of his congregation would be teenagers attending church without their families. Many of them are a long way from home. Jenkins knew many adults who attend academy church don't get the opportunity to get to know the students.

He knew he needed to bridge that gap.

"Working with high school kids is kinda scary," Jenkins admits. "It's not in my wheelhouse." So he began searching for a way to relate to and with them — for his own peace of mind. After he attended Outdoor School with the academy, he had an idea.

"I had been going through a sermon series on the Book of Acts, looking at the early church and what made it successful," he says. Jenkins noticed the early church did a lot of eating and fellowshiping together. He conceived of a plan to take small groups of

three or four students who were already friends out to eat every Friday, to hang out and get to know one another. He asked around and found Taco Bell seemed to be the place to go.

The first time out, he found that "the biblical experience of eating together breaks down barriers." By the end of the meal, it wasn't just Jenkins and his wife, Sandy, asking the kids questions; the kids were asking them questions. "It was a really cool experience," Jenkins says. "They are super kids. We had easy conversation."

During that initial run Jenkins had an epiphany. He had brought a notebook, and, as he was writing notes, he thought, "I am getting to know a lot about these kids." He thought about how the adults in the church would love to learn what he was learning. Out of the blue, he asked the students if they wanted to go up front during church and be interviewed. That first group was reluctant.

Jenkins describes it as a God-inspired idea: "I believe that God laid it on my heart."

As he was introducing the students the next day, the

church was most appreciative. In fact, when the interview was over, the congregation applauded. What had begun as a way for him to get to know his young congregants had morphed into a way for the adults in the church to learn something more about individual MEA students.

Jenkins envisions Taco Bell lunches becoming a tradition, and the students at MEA would be just fine with that.

Jeni Schmidt, MEA communication director





RALPH STATHEM

HOW 50 CENTS BECAME \$890

Last school year one class had the pleasure of meeting a neighbor of Central Valley Christian School in Tangent. Students

knocked on Bob's door to invite him to their Fall Festival and wish him a happy fall. They gave him a mini pumpkin and a postcard about their school. Little did they know that a 50-cent pumpkin would turn into a \$890 service project.

That fall day in 2018, Bob told the two students he would be unable to attend their Fall Festival but wanted to know if they would like \$20 toward the cause. A thank you note was sent to Bob, and he sent a thank you card and \$100 back to the students. The students spent it buying Christmas presents for some kids they met

during a Pathfinder outreach. Then \$100 came for the parents of that family. A 50-cent pumpkin had produced \$220 of blessings.

Fast forward to the spring of 2019, and the students were back in the neighborhood spreading May Day cheer with flowers. Bob gave the students at his door \$100. The students



“My kids!” Bob exclaims with a big smile when he opens his door to students of the Central Valley Christian School.

spent that on a shopping spree at Dollar Tree buying items for foster care welcome boxes.

Jumping to the fall of 2019, the class was back in the neighborhood handing out pumpkins and invitations to their Fall Festival once again. The kids won't stand for only two getting to visit Bob. Bob opened the door, and the smile that spread across his face was unforgettable.

The students cried out, “Bob!”

“My kids!” he exclaimed.

They handed Bob his mini pumpkin and wished him a happy fall, but Bob stepped aside and retrieved something for the students: another \$100 bill. Ecstatically the students called out their thanks and scattered back into their pairs to keep visiting the other houses.

Bob told their teacher, “I know who you are from the

picture you gave me last year.” He was referring to the copy of the *Gleaner* article (“The Field Trip That Just Kept Giving,” March/April 2019) they gave him with their names all signed around the story. Bob said he gets teary every time he thinks of the story.

The team said they would be back at Christmastime, and Bob said he planned to be there to greet them.

Bob's \$100 was spent in the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) gift catalog. Processing with the students how far their \$100 could go was amazing. One student even placed her head in her hands, holding back tears, saying, “I can't believe we just did that! We just helped so many people. I just can't believe we got to do that.”

Bob had by then enabled these kids to spend \$420 on four different projects.

One weekend when visiting her childhood stomping grounds, these students' teacher shared the story and a friend quickly handed her \$100 for the students to buy more items from the ADRA catalog. \$520.

The school traveled to a constituent church to put on the church service in December. After sharing Bob's story, a graduate student donated \$100 he had been saving for himself from his tutoring job. Another church member handed them money too. These donations went toward providing Christmas presents for an 8-year-old boy who recently lost his dad. The students went on an Amazon shopping spree in class, picking out presents for the boy. The total was up to \$640.

The students headed back into the neighborhood spreading Christmas cheer and invitations to their Christmas program. First stop: Bob's house. While posing for a selfie on his porch because they thought he wasn't home, the door opened.

“Bob!” the students yelled. They then eagerly told him how they had spent his most recent donation. After receiving his candy and Christmas card from the students, Bob pulled out another \$100. \$740.

more online at
gl.nri.in/115-02-or_50cents

Their teacher once again thanked Bob for the impact he is having on her life and the lives of her students. With a big grin, Bob asked, “How high do you think we can go?”

Another donation, given to the teacher's church, was designated to “do good” with. The board voted, and the money went into the newly named “Bob Fund.” \$840. Continuing to tell the story and say thank you garnered another \$50 donation. Current total: \$890.

Bob has been the biggest blessing to this class — a living testament to the kids about how much good you can do if you are willing to give. God is continually teaching these students that it doesn't take much to brighten someone's day and show them Jesus.

Every time they receive money they never know quite where they are going to spend it.

However, they never have to wait long. God continues to place opportunities in their path.

In the words of Bob, “How high do you think we can go” when serving our God?

Amanda Rich Nawara, Central Valley Christian School teacher

Listen to Daniel Ramos' song "Surrender" at glnr.in/115-02-or_paa



TECHNOLOGY MEETS ART AT PAA



Technology is giving Portland Adventist Academy students a way to enhance their creative expression in art, design and music.

In the digital media lab students build skills in photography, videography and graphic design. In the art studio, students can see their digital designs come to life with the help of 3D printers and a plasma cutter. And in the recording studio, students get to capture their music forever in time.

Music teacher Jeremy Long guides his students through fundamental building blocks of music and sound before learning to record in the school's industry-standard recording studio.

"Equivalent to learning the names of the strings on a guitar," says Long, "knowing how to use different kinds of microphones to capture sound is essential to an aspiring audio engineer."

Daniel Ramos, a PAA senior, joined Long's class with a solid foundation in music and the ambition to learn how to produce music with advanced technology.

"The technical aspects of recording were definitely the most difficult thing to learn,"

says Ramos. "But it was also what helped me create the sound I wanted."

"The studio is an exciting yet daunting place with endless possibilities and a seemingly equal number of obstacles," says Long. "But my students have done a fantastic job crossing that technical threshold."

"When I see their eyes light up as they've figured something out," says Long, "I try not to hover because that's when the studio becomes a musical playground, and I don't want to stand in the way."

For Ramos, it was 90 hours of work and play that resulted in an original song and a collection of arranged songs he submitted as his senior project.

"Danny is an incredible musician with remarkable self-discipline," says Long. "His senior project is an astonishing work of art. And, amazingly, it was his first real project in the studio."

Long wasn't the only one impressed. Ramos' project was given a rare perfect score after he presented his work to a panel of adjudicating teachers who recognized the purpose of his project.

"I've always loved music," Ramos says. "I've seen that music lets Jesus speak into our



Daniel Ramos' original song "Surrender" was recorded and produced in the PAA music recording studio.

lives. I've seen Him speaking to others, and I've felt Him speaking to me."

Opening the doors of the recording studio finally allowed Ramos to capture the music that stirs inside him and to ultimately share it with others for the glory of God. His original song, entitled "Surrender," is an expression of a personal struggle and a mission to help others with similar challenges.

"I often catch myself trying to handle and control

all aspects of life — academics, athletic success and even relationships with others," he says. "It was only when I surrendered my entire being and realized that victory is only found in Christ that my relationship with Him changed for the better, inspiring me to write this song."

You can hear Daniel Ramos' song "Surrender" on his SoundCloud page.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent



Members of Roseburg Better Life Church's Musikkchorale prepare to sing in Carnegie Hall.

ROSEBURG'S MUSIKKCHORALE SINGS IN CARNEGIE HALL

Church choirs from throughout the United States made up a mass choir of 275 voices in New York City's Carnegie Hall on Nov. 17, 2019, that joined with a full orchestra to present *Christmas Evergreens*, a cantata by acclaimed composer and conductor Joseph Martin. Among those voices were members of the Roseburg Church choir. The opportunity to interact with choir members from throughout the country provided many opportunities to share the love of music and love for the Lord.

Lymy Beth Toenis, Roseburg Church choir director, was astounded to receive an email inviting the Roseburg choir to participate. The Roseburg Church choir, known as Musikkchorale,

had previously sung a Christmas cantata by the same composer. Representatives of Distinguished Concerts International New York City (DCINY) selected the Roseburg choir because of their "quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers as well as the exceptional recommendation given by Joseph Martin." Choir members held multiple fundraising events throughout the year to offset costs.

A repeat follow-up concert by Musikkchorale was given in the Roseburg Better Life Church on Dec. 22.

Geri Paley, Roseburg Church communication leader

BEAVERTON MEMBERS MENTOR INTENTIONALLY

Beaverton Church members are constantly looking for mentorship opportunities for young people. If a middle or high school age church member expresses a desire to serve the Lord in a particular capacity, chances are someone will develop a mentor partnership to make it happen. Hands-on training and encouragement have resulted in young people within this church taking full responsibility for their rotating scheduled task or activity.

For instance, a junior high and high school praise team takes a weekly rotation for church services. Adult musicians have partnered with them to develop their musical talents into praise to God in a professional way. Young pianists play during the offering and other times during church.

Similarly teens have been trained to run the sound board, slideshows and livestreams during church. Some of these teens now have the skills to take full responsibility during special programs. One high school student serves on the platform coordinator team to provide hospitality for guest speakers and musicians, as well as coordinate the sound booth with platform activities and personnel.



BRENDA PAYNE

Several young people lead music during the worship service.

Teens who assisted with Vacation Bible School last year led some of the activities this year, with guidance from mentors. Older Pathfinders are regularly mentoring kids in Adventurers.

As Jesus becomes real to young people through various class and outreach opportunities, they naturally want to serve the Lord and express their relationship with Him in ways that speak to their personal interests and emerging spiritual gifts. Thanks to the care of patient adult mentors, youth more naturally consider what roles they might want to be part of, both before and after their own baptism.

Cheryl Dondino, Beaverton Church member

more photos online at glnr.in/115-02-or_beaverton

MILO CELEBRATES A YEAR OF AGRICULTURE

It's been a successful year for Milo Adventist Academy agriculture as staff and students continue building the program. A recent interview with farm manager Jeff Birth revealed some of the program's success stories over the past year.

Question: I understand the farm stand, Milo Market, has been open just over one year now. What successes have we seen there?

Answer: We started with a very narrow clientele base and small awareness of

our farm's presence in the community, in addition to being very remote and "off the beaten path." Even so, the Lord has blessed us with gross sales totaling \$18,000 at our anniversary date. That's more than we expected under the circumstances. It tells us that so much more is possible as word gets around.

Q: Have the successes from the farm stand been limited to income for the agriculture program?

A: As word of our market spreads, more and more com-

munity members are coming to see what the little red stand across the bridge is and purchase fresh, healthy, organic produce, grown in their "backyard." Our school carries a bit of a stigma in the area that it is some type of reform school and that we're somehow a little different. Through connections made at the farm stand, we're making new and old friends and showing many who have never come across our bridge who we really are. We're serving them.

Q: What have you experienced at the local farmers market?

A: Those in charge and the other vendors have raved about our participation and our produce, pleading for us to not stop with the summer outdoor market but to attend the indoor winter market as well. We have made connections at the farmers market with many who may not come to our campus. Often we are able to charge a bit more for crops there than we can get in our farm stand.

Q: Are those the two primary means of marketing you are using?

A: Yes, but this year we also experimented with "tailgating" produce like

sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers and melons at the coast. Those are crops that don't do as well in that climate. The first time we tried this, we nearly sold out and made over \$500 in one afternoon. We see definite potential in this area for next year. That is more profitable than the farmers market usually is. We are planning on developing this a bit more next season.

Q: What successes have you observed in the people involved with the program over the past year?

A: Well, last year we graduated the first Market Farming Vocational Certificate students. The certificate they earn verifies that they completed over 500 hours of hands on experience and training. It's very similar to an internship. It greatly increases their prospects of quickly getting a job in agriculture or in mission work or of starting their own farm, but honestly applies to so many areas. ...

Milo junior Hector Hernandez weeds around leaf lettuce.

JEFF BIRTH

●●● READ THE WHOLE INTERVIEW
online AT
glnr.in/115-02-or_milo

Kathy Hernandez, Milo Adventist Academy teacher and recruiter

ADVENTIST CHURCH LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO BRING HOPE AND WHOLENESS TO SPOKANE

Looking at the Spokane River and the snow-capped mountains in the distance, one might think Spokane, Washington, idyllic. Look a little deeper and the picture changes rapidly. Washington's second largest city isn't even close to paradise.

For its size, Spokane is home to one of the highest crime rates in America. Spokane County has significantly more drug felonies than any other county in the state. Add in the high rates of violent crime, drug addiction and suicide, and the darkness and deep need are very evident.

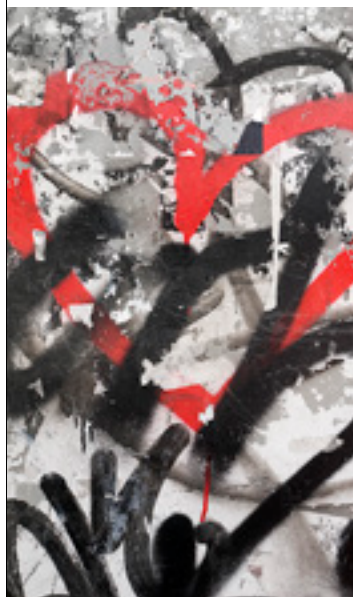
"This city is our largest mission field," says Minner Labrador, Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) president. "We've served in Spokane for more than 100 years, but, now more than ever, we are needed."

AN INVITATION AND OPEN DOORS

Several years ago civic leaders reached out to faith-based organizations in an effort to better serve Spokane's growing needs. City leaders invited religious leaders to attend an all-day conference at Whitworth College. The conference met to answer two questions: What makes God

weep over Spokane and what can faith-based organizations do to help Spokane?

Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference Adventist Community Services director, attended the meeting with 21 other Adventists, by far the largest representation from any organization. "I left that con-



ference hopeful and excited," says Marsh. "I sensed God was working in a very special way for Spokane."

God was indeed at work. John Torquato, an Adventist physician working with Total Health Spokane, wanted to discover how the Adventist Church could better serve the largest population center in Upper Columbia Conference. He and a few others began talking with civic leaders, including the mayor.

"During the meeting, the mayor placed his hand over the map in several areas and said, 'We have services here,'" Torquato explains. "Then he put his hand over another neighborhood and said, 'We have great need in the Mead area. Anything you can do here would be great.'"

The mayor's invitation launched a search in the Mead



area for opportunities to provide health services. The search revealed a 125-unit trailer park with huge needs.

"When we first began health outreach in the trailer park, there were at least 23 crack houses," says Torquato. "Many kids in that community had nothing to eat because their parents were strung out on drugs."

MOMENTUM GATHERS

The Seventh-day Adventist Church launched the "Mission to the Cities" initiative in New York City in 2013. This global initiative seeks to impact the cities of

"Mission to the Cities: Spokane is about reaching one more for Jesus."



the world through its ongoing comprehensive, holistic approach. One goal was to make disciples among the least reached urban people groups by starting new groups of believers and meeting their identified needs through urban centers of influence.

In Spokane, a group of leaders began to meet together,

of influence in Spokane to meet the city's needs just like Jesus did — with no strings attached. The prayerful expectation is that, as God's people serve the community, people will respond to Christ's love as they've experienced it.

Spokane is blessed with three well-established urban centers of influence already. The Better Living Center is one example. It has long been one of Spokane's premier food banks, providing nearly a half million pounds of food a year to Spokane residents.

Plans have been made to capitalize on the existing

urban centers of influence and partner more closely with churches to establish more centers and empower greater collaborative outreach.

"Can you imagine what will happen when even greater collaboration happens?" says Marsh. "I can't wait to see how God will bless when we work together for our community."

"I can't wait to see how God will bless when we work together for our community."

The second goal for the initiative is that, as greater collaboration takes place, new groups of believers will be started and new ministries supported by these centers of influence will be replicated in other locations throughout the greater Spokane area or among groups where there is minimal or no Adventist presence.

GREEN LIGHTS AHEAD

With the overall goals in place, Upper Columbia Conference submitted their formal application for the global missions grant. Then the team prayed and waited.

In late fall, Marsh and others at the conference office received an email announcing Spokane had been selected for the Mission to the Cities grant. The conference will receive \$500,000 from the world church Annual Sacrifice offerings and other donations over the next five years to assist with this citywide outreach. Additional financial contributions from the North American Division, North

Pacific Union Conference and UCC bring the amount to more than \$900,000.

Please pray for this significant outreach and those continuing to fine-tune and develop detailed plans for service and church planting. UCC will be extending specific invitations for member involvement, so look for updates and ways to be involved. One of these opportunities includes a plan to invite more than 120 Total Health volunteer missionaries to come live in Spokane and take part in health ministry efforts over the next five years.

"Mission to the Cities: Spokane is about reaching one more for Jesus," says Labrador. "I invite your prayers and financial support for this collaborative effort between our churches and community outreach ministries. Together, let's pray for one more."

Jay Wintermeyer, Gleaner editor



pray together and vision together. They looked for ways that the conference, local churches, pastors and supporting ministries could collaborate as never before — taking down the barriers and working in unity. Ultimately, they came up with two outreach goals.

The primary goal is to establish more urban centers

UCC ADVENTURER MINISTRY EXPANDS

Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) recently expanded its ministry to families with young children by building up the Adventurer ministry in exciting new ways.

The Adventurer club



Jennifer Watson, Upper Columbia Conference Adventurers North District coordinator, has directed the Hayden Lake Howlin' Wolves Adventurer Club for two years. She restarted the club because the nearest club was an hour away.

ministry is designed to engage parents and children in activities that build friendships and grow together in a relationship with Christ. It's an ongoing outreach ministry that can easily reach beyond church walls and help church members get to know other people in their community.

The conference recently added four new volunteers

to the Adventurer coordinator team to help and encourage churches throughout the conference.

Valarie Young joined the Adventurers team as an event coordinator. Young is a retired teacher and is an expert at reaching people with a variety of presentation styles. Her primary role will be helping with training and presentations. Already she has been helping

Olivia Shrock, Upper Columbia Conference Adventurers North District coordinator, has spent the past five years working with Adventurer kids at the South Hill Church in Spokane.



Valarie Young is an event coordinator for Adventurers. "A year before I gave my heart to Jesus, a close friend invited me to help with Pathfinders," she says. "The kids and staff played a key role in my husband and me joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church. From that time forward, except for a time when I worked in women's ministries, the Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs have been my passion."

with Jump Start training and as one of the speakers at the annual Club Ministries Leadership Retreat.

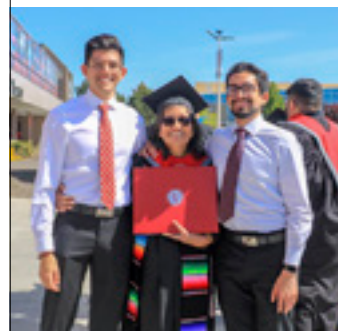
Martha Reyes joined the Adventurer team as a Hispanic coordinator. She and Mayra Soltero work with the Hispanic clubs providing translation, answering questions and helping leaders understand how they can best provide support to the growing number of Hispanic clubs in the conference.

Olivia Shrock and Jennifer Watson are the new North District area coordinators. In that role, they are working one-on-one with club directors and churches interested in starting clubs in the northern part of the conference. They are supporting 11 active clubs, several of which are new.

"I'm praising God for our new volunteer Adventurer leaders," says Richie Brower, UCC club ministries director. "Their leadership and energy will be a blessing to our churches seeking to better serve the families in our communities."

These and other Adventurer leaders are taking to heart Jesus' words: "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them" (Matt. 19:14, NIRV).

Anita Lebold, Upper Columbia Conference Adventurer head coordinator



Martha Reyes has joined the team as a Hispanic Adventurers coordinator. A native of Nicaragua, Reyes moved to the United States, originally living in Florida where she started her sons Frank and Wilhelm in Adventurers. She moved to Washington state and joined the Richland Church when Wilhelm (left) was in second grade.

NEW ADVENTURER CLUB BEGINS AT ALL NATIONS CENTER

IF YOU'RE IN WAPATO, WASHINGTON, LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR FAMILY ON SABBATH AFTERNOONS, YOU NEED TO CHECK OUT WHAT ALL NATIONS CENTER CHURCH IS DOING.

The All Nations Center Church recently started an Adventurer club to reach families in their community. They began by inviting families with children in preschool through third grade to join them for planned activities and fellowship.

Each time the club meets, the children learn about how

to be a good friend, how to share Jesus in their community, how to be courteous and, most importantly, how Jesus is our Shepherd.

At the first two meetings, 15–20 children along with their families joined in the fun. For the second meeting, All Nations members invited community members to come

and tell about their careers and how they can share Jesus' love through their work. Presenters included a doctor, a nurse, a teacher and a farmer. All who participated were fascinated by the stories and the activities they shared together.

This is one of the newest Adventurer clubs in the Upper Columbia Conference (UCC). The All Nations Center Church joins nearly 30 other UCC churches that have recognized the value of investing in families and children through the Adventurer program. Adventurer ministry focuses on strengthening the family through Bible study, relationship building and age-appropriate learning activities.

Anita Lebold, Upper Columbia Conference Adventurers head coordinator

10 REASONS TO START A CLUB TODAY

Are you wishing there were more kids or ANY kids in your local church? Start a club! That's right, start an outreach club and start reaching the children and families in your neighborhood. Here are 10 reasons you should start a club THIS YEAR.

1. Clubs are a proven way to reach kids and families in your community.
2. They're fun!
3. The Adventurers program helps build stronger families.
4. Pathfinders has a demonstrated record of helping kids make lifelong decisions for Jesus and baptism.
5. Outreach clubs are helping churches with few or no children reach kids in their communities.
6. Clubs help kids become Jesus followers.
7. Clubs create leaders who are motivated by mission.
8. Did we mention they're FUN?!
9. Clubs connect kids to nature and the Creator.
10. Clubs teach kids how to make a real difference in their communities.
11. BONUS: There is plenty of time to get ready for Oshkosh in 2024!

Need help starting a club in your church? Contact your conference club ministries department and discover how easy it is to begin.



more photos online at
glnr.in/115-02-uc_hermiston

HERMISTON CHURCH IS REBUILDING

H

ermiston Church has begun to rebuild after a fire in June 2018 gutted the 1960s-era building. Demolition has already taken place, and framing is in full

unsafe and unsalvageable. Extended negotiations between insurance adjusters resulted in a settlement that fell far short of the amount originally anticipated and planned for.

The congregation voted to accept plans for a somewhat larger, more modern-looking structure to be built on the original property. Included are a fellowship hall and kitchen for cooking classes, health-focused events and “Open Table” community meals, along with a chapel for Spanish-speaking members. There are ample grounds to resume Journey to Bethlehem, a program that has inspired thousands for the past 10 years.

About 100 church members worship in the nearby Hermiston Junior Academy each Sabbath. To date, this congregation has

raised \$105,000 — largely from their own donations — toward the significant deficit they face in making this prayed-for new church a reality. Assumption of a \$250,000 loan is planned.

The contractor is studying ways to make substantial cost cuts, including a generous reduction of his usual fees. Letters have been written to sister churches, community contacts, family and friends. Children bring coins each Sabbath to place in “Josiah’s Treasury Box.” Dinners and online/garage sales are scheduled. A GoFundMe page, listed under “Rebuilding After The Church Fire,” was initiated on Sept. 9, 2019. Although helpful, these efforts have fallen short of producing the funding required to complete the project.

The task facing the Hermiston Church may

swing. A completion date of June 2020 is anticipated, according to contractor Mark Black of Advantage Construction Management in Walla Walla, Washington.

Although the exterior of the burned church looked mostly whole, the interior was a mass of charred wood, broken glass and melted plastic. It was declared structurally



appear daunting, but the congregation’s faith is strong. A number of current members were young participants in the original church building project of the 1960s and remember the benevolence and commitment of earlier generations. Members firmly believe God will continue to impress many to give sacrificially as the church attempts to recover from a devastating loss. All are praying God will somehow use this loss to glorify His name in the greater Hermiston community.

Paula Oltman, Hermiston Church member



BIBLE HANDWRITING EXERCISE DEEPENS TRUST IN GOD

read more online at glnr.in/115-02-uc_biblestudy



Betty Phillips, an 86-year-old Pasco Riverview Church member, recently completed a seven-year project of writing the Bible. For some time, Phillips had been exploring different methods of Bible study in order to find a pattern that would make her daily devotions most meaningful. Phillips had read in the *Adventist Review* of an individual who had written the entire Bible over the course of three years.

“I am the type of person that can read a chapter of the Bible and then not remember much of what I read,” says Phillips. “So, I decided to start writing the verses as I read them. I began on March 15, 2012, and completed writing the entire Bible on April 11, 2019.”

Phillips showed her collection of 18 notebooks to the Pasco Riverview Church on Dec. 28, 2019. Speaking about her devotional practices,

Phillips says, “This exercise has completely changed my life. By looking up references in the margins of my Bible and by writing each verse in my notebook I have gained a much deeper insight into the character of God. I have come to trust Him completely and to accept His promises as being made to me.”

And she’s not done. “I have started writing the Bible again. This time I am following a chronological study Bible,” Phillips explains. “I read a passage, then read the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* and Ellen G. White comments on the passage. And then I copy the verses into my notebook. . . . When I am really concerned about something I select a Bible promise — Phil. 4:8 is a favorite — and reflect on it until peace and trust return.”

Jared Spano, Pasco Riverview Church pastor



Betty Phillips shows the 18 notebooks into which she transcribed the Bible.

8

BIBLE STUDY TIPS

FEEL LIKE YOUR BIBLE STUDY TIME NEEDS A REBOOT? HERE ARE EIGHT WAYS TO REVITALIZE YOUR TIME IN THE WORD.

REWRITE THE TEXT

Rewriting texts like Betty Phillips does can help you find the relation of the important words and sentences.

WORD STUDY

Pick a significant word and discover where and how it is used in one specific book of the Bible or the entire Scriptures.

EXAMINE A VERSE

You can study a verse by examining all the verbs or looking at all the nouns. You can look at the personalities or the ideas revealed in a verse. Sometimes a combination of these study methods will bring the richest results.

ONE PARAGRAPH

Feel overwhelmed by chapters? Study a paragraph at a time. Pray about what you’ve read and ask God to reveal His specific message for you.

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER

Read a chapter a day for as little as 20 minutes a day, and you can make an intensive study of the whole Bible in a little over three years. Read a little more, and you can easily finish in a year.

READ A BOOK

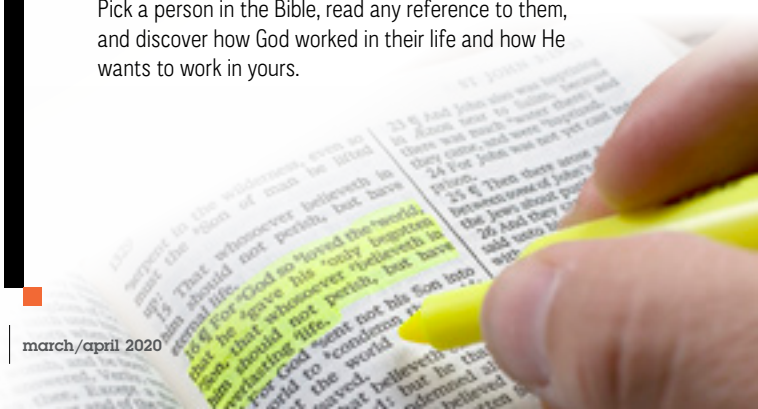
Read straight through a book, then go back and study in detail the book’s contents. Draw from these details general conclusions or principles concerning the contents and purpose of the book.

PICK A TOPIC

Study the Bible according to great topics or subjects: prayers, promises, sermons, songs, poems and so on.

STUDY PEOPLE

Pick a person in the Bible, read any reference to them, and discover how God worked in their life and how He wants to work in yours.



more online at
glnr.in/115-02-uc_bmtv

BLUE MOUNTAIN TELEVISION CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

The day Blue Mountain Television went on the air — April 20, 1990 — began the journey for a station unlikely to be successful by human estimation. Blue Mountain Broadcasting Association, located in College Place, Washington, was not expected to be able to support a television station in the Walla Walla Valley.

However, when local pastor Roger Johnson proposed the idea of a television station, the 13 Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Walla Walla Valley rallied around the idea, sending board member

representatives and volunteers and making appeals for funding in their churches. Soon three low-power stations licenses were granted from the Federal Communications Commission, and board members hired Lynelle Childs Ellis, a recent graduate from Walla Walla College (WWC), as station manager.

The early years at Blue Mountain Television revolved around producing local programming that would serve the valley residents and attract them to the station. In the early 2000s, station leaders spent time reenvisioning what Blue



Roger Johnson explains how a Christian television station in the Walla Walla Valley could work.

Mountain Television should look like and how it should reach out to the community. A new logo was created, and the station became a Hope Channel affiliate.

During the 2010s, under Kim Kjaer's leadership and

vision, the reach of Blue Mountain Television grew to include additional regions of Washington state through cable access and internationally through streaming. In recent years, Lowell Mann, who began his work as a Blue Mountain Television intern in 2004, has become the station manager and, along with the board of directors, is leading the station through a new visioning process and transition into Blue Mountain Broadcasting Association's first owned building.

As Blue Mountain Television celebrates 30 years, opportunities to reveal God's character of love through new content creation are opening. The future looks bright for Blue Mountain Television.

Lowell Mann, Blue Mountain Television station manager

blue mountain tv
a division of Blue Mountain Broadcasting Association

30 years

presents

30th Celebration Weekend April 17-18, 2020
College Place Village Church and Walla Walla University Church

faith full

With music by the Fountainview Youth Orchestra & Singers

Featuring Special Guest Pastor Dwight Nelson

for more information go to bmt.tv or call (877) 394-3688

more photos, plus watch "We Three Kings" online at glnr.in/115-02-wa_talent



SPECIAL NEEDS KIDS SHARE THEIR TALENTS

T

twenty-nine children with special needs were the stars of the second annual Christmas nativity talent show in December 2019 — all because of one boy with a vision.

Elias Barahona from Tacoma had a longtime dream of being Joseph, but no one ever chose the boy with Down syndrome to play this role. The faith community came together with five weeks of planning to produce the first special needs Christmas talent program in 2018.

Since then, participant, donor and audience interest keeps growing for providing a stage for special needs children to shine for Jesus.

"I love how our community is embracing this program," says Nitza Salazar, Washington Conference children's ministries director, "not only our churches, but our community. This is unique. This is something new. Everyone is excited about this program. They aren't seeing it anywhere else."

Salazar explains why this program is particularly meaningful: "The parents don't see their kids up on stage often. Some of the parents told me this is the first time they saw their kids on stage. We have all kinds of needs represented, and



Elias Barahona's (second from right) dream of playing Joseph in a Christmas nativity was fulfilled in 2018, when he was surrounded by new friends who also had special needs.

it is so beautiful to give them a place where they can shine."

The production isn't heavy on lights or sound, so kids won't feel uncomfortable. There isn't a lot of stimulation. A quiet room is available for overwhelming moments. The narration, read by retired teacher Harold Richards, is simple and short.

Different talents offered by cast members ranging from 7 months to age 31, and averaging about age 12, include playing an instrument, saying a Bible verse, singing, acting and sharing sign language — with varying levels of stage fright. Siblings, friends, parents or caregivers are often right alongside the performers.

"Our audience is very forgiving," Salazar says. "They love those time when

kids come on stage. They take videos and pictures. It's so adorable to see the kids performing. The parents love and treasure this so much, to see their kids on stage."

Parents and their children feel like they belong, and they want to share this happiness. They want more kids to have this an opportunity to shine.

"I can see God looking at these kids and smiling," Salazar says. "Every child is uniquely created with gifts and talents to exalt their Creator. And our ministry is blessed to come alongside families with special needs and celebrate their children. My desire, my dream, my prayer is for more churches and communities to embrace special needs families."

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



Nitza Salazar thanks the audience for raising \$1,000 to continue supporting Christmas talent shows for special needs children. The audience initially raised about \$700, and a donor rounded the donations up.



Whether in the classroom, ball field, the dorm or social activities like school banquets, high school students at Auburn Adventist Academy like Jalen Creed (left) are finding a sense of community and opportunities for character growth.

AUBURN STUDENTS DISCOVER ESSENTIALS OF GROWTH

While academics are arguably the most important part of the school, Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) does much more than supply students with an academic education. Auburn brings students a vital community, essential to growth as a human and a Christian.

Jalen Creed, a sophomore at Auburn, recalls when he first arrived at Auburn he was a negative person due to the environment he had come from. At Auburn, he was able to create a new family for himself, one that encouraged him to not only grow his character but also his faith.

High school is an incredibly important time in a young person's life as they learn who they are and what they want to do. Grace Cho,

a senior at Auburn, states this school gave her a sense of direction in her life. She also says this school taught her an important lesson: "The people that surround you are more important than your circumstances. People change you, not your circumstances." This is something seen a lot at Auburn.

Students come together from literally all over the world, from many walks of life, and create a family at Auburn. Creed says one of the biggest lessons Auburn has taught him is that "family is so much more than paper — family is something you create."

Julia Brewster and Rachel Nuam, AAA media literacy students

HOLIDAY PAGEANT CONNECTS GENERATIONS

Most of the Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) students and staff are involved and highly affected by Journey to Bethlehem (J2B), an interactive outdoor drama production held the first weekend of each December.

Student Josie McKey has been participating every year since Auburn Adventist Academy Church started producing this journey back to ancient Bethlehem.

"J2B brings people to Jesus, and it makes me so happy to see everyone get involved," McKey says. "It is a creative way of ministry and getting the community closer and stronger."

Each year, more than 5,800 guests are immersed in the journey of the birth of Jesus Christ. Along the way, locally trained actors from babies and teenagers to parents and grandparents are interacting with each other as they help share this story.

"J2B brings generations together to do something

significant and to create a community inside the church and between the churches," says Wilma Bing, pastor and executive producer. "Churches strive to be relevant and significant. Journey to Bethlehem does that."

People not only contribute time and money, they contribute heart. Every detail from the fresh fruit to the live animals is a labor of love. As people approached the manger in the final leg of their journey, they were in awe that "Baby Jesus" was a real baby and not a doll.

That's why Auburn Adventist Academy Church puts on this elaborate production: because Jesus is real. As AAA staff member Katie Russell summarizes, "It opens up the door for people to come to our church and experience God for themselves."

Leely Abreha and Ashlyn Have, AAA media literacy students



more online at
glnr.in/115-02-wa_lacey

GOD'S CLOSET MINISTRY GROWS IN LACEY

T

wo years ago, Lacey Church started a chapter of the God's Closet ministry. The ministry has one-day events during which anyone



MOLLIE CANFIELD

Lacey Church is intentionally pairing younger and older members together in operating the God's Closet ministry.

from the community can pay \$1 to register, grab bags donated by Trader Joe's and fill the bags to the brim with quality, gently used clothes ranging from infant to teen sizes.

The ministry has faced many challenges, including a flood in the church that had volunteers scrambling to find creative spaces to host the event. By God's grace the ministry continues to grow and thrive.

At this stage the ministry limits advertising to its Facebook page and a few flyers made available to church members for distribution.

On the morning of the most recent event, a single post on Facebook reached more than 4,000 people within hours. The event had 263 shoppers register and shop in about four hours. They filled more than 600 shopping bags and were given specialty items such as brand-new socks, underwear and toys.

Of the 263 shoppers, 47 volunteered a minimum of three hours helping sort clothes and set up everything in preparation for the event. In return for their help, they received an extra bag to fill and the privilege of shopping an hour before the event opened. Twenty-two people requested Bible studies, 27 had prayer requests and 143 said they would like to be contacted about other children's programs.

Junior helpers are found throughout Lacey's God's Closet ministry event.



MOLLIE CANFIELD



MOLLIE CANFIELD

Relationships in the community are being formed in Lacey as shoppers and volunteers interact at this chapter of the God's Closet ministry.

Intentional effort has led to intergenerational involvement. Junior helpers, plus their parents where possible, were assigned to adults during the event. One youth worked in registration, one helped with the specialty items, one helped those getting shoes and other items in the hallway leading to the main shopping area, and others helped carry items to the shoppers' cars. Pathfinders help shoppers and organize the messy tables from the previous shift. They also helped with the entire cleanup after the event.

Even prior to the event, church members working with the community volunteers facilitate building relationships. These volunteers are usually from different generations than those volunteering from the church.

One young lady who had come to all the events,

and who had volunteered for all but one, came to church to share what a blessing she felt the ministry was to her. During the church service, she told how this ministry inspired her to create a parents' clothes swap Facebook group that helps parents between events. She shared how much she valued all the friendships she has made with Lacey Church members and even pointed out specific members, saying she hopes she is just like one of the elderly members when she gets older.

This ministry and its intergenerational relationships are sharing the love of God that brings hope, healing and peace through Jesus Christ to the Lacey community.

Jason Canfield, Lacey Church pastor

more photos online at
glnr.in/115-02-wa_hispanic



HISPANIC CHURCHES BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Every morning at 6 a.m. and every evening at 6 p.m., prayer partners from Hispanic churches in western Washington join together for a prayer teleconference.

“People call and connect each day with different churches leading out,” says Francisco Brito, Washington Conference Hispanic ministries associate director and pastor. “We’re in our fifth year now.”

The 25-minute prayer call to 206-457-3879 includes a devotional reading and time to pray through a prayer schedule for church leaders, prayer initiatives and more. The evening call focuses more on prayer requests.

Hispanic churches also participated in 40 days of prayer beginning in December 2019. During this time, 182 people shared testimonies of how God is working in their lives.

To conclude the 40 days and to start the new year right, Hispanic ministries hosted a Day of Prayer. In its fourth year, the Day of Prayer included an intercessory prayer covering health, immigration and family. Roger Alvarez came from the Southeastern Conference in Florida to speak.

“It’s a really important event for us,” Brito says. “It’s a celebration. All our churches attend. The churches don’t make any other plans so members can be present. It’s

at the beginning of the year, which represents a time to start the year with prayer with good resolutions.”

The week after the prayer convocation, Hispanic members launched their small groups.

Plans are already in the works for the next prayer convocation scheduled for Jan. 9, 2021, in the same location. “Our priority is prayer,” Brito says. “This is how we start our year.”

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

The Hispanic ministries prayer convocation in January specifically prayed for families, health and immigration.



Prayer transforms how churches do ministry, helps relationships flourish, intervenes in difficult circumstances and keeps individuals connected with God.



read more online at
glnr.in/115-02-wa_spanish



COMENZANDO INTENCIONALMENTE CON ORACION

Todas las mañanas a las 6 a.m. y todas las tardes a las 6 p.m., los compañeros de oración de las iglesias hispanas en el oeste de Washington se unen en una teleconferencia de oración.

“Los hermanos llaman y se conectan y cada día una iglesia diferente ayuda a dirigir,” dice Francisco Brito, pastor y director asociado de los ministerios hispanos de la Conferencia de Washington. “Ya estamos en nuestro quinto año.”

En la mañana, la llamada de oración de 25 minutos al 206-457-3879 incluye una

lectura devocional, así como tiempo para orar por los líderes de las iglesias, la obra misionera y otros motivos de oración. La llamada de la tarde se centra más en recibir peticiones de oración.

Además de la llamada de oración diaria, las iglesias hispanas participaron en 40 días de oración que inició a principio de diciembre de 2019. Durante este tiempo, se compartieron 182 testimonios de cómo Dios está trabajando en sus vidas.

Para concluir los 40 días de oración y comenzar bien el año nuevo, el ministerio Hispano organizó una Convocatoria de Oración en el Auburn Performing Arts Center. Este es el cuarto año que hacen este evento para comenzar intencionalmente el año con oración.

“Es un evento realmente importante para nosotros,” dice Brito. “Es una celebración. Todas nuestras iglesias asisten. Las iglesias no hacen ningún otro plan de modo que los miembros puedan estar presentes.”

Heidi Baumgartner

The fellowship of believers devoted themselves
to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
Acts 2:42

Praying Continually

A call to prayer for the family of God

#WACampMeetings2020

June 12-20 - Auburn

Lodging Reservations
washingtonconference.org



Mike
Tucker

John
McVay

Michael
Card

Carlton
Byrd

Claudio &
Pam Consvesra



Washington Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

more online at
glnr.in/115-02-wa_prayer

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCHES UNITE IN PRAYER



Washington Conference once again has a full pastoral team for regional work: Alonzo Wagner, Emerald City Church associate pastor and Ghanaian Church pastor; Derek Lane, Maranatha and Lighthouse churches pastor; Eugene Lewis, Emerald City Church pastor; Nathaniel Good, Breath of Life Church pastor; and Paul Smith, Mount Tahoma Church pastor.

“We have the same goals in mind,” Lewis says. “It works best when we work together to achieve our goals.”

Right now, regional leaders are praying and preparing for a Breath of Life evangelistic meeting scheduled

for Oct. 4–17 at the Federal Way Performing Arts Center.

“The regional affairs committee prepared a regional calendar representing a series of initiatives designed to build relationships, generate interests, prepare potential candidates for baptism and encourage attendance to the fall Breath of Life series with Carlton P. Byrd,” Lewis says.

Within these plans are also goals for reengaging former members, getting involved in the community, providing acts of service and cultivating 500 Bible studies.

“As a pastoral team, we plan to give ourselves to much prayer, preaching, teaching and being led by the Holy Spirit,” Lewis says. “Although we face challenges within our respective congregations,

we stand united as we seek to grow the work in our region.”

One challenge is the need for geolocation changes. Breath of Life Church, for example, in west Seattle has increasingly become a “commuter” church with members driving in from other locations around the region. The church is seeking to relocate this year closer to its target audience to better meet the needs of the south Puget Sound area.

Already Breath of Life Church is making inroads within the Federal Way area, where members are looking to relocate the church. In December 2019, Breath of Life Church members provided a Christmas giveaway at Wildwood Elementary School thanks to a connection with Mount Tahoma Church member and teacher Dian Fundisha-Bey. Members distributed gift baskets containing a \$25 gift card, holiday gifts and treats for 100 students.

As the year progresses, there will be more events and opportunities for members and friends to get involved in ministry and to especially join in prayer for the growth of African American churches.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

Ten years ago, the African American churches of western Washington started meeting together the first Sabbath of the new year for a time of praise, prayer, preparation and preaching. “We’re trying to get our people to come together to work as a team,” says Eugene Lewis, Washington Conference regional ministries director and pastor. “One church’s success is another church’s success. Days of Unity gives us one agenda for regional work in Washington Conference.”

The results of this joint focus will be unfolding particularly in 2020 as regional churches focus on strength, vitality and growth through an evangelism cycle.

Regional churches in western Washington are praying and working together to grow their respective church communities.



CONNECTING HEART TO HEART

T

he healing, hope and wholeness Adventist Health strives to inspire often touches the hearts of the communities it serves. Sometimes that touch is literal, and patients find their physical hearts healed along with their spirits.

That kind of healing is what Sheila Thompson was seeking when she came to Adventist Health Portland's Northwest Regional Heart and Vascular. After going through treatment for breast cancer, she discovered she had developed atrial fibrillation — also called Afib.

This condition, in which the heart beats irregularly and, often, rapidly, left Thompson feeling fatigued in her body and foggy in her brain. Too often, she was stuck on her couch from weariness. Afib also increased her risk of stroke.

Thompson worked with Adventist Health cardiac electrophysiologist Brian Moyers to correct her Afib. They began with more conservative treatments, starting with medication. After trying several drugs without relief, she also underwent several cardioversions, procedures that attempt to reset the heart rhythm to normal through electrical shocks.

When those options failed to correct Thompson's Afib, Moyers recommended cardiac ablation. During this surgery, small scars are made in specific heart tissue to stop faulty electrical signals from causing irregular heartbeats.

Thompson's ablation had positive results, which lasted about six months. Her second ablation was less successful, as is the case for about 12 to 15% of ablation patients. Thompson was running out of options. One choice was to have a more extensive form of ablation that would leave her entirely dependent on a pacemaker for the rest of her life.

Knowing Thompson wanted to avoid a pacemaker if possible, Moyers suggested she visit with Thomas Molloy, Adventist Health Portland medical director of cardiac surgery. "He scheduled me for every cardiac test," Thompson recalls. "They were very thorough. They're like a special ops team."

When Thompson's results were in, Molloy recognized she was a candidate for cryomaze, a form of cardiac ablation that uses extreme



Adventist Health Portland heart surgeon Thomas Molloy was able to help Sheila Thompson meet her goals and return to the life she loves.

cold to create the scarring that blocks faulty heart signals. For the small percentage of Afib patients who don't get long-term relief from typical ablations, cryomaze offers a success rate of as much as 90%.

After her cryomaze surgery, Thompson is a believer. "It's like night and day," she says. With her heart beating regularly, her brain began to clear and her energy level improved. "My main focus is getting stuff done, and now I feel like I have enough energy to tackle it."

Instead of sitting on her couch, Thompson has moved her couch out while she remodels her floating home on Portland's Willamette River. And now that she's

not on medication that causes sun sensitivity, Thompson is "feeling better and looking forward to the summer."

Adventist Health Portland values every chance to connect heart to heart with people while sharing the loving and healing power of Jesus Christ. That's why the cardiac team at Northwest Regional Heart and Vascular appreciates their opportunity to heal patients mind, body, spirit ... and especially heart.

C.J. Anderson, Adventist Health Portland marketing manager

WWU SENIOR RACES IN NATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY EVENT

Spencer Glubay, Walla Walla University senior bioengineering major, finished 48th out of 335 cross-country runners at the 64th annual National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics cross-country meet. The race was hosted by the Cascade Collegiate Conference in Vancouver, Washington, on Nov. 22, 2019. The competition took place over a 5-mile (8-kilometer) grass track at the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

Glubay ran a time of 25:52.8, crossing the line one minute and 13 seconds behind the first-place finisher Mark Shaw, a senior from Oklahoma City University. “It was absolutely amazing weather for a race,” Glubay says. “I didn’t start out as fast as I usually do, so I got stuck in about 70th place for the first two laps. I was stressed at the beginning because it was so crowded, but

during the last two laps I was making up a lot of ground. I just tried to run relaxed and push myself.”

WWU added cross-country as a varsity sport in 2018. Cross-country involves running on natural terrain, such as grass or dirt, and may include hills, woods and other natural features.

Glubay hopes to continue long-distance running, including marathons and triathlons. Last summer he qualified for the Boston Marathon. Glubay says, “Some lessons I’ve learned from running are that life isn’t easy and there is always someone better than you, but you get out what you put in. If you put the time into something, you’ll reap the reward for the time you put into it.”

Kiersten Ekkens, WWU university relations student writer

WWU CHURCH OPENS EDEN’S PANTRY

Each Tuesday and Thursday, more than 100 Walla Walla University students visit the new Eden’s Pantry at the University Church. Since December 2019, Eden’s Pantry has provided nutritious food at no cost to students in need.

The pantry, begun by Troy Fitzgerald, University Church outreach and disci-

pline pastor, and Jonathan Simons, a graduate student in the social work department, offers a selection of healthful foods, including bread, canned soup, cereal, beans, and canned fruits and vegetables. Food, time and funding are donated by members of the University Church to support students and community members who struggle with access to enough food.

plish pastor, and Jonathan Simons, a graduate student in the social work department, offers a selection of healthful foods, including bread, canned soup, cereal, beans, and canned fruits and vegetables. Food, time and funding are donated by members of the University Church to support students and community members who struggle with access to enough food.

To learn how you can contribute to Eden’s Pantry, visit the University Church website at wwuchurch.org.

Kiersten Ekkens



plish pastor, and Jonathan Simons, a graduate student in the social work department, offers a selection of healthful foods, including bread, canned soup, cereal, beans, and canned fruits and vegetables. Food, time and funding are donated by members of the University Church to support students and community members who struggle with access to enough food.

Fitzgerald says, “Because we believe that every person is created in the image of God, our mission reaches beyond providing food to promote



SPENCER GLUBAY



COUNSELING CENTER OFFERS SUPPORT FOR STRESS, ANXIETY

Cold, dim winter days can drive college students indoors more often than during fall and spring quarters. The isolation and inactivity combined with the stress and pressure of college life can result in depression and anxiety. The Walla Walla University Counseling and Testing Center offers many ways to support students in coping with these concerns and improving their mental health.

Most students who come to the center do so because of anxiety or depression. “Having someone that you can just be with, that you can talk to, seems to be one of the most helpful things,” says Michelle Naden, center director. “It doesn’t have to be a profes-

sional. It can be a really good friend, a resident assistant or a teacher. Sometimes people just need people they can trust to talk to honestly about all that is going on.”

The center’s four counselors offer walk-in and scheduled counseling sessions. They also offer groups through the chaplain’s office that are focused on mental health and self-care. The center has started a student health and wellness program that is directed by Carrie White, Counseling and Testing Center associate director, and offers many options for students including discussions about stress management, coping with loss and how to have honest conversations. For students who like to focus on the connection between body and mind, they facilitate classes

that focus on movement and breathing to cope with stress and anxiety.

Students can receive up to 10 counseling sessions per quarter. Ten sessions are often enough to assist the student through their current situation and give them sufficient tools to move forward on their own. The average number of sessions is six or seven. If it is evident during their assessment interview that a student will require more consistent support, they may be referred to a counselor in the community.

“If we say that we love our students and we don’t attend to this very basic need, our words are hollow,” says Doug Tilstra, vice president for student life. “We’ve got some students who are really hurting, and if we don’t get them plugged

into some resources, then who knows what may happen to them. One piece we are working on is how we help students who are using some really dangerous ways of coping to learn some healthy ways of coping.”

Tilstra says he wants students to know they’re not alone. “This is not a reflection on your worthiness or your value as a person,” he explains. “Reach out. Get help. You don’t need to go through this by yourself, and there are people who care about you. There are resources on this campus, and there’s no need to go through this by yourself.”

To learn more, visit wallawalla.edu/counseling.

*Makena Horton, WWU
university relations student writer*

FAMILY MILESTONES

Carr 60th

Kenneth Carr and Ellamae Kurtz were married Sept. 13, 1959, in the Meadow Glade Church near Battle Ground, Washington. Burt Kurtz, Ellamae's uncle, officiated. There was not time for a honeymoon trip. A few days after the wedding, Ken and Ellamae loaded everything they owned into Ken's 1954 Ford and moved to Walla Walla College so Ken could complete his junior and senior year. He graduated in June 1961 with a Bachelor of Science in business administration and accounting.

Ken and Ellamae met in January 1959 because Ellamae and Ken's sister, Carol, were rooming together at Walla Walla College School of Nursing at the Portland Sanitarium. When they met, Ken said it was love at first sight. They dated as much as they could, but when Ken's 30-day leave from the Army evaporated he sadly returned to Hawaii, where he was stationed for another six months. He was discharged in July.

Their first son, Daniel Jay, was born July 20, 1960, in Walla Walla General Hospital. Early in 1962 they moved to Gold Beach, Oregon, where Ken worked for a public accounting firm. The work was interesting and challenging. He said he learned more about accounting, taxes and budgeting in a few months than he had in four years of college. Their second son, Donald Roy, was born June 8, 1962, in the Gold Beach Hospital. There was one other patient in the hospital at the same time who also was having a baby.

The Carrs moved back to



Ellamae and Ken Carr

the Portland, Oregon, area in 1965, where Ken worked at Portland Sanitarium (now Adventist Medical Center) as assistant to the chief accountant. In 1974 he went to work for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Oregon, retiring in July 1995 as manager of cost accounting and corporate budgeting.

Ellamae was a stay-

at-home mom until both boys were in school. When Dan and Don started school, Ellamae went to work at Portland Adventist Elementary School. Four years later she joined the Oregon Conference in the education department before transferring to the treasury department, where she prepared payroll for all conference employees, school employees, pastors and church employees. She completed 27 years of conference employment and retired Feb. 1, 1997.

After retirement they began working on Maranatha projects. They have done more than 60 projects,

mostly in the United States and Canada. They were also involved in a project in Livingstone, Zambia, and another in Choluteca, Honduras. They also worked with Mission Church Builders, completing two schools and three churches.

They feel very blessed that their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have lived within 10 miles of their home most of their lives. Their family includes Dan and Pam Carr; Don Carr; 5 granddaughters, 2 grandsons, 2 great-granddaughters and 6 great-grandsons.

In 2007, the Carrs moved to Woodburn Estates Golf and Country Club, where, on Sept. 15, 2019, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in the clubhouse with 96 family and friends. They thank God every day for His many blessings through these many years.

1935-2019

BILL SMITH

Bill Smith, interim pastor for Oregon's Seaside Church, passed away suddenly Nov. 14, 2019, at the age of 84.

He and his wife, Sue, were both born in Montana, met in Alaska, married in Montana and served as missionaries in the Malaysian cities of Malacca, Panang and Sabah as well as in Papua and Balikpapan, Indonesia. He was the first missionary pilot in Indonesia and developed the Adventist Aviation Center. He loved to build and is credited with the construction of more than 35 church and schools during his 18 years of mission service, as well as churches and schools in Colorado and Oregon. He served as general contractor for the building of the Seaside Church and lived to see it dedicated.

Bill graduated from Upper Columbia Academy in 1953, Walla Walla College in 1957 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion and Potomac University in 1958 with a master's degree in systematic theology. In 1984, he received a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University.

He is survived by his wife, Sue (McDaniels) of Tillamook, Oregon; son and daughter-in-law, Jordan and Joy Smith of Mountainview, Hawaii; son, Bill Jr. of Tillamook; daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and Tim Mayne of Netarts, Oregon; sister, Marian Rieber, of College Place, Washington; 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.



FAMILY BIRTHS

LEWIS — Colin Wesley was born Jan. 1, 2020, to Douglas and Anna (Sinclair) Lewis, Beaverton, Oregon.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

KOSKI-MYERS

Amanda Koski and Christopher Myers were married Dec. 14, 2019, in Tillamook, Oregon, where they are making their home. Amanda is the daughter of Gil and Tammy Koski and Tara and Loren Thompson. Christopher is the son of Claude Myers and Christy (Trattner) and Ken Luke.

BAER — Mary O., 84; born April 23, 1935; died Oct. 15, 2019, Springfield, Oregon.

BEATY — Lillie (Beltz) Campbell, 88; born June 16, 1931, Arroyo Grande, California; died Aug. 13, 2019, Battle Ground, Washington. Surviving: husband, H. Lee Beaty; son, Carrol Campbell, Willows, California; daughter, Monica (Campbell) Knapp, Battle Ground; stepsons, Jon Beaty, Estacada, Oregon; Tyler Beaty, Elk Grove, California; sister, Violet (Beltz) Holder, Loma Linda, California; 6 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

BECK — Richard A., 83; born Oct. 15, 1935, College Place, Washington; died Sept. 9, 2019, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: son, Andy; daughter, Cindi Beck Robison, Portland, Oregon; sisters, Kathleen Meaders, Anacortes, Washington; Judy Dasher, Walla Walla, Washington; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

BROOKS — Doris Agnes (Stearns), 99; born March 6, 1920, Brooklyn, New York; died Aug. 11, 2019, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: son, William Brooks, Fayetteville, Georgia; 3 grandchildren, a step-grandchild and 3 great-grandchildren.

CARVER — Tessa Lynn (Sept) Bass, 55; born Oct. 25, 1963, Walla Walla, Washington; died Sept. 23, 2019, Pendleton, Oregon. Surviving: son, Kevin, Pendleton; father, Buddy “Bud” Sept, Walla Walla; and a grandchild.

CASE — Ella Mae (Wyatt),

96; born April 15, 1923, near Fort Vermilion, Alberta, Canada; died July 27, 2019, Olympia, Washington. Surviving: son, Ronald L. Case, Lacey, Washington; foster daughters, Sonia Schoepflin, Puyallup, Washington; Heidi Syck, Smith Station, Alabama; Emily Owens, Shelton, Washington; 2 grandchildren, 8 foster-grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 2 foster-great-grandchildren.

CURWICK — Lori Lea (Cook), 59; born Nov. 28, 1958, Watertown, South Dakota; died Oct. 28, 2018, Winston, Oregon. Surviving: husband, Lonnie; daughters, April Edwards, Sutherlin, Oregon; Nicole Lang, Winston; mother, Evelyn Cook Meyer, Winston; sister, Dianna (Cook) Hartford, Winston; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

DEVINNY — Geraldine Olive (DeVinny), 80; born July 4, 1939, Billings, Montana; died Sept. 19, 2019, Albany, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Robert Hanley, Lebanon, Oregon; Joe Joy, of California; Richard Joy, Albany; daughters, Debbie Hanley, of Arizona; Sherry Chase, Lebanon; Kelley Joy, Eugene, Oregon; and 25 grandchildren.

FLAIZ — Theodore Smithwick, 98; born Sept. 23, 1920, Bangalore, India; died Aug. 14, 2019, Hermiston, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Douglas and Richard, both of Hermiston; daughters, Glenda Underhill, Enterprise, Oregon; Selas Bowman, Oroville, California; 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

FOSTER — Russel Thomas, 91; born Jan. 20, 1928, Shevlin, Minnesota; died Nov. 30, 2019, The Dalles, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Marjorie (Burnett); son, Mark Foster, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; daughter, Roseanna Foster-Mikhail, Portland, Oregon; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

FOWLER — Judy M., 76; born Feb. 17, 1943, Kelso, Washington; died Aug. 26, 2019, Missoula, Montana. Surviving: brother, James D. Fowler, Corvallis, Montana; sisters, M. Joanne Jones, Corvallis; Billie Jean Fowler Ferster, Leduc, Alberta, Canada; and sisters/friends, Ellen and Wanda Green, Corvallis.

GIBSON — Emiko “Amy” Mildred (Kubota) Antonacci, 89; born July 13, 1930, Tokyo, Japan; died Sept. 25, 2019, Aloha, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Joseph Antonacci, Escalon, California; Michael Antonacci, Banks, Oregon; sisters, Sayoko and Mariko, both of Tokyo; 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

GREEN — Rodney Allen, 79; born Feb. 28, 1940, Mandan, North Dakota; died July 18, 2019, Gresham, Oregon. Surviving: wife Norma (Stratton); son, Bill Green, Beaverton, Oregon; daughter, Katrina Green, Portland, Oregon; brothers, Jim Delk, Medford, Oregon; Herb Stratton, Caldwell, Idaho; sister, Robyn Green, San Rafael, California; and 2 grandchildren.

HUTTON — Hillary Anne (Neff), 41; born May 25, 1975, Boise, Idaho; died Nov. 2, 2019, Boise. Surviving: ex-husband, Frayne, Meridian, Idaho; son, Liam, Meridian; daughter, Anika Hutton, Meridian; mother, Joan (Conway) Neff Green, Meridian; father, Larry Neff, Boise; and sister, Becky (Neff) Tucker, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

JENSEN — Gary Marlin, 68; born Feb. 2, 1951, Walla Walla, Washington; died June 25, 2019, Hillsboro, Oregon. Surviving: brother, Edward Jensen, Corbett, Oregon; and sister, Nancy Davis, College Place, Washington.

JORDAN — Eugene “Gene” Fredrick, 88; born March 30, 1931, North Platte, Nebraska; died Nov. 8, 2019, Prineville, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Grace Jordan, Pendleton, Oregon; sons, Steve Jordan, Prineville; Allen Jordan, Clackamas, Oregon; stepdaughters, Toni Fleischmann, Poway, California; Ronda Wilson, Boring, Oregon; brother, Bob Jordan; sisters, Betty Lockhart; Mary Jordan; Helen Shaffer; Beverly Jordan; 7 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

KRUEGER — Elizabeth “Betty” Mary (Matney), 87; born April 11, 1932, Klamath Falls, Oregon; died Dec. 17, 2019, Klamath Falls. Surviving: husband, Elroy; sons, Mitch, Dennis, Scott and David, all of Klamath Falls; Riche, Modesto, California;

Daniel, Tempe, Arizona; Jim, Merrill, Oregon; Mark, Gamercio, New Mexico; daughters, Wendy Bent and Joanie Rote, both of Klamath Falls; 30 grandchildren and 46 great-grandchildren.

MCCULLOUGH — Janet Louise (Rockwell) Frost, 74; born Dec. 31, 1944, Forest Grove, Oregon; died April 15, 2019, Gresham, Oregon. Surviving: husband, Robert A., Hood River, Oregon; sons, Nolan Frost, Globe, Arizona; Kenton Frost, Wenatchee, Washington; daughter, Jodi Frost, Hood River; stepdaughter, Anita (McCullough) Yentz, Gresham; half-brother, Gerald Dean Bliven, Calhoun, Georgia; half-sisters, Florence Kathleen Ray Bliven Brewer, Winston, Oregon; Patricia Jeanelle Bliven Ingersoll, Wenatchee; and 5 grandchildren.

MCFARLANE — June “Meribeth” (Wagner), 88; born May 26, 1931, College Place, Washington; died July 24, 2019, Oregon City, Oregon. Surviving: husband, William “Bill” McFarlane, Gladstone, Oregon; daughters, Pam Laue, Estacada, Oregon; Donna Stephan, Oregon City; 3 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

MCFARLANE — William Everett, 91; born Jan. 9, 1928, Glendale, California; died Aug. 22, 2019, Oregon City, Oregon. Surviving: daughters, Pam Laue, Estacada, Oregon; Donna Stephan, Oregon City, Oregon; 3 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

MORENO — William A. Sr., 92; born Aug. 20, 1926, Colorado Springs, Colorado; died July 20, 2019, Kalispell, Montana. Surviving: wife, Marjorie (Mundy); son, William Jr., Kalispell; daughters, Marcia Culver, Kalispell; Lorna Moreno, Bend, Oregon; 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

MORGAN — Frederick Blair, 92; born Jan. 14, 1927, Northumberland, Pennsylvania; died Oct. 14, 2019, Kettle Falls, Washington. Surviving: wife, Marilyn (Johnson) Rieseberg; stepsons, Ted Rieseberg, Candle Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada; Loren Rieseberg, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; stepdaughter, Ellen Prest, Caldwell, Idaho; 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

MURRAY — Eleanor Mae (Swanson) Schulte, 83; born Oct. 25, 1936, McMinnville, Oregon; died Nov. 2, 2019, Lebanon, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Gary and Russell, both of Lebanon; and 7 grandchildren.

OSTRANDER — Sharon L. (Stratton), 67; born April 21, 1952, Redding, California; died Oct. 6, 2019, Springfield, Oregon. Surviving: husband, Jeffrey; daughters, Monique (Delavega) Ledford, Jazmine (Lindsey) Stratton, Darla Stratton and Carmen Stratton, all of Springfield; brother, Butchie Stratton, Redding; sisters, Penny Joiner, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.; Evelyn Howel, Sacramento, California; 8 grandchildren

and 3 great-grandchildren.

PULLEY — Edward Allen, 84; born May 4, 1935, Council Bluffs, Iowa; died July 23, 2019, Puyallup, Washington. Surviving: wife, Gayle (Swieso), Eatonville, Washington; son, Douglas A. Pulley, Sequim, Washington; daughter, Eddie Lynn Emerson; 3 grandchildren, 8 step-grandchildren, a great-grandchild and 2 step-great-grandchildren.

RADKE — Elford Daniel, 88; born Dec. 14, 1930, Claresholm, Alberta, Canada; died Aug. 19, 2019, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: wife, Sherrill Taylor Radke; son, Lawrence “Larry” Radke, Lebanon, Oregon; daughters Carol (Radke) Fisher, Carson City, Nevada; Deanne (Radke) Loganbill, Renton, Washington; stepsons, John Riley Jr., Michael Riley and Jim Riley; stepdaughters, Deborah Smith and Wanda Wright; and 24 step-grandchildren and a grandchild.

RICKWA — Patricia Ann (Lovell) Beam, 69; born Jan. 14, 1950, Phoenix, Arizona; died Oct. 29, 2019, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Ted; daughters, Kathleen Seamans and Keri Wahwassuck, both of Fruitland, Idaho; Kandy Thietten, Boise, Idaho; 8 grandchildren, 8 step-grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

SCHNIBBE — Fred Charles, 94; born July 14, 1925, Brooklyn, New York; died Aug. 16, 2019, College Place, Washington. Surviving: wife,

Verona; sons, Richard, Walla Walla, Washington; Dale, Spokane, Washington; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

SCOFIELD — Larry Rex, 83; born Oct. 22, 1936, Portland, Oregon; died Nov. 5, 2019, Falls City, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Ruth (Knobloch); son, Bryan, Eugene, Oregon; daughters, Lucinda Holzman, Salem, Oregon; Heather Merrill, Spokane, Washington; Stephanie Crary, Wolf Creek, Oregon; and 17 grandchildren.

SHULTZ — Minnie Elizabeth (Sparks) Wiese, 88; born May 10, 1931, near Coon Rapids, Iowa; died Oct. 3, 2019, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: sons, Randy Wiese, Ashland, Nebraska; Jim Wiese, Columbus, Nebraska; daughter, Cheryl (Wiese) Riley, Vancouver; brothers, Franklin Sparks and Hermis Sparks; 9 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

STANYER — Thomas Oliver, 87; born Oct. 21, 1931, Wapato, Washington; died Aug. 24, 2019, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: wife, Phyllis (Jepson); son, Brent, Spokane; daughter, Teresa Kennedy, Damascus, Oregon; and 5 grandchildren.

STEPHENSON — Georgene “Jean” M., 77; born Aug. 30, 1942, White Salmon, Washington; died Sept. 29, 2019, Sunnyside, Washington. Surviving: stepmother, Ruby Stephenson, Silverton, Oregon.

STEVENS — Beulah Fern (Fenton), 82; born July 9, 1937, Walla Walla, Washington; died Oct. 12, 2019, College

Place, Washington. Surviving: brother, Loren Fenton, College Place; and sister, Katty Joy French, College Place.

SWISHER — Audrey Ramona “Patricia” (Munro), 89; born Nov. 11, 1930, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; died Oct. 4, 2019, Gresham, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Stephen Shaun Swisher, Gresham; daughter, Sandra Lynn Swisher Hoopes, Gresham; a grandson and 4 step-grandchildren.

UNRUE — Conard Dee, 89; born Feb. 28, 1930, Hamilton, Montana; died April 26, 2019, Sheridan, Wyoming. Surviving: wife, Gladis Schmidt; daughters, Sharon Schulze, Medford, Oregon; daughter, Carol Allison, Sturgeon, Missouri; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

WILL — Nathalie Francis (Ladner) Bischoff, 88; born April 5, 1931, Wanham, Alberta, Canada; died Nov. 6, 2019, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: husband, Albert, College Place, Washington; step-son, Robert Bischoff, Ephrata, Washington; step-daughter, Sharon (Bischoff) Hibbs, Pasco, Washington; sister, Dell Baybarz, Lodi, California; 4 step-grandchildren and 13 step-grandchildren.

WILLIAMS — Virginia Mae (Justesen), 91; born Jan. 1, 1928, Port Arthur (now Thunder Bay), Ontario, Canada; died Sept. 15, 2019, Port Orchard, Washington. Surviving: son, Daniel Williams, Walla Walla, Washington; daughters,

Wanda Vliet, Port Orchard; Debra Clark, Beaver Creek, Oregon; and 2 grandchildren.

WOODS — Geraldine Edith (Losey) Crowell, 91; born May 19, 1928, Bassano, Alberta, Canada; died Sept. 18, 2019, Sequim, Washington. Surviving: son, Forrest Crowell, Seattle; daughters, Jeannine (Crowell) Black, Seattle; Nannette (Crowell) Brandt, Burlington, Washington; Collette (Crowell) Pekar, Sequim; 6 grandchildren and 6 step-grandchildren.

WRIGHT — Lorn Charles, 86; born March 11, 1933, Siletz, Oregon; died Oct. 11, 2019, Gladstone, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Dolores (Durham), Gladstone; son, Thomas, Redding, California; Robert, Peoria, Arizona; Lawrence, Washougal, Washington; 6 grandchildren, 7 step-grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 14 step-great-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](https://www.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.

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

- March 7** — Local Church Budget;
- March 14** — Adventist World Radio;
- March 21** — Local Church Budget;
- March 28** — Local Conference Advance;
- April 4** — Local Church Budget;
- April 11** — Christian Record (NAD);
- April 18** — Local Church Budget;
- April 25** — Local Conference Advance;

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

Homecoming Weekend

April 23–26 — Join us for Walla Walla University homecoming weekend! We’re celebrating the 100th anniversary of Village Hall and the 60th anniversary of the student missions’ program. We’re also planning special reunion events and seminars to help you reconnect and reminisce. Registration opens in February. Visit wallawalla.edu/homecoming or call 800-377-2586 to learn more.

IDAHO CONFERENCE

Missing Members

The New Plymouth Church is looking for the following missing members: Allen McCain, Franklin M. Mezick, D. Scott Michael, Robert L. Mollock, Dale W. Norris, Stephen Olds, Vincent Padgett, Larry and Mary Peterson, Rene Redondo, James Reedy, Paul D. Rennells, Dennis Lee Rose, Steven Shaw, Richard A. Snow, Otto Sturgis, Annie Stevens, Clifford Stevens, Steve A. Tidwell, Brent Van Buren, William Albert Walsh, James Willie, and Paul Winklebleck. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact Howard Williams, pastor, at 208-740-9555.

OREGON CONFERENCE

Rogue River/Valley Alumni Weekend

May 1–2 — Alumni weekend for anyone who attended Rogue River Academy, Rogue River Jr. Academy, Rogue Valley Adventist School and Rogue Valley Adventist Academy will be on the school campus. Join us for Friday evening vespers, Sabbath church, potluck and Sabbath evening vespers, followed by an alumni basketball game. If you have any questions regarding this event, contact the school office at 541-773-2988.

Missing Members

The Newberg Church is looking for the following missing members: Terri Clarke, Mary V. Cook, Lee DeCamp, Vernice Delaney, Verna J. Dougherty, Christopher C. Fulton, Patricia A. Fulton, Sean P. Garrison, Deborah C. Gibbens, Carrie L. Green, J.D. Grimmett, Dave C. Grove,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brad L. Gunnell, Brian D. Gunnell, Sydney Luepton, Angee L. Nielsen, Troy Nielsen, Neal L. Payne, Amy Phipps, Janice Shine, Connie Stewart, Andrew Uhre and Toni L. Wilson. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact Sofia Stone, by email sofia.stone777@gmail.com or mail Newberg Church, Attn: Sofia Stone, PO Box 460, Newberg, OR 97132.

Missing Members

The Albany Church is looking for the following missing members: Adam Anderson, Donna Bennett, Tim Elder, Toni Hall, Sharon Johnson, Patti Kizer, Ted Montgomery, Julie and Ramon Pena, Carl and Samantha Roles, Lois Smith, and Geoffrey Woitt. If you have a current address or phone number for any of these missing members, please contact the Albany Church at 541-928-8914.

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

UCA Spring Gala

April 26 — Experience Upper Columbia Academy's Spring Gala! Enjoy a gourmet dinner created and served by UCA students while watching the UCA Choraliers' production of *Les Miserables*. All proceeds go directly to the UCA worthy student fund. For more information or to sponsor a table, contact Eric Johnson, UCA principal, at 509-245-3600.

UCA Academy Days

April 9-10 — Academy Days is opportunity for students who are interested in attending Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) to experience life on our campus. Attend classes and meet teachers, eat in our cafeteria, participate in fun activities to win scholarships, watch the AcroSoul gymnastics team and listen to our music groups (UCA concert band, choir, Choraliers and vocal octet). Stay overnight in our dorms and make new friends. Contact us through our website at uca.org or call 509-245-3600 to register.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

'Ellen White: Woman of Faith' Free Seminar

March 14 — "Ellen White: Woman of Faith" a free seminar presented by Terrie Dopp Aamodt, Walla Walla University history professor and co-editor of *Ellen Harmon White: American Prophet*, at the Anacortes Adventist Fellowship, 1419 8th St., Anacortes, Washington. These three sessions will be presented Sabbath, starting

with at 10 a.m. with "Ellen White and the Second Coming." Next, at 11:30 a.m., is "How to Talk About Ellen White to the Next Generation," followed by a free vegetarian lunch. The third session, "Ellen White and the Public," starts at 2 p.m.

#WACampMeeting

June 12-20 — "Praying Continually" is a foundational spiritual habit that impacts each area of our life and ministry. During June 12-20, #WACampMeeting will welcome keynote speakers Mike Tucker from Faith for Today (first weekend), Claudio and Pamela Consuegra from North American Division family ministries (early mornings), John McVay from Walla Walla University (evenings), and Carlton P. Byrd from Breath of Life Ministries (second weekend). Michael Card will be in concert the first weekend. Join this time of spiritual renewal in Auburn, Washington. Register for lodging at washingtonconference.org beginning March 2.

WORLD CHURCH

'Ye Olde' Cedar Lake Academy Reunion

June 5-7 — "Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion for the alumni and schoolmates of 1970 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. Honor classes: 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970. Details will be sent by mail. You may contact GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181 or glaa.net.

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT GLEANERNOW.COM/EVENTS.

Christmas Valley Oregon Camp Meeting

60506 Old Lake Rd., Christmas Valley OR

June 18-20, 2020

Living in the Days of Noah



C.A. Murray



Dakota Day

free meals and dry camping available



Charles Byrd



Vonda Beerman



Chuck Burkeen

For more information available on Facebook or call/text 541-223-8984.

THIRD ANNUAL

EvangeLead CONFERENCE

Evangelism Done Right in the 21st Century

APRIL 6-8, 2020

EvangeLead is an annual training event to help turn your church into an evangelistic powerhouse. It's about doing evangelism right, to actually reach people in need. You'll learn from proven evangelists and leaders of some of the fastest growing Adventist churches in America.



Roger Walter

"The secular world is ripe for hearing the messages of Jesus, and we have a message that is relevant, radical and real! That's what EvangeLead is all about—getting evangelism done right in your community and meeting people in their moment of need. Join us to learn new methods of awakening the interest of church members and reaching people in your area who hunger for the truth."

Topics Discussed:

- Evangelism done right
- How to get healthy decisions
- How to keep people, after evangelism
- Why does evangelism keep working?
- What does it cost to do a successful evangelistic series?
- Where is it working? Where isn't it?
- Can we still reach the majority population of North America and beyond?
- Building a platform to successful evangelism
- Using social media for marketing
- Successful speaking for evangelism
- and more....

Schedule:

April 6: 1:00pm - 8:00pm

April 7: 9:00am - 8:00pm

April 8: 9:00am - 12:30pm

Sponsored By:

- Oregon Conference
- North Pacific Union Conference
- Adventist Community Church of Vancouver, WA
- SermonView Evangelism Marketing



Location:

Adventist Community Church
9711 NE St. Johns Road
Vancouver, WA 98665

GUEST SPEAKERS



Richie Halversen



Bill McClendon



Tom Evans



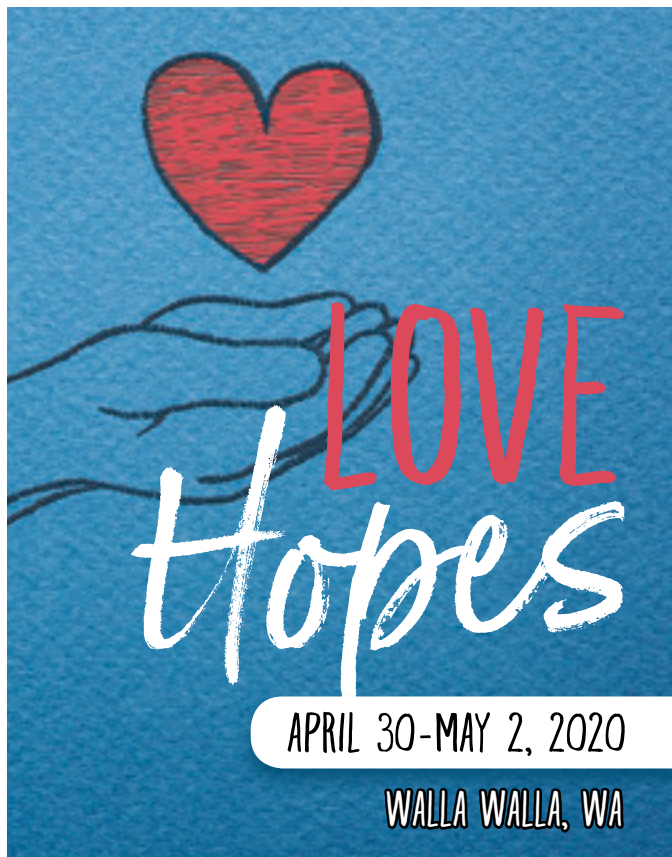
Larry Witzel



John Boston

Plus
More!

Register now at EvangeLead.org



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TAJ PACLEB PLUS BREAKOUT SESSIONS BY
GHETT MARUYAMA, AND TERRY MORELAND

www.asinorthwest.org or call 360-857-7037

*Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries is a cooperative network of lay individuals, professionals, business owners and ministries who collectively support the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Classes

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS MASTER'S DEGREES in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit southern.edu/graduatestudies.

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DR. DAVID DEROSE, author of *The Methuselah Factor*, featured speaker on March 12, 6:30 p.m. at Adventist Health Portland; March 13, 6:30 p.m. and March 14, 8:45 and 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Sunnyside Church, 10501 SE Market St., Portland, OR. Call 503-252-8080.

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2020 VISION CHECK

D

id you ever play the alphabet game during long road trips in the car? I have fond memories of playing this game with my father. We would try to quickly spot letters on road signs and license plates. Dad and I loved to play this game because we both are blessed with 20/20 vision. That genetic trait gave us a great advantage over our friends and family members in the car.

Vision is important to our everyday lives. We use our eyesight to look at things we are interested in. What we choose to look at and focus on dictates what we imitate and gravitate toward.

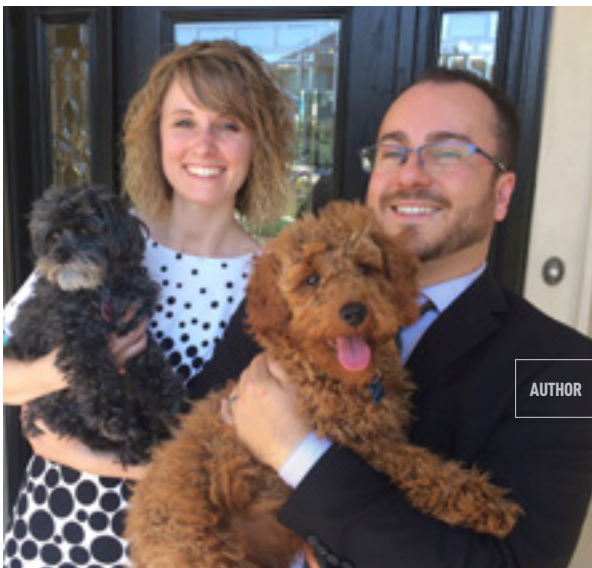
Our spiritual vision is even more important. As Adventist Christians, where is our focus? Do we say we are focusing on Jesus when we are actually looking in a different direction?

One of my favorite stories in Scripture is Saul's conversion. This devoted, zealous young man was fervent in his desire to serve God. He was raised in a conservative Jewish family. He received training from strict teachers. The law and testimony of the Jewish nation gave his life value and purpose. When confronted by a new ideology that threatened his faith and way of life, Saul took action. He sought to eradicate the followers of Jesus.

Saul was good at his job. He excelled at finding Christians and

bringing them before the religious leaders. He played an active role in imprisoning and even executing many Christians. He stood by and watched as Stephen was stoned. He did his best to resist being moved as he witnessed a young man much like himself giving his life for Jesus Christ. He found comfort in the words of the rabbis he trusted, who insisted Stephen was misled and Jesus was not God.

Saul was unable or unwilling to acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ. His perspective, his



AUTHOR

Natashia McVay

devoted, zealous young man was fervent in his





During those days without physical eyesight, Paul experienced spiritual illumination.

point of view, blinded him. Zealous religious fervor motivated him to expand the persecution of Christians beyond the jurisdiction of the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem.

God didn't abandon Saul to darkness. Instead He directly intervened to get Saul's attention. God chose to adjust Saul's vision. While traveling to Damascus, Saul experienced an unplanned visit by the Divine Eye Doctor. A heavenly light shone around him. He

fell to the ground disoriented. A voice terrifying yet familiar cried out to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And the voice answered, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."¹

Saul lost his physical sight in the encounter with Jesus and spent three days in darkness. During those days without physical eyesight, he experienced spiritual illumination. He contemplated his past

actions. He counted the cost following a new Lord would demand. A personal encounter with the Author of Life forced him to experience a spiritual metamorphosis.

During those dark days, Saul reaped the benefit of a rigorous Jewish education. He reviewed large portions of the Torah he had dedicated to memory. The Holy Spirit brought passages from the book of Isaiah to his mind. He experienced the growing conviction that Jesus was in fact the true Messiah and God Almighty.²

Saul decided in the darkness to commit his life to the fledgling faith he had been so fervently seeking to destroy. He decided from that moment on he would dedicate his life to sharing Jesus' message of love and salvation to all the people he encountered.

Saul, now known as Paul, went forward a changed man. He traveled extensively, sharing the clear vision of Jesus Christ he had received. For the remainder of his life he sought to follow Jesus, the One who truly opened his eyes.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul encouraged future generations of Christians to focus their attention upon Jesus: "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."³

This verse comes from a man who learned that true spiritual vision is only obtained through eyes firmly fixed on Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Might we as Christians move forward this year, 2020, with our focus on Jesus, looking to Him as the Founder and Perfecter of our faith, looking forward to His soon return when we will see Him face to face?

1. Acts 9:4–5, English Standard Version.
2. Paraphrase of Ellen White's *Acts of the Apostles*, Chapter 12.
3. Heb. 12:2, English Standard Version.

Natashia McVay, Moscow and Pullman Church associate pastor



BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, PART I

“The opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty.” — Anne Lamott

H

ospitals have a way of sucking faith dry. Too many deaths. Too much pain. Too many questions why.

The Russian author Fyodor Dostoyevsky, though he was a believer, said, “The death of a single infant calls into question the existence of God.”¹

My sister, Lisa, has witnessed the death of dozens. She has seen the heartbreak only a mother can cry. And yet, as a neonatologist she has also been a part of remarkable interventions. She has seen “dead” babies regain their breath and parents regain hope that was also dead. These are miraculous moments.

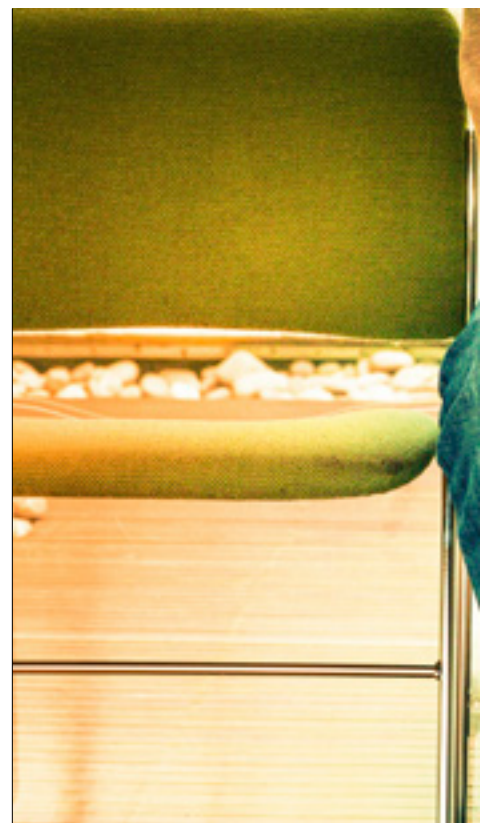
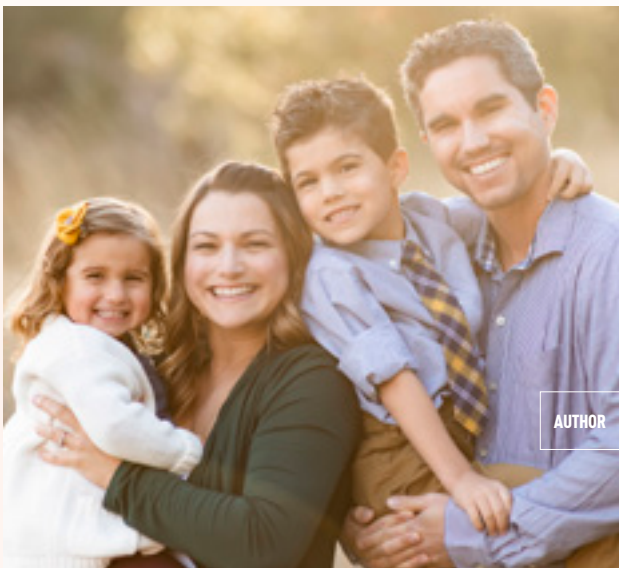
Recently I was talking to Lisa about her faith and the effect being a doctor has on her. She shared a story that occurred outside of the hospital — on Mount Spokane

as she skied with her family and friends. It was the end of the day, and they decided to go on one last run. All was normal until, halfway up the mountain, the chairlift suddenly stopped.

Lisa called her husband in the lodge and heard the power had gone out on the entire mountain. The lodge informed them they were seeking to start the emergency generator. Five minutes went by ... 10 minutes, 20, 30 ... Lisa

AUTHOR

Kevin McGill



and her friend wondered if they could jump to the ground. They couldn't see their kids ahead of them, and they were very nervous.

At this point Lisa's friend said, “Should we pray?” They agreed to pray, and the moment they said “amen” the chairlift lurched to life.

Some might chalk this up as a coincidence, but the prayer was prayed with a sincere faith. Lisa expressed to me appreciation for the kind of faith exhibited in her friend's prayer. It wasn't about certainty; it was about sincerity. Even if that prayer wasn't “answered,” there was a real confidence that came with trusting that God is in control.

If God is ultimately in control, don't we have the right to ask questions? Sometimes our honest questions lead to deeper faith.

Recently a pastor friend told me his son no longer identifies as Christian. His son is wrestling



“Cast yourself at his feet with the cry, ‘Lord I believe; help Thou my unbelief.’ You can never perish while you pray this prayer, never.”

When Jesus interacted with people’s sincere doubts, He rewarded their honesty. Mark, Chapter 9, tells the story of a father with a sick son.⁵

The father was desperate and went to the disciples but they couldn’t help. Then he went to Jesus. Jesus asked if he had faith. The father replied, “Lord I believe, help my unbelief.”

Ellen White, in the book *Desire of Ages*, affirmed this father’s faith, writing, “Cast yourself at his feet with the cry, ‘Lord I believe; help Thou my unbelief.’ You can never perish while you pray this prayer, never.”⁶

In other words: “I want to have faith, but I have some doubts. Help me!” If you can never perish while you pray this prayer, that means honest faith is the only requirement for salvation. Period.

Lord, I come. I trust. Help me.

I believe God cares about mothers’ prayers on chairlifts, in hospitals and every place in

between. At the same time I understand why people doubt. I think God understands too.

Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief.

1. As quoted in John Ortberg’s book *Know Doubt: Embracing Uncertainty in Your Faith*, p. 19.
2. Alden Thompson’s *Who’s Afraid of the Old Testament God* and Greg Boyd’s *Crucifixion of the Warrior God* offer a good starting point for those who want to dig deeper into the question of God and genocide.
3. As quoted in Rachel Held Evans’ book *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, p. 66.
4. John Piper. Feb. 27, 2010, www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-made-it-okay-for-god-to-kill-women-and-children-in-the-old-testament
5. See Mark 9:14–29.
6. Ellen White. *Desire of Ages*. p. 429.

Kevin McGill, Deary and Troy, Idaho, and Endicott, Washington, pastor

with the commands of total genocide in the Old Testament.² I think his son’s questioning is honest. We should be skeptical of any version of Christianity that defends genocide.

Author Rachel Held Evans said, “Brené Brown warns us we can’t selectively numb our emotions, and no doubt that applies to the emotions we have about faith. If the slaughter of Canaanite children elicits only a shrug, then why not the slaughter of the Pequots? Of Syrians? Of Jews? If we train ourselves not to ask hard questions about the Bible, and emotionally distance ourselves from any potential conflicts or doubts, then where will we find the courage to challenge interpretations that justify injustice? How will we know when we’ve got it

wrong? ... If the Bible teaches that God is love, and love can look like genocide and violence and rape, then love can look like ... anything. It’s as much an invitation to moral relativism as you’ll find anywhere.”³

Speaking of the Canaanite conquest, theologian John Piper declared without hesitation, “It’s right for God to slaughter women and children anytime he pleases. God gives life and he takes life. Everybody who dies, dies because God wills that they die.”⁴

If that’s the kind of faith God wants, count me out. As Thomas Paine said, “Belief of a cruel God makes a cruel man.”

Does God want us to have faith in Him if what we believe about Him is that He is a tyrant? Sometimes unbelief is the best belief.

1 TIMOTHY 4

SOME WILL DEPART FROM THE FAITH

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³ who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

A GOOD SERVANT OF CHRIST JESUS

⁶ If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. ⁷ Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in

every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. ¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶ Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

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2 Timothy 4:7-8

MEALS

May 15 - Supper
May 16 - Lunch/Supper

ADULT (12 & up)
Supper-\$12.00
Lunch-\$15.00

CHILDREN
(0-4 yrs.): Free
(5-11 yrs.): \$7.00

MUSICAL GUESTS

THE NORTHWEST FINEST!!

TERRANCE TAYLOR | Youth and Children Program Coordinator

GESELE THOMAS | Youth Coordinator

STARR FRANKLIN | Children's Coordinator



IVAN WILLIAMS
Director, Ministerial Association of the NAD



MICHAEL JENKINS, JR
Administrative Pastor, Kansas Avenue Church



ALAREECE COLLIE
Executive Pastor, Walla Walla University Church



PAUL SMITH
Pastor Mount Tahoma SDA Church



DEREK LANE
Pastor of Maranatha & Lighthouse Fellowship



PEDRITO MAYNARD-REID
Assistant to the President for Diversity and Professor



RICO HILL
Speaker & Director of Beehive Ministry



VIRGIL CHILDS
Regional Director, Pacific Union Conference



BYRON DULAN
Vice President for Regional Ministries, North Pacific Union Conference

Tickets for meals and Exhibit Hall space can be purchased by calling

360.857.7033

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