

EDITORIAL
Where Are You Headed?

JUST FOR KIDS
Bobbie and the Incredible Journey

PERSPECTIVE
It Will Not Be Taken Away

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

Answering His



Northwest Women Leading in Ministry

MAR/APR
2022
VOL. 117, N°2

IMAGES of CREATION



*“God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.”
Genesis 1:21, ESV*

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MARCH/APRIL 2022

WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?

KNOWING WHERE WE'RE HEADING can make a tangible difference in the here and now, and can dramatically alter how we live. In our world, there is a lot to make us fearful, stressed and exhausted. When we're faced with life's uncertainty, it's a good time to consider our destination and ask, where is my home?

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ORDINARY LIVES MADE EXTRAORDINARY

WITH GOD'S LOVE. The women you'll meet in the following pages come from several states and varied backgrounds. Despite their different journeys, they share one thing in common. Their stories shed light on a common thread and bring encouragement to our personal efforts for Christ.

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CHURCH

WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?

AN OLD FARMER WAS SITTING ON HIS PORCH AFTER A LONG DAY OF WORKING IN THE WHEAT FIELD. AS THE SUN SET, HE NOTICED A CAR DRIVING DOWN THE ROAD. A YOUNG COUPLE HAD BEEN OUT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE BEAUTIFUL DAY, ENJOYING A LEISURELY RIDE IN THE COUNTRY. BUT NOW THEY WERE LOST, HUNGRY AND JUST WANTED TO GO HOME.



JOHN FREEDMAN
North Pacific Union president

Seeing the farmer, they pulled over to the side of the road to ask for directions.

“Where does this road go?” asked the young man. “There aren’t many road signs out here and my GPS isn’t picking up any signal. We have no idea where we are.”

The old farmer smiled and, with a touch of country humor and wisdom, replied, “Son, this road will take you anywhere you want to go—but only if you know where you are going.”

The young couple knew their destination. Yet, when they asked the farmer for directions, they didn’t tell him where home was. The farmer could hardly give them directions without knowing their destination.

The lesson is pretty plain. Once you identify where you are headed, you can plot out a course, get direction and reach your destination.

So, let me ask you, “Where are you going?” I believe we all want to go home. But where is that home? Are we looking for a physical place here on earth, or are we focused on our eternal destination?

In our world, there is a lot to make us fearful, stressed and exhausted. When we’re

faced with life’s uncertainty, it’s a good time to consider our destination and ask, where is my home? If we don’t know the answer, we’re likely to wander through life without purpose.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matt. 6:33). That’s precise direction. Jesus wants us to know we were created for God. We are to find our identity and self-worth in seeking God first and His righteousness.

Just in case we needed more precise directions, Jesus showed us how to seek God. He gave supreme allegiance, obedience and attention to the Father while here on earth. He made the will of His Father first in everything, becoming obedient to the point of death.

Seeking the kingdom of God makes a tangible difference in the here and now and dramatically alters how we live. Let me share just a few of the many changes I’ve seen God make when people choose to follow Him.

- » A single-minded allegiance to God gives us the ability to disagree with people, yet still love and respect them.
- » God also empowers us, through His Spirit, to love and pray for our enemies.



- » When we love the truth and do not turn away from it, it builds the trust of those who know us.
- » Seeking Him first compels us to encourage others and build Christian community.
- » With God's love as our compass, we can stop criticizing others and start to build trust.

Biblical character matters! Developing it takes a lifetime. Yet, with God's power, it transforms the culture in a home, office, workplace, church and community into a beautiful place to live and work.

At the end of the day, what is our destination? Are we seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness above all things? When we place ourselves in His care, our guide and Creator will fill our lives with purpose, mission and fulfillment.

This month, we're highlighting stories of women who truly know their destination. From all walks of life, they've answered God's call to seek Him first. I'm grateful for the hundreds of committed leaders across the Northwest who choose daily to follow Jesus and let His Spirit point the way home.

JOHN FREEDMAN
North Pacific Union president

gleaner

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IMAGES OF CREATION, P. 2



"Otter and Friends,"
in Valdez, Alaska,
by William S Frohne,
of Walla Walla,
Washington

Answering



His

NORTHWEST WOMEN LEADING IN MINISTRY

ALICE MONCHER'S EYES CRINKLE AROUND THE EDGES WHEN SHE GREET'S YOU AT THE NORTHSIDE CHURCH IN ANCHORAGE. EVEN WITH HER MASK ON, YOU KNOW YOU'RE WELCOME. A MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER, ALICE IS AN ACTIVE PART OF HER LOCAL CHURCH AND HER ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY.



Cheri Gatton is a compassionate shepherd. Her passion for sharing Jesus and His love is evident as she performs her duties as a pastor in the Idaho Conference. She cares about her members and it shows.

Charé Largent has served as church administrator for more than 40 years at the Kalispell Church in Montana. She's had many visits with worried parents and stressed members, she's chaired many board meetings and made countless phone calls. It's her mission to help everyone's personal ministry to be as effective and pleasant as possible.

Crystal Kielman works with numbers. "When I was a kid, I always preferred the more concrete school subjects," she said. As the undertreasurer for the Oregon Conference, her ministry is stewarding

member gifts, ensuring ministry moves forward at more than 160 churches and schools.

Emma Busto just graduated from high school. That hasn't stopped her from seeing needs and getting involved at her local church to make a difference. At 18, she is the youngest Pathfinder director in the Northwest.

Kelli Robinson takes ministry seriously. She believes her strongest witness is how she treats others. She knows she's not perfect, but that doesn't stop her from promoting Jesus through her actions in her community and congregation at Mt. Tahoma Church in Tacoma, Washinton.

The women you'll meet in the following stories come from several states and varied backgrounds. Despite their different journeys, they share one thing in common. They are answering God's call to serve.



ESCAPING THE DARKNESS:

Through Music



GROWING UP listening and singing in church on Sunday, Alice Moncher, a member of the Northside Church in Anchorage, fondly remembers music in her childhood. So when she went to visit someone in the Alaska Native Medical Center and heard music in the lobby, she was entranced.

“It was inspiring to everyone,” Moncher said. Each time she returned to the hospital, she saw different groups in the lobby. But something was missing.

“Our church wasn’t represented,” she pointed out. And so she received permission from the hospital to host a singspiration hymn sing and testimonials in the lobby on Sabbath afternoons. It was well-received.

“People sometimes ask us to go upstairs when we’re done singing and pray with their family members who are ill,” Moncher said. “Our presence means something to them. We bring a bright ray of hope to their darkness.”

Moncher can relate. For more than two decades, she and her husband prioritized partying and drinking over everything else in their lives, until one morning, they realized how

tired they were of it all. They poured every drop of alcohol they had down the drain, sobered up and eventually moved into a house.

Shortly after they moved, a flyer came in the mail for a prophecy series taking place just down the road. Moncher attended, and at the end of the series she was baptized.

“I was saved from 25 years without Christ in my life, and I want others to know they can escape the darkness, too,” Moncher said. “God had a plan for me, and through His mercy and grace, He brought me into His marvelous light. If there’s even one person out there who feels lost in the dark, I want our singspiration to show them Christ’s light. That’s why this ministry exists.”

Editor’s note: Due to the pandemic, all activities at the hospital have been canceled. Moncher has moved this ministry to the Northside Church until they can return to the hospital.

EADVERTIS

I SPEAK FARMER:

The Ministry of Pastoral Shepherding

"I'VE TAKEN so many leadership tests, and they all place me in the 'highly qualified' category for pastoral ministry," said Cheri Gatton, pastor of the Parma Church in Idaho. She'd always felt the call to ministry, though the first part of her career was working with farmers as a commodity broker.

When Gatton and her husband were baptized in 1992, opportunities to be involved cropped up everywhere. She served as director of women's ministries — a volunteer position — for 14 years in the Idaho Conference, then began volunteering as assistant pastor in the Meridian and Parma Churches.

"The more I did it, the more passionate I became," she said. During the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, Gatton connected with Esther Knott from Andrews University. Knott helped Gatton enroll in the seminary's graduate program in pastoral ministry to undergird her abilities as a pastor. She graduated in the spring of 2020.

"I can honestly say this is my calling," Gatton said. "God opened all the doors, and every time he did, I just walked through. I've just been true to what I believe God is calling me to do."

And that time she spent as a commodity broker? That's played a hand in helping her follow her path, too.

"I speak farmer," she said with a grin. "God has blessed me with the gift of being able to use my skill set to minister to my church. I'm a shepherd who has been given a flock to protect, instruct and show Jesus. It's not fancy, it's a job and it's a calling. And I love it."

ANTHONY WHITE/INPIC GLEANER/INWADVENTISTS.COM





WHAT GOD HAS IN MIND:

A Ministry of Support

CHARÉ LARGENT has been a member of the Kalispell Church in Montana for more than 40 years, and is officially the church administrator. If her ministry had a more modern title, it would probably be something like Member Success Director.

"I just try to keep the church running as smoothly as possible," she said. "I regularly ask people, 'What can I do to help you make things work?' I want everyone's personal ministry to be as effective and pleasant as possible."

Though typically Largent operates quietly behind the scenes, sometimes her work is tangibly evident, like the time she spearheaded the church's efforts to pay off a \$900,000 building debt in only six and a half years.

"The whole thing was such a God trip," she said. "People in our church were dedicated and responsible, so God took those assets and made it happen. It's been wonderful to see what happens when you step back and let God take charge."

Largent also serves as chairperson of the church board, as well as on the conference board of directors. She occasionally delivers a sermon, too.

"It's so much fun to watch others grow, and that's really what my job is," she said. "I help others figure out their gifts and how God is calling them to use those gifts. If you feel like you're a good fit for the role you fill, you're doing what God has in mind for you. And there's nothing better than seeing the joy in someone doing exactly that."



A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LEADER:

Ministry from the Treasury

“WHEN I WAS A KID, I always preferred the more concrete school subjects,” recalled Crystal Kielman, Oregon Conference undertreasurer. “When you did a math problem, it was right or wrong — there was no discussion.”

Naturally, when she got to Walla Walla University, Kielman chose to study finance. Though her post-graduation trajectory initially landed her in the healthcare industry, she felt called in a different direction.

“I knew I had a purpose,” she said. “Somehow, I just felt that purpose was elsewhere.” When an opportunity came for

her to join the treasury department at the Oregon Conference, she jumped at it. “It’s been a good fit,” she said.

She has now been undertreasurer — one step down from the treasurer — for two years, having been invited into the position with only a few years of experience. Now she oversees the treasury department and its far-reaching functions such as conference-wide payroll, collection of tithes and offerings, accounts payable and more.

“What I love about this work is that we get to support every single other ministry in the conference,” Kielman said. “From

Big Lake to Hispanic Ministries and everything in-between, we’re literally there to help them do what they do for God, and I love it.”

When thinking of church leaders, most often it’s the names of pastors, professors and authors which come to mind. Kielman works among the unsung leaders of the church, making sure everything else keeps going.

“My role at the conference has really helped me see my local church differently,” Kielman admitted. “I’ve started thanking those who work behind the scenes to ensure things happen when and how they need to. Their ministry is important, and I’m grateful for the privilege of noticing.”

ANTHONY WHITE/ANPUC GLEANER/INWADVENTISTS.COM

A SAFE SPACE:

Youth Ministering to Youth

QUITE LITERALLY, Emma Busto grew up in Pathfinders. She unofficially became part of her first club at five years old, when her mother started helping out at their local church. Now, at 18, she is the youngest Pathfinder director in the Northwest.

“When we got to the Osburn Church, I asked about Pathfinders,” Busto said. “No one wanted to direct, so I said I would.”

It wasn't a stretch for her to take over a Pathfinder leadership position. With 13 years of experience in clubs, Busto has countless honors of her own, and has begun the five-year process of becoming a Master Guide. She led her first Pathfinder meeting in September, and it was an “awkward success,” Busto said with a laugh.

The club is still going strong, though she admits they can't do all the things she wants to yet, due to lack of supplies. For example, the camping honor is top on her list, but they don't have tents. For now, they're working on the honors that don't require a long list of supplies, such as health, nutrition, fitness and origami.

Busto plans to take the club out to the community later in the year to do leaf-raking, snow-shoveling and other tasks to serve their neighbors. She also wants to make sure the young people themselves are ministered to.

“I was bullied a lot as a kid, and Pathfinders got me through it,” she said. “Pathfinders was safe, and I knew I could be myself there. I had a voice. It's really important to me to provide that for these kids, too. They matter here, and they matter to God. It's my job to make sure they see that.”

STOPPING THE CYCLE:

Ministry Through Violence Prevention and Recovery

“**MY AUNT**, who worked at a juvenile detention center in Tacoma, noticed what was happening to Black and Brown girls who entered the system,” said Kelli Robinson, member of the Mt. Tahoma Church in Washington.

Her mom and aunt wanted to create something special for these girls when they got out, so they founded Our Sister's House in 1995, a small nonprofit providing advocacy, education, intervention and prevention resources and services for survivors of domestic violence, with a special focus on African American women and children. They offer weekend programs for adult survivors, children who witness violence and youth perpetrators.

ANTHONY WHITE/INPIC CLEANER/ADVENTISTS.COM

EMMA BUSTO





“We’re trying to help stop the cycle of violence as early as we can,” Robinson said.

Our Sister’s House started as a group home for girls of color and has shifted into a collection of programs with the same vision: offering survivors of violence a safe place where they are respected and heard.

Robinson loves doing community outreach, and she doesn’t limit herself to OSH. Whenever she can offer assistance, she does — handing out food, gift cards, socks, COVID-19 tests or whatever else individuals experiencing houselessness need.

“Any time we can do something to better and to serve our community, I jump on it,” said Robinson. “It’s such a wonderful experience to be out there on the streets, meeting people — taking their hands, looking them in the eye and asking how I can help.”

Robinson said her strongest witness is in the way she treats others, which is why her ministry is so important to her.

“To me, the way to best promote Christ is through my actions,” she elaborated; “being uplifting, accepting people where they are and being non-judgmental. I know I’m not perfect, but I hope I give others a chance to see Jesus through me.”

Answering His Call

WOMEN LEADERS — like Alice, Cheri, Charé, Crystal, Emma and Kelli — are being used by God to bring people from all across the Northwest into His kingdom. This is good news indeed!

These six women are just a microsample of what so many are doing for God. Northwest women from all walks of life are answering Jesus’ call to willingly and prayerfully follow in His footsteps. Their combined passion, energy and dedication can and do fuel thousands

of efforts for Christ at home, in the courtroom, among refugees, in a hospital, from the podium, doing financial counseling, speaking on TV, providing health education or myriad other situations.

If you are feeling God’s call to ministry, at any level, take courage from these women who said yes when Jesus said, “Follow me.” Step forward in faith and minister to a world longing for our Savior’s love.

Becky St. Clair, freelance writer / Jay Wintermeyer, Gleaner editor

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Alaska Conference of SDA
Published by Malchinp · January 16 at 7:21 PM · 🌐

January 2022 | Around The AKC Mid-Month Round Up - <https://malchinp.mp/795e0.../alaska-conference-email-13429757>

AROUND THE AKC

Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
January 21 at 6:58 PM · 🌐

My family staged an intervention with me a few weeks ago. To be more specific my wife and daughter staged this intervention. My daughter and my wife looked at what I was wearing when I came out of the bedroom and slowly shook their head no... See more

WASHINGTONCONFERENCE.ORG

An Intervention

Does your spiritual wardrobe need to be freshened up? Do you n...

Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists @OC... · May 2, 2019 · 🌐

We thank God for young members like Tavimbanashe who are firm in faith and committed to mission. Check out her video!

Adventist Mission™ @admission · May 1, 2019

Meet Tavimbanashe, the 3rd place winner of the #FollowHerContest! She's a homeschooleder from Washington, USA. She worked on her film with her brothers, Tago and Timothy; they inherited a passion for videography and photography from their dad.

Show this thread

3rd Place
Tavimbanashe

Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
22m · 🌐

What happens when someone really listens to you?
How important is listening to ministry?
How can active listening transform your relationships?
Young Adult Ministry Director Ben Lundquist and Oregon Adventist Stories editor Kaleb Eisele recently recorded some thoughts on active listening as a habit, and some of the effects they've seen after spending time making room for other people... See more

RISE AND LEAD
MASTERING THE ART OF ACTIVE LISTENING
WITH KALEB EISELE
#55

Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
January 14 at 7:00 PM · 🌐

It was a moment of pure terror in my life as a parent. I had lost my child.
I was supposed to be a responsible parent watching the children at the department store while my wife shopped.
In retrospect I should have just stayed home with the children so that my wife could have shopped in peace. But thinking that we could have some family time and shop at the same time seemed like a good idea at the time. You know shop, take the kids for a treat, maybe ride the merry-go-round... See more

WASHINGTONCONFERENCE.ORG

The Lost & Found Child

It was a moment of pure terror in my life as a parent. I had lost m...

Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Retweeted
Walla Walla University @WallaUniversity · Aug 16, 2018 · 🌐

Freshmen will be arriving on campus in a few weeks for JumpStart. JumpStart is a week of orientation for new freshmen before classes begin. If you haven't registered yet, head over to wallawalla.edu/jumpstart and check out a schedule of activities planned for the week.

JUMP STA

Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
November 7, 2021

Boise Valley Adventist School
November 4, 2021

Our Red Ribbon Week started with Career Day "Think of all you can be, when you stay drug free!"

Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
January 13 at 3:00 PM

Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
January 14 at 6:42 PM

"I have so many good memories," Gary says, "especially memories of the good old days of camp meetings past. Until I was 6 years old, my family attended the annual 10-day Gladstone Camp Meeting. I remember staying in a camper by Gasfield Road, then later we had a cabin on the left side of the road going up the hill to where now there is a caretaker's house. I remember the old grocery store that stood where the Holden Center is now, with the ice shack out front where you could ... See more

Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
December 1, 2021

Boise Valley Adventist School
November 30, 2021

A few of our Kindergartners thankful for our STEM lab. Check out their unique rockets!

Show More Posts from washconf

Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is at Mt. Tahoma Seventh-day Adventist Church.
January 22 at 5:30 PM - Tacoma

#NewView from Craig Mattson - Always a blessing to hear Dr. John McVay speak, this time at Mt Tahoma Church! He is the President of Walla Walla University. The man is a commanding orator, a pleasure to listen to!

Alaska Conference of SDA
Published by Brenda Johnson · January 19 at 9:41 AM

Mark your calendars for the first Alaska Conference town hall of 2022, February 1st at 6:30 p.m., here LIVE on Facebook!

Sermons, music and more available at **NWADVENTISTS.COM**

FARRO & LENTILS *WITH* ROASTED VEGETABLES



Enjoy!

IF YOU'RE IN THE MOOD FOR SOMETHING HEALTHY, FILLING AND DELICIOUS, LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THIS ONE-DISH MEAL. IT COMBINES NUTTY, CHEWY FARRO WITH LENTILS AND TENDER ROASTED VEGETABLES, ALL TOSSED WITH A SAVORY GLAZE. ENJOY THIS HEARTY MEAL WARM OR AT ROOM TEMPERATURE.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup farro
- 2 cups vegetable broth
- 1 cup lentils
- 3 cups water
- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and cubed
- 2 cups Brussels sprouts, sliced in half
- 1 medium onion, sliced into strips
- 2-3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons salt, or to taste
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin, optional
- 1/2 tsp sweet paprika, optional
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon miso paste
- 1/4 cup cilantro leaves, optional

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat your oven to 400 degrees.

- In a large saucepan, combine farro with vegetable broth. Boil farro until tender, 30-40 minutes. Add water if needed. Drain farro well and let cool slightly.
- In a separate saucepan, combine lentils and water. Boil lentils until tender, but not soft. Once finished, drain the lentils and combine with the farro.
- While the farro and lentils cook, peel and cube the sweet potato, and chop the Brussels sprouts into halves. Toss them together with the olive oil, and season to taste. We used salt, cumin and paprika.
- Place on a baking sheet and bake for 25 minutes or until the veggies are tender and can easily be pierced with a fork.
- Meanwhile, peel and slice the onion into thin strips and sauté in olive oil until golden brown.
- While the onions sauté, make the savory glaze reduction sauce by whisking together 1/4 cup water, soy sauce and miso paste.
- When the onions are golden brown, carefully pour the mix onto the onions. Simmer until liquid has reduced by half.
- When the farro, lentils and veggies are cooked, lightly toss everything together.
- Dish it up in a beautiful bowl and garnish with cilantro, if desired.

RECIPE NOTES

What is farro?

Farro is a nutty and pleasingly-chewy grain. Farro is high in fiber, so it not only tastes great, it's good for you too. Farro is a wheat, so it is not gluten-free.

This meal-in-a-bowl is extra delicious with crumbled feta cheese on top or a drizzle of dill and yogurt dressing.

Anchorage Hispanic Church Shares Gospel During Pandemic

DESPITE THE COLD Alaskan temperatures, distance and darkness, and despite being the only Spanish-speaking church, with no pastor and few active members, the Anchorage Spanish Church is making a meaningful impact. By the grace of God, members remain driven to accomplish their gospel work, and the church is alive with the Holy Spirit.

Alaska is a transitory region where many residents come and go. The small Hispanic Church congregation has felt the need to preach the gospel message throughout the city of Anchorage.

It has been a great challenge for church members,

Savasty and Saraelis De La Rosa singing on the last night of the concert.



Claritza Mampo on the left and Ana Mañón on the right. They came from other states to support us with their praise.

with varying work schedules and little formal training, to come together to evangelize the city of Anchorage. Despite the pandemic and the closure of churches, God has allowed

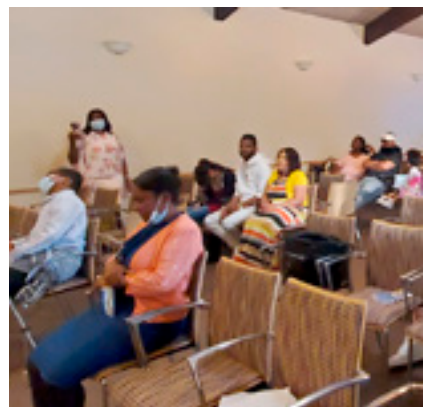
the congregation to become a beacon, not only in Alaska, but in different parts of the world.

The church was spiritually revived by the Spirit. Collaborating pastors and laity from different countries

didn't hesitate to support the Anchorage Hispanic Church with their gifts and talents through Zoom meetings.

Patricio Escoto, a Dominican pastor, felt called to walk the extra-mile and offer weekly Bible studies via Zoom for a whole year. He concluded the studies with an online evangelistic series in August 2021. The evangelistic effort resulted in one soul giving his life to Christ through baptism, as well as the reaffirming faith for other members. It also bridged relationships with church members and community guests.

With the help of the Holy Spirit and the fervent desire of the Anchorage Hispanic Church members, many souls were reached for Christ. We praise God for the support & collaboration from the Alaska



Conference, church members from mainland states who shared music and praise, as well as the support of César De León, North Pacific Union vice president for Hispanic ministries. The Anchorage Hispanic members are very grateful for the support given for this evangelistic effort.

Much remains to be done. The Anchorage Hispanic Church asks for prayer that the Lord will continue to send workers into His harvest in Alaska.

MALLY CONCEPCIÓN
Anchorage Hispanic Church clerk



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-HSP-94



MISIÓN Y SERVICIO

Iglesia Hispana de Anchorage Comparte el Evangelio en Medio de Pandemia

A PESAR DEL FRÍO, la distancia y la oscuridad, a pesar de ser la única iglesia de habla hispana, de contar con pocos miembros



The meetings were held both in-person and via Zoom.

activos, y *no tener pastor*, la iglesia Adventista Hispana de Anchorage se ha mantenido viva y activa por la gracia de Dios y el deseo de los miembros que la componen de realizar una obra especial en Alaska.

Alaska es un estado transitorio, donde muchos van y vienen. Nuestra pequeña congregación ha sentido la necesidad de predicar el mensaje del evangelio de Cristo en nuestra ciudad de Anchorage.

Ha sido un gran reto para los miembros de nuestra iglesia, quienes trabajamos diferentes horarios, unirnos con la poca

capacitación que tenemos para evangelizar nuestra comunidad. Sin embargo, después de la pandemia, tras el cierre de las iglesias, Dios ha permitido que nuestra iglesia se diera a conocer no solo en Alaska, sino en diferentes partes del mundo teniendo como refuerzo, además del Espíritu Santo, la colaboración de pastores y laicos de diferentes países quienes no dudaron en apoyarnos con sus dones y talentos a través de los servicios y nuestro esfuerzo evangelístico transmitidos por Zoom.



Brother Adalberto also supported us with his singing gift during some nights and during the concert.



Convivial meal closing the campaign and celebrating the baptism.

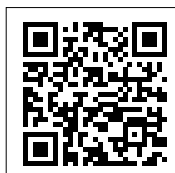
Uno de estos pastores ha sido el pastor dominicano, Patricio Escoto, quien sin conocerlos sintió el llamado y la necesidad de caminar la milla extra impartiéndonos un estudio bíblico semanal por medio de Zoom durante un año el cual concluyó con una Campaña Evangelística en agosto del 2021.

Esta Campaña dio como resultado que un alma entregara su vida a Cristo, reafirmó la fe de los miembros y acercó aún más a nuestras visitas. Estamos muy agradecidos por todo el trabajo realizado. Todo fue un

trabajo en equipo: la dirección del Espíritu Santo, el deseo ferviente de los hermanos de alcanzar muchas almas para Cristo, el apoyo de hermanas que se trasladaron desde otros estados dentro los Estados Unidos para apoyarnos con las alabanzas, la colaboración de nuestra conferencia de Alaska y del pastor César De León quien ha estado apoyando a nuestra iglesia.

Aún queda mucho por hacer y rogamos para que el Señor siga enviando obreros a Su mies en Alaska.

MALLY CONCEPCIÓN
secretaria de iglesia para la Iglesia Hispana de Anchorage



Más en línea en NWADVENT.ST/117-2-HSP-94 +

EDUCATION

Alaska Mourns a Man of God

THERE ARE NEVER ENOUGH WORDS TO DESCRIBE WHAT A LOVED ONE MEANS TO US ONCE THEY ARE GONE. WE TRY TO REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES AND CELEBRATE THE LIFE WE SHARED TOGETHER, BUT THE HONEST TRUTH IS, WE NEVER TRULY HEAL. WE LEARN TO COPE WITH OUR NEWFOUND CIRCUMSTANCES, STEP-BY-STEP AND DAY-BY-DAY, WE BEGIN TO MOVE ON. BUT, WE ARE NEVER THE SAME; WE'RE FOREVER IMPACTED BY THE BOND WE ONCE HAD.

On Jan. 6, 2022, Rod Rau lost his fight with cancer. Rod was an amazing man of God. He was a beloved husband, brother, teacher and co-worker to many.

During his career in education, Rod and his wife, Brenda, worked at Sierra View Jr. Academy and Echo Ridge in California. Later, he taught in the towns of Sitka, Anchorage and Dillingham, Alaska. During the last five years of his life, the Alaska Conference was privileged to have Rau serve as the education director, impacting the lives of teachers across the state.

Connecting students with God's wonderful creation was a primary goal for Rod over his 38 years in the classroom. He took students beyond the walls of the school and into the great outdoors, creating mystery, discovery and excitement in their learning journey. Rod was a master at motivating his students to want to learn it for themselves. Of course, as a teacher, he never bribed his students, but he had a special way of inspiring internal drive and motivation to learn. By getting their work done, students were rewarded with outside classroom time.

His love for the outdoors was shared with students not just through teaching, but actual experience. He had a passion for adventure which included, but was not limited to, kayaking, backpacking, camping and especially flying.



Brenda and Rod flying the Brooks Range in Arctic Alaska



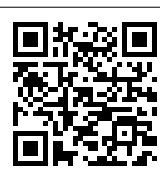
Rod Rau, Alaska Conference Education Director

response gave him an influence few people are afforded. He will always be remembered as the quiet, strong man of faith. One who loved his wife, worked hard, connected well with his students and fought for his teachers. Rod truly was a man of God!

TOBIN DODGE
Alaska Conference Arctic Mission Adventure, youth, young adults and radio director

While living in Dillingham, Rod and Brenda loved flying to the surrounding Bristol Bay area villages for church services. Rod played his guitar and helped make memorable worship times for small churches.

For Rod, building relationships with others was a top priority as a teacher, colleague and friend. His words of wisdom or a perfectly timed



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-AK-13

Rod, kayaking on Twin Lakes



CHURCH

Arctic Church Remembers With Blue Christmas Service

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-2-AK-06](https://www.nwadvent.st/117-2-AK-06) 



WINTER HAD SETTLED in with its usual blustery darkness in Utqiagvik, Alaska. But by December of 2021 the community had been saddened by tragedy and loss far more than usual. The pandemic, crime and depression had claimed more lives than anyone wanted to count.

The Arctic Church had been impacted as well. Church members wanted to offer empathy and extend support to the community during the Christmas season, as losses are felt more acutely during the holidays.

With the blessing of the North Slope Health department, technology expertise from KBRW (the local NPR radio station), as well as the larger faith community and many dedicated volunteers, the Arctic Church broadcasted a 30-minute *Blue Christmas* program for the entire North Slope. Simultaneously, an outdoor candlelight vigil offered people a community gathering to honor their loved ones.

The broadcast featured messages from Celesta and Zack Babb, Arctic Church pastors, as well as other local faith leaders. Their messages



AAC Member, Penny Kennedy, serves refreshments to participants

expressed the love God has for hurting people and comfort in knowing that God understands our pain. The event was blessed with performances by young, local musicians—on piano and harp—capturing the depth of the community’s heartfelt prayers for strength through their grief.

The evening was chilly; a blizzard had been raging the past few days. But, remarkably, it let up and allowed 15 hardy residents to attend the vigil walk from the radio station to Barrow High School. Handheld candles and candles lit in blue ice luminaries sent flickering

light into the darkness where it reflected off snow crystals swirling across the tundra.

Beginning the vigil was Laura Thomas, a Behavioral Health Compliance Officer serving the North Slope Borough Health & Social Services Department. She facilitated a time of sharing and reflection of the numbing losses so many in the community have endured. Braving the weather was well worth this time.

In the high school

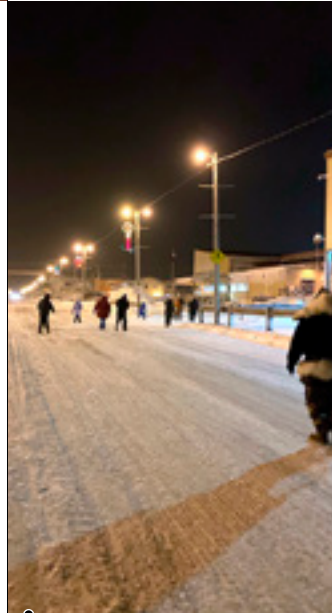
cafeteria, a Blue Christmas memorial wall offered participants a place to post the names of their missed loved ones. Christmas music played softly in the background while participants visited with each other, warmed up with hot drinks and cookies, then wrote down the names of those who are now just memories. Memories, both beautiful and painful, leave an emptiness in hearts.

The experiences that evening allowed many to understand God’s heartache through His separation from us—an ache so intense, He left the unimaginable dimension of existence in heaven to become a humble baby and to share in the sufferings and abuses that His beloved creation experiences. His deepest desire was to be with us, not just to be our “Father in Heaven,” but to be our Emmanuel, our “God with us!”

Even through the darkest Arctic winter nights, our Emmanuel is truly with us in every sense of the word. That is the gospel of Christmas.

YVONNE BISWOKARMA

Utqiagvik Church head elder



Utqiagvik, Alaska residents faced harsh temperatures to participate in the Blue Christmas vigil walk

YOUTH

Caldwell Flames Pathfinder Club Wins Parade Award

THE CALDWELL FLAMES PATHFINDER CLUB WON THE NON-PROFIT DIVISION AWARD FOR “BEST USE OF LIGHTS” IN THE ANNUAL TREASURE VALLEY NIGHT LIGHT PARADE HELD IN CALDWELL, IDAHO. THE PRIZE CAME WITH \$300 AND A CERTIFICATE.



In January, parade organizers presented the plaque to the club. Shelly brought it to church where Lou Fitting, Caldwell Church Pastor, presented it in front of the congregation. The parade director is anxious to have the club enter again next year.

Club members handed out lots of candy along with 1,000 Signs of the Times, Our Little Friends and Primary Treasures. Donna Shelly, club director, reported that a man came up to her afterward and said, “Thank you for showing us Jesus.”

“We had so many awesome experiences and it was so cool to share Jesus,” said Shelly. “The club could not have done it without everyone’s help and support.”

Donations from the Caldwell Church were significant. Thanks and appreciation go to Will Richards, Aaron Casebolt-Richards, Bob Richards, Ted Rickwa, Sierra Bartlett, Ron and Pam Day, Kathy Casebolt, Melissa Perkins, Ashley Day, Lisa Hamilton, Steve Shelly, Steve Maidwell, Lenora Moore, Mildred and her family and, of course, all the Adventurers and Pathfinders.

Donna Shelly
Caldwell Flames Pathfinder club director



Club staff carried the Caldwell Flames banner ahead of the float.



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-ID-49

MISSION & OUTREACH

SALMON CHURCH HOLDS INTERNATIONAL FOOD FAIR

THE SALMON CHURCH in Idaho held an International Food Fair in their school gymnasium on Jan. 16. The entire city of Salmon was invited to join the event.

Guests were welcomed at the doors and directed to the food. Entering the gym, they were greeted by a welcome sign and flags of the world hanging on the walls. Tables were spaced around the gym, each with a flag representing the country from which their food originated. Guests were seated at tables decorated by the school children. Flag runners stretched down the center of each table, lined with place mats made from open napkins decorated to resemble a variety of world flags.

The International Food Fair featured volunteer chefs from the church and community, each representing 10 different countries.

Tom Lighthall, Salmon Church pastor, prepared Ukrainian borscht (beet soup) served with dollops of whipped up cream. His wife, Boots, along with Marie Worthe, represented Ireland with corned beef, cabbage and vegetables. Cooking for the Mexican table were Jakki Huston, Sharon Clark, Pegi Whitley, Linda Churches and Marie Davis. They served a variety of enchiladas, burritos, chips and salsa.

Germany's booth was represented by Dealia and Dera Hamilton and Linda Davis. They offered a unique dish called

beef rouladen — beef wrapped around a pickle and simmered in a sauce. They also served a delicious German fry-bread known as grable, to some, and dough gods, to others.

The Italian table, operated by Mary Rose Blakely, featured lasagna. Cooking for the Chinese station were Polly Barton and Betty Axtell who served fried rice,

orange chicken, spring rolls and lo mein.

Another special table offered several foods from the Philippines prepared by Charity White and Jerry Wycoff. They served suman, made of sweet rice, ginger, salt, sugar and coconut milk wrapped in banana leaves. Their second dish was arroz valenciana, made of sweet rice, jasmine rice, chicken, beef sausage, coconut milk, green peas and red pepper. Pancit Canton was their third dish made of noodles, chicken and vegetables. And finally, guests could choose their chicken barbecue or beef teriyaki skewers.

France's specialty was ratatouille served with or without rice and prepared by Babette Acker. She also had miniature cream puffs.

Diane Bailey and Lisa Whitman represented India. They made curried carrot soup and Indian desserts, laddoo and cucumber bundt cake. The American cuisine featured a variety of cupcakes by Gay Joers and a Dutch Oven dump cake with apple pie filling and spice cake prepared by Gary Goodman.

The International Food Fair was held as a fund-raiser for the Adventist parsonage. According to comments received by over 100 guests, the event was a resounding success. Many asked if the church was going to hold another food fair because they enjoyed this one so much.

SHIELA JOHNSON
Salmon Church member



The float won the best use of lights in the non-profit division.



Dealia Hamilton stands smiling behind the red crockpot of beef rouladen she made for the food fair. Standing behind her (left to right) are Dera Hamilton, Josh Pardo, Linda Hamilton, Jacob Hubb, Gregory Hubb and Polly Barton.

MORE ONLINE AT NWADVENT.ST/117-2-ID-23

Let's Start by Renewing Faith

I PRAY YOU and your loved ones are in good physical and spiritual health as the turn of the New Year has already come and gone. Despite all the challenges many of us are facing, I am so grateful for a God who loves us and is willing to hear our prayers for guidance during these difficult times. I encourage you to be faithful in your devotional life and allow God to use you to be a blessing to others. Jesus is coming soon, and the time to strengthen our faith and actively share Jesus with others is now.

On the topic of strengthening faith, this year's theme for the Montana Conference is

Renewing Faith and Restoring Hope. What does that mean, practically? We launched an exciting Bible Study opportunity for every Montana church member at the end of January. The Conference received a pallet of 36,400 Discover Bible guides from the Voice of Prophecy. Yes, that is correct, 36,400. We ordered 1,400 sets of the newly revised Discover Bible Study Guides. That is one set for every attending church member in our Conference. Our hope is that every church member will use 2022 as a time to renew their faith using these well-done, freshly updated lessons.

There is one more important way that all of us who have children can be involved



Ken Norton is the Montana Conference president.

in renewing our own faith and the faith of our young people. On January 28, I began hosting a Zoom prayer time on Friday mornings, specifically to pray for our children. If you have concerns for the spiritual welfare of your children or grandchildren and want to join others who have the same desire, please join us. You will need to register to receive the Zoom invitation by visiting our website and submitting your information. I have set up the registration for the simple purpose of having the names of those we will be praying for before the prayer session begins. Please call the Conference office if you have any questions.

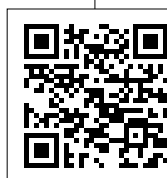
I look forward to claiming God's promises together, as was done in the book of Isaiah. "Shall the prey be taken from the mighty or the lawful captive delivered? But

thus says the Lord: 'Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible be delivered; For I will contend with him who contendeth with thee, and I will save your children' (Isaiah 49:24-25).

I look forward to seeing what God will do in the lives of all our children through our prayer time together. Register for this prayer time at montanaadventist.org/renewandrestore

May the peace and love of God fill your hearts as you faithfully serve him.

KEN NORTON
President, Montana
Conference of SDA



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-MT-15



BIBLE READINGS for MARCH

Follow the daily plan to read the entire Bible in a year.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Numbers 14-16; Psalm 95	2 Numbers 17-20	3 Numbers 21-24	4 Numbers 25-28	5
6 Numbers 29-32	7 Numbers 33-36	8 Deuteronomy 1-3	9 Deuteronomy 4-7	10 Deuteronomy 8-11	11 Deuteronomy 12-15	12
13 Deuteronomy 16-19	14 Deuteronomy 20-23	15 Deuteronomy 24-27	16 Deuteronomy 28-30	17 Deuteronomy 31-34	18 Joshua 1-2; Psalm 105	19
20 Joshua 3-6	21 Joshua 7-10	22 Joshua 11-14	23 Joshua 15-18	24 Joshua 19-22	25 Joshua 23-24; Judges 1	26
27 Judges 2-5	28 Judges 6-9	29 Judges 10-13	30 Judges 14-18	31 Judges 19-21		

Our 2022 Bible reading plan is laid out chronologically with Sabbaths off. Sign up for our newsletter and get the entire 2022 reading plan as a free gift.

nwadvent.st/FreeBiblePlan

CHURCH

Journey Church Begins New Journey in Bible Study

Pastors Jim John and Zach Parks will lead out in the series.



IN JANUARY, JOURNEY CHURCH (FORMERLY KELSO-LONGVIEW CHURCH) IN KELSO, WASHINGTON, BEGAN A NEW JOURNEY TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR COMMUNITY AND TO DIG DEEPER INTO SCRIPTURE.

“Our Sabbath sermon [came] from a passage in 1st Peter,” said Jim John, Journey Church senior pastor. “Then, during the week, our church family [met] in eight different community groups to read the Bible passage, discuss the sermon and find new ways to apply the message in our lives.”

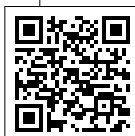
Journey pastors, Jim John and Zach Parks, shared nine sermons about how the Apostle Peter provides practical applications for living through hard times. They also provided study guides for the hosts leading community groups.

“The DNA of this church is very mission minded,” said John. “They have been very involved in reaching out and caring for others in the community. Then Covid happened, attendance

dropped and we got lonely. I guess that’s pretty normal right now, but people still desire and need connection.”

The Journey Church board came to agree. “[They] decided we could use an upgrade filled with hope,” said John. “One where we upgrade our worship, upgrade our relationships, upgrade our service and upgrade our outreach. We are not willing to have a defeatist mentality because of Covid. Instead, we’re focusing on the most challenging issues, showing how the Bible has good practical answers and providing opportunities for members to share God’s love together, regardless of Covid!”

DICK DUERKSEN
Oregon Conference storycatcher and storyteller



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-OR-87

YOUTH

TILLAMOOK PATHFINDERS AND ACS TAG TEAM IN OUTREACH

IN NOVEMBER 2021, Tillamook, Oregon’s Tidebearers Pathfinder Club was handed a large stack of sturdy boxes by their local Adventist Community Services organization.

Club members spent a Sunday creatively decorating the boxes with fall and Thanksgiving art, then returned them to ACS. The Sunday before Thanksgiving, the boxes were filled with everything needed for a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner. The Pathfinders then delivered the boxes to local families.

The Tidebearers took on the same project in December, this time wrapping the boxes in Christmas wrapping paper. On the Sunday before Christmas, they gathered at ACS to load and deliver the boxes to families in the community. They even brought Christmas gifts for the children in each family.

This joyful collaboration between the Pathfinder Club and Community Services has become a beloved tradition. It has been a blessing, year after year, for everyone involved!

JEANNETTE BETLINSKI-COLEMAN
Tillamook Church Pathfinder director



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/117-2-OR-98

CHURCH

Oregon Conference Says Farewell to Longtime Communication Director

NOTE: This article has been in process for too long! The Oregon Conference technically said "goodbye" to Gary in August 2021, yet we're still finding out just how much he did. We miss you every day, Gary! —The OC Communication Team



BEN DALUSONG

• Gary McLain

how he transformed a poor Powerpoint into a masterpiece. And, there are stories of how he listened, understood and provided just the right cable. Gary quietly adjusted the backdrop, moved the camera and fixed the problem before most even noticed something was breaking. He designed three different generations of websites for the Conference. He worked behind the scenes to make everyone and everything look better.

settled worries, focused toward the better. He also modeled the importance of scheduling wisely so that there would be quality time for family. Everyone felt safer when working next to him.

Gary is a wonderful photographer and found many ways to use the skill in his work. He photographed and videoed so many conference activities. Pathfinder fairs, Hispanic ministries events, children's ministries trainings,

women's retreats, four constituency sessions and 16 Gladstone Camp Meetings!

When Gary decided to leave conference employment to join his wife, Annette's, web development company, the office staff held a farewell lunch for him under the Gladstone oaks.

Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president, described his experience working with Gary. "Gary, for me, is a wonderful example of professional excellence. Gary is a team player, always there to help all of us lift together as one. Gary has always given his all, assuring that others received only the very best from our conference. His approach to communication has led the way for quality across the North American Division. Gary, you are a tremendous friend, a blessing to everyone who has had the privilege of serving with you. You made us better. We are going to miss you!"

DICK DUERKSEN
Oregon Conference storycatcher and storyteller



DICK DUERKSEN

• Gary often worked directly with camp meeting speakers and presenters, like here with John Bradshaw in 2021.

"I HAVE SO MANY good memories," Gary says, "especially memories of camp meetings past. Until I was six, my family attended the old 10-day Gladstone Camp Meeting. I remember staying in a camper by Oatfield Road, then later we had a cabin on the left side of the road going up the hill to where, now, there is a caretaker's house. I remember the old grocery store that stood where the Holden Center is now, with the ice shack out front where you could get blocks of ice for your ice box. And, of course, the masses of people all over campus. Good memories."

Everyone has a Gary story. There are tales of Gary saving people from embarrassment, how he helped fix a computer,

To connect with Gary was to experience calm. He is kind, courteous, patient, focused, wise, willing and able. Gary's door was always open, and he listened with understanding and calm. He assuaged fears,

More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-OR-84



YOUTH

Young Adults Retreat to Big Lake

BY 6:00 P.M. the January sun has already set at Big Lake. “This time of year, it’s usually dark by the time they pick us up,” said Tylor Watts, one of the young adults attending this year’s Oregon Young Adults and Big Lake Staff Winter Retreat. “It’s cool going through the trees at night on the snow cat.”

After being brought into the snow-buried camp, settling into cabins and getting together for a meal and worship service, things finally felt a little bit like they used to.

“What was different this year was that the lodge was new,” said Tylor. “That was a key thing for me. I’ve been going to Big Lake for basically my whole life. It was interesting because it still felt like the old lodge but upgraded and more modern. There were obviously a few things that were different, but overall, it still felt like the lodge.”

Worship leader Markis Zarate played the song, “House of Miracles” a few times throughout the weekend, and Tylor remembers Markis sharing his thoughts on how



TYLOR WATTS

people and do something like this after being so cooped up,” said Tylor. The Winter Retreat provided the chance to do what Big Lake does

the lodge and Big Lake itself was a house of miracles during COVID—how it was built in such a short period of time, and how it would bless the people that come through for years into the future.

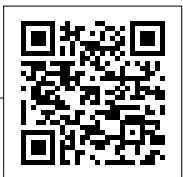
Aside from fun snow activities like tubing, Tylor appreciated the opportunity to reflect and explore the beauty of God’s nature. “The moon was so bright you could walk around at night without a flashlight,” he said. “I could see my own shadow in it. We went to the outskirts of camp really late to take a few night photos. It was so calm and beautiful and serene looking up at the stars and around at the untouched snow with the mountain in the distance.”

“It’s nice to have the chance to meet some new

best—reconnect its visitors with their community, their earth and their God.

KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference contributor

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/117-2-OR-02



LES ZOLLBRECHT

- The winter retreat provided the chance to do what Big Lake does best — reconnect its visitors with their community, their earth and their God.

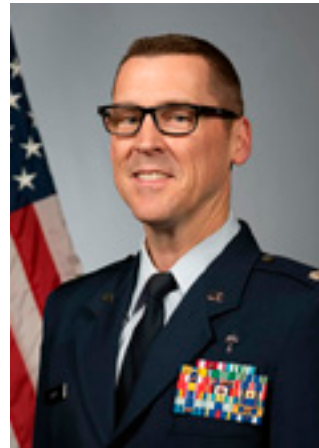
MISSION & OUTREACH

Oasis Christian Center Honors Veterans' Sacrifice

OASIS CHRISTIAN CENTER IN VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON HONORED VETERANS' SACRIFICE WITH A SPECIAL SABBATH CELEBRATION, NOV. 6, 2021. THE CEREMONY FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER, LT. COL. RANDY CROFT, 509TH BOMB WING CHAPLAIN, WHO IS ALSO THE FOUNDING PASTOR OF OASIS CHRISTIAN CENTER.

"This is an opportunity for us to connect with our community," said Kara Johnsson, Oasis pastor. "By recognizing veterans for their service, we embrace them within our spiritual community [where] they can receive a blessing."

Johnsson's husband, Terry Johnsson is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force Presidential Honor Guard and serves as a church elder. He welcomed guests to the ceremony. Caroline (Missi) Koller, Pfc. U.S. Army and an Oasis church elder, invited God's presence with an opening prayer. Sarah Fox, Vancouver City Council



• Lt. Col. Randy Croft, 509th Bomb Wing chaplain at Whiteman Air Force Base spoke at the service.

Member and U.S. Army Intelligence Officers (Bosnia), gave a short speech thanking veterans for their service.

The colorful event included Patriot Guard Riders who lined the church walkway with flags.

As a continuous snare drum rolled, members of the Prairie High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp posted colors inside the church, then saluted while Annette Allen, U.S. Air Force (Vietnam) played America the Beautiful on bagpipes.

Oasis church member, Lt. Col. Lonnie Pierce, (retired) U.S. Air Force (Afghanistan), introduced a scroll of honor that listed over 200 names of Oasis family members and friends, past and present,

who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Taps was played in memory of those who have died and the poem, "I Am A Veteran" by Andrea C. Brett, was read by 2nd Lt. Donald Cobbs, U.S. Air Force Pararescue (Vietnam). It was a moving tribute to all of them.

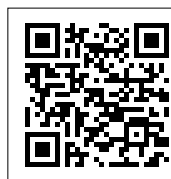
Croft's poignant message was rooted in scripture. Filled with anecdotes from historical events and his own military experiences, he shared that God is a God of freedom who sent His son Jesus on a twofold mission: to free us from our sins for eternal life and to free us from oppression in this life. He said, as followers of Jesus, our mission here at home is also twofold.

Croft cautioned us not to get so focused on an eternal life "way beyond the blue" that we ignore people who are oppressed in our world today. At the same time, he said we should not only focus on freeing people from oppression, but also getting hearts connected to Jesus Christ for eternity.

Pierce affirmed Pastor Kara Johnsson's sentiment, "For veterans, military service often defines them as a person, so it is important to connect with them on this level. This worship service was very meaningful."

CARYN PIERCE
Oasis Christian Center reporter

The Patriot Guard Riders lined the walkway leading to the church with flags and welcomed guests.



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-OR-97 +

EDUCATION



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-OR-83

MGAES Holds Geography Bee

ON JANUARY 14, OWEN FLECK, A SEVENTH-GRADER AT MEADOW GLADE ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WON THE SCHOOL'S GEOGRAPHY BEE COMPETITION FOR THE THIRD TIME. IT WAS OWEN'S FOURTH TIME COMPETING IN THE ANNUAL SCHOOL BEE.

Following Fleck's first win as a fourth-grader in 2019, he advanced to the state National Geographic Bee competition.

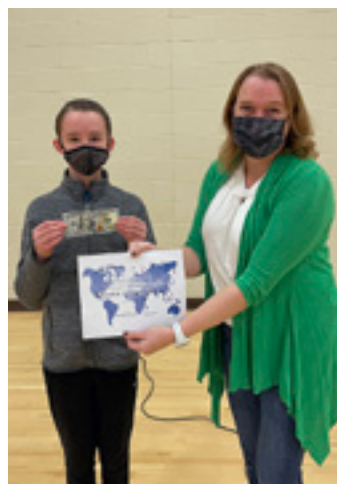
Last year, when the National Geographic Bee was postponed, Malaika Childers, MGAES fifth-sixth grade teacher, organized a virtual school-sponsored bee with representatives from grades three-eight.

It is a long-standing tradition for MGAES students to do well at the National Geographic Bee, and occasionally even sends students to the state competitions. So when this year's event was permanently cancelled, organizing a school-sponsored event was prioritized.

This year's hybrid event was modeled after a structure similar to last year's. After taking a written test to determine eligibility, the contestants met in the gym with Ric Peinado, principal; Childers, bee coordinator; and Josh MacLachlan, athletic director and geography bee

assistant.

Although MGAES is meeting in-person for learning, it is still a closed campus to visitors. So, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles logged onto Zoom to watch the event from the comfort of their homes. Simultaneously, fellow students watched from their classrooms as the event was projected on classroom screens.



• Malaika Childers MGAES teacher and event organizer, congratulates Owen Fleck on his first place accomplishment.

Fleck and Roegan Jones were the final two contestants participating in the championship round. Fleck became the 2022 geography bee winner by correctly answering a question about the Great Lakes.



• Roegan Jones accepts his award for second place.

With appreciation for participating, Roegan commented, "I am thankful I was in the geography bee because I like being 'friendly rivals' with my friends."

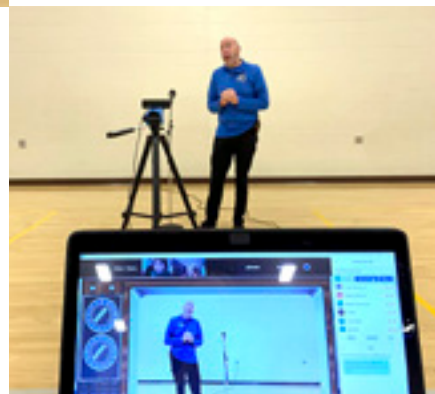
"I liked that it wasn't in-person with a bunch of people staring at me," said Fleck. "I feel like there is less pressure when there isn't a giant audience."

The competitors at MGAES included fourth-graders, Jacob Bolotnikov, Ian Dowie and Josiah Perrin; sixth-graders, Jordan Hall, Avery Heinrichs and Paxton MacKenzie, seventh-graders, Owen Fleck and Roegan Jones;

and eighth-grader, Selah Hurtado.

Peinado said, "For the second year in a row, Mrs. Childers has pulled off an outstanding School Geography Bee for the benefit of all our students in grades three through eight. All of our participants are to be commended for their accomplishments of being grade level representatives. It was quite exciting to participate in a hybrid bee (with students being virtual and in-person). A huge shout-out to our geography bee [winners, Owen Fleck in first place, and Roegan Jones in second]."

MALAIKA CHILDERS
Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School fifth- and sixth-grade teacher



• Ric Peinado, MGAS principal, welcomed in-person contestants as well as a virtual audience: students on Zoom in their classrooms, and family and friends watching from remote locations.



STUDENTS BRING THE MANGER TO LIFE IN LINCOLN CITY

“DON’T BE SAD, Little Joshua. God has a special place for those who feel left out.”

When Abigail spoke those words, her voice cracked, just a little, but enough to let parents and friends feel the emotion of the moment. The school Christmas play was bringing Bethlehem’s manger to life on the church stage.

Abigail is a fourth-grader at Lincoln City Christian School in Oregon, where only 10% of students are Adventist. The students were standing in front of the congregation dressed as sheep, shepherds, kings, an innkeeper and Mary and Joseph. Abigail was dressed as a Holstein cow, the best friend of Little Joshua, a lamb who had been born with a crippled leg.

The pandemic has been a challenge for parents with elementary-age children. So when parents in Lincoln City learned the Adventist school was open and meeting in-person each day, they began enrolling their children. School attendance nearly tripled!

It was Sabbath, and they were all in church — parents, grandparents, neighbors and children — sharing the Christmas celebration play: *The Crippled Lamb*.

Everything went just as you would expect. The “sheep” were darling! Some of the “lambs” forgot where to stand. The background music missed its cue. Microphones were occasionally lost inside a costume. And the baby Jesus — lost beneath the manger — was found by an observant “sheep.”

Everyone laughed and cried at the right times. Jesus was there, and it was wonderful!

DICK DUERKSEN
Oregon Conference storycatcher and storyteller



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/117-2-OR-86

Albany Welcomes New Members

THE ALBANY CHURCH was blessed to host a series of evangelistic seminars during the month of October. Robert Zama, Oregon Conference field evangelist, presented the series *Hope Dawning: Overcoming Fear Through Bible Prophecy*.

Flyers were mailed out to the surrounding towns resulting in the preregistration of nearly 70 people. Local church members contacted family members who had slipped away from a regular relationship with Jesus. Both new and familiar people eagerly showed up as the seminars began on the evening of Oct. 9. Altogether, there were nearly 100 guests on the first night!



Zama’s enthusiasm for the word of God and his love for Jesus were evident in his presentations. Serious points of the message were well-balanced with animated expressions and moments of laughter. Topics typically harder to understand were well-received. As the decision cards returned, it was evident that many hearts were convicted. Jesus was very important to each individual life.

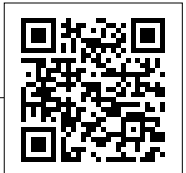
Sabbath, Oct. 30, was a day of joy as the congregation witnessed Berry Taylor, Albany Church pastor, baptize six people and welcome them into church fellowship.

In Zama’s last presentation, he shared about the unimaginable beauty of our heavenly home, and about the most precious gift given to mankind — the Holy Spirit.

The day of celebration was topped off by a fellowship meal. Albany is known for its haystack meals, so no one left hungry or disappointed. It was a high Sabbath.

JEANIE HOOPER REED
Albany Church secretary

More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-OR-99 +



CHURCH

Why I Said 'Yes'



• Nancy Canwell, Milton Church associate pastor

STANDING IN AN oversized robe, I waited my turn to be baptized. That's when it happened. That's when I heard, in my head and heart, God's voice calling me to be a pastor. The year was 1967 and the Adventist Church didn't even have women local elders then. "Why did you say, 'Yes' to your call?" some have asked. Perhaps these stories can help answer that question.

SHARING LIFE

A phone call from the hospital interrupted our Christmas Eve celebration. Elle, a 16-year-old girl, had tried to end life. She asked to see a pastor. I sat next to her bed and placed my hands in hers. Looking at her bandaged wrists made me feel a little woozy.

I did my best to bring hope to this girl who had none. I told her that hope for her troubled world arrived 2,000 years ago in the form of a Baby who was *her* Wonderful Counselor, *her* Mighty God, *her* Everlasting Father and *her* Prince of Peace.

Jesus became real to Elle on that silent night. She made the decision to live! And I was so glad I'd said "Yes."

SHARING SALVATION

I was a guest speaker at a church where I preached on surrender. Afterward, a man walked up and said, "I've been away from God for 17 years. This morning something told me to go to church, and this church was the closest. Your sermon reached me. I've given my life back to God."

By Monday, Jeff was a quadriplegic. He'd fallen out of a tree and damaged his spinal cord. He broke every bone in his upper back and sustained multiple other injuries.

For the next three months, all Jeff could do was move his eyeballs. He had a lot of time to pray – and pray he did! His revived friendship with Jesus gave him hope.

Every time I hear of something wonderful God has

done through Jeff, I rejoice with him, and in my heart, I am glad I said "Yes."

SHARING HOPE

As one of Rick's pastors, I stood beside him at his wife's graveside service. While the casket was being lowered into the ground, I looked him in the eye and said with conviction, "She's not staying in there, Rick," reminding him that Jesus had won the ultimate battle against death. Leaving that graveside of sorrow mixed with hope, I was glad I'd said "Yes."

I've officiated at many funerals during my ministry, never knowing that the texts used to comfort others would someday comfort me – the Pastor. In 2020, I helped officiate my own husband's graveside service after his 15-month battle with glioblastoma. There were times during his illness, and especially after his death, that I wondered if I could go on pastoring. I was mentally and physically exhausted, and didn't know if I had enough left to give.

But that same voice I heard when I was 10-years-old kept calling me back. And I listened. And I'm so glad I said "Yes," once again.

I want to preach it because I'm not ashamed of the good news. It is God's power to save everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16, NIRV).

* All names are pseudonyms

NANCY CANWELL
Milton Church associate pastor

MISSION & OUTREACH

One Shoe Does Not Fit All

IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG TO GET A SENSE OF COMMUNITY NEEDS IN DOWNTOWN SPOKANE. WITH A POPULATION OF WELL OVER 500,000, THE SPOKANE, WASHINGTON AND COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO AREA HAS SIGNIFICANT GAPS IN SERVICES FOR THOSE IN CRISIS.

Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference urban ministries director, worked with leaders of Total Health Spokane to better coordinate Adventist programs throughout the area.

They started by applying for a grant through Mission to the Cities, an initiative introduced by the General Conference to provide funding for urban outreach.

Early in 2020, the grant was awarded to Renew Spokane, UCC's new urban outreach. Distributed over the course of five years, the \$1 million grant will strengthen Spokane's outreach ministries.

Renew Spokane combines the efforts of several city outreaches supported by local churches. Their unifying purpose is to meet people's unique needs with no strings attached.

"...One shoe does not fit all," said Marsh. "Our world is changing quickly, and [people's] needs evolve. Health topics are important to some; the needs of children abound, but not all have children. Over the last two years, mental health issues affect many individuals. Refugees face multiple challenges. With these few examples, you see that one

outreach alone would reach only a sliver of Spokane."

In its two years of collaboration, Renew Spokane has grown and increased involvement in the community.

One of Renew Spokane's programs, STEAM Ahead at Discovery Junction, provides free summer classes for community children. During the school year, local public school students come after school to enrich their understanding of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM).

Early in the pandemic, Gayle Haeger, UCC urban ministries coordinator, asked the school how Discovery Junction could help students. "They asked us if we could provide a safe place with wireless internet to help children who were having difficulty staying on task at home," said Haeger. "We served eight children over several months. The teachers and administrators expressed deep gratitude for that service."

Another well-established outreach project is the Better Living Center. The BLC provides the Spokane area with close to half a million pounds of

food annually, and offers free health and wellness classes.

God's Closet collects new and gently-used clothing and has a Shop Day every three months. For a \$1 entry fee, families are able to leave with bags full of clothing for their whole family.

His Travelers, a group of young adults, assisted Renew Spokane with programs for children and teens. For eight weeks last summer, they led a Vacation Bible School in the park.

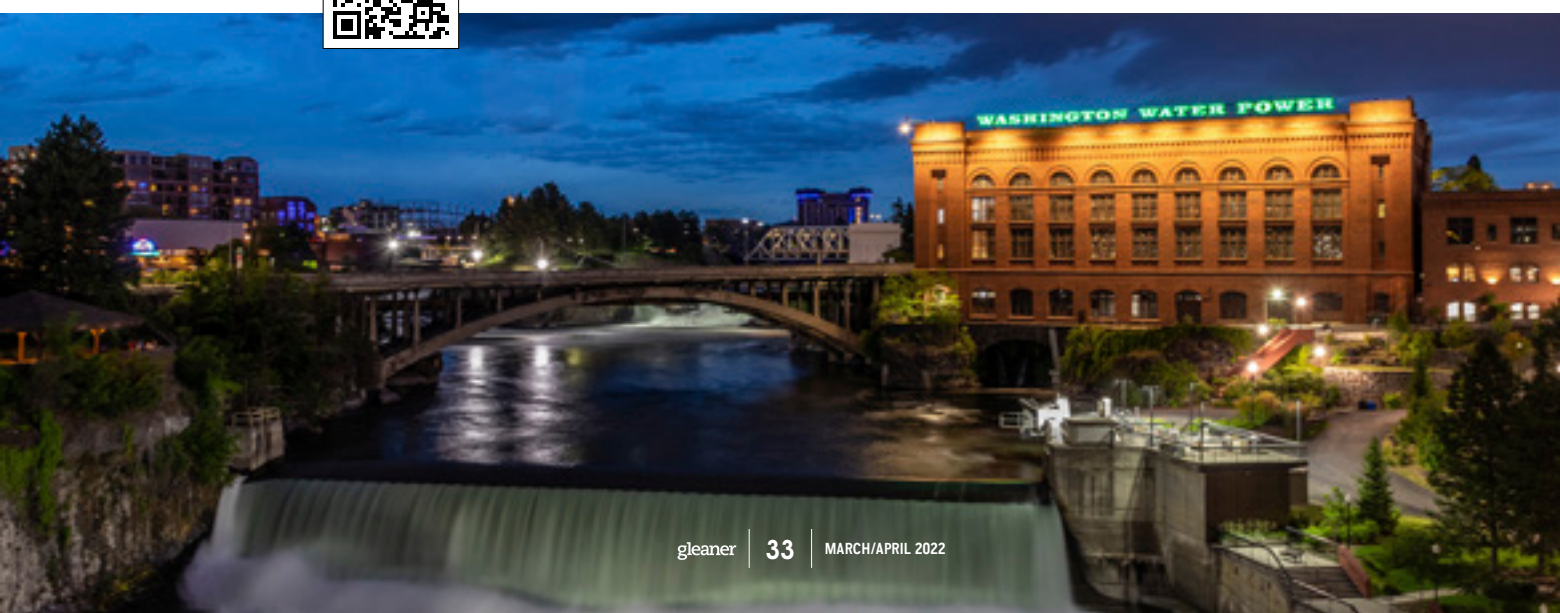
Renew Spokane's collaboration is impactful. "There is Holy Spirit power and efficiency in strategically planning and working together," said Marsh. "In God's power, great good can result! Our team looks forward to involving more members and more churches in supporting the ideas and visions of how they can reach out as God opens doors."

To learn more about Renew Spokane and its many outreach efforts, visit renewspokane.org.

MAKENA HORTON
Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-UC-64



EDUCATION

UCA Celebrates 38 Baptisms

UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY CELEBRATED THE BAPTISMS OF 38 PEOPLE DURING GRADUATION WEEKEND IN JUNE 2021.

Initially, the service included a few baptisms for students whose families would be present during graduation weekend. Upon witnessing their commitment, other students, staff members, parents and UCA alumni lined up to be baptized at that time.

More than two hours into what became a nearly three and a half-hour baptismal service, Sid Hardy, chaplain and bible teacher at UCA, commented on how the blessings kept rolling in. "Today, I've lost count," said Hardy. "Every time I go back there, I think, 'Okay, we've got three more left,' and then I go back there, and there's more than three left. It's just multiplying."

Families approached the baptismal to get a close-up view as their loved ones publicly proclaimed their love for Christ. Eventually, the stage surrounding the baptismal was flooded with people showing support.

Clair Barrutia, volunteer dean of women, was among the many who were baptized. Barrutia

was previously a student at UCA and returned to serve as a dean following her graduation from Walla Walla University.

"God works in really mysterious ways," said Barrutia from the baptismal tank. "I told him to give me a sign tonight because I've been thinking about this for a while. I was like, 'Oh, I'll do it next year or something.' Then Franny got up here, and she said, 'why wait?'"

Barrutia echoed the sentiment, "Yeah, why wait when you've got today?"

In addition to the 38 baptized that evening, many other lives were touched, including two younger children in the audience, who later shared with their

family that they wanted to attend UCA for high school and to be baptized as well.

"Baptism is a witness," Hardy shared with the crowd. "It is a witness of your life, it is a witness of your decision, of something that has already happened in your heart. Now you are doing this as a witness, and it's exciting."

For more information on Upper Columbia Academy and how to apply, see uca.org/apply.

MAKENA HORTON
Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/117-2-UC-96

Students and family members crowded the stage to show their support for those committing their lives to Christ.



PROVIDED BY UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY

CHURCH

UCC Welcomes Newly Dedicated Mabton Spanish Church

THE MABTON Spanish Company was officially organized as the Mabton Spanish Church at a dedication service on Nov. 20, 2021.

The former Mabton Spanish Company was originally conceptualized in the fall of 2015 by Erik Van Doren, a member of the Grandview Spanish Church. Doren shared with the leaders of his church that a church building in Mabton could be acquired through an arrangement with the City of Mabton.

Doren and the Grandview Spanish Church leaders were soon in agreement. The Grandview Spanish Church leaders allowed the Mabton Spanish Company to occupy the church building rent-free for four years with the understanding that they would bring the building up to code.

In February 2016, Tito Espinoza, who was leading the Mabton church plant project, worked with Walter Pintos, director of multicultural ministries at Upper Columbia Conference, to move forward with the church plant. With the blessing of the conference, a plan was developed.

On Oct. 12, 2016, Espinoza held a meeting to recruit



• Front row, from left: Walter Pintos, UCC multicultural ministries director; Florencio Bueno, pastor of Mabton Spanish Church; Jose Ochoa, Mabton Spanish Church elder; Eric Brown, UCC ministerial director

members from each of the district's Spanish churches to form the team that would initially work at the Mabton church plant. Seventeen baptized church members stepped forward and accepted the mission to spread the gospel to the Mabton community.

The Mabton church plant became an official Mission Group in December 2016, and on Oct. 27, 2017, it was officially recognized as Mabton Spanish Company. Members of the company handed out printed materials throughout the

community. The began praying with residents and holding Bible studies. It continued to grow, and today it's a church of 41 members.

Florencio Bueno, Mabton Spanish Church pastor, has been with the congregation since 2019. He says the church has a strong focus on community outreach, with programs that support children and families, feed homeless individuals and provide support groups.

"Mabton is an impoverished territory with

migrant farm-worker families, a high level of crime and a lack of sociocultural activities," said Bueno. "This is a great opportunity to impact the community through our Christian love, using events such as weekly breakfast for the homeless on Sundays, monthly events for children in the community and our women's and men's ministry programs."

MAKENA HORTON
Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/117-2-UC-71



East Wenatchee Opens God's Closet

ROMANS 12:13 (NIV) REMINDS US TO, "SHARE WITH THE LORD'S PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED." THE EAST WENATCHEE CHURCH, IN WASHINGTON, SET OUT TO ANSWER THIS CALL BY OPENING A BRANCH OF GOD'S CLOSET.

God's Closet supports families in need of children's clothing. Beryl Comm, organizer and coordinator, works with volunteer church members to host the event every few months at the church. During the past two years, it has served hundreds of families in the community.

Clothing donations are made in a drop box outside the church. Volunteers then organize the children's clothes by size and gender, just like in department stores.

On the day of the event, volunteers guide shoppers into the church fellowship hall to shop.

Guests are charged just \$1 to shop in God's Closet. They are given plastic bags to fill with the clothes of their choosing. After making their way through the clothing and accessories, people are given the opportunity to talk and pray with a church member, or to express interest in joining a Bible study.

On the last event of the year, Dec. 3, 2021, God's Closet gifted out over 200 loaves of pumpkin bread.

The impact God's Closet has had on many people from the community has been truly inspiring. Comm, reflected on God's Closet coming to the East Wenatchee Church, "At Bible study, at our home, we realized we were being a self-centered group and that we needed to do more for others. Meanwhile, our previous pastor's



wife had heard about God's Closet. She called me and said our group should work to put on God's Closet at our church. That was the beginning. Fast-forward, and we are now serving at least 300 families four times a year."

The organizers of God's Closet take joy knowing they're reaching so many people from the community. But there's another blessing, too. "It's so rewarding to see our Bible study group still active and invested with God's Closet today," Comm said. "What better way to serve the Lord than to help His people in need?"

Church members have prayed with many people from the community, and the efforts of God's Closet have even resulted in two baptisms. The event

has been an incredible demonstration of the positive impact a church family can have on their community when working effectively as a team. It has also been an outstanding outreach program for spreading God's word to those who need His love during these trying times.

"We ask for prayers for more people in need from the community to continue to come and receive clothes and be introduced to the love of God! We thank you for your support!" said Comm.

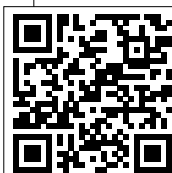
KASEY BAIS

God's Closet volunteer

- People pay \$1 to shop in God's Closet. They are given plastic bags to fill with the clothes of their choosing. After making their way through the clothing and accessories, people are given the opportunity to talk and pray with a church member, or to express interest in joining a Bible study.



- Two years, after God's Closet's launch, East Wenatchee Church is helping at least 300 families four times a year.



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-UC-25

MISSION & OUTREACH

SonBridge Makes a Remarkable Find

IN AN UNREMARKABLE box of miscellaneous books, a book belonging to Mrs. Ellen G. White's private library was discovered at SonBridge, a College Place, Washington thrift store.

SonBridge is more than a thrift store. It's a place that provides opportunities for people to receive help while preserving their dignity. Their volunteers and staff are passionate about helping the community.

Not long ago, Connie, a SonBridge volunteer, was glancing through boxes of donated books. As always, she was sorting through ordinary, much-loved books when she picked up one that appeared more interesting than the rest. The book was titled *Anecdotes and Illustrations of D. L. Moody*. It was published in Chicago in 1877, and for being published 140+ years ago, it was in great shape.

The bookplate inside read, "Private Library of Mrs. E.G. White." Below, a handwritten note said, "Presented to R. W. Munson by Elder W. C. White, June 2, 1916."

Connie wondered, "Was this the 'real' thing? What was the background of this book?"

How did it get from Ellen White's library to SonBridge? What is the value of this book, and how do we let people know that this book is available?"

Connie showed the book to several other volunteers and employees at SonBridge, and it reminded Connie of the many people that E. G. White led to Christ and the impact she had on the world.

Norman Thiel, SonBridge Center for Better Living executive director, used the newly discovered book for a group worship. The group marveled at what good shape the book was in and wondered about its history. Many volunteers and staff at SonBridge have been greatly influenced by White's writings and by her life, so everyone wanted to make sure this special book found a good home.

The next day, Vera Bohlman, SonBridge Thrift & Gift Store manager, showed the book to volunteers and employees. During this time of COVID-19, social distancing and not getting out much, the book really put smiles on people's faces and created an air of mystery. What would be done with the book?

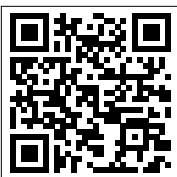


After conducting some research, SonBridge decided on an auction. Online auction bidders were very interested. In the end, a person from Silver Spring, Maryland purchased it for more than \$1,000.

A good home was found, but best of all, the money received is helping to further meet the SonBridge mission and vision: To bring hope and wholeness to the Walla Walla Valley, and to build a community where God's unconditional love is expressed through resources and services to revitalize the whole person.

No one knows what will show up at SonBridge. But one thing is certain, donations are used to bring hope and wholeness. No one knows who will show up at SonBridge. Yet, the volunteers and staff provide what is needed and make sure each person knows they are "a remarkable find."

BETTY FARLEY
SonBridge communication and development manager



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-UC-00



Adventurers Experience God's Love Across Cultures



A NUMBER OF FIRSTS WERE CELEBRATED AT THE UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE'S ADVENTURER AWARDS DAY EVENT.

- » First in-person Conference Adventurer event since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic
- » First Conference Adventurer event hosted in Wenatchee
- » First Conference Adventurer event hosted by a Hispanic church

Steffany Pacheco, Wenatchee Soldaditos de Jesus Adventurer Club director, had an idea to hold an event to teach about different countries. At the Wenatchee Spanish Church there are people from many countries and the club is made up of families representing many cultures.

Club leaders were excited to team with Steffany to implement the idea. The event was planned initially

for the fall of 2020, but it was postponed for pandemic safety.

With face coverings and sanitizing protocols, the event was able to take place this year with participants attending safely. Approximately 70 members and parents attended the event – some from as far away as St. Maries, Idaho. Marco Larumbe, Wenatchee Hispanic Church pastor and members of his congregation, were very supportive and hospitable, offering the full church building and yard for the event. They also provided juice and pre-packaged snacks for attendees to enjoy during registration.

The event started with a short worship time and welcome. The newest Adventurer Club in the Conference, Spokane Spanish

- The host club, Wenatchee Soldaditos de Jesus, assisted church members with serving lunch.

Warriors of Jesus, led the recitation of the pledges and the law, and helped the Soldaditos de Jesus club lead the song service. The program continued with a series of awards, one for each class level.

The awards presented were:

- » Little Lambs, Bible Friends taught by Rachele Lebold
- » Curious Cubs and Eager Beavers, Recycling taught by Leonie Goertzen
- » Busy Bees and Sunbeams, Music Maker taught by Leticia Bartha
- » Builders, Olympics taught by Linda Schaffer
- » Helping Hands, Geologist taught by Jennifer Watson

After the first set of classes, the Soldaditos de Jesus and members of the congregation served a lunch made up of foods from different countries. Foods like papusas, enchiladas and empanadas were served, kicking off the afternoon activities.

Following lunch, the Adventurers learned about five different countries: Argentina, presented by Andrea Larumbe; El Salvador, presented by Steffany Pacheco; Mexico, presented by Tony and Teresita Guerrero; Nicaragua, presented by Martha Reyes; and Sweden, presented by Larumbe.

Jesus traveled to different countries and cultures sharing the gospel with all people. He has commissioned us to do the same. Larumbe shared that he had always dreamed of visiting Sweden. God opened the door for him and his family to spend time working at a Spanish Adventist church in Sweden. That opportunity helped him love that country and the people there even more.

Experiences like this special Awards Day help inspire the Adventurers and their parents to do as Jesus did – to love all kinds of people and “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15, KJV).

ANITA LEBOLD
Upper Columbia Conference
Adventurers head coordinator



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-2-UC-63](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/117-2-uc-63)

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MISSION & OUTREACH

Healthcare Hero Honored

ON HER DAY OFF FROM WORK, ESTHER JAIME BROUGHT A SMALL GROUP OF YOUNG ADULTS TO SUNSET LAKE CAMP FOR A CHURCH PLANTING BOOT CAMP.

Midway through the training, Jaime slipped out of the room to watch a virtual awards ceremony.

As an acute care nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup, Washington, she had been nominated as a finalist for the Washington State Heroes in Action Awards as sponsored by Multicare and March of Dimes. The Heroes in Action Award honors outstanding nurses and providers across Washington state for their impact on the lives of their patients, colleagues and communities through leadership, care and compassion.

"I've been a nurse for 25 years," said Jaime. "This year has been the hardest of my entire career, not only because of COVID, but also because I lost my dad to this devastating pandemic."

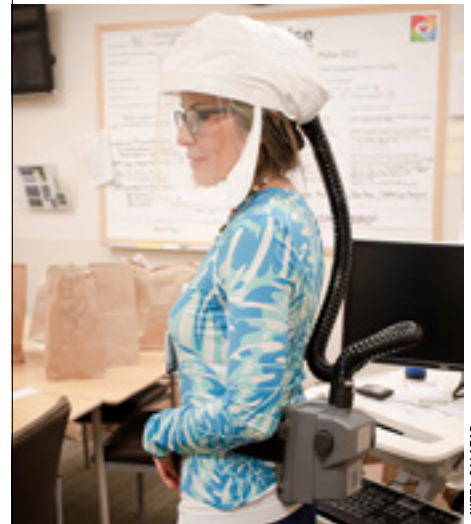
"As a nurse you wipe your tears and move on to encourage others, to pray with others and to give hope," Jaime shared. "You hold off your overwhelming emotions, you take a second to compose yourself, and smile, assuring them that you will do anything and everything to help them survive."

She recalled the time a patient pleaded with her. "Please promise me I will not die." With compassion and empathy in her heart, Jaime made a different promise. "I promise I will be by your side fighting this as hard as we can."

Jaime and her acute care team at Multicare's Good Samaritan Hospital have fought as hard as they can against many odds.

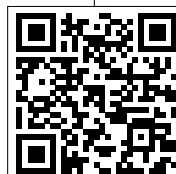
There are three ways Jaime manages the stress of pandemic nursing. She shares daily Bible verses with her church family in the Tacoma/Lakewood Hispanic district, where her husband, Arturo Jeronimo, pastors. She actively looks for ways to encourage women and young adults around her. Jaime also manages stress by hiking to epic Pacific Northwest locations. She packs a beautiful dress to wear at the destination where a family member or friend takes her picture.

Hiking reminds Jaime of the beauty in the journey. It gives her perspective and encourages her to keep moving forward.



"Nursing takes special people," Jaime said. "I believe that I'm merely representing the many heroes of my unit, because I couldn't be a hero without them."

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
Washington Conference communication director



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-2-WA-88](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/117-2-wa-88)

NITZA SALAZAR

NITZA SALAZAR

EDUCATION

Rachal Flavors Her World with Love



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-2-WA-01](https://www.nwadventist.org/stories/117-2-WA-01)

IT'S 5:30 A.M. in Auburn, Washington and Chef Zuzana Rachal is preparing breakfast for her school family at Auburn Adventist Academy.

Whether Rachal has the morning or daytime shift, she finds great joy in providing quality and diverse food for young people.

"There are two parts that I 100% love about my job: working with young people and being part of their lives, and creating international foods," said Rachal. "I love Googling and learning new [recipes]. Sometimes I've never made a dish before. I love the challenge of making something new."

Rachal made a commitment early in her career to integrate international flavors into her school menus. She invites students and faculty to share ethnic flavors and recipe requests that she can then recreate for the whole school family, often in consultation with local chefs and cooks regarding specific flavors or techniques.

"I absolutely love experiencing different cultures through food here at the café," Rachal said. "All from scratch, of course!"

For Hispanic heritage month in September, Auburn students tasted vegetarian

Ropa Vieja (Cuban), Mexican Piccadilly, Honduran rice, Salvadoran pupusas and curtido, plus tamales and plantains.

Other times, the menu features Thai, Mediterranean, Korean, Caribbean, African, Pacific Islander or German flavors. Close to Rachal's heart are the sweet and savory dishes from her home country, the Czech Republic.

"We are so blessed at Auburn Adventist Academy to have Chef Zuzana Rachal in our family," said Peter Fackenthal, principal. "The food in our cafeteria is so amazing."

Rachal is in her eighth year as Auburn's food service director and head chef, and she loves being at Auburn.

"I prayed about being somewhere close to where my children would be in academy," Rachal said. "God answered that prayer when the academy called me and offered me a job in food service."

Her responsibilities include creating menus,



AAA MEDIA PRODUCTION

Chef Zuzana Rachal finds great joy in preparing International flavors for her school family at Auburn Adventist Academy.

ordering food, managing a team of cafeteria helpers, cooking for 200, catering special events, fulfilling legendary cake decorating requests and even washing dishes.

When schools were strictly remote in the pandemic, Rachal used her extra time making baked goods. She made artisan breads, sandwich breads, sweet breads, pastries and other delicacies for the Auburn community to pre-purchase and pick up.

"I believe [food service] is all about teamwork," Rachal

said. "When you are making food for 200 people, it's not about you. I appreciate all of my student and adult workers—a lot of people come together and get it done."

Watch a video by AAA media production students and see Rachal at work in the kitchen: [nwadventist.org/stories/117-2-WA-LOVE](https://www.nwadventist.org/stories/117-2-WA-LOVE)

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
Washington Conference
communication director

EDUCATION

Partners in Prayer Cover LCAS

TEN YEARS AGO, KAREN KUGEL SAW A NEED FOR A SCHOOL PRAYER MINISTRY AT LEWIS COUNTY ADVENTIST SCHOOL.

At the time, Kugel was board chair for the Chehalis, Washington school and had organized prayer walks during the construction of a new facility.



Karen Kugel believes in covering Lewis County Adventist School and her Chehalis church family in prayer.

The prayer walk is now a valued tradition. At the beginning of each school year, pastors and members from constituent churches meet together to pray for students, families and school staff.

Currently, Kugel partners in prayer with Lyvern Reising from the Chehalis church. The two meet weekly during the school

year to take prayer requests from students and to pray for school family requests.

Over the years, the goal has remained consistent: to cover everyone who enters the school building with prayer—the students, families, teachers and the entire school community.

“We want LCAS students to know that the church supports them, cares for them and is praying for their needs,” Kugel said.

In addition to her school prayer ministry, Kugel serves as an elder at Chehalis Church, leads the church’s prayer ministry and helps with additional ministry roles.

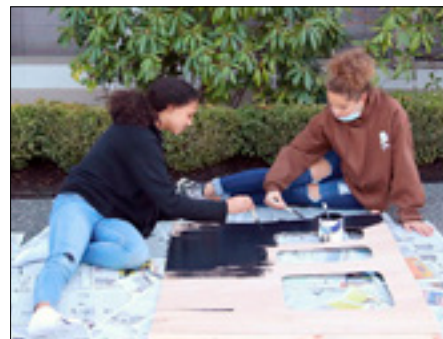
“God’s telephone number is Jeremiah 33:3,” Kugel said. “Call to me and I will answer and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

Kugel believes God has called her into the prayer ministry. She is passionate and intentional because of that call. She shared that once you get onto her prayer list, you are on the list forever—she will continue to cover you in prayer. What a blessing to know that current and former students and families of LCAS continue to be covered in prayer!

MERCY MVUNDURA
Lewis County Adventist School board member



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-WA-82



SEQUIM SAYS “ALL ABOARD” TO COMMUNITY FAMILIES

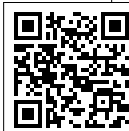
THE SEQUIM CHURCH in Sequim, Washington, recently launched a combo ministry night to better engage with young families in the community. The events feature a kids’ night out and parent date night.

Once a month, 14 teens with adult mentors lead an action-packed, hands-on Vacation Bible School-like program for community children. The Rocky Railway program features a kid-friendly meal, songs, stories, active games, crafts and model railroading. Parents aren’t left out either in this Saturday night package. They receive a free \$10 restaurant voucher to use during their three-hour date night.

In keeping with the railway theme, the teens help community kids operate a HO scale model railway. Children younger than six operate a wooden Brio train and watch the older children operate the electric railway. Each teen is assigned an adult mentor to be in the room and available for feedback and direction as they gain skills in leading younger children.

Family Nights began in November 2021 and will continue through April 2022. These events are resonating with the community and participation continues to grow.

MICHAEL SMITH
Sequim Church communication chair



MORE ONLINE AT NWADVENT.ST/117-2-WA-85

EDUCATION

Regional Churches Called to Live Out Faith

DAYS OF CELEBRATION, AN ANNUAL EVENT PRESENTED BY WASHINGTON CONFERENCE REGIONAL MINISTRIES, MADE HISTORY IN JANUARY BY FEATURING AN ALL-FEMALE LINE-UP OF KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND A CONCERT ARTIST.

“A lot of people, particularly in regional churches, may not understand why our planning team chose all female speakers,” said Eugene Lewis, Washington Conference regional ministries coordinator. “It’s important to hear from both female and male voices when it comes to understanding the gospel better.”

Pastor Michelle Mota, who recently accepted a senior pastor role in Brooklyn, New York, shared two messages about living out one’s faith in all aspects of life.

“God is calling us to have mercy on the very people who live lives that we might have lived once ourselves,” Mota said. “If we were all to name the streets we walk on, it would be called the same thing: the walk of faith.”

This walk of faith requires compassion, mercy and grace, so Mota chose the story of the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15 to unpack three key lessons. When approaching Jesus about

her daughter, the woman focused on her soul first, asking Jesus to “have mercy on me.” Then, following the treatment she received from the disciples, the Canaanite woman refused to allow societal rejection to keep her from Jesus. Finally, the woman’s faith was bigger than her circumstance.

“The goal of your past is not to remind you of all your wrong doing – it’s to remind you of where you’ve been so when you encounter people who reside on streets that you once frequented yourself, you would have



JILMA JIMENEZ



JILMA JIMENEZ

Sherice Tomlin, a worship leader from Maryland, COVID survivor and child loss survivor, closed out Days of Celebration with a virtual concert.

interested in setting you free, in addressing your doubts, in healing your body, in saving your soul.”

In her second message, Mota challenged listeners to be prepared with the armor of God, as described in Ephesians 6.

“Leave your house every morning with the armor of God,” Mota counseled. “Living out your faith simply requires putting one foot in front of the other. Walk out in the covering of God’s blessings. Your shoes are your shoes. Your testimony is your testimony. Your experience with the gospel is yours. Bring hope to your world and be an agent of peace.”

Dr. Jeanne Mogusu, a pastor in Kenya, joined Days of Celebration remotely to

Pastor Michelle Mota challenges Days of Celebration attendees to walk along their street of life with Jesus and show grace, compassion and mercy to fellow travelers in life.

the courage to bring people to Jesus,” Mota said. “Jesus is a ‘walk down your street’ kind of God. No one is too broken to come to God. Jesus is

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43



JULIA JIMENEZ

A number of Northwest leaders and members contributed to the newly published "Let Justice Roll" devotional book on conscience and justice as showcased by Derek Lane, Washington Conference outreach ministries director and Maranatha pastor.

share insights about women in ministry. "This is an emotive topic and everyone has an idea of what it could or should be," Mogusu acknowledged. The focus, she suggested, should be on an understanding of biblical leadership and the internal call of God.

"When we understand who we are in God, then we can be able to delve into the many tasks God has for us," she said. "We need to make sure our relationship with God is solid—whether you are male or female."

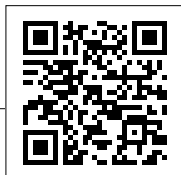
Sherice Tomlin, a worship leader from Maryland, a COVID-19 survivor and child-loss survivor, closed out Days of Celebration with a virtual concert that included personal stories about times she has praised God through many storms in her life.

More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-WA-07

"There is so much more we can do by the grace of God to grow our work," Lewis said. "God has a role for each woman and each man in carrying out the gospel. I believe God is preparing a table before us, in Seattle and beyond, to live out our faith and grow the mission God has given each and every one of us."

Watch the Days of Celebration programs on-demand at washingtonconference.org/regionaldays

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
Washington Conference communication director



EDUCATION



100 STUDENTS ACCEPT THE GIFT OF JESUS

ONE HUNDRED STUDENTS Buena Vista School responded to a holiday invitation to accept the gift of Jesus.

"The week before Christmas break is usually filled with nervous practicing of music, cute story lines and interesting costumes, all pointing to the birth of Jesus Christ," said Dave Morgan, principal of the Auburn, Washington, elementary school. "Instead, we had a student-led week of prayer with the theme 'Mission-Possible' to focus on the ultimate gift of Christmas, a Savior!"

Eighth-grade students, Ethan Jean-Baptiste, class president; Philip Bezverkhy, class pastor; Samantha Paredes, class secretary and class members Abby Clark and Jin Park, received preaching coaching from Willie Iwankiw and Khai Khai Cin, Kent Church pastors.

As the week concluded, pastors from constituent churches challenged students to accept the precious gift of Jesus and sign up for baptism — a gift that 100 students were ready to accept.

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
Washington Conference communication director



MORE ONLINE AT NWADVENT.ST/117-2-WA-90

BIBLE READINGS
for

APRIL

Follow the daily plan to read the entire Bible in a year.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Ruth 1-4	2
3 1 Samuel 1-3	4 1 Samuel 4-8	5 1 Samuel 9-12	6 1 Samuel 13-16	7 1 Samuel 17-20; Psalm 59	8 1 Samuel 21-24; Psalm 91	9
10 Psalms 7; 27; 31; 34; 52	11 Psalms 56; 120; 140-142	12 1 Samuel 25-27; Psalms 17, 73	13 Psalms 35; 54; 63; 18	14 1 Samuel 28-31; 1 Chronicles 10	15 Psalms 121; 123- 125; 128-130	16
17 2 Samuel 1-4	18 Psalms 6; 9; 10; 14; 16; 21	19 1 Chronicles 1-2; Psalms 43-44	20 Psalms 49; 84; 85; 87	21 1 Chronicles 3-5	22 1 Chronicles 6; Psalms 36; 39; 77-78	23
24 Psalms 81; 88; 92; 93	25 1 Chronicles 7-9	26 2 Samuel 5:1-10; 1 Chronicles 11-12; Psalm 133	27 2 Samuel 5:11- 6:23; 1 Chronicles 13-16	28 Psalms 15; 23; 24-25; 47	29 Psalms 89; 96; 100; 101; 107	

Our 2022 Bible reading plan is laid out chronologically with Sabbaths off. Sign up for our newsletter and get the entire 2022 reading plan as a free gift.

nwadvent.st/FreeBiblePlan



EDUCATION



Lives of Service

PART OF WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY'S MISSION IS "TO FOSTER THE UNIQUE GIFTS OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL WITHIN THIS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND DISCOVERY." THE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT WWU ENCOURAGES YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN TO USE THEIR GIFTS FOR GOD, AND EMPOWERS THEM TO BE LEADERS IN THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH.

Katelyn Weakley knew that she wanted to serve God after taking a student mission year in the Philippines while attending WWU. She was also highly influenced by taking the class Issues of God and Faith taught by then theology professor Dave Thomas. She said, "[He] was the first one to start equipping me to have conversations that bridged worldviews and helped me see just how important it is to share the Gospel."

After graduation, she worked as a high school teacher for a time, but now pastors at the Mount Tabor Church in Portland, Oregon. Her church has an early childhood education center, and Weakley loves to teach the children about Jesus. "It's wonderful to see their eyes light up with excitement," she says.

Macy Weir originally had no desire to work in ministry. She even says that if she knew God's plan for her from the beginning, she would

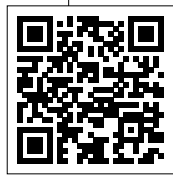
• WWU School of Theology faculty encourage young men and women alike to use their gifts for God.

have run the other way. However, after conversations with Thomas, she decided to declare a theology major alongside a secondary math education major. Nearing the end of her studies at WWU, Weir felt torn between education and pastoral ministry. She pursued jobs in both areas saying, "I want to be where God wants me." Having chosen math education in part because of its high job placement rate, she was surprised to receive no education job offers by the end of the school year and several pastoral offers. "For me, that was God confirming where He wanted me. It definitely wasn't where I thought I was headed, but I couldn't be happier to be here." She now pastors at the Tabernacle Church in Portland, Oregon, and loves bringing people closer not only to Jesus, but to each other.

For Emily Ellis, ministry was always an important part of life. At the urging of mentors, and after months of prayer she knew she had to pursue a theology degree as a path to ministry. She said, "Coming to Walla Walla, I had so much peace knowing that was where God wanted me."

She is now at her "dream job" in youth ministry, serving at Pleasant Valley Church in Happy Valley, Oregon. She fondly remembers Thomas once telling her, "You are not the savior of the world, you only work for Him." "That has kept me grounded," she said. When she remembers those wise words, she doesn't have to worry about being perfect but can instead relax in the knowledge that God is in control. She loves working with young people and helping them through tough times and big decisions. "The mundane and exciting, I get to be present with it all," she said. "That, to me, is such an honor and a gift."

ASHLEY HERBER
WWU university relations student writer



Move online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-WWU-72

EDUCATION

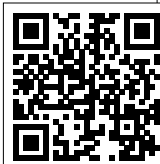
WWU Receives Grant to Upgrade Bioengineering Labs



The redesigned space and new equipment will allow student to work with living cells and test biomaterials in a sterile environment.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING has been awarded a \$351,000 grant by the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust to redesign space and provide new equipment for bioengineering labs.

The grant will be matched by generous WWU donors and will provide more than \$700,000 to be invested in the new laboratories. The funds will provide the School of Engineering with the needed space to grow its



bioengineering concentration and actively engage students in bioengineering design, research and development.

"Coursework and research in this new space will provide students with excellent preparation to enter the rapidly growing field of bioengineering or to excel in medical school," said Brian Roth, dean of the School of Engineering.

The redesigned space in Chan Shun Pavilion and new laboratory equipment

More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-WWU-72 +

will allow students to work with living cells and to test biomaterials in a sterile environment. Upgraded equipment includes laminar flow hoods, centrifuges, a spectrophotometer, microscopes, incubators, an autoclave and a bioreactor.

Janice McKenzie, associate professor of bioengineering, said students' research will improve substantially with the new laboratories. "It's a great opportunity to collaborate. Students will have the chance to build connections with people in the industry

and academia through bioengineering projects," said McKenzie. In addition, students from a wide range of disciplines will have access to the labs. Previous bioengineering research has involved students studying biochemistry, biology and mechanical and electrical engineering.

The School of Engineering has seen significant growth in its bioengineering program, including the addition of a bioengineering concentration in 2017. An interdisciplinary bachelor's of science in bioengineering is also offered jointly by the School of Engineering and the Department of Biological Sciences.

Bioengineering classes were previously accommodated by the Department of Biological Sciences and functioned in a shared space. The expanded laboratories are expected to be completed in time to hold classes during spring quarter.

Founded in 1947, the Edward F. Cross School of Engineering has graduated more than 1,400 students. Over the last two years, 100% of bioengineering graduates were employed or accepted to graduate school by the time they graduated. Since 2017, nearly 100% of graduates who applied for medical school were accepted.

For more information, visit wallawalla.edu/engineering.

KELSI NASH
WWU university relations
supervisor



HEALTH

Adventist Health Chaplains Meet Diverse Spiritual Needs

CHAPLAINS FILL A UNIQUE PROFESSIONAL ROLE IN THE HEALTHCARE SETTING, ESPECIALLY AT ADVENTIST HEALTH WHERE THE MISSION IS FOUNDED ON THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS AND IS A CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSION OF HIS HEALING MINISTRY. CHAPLAINS BEAR THE TORCH OF HOPE FOR PATIENTS AND LOVED ONES IN THEIR DARKEST AND SCARIEST TIMES. THEY OFFER A PLACE FOR CONNECTION AND CARE FOR THE WHOLE PERSON — BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT.

“Traditional hospital chaplaincy was done by people who had some spiritual background,” said Leo Zakhariya, clinical pastoral education supervisor for

Adventist Health Portland. “These caregivers were retired ministers—elders, deacons, or laypeople—who believed in God. They would come and pray with patients, read the Bible, sing and support them.”

Today, chaplains do much more than provide religious rites, ceremonies, prayers and wisdom. They are specially trained to bring together clinical considerations and pastoral conversations as part of the clinical care team. All chaplains at Adventist Health are required to complete rigorous Clinical Pastoral Education training.

“The mindset behind Clinical Pastoral Education is to develop a clinical identity alongside a pastoral identity,” Zakhariya said. “As a clinical chaplain you analyze each interaction with patients until you develop a clinical mindset focused on best outcomes. This is what makes the difference between traditional chaplaincy and clinically informed chaplaincy.”

Clinical Pastoral Education encompasses competencies that include ethics, psychology

and sociology, understanding and articulating research, managing crises and more. It also facilitates family and group interactions following trauma. Each CPE unit involves 400 hours of classwork plus work in a clinical setting. Certification for full-time chaplains within two years of being employed with Adventist Health requires four units of CPE and 2,000 hours of clinical work.

Sandraneta Hall, chaplain at Adventist Health Portland, says the CPE program transformed how she relates to herself, which allowed her to focus on improving how she connects with others.

“I love the mission of our hospital—living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope—and CPE helped me to better fulfill that mission by developing the skill sets I need to connect with people very quickly,” Hall said.

“I’m here to be with them and walk beside them as they’re going through their challenges and their joys,” said Hall. “My job is to love. CPE has taught me—and is continuing to teach me—how to love in a way that I understand God loves me and wants me to love other people. He’s expanding my heart through this process. It is transformative.”

KIRSTEN CUTLER
Adventist Health managing editor for Story & Experience



More online at
[NWADVENT.ST/117-2-AH-76](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/117-2-AH-76)



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Biology (M.S.)

Campus: College Place, Washington, with research opportunities available at the Rosario Beach Marine Laboratory in Anacortes, Washington.

- No GRE required
- Two-year thesis research program.
- Teaching assistantships available to cover tuition and provide a stipend.
- Dedicated faculty mentors who hold doctoral degrees.

Cinema, Religion, and Worldview (M.A.)

Offered through the WWU Center for Media Ministry.

Campus: Online program with a two-week intensive session once per year in College Place, Washington.

- Two-year completion time with new cohorts starting each summer.
- Courses tailored to your skill level and career goals.
- Networking with professionals in the industry who share your passion for visual media.



Education (M.Ed., M.I.T.)

Master of education (M.Ed.)

(Literacy instruction, special education, or educational leadership with denominational principal certification.)

Campus: Online.

- Tuition waivers available for NPUC teachers.

Master of Initial Teaching (M.I.T.)

(Elementary or secondary teaching certifications.)

Campus: College Place, Washington.

- Two-year completion time or less.
- Washington state and denominational certification available.

Social Work (M.S.W., D.S.W.)

Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)

Campus: College Place, Washington; Missoula, Montana; or Billings, Montana.

- No GRE required.
- Two-year completion time or less.
- Open to applicants with an accredited bachelor's degree.
- Clinical focus on broad spectrum.

Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.)

Campus: College Place, Washington; Missoula, Montana; or Billings, Montana.

- No GRE required.
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WHITE – Glenn and Sandy (Haughey) White celebrated 60 years of marriage on Nov. 19, 2021 in Rockaway Beach, Oregon. They were married Nov. 19, 1961 in Santa Ana, California. They have three children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

family BIRTHS

FITZGERALD – Delphine Renee was born Dec. 24, 2021, to Orrin FitzGerald and Kristi Steingas, Lebanon, Oregon.

family AT REST

ADAMS – Maxine (Beers) (Dawkins) (Elkins), 92; born July 23, 1929, Walla Walla, Washington; died Dec. 9, 2021, Yakima, Washington. Surviving: sons, Hobie, Jesse, Rocky and Shane; daughters, Liesa Hull and Tammie Hall; 29 grandchildren.

BENNETT – Leland Ellis, 83; born Jan. 10, 1938, Ellensburg, Washington; died April 4, 2021, Silverdale, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Betty;

son, Darrin; daughters, Susan Russell, Catherine Kalocinski and Elizabeth Taylor; brother, Roger; sister, Joan McGregor; 7 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 1 step-grandchild.

BLODGETT – Dorothy (Gerling), 87; born Sept. 17, 1934, Portland, Oregon; died Oct. 8, 2021, Cottonwood Heights, Utah. Surviving: daughters, Sandy Blodgett, Mona Beaton and Toni Schultz; 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

CARLSON – Darlene Evalyn (Sobo), 87; born Feb. 21, 1934, Chicago, Illinois; died Nov. 23, 2021, Moscow, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Dave; sons, Dale Broome, Dan Broome, David Broome, Dwayne Broome, Dean Broome; step-sons, Doug Carlson, Jim Carlson, Brian Carlson and Robert Carlson; 34 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

COLLVER – Joy Louisa (Manley) (Stuivenga), 91; born June 6, 1930, Willamina, Oregon; died Oct. 29, 2021, Hood River, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Will (Arline) and Doug (Brenda); daughters, Kathy Davis (Phil) and Wanda Stenkamp (Steven); sisters, Mellissa Cochran (Lyle) and Verna Manley; sisters-in-law, Marcella Manley and Izella Stuivenga; step-sons, Robert Collver and Bruce Collver; 8 grandchildren, 14 step-grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

COPPERNOLL – Lillian May (Schoepflin), 93; born Dec. 12, 1928, Viola, Idaho; died

Dec. 18, 2021, Sandy Oregon. Surviving: sons, Jerry and Kenneth; daughters, Ann Johnson and Linda Whitted; 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 4 great-grand-grandchildren.

DALGLEISH – Anna Elaine (Ivy), 70; born June 27, 1950, Sanitarium, California; died Jan. 11, 2021, Forest Grove, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Fred; sons, Paul, Michael and Jon; daughters, Holly Dalgleish and Hailey Thacker; brother, Jim Ivy; 10 grandchildren.

DALGLEISH – Ruth Rose (Tracy), 94; born Oct. 26, 1927, San Bernardino, California; died Nov. 30, 2021, Forest Grove, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Milton; son, Fred; daughters, Laura Nelson and Margaret Roth; 9 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

DICKERMAN – Betty L. (Hood), 92; born June 28, 1929, Bristow, Oklahoma; died Dec. 8, 2021, Cottage Grove, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Dick Burkeen, Mike Cagel, Chuck Burkeen, Ben Burkeen and Ron Burkeen; daughters, Kathy Burkeen and Nancy Rich; 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

DUNKS – Gerion E. (Holland), 97; born April 10, 1923, Little Rock, Arkansas; died Jan. 12, 2022, Springfield, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Wally; son, Mikehael; daughter, Dixie Wurscher; sister, Ruth Sandy; 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

ELLETT – Esther (Hathaway), 82; born June 18, 1938, Philomath, Oregon; died May 16, 2021, The Dalles, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, G. Elden;

son, Douglas; daughter, Loreli Ellett, brothers, David Hathaway and Jonathan Hathaway; sisters, Betty Eves and Helen Shreve.

FARAG – Dola (Hasso), 90; born Sept. 30, 1931, Iraq; died Nov. 24, 2021, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Wafia (Farag) Kinne; 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

FEVEC – Herbert, 93; born Dec. 17, 1927, St. Augustine, Florida; died Dec. 7, 2021, Gresham, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Ruth; sons, Jim and Jerry.

GIBBONS – C. Keith, 97; born Jan. 19, 1924, Lavoy, Wyoming; died Nov. 19, 2021, College Place, Washington. Surviving: son, Edwin; daughters, Yvonne Jackson and Kay Sanborn; 7 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 2 great-grand-grandchildren.

GRIFFITH – Joyce Lorrayne, 80; born May 4, 1941, Wallace, Idaho; died Sept. 14, 2021, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: brothers, Dave Griffith and Ben Thatcher; 6 nieces, numerous great-nieces, nephews and extended family.

HERING – Peggy Louise (Heusser), 75; born Dec. 10, 1945, Woodburn, Oregon; died Nov. 1, 2021, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Loren; daughters, Mareasa Hering and Lesli Johnson; brothers David Heusser and Don Heusser; 3 grandchildren.

HOUSE – Marshall Keith, 87; born Aug. 18, 1934, Brady, Nebraska; died Dec. 6, 2021, Milwaukee, Oregon. Surviving: sons, James and Joseph; daughters, Joann Nelson, Jill

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House and Kristine Harmon; 5 grandchildren.

JENNINGS – Victor Alan, 90; born Sept. 23, 1930, The Dalles, Oregon; died Sept. 03, 2021, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Sonya (Lefore); sons, Victor Jennings, Dahnn Hanning, Tom Jennings, and Flip Jennings; step-daughters, Shelly Hillman and Lori Cannon; 12 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

JOHNSON – Russell L., 82; born Feb. 2, 1939, Poplar, Minnesota; died Oct. 19, 2021, Eagle, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Mary Nell (Roper); daughters, Nancy Hammond and Becky White; brother, Kenneth; sister, Mary Lee Young; 3 grandchildren.

KEETON – Beverly June, 93; born Jan. 26, 1928, Seattle, Washington; died Nov. 19, 2021, Beaverton, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Randy and Brent; daughter, Joni Gustafson; 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

KEMMERER – Lola (Fry), 86; born May 18, 1935, Hood River, Oregon; died Nov. 12, 2021, Dayton, Washington. Surviving: sons, Steven, Mark, Kenton, and Edwin; daughters, Karen McMahan and Barbara

Heschke; 13 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

KRIEGER – C. Vaughn, 82; born May 6, 1939, Bottineau, North Dakota; died Dec. 1, 2021, Altamont, Tennessee. Surviving: sons, Sidney and Kent; daughter, Kara McGhee; brother, Lindy Hiebert; sister, Marlys Leeper; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

LIBRING – Elizabeth Hellen (Wienke), 100; born April 20, 1921, Aitkin, Minnesota; died Dec. 17, 2021, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Loxi Libring; 2 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

LIEBELT – Lonny Garry, 75; born Mar. 6, 1946, Topeka, Kansas; died Dec. 22, 2021, Libby Montana. Surviving: spouse, Gerita (Garver); son, Michael; daughters, Tracey Liebelt and Mindy Liebelt; 4 grandchildren.

LILLEBO – Irene (Puckett), 92; born Nov. 16, 1928, Kintigh, North Dakota; died Oct. 5, 2021, Eugene, Oregon. Surviving: daughter, Linda Handshaw, son-in-law, Doug Handshaw.

LOWE – Cheryl Ann (Doebele), 72; born Apr. 20, 1949, Castle

Rock, Washington; died Oct. 3, 2021, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: sons, Devon Doebele and Phillip Doebele; brother, George Lowe; 4 grandchildren.

MAIER – Aeron Evans, 74; born June 5, 1947, Gettysburg, South Dakota; died Sept. 12, 2021, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Sharon (Dause); daughters, Joan Maier-Bone, Janel Maier and Janette Hiebert; 5 grandchildren.

MAKOVSKY – Edward Stanley, 96; born May 24, 1925, Warner, Pennsylvania; died Oct. 17, 2021, Springfield, Oregon. Surviving: daughter, Kimberly Getz; son-in-law, John R. Getz.

MALTBY – Marcy Lee (Bouchor), 75; born June 19, 1943, Portland, Oregon; died June 4, 2019, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Gary; sons, Brent, Bart and Chad; 2 grandchildren.

MCCOY – Dorothy Ferne (Johnson), 98; born Nov. 4, 1923, Port Townsend, Washington; died Dec. 11, 2021, Yakima, Washington. Surviving: sons, Monty and Doug; daughter, Marilynn Clark; 6 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

MCMURRY – Evelyn Marie (Marelman), 91; born July 26, 1930; died Dec. 6, 2021, Gresham, Oregon. Surviving: nephew, Jim McMurry; nieces, Joan Bryson, Carol Hyde and Jerri Hoag.

MILER – Anita (Miller), 75; born Jan. 6, 1946; died Oct. 22, 2021, Meridian, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Marv; son, Jon; daughter, Amy Lewis; sister, Shirley Kuehl; 5 grandchildren.

MILLER – David K., 94; born Apr. 17, 1927, Colorado Springs, Colorado; died Sept. 22, 2021, Pleasant Hill, Oregon. Surviving: daughters, Melody Miller, Carolyn Force and Cheryl Boney; 4 grandchildren.

RASMUSSEN – Alice May (Bresee), 98; born June 23, 1923, Anacortes, Washington; died Nov. 29, 2021, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, John and Paul; daughters, June Christensen, Patsy Hixson and Linda Kolar; 14 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

ROBERTS – Rich (Richard) E., 87; born June 23, 1934, Clarkston, Washington; died Nov. 24, 2021, Kirkland, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Barbara (Parker); son, Rick; daughter, Sally Roberts; daughters-in-law, Sherry (Landen) Roberts and Sandy (Karlstrom) Roberts; 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

SAMARIO – Hector, 93; born July 30, 1927, Los Angeles, California; died Sept. 1, 2020, Loma Linda, California. Surviving: spouse, Emma (Martinez); and son, Edward J.

OUR FAMILY

SCHAECHER—Sandi (Hawks), 75; born June 16, 1945, Shady Cove, Oregon; died Dec. 31, 2021, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Larry; son, Doug Hanson; daughter, Karen Schaecher; 5 grandchildren.

SLAUGHTER—Beatrice June (Rosemeyer), 81; born June 1, 1940, Sand Point, Idaho; died Nov. 21, 2021, Tigard, Oregon. Surviving: son, Doug; daughter-in-law, Angel; 1 grandchild.

SOSSONG—Jasper Thomas, 99; born Nov. 25, 1921, Auburn, Washington; died Nov. 20, 2021, Grant's Pass, Oregon. Surviving: son, Timothy; and daughter, Rita Sossong.

STAFFORD—Janell (Silvestri), 56; born June 2, 1964, Glendale, California; died May 28, 2020, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Sidney; daughter, Abigail Stafford-Abadi; mother, Kay Silvestri; sisters, Michelle Silva and Lisa Robinson.

STAFFORD—Sidney Allyn, 62; born June 11, 1959, Tacoma, Washington; died Oct. 24, 2021, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Abigail Stafford-Abadi; parents, Thomas and Brooke Stafford; brother, Jerald Stafford; and sister-in-law, Nelda Stafford.

STEWART—Nelda E., 97; born Mar. 16, 1924, Port Angeles, Washington; died Aug. 25, 2021, Eureka, Montana. Surviving: son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Terry Stewart; daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn and "Sonny" White; 8 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great-grandchildren.

THROWER—Alice (Gulfan) (Omega), 81; born Jan. 23, 1940, Tabango, Leyte, Philippines; died Nov. 19, 2021, Eagle Point, Oregon. Surviving: son Joseph M. Gulfan; daughter, name unknown; 12 grandchildren.

TILSTRA—Margaret Leoma (Beckner), 91; born Aug. 15, 1930, Taunggyi, Myanmar; died Jan. 2, 2022, College Place, Washington. Surviving: sons, Daniel and Douglas; daughter, Marie Aldinger; brother, Harry Beckner; sister, Clara Adams; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

WHITE—Michael W., 76; born Mar. 17, 1945, Auburn, Washington; died Nov. 25, 2021, Gig Harbor, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Tami; son, Sean; daughter, Michele White; brothers, Ron, Tom and Nick; sisters, Sandra, Patricia and Pam; 1 grandchild.

WILKENS—John Frederick, 89; born Mar. 13, 1932, Dover Delaware; died Jul. 13, 2021, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: sons, Barry, Keith and Carl; daughters-in-law, Terry and Joyce; 9 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

WILLIAMSON—Tyrrell Blake, 83; born Sept. 29, 1938, Joseph, Oregon; died Nov. 17, 2021, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, June (Cain); son, Guy; daughter, Thonie Marcus; and sister, Gail Williamson.

YANKEE—Helen Jeanette (Thiel), 87; born Aug. 7, 1934, Tacoma, Washington; died Sept. 16, 2021, Seattle, Washington. Surviving: spouse, David; son, Joseph (Julie

Tetz-Yankee); daughter, Robyn Yankee-Brodigan (Michael); and 6 grandchildren.

ZITEK—Sylvia A. (Purviance), 75; born Apr. 27, 1947, Billings, Montana; died Jan. 15, 2022, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Dwight and Kyle (Nicole Shorter); brother, Alvin Purviance; and numerous other family members.

The North Pacific Union Gleaner accepts family

listings as a service to members of Adventist churches in the Northwest. This information is not intended as an endorsement of any facts or relationships represented.

All family announcements are published online at NWAadventists.com/family. To submit family announcements, go to NWAadventists.com/contribute. To publish an expanded obituary with a short bio and photo, contact info@nwadventists.com or call 360-857-7200 for submission and cost information.

1941–2021

JOYCE LORRAYNE GRIFFITH

Joyce Lorraine Griffith was born on May 4, 1941, in Wallace, Idaho, to William Hoyd Griffith and Minnie Arline Wilson Griffith.

She graduated from Gem State Academy in 1959, then Walla Walla College in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in English, and minor in education. She received her MBA nearly 20 years later.

Her 20-plus years working for the Adventist Church included: General Conference, public relations associate; Gem State and Upper Columbia Academies, English and journalism teacher; Walla Walla College, journalism teacher; Hinsdale Sanitarium, marketing director; Voice of Prophecy, public relations director; and teaching English in Zambia, Africa.

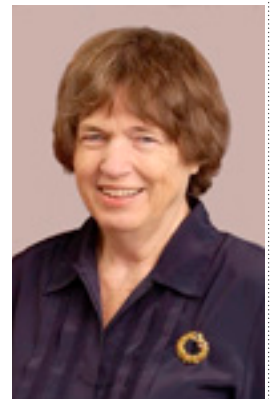
Marketing and self-publishing were a big part of her later years. Her favorite experiences included overseas missions and working for the very kind HMS Richards Sr. at the Voice of Prophecy.

Joyce was courageous and funny, witty and smart. She enjoyed music and loved camping and hiking.

Joyce was committed to her Lord Jesus Christ in a big way. She was an ideas-person, a wordsmith and a deep thinker who enjoyed writing and conversations on current world affairs, both the controversial and spiritual. She loved contributing Discussion Starters at ssnet.org.

She was a successful woman in an era that did not favor such fierce independence.

Surviving: brother, Dave Griffith and wife Shar of Caldwell, Idaho; brother, Ben Thatcher and wife Nancy of Blue Ridge, Georgia; six nieces, multiple great nieces, nephews and extended family.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1932–2021

JOHN FREDERICK WILKENS

John Frederick Wilkens was born March 13, 1932, Marydel, Delaware and died on July 13, 2021 surrounded by his family at home in Spokane, Washington.

John was born and raised on his parent's dairy farm in Delaware. In 1950 he graduated from Shenandoah Valley Academy and two years later married his sweetheart, Edith Taylor of Tacoma Park, Maryland.

In 1956, they left the farm and moved to Tacoma Park where he worked for the Review and Herald, moving from the bindery into the accounting department after receiving a bachelor's degree in business. The family moved to New Jersey in 1966 when John became the conference treasurer. In 1973 he joined the Pennsylvania conference as treasurer.

In 1975, John became the treasurer for Upper Columbia Conference where he led several building projects including the conference office and buildings at Camp Mivoden.

In 1980, John joined the Trans-Africa Division (later East African Division) where he served as treasurer. In 1985 he served as under treasurer at the General Conference. He became President of the Review and Herald Publishing Association in 1988. Then, in 1991 John returned to the Upper Columbia Conference in the Trust and Development Department and retired in 1995.

After retirement, John was a manager for the African Roof project. He and Edith were active in volunteering with the immigrant resettlement program in Spokane.

John was preceded in death by Edith and leaves three sons and their spouses, Barry and Terry Wilkens of Fort McDowell, Arizona; Keith and Joyce Wilkens of Spokane, Washington and Carl and Teresa Wilkens of Spokane. He is also survived by 9 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.



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April 16—Local Church Budget;
April 23—Local Conference Advance;
April 30—Local Church Budget.

MONTANA

Legal Notice: Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Renewing Faith and Restoring Hope Constituency Session

April 10—Notice is hereby given that the 63rd Regular Session (quadrennium) of the Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., under the laws of the state of Montana, will be held in the gymnasium/auditorium on the campus of Mount Ellis Academy, Bozeman, Montana, April 10, 2022, beginning at 10 a.m. This Renewing Faith and Restoring Hope Constituency Session is called for the purpose of electing officers and departmental staff for the ensuing term, to elect a Board of Directors, to elect an Articles and By-laws Committee, to consider amendments to the by-laws, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session. Each church in the conference is entitled to one delegate plus one delegate for each 17 members or major fraction thereof. Ken Norton, Montana Conference President

WASHINGTON

The Deliverer is Coming

April 16—It takes a lot of work and a lot of faith to put on a theater production in the best of times. Now, in the midst of the pandemic, members from several Snohomish and King County Adventist churches are coming together to produce an Easter drama called "The Deliverer." The show follows the story of the Great Controversy from war in heaven through the fall of mankind and Christ's life, death and resurrection, all the way to the Second Coming. You're invited to attend either of the two performances April 16 at 4 p.m. or April 17 at 4 p.m. at the Edmonds Adventist Church in Edmonds, Washington. These performances are free and open to the public. The show's organizers are encouraging attendees to bring donations of food for the Edmonds Food Bank as a way of sharing the "Bread of Life" with the local community. Due to COVID-19 safety precautions, all attendees must RSVP in advance. The RSVP form will open on April 2 and can be found at edmondsadventist.org/ministries/drama-ministry/the-deliverer.

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT NWADVENTISTS.COM/EVENTS.

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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BOBBIE AND THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY



HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ABOUT BOBBIE THE WONDER DOG?

That's what the news reporter called him when they heard about his story. You see, Bobbie accomplished something so amazing, it seems hard to believe.

Bobbie's owners, Mr. and Mrs. Brazier, and their daughters, Leona and Nova, took him on a road trip. They traveled all the way from their home in Silverton,

Oregon to the state of Indiana. That's more than halfway across the country.

While the Braizers were in Indiana visiting family, Bobbie disappeared. They searched and searched but couldn't find Bobbie. When it was time to go home, Bobbie's owners had to go home without their beloved doggie.

Six months later, they opened their front door only to discover an amazing surprise. There was Bobbie! He was mangy and scrawny, but Bobbie was home!

The local newspaper, the *Silverton Appeal*, published the story of Bobbie's cross-country trek, and it quickly spread to newspapers across the country. The Braziers received hundreds of letters from people simply addressed to "Bobbie, the Wonder Dog" or "Silverton's Bobbie." Some people claimed they had seen Bobbie and were able to identify him by his distinguishing features.

Officials from the Oregon Humane Society launched an investigation into the Braziers' claims and were able to confirm that Bobbie had indeed traveled 2,800 miles, even in the dead of winter, to return home to his family.

A much-celebrated Bobbie received medals, keys to cities and a jewel-studded harness and collar. He was the guest of honor at the Portland Home Show, where over 40,000 people came to view him. He was even presented with his own dog-sized bungalow.

Bobbie's story is a beautiful reminder how much God loves you. Just like He helped Bobbie come all that way home, Jesus cares for you too. In fact, the Bible tells us He has a plan for you.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." That's really good news!

STAY HEAR

BRING BOBBIE HOME



CAN YOU HELP BOBBIE FIND HIS WAY HOME THROUGH THE MAZE?

START HERE



3 Ways to Build Self-Confidence and S



his month, as we celebrate women in leadership, I wanted to take just a moment of your time to talk about ways we can build confidence and self-worth in girls.

My daughter, Isabella, has so many wonderful qualities. Not only do I want her to believe and know how valuable she is in God's eyes, but I also want her to grow up in a healthy environment where her strengths are valued.

You don't have to look far to find statistics about girls and self-esteem. Knowing these troubling facts makes me want to work diligently to raise a strong daughter.

Continual Reminders - I continually remind my daughter how important she is, and I praise her for her strengths. I am not building up her physical beauty, I am building up the God-given characteristics I see. During family prayer time, I thank God for the positive things I've noticed in her character.

Paul tells us, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline" (2 Tim. 1:7).

Open Communication - when she is feeling down, or struggling with something personal, I want her to be able to talk with me. I want to remind her how valuable she is in Christ - that even when doing the right thing is hard, it's so important. Keeping the communication line open is essential.



AUTHOR | LaVonne Long



elf-Worth

LaVonne and her daughter, Isabella.



I can do all this through Him who gives me strength!

The Psalmist tells us, “You are the one who put me together inside my mother’s body, and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me. Everything you do is marvelous! Of this, I have no doubt” (Ps. 139:13–14).

Model Behavior - this one is harder, but I am always trying to do better. As her mom, I want to model strength, love and grace. I can do that successfully only through my reliance on the Holy Spirit. I also want to expose her to other godly, strong and successful women. By showing her, practically, what a strong woman in Christ is, she can see that this is possible.

A favorite verse of mine is, “I can do all this through Him who gives me strength” (Phil. 4:13).

These are just three ways to help build self-confidence and self-worth in your daughters. And of course, these principles are not just for our daughters. My son is also

benefiting from these efforts. Our children are so valuable in the eyes of our Savior. Let us all simply take time to bond with our children, communicate openly, model healthy behavior, and give heaps of grace and love, while relying on help from our God.

Let us claim the verse in Timothy; you can even place your child’s name in the verse: “Timothy, my child, Christ Jesus is kind, and you must let Him make you strong” (2 Tim. 2:1).

LAVONNE LONG
Northwest Adventists family columnist

More online at  NWADVENT.ST/117-2-POV-03

It Will Not Be Taken Away

T

here is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:42).

In the gospel of Luke we find a story about two contrasting women. Martha was doing what was expected of women in antiquity. She was in the kitchen, working behind the scenes. Martha was cleaning the house and preparing the food. Her sister had a different calling, and it troubled Martha.

Mary wasn't helping in the kitchen, she wasn't making sure the house was clean. She was sitting at Jesus' feet as if she was one of Christ's disciples, as if she were a man.

That wasn't a woman's place, right? Learning to teach and preach was only for men, right? Martha was sure if she pointed this out to Jesus, He would correct her sister and tell Mary to get back in the kitchen where she belonged.

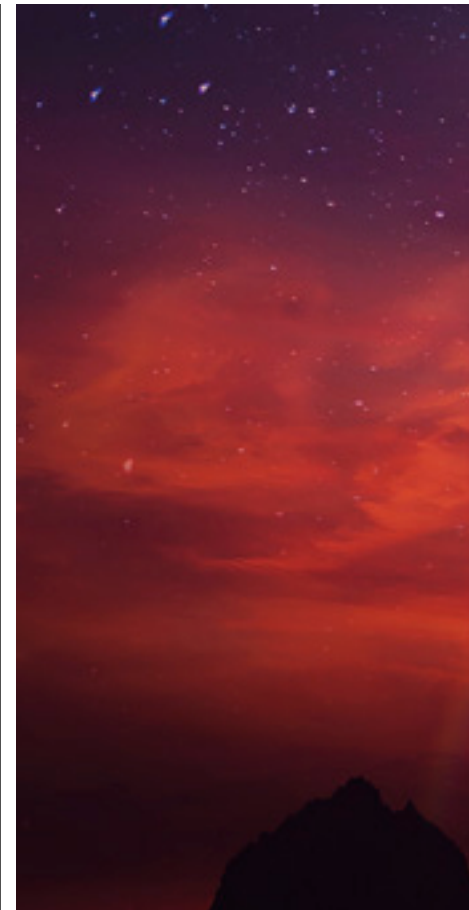
Mary wasn't stopped by tradition. Her calling was informed by an encounter with Jesus. Mary felt called to learn, so she could teach and preach what she had learned from Christ. Working behind the scenes in the kitchen is important work, but it wasn't her calling. She was ordained for a different purpose, and Jesus was about to affirm her.

Replying to Martha's critique, Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about



AUTHOR

Kevin McGill

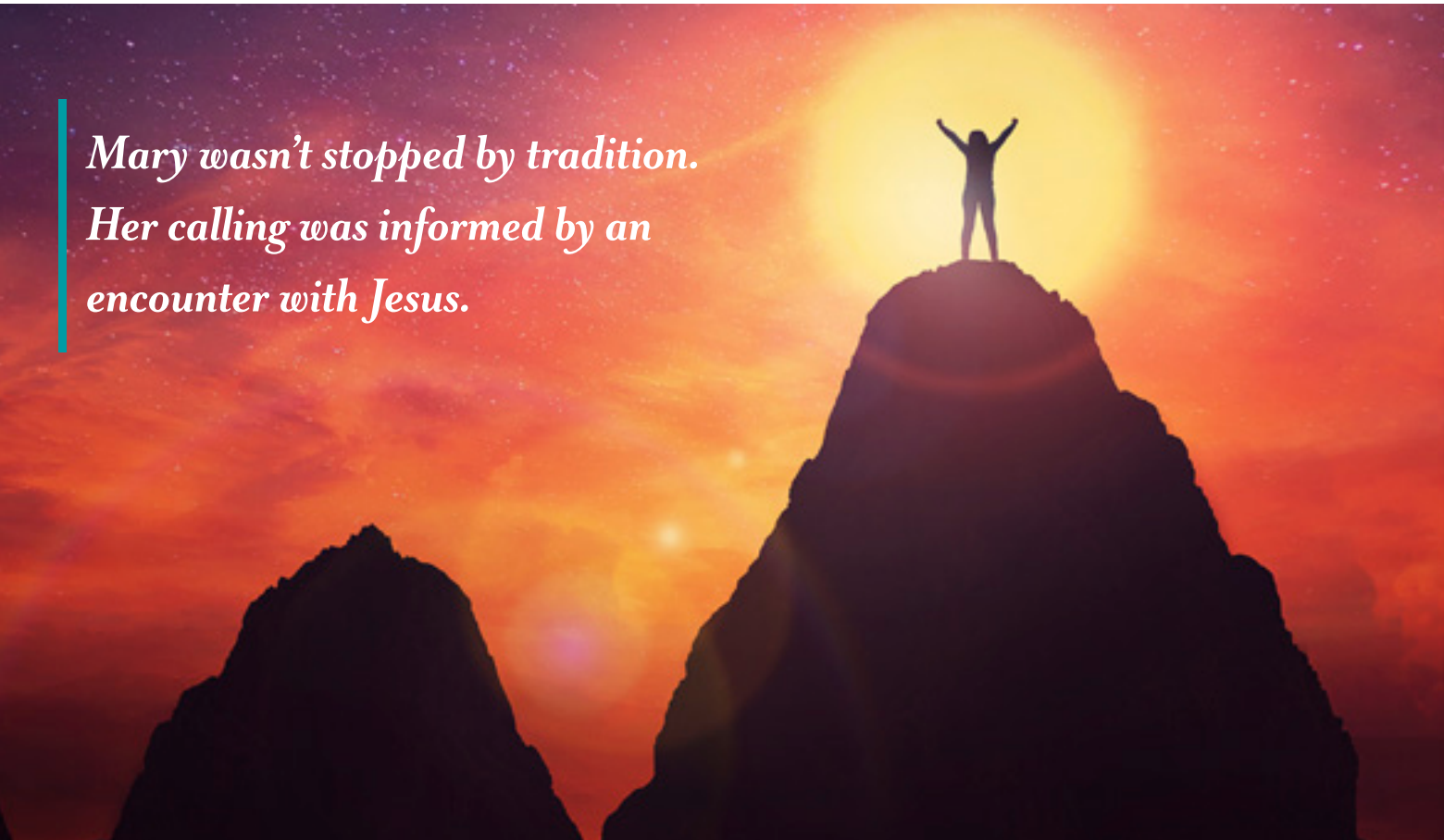


many things, but few things are needed—but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41-42).

Mary was brave and courageously challenged cultural norms. She loved Jesus and He legitimized her calling. Jesus affirmed Mary while offering encouragement to Martha. Jesus' words emphasize that women who are called to discipleship are following God's call. The one thing that is necessary is being faithful to that call.

Some may try to extinguish that call. They may try to make

*Mary wasn't stopped by tradition.
Her calling was informed by an
encounter with Jesus.*



it very difficult. But they cannot take away the calling that comes from God alone. Christ's interactions with Mary make this perfectly clear. He legitimized her. First, by letting everyone know that her call to discipleship would not be taken away. Second, by allowing her to anoint Him and wash His feet.

Jesus washed his disciples' feet, but it was only Mary who was recorded as washing His feet. She did this by anointing Him with an expensive perfume. This made people uncomfortable. The expensive

perfume likely wasn't the most troubling part, it was the fact that Mary, as a woman, was anointing Jesus.

Jesus was seen as the Messiah, the promised King. But Mary recognized His real mission and anointed Him in preparation for that. Judas said the money would have been better spent on the poor. But Jesus defended her, saying, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me" (Luke 12:7).

The Jews were expecting a conquering king, but Jesus came as the Prince of Peace. They thought only men were called by God to preach and teach, but Jesus legitimized women like Mary among His disciples. Jesus stood up for Mary, as He does for all women who have been questioned about their Godly calling.

To those who confronted Mary on the basis of gender, Christ's message is one that should still resonate today. "You are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed – but one thing is

necessary. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

A woman's *place* is exactly where she is *called* to serve. If that place is the kitchen, the pulpit, or both, "*It will not be taken away from her.*"

KEVIN MCGILL
Green Lake Church senior pastor

More online at  NWADVENT.ST/117-2-POV-77

SEEING BEAUTY IN UNCERTAINTY

FROM WHERE I Stand



T

his morning, as I opened the garage door to head to work, the fog swirled in, beckoning me with its misty tendrils. It was still foggy when I drove home, the sun just barely visible through the cloud layers.

In my little corner of the Pacific Northwest, it can be quite foggy. Some complain about the disorienting gloominess. And yet, I see beauty in the softness fog brings to the hard lines of trees on the horizon. Even though my visibility is hampered, I find mysterious beauty in the fog's ambiguity.

We're living in a time of ambiguity, and the constant state of flux is exhausting. Christians have an added layer of uncertainty. We know Jesus is coming back, but don't know when. Many thought His coming would certainly happen nearly 180 years ago, yet we still wait.

Embracing ambiguity is a skill few possess today. As humans, we try to boil everything down to concrete details. Take our theology, for example. At some level, we've confined God to a book we can carry around. Or, consider how we've reduced the Infinite to fit on a sticker on the back of our cars.

But can we truly define God this way? What if, instead of trying to explain the unexplainable, we try to imagine all the wondrous beauty hidden in the endless folds of eternity? What if we give ourselves permission to live in complexity? What if we let go of anxiety and fear to be open to another's viewpoint?

AUTHOR

Jay Wintermeyer

Whether clarity is within our control or not, we can learn to approach uncertainty, and potentially even embrace it. Despite our tendency to anxiously anticipate what's coming, perhaps there is an opportunity to appreciate the unknown and discover something beautiful along the way. Here are five ways I believe we can thrive in uncertain times:

- » Be curious. Curiosity helps us stay informed. It also helps motivate us and keep us interested in the experiences of others. It keeps us from being frozen or overwhelmed by uncertainty.
- » Be engaged. It often feels safer to retreat from uncomfortable conversations and situations. Taking a "time out" can be healthy in the short term, but remaining in a constant state of avoidance inevitably means we become irrelevant and miss the opportunity to share Jesus.
- » Be active. Engagement is married to action. Find ways to be involved in the local community. Look for ways to collaborate and partner with neighbors for the good of others.
- » Be balanced. Balance action with patience. Sometimes ambiguity can be so disorienting, we rush to decisions or take premature action. Listen first to understand, then respond humbly, thoughtfully and always with love.
- » Be honest. It's easy to delude ourselves, so it's important to check our focus. Are we spending time looking at things that will take our focus off Jesus and loving others?

Despite the uncertainty of our world, I believe one thing is certain. God is love. We can rest in the knowledge that one day our faith will lead us through the fog to our long-awaited home where we will know Him fully, and where we will be fully known.

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known" (1 Cor. 13:12, ESV).

JAY WINTERMEYER
Gleaner editor

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