

EDITORIAL
A MISSION LESSON FROM
ADVENTIST HEALTH

PERSPECTIVE
LIFE IN THE 'FIDGETAL AGE'

JUST LIKE JESUS
I WANT

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

Adventist Health Is

MINISTRY



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Nehemiah said, "... Do not grieve, for
the joy of the LORD is your strength."
Nehemiah 8:10



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DICK DUERKSEN

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"Eyes Camouflaged" in Girdwood, Alaska, by Todd Gessele, of Oregon City, Ore.



A MISSION LESSON FROM ADVENTIST HEALTH

A

Adventist Health leadership, staff and employees are ministers for Christ in our Seventh-day Adventist Church. Adventist Health, our partner in ministry, has committed and dedicated itself to be one of the best health care delivery systems in its territory. This lofty goal has pushed the organization to make many changes on its journey toward excellence.

Interestingly, this journey has required Adventist Health to further emphasize and clarify its mission, “Living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope.” A mission integration committee was established to clearly define mission systemwide and create a strategy to provide spiritual care in all Adventist Health settings. Mission is very important to the leadership and success of Adventist Health. Read more about it in this issue’s feature.

Mission clarity is important to every entity of our church. The mission of the North Pacific Union is to “reach every person in the Pacific Northwest and the world with the distinctive,

Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness.” A consistent focus on a clear mission is essential to the leadership and success of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Pacific Northwest.

Our mission reminds us why we exist as a church and motivates us to action — reaching out to those who are living without hope in Jesus. Collaborating helps multiply our resources of time, talent, finances and energy so we can offer wholeness to the broken and confused and hope to hurting people. This focus together on Christ’s mission will unify us in Him. Cooperating with Jesus, the Holy Spirit and heavenly angels to lead the hopeless into a personal relationship with the Savior — the Hope of the world — will provide the physical and spiritual growth we so desperately need.

This begins a dynamic circle of growth. Mission clarity is the first step. Living the mission is the second. Accepting the call from Christ to personally reach the people around us with the distinctive Christ-centered message of hope and

wholeness — to go make disciples — puts good intentions into action. Then the Holy Spirit begins to create opportunities to cooperate with Jesus to bring hope to the hopeless and wholeness to the broken. The Holy Spirit gives us a passion for ministry, a yearning to be intentional about reaching out to those who are confused and hurting from the stings of a brutal world.

The church is an oasis of God’s grace in a desert without hope. Christ, the Living Water, refreshes and gives life to those who are thirsty for a better life than what they have found in this world. God’s grace awakens spiritually empty hearts to new realities of being accepted, forgiven and loved now, just the way they are. This is the transformational power to make them like the One who accepts, forgives and loves.

Not long ago, while I was conducting a series of evangelistic meetings, a denominational leader and pastor from another faith attended regularly. He was very cautious. He studied, accepted every truth and warmed up over time.



AUTHOR

John Freedman

important to every entity



Rob and Velvet Lang with their family: (from left) Breck, Aubrey, Rob, Velvet, Kyle Bengé (son-in-law), Kaleigh Bengé and Colton.

At the close of the meetings he told me, “John, I believe the biblical application of the prophecies you have presented, and they have created an urgency to be ready for the soon coming of Christ. But what has captured my heart is the Christ-filled messages of the gospel you have shared each night. I want to join this local church. I need a church that truly believes and lives the message you have presented.”

Thirsty people are still looking for an oasis of God’s grace in a desert without hope. We can take a lesson from our colleagues at Adventist Health, to be clear and certain of our mission. Successful churches will have mission clarity and personally accept the call to live out that mission in their communities.

John Freedman, North Pacific Union Conference president

LANG TO FILL NEW NPUC YOUTH MINISTRY ROLE

ROB LANG has accepted the invitation of the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive committee to become NPUC director of youth ministry. He comes to this position from a similar role at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference based in Calhoun, Ga. Lang’s wife, Velvet, will become a part-time assistant director, carrying forward long experience with assisting her husband in youth ministry. Both plan to assume their duties with the NPUC as soon as they can effectively wrap up existing responsibilities with their current roles in Georgia.

This move underscores a renewed emphasis on the No. 1 priority for the NPUC — that of young adult engagement. The role Lang will step into has been expanded to include support for local conference efforts for children, high school age youth, collegiate and young adults. He will integrate into current and ongoing efforts initiated by Ben Lundquist, Oregon Conference young adult ministries director, to develop Adventist Church Growing Young/Growing Together cohorts throughout the Northwest.

“Rob and Velvet bring a stellar track record of dedication to Adventist young people,” says John Freedman, NPUC president. “Rob is a highly respected mentor for many youth leaders. I know

he will bring new energy and focus to our NPUC-wide emphasis on youth and young adult ministry.”

This marks a return to the Northwest for the Langs. Rob served the Oregon Conference as youth ministries director from 1993 to 2002, while Velvet worked as the assistant director and business manager for Big Lake Youth Camp. They have fulfilled similar duties for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference since then.

Rob Lang brings deep experience to this new opportunity. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., and has a long list of practical experience with children and youth of all ages. He has won numerous awards from the North American Division for camp ministry and is an active mentor for camp directors. Velvet has a master’s degree in education.

“Velvet and I feel humbled by the task and privileged for the opportunity to work in this new capacity,” says Lang. “We look forward to the adventure ahead.”

NPUC leaders invite members to pray for the Langs as they transition, as well as for a renewed commitment in our Northwest churches to integrating Adventist youth in active mission for Christ.

Steve Vistauet, Gleaner editor

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

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Adventist Health Is MINISTRY

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOYCE NEWMYER

ALEX BRYAN: *How has your understanding of Adventist health care grown through the years?*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Alex Bryan, Adventist Health administrative director for mission identity, recently interviewed Joyce Newmyer for the *Together Inspired* podcast. Newmyer serves as president for the Pacific Northwest Region of Adventist Health. Excerpted and edited to fit the available print space, here are portions of that interview. The full 50-minute audio podcast is available online at glnr.in/AHcareisministry.

JOYCE NEWMYER: I grew up near Sonora, California, where health care became my parents' work and part of our family. We hung out with people from the hospital. We shared Sabbath lunches with them. I learned there was a way to work for the church, even if you weren't a preacher or teacher. What I didn't know was that it could become a complete life ministry. It never occurred to me that working in a hospital was ministry. In my professional health care career, my journey has taken me to Simi Valley Hospital, Tennessee Christian Medical Center, Florida Hospital, Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Washington Adventist Hospital and now out here to Adventist Health on the West Coast. I'm absolutely convinced that what we do is ministry — and it's not just what we do, it's what we are. I wake up every morning feeling blessed to be involved in a ministry that touches and changes and heals lives, and that brings hope.




Joyce Newmyer

BRYAN: *Give us some texture to what that looks like Monday through Friday.*

NEWMYER: Well, there are days it's harder to remember than others — when you're in meetings about the budget or the mechanics of the day-to-day operation. But the reality is that every encounter matters to every patient every single time. How we engage with them tells them whether we're living God's love or whether it's just a job.





BRYAN: *What things are essential to making that ministry happen each day?*

NEWMYER: People are not numbers. They're not positions or titles or diagnoses. It should never be difficult to warmly look someone in the eye and offer kind assistance. So, making a human connection is very important. The other area we focus on is trying to reduce anxiety and fear. When patients and their families come to us, they'd rather be doing just about anything else, anywhere else. A hospital is not their first choice of a place to visit. In the midst of their anxiety, it's important that we get outside of ourselves and really connect with them and their concerns. I've determined to always be my authentic self, the same person at work, a grocery store, church or a baseball game. Everything matters in that journey. If I'm walking down the hall at work and I'm paying more attention to my cell phone than an employee or physician or a family member who's walking toward me, what does that tell them about me?

BRYAN: *When you describe health care as God's work, what do you mean?*

NEWMYER: When Jesus was here on Earth, He spent more time healing than preaching. He knew that people couldn't hear His spiritual message until their practical, physical needs were met. When people are hurting, that's about all they can think about. I believe Jesus also healed to set an example, to say, "This is what I want you to do. Care for My children in this way." We do what we do because He did what He did. That's our big "why."

BRYAN: *You've been instrumental in helping forge a relationship between Adventist Health in Portland and Oregon Health Sciences University [OHSU] — two organizations with different missions. Why is this a good thing?*

NEWMYER: It's an expanded chance to share our unique mission with the larger community. When we first started talking with them about a potential partnership, we didn't begin with the mechanics of how this would work. The first meetings were spent talking about the missions of the organizations. We were up in an OHSU conference room one evening, looking out over Portland, and their president turned to me and said, "Tell me about the mission of Adventist Health." And I had an opportunity at the beginning of this relationship to talk about what we believe and why — how we heal because Jesus healed, how we're part of a grander picture in God's plan for this world. And they respect that. As this relationship moves forward, we still own our buildings, employ our own employees and are still responsible to our own missions.

BRYAN: *Is there a connection here between what Joseph did in working in cooperation with the Egyptians to improve life there and with Daniel's role in the Babylonian society?*

NEWMYER: Absolutely. If we just do what we do in a vacuum, without integrating with other agencies, what opportunities will likely be missed? I don't think that approach serves any effective, purposeful mission. When I recruited Terry Johnsson to lead mission integration here, I did not want him limited to a traditional chaplain role. Chaplains ministering to our hospital patients are essential, but I don't think we can stop there. And that means taking our purpose and integrating it with the communities we serve — including the shelters and soup kitchens. Why should they come to us, if we've never come to them? The essential care inside our hospitals is just one part of our work. We can partner with other organization to do so much more than what we could accomplish just by ourselves.

BRYAN: *Adventist Health is all about health, wholeness and hope. What makes you hopeful?*

NEWMYER: Jesus makes me hopeful. His love just astounds me — that He knows me and loves me and saves me is astounding to me. Knowing that I have the promise of forever with Him is the biggest hope I could ever have.



Adventist Health and OHSU Together Improve Inpatient Access for Oregonians

The mission reach of Adventist Health Portland has been enhanced by a patient transfer center organized by Oregon Health and Science University [OHSU] to more readily care for patients in need of immediate care.

While living in a small Oregon community, Jon experienced severe pain in his left leg. His physician believed the swelling, cramping and numbness was the result of an accident Jon has suffered months ago. Realizing Jon needed immediate attention, his doctor called OHSU in Portland hoping they could provide a greater level of care for Jon.

OHSU did not have the capacity to accept another patient. Every patient bed was full. Fortunately, OHSU was able to activate immediate access to care through Adventist Health Portland. Jon was transported from his hometown to Adventist Health that very afternoon. A team of surgeons was able to care for him and ultimately help save his leg. “It’s for people like Jon that the patient transfer center was created,” says Wes Rippey, surgeon and chief medical officer of Adventist Health’s Pacific Northwest Region.

As Oregon’s largest academic medical center, OHSU serves Oregonians who require complex care and/or a service not available at a referring hospital. However, inpatient occupancy at OHSU Hospital has reached a tipping point, resulting in less availability of inpatient beds to fulfill this mission. For example, OHSU declined 505 transfers due to capacity constraints in fiscal year 2017.

In an effort to better serve more Oregonians, OHSU has partnered with Adventist Health Portland and Tuality Healthcare to create a health care system in the Portland metro area designed to provide immediate access to care. OHSU Mission Control was launched to manage both the strategic and operational aspects of capacity and transfer management.

The OHSU transfer center is a central point for managing inpatient capacity and transfers in real time. The transfer center is focused on placing

the right patient in the right location at the right time to meet their individual care needs. Since the launch of this program, the patient transfer center has placed nearly 700 patients at Adventist Health Portland on the east side of the city and Tuality Healthcare on the west side. This has dramatically improved access to care for people like Jon. Recently, the transfer center also began

VIEW A VIDEO

from Joyce Newmyer, Adventist Health Pacific Northwest Region president, at gleanernow.com/AHandOHSU



evaluating if OHSU emergency room patients who need admission can be transferred to Adventist Health Portland or Tuality Healthcare. This process keeps beds open at OHSU for patients needing a higher level of care.

Wes Rippey, surgeon and chief medical officer of Adventist Health’s Pacific Northwest Region, appreciates the opportunity to serve OHSU transfer patients.

Our Mission in Action

Tillamook Regional Medical Center [TRMC] is practicing the Adventist Health mission — living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope — on the north Oregon coast through the community paramedic program.

Nick Watts is a community paramedic. He works for Tillamook Ambulance service, which is owned and operated by the hospital. Nick visits patients in their homes after they’ve been discharged from the hospital. He checks on them to make sure they’re safe and have what they need to continue to recover. He checks to make sure they have the medications prescribed for them and are taking their medications as prescribed. He fills pill boxes. He does a home safety check for fall hazards and makes changes to reduce that risk. He assesses the need for durable medical equipment and makes arrangements for patients to get what they need.

He even checks for food health and safety. Is there food to eat in the house? Is the food fresh, or is it past the discard date? Are there piles of dirty dishes? Is the garbage overflowing?

Sometimes Nick’s patients can’t keep up with cleaning and general maintenance. In that case he connects them with people and agencies that can help.

The purpose of the community paramedic

program is to reduce hospital readmissions by engaging with patients in their homes and intervening before a patient gets so sick they have to return to the hospital. In the process, Nick builds relationships with patients and their families who come to trust him and look forward to his visits.

“Being a community paramedic means listening and caring,” says Nick. “A community paramedic is afforded the ability to spend time getting to know patients

one on one in a personal way, to get involved in their lives and help them be engaged in their own wellness.”

Nick receives referrals from the hospital when someone has been discharged who could benefit from a home visit. He also gets referrals from care coordinators in the clinics if they have a patient they’re concerned about and from primary care providers who count on Nick’s expertise in the field.

“Recently one of the medical assistants at the clinic asked me to check on a patient who canceled her appointment with her doctor because she didn’t feel well enough to come in,” says Nick. “I went to see the patient in her home, and she described symptoms associated

with a heart attack. I talked to her doctor, and we got her to the hospital immediately. In fact this patient had had a heart attack at home, didn’t know it and felt too ill to go see her doctor. Because of the conscientious reporting of the medical assistant we were able to get her the medical treatment that she needed.”

Beyond reducing readmissions Tillamook Regional Medical Center is providing community paramedic services at no charge to patients as an extension of the Adventist Health mission in the community. “By providing care to patients in their homes when and where they need it,” says David Butler, TRMC president, “we are inspiring health, wholeness and hope. By sending Nick to help people as a free service to our community we are living God’s love out loud. This is why we are here, and it is what we are called to do.”

View a video on the community paramedic program at glnr.in/tillamookmission.

Mary Faith Bell, Tillamook Regional Medical Center marketing and communications director





Northwest Son Gives Back to His Community

If you followed Terry Johnsson around for a few days, you'd be out of breath. Terry is a self-generated whirlwind of activity, personal interactions and community connections. In his current role as vice president of mission integration with the Pacific Northwest region office of Adventist Health based in Portland, Oregon, Terry has come full circle, back to the community where he was raised. But few then could have remotely imagined the journey he's been on since those early years.

Growing up as a child in Portland, Terry was a human conundrum. While his young friends watched cartoons, Terry soaked up the latest news from television commentators. Yet, he struggled with academic learning in school. Often he heard others describe him as stupid or slow when the words of reading assignments or tests swam before his eyes.

But a praying mother and several dedicated teachers kept a vague dream alive in Terry's heart that God had a plan for him, that there was something special in his future.

When Terry, with no immediate options for college,

joined the Air Force, he was the proverbial square peg in a round hole. Faced every day with his repeated failures to meet the military expectations of his superiors, Terry persevered, powered by the prayers of family and friends around the country. But then, an unexpected twist of Providence changed the course of his life.

It came in the form of two watershed experiences. First, on a whim, Terry tried out for the White House honor guard. Against all odds, the young man who had been ridiculed as "Gomer" by his military colleagues won a coveted spot there, serving under three

presidents: Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

He recalled the words of his Grandma Settles who had once waxed prophetic. "Terry," she said, "I have a feeling that one day you will find yourself dining with the president of the United States." Terry estimates in less than four years he met more heads of state than any member of Congress.

But something else, perhaps of even greater importance,



In his capacity as a White House honor guard, Terry Johnsson watched news photographers in this event with President Ronald Reagan.

had come to light in Terry's integration into the Air Force. His academic demons had a rational diagnosis — dyslexia. Terry finally had a reason for his longtime struggles, something that could be managed. He wasn't dumb. Academic learning had been slow and difficult because of those scrambled signals. It was like an electric jolt, jumpstarting Terry on additional pathways to excellence.

Advancing beyond his military stint and a successfully completed college education at Oakwood University, Terry moved more directly into ministry. He served as a pastor back in his hometown of Portland, then was called to return to Washington,



As a child Terry loved learning information but struggled academically due to undiagnosed dyslexia.

“SOMETIMES WHEN I LOOK IN THE MIRROR I STILL SEE THAT SECOND-GRADE DYSLEXIC BOY AND I JUST WONDER, ‘LORD, HOW IN THE WORLD AM I DOING WHAT I’M DOING.’”



Terry and Kara Johnson with his 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award from the city of Portland.

D.C., ministering at the Sligo Church. While there, he also became the “radio pastor” of WGTS, the fastest-growing Christian radio station in the market. And, by the way, the old dyslexia problem didn’t

stop Terry from progressing through a master’s degree program at La Sierra University and finishing the necessary requirements at Wesley Theological Seminary to become Dr. Terry Johnson.

Back in Portland now, Terry’s life hasn’t slowed down. In his current role with Adventist Health, he works to build community connections with agencies like the Portland Rescue Mission and related shelters. “I think if Jesus was here today in Portland,” Terry reflects, “He would be a social worker. He would be out there helping the needy, the homeless, and reaching out to people.”

Terry continues to live out that example in differing ways. He hosts a regular prayer line and program on local Christian radio, guides local chaplains and continues to speak around the world. He’s married to his best friend, Kara, who is an associate pastor for the Sunnyside Church in Portland. They are proud parents to a canine dependent, Gipper, an energetic, mostly obedient boxer.

From his roller coaster ride of life, Terry has become a community connector throughout Portland and beyond for Adventist Health’s mission of living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope. For him, it’s not just a carefully crafted statement. This mission has become central to his own journey

by God’s grace. “Sometimes when I look in the mirror,” he says, “I still see that second-grade dyslexic boy and I just wonder, ‘Lord, how in the world am I doing what I’m doing.’ There’s a Bible verse that always comes to mind when I start feeling that I’m not adequate, and it is, ‘In our weaknesses God makes us strong.’ I feel so blessed that He chose to use this broken vessel, called Terry Johnson, because

WATCH a short video about Terry Johnson and his passion for integrating mission into the community at gleanernow.com/terryjohnson.



I had a willing heart to bring the glory to Him.”

Terry was honored recently to receive the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award from the city of Portland. Terry, Kara and Gipper live right in the heart of the city, where they can have daily and direct contact with the people to whom God has led them. It’s the hometown where Terry’s future once seemed dim, but where God’s promises continue now to blossom beyond his wildest dreams.

LA IGLESIA HISPANA DE MILWAUKIE OFRECE EVANGELISMO FAMILIAR: ‘CONÉCTATE Y VIVE MEJOR’

Bajo el liderazgo de su fiel pastor, Benjamín Tello, la iglesia Hispana de Milwaukie, Ore., se ha propuesto ministrar de una manera práctica a las necesidades actuales de su comunidad Hispana. A través de los años han ofrecido los servicios de “food bank” cada otro miércoles, consultas legales, seminarios sobre la salud mental y otras actividades que han resultado en más de 130 amigos visitantes que han entrado por las puertas de su iglesia para recibir instrucción y bendición.

Después de notar el gran número de vistas que cruzaron las puertas de su iglesia y fueron bendecidos al escuchar los dos seminarios dictados por la Psicóloga Yaquelin Tello sobre cómo combatir la depresión, ansiedad y otras enfermedades

mentales, al principio de este año, el Pastor Tello y sus líderes decidieron aprovechar esta respuesta tan positiva, y planificaron ofrecerle a su comunidad una semana de Evangelismo Familiar: Conéctate y Vive Mejor, dictado por el doctor y pastor César De León y su esposa. Los amigos que ya habían visitado la iglesia durante actividades comunitarias previas, fueron invitados por texto y por radio para asistir a estos temas que se enfocaron en ayudar a la comunidad a entender las raíces de las heridas emocionales y como encontrar sanidad emocional y espiritual al formar conexiones emocionales con sus seres queridos y con el Creador. Las personas que solicitaron ayuda adicional recibieron consejería gratuitamente.

Durante uno de los seminarios basado en Santiago 1:19, que fue dedicado a la enseñanza del arte de escuchar, una pareja valiente aceptó pasar y practicar “Los cinco pasos del buen oyente.” Muchos salieron esa noche compartiendo cuanto se habían identificado con la pareja y cuan comprometidos estaban de practicar estos pasos del buen oyente con sus hijos, parejas y compañeros de trabajo.



Grupo de jóvenes reunidos durante la semana de Evangelismo Familiar.

Una visita compartió que ella había crecido en un hogar donde no hubo expresiones de amor o cariño, ella había sido impresionada por el seminario y se había comprometido a poner en práctica lo que estaba aprendiendo cada noche. Hacia el final de la semana ella reportó que ya había visto resultados positivos con su hijos desde que ella se había propuesto expresar su afecto más intencionalmente a través de abrazos y palabras de afirmación hacia sus hijos.

El pastor David Paczka, coordinador de ministerios Hispánicos en la conferencia de Oregón comenta, “La iglesia Hispana de Milwaukie ha experimentado la bendición de convertirse en una iglesia para

la comunidad que le rodea. El gozo que tienen los miembros y su pastor, de ver cientos de personas de la comunidad entrando por su puertas, les ha dado una nueva visión de propósito.”

¡Jesús no es una religión; es una relación que trae salvación, restauración y transformación! ¡Busca a alguien que necesita escuchar estas buenas nuevas y compórtelas!

Carolann De León, Unión del Pacífico Norte directora asistente de ministerio de vida familiar y ministerios Hispánicos



Grupo juvenil en medio de una actividad.

LONGTIME ALASKA HOMESTEADERS ARE STILL PIONEERING

On a sunny Sabbath morning in May, Hal and Sherron Farrar ascended the steps of Northside Church in Anchorage. Pastor Jim John took special notice of the elderly couple. After introductions, Sherron responded, “We’ve been studying about the seventh-day Sabbath and have come to learn more.”

Coming “to learn more” meant driving 100 miles from their 160-acre homestead across from the toe of the Matanuska Glacier on the Glenn Highway. Hal, 92, is a Navy veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam who saw combat in all three wars. After retirement

Hal filed a homestead claim in Glacier View, gave his heart to Jesus and became an Alaska missionary bush pilot for 34 years.

Sherron grew up on her family’s homestead. At an early age she also learned God



(From left) Hal Farrar and Jim John visit at the Farrar homestead.

was her source of strength and comfort in a difficult but adventurous life. Sherron became an accomplished paramedic and was chosen as the initial care medical director for President Ronald Reagan when he was in Fairbanks in 1984.

With that same pioneering spirit, Hal and Sherron embarked on an amazing journey of discovering Bible truths about the Second Coming, the heavenly sanctuary, the Sabbath, soul sleep and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Hal and Sherron Farrar were baptized on Sabbath, Sept. 15, surrounded by the



(From left) Pastor Jim John, Sherron Farrar, Hal Farrar and (back) Nofo Suemai, Anchorage Northside Church head deacon, on the baptismal Sabbath.

joy and warmth of the friendly members at Anchorage Northside Church. Please pray for Hal and Sherron as they begin sharing their newfound faith.

Jim John, Anchorage Northside Church pastor

SOUTHEAST ALASKA CAMP MEETING ATTENDEES ARE ‘CALLED TO MISSIONS’

Planning for the Alaska Southeast Camp Meeting on Vank Island started early this year. A planning committee gathered that included several young adults. From their suggestions was born the theme for this year’s campmeeting, “Called to Missions,” as well as a new format to try.

Attending camp meeting is a commitment because attendees must travel by boat to the island from Wrangell,

Petersburg or one of the Prince of Wales communities, such as Coffinan Cove or Whale Pass.

Those who traveled to attend camp meeting Aug. 3–5 immediately saw a different set up in the gym. Along with the usual rows of chairs facing the front for speaker presentations, tables were set up in the back with chairs around them.

Alaska’s southeast pastors took turns sharing what it means to follow God’s mission. Then people were invited to go back

to the tables for a small-group activity or discussion. For many this ended up being a highlight of camp meeting.

Jim Jensen, Alaska Conference vice president of finance, shared during the Sabbath service and provided an overview of mission work around the conference in the afternoon. Videos were presented by the Ketchikan and Wrangell churches of their ongoing mission projects. As a bonus, the group raised

\$187 during the weekend for Maranatha’s \$10 Church program.

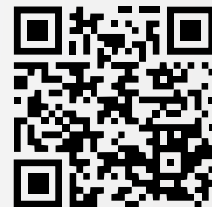
God’s presence was certainly felt at Southeast Alaska Camp Meeting as members were reminded we are all called to missions. If you’d like more information or resources, visit glnr.in/113-09-ak_missions.

Brooke Reynolds, Wrangell Church member



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NURSING STUDENT GETS A BIG SURPRISE

The Cloverdale Church in Boise, along with the Mace family, stunned one of their members by providing her with a new car on May 19.

Troy Haagenon, Cloverdale Church pastor, had just finished leading an inspiring Sabbath service. People had assembled outside the church, in excited anticipation of witnessing how God had led with one of their own members in need.

Zaninka Karire is a student at the College of Western Idaho, majoring in nursing. She had one year left to finish her degree, and her car broke down. Two automotive repair shops looked at her car and provided her with repair estimates. The cost to repair Karire's car was going to be more than it was worth.



(From left) John Cardwell, Zaninka Karire, Troy Haagenon, Lyndon Nguyen, Lorraine Mace and Jeff Shelton celebrate how God provided a car so Karire could continue her education.

Cloverdale Church has a car ministry led by Jeff Shelton and John Cardwell. They looked at Karire's car and agreed with the auto repair shops: The car was not worth repairing.

Karire was in serious trouble. She needed her car to be able to complete her nursing degree. In order for Karire to get her car repaired, she would

have to spend the money she had been saving to finish her degree and drop out of school.

God was watching over Karire and opening a door for a miracle. The Mace family heard of the need. They owned a 1996 Mitsubishi Galant in excellent condition with only 50,000 original miles on the car. It looked like a brand-new car. It had belonged to their

grandmother Maxine, who had recently passed away. The car had not been driven for some time. After a quick tune-up and service by the church car ministry, this almost-new car was ready for a very special presentation.

On that special Sabbath, Haagenon, Jeff Shelton, John Cardwell and members of the Mace family happily presented a stunned Karire with her new car. Miracles like this remind us we must always trust in our Heavenly Father. He will bring us through every challenge we face.

Now the Cloverdale Church family joyously awaits Karire's graduation from nursing school.

Martin Casper, Cloverdale Church communication leader

CALDWELL CHURCH HOLDS BLOCK PARTY

Fun and friendship were shared at the first block party ever at the Caldwell Church on Sunday, Aug. 5. About 150 neighbors and church members attended the event, which was sponsored by the personal ministries committee.

From vegetarian mini-hamburgers to corn on

the cob and ice cream bars, a variety of food was appreciated by visitors, with children also enjoying the "Noah's ark" inflatable bouncing house, face painting and other activities. Free Bibles and information about living the Christian life were given as prizes or gifts to those attending.

The event helped stir a

strong interest for a vegetarian cooking school in October that will help answer questions about why Seventh-day Adventists are healthier and live longer than others.

Joyce Griffith, Caldwell Church member

More photos online at glnr.in/113-09-id_caldwell



A church neighbor came to the block party with his pet parrot.

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MEA COMES ALIVE THROUGH VISITORS' EYES

Recently my wife and I decided to visit some of the historic and scenic sites in the states of Montana and Wyoming. As we traveled Interstate 90 and neared Bozeman, we saw to the right the Montana Conference office in which our daughter, Renae Young, gave us a tour. Just a short distance down the road from the conference office we passed the Mount Ellis Elementary School and then saw for the first time Mount Ellis Academy — Montana's Adventist boarding high school.

Even though we had been lifelong Adventist educators, our experience was in the Upper Columbia Conference. We had not explored what took place in other conferences.

Mount Ellis is like a hidden gem. The well-kept campus surrounded by mountains in the distance created a picturesque setting. The crisp air was invigorating as we took in the scenery. We poked our heads in several of the buildings and then visited their modern cafeteria, Allaway Dining Hall. Here we found one of our grandsons, Josiah Young, a freshman, enjoying food with some of his friends. We learned the cooks in the cafeteria aim to provide nutritious meals



made from scratch as much as possible. While at the cafeteria, we also chanced on meeting Montana Conference's personable president, Elden Ramirez.

This unique school, with its reportedly outstanding faculty and staff, not only provides the expected educational basics but combines those with an array of outdoor activities. What a fine opportunity the students have as they take several days to canoe down the Missouri River while having outdoor classes along the way, get bused to vespers programs at the school's lodge, ski down their own ski hill and climb Mount Ellis each year on Labor Day, just

to name a few of their many activities. We think it would be a pleasure to teach at or attend Mount Ellis Academy.

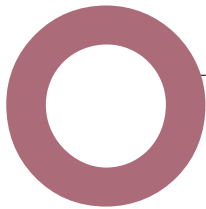
After traveling to Yellowstone Park, Virginia City, Bozeman, Three Forks, the headwaters of the Missouri River and other towns, we wanted to read again C.C. Rouse's book *Montana Bullwhacker*, in which the places, characters and experiences came alive for us! The book mentions that in 1906 Lisha Rouse sold 20 acres of his land to the church for half its value, on which to build Mount Ellis Academy when Bozeman was but a dream of brave pioneers.

Later Rouse was baptized, and he and his family attended services in the academy chapel across the road from his house. Little did he know what a legacy he was leaving for future students in the state of Montana. It was a legacy that enabled students to have access to Adventist education.

Join us in keeping Mount Ellis in your prayers as the teachers minister to the students this school year.

Earl and Ginger Brockman, retired Adventist teachers from Newport, Wash.

BIG LAKE GETS BLESSED BY U.S. MARINES



One hot afternoon last summer a couple of U.S.

Marines showed up at the front gate of Big Lake Youth Camp in Sisters with a request: “Our platoon is working on a project over at Fish Lake this month. The team is hot and tired. Is there any chance we could come over and have a barbecue on your beach as a day off?”



Fifty-four Marines spent two weeks at Big Lake this summer. They spread gravel on the main camp roads to reduce dust problems.

“Our camp culture says that we try to find ways to say yes,” says Les Zollbrecht, Big Lake Youth Camp director. “That’s what we do — find a way to say yes so everyone can experience a love so compelling.”

Since the request came during the week of camp meeting for the Oregon Conference, no campers were scheduled for the lakefront on Sunday. On Sunday afternoon, the camp staff watched in awe as Marines climbed out of huge troop-haulers and helped set up a barbecue on Big Lake’s beach.

As the sun was setting a Marine captain came over and thanked Zollbrecht for the afternoon. “Thank you! We’ve had such a good time!” the captain said. “We noticed, though, that the steps and the ramp leading down to the dock could use a little repair. We have four welders that are free. Would you mind if we had them come over and do this project for you, as a way to give back for your kindness?”

After they had secured approval, the welders turned on the torches.

This year, before Big Lake’s camp season began, the Marines contacted Zollbrecht with a compelling offer: “Our experience at Big Lake was so awesome last year! We’d like to bring a whole platoon of Marine engineers to do more projects for Big Lake!”

The Marines came — 54 of them. They spread gravel on the main camp roads to reduce dust problems. They cut down dead trees, and they rebuilt the



The Marines built new wooden lifeguard towers on the docks, a new blob tower and a new deck for a cabin. They also cut down dead trees, and they rebuilt the retaining wall by the lodge.

retaining wall by the lodge. They built new wooden lifeguard towers on the docks, a new blob tower and a new deck for a cabin.

“They take full ownership of every task, and when they finish a project they ask for more. What they do is beyond excellence,” says camp ranger Paul.

One day the staff sergeant stopped to talk with Zollbrecht. “Sir,” the sergeant said, “there’s something about this place that is so amazing and different. I’ve never seen our troops happier. Your staff is so friendly and engaging. What is it?”

“Well, we believe in a culture of empowering and loving people,” answered Zollbrecht. “When we have

The Marines also helped repair machinery and did it all with smiles.





More photos online at glnr.in/113-09-or_biglake



love in our hearts we want to see others thrive and become the best version of themselves. That's what God and His love is all about, and it's what makes this a special place."

The next day the captain stopped by. "Sergeant said he had a great conversation with you yesterday," the captain said. "He'd like for you to come talk with the platoon about the empowering culture of Big Lake. Would you be willing to do that?"

Friday afternoon Big Lake staff invited the Marines to join them for Sabbath, if they'd like. Thirteen chose to worship with the Big Lake summer staff.

"Several of them came to us after of worship time

and said they wanted what we had — the ability to be open and vulnerable on a genuine human level," says Jonathan Thompson, RAD Camp director.

One of the Marines re-members Sabbath as a very special day. "I liked the activities," he says. "Wasn't really expecting that, but I think some of our Marines were having more fun than the campers. We're definitely really happy to be here where you have relevant projects and friendly people."

"God knew that we needed some improvements here," says one of the Big Lake staff members. "Having the Marines come showed us that God's really looking after us."

Before leaving Big Lake, the Marine captain found Zollbrecht and asked, "Would it be OK if we came back next year? We've still got a lot of work to do on the stables, and it looks like your lodge roof needs to be replaced. Each year we set two weeks aside to practice building things. Seems like this is the perfect place to do that."

Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference storycatcher and storyteller

MILO WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek is happy to welcome eight new staff members to the Milo family for the 2018–2019 school year.

Mark and Cheryl Alder are engineers from Palmer, Alaska. Mark is excited to be returning to his alma mater to begin a new career as a physics, chemistry and math teacher. Cheryl will be continuing to home school their three younger children, while their two older children attend Milo and Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn.

Dean of men Richard Dickerson and his wife, Julie, moved to Milo from central California. They have a 2-year-old son, Ricky. A daughter is due in November, and they have a dog named Spot. Dickerson has a passion for helping boys at Milo become mature young men fully devoted to God.

Ramiro and Tara Quero most recently served at Lau-

relwood Academy in Jasper. Ramiro is teaching biology, anatomy and math, while Tara is managing Advanced Assembly, one of Milo's industries.

Four taskforce volunteers are serving at Milo for the 2018–2019 school year. Shannon Hill, assistant girls' dean, is taking a year off from her studies at Southern Adventist University, where she is majoring in public relations. Alvin Laberinto, assistant boys' dean, recently graduated from Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., with a Bachelor of Science in music. His bride, Brysanna, joined him at Milo after their September wedding.

Originally from Brazil, Roberta DeOliveira is the new agriculture assistant. The maintenance assistant for this school year is Robby Bridges, who calls Georgia home.

Kathy Hernandez, Milo Adventist Academy teacher and recruiter





Read more online
glnr.in/113-09-uc_cca

CASCADE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY WELCOMES FIVE NEW TEACHERS

W

ith the retirement of long-time resident

teachers Shannon Fisher and Gene Roemer and the move of Jason and Marita McLin to Palmer, Alaska, Cascade Christian Academy (CCA) in Wenatchee, Wash., was faced with seeking their replacements for the 2018–19 school year. In addition God blessed, and the school board voted to hire an additional teacher for the elementary section, expanding the new teacher search to five individuals. The CCA family is delighted to welcome its new teaching staff.

Madison Feri, third-grade teacher, graduated from Walla Walla University in June 2018. Feri plans on continuing her education through WWU's online master's program in special education. Feri enjoys playing with Nala, her cat, as well as hiking and jogging around greater Wenatchee with her boyfriend, Zachary, a CCA graduate.

Elizabeth King, second-grade teacher, also graduated from Walla Walla University in June 2018. For as long as King can remember, she wanted to be a teacher. It brings her great joy to watch her students grow in Jesus



Cascade Christian Academy welcomes five new teachers this school year.

and experience all there is to learning. Everyone agrees that her perpetual smile brightens everyone's day.

Laura Kyle, fifth-grade teacher, is a Canadian transplant. After graduating from Walla Walla University in 2005, she continued her education by working on a master's degree in K–6 mathematics. After moving with her husband to Wenatchee, Kyle worked as a kindergarten and special needs music teacher in a local public school for two and a half years. Kyle and her husband, Tim, have two sons, Ezra and Peter, who are both enrolled at CCA.

Jared Meharry, sixth-grade homeroom and seventh-

eighth Bible and social studies teacher, graduated from Walla Walla University (WWU) in 2005 and 2011. Meharry and his wife, Janetta, have four children. After teaching at schools around the North Pacific Union Conference, the pair served at the Adventist school on Kosrae, Micronesia. Meharry's passion is to share the love of Jesus with young people and to help them develop a personal relationship with Him.

Todd Driver, K–12 physical education and high school health teacher, graduated from Pacific Union College in northern California in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree in graphic design. After

working in the art field for 25 years, Driver added martial arts to his expertise. He earned his Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction in 2013. He loves sports of all kinds but spends most of his time with jiu jitsu, personal fitness, snow skiing and snowboarding. Driver and his wife, Denise, have a recently married daughter, Sierra, and a son, Tristan, who is a freshman at Walla Walla University.

The CCA family feels blessed and privileged to have these five new staff members join their teaching team.

Julie Savino, Cascade Christian Academy vice principal and chaplain

UPPER COLUMBIA HOLDS DIGGING DEEPER RETREAT



More online at
glnr.in/113-09-uc_digging

M

ay 18–20 marked the third young adult Digging Deeper Retreat at Camp MiVoden in Hayden, Idaho, and the sixth retreat in Upper Columbia Conference. It was truly a spiritually and socially rich weekend for young adults in the 20–40 age group as they came together for a special time of worship and fellowship.

The retreat had a total of 209 attendees, which included 155 adults and 54 children representing 36 churches from around the Northwest. When classified in terms of family units, the group was comprised of 31 families with kids, 11 couples and 54 singles. Because of the diverse demographic, the retreat sought to balance family-friendly and young adult programs and activities.

The weekend was an alternating mix of focused meeting time and relaxed camp time. Attendees got to enjoy pieces of Camp MiVoden as they gathered Friday evening around fires on the beach, welcomed Sabbath morning with prayer on the dock, hiked the camp’s property, lounged on the beach and in canoes Sabbath afternoon, and worshipped together during a Sabbath evening vespers at the campfire bowl.

Ty Gibson, keynote speaker, did a phenomenal job of leading the group through the theme of “Digging Deeper Into God’s Heart.” He painted a clear and compelling picture of God’s heart of inexpressible love and invited attendees to see their stories from that perspective. His thought-provoking arguments challenged young adults to think about their profound need of God and the unbelievable life of healing and freedom He offers.

Through these presentations, young adults heard a much-needed message about God’s true character and His heart of unfailing love for each of us. Many found the

messages hitting home in very personal ways.

The tone for the meetings was set by music teams from the Spokane (Wash.) Valley and Coeur d’Alene (Idaho) churches, with musicians from various other churches in the area. Each meeting was also lifted up with small-group prayer.

This year about a quarter of the retreat attendees were under the age of 13 as people came with their families. Some of the most fun of the weekend was in the child care and children’s programs as the kids connected with caring volunteers and learned about Jesus.

The Digging Deeper

retreats are planned by young adults in the Spokane area who are passionate about sharing Christ with their peers. Young adults are praising God for the 2018 spring retreat and grateful for the support of Upper Columbia Conference, local Spokane churches and the many volunteers who made this event possible. What a blessing it is to work together to reach out to young adults and families and to lift up Jesus Christ to another generation.

Sara Maniscalco, West Plains Community Adventist Church member



More online at
glnr.in/113-09-uc_KMEI-FM

KMEI-FM COMES BACK TO LIFE

KMEI, which broadcasts at 97.3 FM, was established by dedicated church members and God's blessing in Kamiah, Idaho, in 2005. Destroyed by a wildfire in 2015, the station has been raised from the ashes.

"KMEI is one of a network of over 100 LifeTalk Christian Radio stations with headquarters in Riverside, Calif.," Mel Fowlkes, former KMEI radio president, explains. The station's signal can be heard within a radius of about 10 miles of the tower. The station offered the community not only the Christian programs from LifeTalk Radio, but local programming as well.

Then on Aug. 14, 2015, fire roared up the hill through Kamiah. The KMEI radio signal was lost. As soon as possible, Fowlkes went to the radio tower to survey the damage. The shocking sight drove him to his knees. All that was left of the building housing the radio equipment was a pile of black ashes and twisted wires.

In the face of this devastating loss, Fowlkes began the

task of rebuilding the radio shack, replacing the destroyed equipment and strengthening the tower with the cooperation of the church members and a gifted radio man, Eric Bailey.

With gratefulness to God for His blessings, Fowlkes says, "KMEI was brought back to life in August of 2017 with all new and better technology and equipment."

In the fall of 2017, under the leadership of the newly elected radio board president, Calvin Ruebush, production of fresh local programs began. The first series launched was a program, *Bible Studies NOW!*, led by Steve Rogers, Kamiah Church pastor.

All are invited to tune in to the Christian programming of LifeTalk Radio for the whole family on KMEI as well as upcoming interviews with community members and other fresh programs produced locally.

KMEI listeners can reach the station at 208-935-8297 and kmeiradio@yahoo.com.

Cathy Law, Kamiah Church communication leader

Kamiah Church's KMEI 97.3 FM launches *Bible Studies NOW!*



Twenty-five very full bags were packed by Moscow Church and given to Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse organization.

MOSCOW MEMBERS FILL TOTES FOR VICTIMS

This spring the Moscow (Idaho) Church had an adopt-a-tote drive to fill homemade, reversible tote bags with personal care items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash and deodorant.

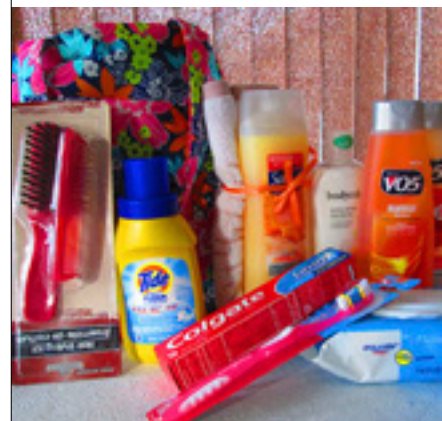
The bags were made by a church member and were filled with personal necessities specific to women in the area. Church members volunteered to fill the bags and bring them to the church. From there the very full 25 bags were taken to Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse (ATVP). ATVP provides assistance to victims of domestic violence in Whitman County in Washington and Latah County in Idaho.

According to Karina Tamayo, domestic violence prevention educator and advocate, "The bags are so fantastic. Clients ... are so grateful. The items ... are so grateful. The items they could use and perhaps also items they did not realize they

need. Our clients are also very excited about the bag itself as well."

The church embraced this project with great enthusiasm, and the members were glad to be part of helping the local community.

Natashia McVay, Moscow Church associate pastor



Each reversible tote bag was filled with personal care items like these.



More photos online at
glnr.in/113-09-wa_samoan

SAMOAN GENERATIONS LEARN TOGETHER

“**J**esus on the main line You can call Him up and tell Him what you want.”

It’s praise singing time at the Pacific Northwest Samoan Camp Meeting. Adults, teenagers and children alike joined in enthusiastically singing and adding hand motions to the lyrics. It was a special bonding moment the first weekend of September as a multigenerational program began about blending culture and faith.

“The church needs youth to bring energy and elders to bring wisdom,” says Fred Toailoa, Samoan district pastor in Washington Conference. “The church needs both.”

This weekend gathering was the first of its kind in western Washington and brought 250 guests who stayed in tents or cabins or commuted to Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson. Where weekend programming targeted different age groups, the Sabbath afternoon program specifically brought generations together for a time of learning.

“Second- and third-generation immigrants are developing their own culture,” explains Erika Puni, guest speaker from the Adventist seminary in Australia and previous stewardship director



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Jesus is on the “main line” with Samoan youth and elders in attendance at the Pacific Northwest Samoan Camp Meeting.

for the Adventist world church. “There’s a need to make the gospel and the church relevant to youth in North American Samoan churches.”

In his presentation Puni explained culture as the sum of people’s human experience (thought patterns, behavior, values and products) in a specific context. “If you are human, you have culture,” Puni says. “Human culture is complex, comprehensive and integrated.”

One of the challenges, Puni shared, is understanding where culture fits into the church. There are four differing views: 1) God is against human culture, 2) God is in human culture, 3) God is above human culture and 4)

God is above, but He works through human culture. The fourth model, Puni says, is best represented in the Bible.

“God works through culture to reach us where we are,” Puni says. “No human culture is too evil or sinful that God cannot use it for His purpose. The gospel of Jesus Christ can change human values and behaviors.”

Puni encouraged older generations to impart Samoan heritage and language on younger generations and to provide Christian education that focuses on value transformation and right relationships. He encouraged younger generations to understand they are both Samoan and Adventist.

“The church needs to be

inclusive of all generations,” Puni says. “Separate generational churches are not the answer. Spend time together.”

Inclusion of generations in worship experiences was demonstrated in the two-hour program, with diverse age groups of musicians sharing their God-given talent between teaching segments.

Next year’s camp meeting gathering is expected to draw an even larger crowd, according to Toailoa, with the hosting of the North American Division Samoan Camp Meeting in Auburn.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

BRITO ORDAINED TO GOSPEL MINISTRY

Francisco Brito was a young boy in the Dominican Republic when he first met Jesus.

“From that day, Jesus and His love seized my heart and became the only and sufficient motivation for my ministry,” Brito recalls. “Meeting Jesus was an overwhelming experience that also gave me the privilege of associating with Him to spread the good news and the power of His love.”

Brito first came to western Washington in his 20s to help grow a newborn Hispanic work. During the last 25 years, Brito had the opportunity to complete his religious studies at Walla Walla University, work as a teacher at Auburn Adventist Academy, and serve as a pastor and church planter for several churches.

Brito’s calling in pastoral ministry was recently recognized during an ordination program on Aug. 11, in Auburn.

“It’s been a long path,” acknowledges Doug Bing, Washington Conference president. “Francisco kept focused on ministry and God’s calling no matter his assignment.”

Friends and colleagues affirmed Brito for shepherding to his people. They encouraged him to keep bringing people to Jesus and faithfully serve without fear.

“He is a person we can go to,” says Leslie Ramirez, Tacoma Hispanic member. “Pastor Brito has been there for each milestone of our lives, so we are here for him now.”

“To serve God is the best thing that could ever happen to me,” Brito says. “God has never failed me. I am very happy that God chose this path for me. I would not have chosen a better one for my life.”

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

Pastors and church leaders surround Francisco and Juanita Brito and their adult children in a prayer of ordination.



JONATHAN BAUMGARTNER



KATIE HENDERSON

Conference leaders and pastors surround Andreas Beccai in prayer during his ordination.

BECCAI CALLED TO MINISTRY

Andreas Beccai never envisioned himself becoming a pastor, even though the Holy Spirit kept nudging him in that direction.

Born in Accra, Ghana, Beccai moved to Reading, England, at age 7 with his family. Intending to go into a different career field, he earned a law and business undergraduate degree from Keele University in Staffordshire. After graduation, Beccai visited with a Christian entrepreneur he had known, and the man told him how he’d always envisioned Beccai as a pastor. Those words rekindled the Holy Spirit’s prompts.

Beccai spent a few days in reflection, applied for seminary studies at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., and moved around the globe to begin his Master of Divinity degree. This God-prompted decision had multiple benefits, including meeting Cassandre Nonon during a church history class. The couple married two years later.

With their studies finished in 2012, the couple moved to Washington to work first at Auburn Adventist Academy and then at Green Lake Church. During this time, the couple welcome their daughter, Eden.



KATIE HENDERSON

Andreas Beccai takes time to speak with his church members as they come through to congratulate him on his ordination.

In 2015, Beccai felt a divine calling that led him and his family to Volunteer Park Church in Seattle, where he now serves as pastor.

Pastoral leaders, family and church family affirmed Beccai’s ministry on Sept. 8 at an ordination ceremony.

“I’ve been so impressed by his engagement with this congregation and this city,” says Kurt Johns, Beccai’s friend. “There are real people with real needs, and I see Andreas working and giving his heart to that.”

Katie Henderson, Washington Conference communication intern

More photos online at glnr.in/113-09-wa_beccai



More photos online at
glnr.in/113-09-wa_pathfinders



PATHFINDERS DISCOVER TALENTS FOR MINISTRY

More than 400 Pathfinders at the Washington Conference Camporee held at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson were challenged to explore how they can use their individual talents for ministry. Camporee coincided with the World Pathfinder Day and 68th anniversary of Pathfinders.

“I found Pathfinder camporee to be very impactful because they can find out how to relate to ministry for God,” says Mario Betita, a chaperone with the Mabuhay Warriors of the Greater Seattle Filipino-American Church. “To see the youth intermingle, it impacts how they relate to themselves and each other. For some kids, it’s life-changing.”

During a Sabbath afternoon, youth explored their artistic talents with street artist and main speaker Milton

Coronado. They created spray-paint art using plastic wrap around trees and posts. The purpose of this activity was to discover how their own individual talents can be used for ministry.

Other activities at the camporee included team-building challenges, relay games, tight rope and a canoeing-duck relay during which teams had to work together to retrieve their teammate from a rubber duck on the lake.

“God has chosen youth and given them diverse abilities,” says David Salazar, Washington Conference youth director. “Use what you’re good at and turn it into a ministry for God.”

Katie Henderson, Washington Conference communication intern

Milton Coronado, main speaker and artist, creates spray paint art at the Washington Pathfinder Camporee in September.

KATIE HENDERSON



AAA WELCOMES FAMILIAR, NEW FACULTY

As Auburn Adventist Academy embarks on its 100th academic year, there’s some familiar and new faculty faces on campus.

Alumni **Brandon Richards**, ’03, and **Kilikina (Vega) Richards**, ’02, are returning to campus this time as faculty. Brandon Richards is teaching physical education classes and working in the growth and development department. Kilikina Richards teaches English literature and media literacy classes.

Trevor Wister, ’96, and his family recently moved from Saipan to serve as vice principal for finance, coordinate campus industries, manage facilities and draft strategic plans.

David Kabanje joins the Auburn team as campus chaplain and Bible teacher for freshmen and sophomore students. Kabanje and his wife, Kiana, are coming to the Auburn community from Union College in Lincoln, Neb. Kabanje is coordinating campus ministries, setting a strong spiritual emphasis and arranging for community service outreach.

“Pastor Kabanje is so real with us,” says Tinbit Yonas, student. “He doesn’t spoon feed us. He makes Bible fun and encourages us to study the Bible deeper for ourselves.”

Steve and Krystalynn Martin are another dynamic

duo coming to the Auburn community. Krystalynn is serving as vice principal for spiritual life and senior Bible teacher, while Steve is the academy’s athletic director.

The most remarkable feature Krystalynn has noticed about Auburn’s student community: “The students sing,



GINA HUBIN

Alumna Kilikina (Vega) Richards (center) remembers discovering her love of language at Auburn Adventist Academy and is pleased to nurture similar interests with her students.

not just in general, but any time there is a worship time. Students don’t feel like they are too cool to sing. It will be exciting to see how God will continue working throughout the year.”

Gina Hubin, AAA growth and development, with AAA media literacy students



More online at
glnr.in/113-09-wa_aaa



STUDENTS ENJOY OUTDOOR ADVENTURES WITH ASWWU OUTDOORS

Backpacking, climbing and biking excursions headline the 2018–19 schedule for the ASWWU Outdoors division of the Associated Students of Walla Walla University (ASWWU). For students who can't seem to get enough of the great outdoors, the opportunities to get outside and explore will be plentiful this school year.

"My goal is to increase the number of trips ASWWU Outdoors provides and the number of students who go on each trip," says Tyler Humphries, senior mechanical engineering major and director of ASWWU Outdoors. "I want as many students as possible at Walla Walla to be able to experience the beautiful places in the Pacific Northwest."

This fall, the schedule features backpacking in the Wallawas; biking, climbing and caving around Bend, Ore.; and potentially hiking at Mount Adams. During winter quarter,

there will be cross-country skiing, ice climbing and downhill skiing trips. Then in the spring, ASWWU Outdoors will be planning rafting, surfing and hiking trips.

ASWWU Outdoors offers students opportunities to meet new people and create lasting memories. "ASWWU Outdoors exhibits what is inherent in so many students — that adventure is out there and we want to find it," says Humphries. "Life at Walla Walla University isn't just about what happens on campus. Many of us create our best memories of college climbing at Smith Rock or surfing at Pacific City."

For more information and updates, follow @aswwu.outdoors on Instagram or visit aswwu.com/pages/outdoors.

Malcolm Shaw, WWU university relations student writer

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ENHANCES STUDENT MARKETABILITY

As the new employer relations coordinator in the Walla Walla University Student Development Center (SDC), Darel Harwell works to provide experiential learning opportunities for students.

"Experiential learning is moving to the forefront of higher education nationally and is quickly becoming the deciding factor in hiring decisions for employers looking at recent graduates," says Harwell. "Experiential learning includes practicums, mentorships, research assistantships, volunteer work, internships and a variety of other formats that are all about gaining experience that allows students to apply a quality liberal arts education to the real world."

Harwell meets with students to make recommendations about opportunities and works with employers to communicate details about the skills and responsibilities they want in an experiential learning candidate. This allows students to look for opportunities that align with their major and the skills they are learning in the classroom.

"Employers are largely excited about the idea of hosting students in their organizations," says Harwell. "Smaller companies benefit from the added personnel, and our students often fill skills gaps in their structure, assisting with elements of a project that a small business might otherwise not have access to. Larger organizations recognize the opportunity to scout talent among upcoming graduates."

To learn more about the SDC and the opportunities for students and employers, contact Harwell at 509-527-2089 or visit wallawalla.edu/sdc.

Scott Riseley, WWU university relations student writer

Darel Harwell is helping students find opportunities to learn on the job.



Annalee and Dennis Carlson

Carlson 50th

Dennis N. and Annalee Carlson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 10, 2018, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, with a family dinner celebration.

Dennis met Ann Whieldon at Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md. They were married in the Worthington (Ohio) Church on Aug. 10, 1968, soon after they graduated — Ann with a Bachelor of Science in nursing and Dennis with a Bachelor of Arts in theology.

Their life of service in both professions began in Ohio, after Dennis earned the Master of Divinity degree from the Adventist seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. They were the pastoral couple in Dayton, Cleveland and Mansfield during the 1970s.

Ann was a nursing instructor at the Kettering College of Medical Arts. A call in 1980 to be the pastoral couple for the Puyallup Church in Washington state took them west.

Later Dennis began working in conference leadership, as secretary of the Washington and Upper Columbia conferences, and then as president of the Minnesota Conference, where Ann served as women's

ministries and pastoral spouse ministries, in addition to full-time home care nursing with the University of Minnesota transplant team.

After Dennis served as North American Division assistant to the president for administration, they moved to Lincoln, Neb., in 2002, where Dennis was Mid-America Union Conference president and Ann was active in pastoral spouse ministry.

Ann's nursing career in four states included medical/surgical, neonatal, pediatrics, doctor's office and home care. The pair moved to Walla Walla, Wash., in 2008, where Dennis served at Walla Walla University as vice president for advancement. They are now both retired and enjoy caring for their grandchildren.

The Carlson family includes their son and daughter-in-law, Jonathan D. and Tonya Carlson of Spokane, Wash.; their daughter and son-in-law, Julie A. Carlson and Scott Straube of Dayton, Wash.; 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Morris 70th

Don and Jeanne Morris were married Aug. 8, 1948, in



Don and Jeanne Morris

Pendleton, Ore., where they met. Don is from Illinois, and Jeanne is from North Dakota. They are members and have been active in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Don became a registered X-ray technician in 1950, and in 1952 Uncle Sam called him. He spent two years in the Army stationed in Germany.

Jeanne spent two years at Harris Pine Mills in Pendleton as head payroll clerk. When Don returned from Germany, they moved to Pasco, Wash., where he worked in Lady of Lourdes Hospital and Jeanne worked for Dr. Patchett's eye clinic.

The Morrises had two children: Linda was born in Richland and Brian in Pasco.

In 1965, they moved to Ritzville and worked for Dr. Smick. In 1966, they moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and purchased Pinewood Manor. Then in 1968 they bought and built LaCrosse Convalescent Center. In 1972, they built and ran the first large retirement place in Coeur d'Alene, now called Bestland.

Don and Jeanne retired in the 1990s and did some extensive traveling local and abroad. Don loves his banjo and guitar, while Jeanne loves to crochet and cook.

They lost their beloved daughter, Linda, in 2006. Their son Brian and his wife, Darina, live in Coeur d'Alene. They also have 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Palmer 65th

Don and Helen Palmer celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 25, 2018.

Helen Thrush met Donald Palmer in Caldwell, Idaho, while attending Gem State Academy. They were married on June 25, 1953, in Reith, Ore. They lived most of their married life in Salem, Ore.



Don and Helen Palmer

They are charter members of East Salem (Ore.) Church.

Don worked as manual-arts instructor and as a Pathfinder leader for 17 years. He also held several positions in the church.

Helen was a child care provider and church custodian. She also worked in children's divisions as leader and helper and served as Vacation Bible School leader and assistant treasurer.

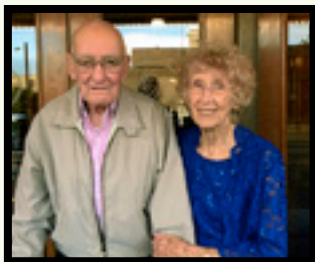
The Palmer family includes Connie and Jim Heinrich of Tolstoy, S.D.; Karen and Jan Eric Kiele of Chugiak, Alaska; Donald Palmer Jr. of Salem; 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Schnibbe 70th

Seventy years to the day after Fred Schnibbe and Verona Montanye got married, they returned to the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center in Walla Walla, Wash., for a celebratory dinner at The Marc, this time accompanied by their sons and daughters-in-law.

A math major, Fred met English major Verona while attending Walla Walla College (now University). They wed on June 20, 1948, at the College Church, now Village Hall, in College Place, Wash. The first night of their honeymoon was spent at the Marcus Whitman Hotel. Their honeymoon continued at Wallowa Lake Lodge.

Born Dec. 7, 1923, in College Place, Verona mostly grew up on a family cattle ranch in the Colville National Forest area between Tonasket and Republic, Wash. Meanwhile Fred grew up in Queens and Brooklyn, N.Y., where he was born July 14, 1925. He learned



Fred and Verona Schnibbe

X-ray while serving during World War II in the U.S. Army, mostly in Europe. His sister had followed a favorite teacher, H.J. Alcock, west to Walla Walla College and she persuaded Fred to follow. While studying pre-med, he took X-ray call at Walla Walla General and St. Mary's hospitals.

Verona graduated in 1948 and continued to work in the registrar's office until Fred graduated in 1950. They moved to Loma Linda, Calif., where he had been accepted to study medicine at the College of Medical Evangelists, now Loma Linda University. For

three years he continued taking X-ray call, then in his senior year did extern work for a medical group in nearby Burbank.

Verona worked in the registrar's office until the day before going to the hospital for the birth of their first son. Later she typed medical manuscripts at home for two physicians.

Fred graduated from medical school in 1954 and interned at Portland (Ore.) Adventist Hospital. He started practice in Twisp, Wash., where the patients started coming to the house before the new arrivals had even unpacked.

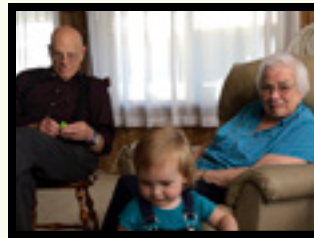
Their son Bob was ready to start church school when doctors Harold Stout and Harold Lamberton invited Fred to join them in a partnership — the Community Medical Center — in Brewster, Wash., in 1958.

Verona combined home-making with part-time reporting for the local weekly newspaper, for the Civil Air Patrol and for the *Gleaner*.

When the Brewster Church congregation decided to build a church (the school gymnasium served dual purpose for years), Fred was named chair of the building committee. The new church was dedicated in 1969.

Fred retired in 1994 but maintained his license and occasionally assisted with surgeries.

In 2008, they left their Hidden Pines Ranch in Brewster to retire in College Place, where they are enjoying many longtime and recent acquaintances and visits from and to Northwest family and friends,



Paul and Pat Vercio

as well as volunteering at Walla Walla University's Havstad Alumni Center.

Fred and Verona's family includes Richard Schnibbe and Winnie Wied of Walla Walla; Dale and Ann Schnibbe of Spokane, Wash.; Robert Schnibbe, died in 1993; daughter-in-law, DeeAnn Schnibbe of Wenatchee, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Vercio 60th

Paul Vercio and Pat Petersen met and married in Lincoln, Neb. They recently celebrated 60 years of marriage in their home surrounded by children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Paul served as a pastor in the Rocky Mountain and Georgia-Cumberland conferences. Together they raised four children. They retired in 2007 to Oak Harbor, Wash., where they continue to be active participants in the Oak Harbor Church.

The Vercio family includes Alan and Linda (Bauer) Vercio of Charlotte, N.C.; Philip and Shelby (House) Vercio of Whitefish, Mont.; Buffy and Ron Jr. Halvorsen of Dayton, Ohio; Cathy and Gary Thayer of Oak Harbor, Wash.; 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Wilber 50th

Janice and Charlie Wilber celebrated their 50th wedding

anniversary on June 23, 2018, with the Milo Academy Church family in Days Creek, Ore.

Janice Harlow met Charlie Wilber in 1966 at La Sierra College (now La Sierra University) in California. She was a student, and he was working in the cafeteria. During that year Charlie was drafted and spent 18 months in Germany with the U.S. Army. After he returned, the pair became engaged and were married in the Corona Church on June 2, 1968.

Charlie worked as a Loma Linda Foods salesman in southern California. Then they moved to Rio Lindo Academy in Healdsburg, Calif., and spent one summer working at Camp Wawona in central California. In 1974, they moved their young family to Milo Adventist Academy. Over the years they have done many jobs for the academy and its industry, Thunderbird



Janice and Charlie Wilber

Furniture, when it was operating on campus. Now, in retirement they enjoy traveling to camp meeting and raising a garden.

Both of their sons and daughters-in-law were able to attend the anniversary celebration: Charlie and Lori Wilber of Redland, Calif.; Larry and Misti Wilber of Walla Walla, Wash.; and 5 grandchildren.

FAMILY BIRTHS

BYERS — Winston was born Aug. 31, 2018, to Brani and Shari Byers, Port Angeles, Wash.

CARVER — Rayanne Grace was born July 5, 2018, to Tom and Shelly (Hickethier) Carver, Portland, Ore.

DENNEY — Drew Alan was born July 13, 2018, to Eric and Erin (Meidinger) Denney, Spokane, Wash.

NIELSEN — Micah Glen Wat was born Aug. 28, 2018, to Erik Alan Wat and Karyelle Danae (Fleck) Nielsen, Anacortes,

(Andregg) McClusky, Loveland, Colo.; 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

BAYBARZ — Nadine Ruth (Elliott), 84; born March 15, 1934, Aberdeen, Wash.; died June 6, 2018, Shelton, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Kathi Johnson, Langley, British Columbia, Canada; Sheryll Rosario, Boring, Ore.; Julie Setina, Olympia, Wash.; Lynette Wickett, Shelton; Andra LeFever, Addy, Wash.; brother, Donnie Elliott, Clackamas, Ore.; 12 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

BIGELOW — Lois (Morris), 89; born July 19, 1928, Virginia, Minn.; died April 23, 2018, Yuba City, Calif. Surviving: son, Wally, Gold Bar, Wash.; daughters, Wendy Kennedy, Browns Valley, Calif.; Bobbie Kinberg, Arlington, Wash.; 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

BIGELOW — Thomas, 91; born Jan. 2, 1920, Sultan, Wash.; died May 5, 2011, Chewelah, Wash. Surviving: wife, Lois (Morris); son, Wally, Gold Bar, Wash.; daughters, Wendy Kennedy, Browns Valley, Calif.; Bobbie Kinberg, Arlington, Wash.; 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

BLAINE — Cyril D., 90; born May 4, 1928, Los Angeles, Calif.; died May 28, 2018, Loma Linda, Calif. Surviving: wife, Doris Cook, Loma Linda and Aloha, Ore.; son, Roy, Pendleton, Ore.; daughters, Carol Scott, Riverside, Calif.; Verna Blaine, Northport, Fla.; stepdaughter, Kathy Cook, Los Angeles; stepson, Lyndon Cook, Chehalis, Wash.; 4 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

BROWN — Melea Ann (Spenser), 44; born April 22, 1974, Albert Lea, Minn.; died

June 6, 2018, Paradise, Calif. Surviving: husband, Brad; son, Jaron, Paradise; daughter, Alina Brow, Paradise; parents, Bernard and Valerie (Swanberg) Spenser, Manzanita, Ore.

BURRELL — Margaret “June” (Patterson) Snyder, 102; born June 15, 1916, Spokane, Wash.; died July 25, 2018, Spokane. Surviving: daughters, Deanna Schroetlin, Farmington, Wash.; Maxine Solomon, Cheney, Wash.; 10 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

CHRISTENSON — Iver Oswald, 92; born Feb. 14, 1925, Stanwood, Wash.; died Dec. 21, 2017, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: wife, Jacqueline Mae (da Silva); son, Craig Brian Christenson, Vancouver; daughters, Cynthia Rae Christenson Stanwyck, Vancouver; Rhonda Jo Christenson Salinas, Lincoln City, Ore.; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

CHRISTOPHER — Virginia E., 87; born Nov. 15, 1930, East Stanwood, Wash.; died June 5, 2018, Oak Harbor, Wash. Surviving: daughter Kim Gallegos, Oak Harbor; and twin sister, Vera Ayers, Gresham, Ore.

CORNELL — Clinton Roy, 77; born July 1, 1940, Seattle, Wash.; died June 15, 2018, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: wife, Lois (Anderson), Republic, Wash.; sons, Earl, Antioch, Calif.; John, Everett, Wash.; daughters, Christina Graves, Portland, Tenn.; Elizabeth Christian, Newport, Tenn.; brothers, Vaughn Cornell, Hines City, Fla.; Kendal Cornell, Roseville, Calif.; and 9 grandchildren.

DORNING — Annie Ruth (Furman), 87; born July 15,

1930, Langley, Wash.; died July 3, 2018, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: sons, Clyde and John, both of St. Maries, Idaho; Dale, Tampoico, Wash.; daughters, Lois Wright, Union Gap, Wash.; Connie Stone, Tampoico; sisters, Orpha Bogart, Grace Hampton and Gloria Condit, all of Seattle, Wash.; 12 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

FLETCHER — Edith W. (Williamson), 88; born Jan. 31, 1930, Dalworth Park, Texas; died May 26, 2018, Roseburg, Ore. Surviving: sons, Donald D., Auburn, Wash.; Larry, Winston, Ore.; Kevin, Auburn; daughter, Jeri Litvin, Roseburg; 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

FRAHM — Kathrine T. (Hester), 83; born May 9, 1935, Los Angeles, Calif.; died May 11, 2018, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Tim and Jeff, both of Council, Idaho; daughters, Laura McGehee, Boise, Idaho; Karen Muse, Nampa; sisters, Patricia Miller, Escondido, Calif.; Lauriane Bull, Payson, Ariz.; 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

GARNICK — Rose Margurite (Lebraska), 93; born May 5, 1924, Boulder, Colo.; died March 22, 2018, Bellingham, Wash. Surviving: son, Dick, Bellingham; daughter, Peggy Kazbier, Lakeside, Mont.; 4 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 6 step-great-grandchildren.

HACKETT — Michael Eugene, 69; born Jan. 23, 1949, Warsaw, N.Y.; died May 28, 2018, Everett, Wash. Surviving: wife, Karen (Freitas); son, Michael Hackett, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; daughter, Deborah Case, Ceres, Calif.; brothers, Jim Hackett, Gasport,

FAMILY WEDDINGS

KNOLL-GANDY

Deborah Marie Knoll and Matthew Cain Gandy were married Sept. 9, 2018, in Woodland, Wash. They are making their home in Hendersonville, N.C. Deborah is the daughter of Thomas and Merry Knoll. Matthew is the son of John and Nancy Gandy.

FAMILY AT REST

ACKLEY — Delbert N., 89; born Aug. 25, 1928, White Salmon, Wash.; died June 11, 2018, Eugene, Ore. Surviving: sons, Claude, Eugene; Delbert, Las Vegas, Nev.; daughters, Delaine Gregory, Springfield, Ore.; Jacqueline Stockton, Admore, Okla.; 19 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

ANDREGG — James Albert, 88; born May 31, 1929, Eagle, Idaho; died Sept. 25, 2017, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Jack Witt and Kelly Witt, both of Caldwell, Idaho; John Andregg, Emmett, Idaho; daughter, Donna (Andregg) Hessel, Caldwell; Carolyn (Andregg) Beardsley, Bozeman, Mont.; brother, Dan Andregg, Boise; sister, Esther

FAMILY AT REST

N.Y.; Dave Hackett, Warsaw, N.Y.; Walter Hackett, Conyers, Ga.; Anthony Hackett, Darien Center, N.Y.; Arthur Hackett, Delevan, N.Y.; sisters, Betty Monteau, McDonough, Ga.; Helen Murtha, Hampton, Ga.; Ceil Conrad, North Java, N.Y.; Lorena Thompson, Pike, N.Y.; Rose Mary Warner, Chaffee, N.Y.; Ethel Rawlings, Yorkshire, N.Y.; and 4 grandchildren.

HANEY — Ruby (Wageman), 86; born July 24, 1931, Twin Falls, Idaho; died July 19, 2018, Milton-Freewater, Ore. Surviving: husband, Ron; sons, Derald and Rick, both of Milton-Freewater; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

HARSHA — George Myron, 90; born July 31, 1927, Cocoa, Fla.; died June 4, 2018, Rice, Wash. Surviving: wife, Lura Mae (Davis); daughters, Kathy Reed, Payette, Idaho; Willow-Brenda Huffine, Bend, Ore.; Lori McClintock, Rice; 7 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

JENICKE — Irene B. (Schmechel), 96; born Sept. 22, 1921, Granite Falls, Minn.; died April 2, 2018, Sun City, Ariz. Surviving: son, Donald, Spokane, Wash.; daughters, Barbara Morphis, Sun City; Sandra Monette, Loma Linda, Calif.; 3 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

JONES — Ernest Arthur, 80; born July 13, 1937, Kelso, Wash.; died June 1, 2018, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: sons, Ernest Jones Jr. and Kevin Jones, both of Olympia, Wash.; Donald Halder, Weslaco, Texas; daughters, Lisa Hensdale, Olympia; Marjorie Tidwell, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; brothers, Dale Jones,

Eugene, Ore.; Ralph Jones, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; Clifford Jones, Elko, Nev.; Carl Jones, of Washington; sisters, Cheryl Grant, Carson, Wash.; Dorothy Seal, of Florida; 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

LUTTON — Donald Earl, 59; born Feb. 27, 1959, Loma Linda, Calif.; died June 27, 2018, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Gail (Archer); daughters, April Shelden and Natalie Lutton; father, Larry Lutton; mother, Dorothy Walker; brother, Richard Lutton; sister, Lynn Yoder; and a grandchild.

MAINE — Alan Ambrose, 81; born Jan. 26, 1937, Custer County, S.D.; died July 26, 2018, Coquille, Ore. Surviving: wife, Glenna (Yokom); son, Dale, Caldwell, Idaho; daughters, Diane Sheese, Coquille; Dana Martin, Pendleton, Ore.; and 8 grandchildren.

OSBORNE — Gayle Elayne (Jackson), 83; born March 15, 1935, Gridley, Calif.; died July 26, 2018, College Place, Wash. Surviving: son, Kendall, Clovis, Calif.; brother, Robert Jackson, League City, Texas; and 2 grandchildren.

RASMUSSEN — Roma Belle (Snyder), 96; born Jan. 24, 1922, Odell, Neb.; died July 2, 2018, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: son, Jack, Rainier, Ore.; daughter, Jeannie Sue, Spangle, Wash.; sisters, Donna Fasnacht, Loveland, Colo.; Naomi Nogler, Grand Junction, Colo.; 5 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

RINGERING — Lillian May (Koehler), 91; born Feb. 6, 1927, Harvey, N.D.; died April 11, 2018, Hubbard, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Dalene Ringering-Johnson, Walla Walla, Wash.; Candice Ringering, Molalla, Ore.; sister, Nadine

Hale, Seattle, Wash.; a grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren.

ROGERS — Cheryl Eileen (McDaniel), 64; born Aug. 23, 1953, Glendale, Calif.; died July 2, 2018, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Randy; daughter, Jennifer Martin, Nampa; sister, Judy Beasley-Tapp, Aumsville, Ore.; and a grandchild.

ROSE — Virginia M. (Hegstad), 86; born March 5, 1932, Portland, Ore.; died June 23, 2018, Woodburn, Ore. Surviving: husband, Carl, Mt. Angel, Ore.; son, Howard, Jacksonville, Fla.; daughter, Sherrill Hawley, Mt. Angel; sister, Beverly (Hegstad) Bottsford, Cleburne, Texas; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

RUBIO — Toni Desoto (Rubio) Antinnoccio, 80; born March 1, 1938, San Francisco, Calif.; died May 24, 2018, Grants Pass, Ore. Surviving: daughter, Sherri Antinnoccio, Grants Pass; and a grandchild.

SAYLES — Gary W., 73; born Jan. 3, 1945, Ketchikan, Alaska; died May 30, 2018, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Viola (Huffman), Nampa, Idaho; son, Derek, Middleton, Idaho; daughter, Diana Sayles, Nampa; brother, Doug Sayles, Hagerstown, Md.; sister, Sandra Leavelle, Rochester, Minn.; a grandchild.

SCHNEIDER — Althea (Noble), 92; born May 30, 1926, Fitch Bay, Quebec, Canada; died July 11, 2018, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: son, Alan, Nampa; daughters, Melanie Lui, Mariposa, Calif.; Heidi Jackson, Loma Linda, Calif.; and 2 grandchildren.

SEELY — Sylvia Loretta (Rodacker), 89; born July 20, 1929, Robinson, N.D.; died July 22, 2018, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: stepson, Zane

Seely, Lake Stevens, Wash.; stepdaughters, Sydney Mae Seely, College Place, Wash.; Cathy Ann Kahn, Kennewick, Wash.; brother, Emil Rodacker; 6 step-grandchildren and 4 step-great-grandchildren.

STATEN — Patricia (Davis), 77; born May 16, 1940, Modesto, Calif.; died March 11, 2018, White City, Ore. Surviving: sons, Jeffrey, Wilderville, Ore.; Harry III, Vancouver, Wash.; Joshua, White City; daughters, Janine Mills, Gresham, Ore.; Joni Staten, White City; 14 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

WAGNER — Leah (Wacker), 99; born Sept. 10, 1918, Jamestown, N.D.; died July 17, 2018, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: sons, James, Walla Walla; Donald, Desert Hot Springs, Calif.; 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

WILSON — Donald M., 89; born Oct. 1, 1928, Weippe, Idaho; died Nov. 8, 2017, Lewiston, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Eileen (Phelps); sons, Dan, Lewiston; Steve, Rathdrum, Idaho; Marv, Clarkston, Wash.; 7 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

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

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

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

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Stay in touch with the latest news, video links, calendar events, photo galleries, past issues and more at gleanernow.com.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

Nov. 3 — Local Church Budget;

Nov. 10 — World Budget: Annual Sacrifice Global Mission;

Nov. 17 — Local Church Budget;

Nov. 24 — Local Conference Advance.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

How to Pay for College Workshops

Walla Walla University will host workshops, “How to Pay for College,” for prospective students and their parents. Workshops will be held at Auburn Adventist Academy on **Nov. 10** at 5 p.m., Milo Adventist Academy on **Nov. 11** at 9 a.m. and Upper Columbia Academy on **Nov. 17** at a time TBD. An online presentation with live Q&A will be held Jan. 9, 2019, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. For details and to register, visit wallawalla.edu/workshops.

OREGON CONFERENCE

Chef G.W. Chew Is Coming to Portland

Come meet G.W. Chew, aka Chef Chew, founder of Something Better Foods, a vegan food inventor/restaurateur for more than 15 years and founder of The Veg Hub Restaurant, a social enterprise that provides affordable and delicious vegan food and free cooking classes to the San Francisco Bay Area. Chef Chew has his own TV show, *Chew's Challenge*, and loves to share the good news of health. Four opportunities to join him as he gives you something better to “Chew” on: at Adventist Health Portland, 10123 SE Market St., Portland, OR 97216, on Thursday, **Nov. 15**, 6:30 p.m.; or at the Stone Tower Church, 3010 NE Holladay St., Portland, Ore., on Friday, **Nov. 16** at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, **Nov. 17** at 3 p.m.; and Sunday, **Nov. 18** at 3 p.m. For additional information, go to peopletopeopleministries.com or call 503-893-9022.

His Praise Men's Chorus Concerts

Nov. 17 — His Praise Men's Chorus will be presenting a concert during the 10:50 a.m. church service on Sabbath in

the Prineville Church, 1600 S. Main St., Prineville, Ore. Then His Praise Men's Chorus will be presenting a concert at 4:30 p.m. in the Cascade Church, 60670 Brookswood Blvd., Bend, Ore. His Praise is a group of about 25 men drawn from the Portland, Ore./Vancouver, Wash., area and from all walks of life, directed by Charlie Drury, who have one thing in common: They love to sing gospel music. For information, call Marion Miller, Prineville Church pastor, 541-460-2462; Jeffery Coleman, Cascade Church pastor, 541-788-1598; Jerry Irvine, His Praise scheduling coordinator, 206-261-6452; or Wes Wilbur, His Praise president, 360-936-1401.

Celebration of Thanksgiving

Nov. 17 — Join Adventist Health for a special celebration concert featuring Sandi Patty at 7 p.m. Free admission with a ticket and donation of nonperishable food items and a new pair of socks. More information and ticket locations available at AdventistHealth.org/Portland.

Fountainview Orchestra and Singers

Dec. 9 — The Grants Pass Church, 1360 NE Ninth Street in Grants Pass, Ore., will be hosting two free concerts featuring the Fountainview Academy Orchestra and Singers this December. The two performances will be held Sunday, Dec. 9, at 5 p.m., and at 7:30 p.m. Sweeping all the way down from British Columbia, Canada, this group of smiling young people is eager to help southwestern Oregon welcome the holiday season! They will inspire you with a dazzling Christmas repertoire of old classics and new, soon-to-be favorites. This internationally acclaimed youth orchestra has toured Europe, as well as Central and North America. Fountainview concerts regularly broadcast internationally on Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN). They have recorded performances in national parks and spectacular historical settings overseas. Numerous professional albums and DVD recordings are available for purchase. You will be able to pick up free tickets

at any Evergreen Federal Bank location in southern Oregon in early November. Seating is limited and available on a first-come basis. For more information, please call the church office at 541-476-6313 or Better Life Television at 541-474-3089.

Missing Members

The Rogue River Church in Rogue River, Ore., is looking for Sara Camilli and Glenda Tracer. If you have any information about these missing members, please call 541-582-1262 or email lskelm@yahoo.com. You can also send mail to Rogue River Church, Attention: Lucille Kelm, Church Clerk, P.O. Box 1287, Rogue River, OR 97537.

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Equipping for Service Weekend

Nov. 16-18 — Upper Columbia Conference is partnering with more than 15 churches in the Chewelah, Wash., region to help equip and empower members to reach their community with the Christ-centered message of hope and wholeness. Mark your calendar so you can take advantage of this power-packed weekend at the Chewelah Church, 2310 Sand Canyon Road, beginning Friday night at 7 p.m. Not able to attend? We have more Equipping weekends scheduled throughout the next year. More information at uccsda.org/equipping.

Journey to Bethlehem

Nov. 30-Dec. 3 — Take a free, unforgettable, guided walking tour of the recreated town of Bethlehem. Encounter Roman soldiers, the tax collector, the innkeeper, wise men with their live camel and more! Watch the story of Christ's birth unfold before your eyes. Walk-ins welcome. Starting Nov. 1, tour times can be reserved at yakimasda.org. Yakima Church, 507 N. 35th Ave., Yakima, Wash., from 5-8:30 p.m.

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT

GLEANERNOW.COM/EVENTS.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a camera, with the sun creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene from the left. The background is a soft-focus landscape with trees and hills under a bright sky.

Images of Creation

Photo Contest

The *Gleaner* needs your images of creation for the inside front cover of the magazine, as well as an online Photo of the Week at GleanerNow.com and the *Gleaner's* social media.

The **2019 Images of Creation** nature photo contest updated and specific rules are online at GleanerNow.com/photocontest

- **Vertical** photos submitted (up to 15 digital entries) will be considered for the print edition of the *Gleaner* magazine. Winning entries will receive \$250 per photo
- **Horizontal** photos submitted (up to 15 digital entries) will be considered for Photo of the Week on GleanerNow.com. Horizontal photos may also be included in a preliminary Web-based gallery to allow individuals to go online Nov. 20–Dec. 11 to vote for favorite images.
- Only images of nature taken within the state of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.
- Photo dimensions and file requirements available online.
- Final selection of both vertical and horizontal image winners will be at the discretion of the *Gleaner* staff.
- **BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR PHOTOS, BE SURE TO READ THE COMPLETE PHOTO CONTEST RULES AT GLEANERNOW.COM/PHOTOCONTEST.**

Submit your entries online at
GleanerNow.com/photocontest

Deadline: Wednesday, **Nov. 14, 2018**, by 5 p.m.

gleanerweekly⁺

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already know.
Why not you?

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Anchorage	5:57	4:39	4:22	4:07	3:54
Fairbanks	5:29	4:05	3:43	3:23	3:04
Juneau	5:08	3:52	3:38	3:25	3:15
Ketchikan	5:08	3:54	3:41	3:31	3:23
IDAHO CONFERENCE					
Boise	6:36	5:27	5:20	5:14	5:10
La Grande	5:40	4:30	4:22	4:16	4:12
Pocatello	5:22	5:14	5:06	5:01	4:57
MONTANA CONFERENCE					
Billings	6:00	4:51	4:43	4:37	4:32
Havre	5:59	4:48	4:39	4:32	4:27
Helena	6:13	5:03	4:55	4:48	4:43
Miles City	5:48	4:39	4:30	4:24	4:19
Missoula	6:20	5:10	5:02	4:55	4:50
OREGON CONFERENCE					
Coos Bay	6:08	4:59	4:52	4:47	4:43
Medford	6:05	4:56	4:49	4:44	4:40
Portland	5:57	4:48	4:40	4:34	4:29
UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE					
Pendleton	5:42	4:32	4:24	4:18	4:14
Spokane	5:32	4:22	4:13	4:06	4:01
Walla Walla	5:39	4:29	4:21	4:15	4:10
Wenatchee	5:44	4:34	4:25	4:18	4:14
Yakima	5:47	4:37	4:29	4:22	4:17
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE					
Bellingham	5:49	4:39	4:30	4:22	4:17
Seattle	5:52	4:41	4:33	4:26	4:21
Nov. 4 DST ends					

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GOD'S PROVISION AT SHERIDAN MEADOWS

A

t Sheridan Meadows, the Adventist retreat center near Republic, Wash., work was beginning to prepare for Northeast Washington Camp Meeting. A local contractor was hauling gravel and making our road so much nicer. While all the trucks were coming and going there was not much else to do, so the water was turned on for the first time of the season. There is most always something the winter freeze has ruined — water lines frozen and split, needing repair.

Leon Anderson stands in the new Sheridan Meadows Assembly Building.



This year there were no lines needing repair, but there was a urinal in the men's bathroom acting like an artesian well that the drain could barely keep up with. The water was shut off and

the urinal disassembled. Leon Anderson was going to go into Republic to try to get the needed parts to fix it. Urinals have rather specialized plumbing, and Republic is a very small town. Colville is more than 50 miles away and many times larger, but even at that it was not likely either place would have the needed part — but Leon would at least go to Republic and try.

In the story of Lazarus, Jesus asked them to roll away the stone from the grave. He could have spoken and it would have been done. Instead, He chose to work with humanity: “Thus Christ would show that humanity is to co-operate with divinity. What human power can do divine power is not summoned to do. God does not dispense with man’s aid. He strengthens him, co-operating with him as he uses the powers and capabilities given him” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 535.3).

So Leon was heading to Republic.

Near the highway leading to Republic there is a small singlewide trailer that the local Veterans of Foreign Wars have as a clubhouse, just a few hundred feet from the highway. A plumber from Republic had pulled in there, made a U-turn and was

heading back to the highway. At that moment Leon drove by him and flagged him down. Leon asked him if he might have any parts he needed. The plumber had a truck similar to a small U-haul truck. He got out and rolled up his door, which revealed basically an empty van box. He started sorting around in some boxes on the floor near the front and pulled out the exact parts that were needed. He also informed Leon he needed to replace a small O-ring. The plumber sorted around some more and found one of those also.

What’s the chance of a plumber driving by at just the right time, having just the right part in a nearly empty truck, telling Leon what else he needed and having that part also? Only God knows, but He leaves us a good clue: “And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear” (Is. 65:24).

Patty Marsh, Kettle Falls Church member

LIFE IN THE 'FIDGETAL AGE'

In 1934 George Herbert Mead (and later with the help of Harold Blumer) created a communication theory known as symbolic interactionism. The essential idea is that people assign meaning to objects in the world and that influences how they interact. However, these meanings aren't static. As we connect with other people we can modify meanings, which in turn change the way we act. And as our actions and responses change, they help shape the way we live.

I reflected on this theory as I read George Knight's new book *End-Time Events and the Last Generation*. My former professor does an excellent job giving an overview of the history of conflict regarding the development and conflicts surrounding Last Generation Theology and the book *Questions on Doctrine* (among other things). While there is much to comment

on, Knight frequently points to our confusion over terms such as "atonement" and "sinful nature." These kinds of theological terms, among countless others, are loaded with meanings and semantic ranges. Not only do these terms have historical contexts but semioticians (people who study signs) have long pointed out that meanings are often unique to people and not the words or symbols themselves. That can make language slippery when it comes to

pinning down meaning (see I.A. Richards and C.K. Ogden, *The Meaning of Meaning*).

Part of the problem that Knight highlights isn't just the different meanings assigned to words but the exclusion of differing meanings from the dialogue. In the 1940s M.L. Andreasen was the leading theologian who had developed a popular but eventually controversial concept known as Last Generation Theology. L.E. Froom was a theologian and denominational leader brokering dialogues with the evangelical world in order to remove unnecessary heretical stigmas from Adventism. During this process with evangelical leaders Knight observes that Froom was influential in excluding Andreasen from the discussions, effectively putting him on the sidelines by the mid-50s.¹

Later on, Knight observes, *Questions on Doctrine* would be the book that articulated these Adventist/evangelical dialogues but Andreasen "was not included in the reading committee of 250 Adventist leaders that approved the book for publication."² One example of how this disconnect contributed to misunderstandings is cited when Froom commented on the subject of whether or not the atonement's sacrificial aspect was completed on the cross. He wrote an article in *Ministry* magazine stating, "That is the tremendous scope of the sacrificial



AUTHOR Seth Pierce

Instead of dialogue we react, rant and respond to images and terms we haven't carefully evaluated.

act of the cross — a complete, perfect, and final atonement for man's sin."³ Andreasen, understandably hurting from his exclusions and what he saw as a loss of a distinct Adventist doctrine he personally developed, responded.

However, in his response, Andreasen made a minor but significant change to Froom's sentence. He failed to include Froom's dash and quoted him as saying, "the sacrificial act on the cross is a complete, perfect, and final atonement for man's sins."⁴ Instead of the sacrificial aspect of the atonement being distinct from the application of the atonement in the heav-

enly sanctuary, Andreasen's response suggested Froom's statement collapsed the entirety of the atonement into the sacrifice of the cross.

Symbolic interactions like these not only confuse meanings but contribute to bitter conflicts we are still negating today.

Knight reflects, "One can only speculate on the different course of Adventist history *if* Andreasen had been consulted regarding the wording of the Adventist position on the atonement, *if* Froom and his colleagues hadn't been divisive in their handling of issues related to the human nature

of Christ, *if* both Froom and Andreasen would have softer personalities."⁵ However, as the book states, "ifs aren't the stuff of history" — but they can be instructive for the present.

Life in the "fidgetal age" — with its host of "triggers" through social media — lends itself to rapid response and a lack of positive symbolic interactions. Instead of dialogue we react, rant and respond to images and terms we haven't carefully evaluated. As a result, our symbolic interactions hang on by a thread in a Facebook post. We assign meaning in what Walter Lippmann calls

"pseudo-environments" and what Daniel Boorstin labels "pseudo-events" — essentially information in highly mediated environments that affirm our stereotypes of the world without careful exploration of the facts.

How are your symbolic interactions doing? Where do they occur? As we move through the 21st century as a church we will need to recapture slow time and respectful face-to-face dialogue if we are to create meanings that help us toward our mission. The King James Version renders Prov. 4:7 in a way that fits our modern context well: "With all thy getting get understanding." We will always have disagreements, and meanings will change, but perhaps we can find a way to navigate those human realities with a little more grace.

1. Knight, George R. *End-time Events and the Last Generation: The Explosive 1950s* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2018) p. 40.
2. *Ibid.*
3. Froom, L.E. "The Priestly Application of the Atoning Act," *Ministry*, 30 (2) (February 1957) p. 10.
4. Andreasen, M.L. "A Review and Protest," mimeographed document (October 15, 1957).
5. Knight, p. 53.

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor



THANKSGIVING WITHOUT THE GOSPEL

T

hroughout childhood, I suffered guilt and despair despite sincerity of spiritual caregivers. Church school teachers warned that only perfectly Christlike children qualify for heaven. While God also loves imperfect people, they would be lost in heaven's investigative judgment — which any moment could determine our doom. “But if you pray every day,” pastors added hopefully, “Jesus will come into your heart and cleanse you from all sin.”

Somehow sanctification didn't happen as advertised.

One day a courageous pastor's wife notified my mother that I was “chubby.” She shared quotations that threatened my salvation if I didn't lose weight. Eventually, my adolescent growth spurt eradicated baby fat but initiated other temptations. Academy teachers admonished us teenagers, “Why be lost when salvation is free? You

can't buy it or work for it. The grace of God that

changes your heart is free!” Free indeed! I actually wished salvation were *not* free. I would sell my soul to God in exchange for peace. But no, salvation was free — like moon dust, far beyond my grasp.

While a sophomore at Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University), I redoubled efforts to Christify

myself. That summer I sold Christian books, returning my junior year as a theology student.

Just when sanctification seemed attainable, I plunged into great disappointment. It happened Oct. 22, 1971, at a student ministerial retreat. The speaker from a self-supporting school declared we must reflect the image of Jesus fully to survive the impending Time of Trouble. Drawn like a moth to the flame of his perfectionism, I fled my Christian college that permitted sports and dating. Flushing all friendships, I joined that self-supporting institution in the mountains, 20 miles from the nearest temptation.

Home at last! Earnest leaders with firm handshakes welcomed me to wholesome, godly living. No ice cream, TV or newspapers — nothing but the books of Ellen White and the Bible.

ELUSIVE SINLESSNESS

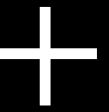
Survival was a struggle. Mornings I hand-cranked the old John Deere tractor and worked the farm. Afternoons I sold books on dusty country roads. Evenings and weekends I conducted Bible studies.

After one year at that Adventist madrasa, everyone regarded me the strictest jihadist among them. A fanatic, they called me. All I did was take their perfectionism to its logical



AUTHOR

Martin Weber



Everyone regarded me the strictest jihadist among them. A fanatic, they called me.



conclusion. Yet nothing I could do relieved suffocating guilt — not from bad habits unconquered, just the haunting reality of chronic imperfection.

One Saturday night, as I knelt beside my army cot, grief and frustration overwhelmed me. “God, what does it take!” I cried. “I’ve given up everything You could possibly want. I’ve forfeited all fun, scholarships and even my dream of pastoring. I’m all alone out here. My class back at college graduates this spring, and I’m stuck on this wretched farm where nobody loves me, nobody cares.” Hot tears cascaded on my Bible.

“They call me a fanatic, Lord. But all I do is only what You want me to — and still it’s not enough. God!” I cried. “Long ago I ‘let go and let Jesus’ have my life. I live by faith in His justifying, sanctifying grace. What does it take to perfectly reflect the image of Jesus? When will I be ready for heaven?”

How long I spent sobbing, I don’t know. Next morning I awoke still on my knees, determined to fast and pray more fervently for a closer relationship with Jesus.

Thanksgiving Day 1973, the cook prepared an abundant

holiday dinner. While the others feasted, I fasted. Climbing the mountain behind the institution, I prayed nobody would overeat and defile their body temple. But my stomach growled with resentment about my comrades eating without guilt. So fasting left me worse spiritually than if I had enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner.

Desperate for a final solution for total sanctification, I sought to pray without sleeping, night by night pursuing post-midnight perfection. Finally I realized it was time to evacuate that institution. In 1974 I persuaded the most fanatical woman there to leave and marry me (without going out on a single date). I didn’t feel physically or romantically attracted to her, but we labored together for God’s kingdom like James and Ellen White did.

Miraculously, Darlene and I just celebrated our 44th anniversary. Our son’s birth in 1976 was transformative; holding him in my arms flooded me with fatherly love that exposed a lifetime of legalistic lies about my heavenly Father. I discovered that “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Cor. 3:17), and I’ve had

opportunity to teach grace-based ministry to pastors around the world.

Free from guilt and fear through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we rejoice in the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” (Rom. 8:16). We begin each day praising the Lord together for rescuing us from legalistic darkness into His marvelous light.

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



JUST LIKE JESUS

I WANT

T

his was not my plan for today.

- » I want a slice of raspberry cheesecake.
- » I want a box of Legos with directions to create a Hogwarts castle.
- » I want a new car, one with gull-wing doors and white leather upholstery.
- » I want a box of Cinnabon cinnamon rolls.

I want.

When I walked through the shopping mall doors, I didn't want any of those things. I just wanted to get my computer repaired so it would quit painting multicolored stripes across my writing page. But there was a wait at the Apple store, so I am wandering the mall.

I want a handmade stuffed bear, one with dreamy eyes that will say "I love you" even if I leave her in the dust beneath the bed.

My laptop is my connection to the "real world," where people like you read what I write and then think deep thoughts. Well, at least "thoughts," OK?

This week I'm reading

AUTHOR

Dick Duerksen from *The Message*

version of Scripture. Paul must have written this letter while walking through one of the shopping malls in Rome, a place where every window challenged him to detour from

his chosen path of ministry.

- » "You want a new sword, a sharp one that will cut your enemies to ribbons."
- » "You want a class in elocution so you can speak words that convince without offending."
- » "You want a new God, one who gifts wealth and prestige without requiring suffering."

List a worry or a problem or a frustrating interaction with a well-meaning follower of The Christ, and there was a store selling the antidote.

"You want to choose these golden chains to replace the rusty ones hanging from your wrists. These are chains of power that come with freedom for you to be whoever you want to be. No need to grovel before the cross anymore!"

It's obvious Rome's mall overwhelmed Paul, so much so he turned to his scribe and dictated these words:

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life — your sleeping, eating, going-to-work and walking-around life — and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out.

Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

I stood outside a See's Candies store and reread the old man's words, sensing God's hand cutting the reverb and turning down the volume of the siren calls around me.

- » I want to understand that it is not what I do; it is what God does in me.
- » I want to be changed, to know what He wants me to do.
- » I want to relinquish ownership of my anger, pride and malice.
- » I want to accept His gifts of compassion, kindness and love.
- » I want Him to slide inside me and overwhelm the devil's noise with the resonance of His voice.
- » I want to be lifted up, wise, mature, well-formed. Like Him.

And, Lord, might that possibly include a few See's Candies along the way?

Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference storycatcher and storyteller





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