

PERSEPECTIVE
The Root of the Problem

JUST FOR KIDS
Jesus Time

PERSEPECTIVE
Leadership for a
Divided World

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



REENERGIZING EVANGELISM GROWTH:

FINDING A ROADMAP FOR GROWING SMALL CONFERENCES

SEPT/OCT
2023
VOL. 118, N° 5



IMAGES of CREATION

*I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him
at my right hand, I will not be shaken.*

Psalms 16:8

CONTENT

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

WITH CHRIST NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

THE FOUNDATION OF ALL CHURCH GROWTH AND REVITALIZATION IS PRAYER.

There is more to church revitalization than this, but prayer is the most important. Without Christ, we can do nothing. With Christ, nothing is impossible.

4

REENERGIZING EVANGELISM GROWTH: FINDING A ROADMAP FOR GROWING SMALL CONFERENCES

6 THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST has a unique ministry partnership between large and small conferences. The large conferences — Oregon, Upper Columbia and Washington — each give a half percent of their annual tithe to help Idaho, Montana and Alaska Conferences. This investment is reenergizing evangelism growth in Idaho, Montana and Alaska ministry territories through public evangelism, church revitalization and friendship evangelism.

NORTHWEST ADVENTIST NEWS

14 NPUC	16 ACCIÓN	18 ALASKA	20 IDAHO	22 MONTANA	24 OREGON	30 UPPER COLUMBIA	36 WASHINGTON	42 WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY	44 ADVENTIST HEALTH
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60 *The Root of the Problem*

PRIDE FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE is never a positive thing; rather, we are called in Scripture to surrender our goals and sinful desires, and take hold of Jesus.

IN EVERY ISSUE

46	FAMILY
52	ADVERTISEMENTS
56	JUST FOR KIDS
58	PERSPECTIVES

With Christ *NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE*

A RECENTLY PUBLISHED STUDY SUGGESTS “A DECLINE IN RELIGIOUS PRACTICE” LEADS TO AN INCREASE IN “DEATHS OF DESPAIR.”



JOHN FREEDMAN
North Pacific Union president

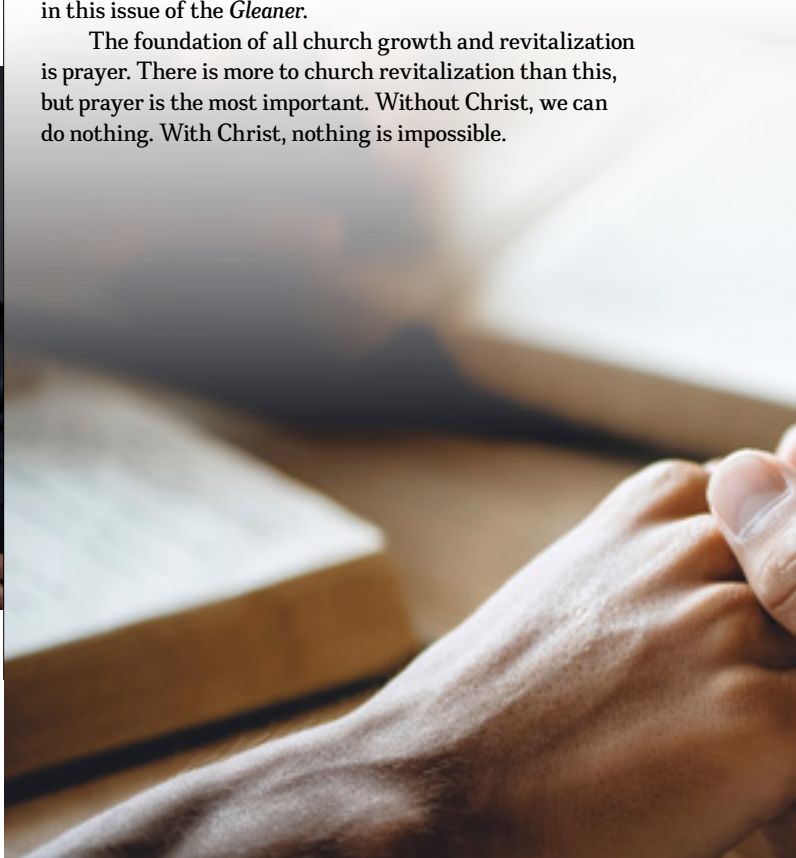
Deaths of despair are defined as deaths from “suicide and alcohol or drug abuse.” The increase is particularly noticed among middle-aged Americans, both male and female. The relationship between the increased decline in religious participation – not necessarily a decrease in belief, just participation in church – beginning in the 1990s and the increased number of deaths of despair was clear.

The takeaway is remarkable: We cannot underestimate the importance of spiritually healthy churches!

Recognizing the negative impact of the recent pandemic on church attendance, North Pacific Union and our three smaller conferences – Alaska, Idaho and Montana – have agreed to collaborate on the challenge of growing local churches.

Local conferences are providing strategy and lots of effort for church revitalization; NPUC is providing needed additional financial resources requested by each conference and church member and board training from our department directors. You’ll read about several initiatives in this issue of the *Gleaner*.

The foundation of all church growth and revitalization is prayer. There is more to church revitalization than this, but prayer is the most important. Without Christ, we can do nothing. With Christ, nothing is impossible.



The one major way to invite Jesus Christ to be actively involved in church revitalization is to earnestly pray. Incidentally, prayer is also the primary means by which we invite Christ's activity into our personal spiritual lives.

We cannot underestimate the power of an active, spiritually healthy church. It's important to note the church is not bricks, mortar, nails and wood; church is the members. When church members are active and spiritually healthy, the churches they attend usually grow.

Church attendance does impact positively the growth of a local church and the salvation of those in the community. Another part of being a spiritually healthy church member means recognizing the total dependence we have on God and the need to talk with Him in prayer.

My children have taught me several things about revitalizing churches. Malinda and I were pastoring in Littleton, Colorado, when two of our children, Jesse and Jared, gave us an important lesson on the relationship of total dependence on our Heavenly Father and prayer.

One late Sunday afternoon many years ago, as I walked a departing visitor out to the front porch, Jared—age 3—began to cry. Jesse—age 7—heard his brother's cry, went over and picked him up.

Knowing where I was, Jesse carried his brother, with tears still in his eyes, out to me on the porch. Jesse then lifted Jared up, as far as possible, and said, "Daddy, Jared's crying; you take care of him." Jesse paused a moment as I reached down, pulled Jared up, held him and wiped away the tears.

I'll never forget what happened next. A big smile lit up Jesse's face as he turned around and ran back into the house. He was fully assured Jared's needs were being met now that he placed him in his father's hands. No worries or doubts filled his heart.

In a similar way, we can bring the people we know and love—family, friends, neighbors, fellow church members, co-workers, etc.—to our Heavenly Father in prayer. God has big, strong hands and He will wipe away their tears. When we leave our place of prayer, we can go without a worry or doubt that our Father will take care of them.

We may not see it instantly like Jesse did, yet the death Christ on Calvary gives us the blessed assurance that Jesus is always interceding, full of mercy and grace, for those we lovingly bring to Him. With Christ, nothing is impossible.

JOHN FREEDMAN
North Pacific Union president



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IMAGES OF CREATION, P. 2



"Larch Swirl,"
near Leavenworth,
Washington,
by John T. Dale
of Grants Pass, Oregon.



The Vacation Bible School leadership team in Kasigluk had a great time investing in the spiritual growth of Alaskan children.



Summer camp experiences in Alaska Conference help form memorable bonds of faith and friendship.

REENERGIZING EVANGELISM GROWTH:

FINDING A ROADMAP FOR GROWING SMALL CONFERENCES





Adventists find few barriers to friendship evangelism in Alaska. Any investment in the community, such as Typhoon Merbok disaster response, is well received.

IDAHO

CELEBRATING GROWTH

When Idaho Conference leaders heard the NPUC's offer of a 12- to 18-month evangelism partnership along with \$150,000, they prayerfully jumped at the opportunity.

"One evangelist can make a real dent in our evangelism budget for the year," explained Don Klinger, Idaho Conference assistant to the president, who oversees evangelism activities. "I've worked in small conferences throughout my 50-year career; this [funding and resource offer] helped us feel like we were part of a bigger conference."

"In a small conference most of our churches are in multi-church districts, we have a smaller pastoral team and we have limited budgets," said David Prest, Idaho Conference president. "This meant we had an infusion of \$150,000 to equip and empower our members, our pastors and our church leaders to be able to better fulfill the mission."

Idaho Conference embarked on Operation Exponential Growth in 2021, a plan to involve every interested church in evangelism through broadcasted meetings presented by McClendon and Tyler Long, an evangelist from Washington Conference. Then in 2023, Idaho partnered with It Is Written for The Great ReSet.

"We haven't required our pastors or churches to do soul-winning and evangelism," said Prest. "We've invited them to do anything that's ethical and biblical to reach their community for Jesus Christ."

Idaho Conference's territory spans southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. The largest concentration of Adventists are in the Treasure Valley, encompassing Boise, Caldwell, Eagle, Emmett, Kuna, Meridian, Middleton and Nampa. South of the 45th parallel in Idaho, the conference is also responsible for six eastern counties of Oregon (Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Union and Wallowa).

The Pacific Northwest has a unique ministry partnership between large and small conferences. The large conferences – Oregon, Upper Columbia and Washington – each give a half percent of their annual tithe to help Idaho, Montana and Alaska Conferences.

The concept of "larger helping smaller" is present throughout the entire church organizational structure. For example, the North American Division makes an appropriation—an extra allowance—to financially help small and mid-sized conferences which have a smaller donor tithe base. Mission offerings, investment offerings and 13th Sabbath offerings are additional examples of providing extra funding to smaller church entities (classified as less than 15,000 members).

Each year, North Pacific Union leadership talks with each of the six conferences about their ministry needs and requests for the following year. It's a quality time to check in and find ways to better serve a conference no matter its size.

Two years ago, the presidents of the large conferences talked about how their ministry support needs were minimal in comparison to the greater needs of small and mid-sized conferences.

"The presidents told us, 'We want to see small conferences grow,' and suggested the Union could focus more

of our attention and resources on small conference growth," said Bill McClendon, NPUC vice president for administration. "Through these conversations, we adopted a growth initiative in which we offered an additional \$150,000, needed personnel access or training to small conferences for a specific year of evangelism, church growth and revitalization projects."

Idaho Conference was on the verge of growth to the 7,000 member mark, and the extra funding and emphasis provided additional momentum for this mid-sized conference. Alaska and Montana, as the two conferences with the smallest memberships in the NPUC territory, had new opportunities to dream and implement evangelism plans.

"We like seeing what God is doing already," McClendon said.

As you'll see in the following stories, this investment is reenergizing evangelism growth in Idaho, Montana and Alaska ministry territories through public evangelism, church revitalization and friendship evangelism.



Evangelists like Eric Flickinger from It Is Written speak words of hope and peace into Idaho communities.



Idaho Conference, encompassing southern Idaho and eastern Oregon, saw churches such as this one in Enterprise, Oregon, working together to share hope in their community.

Stories of Growth

THREE CHURCHES IN IDAHO SHARED HOW EVANGELISM IS TRANSFORMING THEIR CHURCH COMMUNITIES.

Idaho Falls

Idaho Conference had already made a collaborative decision to invest in public evangelism across southern Idaho and eastern Oregon before the arrival of Peter Simpson, Idaho Falls district pastor.

Idaho Falls Church hadn't signed up to be part of The Great ReSet meetings planned across the conference because they didn't know what was possible or even available.

Simpson brought his head elder to a pastors' retreat where they heard an announcement that there might be one last opportunity to participate.

"When those words were uttered, we looked at one another, nodded in consent and signed up," Simpson said. "We promoted the idea to our board, got together teams, hung banners, picked up materials and anxiously awaited the drop of ads in our area."

Simpson reported how the first online registration was received with much joy. The church welcomed 60 people on opening night. "This was a great series and a wonderful way for a new district pastor to get an interest list going," he said.

Cloverdale

Cloverdale Church held a traditional evangelism campaign in 2022 with Tyler Long, an evangelist from Washington Conference. The experience was positive overall, yet the church particularly struggled to find volunteers toward the end of the meetings.

When it came time to consider their next evangelism involvement, Cloverdale Church decided to host an intensive week-long effort and then transition to weekly small groups to finish The Great ReSet topics.

The weekly small groups attract about 40 participants including 10 people who are not members, reported Marlon Seifert, Cloverdale Church pastor.

"The Great ReSet meetings have served as a revival for our members," Seifert said. "One member organized a visitation team that included members who were baptized during last year's evangelistic meetings. They were so excited to receive training and go door-to-door inviting others to come to our meetings. This experience caused their faith to grow!"

Meridian

"What do you say when you've seen the Holy Spirit do things in your church that were hopes and dreams only a few months ago? Amen, and amen!" wrote Michael Gee, Meridian Church pastor, in an evangelism report.

Meridian Church recently concluded meetings with Eric Flickinger, It Is Written associate speaker. "Leading up to our meetings, we met every Friday evening for a prayer vespers to ask God to bring revival and reformation to our church, as well as to our community. And that's exactly what God did," Gee said.

"I usually don't like to use the word 'revival' very often because it isn't something I've often seen on a grander scale, but that is what happened in my congregation," Gee reported. "Prior to these meetings we had a low team morale, a weakened focus on our purpose and a distant memory of what the fruit of evangelism tastes like. That has all changed!"

The final weekend of meetings ended with nine baptisms and nine re-baptisms, with more coming up soon. Gee shared how the church feels like a family, the focus is on Christ and His mission and the people have tasted and seen that the Lord is good!

"Our geography is one of our greatest challenges," Klinger said. "We have a widespread territory with rather large districts and very small communities. Outside of the Treasure Valley, there aren't a lot of large communities to reach, and the smaller communities have their own unique challenges. With the meetings we had with John Bradshaw, Wes Peppers and others, even small churches could participate in the livestream."

"When you look at all the churches in the Idaho Conference and those involved in The Great ReSet, we had just under 50% of our churches engaged," Prest continued. "This hasn't ever been done, at least in recent history, in Idaho Conference."

The eight Hispanic churches in Idaho Conference territory also worked together to be involved in evangelism and found a new sense of unity. Boise Hispanic Church notably had ten professions of faith. Typically, baptisms at the eight Hispanic churches account for 25% of baptisms within the conference.

Through the process of Operation Exponential Growth, Idaho Conference's membership grew to more than 7,000.

"The growth to 7,000 members wasn't our focus or our mission," said Prest. "Our focus and mission is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. Operation Exponential Growth gave us resources to help us [do that]."

Prest continued, "While we feel blessed and are thrilled with 7,000 members, by God's grace we are on our way to 8,000! It's not that numbers are important, but they do represent people we have reached for God's Kingdom."

MONTANA



REVITALIZING EVANGELISM

Idaho Conference has a vision – which comes from the biblical teaching about the priesthood of all believers – for churches to be pastor-coached and lay-led to have members equipped for soul-winning. To encourage this process, Idaho Conference offered SALT – Soul-winning And Leadership Training offered in partnership with the evangelistic ministry of It Is Written – for 17 interested members to receive Bible worker training.

“We have people who are able to do things [as a Bible worker] that they weren’t able to do before,” Klinger said. “It’s a lot more effective [in] evangelism when you have lay people who are on fire and are supportive. They can say things that maybe the pastor can’t say and urge people in a way the pastor can’t urge them.”

So what’s next for Idaho Conference? More evangelism! Operation Exponential Growth and The Great ReSet gave Idaho Conference a foundation for future growth as a now mid-sized conference.

“My prayer is: ‘Lord, show us how to keep moving forward,’” Prest said. “We can’t do one-and-done evangelism; we need a cycle of evangelism. By God’s grace, we’ve demonstrated that public evangelism does work. However, we also recognize we can’t *just* do public evangelism, because there are segments of our population we aren’t reaching.”

Prest continued, “We need to diversify our approach and find some creative methods. We’ve got to pray about this, experiment and learn from others about reaching a variety of generations and cultures.”

When Ken Norton and Jim Jenkins began their leadership roles in Montana Conference just over two years ago, there were seven pastoral districts filled and eight districts without a pastor.

The focus for the last two years has been getting to know the 38 – now 40 – churches in 15 districts across Montana, filling pastoral roles, building trust and casting a vision for renewing faith (revival) and restoring hope (evangelism).

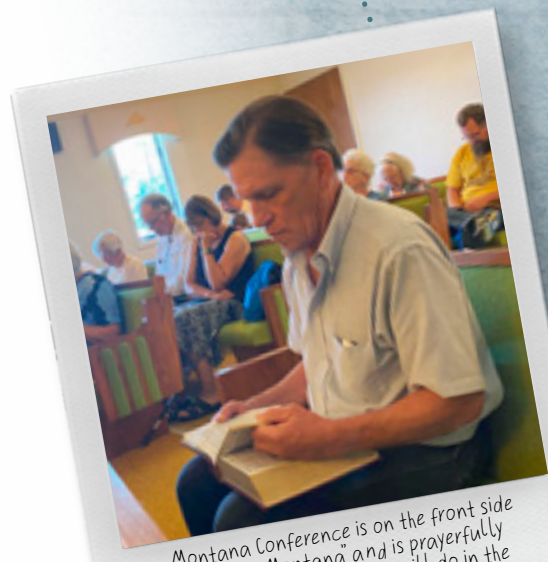
The infusion of evangelism monies from NPUC came at the right time to kickstart a Grow Montana initiative.

“I’d like to say thank you from Montana Conference to the larger conferences,” Norton said. “We know they are the ones who helped fund this evangelism initiative for Alaska, Idaho and Montana. We recognize this is a sacrifice from other people to help grow the work that isn’t even in their territory, and it is much appreciated.”

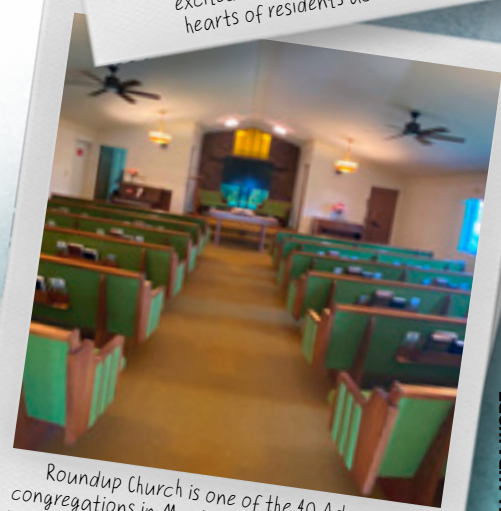
“We turned [this evangelism funding opportunity] over to our pastors and told them, ‘Dream big, this is a special year. Dream it, and we’ll fund it,’” Norton added.

“We’ve had fun turning our pastors loose with evangelism and watching churches come up with ideas,” Jenkins said. “For this particular season, this is the first time the whole state – every district – is involved in evangelism in a real way. They’ve talked with their boards and made plans.”

Jenkins continued, “In the past, we could maybe afford two series. This time, every district is planning some form of evangelism. This is a first for Montana.”



Montana Conference is on the front side of “Grow Montana” and is prayerfully excited to see what God will do in the hearts of residents across the state.



Roundup Church is one of the 40 Adventist congregations in Montana who received a media package so they can connect in with conference-wide ministry trainings and evangelism meetings.

ALASKA



Alaska Conference is investing in the spiritual growth of their youth through targeted programming.

“When you can tell pastors money isn’t an object, it’s fun to approve the requests,” Norton said. “We’ve added our stash of evangelism funds to the mix for a total budget of about \$350,000. We’re fueling their dreams.”

All across Montana, Adventist churches are making evangelism plans to help revitalize their church and community. These plans include gym nights, county fair outreach, financial literacy training, single parent ministry, elder care, podcast ministries, young adult church plants, Discover Bible Schools, Bible workers, mission trips, Christian concerts and low-powered radio ministry.

One of the biggest needs within Montana was to simply connect the congregations with one another. After listening and brainstorming, the conference put together a media package with a Mac Mini, a television stand and a 75-inch television for each church. NPUC helped with half the expense.

“This allows us to do major trainings and preparations,” Norton shared. “We can now do a Friday night training across the conference, and we’re 80-90% done setting up these systems. We are so spread out that technology is a key piece for connecting us.”

Sometimes, outreach isn’t so much about securing funding but about being available to God’s leading.

In one unique opportunity, a pastor was invited to preach each Sunday at a local Methodist church after they lost their pastor. After nine months, the church asked him to teach them about Bible prophecy. The pastor held an evangelistic series in their church and the

entire church now meets on Sabbath only. Several members have become Seventh-day Adventists with more studying for baptism.

“We’re on the front side of Grow Montana,” said Norton. “We don’t know the exact impact of it all yet.”

The Montana Conference office team, consisting of five full-time staff and one part-time staff, is praying about the future impact.

“We’ve started praying for one new family to join each of our 40 churches,” Jenkins said. “If you have an average attendance of 20-30, and they have just one new family who starts coming to church, it can make a tremendous difference to that church community. It will be a cool thing to see how God answers what we’ve been praying for.”

Montana leaders have an extra prayer: “We’re praying for God to raise up workers for His harvest.”

With 15 pastors to cover 40 churches, Montana Conference is trying test groups where the pastor serves as pastor-evangelist and the elders serve as church managers so ministry can continue to grow and thrive even if the pastor is not present.

One gentleman in eastern Montana began demonstrating the possibilities of this ministry model years ago. He started by popping in a sermon video as the church service to watch by himself. He did this for years—he would watch and pray. Today, there are 20-plus people in attendance.

“My prayer is that this will be a new start; an encouragement to get back to doing what God’s called us to do,” Jenkins said. “I’m praying that God blesses in a way that encourages districts to keep doing evangelism, that this isn’t a one-time deal, that’s fun and in a direction we want to keep going with evangelism and ministry.”

FINDING FRIENDSHIPS

Everything in Alaska is an adventure—the geography, the boat-or-plane-only access to some areas, the rhythm of life, the extreme cost of living and the diversity of culture. Even ministry and evangelism are an adventure for the 36 congregations in this territory.

“We have to play a longer game here in Alaska,” said Kevin Miller, Alaska Conference president. “It’s not that we can’t do public evangelism, we just have to approach it differently. We have to look at evangelism in an integrated, long-term kind of way.”

Alaska leaders find the best ministry response when missionary-minded people enter a village of 500-800 people to live, be present, make friends and share their faith.

“Christ’s method alone is our mission in the bush,” said Tandi Perkins, Alaska Conference development director. “We try really hard to have people integrate into the village, who live there and are generally bi-vocational which provides an opportunity for friendships to develop and networks to be made.”

“You’re not going to come in, set up shop, present a Bible prophecy seminar and leave,” Miller said. “They want to know who you are and that you care about the community.”

One of the ways Daniel Jean-Francois, Alaska Conference ministerial director, and his wife, Laura, are investing in their neighborhood is by baking cakes to share with neighbors. Now their neighbors are giving back acts of kindness.

Jean-Francois, who additionally serves as pastor of Community Church and Northside Church in Anchorage, tells his church members to find simple, creative ways to interact with people they see on a regular basis.

“Those who are closest to you are who you are going to connect with ahead of an evangelism series,” he said. “We want to show the love of Christ and let people see who we are as Christians.”

On St. Lawrence Island, a mere 35 miles from Russia, the high levels of war- and family life-related anxieties are providing an opportunity to speak peace into anxious minds worried about alcoholism, harassment, abuse and more.

Ryan Rogers, Palmer Church pastor, was invited last fall to visit Gambell on the northern tip of St. Lawrence Island. Among other activities, he ended up playing basketball at the public school and hanging out with students.

“They just really wanted to talk with someone about how to have confidence when things are really scary,” Rogers said. “You couldn’t put a soft answer on it. It really challenged me to apply the gospel.”

On the same island, the church presence in the village of Savoonga just celebrated 10 baptisms after 10 years of ministry outreach.

“I don’t sense a big barrier to Adventists in general,” Rogers said. “Even though they may not be asking for it, with a deeply independent culture, we find people are starving for community. In the villages, if the church does something positive, the whole community feels it.”

Yet there is one large drawback in community building: Alaska’s transient nature fuels a lack of trust.

“People don’t expect me to stay,” Rogers said. “Evangelism doesn’t work well without good culture. When you

go to villages, they don’t think you’re staying—and you don’t. There’s this mindset that you’re just going to leave them. We’re trying to build a culture where we are here to stay.”

“Pray, Plan and Prepare is the new Alaska conference evangelism strategy and motto, as we look forward to our 2024 Revelation Today spring evangelism series with John Bradshaw and It is Written,” shared Ashwin Somasundram, Alaska Conference vice president for administration. “It will be both a conference and statewide event and our hope is for over 100 new souls to be won for God’s kingdom!”

Friendship evangelism is the strategic basis for NPUC-funded evangelism activities. Alaska Conference is providing virtual evangelism training to churches, hosting church revitalization trainings and preparing for the arrival of the It Is Written ministry team in 2024. Nearly every church is connected for monthly Zoom training sessions.

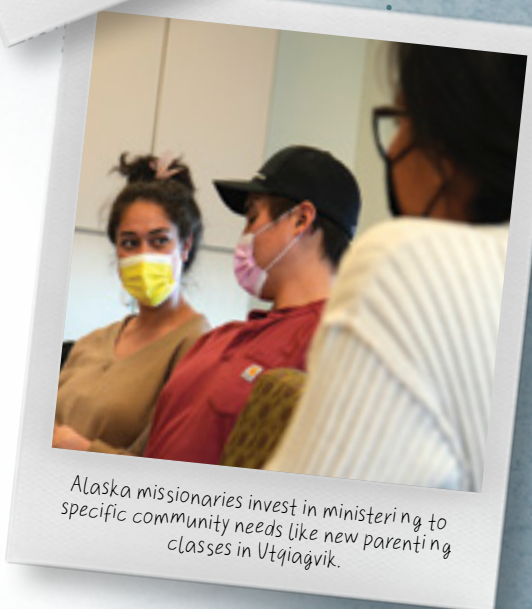
This is an unusual opportunity in more than one way, Alaska leaders noted.

“Most of Alaska is off the grid,” Perkins said. “Much of our internet stability is questionable in the bush.”

With the introduction of Starlink internet service, this will be the first time every Adventist church in Alaska will be connected online. This growing infrastructure is already allowing nearly



Kevin Miller, Alaska Conference president, held worship before baptizing 10 individuals in Savoonga.



Alaska missionaries invest in ministering to specific community needs like new parenting classes in Utqiagvik.

every church in the conference to connect for monthly Zoom trainings.

“Our people up here want to do good things for Jesus, so the response to evangelism training has been healthy and robust. They want to be a blessing to Alaska,” Miller said.

“We would be incredibly challenged to be out in the villages doing what we’re doing without the support of the Union, the North American Division and the General Conference,” Perkins said. “There are benefits to being a small conference and there are certainly challenges. One of them is that we cannot do it all ourselves. We need mission-minded people.”

“We still have 200 villages we’ve got to bring the three angels’ message to,” Miller continued. “We have to grow in our innovative thinking. We have to be in the moment, in the present, looking to the future and not dragging our feet in the past.”

“My prayer going forward is to remain faithful to God and what He is doing,” Miller concluded. “Our tithe is growing, our ministries are growing, our schools are growing, the Arctic Mission is growing. There are a lot of things happening here and the Lord is telling us we’re moving in the right direction.”



5 STEPS TO REVITALIZING CHURCH GROWTH

Wherever your church is located and whatever the size of your congregation, there are opportunities to invest in church growth and revitalization. Here are five steps for getting started:



Start with Prayer.

Begin with a dedicated season of prayer, seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance and blessing for the church’s growth and revitalization. Engage in a prayer session lasting 10, 21, 30, 40 or 100 days, fostering a deep reliance on God’s wisdom and power. You and your church could also engage in prayer-walking in specific neighborhoods.



Survey Your Community’s Needs.

Conduct a community interest survey to better understand the needs and aspirations of the community. Utilize various methods such as door-to-door interviews, public events, online surveys, windshield surveys, driving through the community or arranging conversations with city and community leaders. Pray through the results.



Vacation Bible School provides a friendly way for Alaska churches to interact with their neighbors.



Roundup members are seeking to be intentional in their evangelism growth in Montana.



Heyburn Church members in Idaho discovered that evangelism brought them closer together as a family of faith.



Create a Missional Vision.

Formulate a clear vision which incorporates the insights gained from the community survey. Engage the leadership and congregation in prayerful dialogue to develop a compelling vision which aligns with the community's needs and inspires a collective commitment to growth.



Develop an Action Plan.

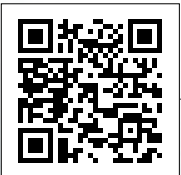
Based on the community survey findings and the church's vision, create a detailed action plan outlining specific steps, initiatives and measurable goals. This plan should encompass strategic outreach, relevant programming, community engagement, discipleship opportunities and empowerment of leaders to carry out the plan effectively.



Invest in Long-Term Discipleship.

Empowering leaders, utilizing spiritual gifts, cultivating passionate spirituality, establishing effective structures, inspiring worship, fostering holistic small groups, engaging in need-oriented evangelism and nurturing loving relationships are all components of nurturing a healthy, thriving and impactful church community.

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union communication
director and Gleaner editor



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DinoDig Explores Faith and Science

FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION CREATION STUDY CENTER HAS SPONSORED DINODIG FOR SCHOOL GROUPS TO LEARN HOW TO EXCAVATE BONES AND WHAT THAT MEANS FOR OUR FAITH, BUT IS IT MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE ATTENDING?



Benjamin Perrin, Columbia Adventist Academy student, uncovered the pubis of an *Edmontosaurus*.



Gavin Rudebaugh assisted the GPS in pinpointing the exact location of the rib of an *Edmontosaurus*.

I'm a third-generation Adventist. I don't remember a time when I didn't believe in God, but when I was in my 20s, I went through a period of doubt.

An all-powerful supernatural being created the universe? How is it possible this all-powerful God has always existed? And out of billions of people, He cares about me and will raise me from the dead to take me to heaven?

My doubts terrified me. I prayed for proof of God's existence. Shortly after, we were given a video series on creation versus evolution, with compelling evidence of the flood through the Mount St. Helens eruption. This was the evidence I had asked for and it was exciting. That was my introduction to apologetics, the intellectual defense of the truth of Christianity.

Ten years later, I met Stan Hudson, who was going to be working in the North Pacific Union Creation Study Center. His primary role included offering church seminars on the topic of



EDUCATION

Participants gathered at the top of Black Elk Peak in Custer State Park for a Sabbath afternoon hike.



origins, among other things. Five years ago, at one of these seminars, Hudson was approached by Fred Cornforth, Community Development Inc. CEO, with a somewhat radical vision.

Cornforth had heard about the dinosaur dig expedition Southwestern Adventist University leads in Wyoming every June and wanted NPUC teachers and students have the opportunity to participate.

CDI offered to pay for transportation as long as Creation Study Center planned and led the trip. They have supported us each year since, and we've taken a total of 17 teachers, 45 students, 17 parents and three pastors.

Several people have come multiple times, and two students are now determined to become paleontologists.

Jeremiah Rich, science and physics teacher for grades 7-12 at Cascade Christian Academy in Wenatchee, Washington, has attended twice.

“At Hansen Research Station we excavate many different species from the Lance Formation, the most common being *Edmontosaurus annectens*, commonly known as a hadrosaur or duckbilled dinosaur,” said Rich. “This dig site has produced thousands of bones which go to a museum in Keene, Texas.”

This quarry, run by Adventist professors, has pioneered many excellent techniques, including the use of GPS technology to accurately pinpoint the location and orientation of each bone before it is moved. This allows them to view the bones as they relate to one another in the soil before they are uncovered.

“Their research, which has now been published, provides a lot of taphonomic information that supports creationism using scientific methodology,” said Rich. “It was a real pleasure to be able to introduce my students to these excellent researchers.”

Amber Moniz, parent attendee, said, “Experiencing such a geological wonder in connection with biblical knowledge was fascinating. It was wonderful to see students get so excited about digging up dinosaur bones and then understanding the care necessary to keep them intact.

“Seeing their wonder and amazement with each discovery and experiencing that myself was incredible,” continued Moniz. “I enjoyed how they paired the excavation with short informational sessions in the evenings to teach the kids more about what they were doing.”

In 2019, a Barna study showed an alarming 64% of young adults with a Christian background had dropped out of church. The number-three reason listed as to why is “because of the tension they feel between Christianity and science. Three out of ten feel ‘churches are out of step

with the scientific world we live in’ (29%). Another 25% embrace the perception that ‘Christianity is anti-science.’”

Our goal is to change the perception that faith and science don’t mix, using many resources and experiences including these annual DinoDigs.

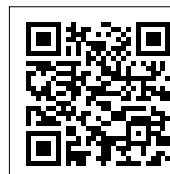
DinoDig provides an introduction to apologetics for young people, who will likely face opposition by the time they reach college. It is an evangelistic outreach for the scientifically minded. There is so much evidence to support the Christian faith young people are desperately seeking, whether they realize it or not.

We hope to address this evidence, strengthen their faith and provide support for teachers so they know what to say on the subject. One elementary teacher told us that when she came across the ice age topic in textbooks, she’d just skip over it. She didn’t know what to say. Attending DinoDig gave her the tools she needed to confidently guide her students.

We love what we do. It’s a lot of fun, but most importantly, it is making a difference in the lives of young people. Would you like to join us? Visit creationstudycenter.com/dinodig.

MARELLA RUDEBAUGH

Evangelism, creation, ministerial and Native ministries administrative assistant



More online at  NWADVENT.ST/118-5-NPUC-14



PHOTOS BY MARELLA RUDEBAUGH

Struggling Young Man Finds Church Family at Seattle Hispanic

GOD IS ALMIGHTY AND HE CALLS HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN DIVERSE WAYS.

Henry Maldonado, a young man born into a Christian home, always loved and feared the Almighty; however, his life led him into a career which offered success, but distracted him from God.

Though still aware of God's love, Maldonado wandered onto dark paths and began to feel keenly the absence of a relationship with his Heavenly Father in his life.

As the enemy pulled him deeper into the dark, Maldonado found himself struggling to the point of considering ending his life. On Nov. 17, 2022, as he battled his inner demons, he saw what felt to him like an external demon—a terrifying image on the wall of his room.

Afraid and unsure, Maldonado sought out friends who could help him draw closer to God, and on that day, he heard a voice telling him, "Look for the fountain."

The fervent prayers of Maldonado's God-fearing parents begged the Lord to bring Maldonado to surrender to Him. But although their son drove by Seattle Hispanic Church several times, he did not dare to enter. However, everything changed on Thursday, April 6, 2023.

As he drove his car past the church, Maldonado saw someone standing at the door. From his car, Maldonado called to the man and asked what was going on that evening, and was told the church was holding an evangelistic series. Without hesitation, Maldonado found a parking spot, got out of his vehicle and headed into the building.

That night, he was greeted with love and warmth by the church. Upon entering, his gaze fell on the baptistry, and he remembered the words, "Look for the fountain." At that moment, he understood that God was leading him to that particular church, and

the people there welcomed him with great affection.

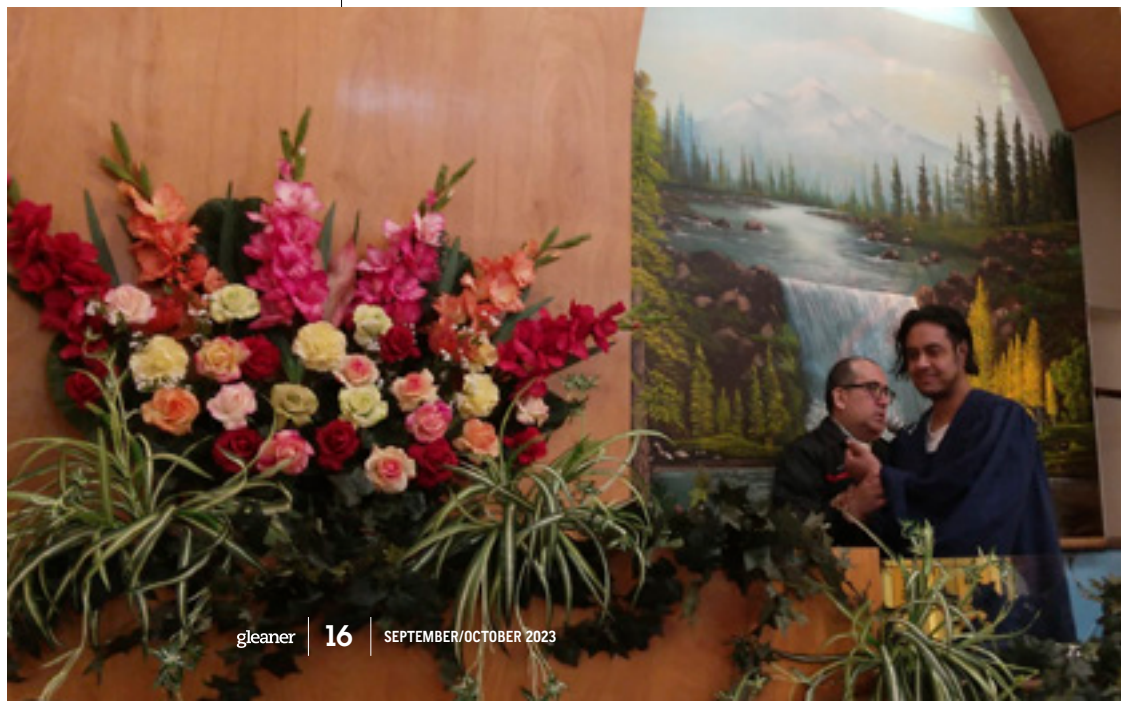
After this experience, Maldonado immediately adjusted both his work and personal life to align with his resurrected faith. He was baptized and has become a messenger of God's wonderful love for other young people. His transformation has been evident and today he enthusiastically shares the story of his encounter with the Almighty.

Maldonado's life is a living testimony to God's transforming power and how His love and guidance can take a person from deep darkness to transforming light. We

pray God will continue to bless him on his life journey as his personal testimony inspires others to join him in seeking the fountain of divine love.

God has hundreds of people ready to surrender their lives to Him, and we need to be ready to receive them. So far this year, 23 precious people have been added to our church family, but we know God has even more to add because He is the Almighty, Wonderful, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace and Jehovah of the heavenly armies.

YVÁN BALABARCA
*Auburn, Kent and Seattle
Hispanic district pastor*



IGLESIA

Joven en Apuros Encuentra Familia de la Iglesia en Seattle Hispanic

DIOS ES TODOPODEROSO Y LLAMA A SUS HIJOS E HIJAS DE DIVERSAS MANERAS.

Henry Maldonado, un joven nacido en un hogar cristiano, siempre amó y temió al Todopoderoso; sin embargo, su vida lo llevó a una carrera que le ofreció éxito, pero al mismo tiempo, lo distrajo de Dios.

Aunque todavía estaba consciente del amor de Dios, Maldonado deambuló por caminos oscuros y comenzó a sentir la ausencia profunda de una relación con su Padre Celestial en su vida.

A medida que el enemigo lo hundía más en la oscuridad, Maldonado se encontró luchando hasta el punto de considerar terminar con su vida. El 17 de noviembre de 2022, mientras luchaba contra

sus demonios internos, vio lo que le pareció un demonio externo: una imagen aterradora en la pared de su habitación.

Con miedo e inseguridad, Maldonado buscó amigos que pudieran ayudarlo a acercarse a Dios, y ese día escuchó una voz que le decía: "Busca la fuente."

Los padres de Maldonado, temeroso de Dios, oraban fervientemente, rogando al Señor para que Maldonado se rindiera a Él. Pero, aunque su hijo condujo varias veces frente a la Iglesia Hispana de Seattle, no se atrevió a entrar. Sin embargo, todo cambió el jueves 6 de abril de 2023.

Mientras conducía su auto al pasar la iglesia, Maldonado vio a alguien parado en la puerta. Desde su automóvil, Maldonado llamó al hombre y le preguntó qué estaba pasando esa noche, y le dijeron que la iglesia estaba realizando una serie evangelística. Sin dudar, Maldonado encontró un lugar para estacionar, salió de su vehículo y se dirigió al edificio.

Esa noche, la iglesia lo recibió con amor y calidez. Al entrar, su mirada se posó en el bautisterio y recordó las palabras: "Busca la fuente". En ese momento comprendió que Dios lo estaba guiando a esa iglesia en particular, y los miembros lo recibieron con mucho cariño.

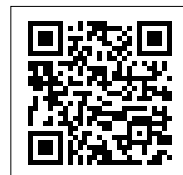
Después de esta experiencia, Maldonado inmediatamente ajustó tanto su trabajo como su vida personal para alinearse con su fe resucitada. Fue bautizado y se ha convertido en un mensajero del maravilloso amor de Dios para otros jóvenes. Su transformación ha sido evidente y hoy comparte con entusiasmo la historia de su encuentro con el Todopoderoso.

La vida de Maldonado es un testimonio viviente del poder transformador de Dios y de cómo su amor guiador puede llevar a una persona de la oscuridad profunda a la luz transformadora. Oramos para que Dios continúe

bendiciéndolo en el viaje de su vida, y que su testimonio personal continúe inspirar a otros en la búsqueda de la fuente del amor divino.

Dios tiene cientos de personas listas para entregarle sus vidas a Él, y nosotros debemos estar listos para recibirlos. En lo que va del año, se han agregado 23 personas preciosas a la familia de nuestra iglesia, pero sabemos que Dios tiene aún más por agregar porque Él es el Dios Todopoderoso, Maravilloso, Poderoso, Padre Eterno, Príncipe de Paz y Jehová de los ejércitos celestiales.

YVÁN BALABARCA
Pastor del distrito hispano
Auburn, Kent y Seattle



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-5-HSP-39



MISSION AND OUTREACH

11-Year-Old's 'Jesus Club' Empowers Youth Against Spiritual Warfare

STORIES OF VISIBLE SPIRITUAL WARFARE RARELY CONJURE UP IMAGES OF THE MODERN MISSION FIELD; RATHER, THEY BRING TO MIND MISSION SPOTLIGHT STORIES OF DECADES PAST AND JUNGLES FAR AWAY.

The truth is, these battles still rage in many places around the world where God's light has not yet been shared. One example of this is a recent situation in Alaska Conference.

One evening a group of young people in Gambell, Alaska, was walking home when a feeling of dread came over them. Something had passed through them that could not be seen, only felt. Each was gripped with fear as a putrid odor hung in the air. They quickly ran home to safety.

For several months, a "Tall Man" spirit has been terrifying residents of Gambell and

Savoonga. Sometimes it is seen, sometimes not, but the outcome is the same. Young people are the target, and many will not go out alone or after dark. Others move in groups, but all are afraid.

Those who have seen the Tall Man describe it as over seven feet tall, slender with thin arms and legs, wearing a black stove top hat. It is said to have the ability to control people's minds.

In Nome, the Tall Man confronted a social worker on night duty at the Nome Children's Home. Earlier that day, a girl had been brought to the home from an outlying village. When the worker came on duty, she noticed the girl

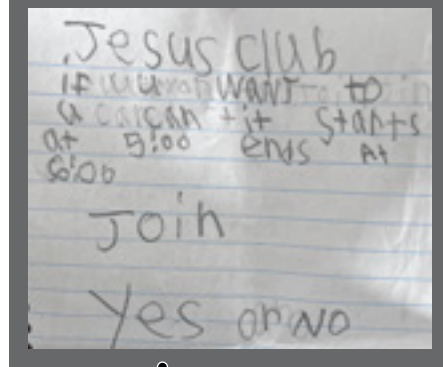
was highly agitated, thrashing in bed and groaning.

As she approached the girl's bed, the worker saw the figure of a tall man dressed in black, sitting at the foot of the bed. He screamed that this girl was *his*. The worker dropped to her knees repeating the name of Jesus Christ while the spirit stood over her, screaming.

After what seemed like an eternity of spiritual warfare, the worker, with eyes shut and praying, heard a window fly open then slam shut. When she opened her eyes, the spirit was gone and the girl was now peacefully sleeping. Christ had won the battle!

In Gambell, 11-year-old Alyssa Oozeva is using her faith and trust in Jesus to help friends through their fear of the Tall Man. She has started a Jesus Club and invites friends to learn about the power of Jesus and how He will protect them.

Gradually, Jesus Club youth are moving about the village strong in their faith in



An invitation to Gambell youth to join the Jesus Club

Jesus, and with support from their church members, they have scared away the Tall Man in the name of Jesus.

If you are a prayer warrior, Alaska villages and workers need constant prayers of Christ's protection against the spiritual warfare waging. "Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil" (Eph. 6:11).

PETU CHRIS KOONOOKA
Alaska Conference Arctic Mission Adventure worker

TANDI PERKINS
Alaska Conference Arctic Missions Adventure development director



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-5-AK-29](https://nwadvent.st/118-5-AK-29)

• Nome, Alaska



YOUTH

Youth Rally Teaches True Connections

EARLIER THIS YEAR, ALASKA CONFERENCE HELD A YOUTH RALLY IN THE ANCHORAGE AREA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL YEARS.



Teens bonded between sessions.

The theme, “Connections,” highlighted how to establish true connections in today’s tech environment of social media and artificial intelligence. Youth from Anchorage, Eagle River, Palmer and Wasilla gathered in Anchorage Junior Academy’s gymnasium for this weekend event.

The rally opened with icebreakers led by Sergio Vasquez, Anchorage Spanish Adventist Church pastor and Hillside O’Malley Adventist Church youth pastor. Next, Chad Angasan, associate pastor of Anchorage Northside Church, led the group in praise music with teams comprised of area youth and local young adult leaders Zalika Bishop and Gwen De Gross.

Attendees were invited to gather into small groups and pray with one another – for many, it was a raw, healing, cathartic moment. Ryan Rogers, Palmer Church pastor, then dove into the first of a three-part message about the battle for our attention.

Listeners were taken through seven of Rogers’ list of “26 Tested Truths that Help Us Connect with [God].” Takeaway points were that the best life lived is one that is connected

to God, there’s a contest for our attention and connection with God is possible.

Sabbath was an all-day experience. Youth, parents and administration met at the Alaska Conference office for a short worship, and then divided into teams to pass out cookies in boxes with a message of care to homes in nearby neighborhoods. Some youth were a bit nervous at first; however, as time went on, they gained confidence and truly enjoyed themselves.

Rogers continued his series with the second session emphasizing how connection with God is desirable. He made a convincing argument as he broke down what truly matters:

finding a fulfilling relationship with God. After lunch, the group went on a Sabbath hike on Flattop Mountain Trail.

Sabbath evening, Vasquez started the final session with epic games which had youth and young-at-heart alike intensely competing for a win. Praise teams then led worshipers in a passionate and God-glorifying song service.

Rogers concluded his three-part message with the reassurance that connection with God is dependable, giving one inner peace now and eternal life in the future. As the rally concluded, attendees moved outside for a special ceremony in which they burned notes gathered throughout the event

on which they’d written things they felt were separating them from God.

Plans are underway to have youth rallies on an annual basis to provide opportunities for spiritual enrichment and ministry for Alaska’s amazing youth.

ELIZABETH ANGASAN
Anchorage Junior Academy teacher



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-5-AK-06 

Throughout the event, youth wrote down thoughts on what in their lives may be preventing a true connection with the Creator.



To honor Cindy Ford, a plaque was attached to a large rock in the front yard of the parsonage.

Cindy Ford Parsonage Holds Open House

CINDY FORD MADE A BIG IMPRESSION ON EVERYONE AROUND HER. HER ENTHUSIASM AND SEEMINGLY BOUNDLESS ENERGY HELPED MAKE THE BUILDING OF THE PARSONAGE POSSIBLE IN SALMON, IDAHO.

Salmon Church members completed and received an occupancy permit on the Cindy Ford Parsonage fifteen months after the building's groundbreaking.

On July 3, church members, the community and the Ford family gathered to celebrate the completion of the parsonage with an open house. David Salazar, Idaho Conference vice president, represented conference administration. Also present were Patrick Frey, Idaho Conference superintendent of education, and Eve Rusk, Idaho Conference communication director.

Ford was a driving force behind the fundraising for the parsonage. Tragically, she passed away just days before the community auction she worked on to raise funds. In a tribute to her dedication, the parsonage was named in her honor. The house is debt-free.

Salmon is a town in a remote area of Idaho Conference, about a

five-hour drive from the conference office. It has an Adventist church and an Adventist school; however, due to its distance from any other church in the conference, it is in a district by itself. The next nearest Adventist church is in Montana. The town's population is 3,360, making it the 45th largest city in the state of Idaho, a state of just over 200 cities in total.

Because of this remoteness, the conference looks for a part-time pastor for the church, and most recently, that position has been filled by retired pastors for a two-year period of time. Finding housing in Salmon can be challenging, especially when one is working on a part-time basis. To help solve the housing issue, members of the Salmon Church determined to build a parsonage.

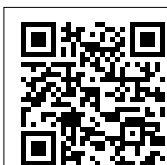
The project became more than a Salmon Church project; the entire community of Salmon and its surrounding areas became involved in the fundraising, and members



of the church provided much of the labor. At the groundbreaking, several local officials were present. At the open house, a community member donated a solid oak dining table.

Salmon is a ranching, rafting, hunting and outfitting community, with the nearest box store shopping options two and a half hours away in Missoula, Montana. People have learned to depend on each other. It's a place where you know your neighbors.

Salmon Church members are known in their community. Their light shines more brightly on the hill now; they are just waiting for a pastor to fill the parsonage and help them impact the community of Salmon for God's Kingdom.



EVE RUSK
Idaho Conference
communication director

More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-5-ID-28

Many Salmon Church members, Cindy Ford's family and community members listened to the history of the parsonage.



PHOTOS BY EVE RUSK

CHURCH

Long-time Treasury Employee Retires

AFTER WORKING FOR IDAHO CONFERENCE FOR OVER 33 YEARS, JEANNIE LENO RETIRED ON JULY 1.

She began working at Cloverdale Church and Boise Valley Adventist School as a secretary before joining the Idaho Conference office staff as payroll specialist in 1997.

In December 2006, Leno was promoted to assistant treasurer, and in July 2010, she was promoted again to associate treasurer. Leno has worked with four treasurers/vice presidents for finance: Gary Dodge, Rick Roy, Harold Dixon and John Rogers.

During her years at the conference office, Leno has processed local church and school audits, payroll, employee benefits, accounts payable, employee background screening and volunteer background screening and managed the maintenance of the conference office building. Through January 2023, she never missed a payroll—a total of 292 payrolls. W-2s always went out on schedule.

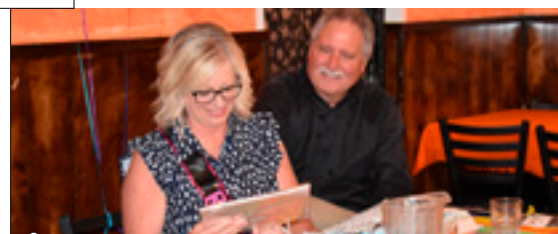
Camp meeting is another area where Leno excelled. Every year, she reserved the needed tents and portable toilets. If a sign was needed, Leno provided it so camp

meeting guests would know where to go. If supplies were needed, Leno would go and get them.

For several years she took care of logistics for Beyond the Bottom Line, a biannual meeting for treasurers and ministry leaders to promote integrity in accounting for the financial resources of God's work. She also worked closely with the conference treasurer to provide training for church and school treasurers.

Leno's soft-spoken ways helped many employees and volunteers navigate whatever they needed to be employed or to serve as volunteers. When healthcare and Aflac benefit enrollments went online, Leno helped employees learn how to use them and prodded them to get enrolled before the deadline.

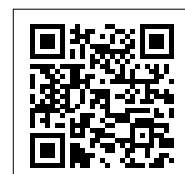
Many people didn't realize how much she needed to do after everyone was enrolled to confirm their enrollments. Government regulations seemed to increase each year and increased the workload as well.



Leno opened the gag-gift presented to her by John Rogers — a two-dimensional goose in reference to the many geese which flocked to the vacant lot behind the conference warehouse Leno had to deal with.

Leno will be missed for more than what she did; she genuinely cared for employees. We wish her well as she retires to spend more time with her grandchildren, more time at the coast — her favorite place, other than with grandchildren — and more time relaxing.

EVE RUSK
Idaho Conference communication director



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-5-ID-30

• Long-time treasury department employee Jeannie Leno retired July 1.

• Office staff and surprise guests got together to celebrate Leno: from left, Mark Remboldt, Gerald Margil, Gary and Carol Dodge, Denise Serack. Gary Dodge had originally hired Leno in 1997.



Camp Meeting Centers on Learning, Sharing and Giving

THE BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS OF MOUNT ELLIS ACADEMY IN BOZEMAN, MONTANA, BECAME THE SPIRITUAL EPICENTER OF INSPIRATION AND FELLOWSHIP DURING MONTANA CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING IN JULY.

Speaker Derek Morris, Hope Channel International president, led the way, urging attendees to pray for more laborers in the harvest as they explored various workshops and testimonies, fostering growth in faith and community.

Also provided was an array of enriching workshops promoting Montana-style wholistic living. From bread-making to flint-knapping, attendees embraced new skills and crafts, while plant-based cooking and juicing workshops encouraged participants to prioritize their physical well-being.

At the same time, beginners in fly fishing and pebble art learned to appreciate the beauty of nature and find healthy hobbies in which to participate. Other workshops focused on sharing one's faith effectively, enhancing devotional life, fostering mental health within a Christian context and nurturing biblical parenting and marriages.

"We found so much talent among our members who know how to do these things really well," said Ken Norton, Montana Conference president. "We wanted to make camp meeting a place where adults can have fun, too!"

Friday and Sabbath afternoon featured a compelling testimony by Andy Weaver, who shared his journey from being part of the Amish community to becoming an Adventist. Attendees gained insights into the Amish way of life and beliefs, fostering greater understanding and appreciation for cultural diversity within the faith.

Alongside the enriching spiritual experiences, two offerings were taken during camp meeting; one in support of Mount Ellis Academy, the second benefiting the Montana Elementary Education Endowment, jump-started by a generous \$20,000 matching fund. Those moved to contribute can do so at mtcsda.org/give.

For teens, the "Here I am, send me 360" team provided an engaging experience. Led by passionate teen leaders, the program focused on witnessing through short videos and actively sharing messages of faith with the community. On Friday morning, the group distributed copies of *The Great Controversy* in downtown Bozeman.

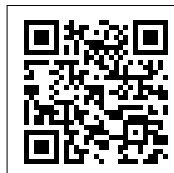
The children's program also thrived as young minds delved into the lessons of Jonah. The packed program was designed

to be fun and interactive, ensuring the children could grasp valuable insights while building lasting friendships.

Montana Camp Meeting attendees left with renewed faith and enthusiasm, ready to embark on their individual journeys as laborers in the vast harvest.

Through workshops, testimonies and messages, camp meeting demonstrated the power of unity and the significance of being sent out by God as a laborer, affirming its place as a truly memorable event in the hearts of all who attended.

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's camp meeting July 10-13, 2024, with featured speaker John Bradshaw, It Is Written president.



STEPHEN CARLILE
*Billings Church pastor
and Montana Conference
communications
coordinator*

More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-5-MT-08

Watchmen Acapella from Andrews University led worship on Sabbath evening.





Attracting our NEXT GENERATION of leaders: Join a partnership that offers tuition for future pastors and teachers.



NextGen
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NextGen
Teacher Scholarship

More than ever, our world needs leaders who are trained to build communities of faith, discovery, and service. That's why the North Pacific Union Conference and Walla Walla University partnered to offer an innovative pair of scholarships that provide free tuition for qualified education or theology students.

“*When I found out I received the NextGen scholarship I couldn't believe it. Everything that shouldn't be matching up was. For a while I had been wrestling with a feeling of God's call for my life. I am now pursuing it!*”

—Brandon, NextGen Pastor Scholarship recipient

“*Both my husband and I are enrolled at Walla Walla University and because of the NextGen Teacher Scholarship we have an opportunity to achieve our goals. The scholarship will make a significant impact on my future and my goal to become a certified teacher.*”

—Leslie, NextGen Teacher Scholarship recipient

“*After finding out that I got the scholarship I shed a tear of joy and gave a thank you prayer to God. I would love to work as a youth pastor and engage with the younger generation.*”

—Khup, NextGen Pastor Scholarship recipient

There is a waiting list of future pastors and teachers hoping to enroll at WWU. **Learn more about the NextGen scholarships and how you can help by visiting www.npuc.org/nextgen or calling (360) 857-7000.**



North Pacific Union
of Seventh-day Adventists

+

Walla Walla University
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HIGHER EDUCATION

CHURCH

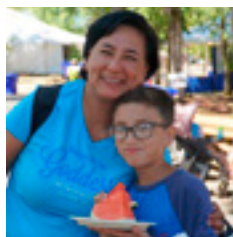
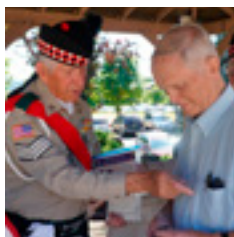
Gladstone Camp Meeting Celebrates 'In Community'



PHOTOS BY KALEBEISELE AND ANNA RAMOS

Spanish- and English-language camp meeting days shared the same theme and art.

LONG BEFORE THE TENTS WERE STANDING, THE PRONTO PUPS WERE FRYING OR THE ICONIC GREEN BENCHES WERE SET UP ON THE LAWN, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF WERE HARD AT WORK PUTTING THIS YEAR'S GLADSTONE CAMP MEETING THEME, IN COMMUNITY, INTO ACTION.



Left: A Friday afternoon ceremony recognized veterans during camp meeting.

Middle: The Friday afternoon watermelon feed was a hit!

Right: Youth and young adults worked all over Gladstone on community service projects.

One of the early decisions made this year was to increase collaboration between the Spanish and English camp meeting programs, including unified graphic design, a shared theme and more cross-communication between media outlets, attempting to remind everyone that, while we may speak different primary languages, we are all part of the same Oregon Conference community.

On July 13, Spanish programming kicked off with a Latino food festival, complete with free food, live cultural and Christian music and lots of activities for kids. The event packed Holden Center Plaza with people laughing and enjoying the amazing food together.

Old favorites like Reptile Man returned for both English and Spanish services, and many gave their hearts to Jesus through baptism during both weeks. Other community partnerships included a health fair which connected participants to local health resources, offered massages and more during Spanish-language days.

During the English-language days of camp meeting, Gladstone Family Fun Run/

Walk returned, as well as the Red Cross Blood Drive and local community service projects hosted by Oregon young adults and youth departments.

Leading the Plaza Pavilion English services each night was Karl Haffner, former Walla Walla University Church lead pastor, who shared powerful messages around the idea of being created for community, and how that shows up when we relate to our families, our faith and our neighbors.

In Holden Center, Kevin Wilson – known widely on TikTok as “the chai guy” – Andrews University digital and social media coordinator, explored the intersection of creativity, mission and community.

Other notable events included a special veterans recognition service and the recognition of Vancouver Spanish and Hood River Spanish Churches as they moved up from company status.

Additionally, Don Livesay, former Oregon Conference president, and his wife, Barbara, were recognized in the official naming of the Livesay Boardroom in the Oregon Conference office. Al Reimche,

former Oregon Conference president, was also recognized in the naming of the Reimche Chapel.

As Oregon Conference looks toward the upcoming year, plans include a major construction project of a permanent outdoor event venue where the temporary Plaza Pavilion is built and torn down each summer. An artist's rendering of the project was set up at the back of the main pavilion during camp meeting as a sign of what is to come.

Perhaps more important are the plans to continue to grow healthy, Christ-centered relationships with each other and their neighbors as they go about the upcoming years of mission, fellowship and service in community.

See photos of this year's camp meeting at orad.us/CM2023Photos.

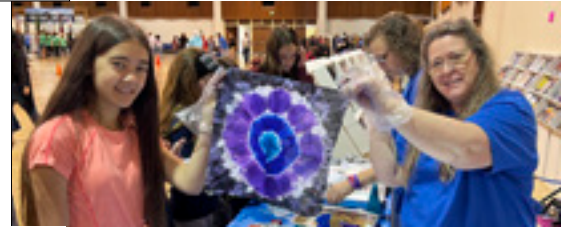


KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference digital
content specialist

More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-5-OR-36 +

YOUTH

Pathfinders Wrap Up Year with Fair



IT'S ALWAYS GREAT TO TAKE A STEP BACK TO REFLECT ON HOW GOD HAS MOVED IN OUR LIVES AND BLESSED THE MINISTRIES TO WHICH HE HAS CALLED US. IT IS EQUALLY ENJOYABLE TO THEN STEP FORWARD AND CELEBRATE THOSE BLESSINGS AND REJOICE ALONGSIDE THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED US ALONG THE JOURNEY, AND THOSE WHO HAVE TRACKED A SIMILAR PATH.

That is what Oregon Conference Pathfinders did on May 21, as over 500 Pathfinders and staff gathered at Lane County Event Center in Eugene, Oregon, for the annual Pathfinder Fair.

After the pandemic, many Pathfinder groups had either closed completely or had reduced in size. In Fall 2021, there were less than 20 clubs still active in Oregon Conference.

Last year many clubs began to reorganize and reconvene, allowing the conference to end the year with almost 25 active clubs. The 2022-2023 Pathfinder year ended with 37 active clubs in the conference, 33 of which were able to gather at the Pathfinder Fair.

Being part of a Pathfinder ministry is not always easy. It involves not only a love and passion for working with young people, but a sacrificial commitment.

It requires individuals willing to give week-to-week and sometimes entire weekends to provide wholesome personal growth opportunities for young people—mature Christians willing

to provide healthy intergenerational mentorship to these young people as they journey through life searching for spiritual meaning and understanding.

The conference is grateful for these men and women who have committed and responded to this calling. It is thanks to them, by God's grace, that celebrating another Pathfinder year in Oregon Conference has been possible.

Many clubs made the fair a weekend event by camping in an area park or at Emerald Christian Academy, enjoying various trails and outdoor activities on Sabbath.

Fair activities began at 10 a.m. on Sunday with the Pleasant Valley color guard starting it all. Nate Hellman, Oregon Conference associate ministerial director, shared a message on the year's theme, Let's Go, based on John 20:21.

Though various people were recognized during the fair, one recognition in particular stands out: The group of 25 Pathfinders who were baptized during the Pathfinder year. After a few words of

encouragement, Gemedi Geleto, Oromo Church pastor, had a special prayer for them as they were surrounded by many conference pastors.

When opening ceremonies concluded, Pathfinders participated in various marching competitions and over 30 different activity options they could enjoy with their club friends, all while making new friends.

As part of the closing ceremonies, Pathfinder directors were recognized for their hard work this past year, and challenged to a friendly game of tug of war.

Oregon Conference looks forward to God opening even more doors next year and inspiring more people to take on the challenge of leading a Pathfinder club.

Next year the international camporee is in Gillette, Wyoming (previously Oshkosh, Wisconsin), and the conference hopes to provide as many young people as possible the opportunity to attend.

DANIEL ORTEGA

Oregon Conference Pathfinder director



PHOTOS BY DANIEL ORTEGA



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-5-OR-33

MISSION AND OUTREACH

New Podcast Builds Bridges; Tears Down Walls

“YOU DESERVE TO SEE JESUS IN CHRISTIANS” IS THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF THE NEW OREGON CONFERENCE PODCAST, BRIDGES OVER WALLS.

Over the last six years, Kaleb Eisele has worked in creative ministry and storytelling, having the opportunity to interview over 700 people for creative film, text and projects—including fellow Seventh-day Adventists, former Adventists, and many who have very little experience with the Seventh-day Adventist church at all.

That experience has made clear that forming healthy relationships is one of the most prominent problems we face as people. Whether across generations, cultures or even lived experiences, we have gotten very good at building walls between each other.

When we read the stories of Jesus, we see something very different. Societal and religious culture at that time was one with many of its own walls, dividing people by class, religion, race, gender and more.

However, we see Jesus sitting with the woman at the well, healing the Roman centurion's servant and standing between His own religious leaders and a woman they wanted to stone. Where people built walls, Jesus built bridges.

Now that lived experience and knowledge has inspired *Bridges Over Walls*, a show about relational healing.

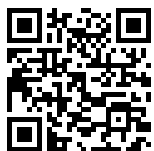
In every episode the host asks, “What are the relational obstacles we have created as Christians, and how can we reconcile and come together as one community again?”

First season guests include familiar Adventist faces such as José Rojas, Andreas Beccai and Kevin Wilson, as well as new friends like the mayor of Gladstone, Oregon.

The show is produced by the Oregon Conference communication team, edited by Mitchell Kessler and hosted by Kaleb Eisele. Launched July 28, episodes are available on YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and your favorite podcast app.

Show creators say they hope listeners will take a little time and learn alongside them as they build new bridges of connection with neighbors and each other this fall on *Bridges Over Walls*.

KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference
digital content specialist



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-5-OR-34](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-5-OR-34)



CHURCH

Administration Transition Initiates Wave of Change

IN MAY, RANDY HILL, OREGON CONFERENCE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT, ANNOUNCED HIS ELECTION AS PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE VICE PRESIDENT FOR YOUTH. THIS APPOINTMENT COMES AFTER HILL'S 18 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN OREGON AS PASTOR, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES AND ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT.



Randy Hill

GARY MCLAIN



Jonathan Russell

KALEB EISELE



Juan Pacheco

KALEB EISELE

Hill is beloved in Oregon for his deep care for people, attention to detail and can-do attitude. In addition to his responsibilities in pastoral placement, he was Gladstone Camp Meeting administrative coordinator in 2022 and 2023. He'll be remembered in Oregon as the campground coordinator who helped bring Hope Valley to life at the height of the wildfire crisis of 2020.

Spurred by Hill's transition, Oregon Conference Executive Committee asked Jonathan Russell to be the next assistant to the president. Formerly Sunnyside Church

lead pastor, Russell joined the Oregon Conference communications team at the beginning of 2018, and has been hard at work ever since, reframing communications to meet the ever-changing needs of the modern world.

In his new role, Russell will be vital to the work of pastoral placement and recruitment. In addition, he will build on the momentum Hill initiated in creating better organization of Gladstone Camp Meeting planning.

With Russell's new appointment, the assistant to the president for communication position was opened, leading to a search for a candidate who would fill the role that Russell, in many ways, created. Filling that role next is Juan Pacheco.

Pacheco has served as Hillsboro Spanish Church lead pastor for the past six years. He first arrived in Oregon Conference back in

2007, and has served as a local church pastor at 14 Oregon Conference churches.

With a deep and active passion for creative ministry and practical discipleship, Pacheco was ordained as an elder himself in his home country of Bolivia at a very young age. He has already begun to apply that same sense of mission as he transitions to leading the conference communications team.

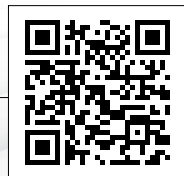
All three of these transitions were finalized in August.

JONATHAN RUSSELL
Oregon Conference assistant to the president

KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference digital content specialist

KRISSY BARBER
Oregon Conference associate director of communication

More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-5-OR-35



Young Hispanic Leaders Experience Nordic Christian Culture



Forty-four people from a total of 14 Hispanic churches participated in the trip through the Nordic countries of Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark.

THIS JUNE, A GROUP FROM OREGON CONFERENCE HISPANIC MINISTRIES EMBARKED ON NEXT, AN EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE NORDIC COUNTRIES OF SWEDEN, FINLAND, NORWAY AND DENMARK. FORTY-FOUR PEOPLE FROM A TOTAL OF 14 HISPANIC CHURCHES PARTICIPATED IN THE TRIP. THIRTY-NINE OF THE OF THE 44 WERE YOUNG ADULTS.

Next, an initiative created by David Paczka, Oregon Conference Hispanic Ministries director, and Maricela Paczka, Oregon Conference Hispanic Ministries associate director, focused on empowering youth adult leadership, spiritual growth, education and—of course—the bonding experience of visiting new countries alongside friends.

With the help of Daniel Nuñez, a pastor in Sweden, the group spent two weeks visiting historical locations and museums and enjoying other activities. Learning the rich history of Nordic cultures and different styles of leadership allowed the group to reflect on what the Gospel can do for different societies.

Each country had a delegated pastor who shared a spiritual message focused on the historical context of the place they were visiting. One topic of discussion was the history of Protestantism in Nordic culture, and how biblical principles helped shape and grow the society seen there today.

Levy Laureano, attending pastor, shared a powerful experience he had while walking down a street in Norway on a Friday evening.

“I heard Christian music, and it really touched me,” he said. “This country is very atheistic, very agnostic. I felt like I was holding back tears.”

As it turned out, a group of various churches had gathered to worship and share testimonies together that night—an unusual occurrence there. When they realized they were in the company of a Christian group from the United States, they switched to singing in English in an effort to worship together.

“You could say we had something like a Friday night vespers in Norway that night, and I thought that was pretty awesome,” said Laureano.

The group visited numerous churches on their trip, many of which have been conserved as monuments by the government, though no services are held there anymore.

One participant, Alexis Pacheco, shared how shocking it was to see how small the church in Norway was—though it is growing. She also shared how the experience inspired her to participate more in her own church, and to collaborate with other churches in her home conference.

Next not only helped train a new generation of youth leaders, but also helped connect them with their wider community and with each other.

Many of those on the trip admitted that although they had seen each other before the trip, sharing this experience allowed them to draw closer together and get to know each other on a deeper level, and inspired them to look forward to seeing each other again at area events like camp meeting.

“This trip made me realize how strong you have to be to be a leader,” shared Janeo Ramirez. “But when a leader is 100% with God, they think critically, they don’t give up, they persevere and they’re resilient. That’s something I learned throughout this trip.”

ANNA RAMOS
*Oregon Conference
communication intern*



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/118-5-OR-32

BIBLE READINGS

for

September

2023

FOLLOW THE DAILY READING PLAN AND YOU WILL READ THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN A YEAR.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Ezekiel 16-17	2
3 Ezekiel 18-19	4 Ezekiel 20-21	5 Ezekiel 22-23	6 Ezekiel 24-27	7 Ezekiel 28-31	8 Ezekiel 32-37	9
10 Ezekiel 38-39	11 Ezekiel 40-41	12 Ezekiel 42-43	13 Ezekiel 44-45	14 Ezekiel 46-48	15 Joel 1-3; Daniel 1-3	16
17 Daniel 4-6	18 Daniel 7-9	19 Daniel 10-12	20 Ezra 1-3	21 Ezra 4-6; Psalm 137	22 Haggai 1-2; Zechariah 1-7	23
24 Zechariah 8-14	25 Esther 1-5	26 Esther 6-10	27 Ezra 7-10	28 Nehemiah 1-5	29 Nehemiah 6-7	30

Note: Our reading plan gives you a break on Sabbath to let you spend quality time with God in other ways.

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More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-5-BLE-55](https://www.nwadventists.org/resources/reading-plans/2023-2024)





SER

Camp Meeting Focuses on 'Serve One More'

THE FIRST IN-PERSON CAMP MEETING IN UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE SINCE 2019 REUNITED MANY OLD FRIENDS AND FAMILIES AND PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS. THE THEME OF THE CAMP MEETING — HELD ON THE CAMPUS OF UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY IN SPANGLE, WASHINGTON — WAS SERVE ONE MORE.

"For many of us, it was our first time hosting a full camp meeting," said Dustin Jones, UCC communications and camp meeting director. "Those who attended came away with amazing experiences under our theme Serve One More."

After three years of virtual or hybrid camp meeting, UCC staff busily prepared for a spiritually uplifting weekend in person. Beginning Wednesday, June 14, UCC welcomed Carlton Byrd, president of Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Dallas, Texas, as the main speaker.

Byrd began camp meeting by sharing the story of Moses from Exod. 3:9-15, emphasizing the idea of Go and Serve. "I've learned

over the years God isn't quite so interested in calling the equipped, but more into equipping the called," shared Byrd.

Thursday morning, David Jamieson, UCC president, shared inspiring testimonies from his time working at The Church in the Valley in British Columbia, Canada. He shared the impact his former church made in the community and expressed his desire to ignite the spark in UCC to Serve One More.

"Service changes our churches. Service changes our communities. Service changes each of our hearts and minds," said Jamieson. "Jesus laid down His everything for our nothing. How much more should we,

being nothing, serve those He considered to be something worth everything?"

Children's programs were provided in both morning and afternoon sessions from beginners to youth. Kids enjoyed interactive meetings with singing and crafts as well as bounce houses and slip-n-slides.

Presenters offered seminars on a variety of topics on Thursday and Friday morning and afternoon, with reports of as many as 50 in attendance at several meetings.

Early each morning, UCC pastors engaged with attendees around the importance of prayer. Friday morning, Stephen Farr, Pendleton and

Pilot Rock district pastor, shared his life story and how prayer impacted his life. Later that morning he spoke with a smaller group during seminar time on how prayer starts the fire of revival in one's church and community.

All camp meeting attendees had access to a prayer room so they could open their hearts to the Lord as a group or personally. Each evening after the meeting, leaders held a spiritual anointing service, encouraging attendees to pray for the messages presented.

Mid-morning on Friday, Jamieson finished his two-part series on Servolution, "a significant change in the course of human history sparked by simple acts of kindness."

SERVE ONE MORE

With Serve One More as the theme of the 2023 camp meeting, service projects were a part of the week's schedule. The youth class was the first to participate, going out into the community and transforming a yard in the town of Tekoa.

On Friday afternoon, two groups served the communities of Fairfield and Spangle. Yard clean-up, weeding, pruning and debris removal kept the many volunteers occupied. There were 100 volunteers putting the Serve One More theme into practice.

Sabbath morning, John McVay, Walla Walla University president, presented the Sabbath School lesson, and Jeff Wines, Camp MiVoden director, and staff shared the ministry they provide at camp in the summer. Then a thousand people gathered under the Big Tent for a final message by Byrd.

"We need a revival," shared Byrd. "We have a responsibility to make Jesus famous! When you say yes to Jesus, then you say no to the devil, and he will try to get you to take back your yes."

On Sabbath afternoon, attendees spread out over UCA's campus, enjoying each other's company and partaking in potluck. Soon after, they gathered to hear musical guest Fernando Ortega share with voice and piano.

Wrapping up the weekend of service, song and worship, Jamieson presented "Jesus is the CEO of UCC." In his final sermon, Jamieson explained that "when we follow Jesus and lift Him up, miracles happen in our own lives because it is God's work."

If you missed camp meeting visit news.uccsda.org/CampMeeting2023 to listen to Byrd and Jamieson share the importance of Serving One More.

AUTUMN DUNZWEILER
*Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator*



More online at  NWADVENT.ST/118-5-UC-52



Conference Hosts Successful Young Adult Camp Meeting

MANY CHURCHES ACROSS UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE ARE NOTICING THEIR CONGREGATIONS HAVE A HOLE IN ATTENDANCE IN THE 20-40 AGE GROUP. THIS HOLE IS ALSO SEEN IN MANY CONFERENCE EVENTS, BUT ESPECIALLY DURING CAMP MEETING.

To eliminate this vacancy, the conference tasked five pastors – Jason Worf, Stephen Farr, Jake Wilkinson, Howard Tello and Jefferson Ortiz – to coordinate a young adult camp meeting alongside the 2023 Serve One More camp meeting, specifically targeting that 20-to-40-year-old age group.

Hosted at Heyburn State Park just 50 minutes east of Upper Columbia Academy, young adults gathered for a time of spiritual renewal, lakeside camping activities and friendship-building.

“We were located in a cozy spot in the park close to the water,” shared Worf, Pasco Riverview Church pastor. “The goal of young adult camp meeting was to create a space for young adults to come

together to fellowship, eat good food and spend time in the Word.”

The event began Friday, June 16, with 42 young adults from UCC. Since the event was new, many did not know what to expect. The pastors decided to have an informal style event focused on conversation and connection.

“The program was created for everyone to be a part,” explained Farr, Pendleton and Pilot Rock district pastor. “Our goal with doing young adult camp meeting this way was to ensure everyone was involved with the process of sharing the gospel and learning from the Word of God.”

As the weekend continued, many of the pastors began to realize the

young adults in UCC are very interested in their spiritual life, but don’t like being preached at; rather they prefer having open conversations about the gospel.

“Giving them space to be young adults and ask questions, express opinions and grapple with their spiritual life was extremely helpful,” said Worf. “We provided them a safe space to have time to talk in an environment with like-minded individuals their age.”

Since the young adult camp meeting was held in a campground, there was some concern about being a disturbance; however, the group found they were the opposite.

Each Bible study the group began with music. They quickly found the other campers enjoyed the music, and many

began to join in the singing and started making requests. Many of the young adults were moved by their ability to witness to other campers.

“The way this event was structured for young adults was amazing,” said Josh Boram, Walla Walla Eastgate Church young adults leader.

“I felt this type of camp meeting was more authentic and created an active environment less about listening and more about getting involved,” Boram continued. “I was able to lead out and it made me excited about what was being discussed and how personable and meaningful the conversations were.”

Along with the morning and evening Bible studies, attendees had the opportunity to participate in mountain



biking, hiking, kayaking and swimming.

“There were a lot of activities everyone was included in,” shared Ashley Olson, attendee. “I appreciated the relaxing environment where we could be out in nature, camping and enjoying time with people our own age talking about spiritual topics.”

As with any event structured around young adults, the food was a highlight, which Rachel Boram brought in a chuckwagon. The menu included food from all over the world and everyone worked together to help prepare and clean up, as well as enjoy the food.

“Those who attended felt like they contributed,” explained Farr. “Our young

adults want to be part of a movement and not just sitting in pews. The 20-to-40-year-old age group is not reaching the same life goals older generations were until much later in life, and because of this, many young people feel like a third wheel in the environment of a traditional camp meeting.”

With a new take on camp meeting for a younger generation, there was uncertainty how it would be received, so organizers sent a survey to participants after the event.

“The feedback was so encouraging!” shared Farr. “There were comments about how refreshing this event was, how they really felt God, how there is a desire for more events like this year-round.”

“The young adult camp meeting showed me that if we dwell among the young adults and show we care and want them to be a part of our church, they will get excited about serving and being involved and on fire for the church,” added Farr.

If you know a young adult from 20–40 in UCC or wish to be included in the next young adult event, email Jeff Wines, UCC youth and young adult director, at jeffw@uccsda.org to be added to the group text.

AUTUMN DUNZWEILER
*Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator*



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-5-UC-53 

Camp MiVoden Named Among Top US Summer Camps

WHILE CAMP MIVODEN IS KNOWN LOCALLY FOR ITS ENGAGING SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS AND YEAR-ROUND RETREATS, THAT RECOGNITION BECAME NATIONAL THIS YEAR AFTER NEWSWEEK NAMED IT AMONG THE TOP SUMMER CAMPS IN THE UNITED STATES.

But what makes Camp MiVoden different? If you asked around, the universal answer would be: the staff.

Camp could not happen without the ardent efforts of all Camp MiVoden staff members. Summer is an especially busy time and takes a lot of preparation and dedication to run. Before opening the camp to the youth, seasonal Camp MiVoden staff arrive one to two weeks earlier than the campers to train and acquire any necessary certification.

"I always dreamed about working at camp when I was a camper," said Alyssa Brown, equestrian camp director. As a long-time camper of six years, Brown graduated to staff member last year. This

is her second summer working at Camp MiVoden. "I love the mission of camp and the ability to spend my summer connecting campers to Christ and creating a loving community with Christ at the center."

There are many reasons why summer staff choose to work at Camp MiVoden. Zachary Damm, Disciple Trek and Abba's Child counselor, said MiVoden is the only place he's truly been able to do what his heart desires and he plans to let God take the reins this summer.

Micalyn Haugsted, who works in the same position, said her goals this summer are to show campers the love of Christ and to bring them joy. She wants to give them the same fond memories she has of camp.

Wilderness Trekking staff member Branden Ermshar said his goal this summer is to bring others to Jesus and make sure every kid feels loved and cared for. He emphasized how every child comes from a different walk of life and that a simple hug can make a big difference.

"Camp is one of the coolest ministries because it not only creates an environment for our campers to commit their lives to Jesus, but for our staff to do the same, deepening their relationship with Him," said Megan Olfert, wakeboard girls' counselor and boat driver.

There are many things which drive Camp MiVoden, but a fundamental piece is the staff's desire to be the hands and feet of Jesus and allowing

Him to lead them. According to staff members Makenna Shirinzadeh and Hailey Fischer, Camp MiVoden is where they feel closest to God.

Camp MiVoden staff come from all different backgrounds and experiences, but the one thing they all have in common is a desire to share God's love with campers in whatever way – be it big or small – they can.

LAUREN VIZCARRA
Camp MiVoden journalist



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-5-UC-47](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-5-UC-47)



BIBLE READINGS

for

October

2023

FOLLOW THE DAILY READING PLAN AND YOU WILL READ THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN A YEAR.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<p>1</p> <p>Nehemiah 8–10</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Nehemiah 11–13; Psalm 126</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Malachi 1–4</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Luke 1; John 1:1–14</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Matthew 1; Luke 2:1–38</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Matthew 2–3; Luke 2:39–52; Luke 3; Mark 1</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Matthew 4; Luke 4–5; John 1:15–51</p>	<p>9</p> <p>John 2–4</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Mark 2</p>	<p>11</p> <p>John 5</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Matthew 12:1–21; Mark 3; Luke 6</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Matthew 5–7; Matthew 8:1–13; Luke 7</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Matthew 11</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Matthew 12:22–50; Luke 11</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Matthew 13; Luke 8</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Matthew 8:14–34; Mark 4–5</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Matthew 9–10</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9:1–17; John 6</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Matthew 15; Mark 7</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Matthew 16; Mark 8; Luke 9:18–27</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9:28–62</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Matthew 18</p>	<p>26</p> <p>John 7–8</p>	<p>27</p> <p>John 9–10; Luke 10–11</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Luke 12–13</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Luke 14–15</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Luke 16; Luke 17:1–10</p>				

Note: Our reading plan gives you a break on Sabbath to let you spend quality time with God in other ways.

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More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-5-BLE-56](https://www.nwadventists.org/NWADVENT.ST/118-5-BLE-56)





CHURCH

Camp Meeting Witnesses Miracles

WHEN THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING PLANNING TEAM GATHERED TO DEBRIEF, THE ROOM WAS FILLED WITH STORIES ABOUT HOW GOD MIRACULOUSLY PROVIDED WITH THE RESTART OF THE TRADITIONAL CAMP MEETING EXPERIENCE.

One of the first miracles: the multiplying of food for a welcome back barbecue and the holding back of rain to allow for ample conversation time. Grill master Ofa Langi and his team found just about every vegeburger in the county to feed nearly 500 people.

Food service at camp meeting continued to experience miracles throughout the five-day experience. For example, Zuzana Rachel, chef for the event, only had six of her needed 15 workers to open cafeteria food service. As usual, God came through.

John Baker, a new pastor on the Washington Conference team, who had previous food service experience, unloaded his moving truck in Port Orchard and came to make breakfasts for the remainder of camp meeting.

Other individuals also stepped forward to help feed camp

meeting attendees each day, including Langi, who secured a food truck the Friday before camp meeting to serve the ever-popular shamburgers and pronto pups.

Moreover, when the soft serve ice cream machine broke down, the team quickly adapted to serving hand-scooped ice cream.

The next miracle: community service projects. When a large-scale project fell through a few weeks before camp meeting, the team scrambled to find new projects for attendees to put their faith into action.

God brought the right leaders, the right conversations and the right projects to the group, including feeding unhoused individuals, making 500 stuffed animals for children in need, playing music at a

local assisted living center, volunteering daily at Auburn Food Bank, filling 100 disaster response buckets and many other activities.

In addition, Adventist volunteers hosted a booth at the Kids' Day Fair presented by Auburn Parks, Arts and Recreation Department.

"We distributed free box fans and filters—courtesy of King County Health Department—and Handy Andy Roy, a balloon artist, entertained the kids," said Derek Lane, Washington Conference outreach ministries director. "Over 15,000 attended and our booth was one of the most popular at the event!"

Beyond outreach activities was a community health fair to provide essential services such as a blood drive, dental check-

• Every team experienced God's miracles during camp meeting, including the ice cream team.



PHOTOS BY LACEY STECKER



- Creative children's programming, such as Handy Andy, brought to life promises in God's word and showed children what it means to live for Jesus.

ups and blood pressure checks. The health fair extended a helping hand to those without health insurance and connected them with appropriate organizations.

The miracles extended to media ministries. An hour before the first program began, the team still hadn't connected to internet for livestreaming, yet within a short window of time, the livestream was ready.

On Sabbath morning, more technical difficulties arose at the Concert of Prayer during Sabbath School time. The whole system needed to be reset – a process which completed just in time for the worship service.

"The team's dedication and use of innovative technology inspired and encouraged many others to incorporate similar advancements in their respective churches," reported Ernesto Hernandez, Washington Conference media ministries director.

One of the event's coordinators had reassured guest speaker Fredrick Russell that the praise team knew a particular song

he had requested for his sermon appeal. However, the team didn't actually know it.

They listened to the song twice, went on stage, and sang it with conviction. After the service, the praise team forgot the words to the song and knew God had helped them.

"I saw Jesus everywhere on campus," said Randy Maxwell, Washington Conference vice president for administration and camp meeting convener. "I am profoundly grateful to our team for the effort to resurrect traditional camp meeting after four years. I saw God do amazing miracles all over the place with our interactions, programs for all ages, technology and the whole experience."

The most miraculous stories of camp meeting: transformed lives. On Sabbath, nine individuals were baptized, six of them under 18 years old. These baptisms served as powerful symbols of transformed lives and testified to the spiritual growth experienced throughout the event.

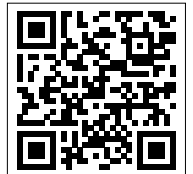
"Prayer held a pivotal role throughout camp meeting, each worship service

concluding with focused prayer time," Maxwell said. "Combined with the prayers that went up for every camp meeting miracle, God's presence was clear."

Despite facing numerous challenges, camp meeting surpassed expectations and left a lasting impact on all who attended. The grace and provision of God were evident in every aspect of the event, as participants learned, grew spiritually and praised God for His unwavering faithfulness.

The camp meeting surveys proclaimed the event as "the most spiritual camp meeting ever experienced." The theme for this year's Washington Camp Meeting, Greater Things, certainly took place.

LACEY STECKER
*Washington
Conference
communication intern*



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/118-5-WA-91

Praise and worship were the focus throughout camp meeting.



Young adults formed the camp meeting media team.





VBS Unites Generations in Children’s Ministry

THE HUG WAS LONG AND HEARTFELT. IT WAS THE LAST NIGHT OF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, AND EACH CHILD HAD COME TO THE PLATFORM TO PLACE THEIR PAPER HEART ON A CROSS, INVITING JESUS INTO THEIR LIVES. NOW THE GOODBYES WERE UNDERWAY.

Elijah—sweaty from games and lack of air conditioning, mouth crusted with remnants of VBS supper and hands sticky from craft glue—hugged his leader and mouthed “thank you” as he clutched a stuffed goat he had dubbed “Gary” earlier that week.

Gary the stuffie was among several used to illustrate a joint VBS and Adventist Development and Relief Agency mission project. As the amount of money given rose throughout the week, a stuffed goat was “sent to Africa” and a stuffie disappeared. The children were then shown a picture of a child in Africa holding a goat which looked like the one that had been “sent.”

Elijah is a community kid whose family found the local Adventist VBS through Facebook marketing. He was

reluctant to see Gary the goat “sent away.” Little did he know, the VBS leader had secretly given the goat stuffie to Elijah’s mother to present to him at home. His mom couldn’t resist giving him the gift early.

That big hug, that cross full of hearts and other moments when God touched a child’s heart are why so many people do VBS. And they’re why 23 churches in Washington Conference did VBS in 2023.

This year most volunteers were seasoned VBS leaders, but several churches valiantly took on this summertime evangelism programming as either their first or an “it’s been a while” VBS. Throughout the week, VBS attendees were taken from the African savannah to outer space, from Moab and Bethlehem to the Australian outback or from a science lab to the foot of Mount Sinai.

Despite volunteer challenges like caring for ailing parents, preparing for a family wedding or making the best of small volunteer pools and even smaller budgets, each leader prioritized prayer for their VBS. And God made things happen!

He raised up modern-day Bezaleels—artists—who not only built a life-sized wilderness sanctuary, but who also turned metal trashcans into rocket ships and painted full-scale cardboard giraffes, elephants, zebras and lions.

God raised up volunteers young at heart hanging on their laurels from the “good ol’ days,” and twenty-somethings engaging with technology. He even provided several hundred free kids’ cookbooks for post-VBS gifts.

As the VBS season comes to a close, let us extend an Elijah-style hug to those involved for accepting God’s call to shine for Him to the littlest ones in our church families. They should high-five their teammates and bask together in the blessing of being part of children’s ministry.

JENNIFER BULLION
Washington Conference
women’s and children’s
ministries coordinator



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/118-5-WA-24



• Children learned a Bible verse together.

CHURCH

Hope Rally Revives Relationships

AFTER A THREE-YEAR DELAY DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, HOPE RALLY FINALLY OPENED AT EMERALD CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH. HOPE RALLY OFFERS AN INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING EVANGELISM OUTREACH FOR AN URBAN SEATTLE AUDIENCE.

The church specifically engaged their audience by offering gospel concerts with award-winning artists, spending time as a church family in prayer and preparing to offer hundreds of Bible studies.

More than 330 people gathered in the sanctuary of Emerald City Community Church on July 16 for the opening night of Hope Rally.

The main sanctuary came alive with a captivating concert by musical artist Karen Clark Sheard, setting the stage for Debleaire Snell, Breath of Life speaker and director, to present biblical stories in a way that was both relatable and easily understood.

This powerful combination of engaging activities and accessible teachings resonated deeply with the guests, leaving them singing in the name of Jesus as they headed home that night.

“Evangelism is not dead,” observed EuGene Lewis, Washington Conference

regional ministries coordinator and Emerald City Community Church senior pastor.

Instead of solely relying on theological and intellectual arguments, Hope Rally demonstrated the power of fostering strong relationships with people, no matter how they think or believe. “We can still have strong relationships with people who think differently than we do,” Lewis emphasized.

Hope Rally was designed with three goals in mind: foster a positive impact in the community, inspire people to make the decision to follow Christ and revitalize the church. With this vision in mind, Hope Rally provided a dynamic and engaging program every night they held services for two weeks.

Recognizing the importance of engaging families, Hope Rally offered a dedicated children’s program and a complimentary dinner. Lewis explained, “We want to give people no excuse for not being here.”

Parents quickly learned that church is exactly where their children wanted to be. “A couple of kids told their parents they were hungry, but they didn’t want to go to [fast food]. They wanted to come to church to eat,” Lewis recounted.

Hope Rally at Emerald City Community Church stands as a testament to the power of compassion, inclusivity and genuine connections.

By creating an inviting space and going beyond the conventional approach to evangelism, the church was able to make a positive impact on the community, revitalize itself and encourage individuals to embark on their spiritual journeys.

LACEY STECKER
*Washington Conference
communication intern*



More online at  NWADVENT.ST/118-5-WA-18



LACEY STECKER

- Hope Rally kicked off with a choir.

MISSION AND OUTREACH



• Church members marched in the local Fourth of July parade to promote the grand opening of Creation Park.

JAY COON

Forks Church Opens Safe Park for Families

TWO YEARS AGO, FORKS CHURCH MEMBERS PONDERED HOW THEY COULD USE THEIR FIVE ACRES OF PRISTINE PROPERTY TO BLESS THEIR COMMUNITY.

After much prayer and discussion, they settled on setting aside two acres for the establishment of Creation Park.

On July 4, church members walked with a large banner in the local Fourth of July parade and passed out 1,000 invitations for the community to come out on July 5 for Creation Park's grand opening. Over 200 community members came out for free food, live music and tours of the park.

Creation Park is a private park for the Forks community. Public parks in the area have problems with needles and other debris covering trails, and Creation Park provides an alternative for families looking for a quiet, picturesque and safe environment.

The church wants those who explore this private park to experience the beauty of the Creator and make special memories with their families. To keep the park in good condition, each family interested in using the park pays a small yearly fee to receive a code for the park's main entrance.

In 2021, the church contributed \$5,000 and secured a \$10,000 grant toward constructing the park. Part of that funding went toward installing an elk fence around the two-acre park and planting an orchard on half an acre. The orchard features 80 blueberry and 10 loganberry bushes, as well as 24 fruit trees.

This year, the church secured a \$20,000 grant for the park. With those funds, a functional bathroom, a beautiful

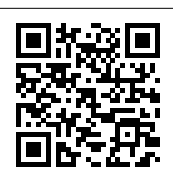
foot bridge over a small stream and a children's play area has been added.

The church has many plans for Creation Park; they look forward putting up a Northwest shelter with handmade picnic tables and commercial grade grills and fire pits.

Forks Church is excited to share the message of the Creator's wonders. With Creation Park, the Word of the Lord can spread to others in a safe environment.

JAY COON

Port Angeles/Forks district pastor



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-5-WA-21

HOPE House Builds Strong Communities and Second Chances

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A DENTIST DONATES HIS CLINIC TO WASHINGTON CONFERENCE? A COMMUNITY BUILDS HOPE FOR OTHERS.

HOPE House of Tacoma, first conceived in 2014, has emerged as a beacon of hope for the community. Celebrating its grand opening on July 16, 2023, this unique initiative aims to aid former inmates with their reintegration into society.

HOPE House is a six-month program. The initial three months are funded by the Department of Corrections, providing residents with crucial support during their transitional period.

The last three months are covered by the residents, who are assisted in finding employment opportunities to sustain their stay. HOPE House diligently works with residents facing financial difficulties, ensuring they receive the necessary support to succeed.

Currently housing two occupants with more anticipated soon, the facility can accommodate up to six individuals, offering thoughtfully furnished rooms which residents can personalize. Food is provided upon arrival, but

residents are responsible for providing for themselves thereafter.

HOPE House not only provides shelter, but also focuses on spiritual growth through voluntary weekly Bible studies led by Floyd Marshall, Washington Conference prison ministry coordinator. Though participation in these studies is not required, according to Nelson Miles, HOPE House chairperson, everyone attends.

The transformation of a dental clinic into HOPE House was made possible through generous donations. Everything except for a large television in the common area was contributed, including kitchen appliances, furniture and even a chandelier for the entryway. Volunteers played a pivotal role, completing approximately 65% of the renovation work.

Initially, the community was against the project. Petitions were submitted to the city and protests took place

requesting HOPE House not be established. HOPE House took proactive measures to address these apprehensions.

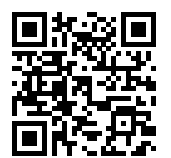
Cleveland Houser, North American Division prison ministry leader, authored a comprehensive resource guide outlining the establishment of HOPE House and clarifying safety regulations and procedures. This transparency helped alleviate the community's worries and build trust.

Current resident Jose Martinez has been staying in HOPE House for two months. "The support we have here and the location are really good," he said.

With the help of HOPE House and the fast food job he landed, he's able to dream big. "What I want to do is gather up some money and then start a handyman business out here," added Martinez.

More than just a shelter, HOPE House fosters a Christian community for former inmates, encouraging relationships with neighbors and promoting self-reliance. The project creates a safe and welcoming environment for those seeking a second chance in life.

LACEY STECKER
Washington Conference
communication intern



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-5-WA-20](https://nwadvent.st/118-5-wa-20)



• HOPE House's grand opening included unveiling the new sign.



• Students of the environment design class combined knowledge of consumer behavior and fabrication to design and furnish an on-campus retail space.

KELSI DOS SANTOS

Student Designers Create Retail Space for Class Project

ON JUNE 5, A SMALL CROWD GATHERED TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF A RETAIL SPACE ON WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE PLACE CAMPUS DESIGNED AND BUILT BY ENVIRONMENT DESIGN STUDENTS. THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR WELL-DESIGNED GOODS WAS THE CULMINATION OF MONTHS OF WORK AND MANY LESSONS LEARNED.

"In the design industry, our graduates may find themselves working on storefronts, museum exhibitions, product displays or art installations," said Logan Seibold, product design instructor. "Our annual environment design project is meant to give students experience with a large-scale project similar to what they might tackle in their careers."

Students and alumni alike were given the opportunity to participate in the project by creating items to be sold in the shop.

Thirteen people produced nearly 20 types of products, ranging from rock climbing chalk bags and cat hammocks to handmade ceramics and wooden calendars. The variety in merchandise required

environment design students to shape the retail space around the product offerings to create a more real-world design experience.

"Product design is at the intersection of art, engineering and psychology," said Seibold. During this project, students collaborated as a group to understand what customers need and how they interact with items in a retail space. Then they worked to create beautiful and useful solutions which met those needs.

In order to create a professional store environment, students worked with a variety of materials and processes. The product design program at WWU is intentional about giving students experience with a variety of skills taught in

woodworking classes, welding labs, sketching studios and CNC and 3D printing courses.

With only ten weeks to design, build and outfit a store, the students were challenged to meet their deadline. Despite the time crunch, Seibold defines the project as a success. "People seemed to be impressed by how professional the store layout and furnishings were. Our goal was to make it feel like a real storefront, and I think the students succeeded there," he said.

Seibold added that the department intends to keep Well-Designed Goods open for several days a quarter and on request to continue to allow students and others to sell their products.

To learn more about the product design program, visit wallawalla.edu/product-design or check out [@technology.wwu](#) on Instagram.

KELSI DOS SANTOS
WWU university
relations supervisor



EDUCATION

Education Continues During the Summer at Rosario Campus

THE WORDS “SUMMER SCHOOL” DON’T OFTEN INCITE EXCITEMENT, BUT THEY DID FOR MANY STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED CLASSES THIS SUMMER AT WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY’S ROSARIO BEACH MARINE LABORATORY.

During July and August, around 30 students took undergraduate courses or completed graduate-level research on the shores of Puget Sound.

“Almost every day there is some kind of outdoor learning in the classes I’m taking,” said Carter Nash, senior biology major. “The classroom portion is very information-dense, but stays interesting due to seamless integration with real world experience. It hardly even feels like school.”

Rosario is one of only three National Association of Marine Labs members to be owned by a university with less than 2,000 students, meaning at Rosario, premiere learning opportunities are uniquely joined with small class sizes.

Students from many schools travel to Rosario each summer to take the general biology sequence or a variety of upper-division courses. This year students chose from Natural History of Vertebrates, Medical Toxinology, Marine Invertebrates, or Histology, the study of cell, tissue and organ anatomy.

Some classes involve field work and close observation of animals. Nash’s favorite summer memory was a boating trip during which they discovered a pod of playful humpback whales.

“Two whales breached side by side, almost completely clearing the water,

and then fell in opposite directions,” he said. “Soon the rest of the whales started breaching and playing around by slapping their fins. The memory is completely seared into my brain.”

Outside of classes, students participate in board game nights, beach-side worship services, Sabbath hiking, ferry rides and sand volleyball. Students even have a chance to connect with the local church at services and potlucks.

The seven-week program is an unmissable opportunity to learn how to think like a scientist, tackle pre-medicine classes in a beautiful environment and make lifelong friends. For students considering making Rosario part of next summer’s plan, Nash said, “Long story short: Stop considering. Just go to Rosario.”

Want to discover more about a summer at Rosario? Visit wallawalla.edu/rosario or follow [@RosarioBeachMarineLab](https://www.instagram.com/RosarioBeachMarineLab) on Instagram.

KELSI DOS SANTOS
WWU university
relations supervisor



More online at [wallawalla.edu/rosario](https://www.wallawalla.edu/rosario) 
NWADVENT.ST/118-5-WWU-16



BRIGITTE WERNER



EDEN KIM

Students gathered around a beach-side campfire for sundown worship.



- The Adventist Health Columbia Gorge celebration included photo-ops with banners from the award-winning Adventist Health “Made for More” campaign, celebrating each person’s quest to live a life of health, wholeness and hope.

ADVENTIST HEALTH

Adventist Health Celebrates New Hospital in The Dalles

IN JUNE, ADVENTIST HEALTH WELCOMED MID-COLUMBIA MEDICAL CENTER, NOW KNOWN AS ADVENTIST HEALTH COLUMBIA GORGE, IN THE DALLES, OREGON, AS THE THIRD HOSPITAL IN THE ADVENTIST HEALTH OREGON STATE NETWORK. THE NEW ADDITION JOINS SISTER OREGON HOSPITALS ADVENTIST HEALTH PORTLAND AND ADVENTIST HEALTH TILLAMOOK.

“We are so glad to celebrate nearly four years of collaborative conversations that brought us to this historic moment,” said Joyce Newmyer, Oregon State Network president and Adventist Health chief people officer. “Adventist Health Columbia Gorge’s unwavering commitment to their communities will shape the future of healthcare.”

Adventist Health is growing to meet the healthcare needs of people in the Pacific Northwest, from the Portland area to the many rural communities along the northern Oregon coast and in north central Oregon.

More than 50 Adventist Health clinics across Oregon and Washington offer primary care, with specialty clinics providing heart, lung, orthopedic and cancer care. In the Columbia Gorge alone, ten Adventist Health clinics provide mission-based healthcare for nearby rural communities.

“Adventist Health is redefining rural healthcare in a post-pandemic world,” said Kerry L. Heinrich, Adventist Health president and CEO. “It gives me great joy to welcome Adventist Health Columbia Gorge to our healthcare system.”

On June 14, Adventist Health Columbia Gorge nurses, physicians and other employees gathered with leaders at Kelly Commons on the hospital campus to celebrate together. Healthcare is a 24/7 ministry, so leaders started the day at 12:01 a.m. circulating throughout the hospital, handing out cookies and thanking care providers for their work.

“It was joyful and exciting to be on campus and celebrate with the community,” said Katie Wagner, Adventist Health Columbia Gorge mission and spiritual care leader. “This community is dedicated to providing compassionate mission-driven care, and seeing support for that and everyone celebrating together was moving and powerful.”

KIM STROBEL
*Adventist Health
program manager for
religion, faith and mission*



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-5-AH-42



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Biloff 100th

Gladys Biloff celebrated her 100th birthday on Aug. 23, 2022, in Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

Gladys Christina Juhl was born Aug. 23, 1922, in Bowesmont, North Dakota. She was one of nine children, and the only girl born to Henry and Christina (Berthelsen) Juhl.

Gladys attended Sheyenne River Academy where she met and eventually married Hagen Biloff. They raised five children on a North Dakota farm.

She has been a pastry chef, cook and girls' dean at Maplewood Academy in Minnesota and dean of women at Walla Walla University.

In her retirement, Gladys volunteered her services as manager of the Adventist Community Services Thrift Store for eight years.

She now resides in an independent retirement center and enjoys her many friends.

Gladys' family includes DeVern Biloff of Fresno, California; Dennis and Ellen Biloff of Bouse, Arizona; Neil and Jacquie Biloff of Milton-Freewater, Oregon; Lana (Biloff) and Bob Sepolen of Walla Walla, Washington; Wade and Cathi Biloff of Denver, Colorado; 10 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

deHaan 50th

Raymond and Anita deHaan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 13, 2022.

Raymond Keith and Anita Ann Jelonek were married on Oct. 13, 1972, in Chicago, Illinois, after meeting at school in Chicago.

Both were gifted musically and sang with a number of choirs while in high school, including the All-City Chicago High School Chorus.

Ray first earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and later obtained a doctorate in optometry in 1994.

Anita began college taking accounting, then studied extensively in the field of computer information management. She was employed by Idaho Department of Health and Human Services and quickly rose through the ranks into a management position. She later worked for Boise Cascade as a programmer.

After working a number of years in Boise, Idaho, they purchased an optometry practice in Tillamook, Oregon, moving there in 2002.

A major change in their lives was in the area of their belief system. Anita was raised Catholic but became a Lutheran at the time of their wedding. They were introduced to Adventism by a friend and coworker of Ray's and were baptized in 1976.

The deHaans' love of music continues, and they often provide musical selections for church; Ray has also been an active member of the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus and has traveled extensively with them, including two trips to Romania and one to South Africa. The deHaans are both members of their local church choir.

Dubay 75th

Bud and Midge Dubay celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on July 3, 2022.

Kenneth "Bud" Lester Dubay and Scharlotte "Midge" Mae Donaca were married on July 3, 1947, in Gold Beach, Oregon, having first met in April 1946.

Bud, a veteran of World War II, worked as a logger for 40 years and served as a volunteer firefighter and paramedic. He also worked as a fishing guide on the Rogue River throughout his life.

Midge worked in motels and homes in the community doing house cleaning and did childcare in the winter months.

Upon retirement, the Dubays spent 21 years working with Maranatha Volunteers International throughout Canada, Mexico and the United States, helping build over 75 churches and schools. They have enjoyed countless camping trips throughout Southern Oregon, and Bud enjoys getting out fishing on the Rogue River as many days of the week as possible.

They currently reside in Wedderburn, Oregon, where they have lived for the entirety of their marriage.

The Dubay family includes sons Charles and Ronald (both deceased); 3 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Logan 50th

Pat and Veda Logan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 8, 2022.

Patrick Logan and Veda Platt were married on April 8, 1972, in Cicero, Indiana.

After spending their early married years in Cicero, where both daughters were born, they moved to Pendleton, Oregon, for a handful of years.

Eventually the Logans settled in College Place, Washington, where they currently live and enjoy retirement.

The Logan family includes Natalie (Logan) and Tony Delarosa of West Richland, Washington; Renee (Logan) and Tom Wright of Pendleton, Oregon; and a grandchild.



Sproed 65th

Robert and Sylvia Sproed celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 15, 2023.

Robert Sproed and Sylvia Landreth were married on June 15, 1958, in Seattle, Washington, and soon they moved to Loma Linda, California, where Robert finished medical school in 1961. Sylvia earned a master's degree in counseling.

They settled in Portland, Oregon, and were there for ten years, during which time Robert established his family practice with Sylvia helping as the lab tech in his office. In May 1970, the Sproed family relocated to Lincoln City, Oregon, and remained there for 35 years. They now live in Yamhill County, Oregon.

Both Robert and Sylvia were actively involved with multiple Maranatha Volunteers International projects over the years.

The Sproed family includes Denise Sproed of Dayton, Oregon; Devin and Jessica (Boyd) Sproed of Salem, Oregon; Danielle (Sproed) and Cam Stewart of Walla Walla, Washington; 9 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.



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REVELLE-HAMILTON

Julie Ann Revelle and W. Larry Hamilton were married Feb. 22, 2023, in Oceanside, Oregon. They are making their home in Tillamook, Oregon. Julie is the daughter of Melvin Revelle and Pat (Boling) Revelle. W. Larry is the son of Glen and Betty (Galph) Hamilton (both deceased).

SELLARDS-MCCULLOCH

Suzanne Sellards and Cody McCulloch were married Jan. 22, 2023, in Vancouver, Washington, where they are making their home. Suzanne is the daughter of Phil and Carol (Dick) Sellards. Cody is the son of Robert McCulloch Jr. and Pamela (Fink) and Merrill Caviness.

family AT REST

ARCHER—Delores Jean (Heiser), 84; born Jan. 5, 1938, Great Bend, Kansas; died April 2, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Bruce; daughters, Gail Archer Lutton and Wendy Archer Bleth; sister, Irma Heiser Mattson; 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

BATES—Judy Ann (Congleton), 69; born March 23, 1952, Ventura, California; died Feb. 13, 2022, Reedsport, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Fred; son, Jason Owen; brothers, Robert and Doug Congleton; sister, Sandra Congleton Crites; 9 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

BAUER—Edward James, 84; born June 6, 1938, Portland, Oregon; died March 19, 2023, Bellevue, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Linda (Luce) Bauer; daughters, Tamera (Bauer) Meeks and Heidi Bauer; 6 grandchildren.

BEATY—Horace Leroy, 90; born Sept. 26, 1931, Goodland, Texas; died April 8, 2022, Happy Valley, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Jon and Tyler; 3 grandchildren.

BRITTON—Richard Dale, 78; born April 20, 1943, Greeneville, Tennessee; died Feb. 13, 2022, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Betty (Scott) Britton; son, Jason; 4 grandchildren.

CLINTON—Margaret Elizabeth (Palmer), previously Margaret Wendt, 103; born April 25, 1918, Crawford, Nebraska; died January 20, 2022, Puyallup, Washington. Surviving: son, Dennis; daughters, Bonnie (Wendt) Doering and Wanda (Wendt) Sofferin; 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

DE OLIVEIRA—Becky Alice (Crooker), 51; born Nov. 18, 1971, Enumclaw, Washington; died June 21, 2023, Dacono, Colorado. Surviving: father, David Crooker; spouse, Japhet; sons, Joshua and Jonah; brother, Daniel Crooker.

DEWEBER—Thelma Faith (Daniel), previously Thelma Bischoff, 92; born Oct. 2, 1930, Wenatchee, Washington; died Feb. 28, 2023, Kennewick, Washington. Surviving: son, Robert Bischoff; daughter, Sharon (Bischoff) Hibbs; brother, Don Daniel; 8 grandchildren and 11 step-grandchildren.

DIXON—Harold Romain, III, 78; born Nov. 7, 1944, San Jose, California; died May 23, 2023, Spangle, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Janelle (Jenks) Dixon; daughter, Lara (Dixon) Dowie; son, Shawn Dowie; 1 grandchild.

1929–2020

CHARLES DENNIS DEMPSEY



Charles “Chuck” Dempsey was born in Portland, Oregon, to Dennis and Zelda Mae Dempsey on June 15, 1929.

Chuck had a terrific sense of humor and a penchant for mischief. He graduated from Portland Adventist Academy in 1949 and attended Walla Walla University in College Place, Washington.

Drafted into the U.S. Air Force in 1950, Chuck was honorably discharged in 1952 and began his career as an entrepreneur.

On January 25, 1953, Chuck married the love of his life, Myrna Welsh. They had two children, Greg and Ken, adopted Tim, Cindy and Teresa and took in a foster daughter, Crystal.

Chuck and Myrna purchased a nursing home in 1963; Chuck built 68 additional rooms and Myrna served as director of nursing. They loved to travel and made many trips in their motor home, particularly enjoying winters in Palm Springs, California.

Chuck was preceded in death by his wife, Myrna; brother, Don; and sisters, Peggy and Jean. He is survived by his six children; sister-in-law, Marilyn Farr; brother-in-law, Jack Gertzen; 7 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

On Sept. 23, 2020, Chuck passed away at home. He was laid to rest beside Myrna at Riverview Abby Mausoleum in Portland on Sept. 30, 2020, in a private family gathering.

DRAGGOO—Sharon (Krenzler), 80; born March 4, 1943, Auburn, Washington; died June 9, 2023, Mountlake Terrace, Washington. Surviving: son, Barry; daughter, Denise; 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

DUNNEWIN—Dorothy Marie (Garvin), 92; born April 5, 1929, Parma, Idaho; died Dec. 14, 2021, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Earl “Duke,” son, Michael “Mick,” daughter, Melissa “Missy” Holmes; 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

DUNNEWIN—Earl “Duke,” 96; born Aug. 8, 1925, Holland, Michigan; died Feb. 7, 2022, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: son, Michael “Mick,” daughter, Melissa “Missy” Holmes; 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

DURY—Melvin Lawrence, 95; born Feb. 19, 1927, Otis Orchards, Washington; died March 11, 2022, Liberty Lake, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Jean (Livingston) Dury; sons, Daryl and Brian; daughters, Brenda (Dury) Grovet and Cheryl (Dury) Becker; 10 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

FERGUSON – Bertha Ellen (Leas), previously Bertha Danielson, 90; born Feb. 4, 1933, Rock Lake, North Dakota; died June 14, 2023, Hillsboro, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Steven, David, Robert and Ronald Danielson; daughters, Sally and Nancy Danielson; stepsons, Rob, Dwayne and Randy Ferguson; 16 grandchildren.

FISCHER – Mary Ellen (Woodruff), 87; born Feb. 13, 1935, Tremonton, Utah; died March 1, 2022, Falls City, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Arnold and Vernon; daughters, Rosita Tice, Cynthia Ostrander and Trudy Pritchard; sisters, Ruth Maddy and Alice Galbraith; 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

GRUENEWALD – Barbara Ruth (Wayne), 90; born Sept. 3, 1932, Newport, Oregon; died March 20, 2023, Cloverdale, California. Surviving: spouse, Milton; stepdaughters, Debra Anne Berg and Kathryn Camille Eberhart; 4 step-grandchildren and 1 step-great-grandchild.

GESSELE – Chad Jeremy, 48; born Oct. 21, 1973, Hutchinson, Kansas; died March 22, 2022, The Dalles, Oregon. Surviving: parents, Glen and Marybeth Gessele; birth mother, Brenda Agosta; brother, Todd Gessele.

GIENGER – Edmund, 89; born Oct. 22, 1932, Jamestown, North Dakota; died March 10, 2022, College Place, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Allegra (Lang) Gienger; sons, Dean and Lonnie; daughters, Lynae Moor and LoAnn Ayers; sister, Darlene Christenson; 14 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

GREENWALT – Donald Walter, 96; born Aug. 8, 1925, Ault, Colorado; died April 19, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Glen; daughter, Linda Greenwalt Tonsberg; sister, Lori Davis; 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

HANAN – Nancy (Rice), 90; born Oct. 2, 1931, Wenatchee, Washington; died June 17, 2022, Enumclaw, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Debra; 2 grandchildren.

HANKS – Delbert Russell, 96; born May 13, 1925, Ridgefield, Washington; died April 6, 2022, Florence, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Vida; son, Gary; 2 grandchildren.

HARLOW – Bobby Bean, 77; born April 1, 1946, Riverside, California; died April 8, 2023, Rogue River, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Dorann (Scarpino) Harlow; daughters, April Harlow and Patti (Harlow) Mallen; stepsons, William, Jerry and Bradley Joe Fuller; brother, Earl Fotherinham; 2 grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren and 7 step-great-grandchildren.

HATHAWAY – Lilly Mae (Miner), 98; born Nov. 11, 1924, Independence, Kansas; died Feb. 25, 2023, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Richard and Robert; 2 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 5 step-great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

HEMPEL – Robert A., 85; born Feb. 19, 1938, Woodburn, Washington; died Feb. 27, 2023, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: sons, Robert Jr., Paul and Darren; stepson, Jeffrey Studdard.

HERBEL – Patricia Ruth (Anderson), 89; born Feb. 8, 1934, Rosholt, Wisconsin; died May 9, 2023, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Gene and Wayne; daughters, Del Jean (Herbel) Tabor and Carole (Herbel) Blech; 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

HICKMAN – Fredrick Clinton, 92; born May 22, 1930, Rogersville, Tennessee; died Sept. 30, 2022, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Roberta; son, Anthony; daughters, Jolene Hickman and Louella Valles-Braswell; 14 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren.

HUNT – Judith Ann (Beels), 80; born Feb. 14, 1941, Winner, South Dakota; died Dec. 10, 2021, La Grande, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Wavel; sons, London “Rocky,” Frederick “Skie,” Michael and Jacob; daughters, Jennifer Knoll, Sarah Hunt, Angela Hanley, Stella “Valen” Hunt and Indhira “Cozi” Hunt; 26 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

JOHNSON – Genevieve, 95; born May 23, 1926, Dallas County, Texas; died Jan. 12, 2022, Bellevue, Washington.

JOHNSON – Karen Alyse (Olson), 70; born Feb. 19, 1953, San Jose, California; died May 2, 2023, Richland, Washington. Surviving: son, Erik; daughter, Kristen (Johnson) Hanson; brothers, Eric, Bill and Bob Olson; sister, Donna Olson; 2 grandchildren.

LITTLEFIELD – John, 96; born Nov. 17, 1926, New London, Connecticut; died May 13, 2023, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Susan; sister, Dorothy Hunter; 2 grandchildren.

MAGNUSON – Betty Jean (Skeels), 78; born Jan. 5, 1944, Yakima, Washington; died April 19, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Jay; sons, Warren and Nathaniel; daughter, Amelia Magnuson Messervy; 5 grandchildren.

MILLER – Lila Jeanene (Rogers), 86; born Dec. 15, 1936, Lewiston, Idaho; died March 12, 2023, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: son, Roger; daughter, Marilyn (Miller) Graham; 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

MOORE – Marvin, 85; born March 14, 1937, Lima, Peru; died April 19, 2022, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Lois; son, Marvin Barton; daughter, Sherilyn; sister, Evelyn Griffin; 1 grandchild.

NELSON – Gloria Laura (Myers), 83; born March 12, 1940, Tehachapi, California; died June 2, 2023, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Jim; daughter, Lisa (Nelson) Cogburn; son, Kenneth; 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

PULLEY – Dorothy Ellen (Bates), 92; born Dec. 29, 1929, Santa Cruz, California; died Jan. 4, 2022, Kirkland, Washington. Surviving: sons, Dennis Pulley, Negussie Sado, Gebre Hinika, and Amjad Waryam; daughters, Carolanne (Pulley) Miller and Asheen Waryam; brother, Gleason Appling; sister, Marlene Thylander; 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

1930–2023

CRYSTAL WOOD



Crystal (Clymer) Wood was born on Oct. 6, 1930, to Wanda and Earl Clymer in Medford, Oregon. Surrounded by her family, she died peacefully on May 13, 2023, in Boise, Idaho.

Crystal graduated from Columbia Academy in Battle Ground, Washington, and in 1951 she met Clarence “Woodie” Wood. During several years apart they exchanged hundreds of love letters. They were married in Portland, Oregon, on June 26, 1955.

Crystal graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Walla Walla University in 1978. In addition to being a wonderful mom, her career included working as a nurse, nursing home administrator and director of WWU’s Career Center.

Crystal and Woodie relished travel; they explored the country in their motor home and trekked down to Guatemala to volunteer at Instituto de Capacitación Adventista del Petén, an Adventist school and orphanage.

Those who remain to honor Crystal’s loving spirit include her husband; sister, Marlita Clymer-Engelhart; children, Janelle Schmidt, Camille and Kevin Wood; grandchildren, Travis Wood, Ryan Wood, Mindy Wood, Clayton and Natalie Schmidt; and four great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents; brother, LeMoyne Clymer; sisters, LaVella Pinkney and Renita Clymer; and son, Darrin Earl Wood.

A celebration of life will be held in College Place, Washington, on Oct. 6, 2023.

SALTS—Shirley Jo (Cooper), 77; born Sept. 14, 1944, Pine Nut, Kentucky; died March 30, 2022, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Ken and Rocky; 2 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

SMART—Angus Wilson, 93; born July 3, 1928, Haysville, North Carolina; died March 13, 2022, Milton-Freewater, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Jeannette Muir Smart; sons, Keith and Patrick; daughter, Barbara Smart Schneider; brother, Paul; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

SMITH-HURT—Janis Kay (Smith), 75; born July 7, 1947, Portland, Oregon; died June 5, 2023, Auburn, Washington; Surviving: spouse, Tom; brother, Roger Smith; sister, Valerie (Smith) Emerson.

SPLAIN—Frederick Earl, 78; born July 27, 1944, Beaumont, Texas; died June 18, 2023, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: brother, Harold; sister, Irma Keheley.

THOMAS—Goldie Edena (Wareham), previously Goldie Deming, Goldie Blahovich, 100; born Feb. 19, 1923, Gull Lake, Alberta, Canada; died May 20, 2023, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Douglas and Dennis Deming; daughter, Dawnelle Marshall; 3 grandchildren.

WAGNER—Dell Edgar, 92; born June 6, 1929, College Place, Washington; died Nov. 11, 2021, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Lenore (Skinner); daughters, Janalee Coffeen, Gail Wagner and Julie Wade; 5 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

WASLI—Bonnie Louise (Cook), 62; born Dec. 7, 1960, Portland, Oregon; died May 30, 2023, Denver, Colorado. Surviving: father, Bob Cook; spouse, Kevin; daughter, Kait; sister, Donna Cook.

WATSON—Terrance “Terry,” 83; born Dec. 6, 1938, Bend, Oregon; died Jan. 29, 2022, Baker City, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Susan; son, Ken; sister, LaDonna; 4 grandchildren.

WENDT—Victor Lewis, 79; born Feb. 7, 1942, Yakima County, Washington; died Nov. 26, 2021, Toppenish, Washington. Surviving: mother, Margaret (Palmer) Clinton; spouse, Sue (Hellebaych) Wendt; sons, David and Scott; daughter, Koni (Wendt) Joseph.

WILLIS—Paul Allen, 81; born Dec. 28, 1941, Honolulu, Hawaii; died Feb. 3, 2023, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Donna (Gonzales); sons, Paul and James; daughter, Susanne Kites; 5 grandchildren and 1 step-grandchild.

WINN—Hugh P., 84; born April 5, 1937, Pocatello, Idaho; died April 2, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: daughters, Denise (Winn) Rutledge and Deanna (Winn) Miller; brother, Ted; 3 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

WINKLE—Warren “Buzz,” 86; born Aug. 14, 1936, Hettinger, North Dakota; died Feb. 19, 2023, College Place, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Myrna Winkle; sons, Vernon and Ross; daughter, Linda Winkle Pitrone; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

WOOD—Crystal Columbyne (Clymer), 92; born Oct. 6, 1930, Medford, Oregon; died May 13, 2023, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Clarence; son, Kevin; daughters, Camille Wood and Janelle (Wood) Schmidt; sister, Marlita Clymer-Engelhart; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

ZACHRISON—Leonard Eugene, 82; born Oct. 12, 1940, Olympia, Washington; died April 26, 2023, Milton-Freewater, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Marjorie (Hill); son, Michael; daughter, Pam (Zachrison) Fry; brother, James; sister, Kaye (Zachrison) Casebier; 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

ZIEGELE—Fay (Riley), 100; born Nov. 2, 1922, Jordan, Montana; died May 7, 2023, Hood River, Oregon. Surviving: son, Dale; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

1922-2023

FAY ZIEGELE

Fay Ziegele always had time to help. She believed in her Pathfinders, and they knew it.

It was Fay's parents, Edna and Robert Riley, who taught her to remain undaunted by life's challenges. Their own lives were living demonstrations of this idea, as they traveled by covered wagon to successfully homestead in eastern Montana and operated a dairy through the depression.

After being widowed at 33, Fay earned an accounting degree while her children, Elaine and Dale, attended college. Elaine served as a nurse and Dale as a minister, and both followed her in youth ministry.

Fay co-founded the Mid-Columbia Pathfinder Club, leading for nearly 70 years. Her consistently blue-ribbon Pathfinder team were conference pacesetters. Her advice was sought by state and national youth leaders.

By age 92 she completed more than 350 camping trips, including five international camporees. Under her leadership, the club received a gift of 58 acres of wilderness land which is used in nature study and camping.

A lifetime of 100 years was filled with competition and community, including being captain of her high school basketball team, swimming three times a week in her 90s, building almost everything imaginable and playing dominoes.

Known for her unwavering purpose, Fay spent her life motivating friends and young people, fostering a profound belief in their ability to achieve.



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

The North Pacific Union Gleaner accepts family listings as a service to members of Adventist churches in the Northwest. This information is not intended as an endorsement of any facts or relationships represented.

College Place SDA Village Church Presents

LEST WE FORGET



Joseph Bates



Ellen White



James White

October 20 - 22, 2023

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EVENTS

TRAUMA AND ABUSE SYMPOSIUM: October 6-7 Centralia Church in Washington offers free community event addressing trauma and abuse. Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Schwirzer, David Jones, LMFT, and Shannon Vega, LCSW.

MISCELLANEOUS

BUYING U.S. GOLD/SILVER COINS, proof and mint sets, silver dollars, rolls and bags, PCGS/NGC certified coins, estates, accumulations, large collections, bullion, platinum. Will travel. All transactions confidential. Please call 208-859-7168.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION

Offering

- Sept. 2—Local Church Budget
- Sept. 9—World Budget (GC)
- Sept. 16—Local Church Budget
- Sept. 23—Local Conference Advance
- Sept. 30—Local Church Budget
- Oct. 7—Local Church Budget
- Oct. 14—Walla Walla University (NPUC)
- Oct. 21—Local Church Budget
- Oct. 28—Local Conference Advance

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

Official notice is hereby given that a Regular Membership Meeting of the North Pacific Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists is called for 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, at Walla Walla University in College Place, Washington.

The membership is comprised of the members of the North Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee. The purpose of the Regular Membership Meeting is to hear reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

John Freedman, president
James Brown, secretary

IDAHO CONFERENCE

Regular Quadrennial Session

Notice is hereby given that the 55th Regular Session of the Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc. will convene in the gymnasium of Gem State Adventist Academy in Caldwell, Idaho, on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Mountain Time. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports of conference activities since the last Regular Conference Session and to elect officers, departmental directors, Board of Directors and Articles and Bylaws Committee for the ensuing quadrennium. The delegates will consider proposed changes to the Articles and Bylaws, do strategic planning and transact any other business which may properly come before the delegates in session.

Nominating Committee delegates will be selected by each Nominating Committee district and will meet on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023, at 10 a.m. Mountain Time at Meridian Adventist Church, 1855 N. Black Cat Road, Meridian, Idaho.

David Prest Jr., president
David Salazar, vice president for administration

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Constituency Session

Notice is hereby given that the quadrennial session of the Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at Upper Columbia Academy convocation center in Spangle, Washington, on Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Pacific Time. The purpose of this meeting is to receive from the officers and department directors of the conference reports pertaining to the work carried on within its territory since the last quadrennial session; to elect for the ensuing term officers, department directors and the Conference Executive Committee and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session. Each church shall be represented at the sessions of the conference by two delegates for the church organization and one delegate for each 75 members, or major fraction thereof, each of whom shall be a Seventh-day Adventist member in good and regular standing of the local church which they represent.

David Jamieson, president
Rodney Mills, vice president for administration

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GOSPEL OUTREACH PRESENTS

Power to Reach the World

30th ANNIVERSARY MISSION RALLY

Dr. Ron Clouzet, speaker
The Melashenko Family Singers, music
Regional Directors, mission reports

October 6 & 7
Milton Adventist Church
1244 N Elizabeth St.
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862



GOSPEL OUTREACH



goaim.org

North Pacific Union Directory

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

President John Freedman	Hispanic Ministries Associate
Executive Secretary, Evangelism Bill McClendon	Information Technology Loren Bordeaux Associate Daniel Cates
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Creation Study Center Stan Hudson	Public Affairs, Religious Liberty André Wang
Education Keith Hallam Elementary Becky Meharry Secondary Keith Waters	Regional, Multicultural and Outreach Ministries Byron Dulan
Certification Registrar Deborah Hendrickson	Trust (WAF) James Brown
Early Childhood Coordinator Carisa Carr	Women's Ministries Sue Patzer
	Youth and Young Adult Rob Lang Assistant Velvet Lang

Local Conference Directory

ALASKA CONFERENCE

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

IDAHO CONFERENCE

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

MONTANA CONFERENCE

175 Canyon View Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-3101 • mtcsda.org
Ken Norton, president; Jim Jenkins, v.p. administration; Erin Tunesvik, v.p. finance

OREGON CONFERENCE

19800 Oatfield Rd.
Gladstone, OR 97027-2546
503-850-3500 • oregonadventist.org
Dan Linrud, president; Kara Johnson, v.p. administration; Eric Davis, v.p. finance; _____, v.p. education

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

3715 S. Grove Rd.
Spokane, WA 99224
509-838-2761 • uccsda.org
David Jamieson, president; Rodney Mills, v.p. administration; Allee Currier, v.p. finance; Brian Harris, v.p. education

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32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S.
Federal Way, WA 98001
253-681-6008 • washingtonconference.org
Doug Bing, president; Randy Maxwell, v.p. administration; Jerry S. Russell, v.p. finance; Michelle Wachter, v.p. education

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

204 S. College Ave.
College Place, WA 99324-1198
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OREGON ABC

19700 Oatfield Rd., Gladstone, OR 97027
503-850-3300
M–Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
F 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

UPPER COLUMBIA ABC

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

COLLEGE PLACE ABC

505 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324
509-529-0723
T–Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

AUBURN ABC

5100 32nd St., Auburn, WA 98092-7024
253-833-6707
M, Tu, Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
W, F 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.–3 p.m.



Sunset times:
nwadventists.com/sunset



JESUS TIME: A Favorite Time of Day

Family worship is a favorite time of day in our house. It's our special time when we read Bible stories, memorize scripture and share our prayers with Jesus.

If you're already having regular worship with your family — great!

If you're just getting started with Jesus time, you'll want to agree on a good time to have worship. Some families like to wake up with worship time. Other families like to have worship just before bedtime. Still more families like to have worship after a meal, in the evening or even throughout the day thanks to family chats and text messages.

There are lots of ideas for family worship! Here are ten ideas for you to try with your family.

1

Bible ABCs

Starting with “A” and going through the alphabet, challenge each family member to come up with a Bible-related word, character or place for each letter.

2

Bible Hide and Seek

Choose a Bible verse or passage and write the passage on small cards, one word on each card. Then hide the cards around your house or yard and have a family scavenger hunt to find them and piece the scripture passage back together. Take time to pray and discuss the meaning and application of the verse.

3

Family Bible Journal

Journals are places to record thoughts, sketches and milestone memories. In an individual or family journal, record your thoughts or doodles about a particular scripture passage. Write down reflections, questions and prayers.

4

Character Study

Choose a Bible character (David, Ruth, Peter, Esther, etc.). Read their life story in the Bible and then dig into Bible commentaries to learn about the history, culture and timeframe when this person lived. See what life lessons you can learn from your chosen Bible character. Examine their strengths and weaknesses and how God called them to grow. Pray about how God wants you to grow.

Bonus challenge — dress up like your favorite Bible character to act out short scenes or dialogues.

5

Prayer Pictionary

Have a Pictionary-style game where family members draw prayer requests instead of regular words. Guess the requests and pray together for the mentioned needs.

ACTIVITY

Write down and illustrate a Bible verse for your family to memorize. Use strong, bold colors and even add some stickers. Tape the finished Bible verse to a mirror or another place where you'll see it every day.



Trust in
the LORD
with all
your heart

6 Worship Idea Jar

Brainstorm fun family worship ideas together, write them on slips of paper or wide popsicle sticks and then place them in a decorated box or jar. When it's time for worship, remove a slip of paper or a popsicle stick for your worship prompt for that day or night. Use your imagination for fun ways to share family worship time together.

7 Praise & Worship Night

Choose your favorite praise songs or hymns to sing as a family, ask the adults at home to search for YouTube music videos by Christian artists or even write your own family praise song. After the songs are over, take turns sharing what you're grateful for and then pray together as a family.

8 Family Scripture Memorization

Choose a Bible verse each week to memorize together as a family. Write it down and in visible places around the house. Quiz each other during meals, car rides or worship time.

9 Family Prayer Walk

Go outside for a walk around your neighborhood or a nearby park. While you walk, pray for your family, friends and neighbors.

10 Scripture Art

Have a craft session to create colorful scripture cards, posters or notebooks. Write an encouraging scripture verse and illustrate it with stickers or sketches. Display the artwork around the house, send it to grandparents or church members who need encouragement, give it to a neighbor or use it for your own personal or family encouragement.

Want to share your Bible verse with the *Gleaner* team? Have an adult in your home take a picture of your Bible verse artwork and send it to talk@nwadventist.com.

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
*North Pacific Union communication
director and Gleaner editor*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-5-KIDS-58](https://nwadventist.com/118-5-KIDS-58)

Leadership for a Divided World

W

hat does it mean to be an effective leader in an unjust society? We live in a time of polarization and pendulum swings.

Politicians stoke the fires of our worst fears and grievances; they point out all the flaws of their opponents while lacking the introspection to contemplate their own.

Grievance politics has tapped into these deep-seated feelings of being wronged and has weaponized them. The feeling of being powerless or being treated unfairly strikes at the core of our ego.

Politicians and media talking heads know how to tap into that frustration. They make a living by generating feelings of resentment. They promise vengeance. This style of leadership is tribalistic and ultimately ineffective.

To establish legitimacy, those in authority have to demonstrate they understand and care. Malcolm Gladwell makes this point in his book *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants*, explaining that legitimacy is based on the following:

“First of all, the people who are asked to obey authority have to feel like they have a voice—that if they speak up, they will be heard. Second, the law has to be predictable. There has to be a reasonable expectation that the rules tomorrow are going to be roughly the same as the rules today. And third, the authority has

to be fair. It can't treat one group differently from another.”¹

These principles are timeless. We may be tempted to believe that leadership is harder now than it has ever been—that if we could somehow bring the country and the church back to an earlier era, we could make it great again. The truth is leadership has never been easy. Consider the polarization and politics of Christ's day.

The Jewish nation was under control of the Roman empire. They were looking for liberation and wondering why God was not sending the promised Messiah to set them free. To deal with the cognitive dissonance of believing they were the chosen ones while at the same time in subjugation to Rome, there were four main political expressions.

1. The Pharisees thought if they kept the law perfectly God would restore them. They viewed Romans as pagans who eventually would be destroyed by God. The Pharisees clung to their identity at the expense of their relevancy. Instead of engaging the Romans with kindness, they privately despised and hated them. They thought God's answer for the nation was to make Israel great again.

2. On the opposite end of the political/religious spectrum were the Sadducees. The Sadducees grasped for relevancy at the expense of their identity. The way they coped with Roman subjugation was compromising with Rome.



AUTHOR

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True leadership begins not with leaders imposing their will, but with an understanding of the importance of expression of legitimacy.

They exchanged religious conviction for political gain.

3. The Zealots were essentially radical Pharisees. They were not content to wait for God to overtake the Romans; they were political terrorists who believed their cause was righteous. So, in the name of religion, they slit people's throats.

Speaking of this mindset, professor Jacques Doukhan explains, "Missionary zeal that points a raging finger and calls upon the wrath of God seeks only to divert attention from one's own responsibilities. It is wrong ever to consider religious violence as an expression of profound conviction. Murder and war, the tortures of the Inquisitions, and all the repressive measures taken in the name of religion are symptomatic of spiritual cowardice and anguish."²

4. The Essenes were the smallest of the four main groups. They isolated themselves completely from the political fray by moving to the mountains. They comforted themselves with religious rituals to maintain their cleanliness.

This was the political environment Jesus entered. As Jesus became more well-known as a teacher, people wanted to know what side He would choose. He chose disciples on the completely opposite sides of

the political religious spectrum: a tax collector and a Zealot.

Tax collectors were seen as traitors by most Jewish people; they made money by charging even higher taxes than Rome demanded. This sellout was a constant reminder of Jewish subjugation to Rome. They were not only seen as unethical cheaters, but as traitors to their homeland and kinsmen. A tax collector may have had money, but that was just about all they had. They were pawns of the Roman government and objects of scorn among their own people. And yet, from among them, Jesus chose Matthew to be His disciple.

On the other end was Simon the Zealot. He was part of a political party which worked to incite violence and rebellion against the Roman Empire. Anyone who sided with Rome was perceived as an enemy and therefore a target of their violent attacks. And yet, from among them, Jesus chose Simon to be His disciple.

The fact that Jesus united people on opposite ends of the political spectrum is instructive for the polarization that exists in our own day. Jesus took a "terrorist" and a "traitor" and made them His disciples. How did He unite them?

True leadership begins not with leaders imposing their will, but with an understanding of the importance of expression of legitimacy.

On the night of the last supper, at the most critical point of His ministry, Jesus demonstrated His power by getting down on His knees and washing His disciple's feet. It was customary for servants to do this, but a Rabbi? The Messiah? Peter noted the dissonance and immediately rejected this offering. Jesus responded, "Unless I wash your feet you will not belong to me" (John 13:8). This was a lesson in legitimacy.

Jesus explained, "The rulers of the Gentiles lord their authority over one another, not so with you" (Matt. 20:25). Status, hierarchy and power are the typical measurements delineating insiders and outsiders, but Jesus presented a different way.

He was a servant leader. He washed the feet of His betrayer, a tax collector and a Zealot. He demonstrated His authority not with force but by self-sacrificing love. Legitimacy as a leader is established by the ability to unite political and religious opponents under a common cause.

His message was a message of mercy and radical love. His kingdom was based on compassion, kindness and justice. Jesus didn't avoid political debates, He reinterpreted them. If Jesus could unite a Zealot and tax collector, do you think He could unite a Republican and a Democrat today?

We are called to make disciples as Jesus made disciples. We should not be so aligned with one side of politics that we lose the ability to minister to the needs of another. Legitimacy for the Christian is not established by winning political or religious debates, it's established by walking in the footsteps of Christ.

1. Gladwell, M. (2013). *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants* (1st ed.). Back Bay Books.
2. Doukhan, J. B. (2000). *Secrets of Daniel: Wisdom and Dreams of a Jewish Prince in Exile*. Review and Herald Publishing Association.

KEVIN MCGILL
Green Lake Church senior pastor

The Root of the Problem

I love gardening—it's one of my favorite hobbies. It's relaxing to plant things and see them grow throughout

the year. Over the years I have developed a very nice garden, but I have a small problem.

A few years ago, my husband wanted a mint plant, and against my better judgment I planted it in my main garden space. For the first year it was barely noticeable—a tiny little plant, in fact. The next year, it was a bit bigger.

During that year it did something I initially didn't notice—it began to put down a massive root system. What started as something small has become an enormous problem. I'm still struggling to this day to get rid of that "small" mint plant.

Before our world was even created, Scripture tells us something rather small began to slither into the mind of a perfect angel in heaven. He began to feel God was unfair and unjust. Why should God alone be worthy of worship?

Lucifer felt he knew better than God. Pride began to creep into his heart and began to put down some very deep roots. At first the angels in heaven were appalled at this idea, but over time a number of them began to side with Lucifer.

Pride—the desire for your own will and way—took hold in the hearts of Lucifer and a third of the angels in heaven. This ultimately resulted in Lucifer and his followers being cast out of heaven, because

pride has no place in God's presence. So began the Great Controversy.

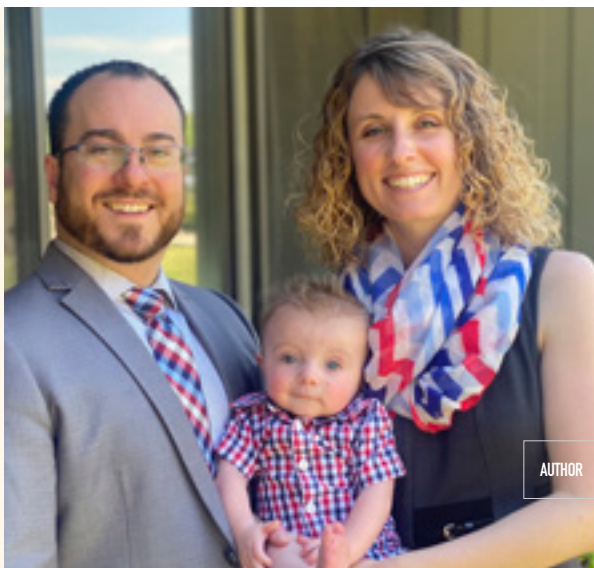
The desire to do whatever makes us feel good and the desire to create our own "truth" is motivated by pride. Pride from a biblical perspective is never a positive thing; rather, we are called in Scripture to surrender our goals and sinful desires, and take hold of Jesus. We are to give up self!

In the 21st century, pride is being exalted as a virtue. Entire movements have arisen which argue whatever feels good and whatever your heart desires should not only be acceptable but celebrated.

The advocates of this unbiblical and anti-Christian philosophy argue that anyone who opposes or critiques their movement is hateful and bigoted. What began as something small has become deeply rooted in every aspect of our American culture and life.

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good" (Gen. 1:31). The teachings of positive pride go against the teachings of scripture. It was pride which drove our original parents to sin. Their desire to do their own thing drove them to forsake God's instructions and warnings.

Lucifer, now called Satan, was more than happy to help lead them down the path of joyous pride, and the choice to follow self above God



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Natashia McVay

“*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you*”

MATT. 6:33

PERSPECTIVE +

resulted in the fall of humanity. Over all of earth's history the destructive nature of pride can be seen. What God made perfect, Satan continues to work to destroy.

The prince of darkness disguises himself as an angel of light, and the accuser and tempter remains just as clever today as he was in the garden of Eden. He seeks to employ pride as a deceptive tool. He encourages humanity to redefine and re-imagine sin. What once was clearly understood as sinful and immoral is now celebrated.

In her book *Education*, Ellen White writes, “The greatest want of the world is the want of men – men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name” (pg. 57).

How can modern Seventh-day Adventists seek to uphold God's high standard? How might we effectively proclaim God's law of love is normative for all humanity?

1. Do not give in to the world's agenda of pride. Stand up for truth – the truth that Jesus is Lord and is calling you to surrender your whole being to Him; physically, mentally and spiritually. It is time to give up your own way of life and surrender to Jesus as the true Way.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life...’” (John 14:6).

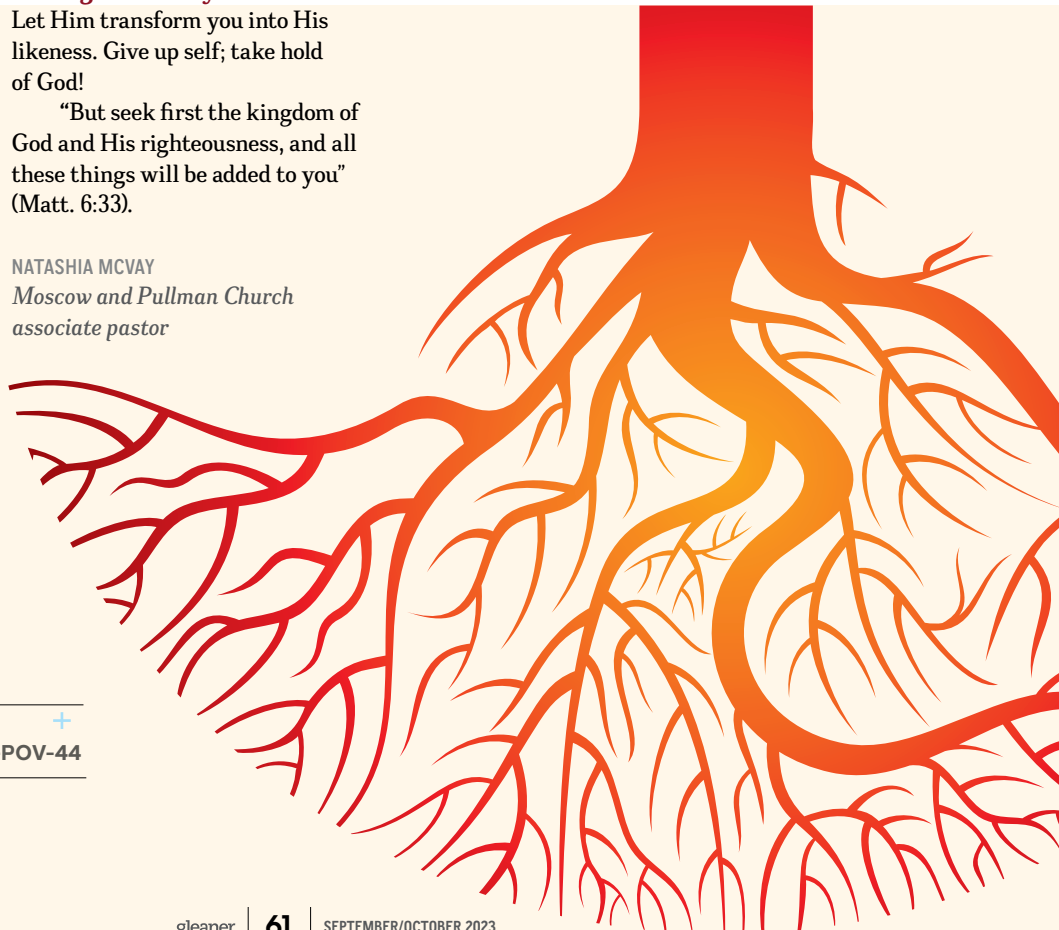
2. Guard your homes, your families and your children from the alluring prideful ways of the world. As a compassionate global citizen – especially one who calls themselves “Christian” – it is your duty to protect the innocent and vulnerable. In today's world this is becoming more and more important. Don't surrender your families to the world's ideas of pride.

3. Surrender each day to the leading of God in your life. Let Him transform you into His likeness. Give up self; take hold of God!

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matt. 6:33).

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Ease Your Child's Back-to-School Anxiety

Anxiety, ADHD, behavior problems and depression are the most commonly diagnosed mental disorders in children. In fact, almost 10% of kids aged 3-17 have been diagnosed with anxiety.¹

Back-to-school anxiety after a long summer break is very common among children. In fact, anxiety can manifest in various forms, including being separated from parents/pets (separation anxiety), as a phobia of new places and people (social anxiety), of worry about the future and with physical symptoms.

As parents, it's important to understand how common childhood anxiety is and to learn some tools to use when dealing with anxiety at home. We want our children to have a secure and loving environment where they feel safe, so let's equip ourselves to help them when they head back to school.

1. Encourage Open Communication

In our household, we prioritize open communication. Creating an atmosphere where our children feel safe to express their feelings and concerns is essential for addressing anxiety. Let your children know it's okay to talk about their worries, and listen attentively without judgment when they do.

Use this as an opportunity to remind them of verses like Phil. 4:6-7, which encourages us not to be anxious but to pray and present our requests to

God, trusting in His peace that surpasses all understanding.

2. Lead by Example

Children learn a lot by watching our behavior, don't they? As parents, we must model healthy ways of coping with stress and anxiety. Show them how you pray, meditate on scripture, practice deep breathing and self-care.

Let them see you dealing with stress and anxiety in healthy ways. By doing so, we give them tools and teach them resilience and the power of faith in dealing with their own anxiety and stress.

3. Establish a Routine

We have learned a structured routine helps all of us, as anxiety can be exacerbated by uncertainty. Having a consistent daily routine can bring a sense of stability and security to family life.

When we can incorporate prayer, devotions and family Bible studies into the daily schedule, this helps instill a strong foundation of faith and provides children with a spiritual anchor to lean on during anxious moments.

4. Promote a Healthy Lifestyle

My husband has his master's degree in marriage and family therapy. He is always learning and sharing about brain health and emotional intelligence, and encouraging the whole family to live healthfully.

Physical health is closely tied to mental and emotional well-being. Encourage your children

to engage in regular physical activities, eat nourishing foods and get enough sleep.

Additionally, teach them the importance of spending time outdoors, appreciating God's creation and finding moments of peace and reflection in nature.

5. Practice Mindfulness and Prayerful Meditation

Mindfulness techniques can help children focus on the present moment, reducing anxiety about the future. In third grade my son learned about using deep breaths, rubbing his hands briskly together and giving himself a big hug as physical ways to ground himself when he's feeling anxious.

Combine these methods with prayerful meditation during which your children can reflect on Bible verses or uplifting messages. Psalm 46:10 reminds us to "be still and know that I am God," offering a powerful reminder of God's presence and control over our lives.

6. Combat Negative Thoughts with Positive Affirmations

Anxiety often leads to negative thinking patterns. We call that "stinkin' thinkin'" in our home. Teach your children to counter these thoughts with positive affirmations rooted in scripture. Encourage them to repeat affirmations like, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13) whenever they feel overwhelmed.



AUTHOR | LaVonne Long

7. Build a Supportive Community

A strong support system is invaluable in overcoming anxiety. We love to connect with our church community, small groups or Bible study circles so we and our children can build meaningful relationships and feel supported in times of anxiety. This sense of belonging reinforces the knowledge that they are not alone and God is always with us.


This back-to-school season we have the continued privilege and responsibility to raise our children with love, compassion and faith. By incorporating these tools and strategies into our family lifestyle, we can provide a nurturing environment where our children feel equipped to healthfully deal with anxiety.

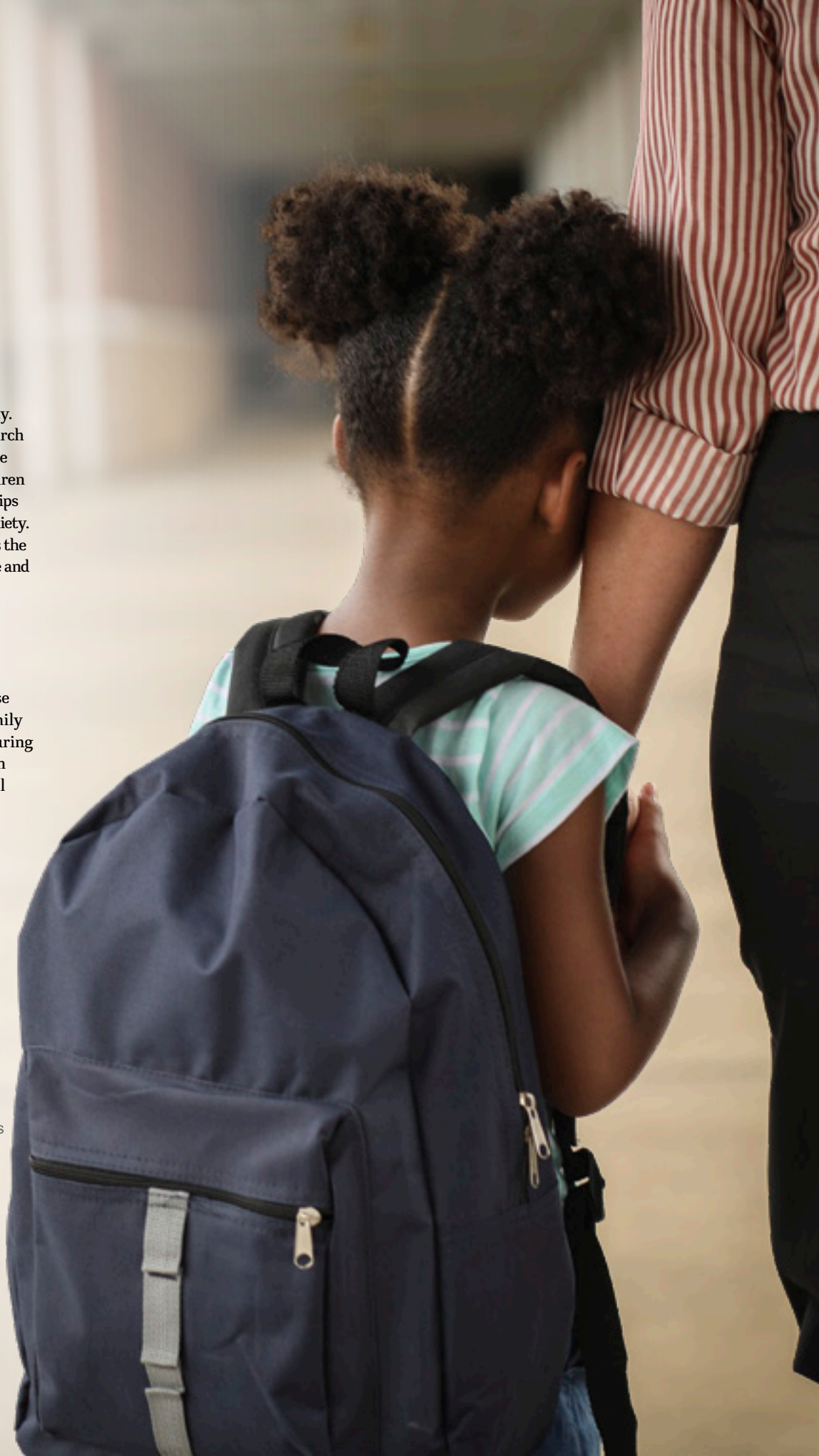
Remember to be patient, practice what you preach and rely on God's guidance every step of the way. With love, faith and God's grace, we can foster emotional well-being and a sense of peace that will carry our children successfully through life's challenges. And if your child's anxiety gets unmanageable, see a professional. It's okay to get help.

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/data.html>

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