

**EDITORIAL**  
What's in Your Hand?

**JUST FOR KIDS**  
A Savior in the Storm

**PERSPECTIVE**  
A Place for You

# gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



**AUTHENTIC  
ENGAGEMENT:  
MINISTRY  
IN THE  
THIRD SPACE**

MAY/JUNE  
**2024**  
VOL. 119, N° 3



IMAGES of CREATION

*Remember His covenant forever, the word which  
He commanded, for a thousand generations.  
1 Chronicles 16:15*

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MAY/JUNE 2024

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# WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?

**AS A YOUNG ADULT, SEVERAL FRIENDS INVITED ME TO ATTEND CHURCH WITH THEM. I WAS SEARCHING FOR GOD AND TRUTH. THIS LED ME TO STUDY THE BIBLE.**



JOHN FREEDMAN  
*North Pacific Union president*

Soon I was born again of the Holy Spirit and baptized as an Adventist with a new heart devoted to God. My habits and priorities began to change.

The Holy Spirit planted in my heart a desire to tell others about how God had changed my life. The gospel of Jesus Christ has power. I could not shake the desire to share my newfound faith with friends and family.

The conference where I lived held a witnessing training weekend. Someone at the event preached a sermon based on Exod. 4:2.

In that passage is the call of God to Moses when he was in Midian, just after he turned to explore the burning bush. Moses heard the call and listened to God call him to do something for Him.

However, Moses did not believe he could accomplish anything significant for God. I don't remember much about the message except for how the pastor pressed the question, "What is that in your hand?"

This was a powerful question. It still is. For Moses, his hand held a shepherd's rod.

God has given gifts and talents to all humankind – to all nations, peoples and tongues – male and female, young and old, poor and rich.

When we desire to be a blessing to God and others, the first place to look is at what God has placed in our hands already.

What talent has He given you? What spiritual gift has He given you? What education has He blessed you with? What career or vocation has He given you? What skills have you learned in your work? What hobbies have you learned and enjoyed? What friends has He given you? What family members need God's transforming power?

North American Division is talking about a new evangelism initiative called Pentecost 2025. The goal is to hold 3,000 evangelistic proclamation events in North America during 2025.

NAD is working to raise funds to assist each local church that volunteers to hold an event. North Pacific Union is also going to provide funding for local churches that hold evangelistic proclamation events.



*When we desire to be a blessing to God and others, the first place to look is at what God has placed in our hands already.*

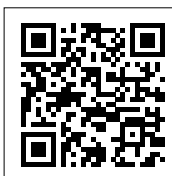
The Voice of Prophecy will provide training and resources to assist churches and pastors. In fact, all the NAD media ministries are actively looking for ways to assist local churches for this evangelism initiative.

To prepare for Pentecost 2025, we must use the rest of 2024 for preparation. How? Start where you are. Evaluate what is in your hand.

God will bless anyone who will partner with Him to win souls. Look around you at what God has provided already.

After I heard God's call, I found a stack of invitations to a prophecy presentation in my hand. Sharing those with family and friends, as well as explaining how my life had changed, resulted in my two brothers attending the meetings. Both were baptized.

This *Gleaner* issue features a plenitude of stories – in both traditional and unusual third spaces – about how Northwest Adventists are using God's gifts in their hands to creatively build community, share the Good News of Jesus and reach just one more person. As you read and reflect, listen to how God is prompting you to respond to His question, "What is that in your hand?"



JOHN FREEDMAN  
*North Pacific Union president*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-EDT-40](https://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-EDT-40)

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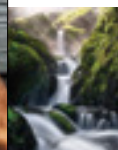
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**IMAGES OF CREATION, P. 2**



"Downstream," in Falls Creek, Washington, by Victor Carreiro, of Richland, Washington.





# AUTHENTIC ENGAGEMENT: MINISTRY IN THE THIRD SPACE

**In the 21st century, the concept of a third space — a place between work and home where people build community and foster connections — is increasingly elusive, with nearly 50% of Americans reportedly feeling alone.<sup>1</sup>**

Historically, the church served as a cornerstone of third spaces and fulfilled an important role in community building. But as people step away from religious settings, a need for determining a new third space has presented itself.

These trends highlight the need for the church to rethink the typical forms of ministry and engage in meaningful social and spiritual interactions outside the third spaces generally accepted as part of the Adventist norm.

As we minister to people outside our normal circles of life, it is crucial to first understand our identity and value in Christ so we can see each person we encounter as a cherished child of God.

This perspective enables us to shift our focus from being interesting to being interested, allowing us to authentically listen and minister in unique ways.

As you read these stories about Northwest third spaces of ministry, ask yourself, “What third space in my life is God calling me to minister in?”

# AUTHENTIC ENGAGEMENT

## AFTER MY FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE, SOME FRIENDS AND I WENT ON A WEEK-LONG ADVENTURE IN FLORIDA LEARNING TO SURF, EATING FAST FOOD AND SLEEPING IN A FIELD.

When the weekend arrived, we decided to perform a social experiment and attend a church to see how they would respond to our shaggy crew. None of us had any church attire, and we arrived with matted hair, T-shirts, board shorts and flip-flops.

The service was already underway when we walked in the front door. Upon opening the next set of doors, we found ourselves standing in the center aisle at the back of a crowded sanctuary filled with gray hair, fancy dresses and three-piece suits.

Our entry coincided with the end of opening prayer. As if on cue, every head turned to look and gawk at the newcomers. The only empty seats were in the front row, and we gleefully, in the name of science, walked down and planted our board-shorts-covered behinds right in front of the pastor.

During the service, it was hard to tell exactly what the response behind us was, so we waited until the end to assess our impact on the congregation.

Small groups of dignified men and women huddled together, casting glances in our direction as we stood in the lobby.

Eventually, a group sent a couple of emissaries to engage us in awkward

conversation. We stuck around until most of the members had cleared out before the pastor took pity on us and invited us home for lunch.

Have you ever wondered why making new connections is so difficult? Why is it that when new people walk into a church environment, most of us avoid interacting or even making eye contact with them? And why is this especially true if they are young or look different from us?

A study by Lifeway Research<sup>2</sup> found that 66% of young adults stopped attending church regularly after graduating high school. The primary reason wasn't a difference in theology, worship style or culture; it was a lack of relational connection.

The church had never connected with them in a way that made them miss it when anything else came along.

I think many of us are afraid to make new connections with younger – and honestly all – generations because we struggle with our own sense of identity and value.

Most of us base our identity on what we believe are our valuable traits. Work, recreation, appearance, leadership, money, influence and self-discipline are all sources of value. Yours may not be

on this list, but we all have areas where we are tempted to find our self-worth.

If our identity is based on these assets, we will eventually be let down. This leads to depression, loneliness, loss of purpose and more. It also causes us to judge others based on the same criteria.

Biblically, we're reminded that our identity is based in Christ. 1 John 3:1 says, "The Father has loved us so much that we are called children of God."

Our identity isn't in our earthly works or what we deem valuable. Our identity is that we are all children of God.

Furthermore, the gospel tells us that our value doesn't come from anything we produce – see Eph. 2:8–9. Instead, we are valuable simply because God says we are.



*Caleb Foss is the author of A Way Forward, a book focused on helping Christians better understand their own identity and build meaningful connections across generational divides. Foss also serves as Camp MiVoden director of programming and staff mentorship.*

# AUTHENTIC ENGAGEMENT

Think about it. The most powerful being in the entire universe chose to become one of us and suffer simply for the chance to establish a friendship with you. This isn't something you earned. Your good works and positive characteristics did nothing to make you more worthy.

Conversely, the bad things you've done don't make you any less valuable to God. Even if you decide to opt out of God's family, you are still loved and God waits for your return with open arms.

The beautiful part about understanding where our value comes from is that we don't have to spend our lives trying to prove our worth to others. Instead, we can focus on helping others understand their identity in Christ and how valuable they are. We don't have to prove we are awesome so others will listen to us talk about Jesus.

This is what 2 Cor. 5:17 refers to when it says we are a "new creation." Now that we know every person on this earth is a child of God, we can see people the way that God sees people. They are incredibly valuable, and the best way to show someone they are valuable is to listen to their story.

Everyone is looking for a safe place to be known and valued. There are very few places in this world where that can be found.

So where do we start? First, we immerse ourselves in the good news of God's love every day.

Instead of focusing on producing more, focus on experiencing the love and grace Jesus offers so fully that it naturally flows out of you. Allow God to teach you how valuable you are so you can better recognize the value of the people around you.

Take time to learn their story instead of telling yours. Ask questions. Focus on being *interested* instead of *interesting*. Invite others to do the same.

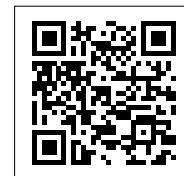
Through listening, we become a meaningful part of someone's journey and earn the right to be a voice of truth in their life. When we do, our communities and churches will never be the same.

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1. TheWeek Staff. "An Epidemic of Loneliness." *theweek*, January 6, 2019. [theweek.com/articles/815518/epidemic-loneliness](https://theweek.com/articles/815518/epidemic-loneliness).
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CALEB FOSS

*Northwest author*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-FT-46](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/119-3-ft-46) +

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- » Have you ever felt alone or unseen, whether within your faith community or one you were visiting? What emotions did that produce? What did you do to deal with the situation?
- » In what ways do you seek to make yourself valuable to others? Have any of these ever let you down?
- » What are some steps you can take to spread the gospel of grace to the people around you?



# A CLEAN Community Connection

How an Urban Center of Influence  
is Creating a Contemporary Third Space

“WHAT IF WE’VE BEEN GOING ABOUT EVANGELISM ALL WRONG?” THAT’S THE QUESTION WILLIAM “BILLY” HUNGATE, A PASTOR WHO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AT SUNNYSIDE CHURCH, POSED AS HE WROTE, “BELIEVE, BECOME, BELONG, BLESS” IN A VERTICAL STACK ON A SHEET OF PAPER.

“Traditionally, our evangelism starts with an evangelistic series that asks people to believe the things we do,” Hungate said, pointing to the first word. “Then you can become an Adventist through baptism. Once you’re baptized, you belong to our group. Then, after some trust is built and background checks come through, you can now bless people alongside us. That’s the basic trajectory we’ve had for people.”

Hungate next pointed to a particular and well-known passage from Ellen White’s *Ministry of Healing*, p. 143,

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”

“This was the way Jesus did ministry,” said Hungate. “Belonging came first. Then we see He blessed people. He healed them. After that, He asked them to believe and follow Him, which for us is the process of becoming a disciple of Jesus. That’s the trajectory we want to use at CLEAN.”

If you haven’t heard of CLEAN, the best way to describe it might be a combination of nonprofit addiction recovery ministries, small group meetings and a public-facing urban center of influence—all of which coalesce into the CLEAN ministry.

Focused on small, intentional community groups, CLEAN aims to help people recover from addiction and connect deeply with a community that cares about them.

• CLEAN opened a sober bar to help those recovering from addiction. Now they are laying the groundwork to open a permanent brick-and-mortar nonprofit location in the heart of Portland.



# A CLEAN COMMUNITY

Hungate; his wife, Chelsea; and several other individuals – many of whom have gone through the recovery process themselves – founded this initiative, where Hungate now serves full time.

“One of the common misnomers is that the opposite of addiction is sobriety, but that’s not really it. It’s community – and not a community like we might think of in a church, but a community of people who really know your darkest secrets and accept you anyway,” said Hungate.

“It’s a group of people who can empower you to grow in your relationship with Christ. That’s one of the best things about recovery groups. People’s stories who have gone through this are basically the same at their core – they believed some lie about themselves like, ‘I’m not worthy of love’ or, ‘I’ll never be good enough,’” Hungate continued.

“Then Satan utilizes that and says, ‘This is what you need to do to cope with this psychologically.’ Whatever addiction someone is dealing with, they need to be fully known by people who understand what they’re going through,” said Hungate.

“We have to remember addiction isn’t the problem,” Hungate said. “Addiction is a coping mechanism and a behavior connected to deeper things we often don’t talk about.”

According to Hungate, addiction can always be traced back to trauma, but that can look different from person to person.

“There are two types of trauma,” he said. “There are the big ‘T’ Traumas like divorces, deaths, things like that. Then there are the little ‘t’ traumas that are really hard to uproot. They become negative scripts in our heads.”

“We don’t have enough help overcoming the lies Satan plants in us or in seeing what God really says about us. That’s where real transformation takes place,” Hungate pointed out. “We pastors can preach all we want from the pulpit, but transformation doesn’t happen until



BENDALUSONG

# CLEAN BAR



VICTOR MUJICA

• Billy and Chelsea Hungate are helping to lead an urban center of influence in Portland to provide addiction recovery and community building.



you have a few people around you who you can tell, ‘I acted this way,’ or, ‘I believe this thing,’ and can have them speak God’s life into you.”

One of the greatest obstacles to addiction recovery is isolation, and CLEAN exists to replace the feelings of hopelessness and isolation with connection and trust. To do that, you need a space that doesn’t alienate people who aren’t ready to step through the doors of a church and that isn’t their workplace or their home – a third space.

“Before World War II the most popular third space was church. The number one third space after World War II was the bar. With bars came a vice: more alcoholism. Two in every five people in the state of Oregon suffer from what some would call alcoholism,” said Hungate.

With this in mind, CLEAN began making plans for a unique ministry: a sober bar, which serves a wide variety of familiar drinks in a familiar setting – minus the alcohol.

In addition to pop-up events, micro-church groups and recovery programs, CLEAN is laying the groundwork to open a permanent brick-and-mortar nonprofit location in the heart of Portland. As a nonprofit entity, the CLEAN sober bar’s proceeds will all be reinvested in creating recovery initiatives and spaces.

In discussing the look and feel of the place, Hungate shared they are not shying away from the traditional bar aesthetic.

“One thing we’ve done as Christians is look at things and said, ‘That’s not good,’ and avoided associating with it at all costs,” he said. “But what ends up happening is we lose our influence with people instead of doing anything that might pique their interest. If you pick up one of our bottles, it might look like alcohol, but if you read the ingredients, it’s good stuff instead.”

“We’re trying to make recovery cool,” said Hungate. “When we ask someone to come to church, we’re often asking them to cross so many cultural barriers to be there. If we’re asking people to cross more

cultural barriers than we are willing to cross ourselves, then who’s really being the missionary? I believe it’s our job to cross those cultural barriers ourselves.”

CLEAN is launching a YouTube channel for their sober bar where they’ll post stories and recipes. Visit @CLEANBARPDX to watch their first recipe demonstration of their original Busy Bee non-alcoholic drink. “The best part of CLEAN is we don’t just do juice,” commented Hungate.

Learn more about the CLEAN ministry by visiting their parent website at [thecleanlife.org](http://thecleanlife.org) or by watching their sober bar come together at [clean-bar.com](http://clean-bar.com).



KALEB EISELE  
Oregon Conference  
digital content specialist

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-FT-78](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-FT-78) +

# DECONSTRUCTING DIGITAL

## Lighting Up a Dark Digital Landscape

North American Division is embarking on an ambitious mission to cultivate a network of 10,000 digital disciples. Whether you're already sharing your faith online or curious about getting started, this initiative has something for you.

As a media strategist, Ernesto Hernandez, Washington Conference media director, actively works in a faith-based digital environment and serves as a frequent coach to pastors, creatives and churches. Hernandez brings a forward-thinking, innovative mindset to his role. He is passionate about empowering individuals of all ages and stages – especially those active on social media – to leverage their platforms for good.

In this conversation, Hernandez shares how individuals can make a meaningful impact through their online presence.

### Q: WHAT IS THE BASIC DEFINITION OF DIGITAL EVANGELISM?

HERNANDEZ: Digital evangelism is a two-part phrase: you have evangelism – meaning sharing the gospel – and you have digital – anything internet-connected. Digital disciples or evangelists find creative ways online to share their faith.

Evangelism is something we've done face-to-face for many years. Digital is a space that was created in the last 20 years. So, then, the question becomes, "How can I share the good news in this interconnected space?"

### Q: WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF DIGITAL PLATFORMS THAT HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY USED FOR EVANGELISM?

HERNANDEZ: I'll share three of my favorites I've seen recently.

My dad does digital evangelism through WhatsApp. He sends a devotional audio every morning to a list of 500 people that he's collected through his travels. Through WhatsApp, he's able to stay in touch with them, even if they're remote, and he can continue sharing the gospel through that platform.

Here's another one that I really love: A teenager I met about two years ago started a Spanish blog called Un Joven Jota – An Adventist Teen – and he shares quotes and devotionals he hears from preachers. He's gained so much traction and has a following now in the thousands.

I have a friend with a Bible Minecraft ministry. He invites young people, usually 10- to 22-year-olds, to play in a safe environment and build Bible scenes together. He will give a prompt and 30-50 people in this video game environment will collectively build Noah's Ark, for example.

### Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WITH USING DIGITAL TOOLS FOR EVANGELISM, AND HOW CAN THEY BE OVERCOME?

HERNANDEZ: One of the biggest challenges I see is people trying to go into digital evangelism but not understanding the platforms.

Let's say I'm going to go into construction because there's a need for houses and I just start building. Well, I have to know my tools. I have to know what type of housing is allowed. I have to learn a little bit of code. It's the same way with digital evangelism.

The next huge obstacle I see is sometimes people don't understand who they're trying to reach. People are going to say, "I want to reach everyone." Define your niche and then your people will find you.

# EVANGELISM



## Q: HOW DO YOU BELIEVE CHURCHES CAN LEVERAGE SOCIAL MEDIA TO REACH A BROADER AUDIENCE?

**HERNANDEZ:** First, don't spread yourself too thin in the digital space, because it's a huge space. Once you understand your platform and your audience, you're at a good point to get started as a church. Then you can start creating a strategy and establishing a social media team.

I know about a church that chose to do Instagram and WhatsApp community groups—two opposite platforms. Yet, the team works well to maintain a sense of community and reach others who are looking for community. They've trained their team in what's effective in posting, using hashtags, understanding the platform and working with the algorithm.

## Q: IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, WHAT TYPE OF CONTENT RESONATES ON DIFFERENT PLATFORMS WITH AUDIENCES, ESPECIALLY FOR SHARING MESSAGES OF FAITH?

**HERNANDEZ:** It depends on who you are trying to reach. If you're trying to reach a newcomer audience, you have to lead with a basic message of hope. I like to check my content creation by asking, "Can my neighbor relate to this?" Many of us are waiting for the Second Coming, yet many haven't heard of the First Coming.

After you have your target audience, you will start introducing them to this story. The next question is, which technology? Some people are going to say, "Oh, podcasts are effective, or YouTube's effective, or TikTok's effective," but it's an ever-evolving world.

Remember my dad? He said, "I don't understand YouTube or Facebook that well. I'm good on WhatsApp and this is what's working for me." He shares a lot of Christ-centered messages with an introduction to Christianity.

## Q: WHAT ADDITIONAL ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO'S NEW IN THIS SPACE?

**HERNANDEZ:** First of all, it's scary. You're walking into an unknown space. We like our comfort and what we know, and it's very hard to walk into a space we don't know.

These platforms were built to be addicting. You have to be careful and create a proper strategy. You have to be intentional with your usage of social media and the amount of time you're investing.

Many people out there do a lot of great things with digital evangelism. There are a lot of us coaching. If someone is reading this, it means God has already placed that seed in their heart to be here. It's up to us to take that first step or next step.

Start with doing inventory of what digital tools you're good at and see what God's calling you to share. We can be a light in a very dark space. That is the digital space.

*Watch the full 30-minute conversation by scanning the QR Code below.*



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER  
North Pacific Union  
communication director  
and Gleaner editor

More online at  
[NWADVENT.ST/119-3-FT-74](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-FT-74)



Ernesto Hernandez, Washington Conference media director, frequently coaches pastors, creators and churches on how to take their digital engagement to the next level.

# Cinema Evangelism Sparks New Conversations

**KYLE PORTBURY, FILMMAKER, HAS A GIFT TO SHARE WITH THE WORLD, AND EVERYONE PLAYS AN ACTIVE PART IN SHARING THIS GIFT.**

Portbury is the writer, director and producer behind *The Hopeful*, a 90-minute film that shares the Adventist Church origin story. *The Hopeful* was released to more than 1,000 theaters on April 17–18.

If you've watched the six-part *Tell the World* miniseries, the storylines and a few scenes may seem familiar to you.

"You couldn't have *The Hopeful* without *Tell the World*," Portbury said during a screening conversation with Pacific Northwest leaders in March. The two projects were filmed at the same time and edited to present distinct narratives. "Now, in 2024, *The Hopeful* is one Adventist giving his love letter to his roots."

Cinema evangelism is a unique avenue for community engagement and outreach, using films to spark meaningful conversations about faith and life.

Portbury's intentionality is evident in the way he crafted *The Hopeful*, not just as a film, but as a tool for personal evangelism and community engagement.

"Imagine you've known a friend for years, but you've never really talked about your faith with them. It can feel awkward to suddenly bring it up. Cinema evangelism offers a unique chance to change that," he said. "Who wouldn't want to say yes to a movie and dinner with friends?"

*The Hopeful* offers a platform for discussing disappointment, pain, loss, grief, mental health, community building and grace in grief. It presents real people and emotions that resonate with viewers, sparking introspection and deeper conversations.

Hope Studios, a new cinematic arm of Hope Channel International, is investing in film projects to increase awareness

and understanding of the Adventist faith through creative storytelling. An upcoming project, in partnership with Walla Walla University Center for Media Ministry, will be a 10-part series with personal stories of resilience.

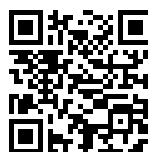
"I'm very happy to see where Hope Studios is taking cinematic evangelism," said Matt Webster, WWU Center for Media Ministry producer and director of studio operations.

Already, Portbury is personally seeing the impact beyond the storyline through his interactions with the cast, crew, investors and industry partners.

The diverse crew of more than 200 included individuals, like a Buddhist editor or atheist assistant director, who respectfully challenged Portbury on different aspects of the story, making the project stronger.

"When the crew is asking you to tell them about the Sabbath just as you're sitting there working on the scene, you become an evangelist without even realizing it," Portbury reflected. "It was very natural and organic and not weird at all. The concept of the Sabbath was very appealing to them."

Request a screening of *The Hopeful* for your church and find more faith-sharing resources like a new *Steps to Christ* audio recording by visiting [thehopefulmovie.com](http://thehopefulmovie.com).



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER  
North Pacific Union  
communication director  
and Gleaner editor

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-NPUC-69](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-NPUC-69)

The journey of James and Ellen White and their friends in the establishment of the Adventist Church provides new opportunities for modern-day, faith-based conversations among friends.



CHURCH

# Simpson to Serve as VP for Hispanic Ministries

**PETER SIMPSON WILL JOIN THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION TEAM THIS SUMMER AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR HISPANIC MINISTRIES AND MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR.**



• Peter and Carolina Simpson

Simpson is coming from Ohio Conference where he served as multilingual ministries coordinator as well as church planting and evangelism director for 10 years.

“Through ministry, I love to touch people’s hearts with a Christ-centered message, as well as to prepare and equip church members to share their faith with others to welcome as many as possible into God’s kingdom,” Simpson said.

His 33 years of ministry experience includes multiple capacities in different countries as district pastor, professor and department leader at a seminary and at conference and union levels. He also served as conference president for Atlantic Honduras Conference and South Central Conference of Costa Rica.

Simpson credits his passion for mission and his clear vision for evangelism to his Cuban missionary parents who served in Managua, Nicaragua. The whole family considers themselves to be missionaries.

Simpson and his wife, Carolina, enjoy sharing in the joy of service to God and

His church. Carolina will also be joining the NPUC as a part-time administrative assistant for Hispanic ministries.

“We feel God has led us to the Pacific Northwest and are curious to discover and enjoy the many blessings He has stored for us all as we work together,” Simpson said.

Simpson holds a bachelor’s degree in theology, a master’s degree in missiology and a doctoral degree in pastoral ministry. He is a frequent presenter for camp meetings, evangelistic series and ministry training sessions.

“Peter’s extensive experience in ministry, church planting, small groups, church revitalization and evangelism will provide invaluable support and encouragement to our administrative and pastoral teams in the Pacific Northwest,” said John Freedman, NPUC president. “I am confident you will find their presence enriching and inspiring as you get to know them better.”



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

More online at   
[NWADVENT.ST/119-3-NPUC-39](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-NPUC-39)

CHURCH



Hands-on training with the new Alive in Jesus curriculum for children gives leaders an opportunity to experience the familiar and expanded songs, activities, Bible stories and general teaching principles for engaging and supporting faith development.

## NORTHWEST LEADERS PREVIEW ALIVE IN JESUS CURRICULUM

**FORTY-FIVE CHILDREN’S** ministry leaders and presenters, from six conferences, were among the first to experience training for the new Alive in Jesus Bible Sabbath School curriculum. This marked the initial training phase in preparation for the 2025 launch of the Baby Steps and Beginners curriculum.

Additional Alive in Jesus releases will come in 2026 with Kindergarten and Primary and in 2027 with Junior and Earliteen curriculums. Training will be available for all Sabbath School leaders.

Alive in Jesus provides local Sabbath School teachers with the flexibility to meet the needs of diverse learners and settings.

The new curriculum includes a new Baby Steps curriculum, for 0–12 months, which also provides a spiritual parenting small group resource.

Including a clear Adventist worldview, this curriculum shows children the truths of the Bible are unchanging and trustworthy.



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

MORE ONLINE AT  
[NWADVENT.ST/119-3-NPUC-26](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-NPUC-26)

# Wenatchee Spanish Church Saves Souls

**GOD HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE AND KINDNESS POWERFULLY IN WENATCHEE SPANISH CHURCH IN UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE DURING THE LATTER PART OF 2023 AND THE EARLY MONTHS OF 2024.**

Each Sabbath, we have rejoiced in having 10–20 visitors attend our worship services. During the week of Oct. 1–7, 2023, approximately 50 people visited the church.

During Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations, many connected with the church, formed friendships and have continued to visit. It's worth noting that some, in their testimonies, have expressed coming to us on their own seeking Bible studies.

During last year's fall evangelism period, we held Friends Day accompanied by a concert prior to the evangelism week. It was interesting to see how our guests expressed their need for God and how the congregation actively invited their friends, family, neighbors and coworkers.

2024 began with high expectations for the church, as a mission-focused spirit has been growing among church families. In January, we continued sharing the message through our radio program on one of the city's most popular stations and on social media through our virtual church coordinated by the UCC Hispanic ministries department.

Our virtual church has many followers—or what we call “members of our

borderless virtual church”—which operates every weekday at 7 a.m. on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

We began planning our eagerly awaited evangelism week—scheduled Feb. 24 through March 2—with our committees, the evangelist and the entire church service team's collaboration.

A week before our event, we organized a family-focused weekend with Mike and Laura Rosario, a couple who were a great blessing to the church. The number of visitors prior to our evangelism week continued to rise. Daily attendance reached an unprecedented 215 people worshipping in our sanctuary.

We conducted our week of evangelistic meetings and the Holy Spirit moved powerfully! Thirty-three individuals were accepted as new church members: 24 through baptism and nine through profession of faith.

We continue to provide follow-up care and support to our new church family members through our discipleship class held on Sabbaths at 10 a.m. We continue to prayerfully plan to plant three new congregations in our area and

surrounding communities with our new members and guests.

We thank God for His blessings, the support of the entire church and supportive church leaders. We continue to serve and work joyfully for Christ.

ANTONIO IX ROSIQUE

*Wenatchee Spanish Church pastor*

• Plans for three new church plants are underway.

Los planes para la plantación de tres nuevas iglesias están en marcha.



• Wenatchee Spanish Church added 33 individuals into membership after evangelistic meetings.

La Iglesia Hispana de Wenatchee agregó 33 personas a la membresía después de las reuniones evangelísticas.



• The church hosts a weekly discipleship class each Sabbath morning.

La iglesia organiza una clase semanal de discipulado cada sábado por la mañana.





# Iglesia Hispana de Wenatchee Salva Almas

**DIOS HA DEMOSTRADO SU AMOR Y BONDAD PODEROSAMENTE EN LA IGLESIA HISPANA DE WENATCHEE EN LA CONFERENCIA DE UPPER COLUMBIA DURANTE LA ÚLTIMA PARTE DE 2023 Y LOS PRIMEROS MESES DE 2024.**

Cada sábado, nos hemos regocijado de tener de 10 a 20 visitantes que asisten a nuestro servicio de adoración. Durante la semana del 1 al 7 de octubre de 2023, aproximadamente 50 personas visitaron la iglesia.

Durante las celebraciones de Acción de Gracias y Navidad, muchos se identificaron con la iglesia, formaron amistades y han continuado visitándola. Vale la pena señalar que algunos, en sus testimonios, han expresado que han llegado a nosotros por su cuenta en busca de estudios bíblicos.

Durante el período de evangelismo de otoño del año pasado, celebramos un Día de Amigos acompañado de un concierto antes de la semana de evangelismo. Fue interesante ver cómo nuestros invitados expresaron su necesidad de Dios y cómo la congregación se activó a invitar a sus amigos, familiares, vecinos y compañeros de trabajo.

2024 comenzó con grandes expectativas para la iglesia, ya que un espíritu centrado en la misión ha ido creciendo entre las familias de la iglesia. En enero, continuamos compartiendo el mensaje a través de nuestro programa

de radio en una de las estaciones más populares de la ciudad y a través de las redes sociales a través de nuestra iglesia virtual coordinada por el ministerio Hispanos de nuestra asociación.

Nuestra iglesia virtual tiene muchos seguidores – o lo que llamamos “miembros de nuestra iglesia virtual sin fronteras” – que opera todos los días de la semana a las 7 a.m. en YouTube, Facebook e Instagram.

Comenzamos a planificar nuestra muy esperada semana de evangelismo – programada del 24 de febrero al 2 de marzo – con la colaboración de nuestros comités, el evangelista y todo el equipo de servicio de la iglesia.

Una semana antes de nuestro evento, organizamos un fin de semana centrado en la familia con Mike y Laura Rosario, una pareja que fue una gran bendición para la iglesia. El número de visitantes antes de nuestra semana de evangelismo continuó aumentando. La asistencia diaria alcanzó un número sin precedentes de 215 personas que adoraban en nuestro templo.

¡Llevamos a cabo nuestra semana de reuniones evangelísticas y el Espíritu Santo se movió poderosamente! Treinta

y tres personas fueron aceptadas como nuevos miembros de la iglesia: 24 a través del bautismo y nueve a través de la profesión de fe.

Continuamos brindando atención al seguimiento y apoyo a los nuevos miembros de la familia de la iglesia a través de nuestra clase de discipulado que se lleva a cabo los sábados a las 10 a.m. Continuamos planeando en oración la plantación de tres nuevas congregaciones en nuestra área y en las comunidades circundantes con nuestros nuevos miembros e invitados.

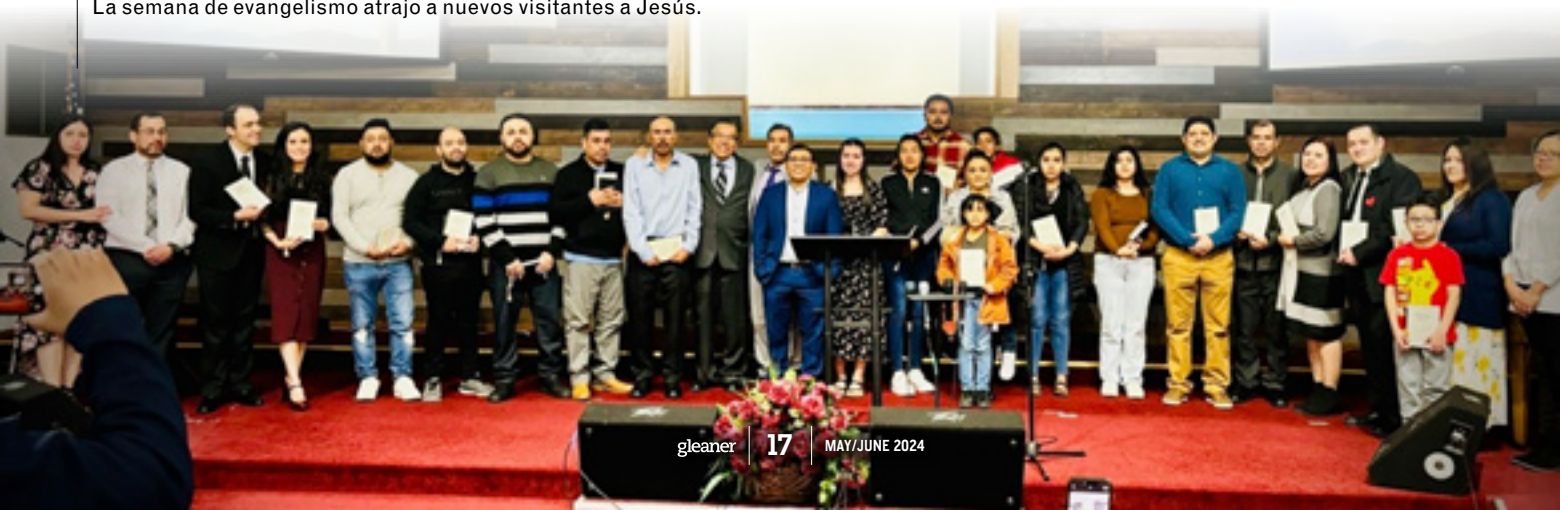
Damos gracias a Dios por sus maravillosas bendiciones, el apoyo de toda la iglesia y los líderes de la iglesia que lo apoyan. Continuamos sirviendo y trabajando con gozo para Cristo.



ANTONIO IX ROSIQUE  
*Pastor de la Iglesia  
 Hispana de Wenatchee*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-HSP-29](https://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-HSP-29)

Wenatchee Spanish Church's evangelism week brought new visitors to Jesus.  
 La semana de evangelismo atrajo a nuevos visitantes a Jesús.



# New Radio Station Expands Reach

**CHRISTIAN RADIO BROADCASTING SERVES AS A VITAL TOOL THROUGH WHICH GOD REACHES PEOPLE IN RURAL ALASKA, WITH ITS REACH STEADILY EXPANDING. THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF ALASKA ADVENTIST RADIO NETWORK AND CRAIG CHURCH, PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND NOW BOASTS A NEW RADIO STATION, KPWI, BROADCASTING ON 94.9 FM, WHICH BEGAN AIRING ON OCT. 20, 2023.**

After years of prayer, planning, obtaining permits and acquiring equipment, the new station is a voice of hope and encouragement for the island's residents. The project was abundantly blessed by God. Initially estimated to cover a 5-mile radius around Craig, the station reaches a radius of approximately 15 miles, which includes Klawock, touching about half of the residents living on the island.

The radio station provides the community with around-the-clock Christian music and messaging. *Your Story Hour* is a beloved program for all ages. Residents enjoy gospel bluegrass, country music and Alaska Native language singing,

alongside engaging programs like *Bible Answers Live*, *It Is Written* and *Amazing Facts*, igniting a growing interest in the Word of God.

Craig Church leveraged the station to promote the Hope For Humanity statewide evangelistic series with plans to introduce local programming soon. While KPWI has already been a significant blessing to the community, prayer warriors are invited to join Craig Church in praying God will use the station to win souls to Christ for many years to come.

Craig Church extends special thanks to Ryan Woehler, Alaska Adventist Radio Network general manager, and his

son, Thomas, for traveling from Nome to establish the connections. Craig Church also thanks Tyler Rental Company for providing the necessary heavy equipment for the installation and Jeremy Crew, Craig Church of God pastor, and Dwaine Vaughan, Craig Church elder, for their efforts in erecting and securing the tower.



JANET FAIRCHILD HAMILTON  
*Craig Church member*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-AK-05](https://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-AK-05)



A team installs a new radio tower to bring hope and encouragement to Prince of Wales Island.

Ryan Woehler connects the tower sections with help from his son, Thomas.



# Young Adults Find Common Ground

**ON A FINE SUNNY WEEKEND IN FEBRUARY, YOUNG ADULTS FROM SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA GATHERED TOGETHER TO GROW THEIR FAITH, ENJOY DELICIOUS FOOD AND FOSTER WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP.**

The weekend kicked off on Friday evening with the Anchorage chapter of Adventist Young Professionals leading the evening program, sharing music, giving insights about AYP and emphasizing the value of connecting with friends and God.

On Sabbath, Tyler Drumm, pastor and young adult from southeast Alaska, explored the theme, "To be like Jesus ... Making Christianity Practical." Drumm also made sure to include easy and practical resources he has developed or found to maintain a strong connection with our loving God and to share the message of Jesus' love with others.

During the weekend, the young adult group also took time to experience the sights and trails found in the Anchorage area, which included a great evening at a local entertainment center playing games like nearly life-sized hungry, hungry hippos.

Alaska Conference is blessed and thankful for the exceptional young adults who are taking the lead in many ways in local churches and young adult ministries. The conference stands ready to support young adults as they serve within their congregations and participate in special events, such as the young adult weekend. Plans are underway for an annual young adult weekend focusing on faith, food and fellowship, with additional smaller events throughout the year.

JOHN WINSLOW

*Alaska Conference youth and young adult director*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-AK-34](https://nwadvent.st/119-3-AK-34)



Participants enjoy Saturday evening at the local entertainment center.



Young adults lead in songs of worship.



Participants take a group photo from the Flat Top trail.



# Mountaintop Camp Meeting Theme to Inspire Reflection

**INSPIRATION FOR EVENT THEMES COMES FROM A VARIETY OF PLACES. FOR THIS YEAR'S IDAHO CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING, THE THEME, "MOUNTAINTOP SILENCE TO LIFE-CHANGING MISSION," CAME FROM A FEEDBACK SEGMENT DURING THE CONFERENCE'S FIRST-EVER YOUNG ADULT RETREAT.**

What is mountaintop silence? It's the attitude of being in a spiritual retreat with God, where one's thoughts are focused on Him. It might include reading scripture, listening to music that lifts one's heart to God, focused periods of prayer that include a significant silent time or listening for God's voice. It can be somewhere on a mountain, beside a quiet stream, a quiet corner at home or even in one's car – wherever that solitude can be experienced.

The purpose of mountaintop silence is to discover who God is in your life and what His plans are for you. While it's an escape of sorts, it's much more. It's a time to receive what will be a life-changing mission to share with someone else the great things God has done in your life.

Mountaintop silence draws one's thoughts to the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness after receiving His Father's

spirit at His baptism in the Jordan River. Those 40 days in communication with His Father helped Jesus cement the relationship He would need to fulfill His task of redeeming the world He created. His faith was tested multiple times.

Knowing His hunger, Satan tempted Jesus with the words, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread" (Luke 4:3). Jesus responded with scripture.

Next, the devil brought Jesus to a high place, showing Him all the kingdoms of the world and promising to give Jesus their authority and splendor, if He would just worship Satan. Jesus again quoted scripture.

Yet again, when the devil tempted Jesus to throw Himself down from the highest point of the temple by quoting scripture to Jesus, intimating that the angels wouldn't let any harm come to Him, Jesus quoted scripture.

This year's camp meeting is designed to bring you to your mountaintop, where you can experience silence with God and move into a life-changing mission for Him.

Please join the programming on the campus of Gem State Adventist Academy or join online via the Idaho Conference Communication YouTube channel for livestreamed evening and Sabbath morning meetings. Both the English language and Spanish language camp meetings begin Tuesday evening, June 11 and go through the Sabbath hours of June 15.

Derek Morris, Hope Channel, Inc. field representative, is the main speaker, with support during the daytime hours from Don Klinger, well-known Idaho Conference spiritual leader; Brant Berglin, Walla Walla University associate professor of theology; John Kelly, Oak

Haven Health and Country Life Natural Foods president and medical director; and Heidi Baumgartner, North Pacific Union communication director. Benjamin Carballo is the speaker for the Spanish language camp meeting.

Children's divisions, Beginners through Youth, begin on Wednesday. Luis La Porte, Christian recording artist, is providing a Sabbath afternoon concert.

For more information on camp meeting, visit <https://bit.ly/43pz9Tj>.

EVE RUSK  
*Idaho Conference communication director*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-ID-11](https://bit.ly/43pz9Tj)



Don Klinger



Brant Berglin



Benjamin Carballo



Derek Morris



Heidi Baumgartner



Luis La Porte

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

# Prayer Warrior Keeps Divine Appointments

**FAR AWAY FROM THE POPULATION CENTERS OF OREGON SITS THE SMALL COMMUNITY OF ENTERPRISE. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SETTING FOR THE MINISTRY OF A SPECIAL PERSON. ED WINTER IS KNOWN AS A PRAYER WARRIOR. HIS WAR — HIS FIGHT — IS NOT WITH PEOPLE BUT FOR PEOPLE.**

About 20 years ago, Winter was visited by some Adventist church members who were holding evangelistic meetings in Waldport and Newport, Oregon. Winter's house had burned down, and they visited and prayed with him. At the time, Winter was living far from God.

Miraculously, God found and claimed Winter. His life changed. A few years later, Winter left the coastal area and made his way to Enterprise, where he has remained since. Winter never forgot the encounter in Newport, and has since become a prayer warrior.

Along with his prayer ministry, he connects people with Jesus. One of the notable features of Winter's prayer ministry is the prayer rock—a prominent rock high above Oregon Route 82.

When the weather permits, Winter can be seen riding his bicycle out of town along the highway. He parks his bike at a trailhead and hikes up to the prayer rock. From this scenic location with a panoramic view of the valley, Winter pours out his heart for the needs of his friends and acquaintances.

When the churches were closed due to the pandemic, Winter missed his weekly fellowship with Jesus and his Enterprise Church family. He spent that time taking walks in nature and asking God to send him divine appointments—opportunities to tell others about Jesus.

Often, hikers pass by prayer rock, and Winter visits with them. Those fortunate enough to encounter Winter never walk away without hearing encouraging words.

He shares love, hope and how Jesus changed his life. Winter frequently bows in prayer with hikers at the prayer rock. Sometimes they allow Winter to take their pictures as they kneel together in the Creator's outdoor sanctuary.

Winter has countless stories of how powerfully Jesus has used his testimony. He is a remarkable connector with his co-workers and community. His prayer ministry has opened doors of influence so he can share God's love.

One story illustrates Winter's love for people. Chris, a friend and husband of Winter's co-worker, suffered a stroke while driving. He lost



Ed Winter, Enterprise Church member, comes to this rock to pray and often ministers to others along the way.

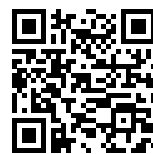
control of his car and hit two large trees. Remarkably, Chris survived. During his recovery process, he bonded with Winter through prayer. They became good friends.

Winter befriended another man who invited him to fly over the Wallowa Valley in his airplane. On the flight, Winter was able to get a picture of the prayer rock from high in the sky.

At Wallowa Memorial Hospital where Winter works, everyone from doctors, resident nurses, visiting nurses and the support staff appreciate this unassuming Christian man. From total strangers to his own children and grandchildren, fellow church members to other denominational

Christians in the Enterprise community, everyone who has met Winter knows him as a prayer warrior.

Winter is constantly witnessing for Jesus. He describes each encounter and moment with others as divine appointments. Like Winter, we all have a testimony to share. Jesus is waiting to send divine appointments to each of us so that we may glorify God to those around us.



ENTERPRISE  
CHURCH  
MEMBERS

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-ID-33](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-ID-33) +

CHURCH

# Practical Camp Meeting Planned

**WHERE CAN YOU GO THIS SUMMER AND ATTEND “HOW-TO” WORKSHOPS FOR MAKING STONE ARROWHEADS, LEADING SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES, MAKING SOURDOUGH BREAD, FLY-FISHING, CROCHETING, SOCIAL MEDIA WITNESSING, SERMON PREPARATION, METAL DETECTING, NATURAL REMEDIES, WATERCOLOR PAINTING, PLANT-BASED COOKING, CPR CERTIFICATION AND MUCH MORE?**



Participants enjoy an oil painting workshop.



Mark Harris teaches a flintknapping workshop.

If your answer is Montana Camp Meeting, you are correct! From one-of-a-kind, wholistic living workshops to great speakers and music, this year's camp meeting will be bursting with faith, fellowship, food and fun. Montana leaders invite you to come and experience it.

John Bradshaw, *It Is Written* president, will be the evening and Sabbath morning keynote speaker. Terry Johnsson, special guest, will share his testimony, "From Schoolroom Failure to White House Honor Guard."

The children and youth divisions are planning special activities to inspire your kids and grandkids to love Jesus more and serve God faithfully.

Prayers for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit are being lifted as the community gathers on July 10–13 at Mount Ellis Academy to worship God and deepen in love for Him and others.

This year won't just be camp meeting. It will be camp meeting – Montana style.



KEN NORTON  
*Montana Conference*  
president

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-MT-04](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/119-3-MT-04)

New fly-fishing enthusiasts learn how to cast in the intro to fly-fishing workshop.



CHURCH

# New Lay Ministry Leaders Step Up to Serve

**IN AN EXCITING DEVELOPMENT FOR ITS STATEWIDE COMMUNITY, MONTANA CONFERENCE WELCOMES THREE OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS TO NEW LAY MINISTRY POSITIONS. EACH BRINGING A UNIQUE SET OF SKILLS AND A PASSION FOR SERVICE, LIZBETH GEARY, OCEANA MUNSEY AND SHELBY WALLER ARE SET TO PLAY PIVOTAL ROLES IN ENHANCING THE SPIRITUAL FABRIC OF MONTANA CONFERENCE.**



LIZBETH GEARY

**LIZBETH GEARY**

**Nurturing Young Hearts**

Lizbeth Geary, from Bozeman, steps into the role of children's ministries with a vision to nurture and inspire the youngest members of our congregation.

Geary has already demonstrated her commitment by actively contributing to the planning of camp meeting and lending her expertise to her local church's children's Sabbath School division. Her energy and creativity promise a fresh and engaging approach to children's ministry.



ROBERT NORTON PHOTOGRAPHY

**OCEANA MUNSEY**

**Empowering Young Adults**

For the North Pacific Union young adult action team advisory position, Oceana Munsey, from Hamilton, steps into this role. Munsey's extensive involvement in youth and young adult ministry speaks volumes about her dedication. She was a driving force behind the creation of an online outreach ministry targeting young people, showcasing her innovative spirit.

As the leader of the youth division at camp meeting and the featured speaker at the conference fall Pathfinder camporee, Munsey is poised to empower and inspire youth and young adults.



ROBERT NORTON PHOTOGRAPHY

**SHELBY WALLER**

**Reaching Students**

In the NPUC Adventist Christian Fellowship institute position, Shelby Waller, from Bozeman, steps into the role with a passion for bridging faith and academia. Waller, a current pre-nursing student at Montana State University, has already been active on campus engaging with students.

Her roles of working in the conference office and at Camp Paxson exemplify her dedication to both education and ministry. Waller brings a unique perspective that will enrich the ACFi position.



RENAE YOUNG  
Montana Conference  
education superintendent  
and youth ministries  
director

More online at  [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-MT-95](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-MT-95)

EDUCATION

# CAA Continues Serving in Alaska

**MOST OF THE TIME, ALASKA ISN'T THE FIRST PLACE ON YOUR MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF A SPRING MISSION TRIP. HOWEVER, AARON PAYNE, COLUMBIA ADVENTIST ACADEMY CHAPLAIN, HAS CONVINCED MANY STUDENTS THAT IT MAKES FOR A GREAT ADVENTURE.**

This year's March trip was the fourth trip since 2015. Each mission trip has included a week of prayer, visiting shut-ins, working in soup kitchens and building cabins, helping single moms and others in need by painting, repairing and improving homes, splitting and delivering wood and other mission activities.

It isn't all work, however, as ice fishing, sledding, snow machining, visiting the reindeer and muskox farm, attending an ice sculpture festival and antique car museum, hiking on the Butte and trips to Chena Hot Springs and Denali all add to the winter experience.

However, this generation of students isn't the first to make Alaska the recipient of CAA's love and an expression of reaching across generations.

In the '50s and '60s, several students from Alaska chose to make CAA their home away from home. During the 1967–1968 school year, ASB chose to raise funds to send a mission plane to Alaska Mission to make life easier for remote villages.

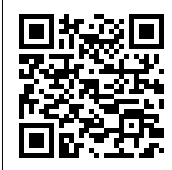
The ASB letter-writing campaign and other fundraisers proved to be successful. The plane—a Cessna 180 — was purchased and the cowling was painted, “The Spirit of Columbia,” before being flown to Alaska where it served for several years.

The ways God has used and continues to use academy students to enrich and bless the lives of others throughout CAA's history are fascinating.

Just as many of the details of The Spirit of Columbia remain unknown — hearsay is it crashed into

a glacier after three years, with both pilot and passenger miraculously surviving — likewise many of the stories have been lost with time.

We look forward to heaven and a big reunion of all generations where we can hear the stories of history, put all the pieces together and see what we already know through faith. God truly is weaving a beautiful tapestry.



LARRY HIDAY  
*Columbia Adventist Academy Gleaner correspondent*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-OR-69](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-OR-69)



This photo of the CAA mission airplane is in the 1968 CAA yearbook with the caption, “An encouraging flyover.”

Multiple generations of CAA students have invested in short- and long-term mission work in Alaska.





# Parks Announces Retirement from Ministry



KALEB EISELE

**IN JANUARY, GARY PARKS, OREGON CONFERENCE RELATIONAL MINISTRIES DIRECTOR, ANNOUNCED HIS DEPARTURE FROM ADVENTIST MINISTRY AFTER APPROXIMATELY 38 YEARS.**

"I've dedicated my entire ministry to helping people understand how the gospel

of Jesus impacts us practically through improving our ability to love well through relational and emotional wholeness," he shared. "I'm amazed that I have an opportunity to take this ministry passion and serve others in a broader context."

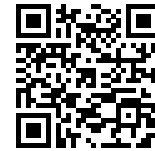
Parks came to Oregon Conference in 1998 to lead East Salem Church. Since then, he has served as a trust officer before spending the last few years in the relational ministries department.

Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president, noted, "It's always exciting to see how the Holy Spirit directs our paths. When it comes to Parks, the Spirit led to the development of the new relational ministries department, walking with churches, ministries and members in growing healthy, loving relationships."

"Parks' ministry has helped churches to turn around, by addressing ways in which they were previously relationally

stuck," continued Linrud. "I will always be grateful to Parks for pioneering this ministry in Oregon Conference. He has also served a long and distinguished career in pastoral ministry, pouring into youth and young adults, as well as being a beloved lead pastor."

"Parks will be greatly missed by our conference team and by our field," said Linrud. "We wish him God's abundant blessings as he retires from vocational denominational ministry and moves forward into the next things God has called him to."



JONATHAN RUSSELL  
*Oregon Conference  
assistant to the  
president*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-OR-12](https://www.nwadventist.org/119-3-OR-12)

SPANISH • JULY 11-13

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# Oromo Pastor Praises God for Growth and Progress

**REVIEWING THE ABUNDANT BLESSINGS THE LORD BESTOWED ON THEIR CHURCH IN 2022 AND 2023 HAS FILLED THE MEMBERS OF OROMO CHURCH WITH GRATITUDE, JOY AND PRAISE TO GOD.**

As a result of baptisms held in 2022, the Oromo Church congregation welcomed 24 new souls into their faith-filled fellowship. As they rejoiced over those who had already given their lives to Jesus, they continued to actively reach out, inviting others to personally know and love the Lord. Doing so resulted in more souls accepting Jesus as their personal Savior in 2023.

Oromo Church partnered with It Is Written and other churches to visit Ethiopia in 2022 on a mission trip, which included doctors, pastors, clinicians and support staff. Medical professionals performed almost 2,000 cataract surgeries and 15,000 other medical procedures, taking time to pray with every patient. Over the course of the trip, almost 3,000 people were baptized!

In response to their long-held desires, careful fiscal management and fervently faithful prayers, God has provided the means for the Oromo Church congregation to purchase land on which to build their own church home.

Crediting God's guidance, the congregation managed to successfully navigate the long and arduous building

application process and has received final approval from the City of Gresham, Oregon, for their church building plans.

Having a designated plot of land for their future church home has already proven to be an enormous blessing to the congregation. When the facility they had been renting became unavailable, Oromo Church members pitched a tent on their newly purchased property, and, instead, worshiped there.

Oromo Church's ultimate goal is to transition to worshiping in their own permanent structure, but with a projected cost in the millions, they need the prayers and financial support of others to help make this goal a reality.

As they look towards the construction of their new church home, Oromo Church members are planning an expansive vision of ministry, not only for their local church members but also for their wider community.

They dream of providing a dedicated place of worship and discipleship training for their own rapidly growing congregation of families, young adults and seniors. They are especially proud of their growing

Pathfinder club and can't wait for space to accommodate the club's various activities.

Additionally, the congregation aims to be a service center, providing refugee/immigrant orientation classes, health education classes and at-risk youth mentoring. And, they desire to be considered a safe gathering place for seniors, those with disabilities and the immigrant/refugee community.

Your partnership with Oromo Church—through your prayers and financial support—will go a long way toward helping them realize these goals. Visit [oromosdachurch.org](http://oromosdachurch.org) to contribute or learn more.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Oromo Church at [sdaoromo7@gmail.com](mailto:sdaoromo7@gmail.com) or 503-501-9937.



GEMEDI GELETO  
Oromo Church pastor

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-OR-23](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-OR-23)



Oromo Church members dream of providing a dedicated place of worship and discipleship training.



The growing Oromo congregation is working hard towards constructing a church building of their own.



Gemedi Geleto, Oromo Church pastor, welcomes two new members into the Oromo congregation.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

# Keizer Friends Find Faith Together

IN THE HEART OF KEIZER, OREGON, AMIDST THE BUSY ROUTINES OF DAILY LIFE, A STORY OF FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP RECENTLY UNFOLDED.



Renato Torres and Edmundo "Epe" Selvas are best friends who found Jesus together.

Renato Torres and Edmundo "Epe" Selvas are best friends whose journey began with a simple invitation to the Keizer Hub from Vivid Church, a gathering where young adults from all backgrounds dig into the Bible and engage in meaningful conversations.

Over time, Torres and Selvas became fixtures in this community, forging deep friendships and embracing the teachings of the Bible. Both young men are dedicated to personal growth and sharing the joy they've found with others.

While working with their study group, they have invited friends and siblings to join, fostering an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome to participate and share their unique perspectives.

As they dived into the book of Romans, Torres and Selvas felt a profound transformation taking place within them. They took to heart the words found in

Rom. 8:1-2, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death."

Together, they embarked on a journey of reflection and discernment, leading them to make life-altering decisions rooted in their newfound faith. Their commitment to spiritual growth didn't stop at weekly study sessions.

Torres and Selvas hungered for more knowledge and connection with Jesus, leading them to join Friday night studies and house study groups within their church community. Despite the demands of their business, they made the decision to honor the Sabbath, dedicating it to worship, rest and acts of service.

This dedication will culminate in a significant milestone as Torres and Selvas prepare for their baptism alongside two

other friends. Their journey is not just one of personal faith, but a testament to the transformative power of the community and the unwavering support of those who walk alongside them.

As they take this profound step of faith, lift them up in prayer and ask for blessings upon their lives. May their journey inspire others to seek a deeper relationship with God and may they continue to be beacons of light in their community, spreading love, hope and the message of salvation to all they encounter.



POCHY MONTES  
Vivid Church pastor

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-OR-07](https://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-OR-07) 

VIVID CHURCH

# RED Builds a Unified Future for Hispanic Churches



Participants engaged in deep and strategic discussions, guided by expert leaders who shared their knowledge and experiences in guiding youth.



A distinctive feature of RED 2024 was the dedicated time for planning.



This year's RED was not just a meeting; it was a catalyst for positive change in Hispanic churches in Oregon Conference.

**IN JANUARY, RED 2024, THE ANNUAL BOARD MEMBERS MEETING, MARKED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE FOR HISPANIC CHURCHES IN OREGON CONFERENCE. WITH AN ATTENDANCE OF 250 CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS, THIS EVENT BECAME A PIVOTAL SPACE FOR REFLECTION, CHALLENGE AND STRATEGIC PLANNING.**

The curtain of RED 2024 rose with an emotion-filled communion service, led by Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president; Ben Lundquist, Oregon Conference young adult director; and Jonathan Russell, Oregon Conference assistant to the president. This sacred moment set the tone for what would be a meeting full of inspiration and purpose. The congregation shared communion while immersing themselves in an atmosphere of unity and commitment.

The core of RED is based on the motto, "Redeeming, Training – Entrenando in Spanish – and Discipling." This triad of concepts became the fundamental pillar of discussions and presentations marking the event.

Seven key topics were presented by specialists in specific areas related to redeeming, training and discipling youth, which included addressing contemporary challenges and effective strategies. Participants engaged in deep and strategic discussions led by expert leaders who shared their knowledge and experiences in guiding youth.

A distinctive feature of RED 2024 was the dedicated time for planning. After each presentation, board members joined their pastors in one-hour sessions to discuss and design concrete plans to implement in their respective communities. This practical approach ensured that the discussed ideas translated into tangible actions, thereby strengthening the impact of the meeting on the ground.

The choice of meeting in January for RED 2024 was not accidental; the

third week of that month has become a strategic moment for churches to gather and chart their plans for the year. This temporal consistency has allowed RED to position itself as an annual beacon, guiding Hispanic churches in Oregon toward a future filled with hope and purpose.

The event not only provided a space for reflection and planning but also fostered a strong network among participating churches. Collaboration and the exchange of ideas among leaders strengthened community ties, creating a vital support network to address current and future challenges.

This year's RED was not just a meeting; it was a catalyst for positive change in Hispanic churches in Oregon Conference. Embracing the call to redeem, train and disciple, participants embarked on a joint journey to build a solid and hopeful future for youth in their communities.

This annual event continues to underscore the importance of strategic collaboration and long-term planning in the growth and development of Oregon Conference Hispanic churches.



DAVID PACZKA  
*Oregon Conference  
Hispanic ministries  
director*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-OR-08](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-OR-08)

**BIBLE READINGS**  
for  
*May*  
2024

*Follow the daily reading plan and you will read the entire Bible in a year.*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			<b>1</b> Num. 14–15	<b>2</b> Num. 16–17	<b>3</b> Num. 18–22	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Num. 23–25	<b>6</b> Num. 26–27	<b>7</b> Num. 28–30	<b>8</b> Num. 31–32	<b>9</b> Num. 33–34	<b>10</b> Num. 35–36	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Deut. 1–4	<b>13</b> Deut. 5–7	<b>14</b> Deut. 8–10	<b>15</b> Deut. 11–13	<b>16</b> Deut. 14–16	<b>17</b> Deut. 17–23	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Deut. 24–27	<b>20</b> Deut. 28–29	<b>21</b> Deut. 30–34	<b>22</b> Psalm 90–91	<b>23</b> Joshua 1–4	<b>24</b> Joshua 5–11	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Joshua 12–15	<b>27</b> Joshua 16–18	<b>28</b> Joshua 19–21	<b>29</b> Joshua 22–24	<b>30</b> Judges 1–2	<b>31</b> Judges 3–7	

Our Bible reading plan leaves Sabbath as a time to share and reflect on your readings for the week. Find creative ways each Sabbath to share your reflections with others on what God is teaching you from your Bible reading time!

Follow us @NWAdventists on Instagram and Facebook.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-BLE-91](https://www.nwadvent.org/resources/119-3-ble-91)



# Digital Prayer Ministry Pilot Program Launches

**SINCE 2021, UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE HAS PUT SIGNIFICANT FOCUS ON PRAYER. IN 2022, UCC BEGAN HOLDING MANY PRAYER-FOCUSED EVENTS, INCLUDING 40 DAYS OF PRAYER, ZOOM ROOMS WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS AND AN ANNUAL PRAYER SUMMIT. IN ADDITION TO THESE EVENTS, PRAYER MINISTRIES HAS BEEN PRAYING FOR MORE WAYS TO EXPAND AND REACH PEOPLE THROUGH PRAYER, AND GOD ANSWERED WITH THE DIGITAL PRAYER MINISTRY INITIATIVE.**

David Jamieson, UCC president, attended the North American Division year-end meeting last year when he heard a story from Justin Kim, Central California Conference digital evangelism director, about digital prayer ministry. It grabbed his attention, so Jamieson shared it with Kathy Marson, UCC prayer ministries coordinator.

“I found the video from Kim’s presentation and after watching it I was so inspired,” explained Marson. “Several churches in CCC partnered with NAD Adventist Information Ministry to offer prayer in their communities through social media. The outcome was amazing! They had so many requests that they had to stop advertising their prayer posts in order to handle the requests that already came in.”

Marson shared the video with several others and a committee was formed to make this ministry a reality. In early January, Jamieson; Marson; Art Lenz,

UCC IT director; and Dustin Jones, UCC communications director, met with Brent Hardinge, AIM director, to talk about digital prayer ministry in UCC. During the meeting, AIM and UCC finalized plans to form a partnership to provide a pilot program in UCC to begin this year.

“The program works like this: The church records a video ad offering to pray with and for people in their community,” shared Marson. “The ad is delivered on social media to anyone within a 6-mile radius of the church.”

“AIM employs student chaplains to respond to messages from call centers located at Andrews University and Walla Walla University,” she explained. “Students handle all of the interests in a timely fashion and turn the contact over to the church as soon as they have shown an interest in a local prayer contact.”

Following the committee meeting, six churches in UCC were invited to participate with the prerequisite that the churches currently have a presence on Facebook and/or Instagram.

“It is the hope and prayer that this will be successful and can be implemented in many more churches in the future,” shared Marson. “God’s timing and miracles are evident. Thank you for your prayers for digital prayer ministry.”



AUTUMN DUNZWEILER  
Upper Columbia  
Conference  
communications  
coordinator

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-UC-23](https://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-UC-23)

# Brower to Lead Serve One More Initiative

CHURCH

**AFTER A RECRUITING SEARCH LASTING MORE THAN THREE MONTHS, RICHIE BROWER HAS BEEN TAPPED TO OVERSEE THE NEW SERVE ONE MORE INITIATIVE THROUGHOUT UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE.**



Richie Brower

Currently serving as associate director for club ministries, youth, young adult ministry and Camp MiVoden, Brower will begin transitioning to his new role as associate director for Serve One More effective immediately. However, due to major club ministries events, the transition will not be complete until Sept. 1.

“Brower has a passion for service and an incredible knack for connecting with people,” said David Jamieson, UCC president. “This initiative is a critical piece of our strategic plan to reach every man, woman, boy and girl in the Inland Northwest.”

The Serve One More initiative was established as part of the 2023–2025 strategic plan to focus lay people, pastors, teachers, and students who are in schools,

churches, Pathfinder clubs, Adventist Community Services agencies and other UCC entities on Christ’s method of mingling with, ministering to and serving others.

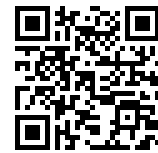
Brower’s new role will help direct Serve One More funds to new community service initiatives, as well as provide much-needed training and resources to encourage innovative community engagement.

“I am very excited to help our churches, schools, Adventist Community Services groups and clubs effectively connect with their local communities and understand how we can serve them best,” Brower said.

Brower will be instrumental in encouraging pastors, members, teachers and students to engage in community activities

and events that will bring the presence of Jesus into the lives of their communities.

Brower has spent his career at UCC as a pastor and chaplain, more recently focusing on youth and young adults. Brower and his wife, Timi, have three boys and love to speak as a team on topics related to marriage and relationships.



DUSTIN JONES  
*Upper Columbia  
Conference  
communications director*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-UC-20](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-UC-20)

# CHRIST OUR LIVING HOPE



CAMP MEETING • JUNE 19-22  
AT UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY



Main Speaker  
Ty Gibson



Music Guest  
Selah

YOUTH

# 99 Students Gather for Youth Prayer Conference

**IN FEBRUARY, 99 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM EIGHT SCHOOLS AND ONE HOME SCHOOL CO-OP IN NORTH PACIFIC UNION GATHERED AT CAMP MIVODEN IN HAYDEN, IDAHO, TO PARTICIPATE IN A PRAYER RETREAT FOR YOUTH.**



This prayer-nurturing event was planned by the Upper Columbia Conference education department in partnership with Prayeradigm Shift ministry team. The retreat focused on teaching principles of prayer, helping youth grow in prayer and empowering them to share what they learned.

“This event sparked a new relationship and a new connection with God,” shared Tyler, student attendee. “I was not as serious about my prayer life before. Now I’ve been praying every morning with God, something I would have never done before.”

Pavel Goia, *Ministry Magazine* editor and General Conference associate ministerial secretary, shared many stories about the power of prayer and how he has experienced God’s presence. Goia talked about what it means to live a life of total commitment to God.

“Goia inspired us all and showed us that God is not just a person to ask things from but a friend,” explained Sydney, another student participant.

The weekend was filled with opportunities for students to get to know each other and pray together. Every morning started with one hour of prayer time in which the entire group met to sing, focus on scripture and pray together.

“Being around people your age where you don’t feel a single bit of shame to talk about God is just the most fulfilling thing ever,” said Clara, student attendee.

After each presentation, students circled up in small groups to talk and pray about what most impacted them. From this, they created a list of 105 “Prayer Principles” they had learned.

The Prayeradigm Shift weekend was a tremendous blessing and changed many lives. The last evening of the retreat included a powerful testimony time where students shared how God showed up and impacted their lives personally.

Before leaving, students met together as school groups and spent an hour answering the question, “Where do we go from here?” The enthusiasm of the weekend was channeled into having a prayer partner, committing to regular group prayer times back home and planning intentional next steps to grow prayer in their lives and on their campuses.

“It was extremely exciting to see the moving of the Holy Spirit in the lives of students who were there,” shared John Spano, Prayeradigm Shift team member. “Our prayer is that God’s Holy Spirit will fan the flames that were started this weekend and that we will see the power of what God can do when youth pray.”



SARA MANISCALCO  
Prayeradigm Shift team member

More online at  
[NWADVENT.ST/119-3-UC-22](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-UC-22)

Prayeradigm Shift weekend taught students the principles of prayer, helping them grow in their personal prayer lives.

PHOTOS BY JUDSON KNOLL





## EDUCATION

# LCA Robotics Team Advances to Championship

**LAKE CITY ACADEMY IN COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO, BEGAN ITS ROBOTICS PROGRAM THREE YEARS AGO WITH JUST EIGHT STUDENTS. NOW, THEY HAVE TWO TEAMS WITH 16 TOTAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING.**

"The group learns programming, problem solving, presentation preparation and much more in the field of science and technology," shared Anne Blech, LCA robotics coach. "Core values are an important part of robotics. Everyone on the team must learn how to work together and share ideas. We learn about gracious professionalism and cooperation."

In February, LCA represented two of the 10 participating teams in the NPUC robotics regionals at Auburn Adventist Academy. Students from fifth through eighth grade participated by presenting their projects to a panel of judges, which evaluated the projects based on the theme, core value and robot engineering.

"Having two teams in our program at LCA can be a challenge, but the teams learn together and help each other," said Blech. "Our group meets once a week after school for a couple of hours. Sometimes students will go to the robotics lab at a



Lake City Academy Eagle Studios

recess to finish programming a mission on their robot."

During regionals, each team was given 30 minutes to present their projects to a panel of judges. Then the robot games began with each team having two-and-a-half-minute robot runs to score as many points as possible while completing missions on the table.

Awards are given in each of the categories that are judged. This year, Eagle Studios, one of LCA's teams, won the award for core values. The other team, Abstract Eagles, placed third and are advancing to the First LEGO League Championship that will be taking place at Forest Lake Academy in Florida.

Now comes the challenge of fine-tuning the robot programming and getting everything ready to go to Florida.

"I'm looking forward to the robot runs at the FLL Championship," said Caleb Whalen, Abstract Eagles team captain and LCA seventh-grader. "It's the best part!"



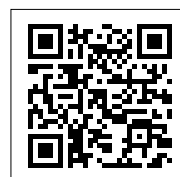
Lake City Academy Abstract Eagles

"Our team is excited to represent our school, conference and union at the FLL Championship. Robotics is a great way to enhance our science programs," shared Blech. "I'm excited for the students getting to meet other students from around the country who share the same interests in science. It's fun to see how each team approaches their team projects and how they design their robots."

Visit [adventistrobotics.net](http://adventistrobotics.net) for more information about Adventist robotics and how to watch the championships.

AUTUMN DUNZWEILER

*Upper Columbia Conference  
communications coordinator*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-UC-24](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-UC-24) 

PHOTOS BY ANNE BLECH

# Two Pastors Ordained Into Ministry

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE RECENTLY ORDAINED TWO PASTORS, JAMES ASH AND JAKE WILKINSON, INTO THE MINISTRY.



- Left photo: (left to right) Rodney Mills, James Ash, Joy Ash and Eric Brown
- Right photo: (left to right) Eric Brown, Rodney Mills, Crystal Wilkinson, Jake Wilkinson and David Jamieson

“Ordination is a significant milestone in a pastor’s professional development and it’s wonderful to see the church affirm these men in their ministry,” shared Eric Brown, UCC ministerial director.

Ash, Stateline Church and Dayton Church pastor, was ordained Nov. 18, 2023, at Stateline Church. Rodney Mills, UCC vice president for administration, presented Ash as a candidate into the ministry and gave the homily. At the end of the service, Brown presented the certificate of ordination.

“Receiving a certificate is nice, but being ordained isn’t at all like receiving an achievement award,” shared Brown. “When we pray over a pastor like James, it’s a symbol of the trust and responsibility we as a church are placing in him as a spiritual leader.”

Ash was born in Taipei, Taiwan. He attended Far Eastern Academy in Singapore and finished his senior year at Upper Columbia Academy.

From there, Ash attended Walla Walla College and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in theology and minors in biblical languages and history. While getting his master’s degree in divinity at Andrews University, he met his wife, Joy. While Joy studied to become a nurse practitioner in Loma Linda, California, Ash focused heavily on becoming a pilot.

When Joy graduated, they moved to Guyana. For more than 11 years, Ash served Guyana Conference as a school administrator, project leader and chief pilot. During this time, they were blessed with two daughters, Julianna and Jenna.

In 2021, feeling the calling of God, Ash accepted a call from Upper Columbia Conference to pastor the Stateline/Dayton district.

Wilkinson, Ellensburg and Cle Elum district pastor, was ordained Dec. 2, 2023, at Ellensburg Church. Mills presented Wilkinson as a candidate into the ministry. Cary Fry, Kennewick Church pastor, gave the homily, and Brown presented the ordination certificate.

“Sometimes ordinations can seem very formal and stiff, but not Jake’s,” shared Brown. “His service matched his love for people and his sense of humor perfectly.”

Wilkinson was born and raised in Soldotna, Alaska. He graduated from Walla Walla University with

a degree in theology and served for two years as an intern pastor at Spokane Valley Church.

After completing his internship, Wilkinson spent two and a half years in seminary at Andrews University and has spent the last three and a half years in Ellensburg and Cle Elum district. He and his wife, Crystal, currently live in Ellensburg with their two dogs and fish.

“God has blessed UCC with an incredible team of dedicated pastors,” shared Brown. “I am so grateful to have these two men as a part of it and to welcome them to the ranks of ordained pastors in the Adventist Church.”



AUTUMN DUNZWEILER  
Upper Columbia  
Conference  
communications  
coordinator

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-UC-21](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-UC-21)

**BIBLE READINGS**  
for  
*June*  
**2024**

*Follow the daily reading plan and you will read the entire Bible in a year.*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						<b>1</b> ////
<b>2</b> //// Judges 8–15	<b>3</b> //// Judges 16–21	<b>4</b> //// Ruth	<b>5</b> //// Psalm 6–11, 14	<b>6</b> //// Psalm 16–19	<b>7</b> //// Psalm 21, 27, 31	<b>8</b> ////
<b>9</b> //// 1Sam. 1–9	<b>10</b> //// 1Sam. 10–17	<b>11</b> //// 1Sam. 18–24	<b>12</b> //// 1Sam. 25–31	<b>13</b> //// 2 Sam. 1–4	<b>14</b> //// Psalm 34–35, 43–45	<b>15</b> ////
<b>16</b> //// Psalm 49, 52, 54, 56	<b>17</b> //// Psalm 59, 63, 73	<b>18</b> //// Psalm 77–78, 81	<b>19</b> //// Psalm 84–85	<b>20</b> //// Psalm 87–88	<b>21</b> //// Psalm 92–93	<b>22</b> ////
<b>23</b> //// 1Chron. 1–5	<b>24</b> //// Psalm 102–104	<b>25</b> //// Psalm 120–121	<b>26</b> //// Psalm 123–125	<b>27</b> //// 1Chron. 6–10	<b>28</b> //// Psalm 128–130	<b>29</b> ////
<b>30</b> //// Psalm 140–142						

Our Bible reading plan leaves Sabbath as a time to share and reflect on your readings for the week. Find creative ways each Sabbath to share your reflections with others on what God is teaching you from your Bible reading time!

Follow us @NWAdventists on Instagram and Facebook.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-BLE-92](https://www.nwadvent.org/resources/bible-reading-plan)



## Venden to Keynote Camp Meeting



**FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S TRIUMPHANT IN-PERSON RETURN OF WASHINGTON CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING, LEE VENDEN, ALL ABOUT JESUS REVIVALIST, PASTOR, AUTHOR AND BELOVED STORYTELLER, WILL CARRY THE TORCH AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL ALL-CONFERENCE GATHERING JUNE 17-22 AT AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY.**

For six Spirit-filled days, attendees will experience "Greater Things" in prayer, worship, mission, discipleship and community – and don't forget food! Continuing the camp meeting theme from last year, this year's theme is "Greater Things: Thy Kingdom Come." God desires us to live the reality of His kingdom, not only as a future hope but as a present reality.

Venden aims to help attendees grasp that reality in the messages he will deliver in Rainier Auditorium. "When we consider what it means to 'live for Jesus,' it makes good sense to consider how Jesus lived,"

Venden said. "The apostle John tells us, 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.'"

Venden continued, "This June at Washington Conference Camp Meeting, we will behold His glory through the eyes of those who were especially touched by encounters with Jesus in John's gospel. Scripture promises that as we behold Him, our hearts will be stirred and our lives transformed."

Dick Duerksen, storyteller from Oregon, will inspire at the early-morning devotional

hour. Once again, camp meeting will begin with a mouthwatering backyard barbecue on opening day. Grant Agadjanian, Creative Media Ministries president and revivalist; Donn Leiske, a popular local presenter on end-time living; and others will present seminars.

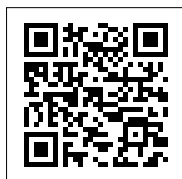
Music by Buddy Houghtaling, Christian singer-songwriter, and the return of Jonah's Bait Shop await those who seek "Greater Things" at this year's camp meeting. Register now at [washingtonconference.org](http://washingtonconference.org).

RANDY MAXWELL  
*Washington Conference vice president for administration*



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Lee Venden, from All About Jesus Seminars, will be the keynote speaker for Washington Conference Camp Meeting.



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-UC-29](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-UC-29)



LACEY STECKER

Children's programming for all ages will be available at Washington Conference Camp Meeting. Jonah's Bait Shop will return with a selection of kid-friendly items for sale.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Continuing the theme from last year, this year's theme for Washington Conference Camp Meeting is "Greater Things: Thy Kingdom Come."

EDUCATION

# Arts Fest Lets Students Shine

**AROUND 400 PARTICIPANTS FROM ACROSS WASHINGTON CONFERENCE GATHERED AT AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY ON MARCH 1 TO SHINE AT ARTS FEST.**

At 9 a.m., the campus began to buzz with energy as participants embarked on a day of rehearsals, all leading up to a vespers concert later in the evening. Rainier Auditorium became a gallery of creativity, showcasing an array of artwork while the stage came alive with band, choir, handbell and orchestra performances.

This year's theme was "Shine." "We wanted our students to be so filled with Christ's light that they shine in the darkness," said Wilma Bing, Washington Conference associate superintendent.

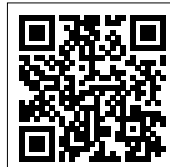
The theme served as a guiding light for participants, urging them to illuminate the world with their talents. Artwork and musical renditions of uplifting songs such as "This Little Light of Mine" echoed

the theme, inspiring both performers and audience alike.

A video from the day featured students sharing whether they were a morning bird or night owl and how they see others shine Jesus' light.

Arts Fest, hosted annually by the Washington Conference education department, holds a special place in the hearts of participants. The festival also fosters connections and friendships among students.

Arts Fest at AAA not only celebrates the artistic talents of students but also showcases the power of community and the transformative potential of creativity. The festival reminds us of the enduring light of Jesus that resides within each of us.



LACEY STECKER  
*Washington Conference  
communication intern*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-WA-66](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/119-3-wa-66) 

# Children's Ministry Unveils New Webpage

YOUTH

**WASHINGTON CONFERENCE RECENTLY LAUNCHED A NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WEBPAGE WITH RESOURCES TAILORED SPECIFICALLY FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.**

Jennifer Bullion, Washington Conference children's ministry director, initially envisioned the webpage as a resource hub for ministry leaders seeking materials for events such as Vacation Bible School, Sabbath School and children's programming.

Through conversations with parents, Bullion realized the need to expand the platform to cater directly to parents, empowering them to take on the role of children's ministry leaders in their homes.

As a result, the website now features book suggestions for family worship time, engaging Bibles and Bible studies, podcasts and space to share inspiring family testimonies.

"The vision is for the website to be a shareable, ever-growing hub for great spiritually uplifting content for leaders and families alike," said Bullion.

The Parent Fort, a corner created by parents for parents, aims to share valuable information on finances, family matters and marriage. It undergoes regular updates, ensuring parents have access to the latest and most relevant information.

Furthermore, the website compiles podcasts suitable for the entire family and features a comprehensive collection of Sabbath School curriculums and VBS resources.

The children's ministry webpage at [washingtonconference.org/parentfort](https://www.washingtonconference.org/parentfort) is a



one-stop destination for parents seeking spiritual resources and guidance. Explore the diverse offerings, connect with other families and make the most of the wealth of information available to enhance your family's spiritual journey.



LACEY STECKER  
*Washington Conference  
communication intern*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-WA-06](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/119-3-wa-06) 

MISSION AND OUTREACH

# Days of Celebration Encourages Biblical Social Justice

**ON JAN. 13 A GATHERING OF 305 PEOPLE BRAVED THE COLD AND SNOW TO CONVENE AT FEDERAL WAY PERFORMING ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER FOR DAYS OF CELEBRATION, HOSTED BY WASHINGTON CONFERENCE REGIONAL MINISTRIES.**



Carmela Monk-Crawford taught Days of Celebration attendees the importance of communicating their message effectively.



Jerome Hurst proposed different methods for getting the local church involved in the community.



Cryston Josiah provided biblical evidence that Christians should get involved in social justice.

The event spanned two days, encompassing Friday night vespers, Sabbath School, church service, afternoon workshops and a Sabbath vespers program. Distinguished speakers, including Edward Woods III, Carmela Monk-Crawford, Cryston Josiah and Jerome Hurst, presented thought-provoking sessions throughout the two-day event.

A notable addition to this year's program was the involvement of the Conscience and Justice Council. This council actively promotes vibrant public affairs and religious liberty ministries at the local church level through comprehensive training and ministry initiatives. Embracing an intergenerational and interfaith approach, the council seeks to sustain and foster a conscience and justice ministry.

"A heart that lacks compassion will not be saved in God's kingdom," Josiah said during the worship service keynote presentation. "If you want to cultivate a heart of compassion, you need to identify with the oppressed,

acknowledge that inaction is not an option and recognize you are a foreigner traveling through this world with a heavenly identity and purpose."

The highlight of Days of Celebration was the series of four workshops offered to attendees. Each workshop, featuring a different guest speaker, aimed to empower participants to integrate Christian values with advocacy for social justice. Woods emphasized this point: "God did not come to bring peace. He came with a sword."

The workshops included Adventism and Our Roots in Social Justice, The Bible Speaks to Social Justice, Communicating the Message of Social Justice and Moving the Church to Social Justice. Each session underscored the significance of the church's active involvement in social justice causes.

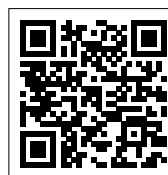
"My biggest takeaway was being willing to look past the systems we've created inside Adventism and break free of those so we can do what Jesus came on this earth to do," said

one participant. "To not just spread the gospel, but to heal others outside our community, outside the temples and outside the churches."

Days of Celebration unfolded as a crucible of enlightenment. Woods' proclamation of a divine call with a sword resonated, leaving attendees spiritually enriched and committed to breaking free from institutional structures.

The Conscience and Justice Council's intergenerational mission catalyzed a charge, urging participants to advance social justice. This transformative movement sparked a newfound commitment to societal healing.

LACEY STECKER  
*Washington Conference  
communication intern*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-WA-98](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/119-3-wa-98)

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

# Searching Woman Finds Connection in Church

**LADA GREW UP IN A NON-RELIGIOUS FAMILY. THOUGH SHE WAS TAUGHT TO LOVE AND RESPECT NATURE, ANIMALS AND OTHERS, THOSE VALUES CAME FROM HER COUNTRY'S TRADITIONAL MYTHS, NOT RELIGION.**

Her grandmother was Orthodox and one day took 3-year-old Lada and her sister to the Orthodox church to be baptized without their parents' permission. Although it became a funny story to tell over time, it was never funny to Lada's grandmother, who believed it would save her granddaughters.

Lada's next encounter with God took place in college. While earning her bachelor's degree in history, she took theology courses. Lada's professor was passionate about the Protestant church. With his help, Lada wrote a paper on Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. The more she dug into the history, the more she began to agree with Luther.

Lada considered going to a Lutheran church after completing her research. However, due to a lack of connection with anyone in the church, she couldn't bring herself to go.

Political unrest forced Lada and her husband to flee their home country, leading to a tumultuous period of displacement before settling in Washington. At that time, Lada began to pray.

Lada said, "Even though I had no idea how to pray, I was kind of like, 'OK God, pretty bad stuff is going on and I know you can't be a wizard, but please connect me with the right people who might be honest and helpful and kind.'"

Lada had difficulty adjusting to her new life. She missed her horseback riding team and friends from back home. Yet she found herself praying regularly and finding connection with God.

Over time, Lada and her husband found an apartment near Volunteer Park in Seattle. She began taking walks and noticed the Adventist church nearby. "I started to feel like I needed a place where I would feel comfort and thinking of going inside this building," Lada said.

Lada wrote Abner Campos, Volunteer Park Church pastor, a long email requesting to visit the church and asking what to wear. After a kind reply telling her to come as she was, Lada began her experience with the Adventist Church.

She was nervous to speak to anyone at first. She wasn't familiar with them and was worried about speaking English, but the people of Volunteer Park Church

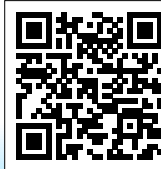


Lada found her first job in the U.S. at Sunset Lake Camp as a riding instructor.

were friendly, and she began to feel a spiritual connection.

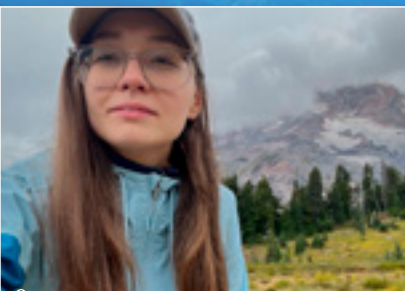
Lada joined a Bible study with Campos and last spring made the decision – without her grandmother – to be baptized. Her deepening connection to the church led to her first job in Washington as a horseback riding instructor at Sunset Lake Camp.

Through connecting with others, Lada found God and the peace He brings. Lada is still learning and growing in the faith and encourages others that it's okay not to be perfect, just stick with God and His word.



LACEY STECKER  
Washington Conference  
communication intern

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-WA-18](https://www.nwadventist.org/119-3-WA-18)



Lada became interested in Protestantism while pursuing a bachelor's degree in history.



# AAA Introduces Scholarship Micro-Donations

**AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2023–2024 ACADEMIC YEAR, AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY WAS BLESSED WITH AN ENROLLMENT OF MORE THAN 250 STUDENTS. IN JANUARY, ENROLLMENT JUMPED TO 260.**

For many students, AAA is more than just a school. “AAA has not only been a school for me and many; it has been a place that has become a home filled with an amazing family that God has gifted to us,” said Kelsy Zacarias, AAA senior.

Of course, AAA has its challenges. High enrollment means a higher need for student aid. Having been in existence for almost 105 years, the campus is showing its age and requires not only more day-to-day upkeep and maintenance but also some expensive, large-scale repairs and much more.

In response to those challenges, some faculty and

staff at AAA sought answers through prayer. For a long time, the school has needed a strong, simple and flexible program for building funds, as opposed to the typical one-time or once-per-year campaign.

After a lot of prayer and many discussions, the development department felt impressed to establish \$10 for Them, a foundational fundraising program designed for donors to give a recurring monthly donation of \$10 or more. While it is designed to be monthly, it can be set up for an amount and timeline that works best for the donor.

“Our prayer is that the simplicity and flexibility of

the program will drive its success,” said Kellie Nunley, AAA director of development. “Of course, the success of this program depends on a large number of donors willing to invest in the mission of Adventist education.”

The funds raised through \$10 for Them will go toward the unrestricted annual fund, which supports the overall needs of the school, including student aid and day-to-day operations. AAA will still have various campaigns and events throughout the year, but this is an ongoing program on which the school will continue to build.

“Year after year, God puts these precious souls in our care,” Nunley stated. “He has given us a mission, which will not be complete until Jesus comes. We take the Great Commission of Matt. 28:19–20 very seriously. To those of us here at AAA and all of us in the ministry of our churches and schools, we are not raising funds – we are raising hearts for eternity.”



AAA GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-WA-17](https://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-WA-17)



\$10 for Them helps support the overall needs of AAA including student aid and day-to-day operations.



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# Education Programs Enhanced for K-12 Teachers

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY IS UPDATING ITS CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM TO BETTER SERVE K-12 TEACHERS PURSUING ADVENTIST CERTIFICATION OR RENEWAL.**

The School of Education and Psychology is also adding a bachelor's degree in science education, which will provide more well-rounded preparation for those interested in teaching the sciences. These program updates are part of a concerted effort to meet the demand for qualified, Christ-loving teachers.

## Updated Adventist Certification Courses

The restructured continuing education program consists of online, self-paced courses that are flexible and convenient for teachers. The asynchronous courses are designed to be finished within six months and are centered around job-embedded coursework, making it easier for teachers to complete the courses while teaching.

"Job-embedded assignments allow teachers to implement what they're learning

in their classrooms immediately. Instead of creating lesson plans for hypothetical classes or students, they're doing that work for their current classroom," said Maria Bastien Valenca, WWU School of Education and Psychology dean.

Perhaps most importantly, the program is embedded in the Adventist worldview, providing a context of faith for teachers. As they learn about curriculum or literature choices for their classrooms, they're examining those practices in relation to Adventist beliefs.

"Other programs might allow similar flexibility, but we're really unique in offering high-level education for teachers in the context of Adventist faith," said Bastien Valenca.

Interested in learning more once this program launches? Visit [wallawalla.edu/cont-ed](http://wallawalla.edu/cont-ed).

## New Science Education Degree

The new bachelor's degree aims to make it easier for undergraduate students to prepare to teach the sciences, especially in smaller schools that require endorsements in multiple areas. The program allows students to concentrate in either physics, chemistry or physics, while allowing time to add a minor in a second science area.

"We are trying to encourage students to think about science teaching as a major," said Brian Hartman, associate professor of education, "and provide a way for them to be more marketable and flexible, without having to take extra time to complete their degree."

The new degree will be available this fall, pending final accreditor approval. Learn more about the School of Education and Psychology at [wallawalla.edu/ed-psych](http://wallawalla.edu/ed-psych).



KELSI DOS SANTOS  
WWU university relations  
supervisor

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-WWU-15](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-WWU-15)



Job-embedded assignments allow teachers to use their coursework in support of their current classrooms, rather than merely adding work beyond their teaching roles.

# Symphony Orchestra Performs at Kennedy Center

**THE WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TRAVELED TO THE EAST COAST TO PERFORM AT JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AS PART OF THE 2024 CAPITAL ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL.**

WWU's invitation to be one of four orchestras to play on the main stage came after the orchestra's memorable performance at Carnegie Hall in spring 2019. This year, they performed pieces including Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 2" and "Finale" and Saint-Saëns' "Third Symphony" with organ.

This rare opportunity was greatly appreciated by all the orchestra members, including Lisa Luzyl Wa-Mbaleka, WWU sophomore health science major, who said, "I was ecstatic to be on the same stage as many great musicians who had performed before me. It was a beautiful experience

that I will never forget, and it ignited my passion even further for music."

Beyond the performance at Kennedy Center, orchestra students also participated in a workshop with a famous conductor and explored Washington, D.C., monuments, memorial sites and museums. The group also performed at an Adventist church.

Providing opportunities for students to play at significant venues is a way to support their love for music. The dedicated practice required to be invited to these concert halls is a testament to the quality of WWU's music program.

Ensembles like the Symphony Orchestra are open to all students, not just music majors. With 10 ensembles offered each year, university students have countless ways to hone their musical talents and participate in rich musical experiences.



EMILY WICAL  
WWU university  
relations student writer

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HEALTH

# Heart Health Myths and Facts

**WHEN YOU THINK OF HEART DISEASE, YOU MAY PICTURE AN OLDER MAN WITH A PREVIOUS HEART ATTACK, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND YEARS OF SMOKING HISTORY — BUT THAT'S NOT THE WHOLE STORY. EVEN PEOPLE WHO SEEM TO BE IN PERFECT HEALTH CAN BE AFFECTED BY HEART DISEASE. BY UNDERSTANDING COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS, YOU CAN BE BETTER INFORMED ABOUT YOUR RISK AND READY TO LIVE HEART HEALTHY.**

## MYTH: HEART DISEASE IS A MAN'S DISEASE.

**FACT: Heart disease is the number one killer of both men and women.**

1 in 3 women die from heart disease, including coronary artery disease, high blood pressure and congestive heart failure, according to the American Heart Association.

Women become more at risk for heart disease and heart attacks during menopause. Why? Estrogen helps reduce "bad" low-density lipoprotein cholesterol and relaxes blood vessels for better blood flow. In menopause, women's bodies produce less of this protective hormone.

Women also live about five years longer than men, and the likelihood of experiencing heart conditions grows as they age.

## MYTH: I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT HEART CONDITIONS.

**FACT: Heart attacks are striking more young people than ever, especially women, according to the American Heart Association.**

Heart disease can affect all of us, regardless of age, weight or activity level. Factors that increase heart disease risk include:

- » High blood pressure
- » Type 2 diabetes
- » Tobacco use
- » High cholesterol
- » Obesity
- » Excessive alcohol consumption
- » History of preeclampsia
- » Family history

## MYTH: I'LL NEVER RECOVER FROM A HEART ATTACK.

**FACT: Your recovery largely depends on quick treatment and your commitment to necessary lifestyle adjustments.**

The sooner you get treatment, the better. Most heart damage happens within the first two hours of an attack — that's why it's so important to get to a hospital quickly. Your physician will treat your blockage with clot-dissolving drugs, surgery or a balloon angioplasty, a procedure that involves inserting a small balloon into the artery to expand it and allow blood flow to resume.

Once you're home, your medical team will outline helpful lifestyle changes, such as ways to improve your diet and manage stress.

## MYTH: HEART DISEASE IS UNPREDICTABLE; THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW MY RISK.

**FACT: Family health history, personal health history and lifestyle all play into your risk of heart disease.**

While we can't predict the future, we can look at specific risk factors that increase your chances of developing heart disease. Start with our free, quick online risk assessment from Adventist Health Portland Northwest Regional Heart and Vascular. You'll receive a report detailing your risk level, which can guide the discussion with your provider about what screening and prevention is right for you.

## MYTH: IF I HAVE RISK FACTORS FOR HEART DISEASE, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.

**FACT: It's never too late to take steps for a heart-healthy future!**

Talk to your healthcare provider about your particular risk factors and to get the support you need to eat healthier, stop smoking, start exercising, get more rest and manage stress. Even simple changes can have a big impact on your heart health, not to mention your overall feeling of well-being.

C.J. ANDERSON  
*Adventist Health Portland  
communication manager*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-AH-18](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/119-3-AH-18)



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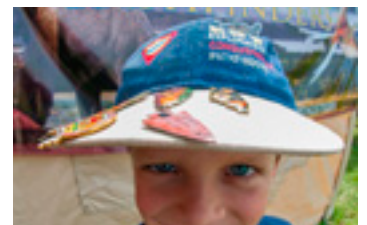
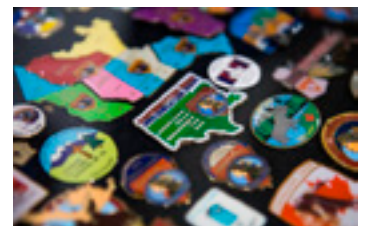
- ▶ See their pin debut at Camporee and receive **20 of their own pin plus 1 set of all the winning AWR360° pins!**
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**SCHOOL OF RELIGION** seeks a full-time faculty member for fall semester 2024. Must be an active member of the Adventist Church in regular standing and should have a doctorate — or be near completion — in New Testament. Positive experience in pastoral ministry and teaching is helpful. Must demonstrate contagious love for Jesus, strong commitment to authority of scripture and deep passion for Adventist message and mission. Good people skills and ability to engage students in a positive, faith-building manner in the classroom are essential. Visit [sau.catsone.com/careers](http://sau.catsone.com/careers).

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**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND PHYSICS** seeks a full-time engineer teaching faculty member in the areas of mechanical, electrical and computer engineering. The ideal candidate will be proficient in developing and teaching undergraduate engineering courses, including both lecture and laboratory components. Master's degree in mechanical, electrical or computer engineering or related area required. Doctorate preferred. Prior higher

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**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING** seeks full-time faculty in psychology. A doctoral degree in psychology or a related field is required. Emphasis in research and measurement

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**EVENTS**  
**CENTRAL OREGON CAMP MEETING** — Meetings begin on Thursday at 9 a.m. Aug. 15-17. Speakers include Ryan Day, C.A. Murray, Charles Byrd and

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**MISCELLANEOUS**  
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## Local Conference Directory

### ALASKA CONFERENCE

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Anchorage, AK 99507-7200  
907-346-1004 • [alaskaconference.org](http://alaskaconference.org)  
Kevin Miller, president; Ashwin Somasundram,  
v.p. administration; \_\_\_\_\_, v.p. finance

### IDAHO CONFERENCE

7777 W. Fairview Ave.  
Boise, ID 83704-8418  
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### MONTANA CONFERENCE

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Bozeman, MT 59715  
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### OREGON CONFERENCE

19800 Oatfield Rd.  
Gladstone, OR 97027-2546  
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### UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

3715 S. Grove Rd.  
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### OREGON ABC

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F .... 10 a.m.–2 p.m.  
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**ALDRED**—Larry Wayne, Sr., 96; born Jan. 20, 1926, Kearney, Nebraska; died Oct. 22, 2022, Dallas, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Glenna Aldred; sons, Larry Aldred Jr. and Jim Aldred; stepson, Rick Martin; stepdaughter, Sandra Palvric; sisters, Leota Cuppy, Donna Nelson and Mary Phillips; 7 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**AMUNDSON**—Glen Allan, 95; born July 5, 1928, Mobridge, South Dakota; died Dec. 12, 2023, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Gayle (Dodds); son, Gerald; 5 grandchildren.

**BROWN**—Marilyn Lorraine (Schlehuber), 93; born Aug. 26, 1930, Farmington, Washington; died Nov. 13, 2023, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: stepson, Douglas Brown; stepdaughter, Judy Gill; brother, Clifford Schlehuber; 2 grandchildren and 2 step-grandchildren.

**BYRD**—William “Bill” F., 88; born Aug. 27, 1935, St. Louis, Missouri; died Oct. 13, 2023, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: son, Daniel; brother, Thomas; 2 grandchildren.

**CLARK**—Marjorie, 91; born May 31, 1932, Prairie City, Oregon; died Feb. 16, 2024, Bend, Oregon. Surviving: son, David; daughters, Debbie (Clark) Daniels and Cheryl Clark.

**CLARK**—Ray, 96; born Aug. 9, 1927, Weston, Oregon; died March 7, 2024, Bend, Oregon. Surviving: son, David; daughters Debbie (Clark) Daniels and Cheryl Clark.

1942–2023

## PATRICIA “PATTI” (BARRETT) KLUCHESKY

Patricia “Patti” (Barrett) Kluchesky was born Oct. 21, 1949 in Eugene, Oregon, to Floyd and Lois Barrett and passed away Sept. 11, 2023 in Twin Falls, Idaho.

She was a lifelong Adventist and an ordained elder in her local church. Music played an important role in her life. Before entering grade school, she would come home from church and play songs she had heard. Her dad, recognizing her talent, insisted she take piano lessons, which she took for 10 years.

She actively played piano for Sabbath School and church services, and was the pianist for the Milo Adventist Academy choir. She met Dwayne Kluchesky at church when she accompanied him on piano. They were married Dec. 19, 1971 in Springfield, Oregon.

Dwayne pastored and the couple moved around to serve. Between 1971–2016, they served 18 churches across Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Patti also taught school in four schools in Oregon and Idaho.

She was preceded in death by her father, Floyd, in 2016. She is survived by her husband, Dwayne; mother, Lois Barrett; sister, Donna Runyan; children, Cynthia Tetz, Michelle Hinsdale and Jeffrey Kluchesky; seven grandchildren; nephews and nieces; and numerous cousins.



**CURTIS**—Jessie Lee (Collins), 90; born Dec. 1, 1933, Lester, West Virginia; died Jan. 12, 2024, Deer Park, Texas. Surviving: sons, Roy and Roger; 7 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

**DORGAN**—Leo “Jim” James, 96; born Dec. 10, 1924, Seattle, Washington; died Feb. 10, 2021, Pendleton, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Lonnie and David; daughters, Judith (Dorgan) Kamensky and Hazel (Dorgan) Lu; 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**EDMISTER**—Carol Ann (Groom), 84; born Dec. 24, 1939, Elmira, New York; died Feb. 20, 2024, Brush Prairie, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Theodore; son, Ted; daughter, Jackie (Edmister) Fullerton; 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**ELLETT**—G. Elden, 89; born May 7, 1932, Trenton, North Dakota; died July 10, 2021, Ooltewah, Tennessee. Surviving: son, Douglas; daughter, Loreli Ellett; 2 grandchildren.

**GARCIA**—Beverly May (Malvaney), 88; born May 11, 1935, Puyallup, Washington; died Sept. 3, 2023, Oregon City, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Kevin Fischer and Douglas Garcia; daughters, Linda Fischer, Sharon (Fischer) Graham, April (Fischer) Punley and Jeannie (Garcia) Obermire; 13 grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 8 step-great-grandchildren.

**HENTON**—Marjorie L. (Norman), 89; born July 13, 1934, Malvern, Iowa; died Nov. 27, 2023, Springfield, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Stephen, Douglas and Timothy; daughters, Virginia (Henton) Tetzler, Yvonne (Henton) Herr, Vicki (Henton) Osgood and Tracy (Henton) Ivy; 20 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

**HAYS**—Scott Lynn, 54; born April 19, 1969, Walla Walla, Washington; died Jan. 14, 2024, Milton-Freewater, Oregon. Surviving: father, Pat Hays; mother, Billie Luke; sons, Cassidy and Cody; sister, Julie (Hays) Hetterley; 1 grandchild.

**JOICE**—Ruth (Pitsch), 98; born May 18, 1925, Scottsbluff, Nebraska; died Feb. 1, 2024, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Paul, Roger and James; daughter, Nancy Cleveland; 8 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

**JONES**—Laurel “Pat” Anne (Mundall), 96; born Aug. 12, 1927, Los Angeles, California; died Dec. 31, 2023, Loma Linda, California. Surviving: daughters, Laurel Munson Boss, Allison Field and Julie Hardy; 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**KING**—Yvonne M. (Fish), 90; born March 8, 1933, Eugene, Oregon; died Dec. 28, 2023, Springfield, Oregon. Surviving: son, Gary; daughters, Marilyn King and Terresa (King) Colby; brother, Merlin Fish; 6 grandchildren, 1 step-grandchild and 7 great-grandchildren.

**KAEMPF**—Esther (Portilla), previously Esther Correa, 82; born Sept. 17, 1940, Contumaza, Peru; died April 3, 2023, Happy Valley, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Howard Kaempff; sons, Joseph and Samuel Correa; daughter, Liz Valdiva; stepson, Daniel Kaempff; brother, Antonio Portilla; sister, Elena Westre; 4 grandchildren.

**KERBS**—Jim A., 87; born May 20, 1935, Shattuck, Oklahoma; died Dec. 30, 2022, Germantown, Wisconsin. Surviving: spouse, Patricia (Adams); son, Scott E.; daughter, Kristen (Kerbs) Erich; 5 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**FERGUSON**—Donna L. (Binford), previously Donna Blashford, 65; born Jan. 21, 1958, Escondido, California; died Nov. 12, 2023, Springfield, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Roger Ferguson; daughter, Shawnamarie Blashford; parents, Don and Marie Binford; brothers, Donald and Ronald Binford; 4 grandchildren and 2 step-grandchildren.

**LEEN**—Pauline “Paula” Adelia (Appley), 89; born June 21, 1934, Amity, Oregon; died Sept. 30, 2023, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: son, Greg Wallace; daughter, DeNeice Worthington; 3 grandchildren.

1934–2023

## PAULINE “PAULA” ADELIA (APPLEY) LEEN

Born June 21, 1934 to Harold and Juanita Appley in Amity, Oregon, Pauline “Paula” Adelia (Appley) Leen would become a hero in many communities.

In 1981, Paula was invited to work as a secretary in Harare, Zimbabwe. There, she spent her free time taking clothing and food to the rural village of Marewo.

After developing health issues, Paula was sent home to Portland, Oregon, on permanent medical leave. Soon after, Paula began volunteering for International Children’s Care orphanage in Romania.

That experience deepened her resolve to help Zimbabwe’s orphans. In 1997, Paula returned to Zimbabwe and created Zimbabwe Orphans Project.

In 2000, Paula helped fund and build food gardens, dams, wells and more for the Murwira people. By 2006, she had given away more than 1 million clothing items and became the only employer in the area.

Paula’s heart broke seeing AIDS orphans, so she built an orphanage. In 2004, she opened Kuda Vana Children’s Home.

When she retired from the orphanage at 80, she moved to College Place, Washington, and helped start Shamira International.

Paula passed away on Sept. 30, 2023 in Portland, Oregon. She lives on in every kid she fostered, donor who trusted her work and person whose life she touched.



**MABEE**—Lennis Lorraine (Cooper), 89; born March 2, 1934, Emmett, Idaho; died Dec. 18, 2023, Emmett, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Stanley and Donald; daughters, Karen States, Janet Sampsel and Elaine Ellis; sister, Iona Butler; 15 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**PARKS**—Otis Wayne, 90; born July 17, 1933, Diamond, Washington; died Jan. 28, 2024, Deary, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Ann; sons, Randy Dickinson and

Edward Parks; daughters, Becky Parks, Yvonne Shahan, Jody Boothby and Melodie Parks; 14 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**PFLUGRAD**—Julie Rae (Morgan), 60; born Oct. 27, 1963, Puyallup, Washington; died Dec. 10, 2023, Waverly, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Ron; sons, Nicholas Beaulieu and Russell Pflugrad; daughters, Stephanie (Beaulieu) Ouellette, Jennifer Beaulieu and Esther (Pflugrad) Conley; sister, Becky Reardon; 7 grandchildren.

**RADKE**—Doreen R. (Johnson), 82; born Oct. 14, 1940, St. Johnsbury, Vermont; died April 12, 2023, Helena, Montana. Surviving: spouse, Wilmer; daughter, Vicky Duran; 4 grandchildren.

**RADKE**—Michael W., 53; born June 9, 1969, Bremerton, Washington; died May 27, 2023, Denver, Colorado. Surviving: spouse, Tammie (VanArsdale); son, Ryan; daughter, Sarah; father, Wilmer; sister, Vicky Duran.

**RICHARDS**—Wilbur “Will” Gale, 88; born Jan. 9, 1935, Exeter, California; died Dec. 12, 2023, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Donna (Bridges); son, Robert; daughter, Cindy Casebolt; 2 grandchildren, 1 step-grandchild, 4 great-grandchildren and 2 step-great-grandchildren.

**RITZ**—Halden Edgar, 89; born Oct. 26, 1934, Yakima, Washington; died Nov. 30, 2023, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: son, Kevin T.; daughter, Kelly L. (Ritz) Loders; 4 grandchildren.

**ROGERS**—Bette Evelyn (Schlagel), 83; born July 10, 1940, Yakima, Washington; died Feb. 8, 2024, Yakima, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Lyndon; daughter, Jan (Rogers) Jorgenson; 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**SAUNDERS**—William David, Sr., 87; born Aug. 6, 1936, Canton, Ohio; died Feb. 20, 2024, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, William David, Jr.; daughters, Sheiron Kay Christensen and Debbie Saunders; brothers, Richard and James; 4 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

## family AT REST

**SCHNEIDER** – Edward Gary, 87; born July 18, 1936, Dearborn, Michigan; died July 25, 2023, Milton-Freewater, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Florence; son, Gary P.; daughter, Everly M.; sister, Beverly Peterson; 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

**SCHNELL** – Arnold Hamilton, 94; born March 5, 1929, Hominy, Oklahoma; died Dec. 13, 2023, Sandy, Oregon. Surviving: daughter, Carol Schnell Graff; 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**STEVENS** – Lenore Catherine Mae (Weeks), 98; born Feb. 19, 1926, Trenton, North Dakota; died Feb. 29, 2024, Ooltewah, Tennessee. Surviving: sons, David and Douglas; daughter, Peggy Stevens; brother, Gerald Weeks; 5 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

**WHITEHOUSE** – Kathy M. (Mandigo), 89; born Nov. 28, 1934, Berrien Springs, Michigan; died Jan. 18, 2024, Newport, Washington. Surviving: sons, Jeff and Jerry; daughters, Julia Hoppis and Jann Whitehouse; brother, Wallace Mandigo; sister, Rose Ann Wood; 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

**WOOD** – Rodney “Fred” Fredrick, Jr., 93; born June 29, 1930, Riverside, California; died Oct. 19, 2023, Inchelium, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Marilyn (Dollinger); sons, Steven and Duane; daughter, Cynthia Clark; brother, Robert; 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

1934–2023

## GWYNNE MILTON RICHARDSON



Gwynne Milton Richardson was born Feb. 18, 1934 in Mount Vernon, Ohio, to Charles and Gladys (Slade) Richardson. Gwynne died surrounded by his family on Nov. 14, 2023 in Walla Walla, Washington.

Gwynne graduated from Pacific Union College Preparatory School in 1952 and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology at Pacific Union College in 1958. He earned three master's degrees: Master of Divinity from Potomac University, Master of Arts in education from Andrews University and Master of Public Health from Loma Linda University.

In Maryland, he met Ione Markel, who became the love of his life and his ministry partner. For eight years, he taught Bible and history at Adventist academies on the East Coast and in the Heartland before going to Laurelwood Academy in Oregon as a teacher and campus pastor. From there, he transitioned to pastoring 14 congregations over 46 years in Oregon Conference.

Gwynne is survived by his wife of 64 years, Ione; son, Paul; daughter, Kari Olson; grandchildren, David and Kristen; brother, Jerry; nephew, Bill Harn; nieces, Kristi Cornwell and Heather Mills; and step-sister, Angie Rueb. His brother, Duane, and nephew, Kelvin, preceded him in death.

**WOOD** – Marilyn Yvonne (Dollinger), 87; born April 7, 1936, Lodi, California; died Dec. 5, 2023, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: sons, Steven and Duane; daughter, Cynthia Clark; sisters, Marjorie Reimann, Myrna Mitchell and Shirley Beatty; 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**WOODRUFF** – Violet Bernice (Browning), 93; born Aug. 4, 1930, Granger, Washington; died Oct. 28, 2023, Washougal, Washington. Surviving: son, Lynn; daughters, Patricia, Janice, Roxie, Nancy, Josie, Marta and Sandy; 20 grandchildren, 32

great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

All family announcements are published online at [NWAdventists.com/family](https://NWAdventists.com/family). To submit family announcements, go to [NWAdventists.com/contribute](https://NWAdventists.com/contribute). To publish an expanded obituary with a short bio and photo, contact [info@nwadventists.com](mailto: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.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NORTH PACIFIC UNION

#### Offering

- May 4 – Local Church Budget
- May 11 – Disaster and Famine Relief (GC and NAD)
- May 18 – Local Church Budget
- May 25 – Local Conference Advance
- June 1 – Local Church Budget
- June 8 – Women's Ministries (NAD)
- June 15 – Local Church Budget
- June 22 – Local Conference Advance
- June 29 – Local Church Budget

#### NPUC 48th Regional Convocation

North Pacific Union invites you to attend the 48th annual NPUC Regional Convocation at Mount Tacoma Church on May 16–17. There will be adult, children and youth programming. Presenters include Emil Peeler, Courtney Ray, Renea Mobley Neal and Sharon McCray. For more information, please visit [npuc.org/ministries/regional/convocation](http://npuc.org/ministries/regional/convocation).

### OREGON CONFERENCE

#### Class of 1974 Laurelwood Academy 50th Reunion

May 24–25 at Oregon Conference's Gladstone Park and May 26 at LACE Center in Laurelwood. We're looking for all 1974 class members. Please email [LA1974reunion@gmail.com](mailto:LA1974reunion@gmail.com) or text/call 503-708-3030 for additional details, and let us know if you're coming.

#### Portland Adventist Academy Alumni Reunion Weekend

Attention Portland Adventist Academy alumni: PAA/PUA Alumni Reunion Weekend is May 3–5 at PAA. Honor classes include '49 (75-year class), '54, '64, '74 (50-year class), '84, '94, '99 (25-year class), '04, '14, '19 (5-year class). More details of Friday evening and Sabbath events at [paasda.org/alumni](http://paasda.org/alumni) or call 971-351-9028. Golden Agers Dinner, Friday evening; Sabbath worship at 10:30 a.m.

#### Christmas Valley Church High Desert Camp Meeting

This year's theme is "King of Kings," June 13–15. Come and enjoy a three-day event on Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Speakers and singers include Larren Cole, Ashley and Dr. Risenberger, Vonda and Merlin Beerman, and Tawny Sportsman. Free breakfast, lunch and dinner. Free dry camping and showers. Call or text Vince at 541-408-5531 or David at 541-761-4567. P.O. Box 356, 60508 Old Lake Road, Christmas Valley, Oregon 97641 [christmasvalleychurchsda@gmail.com](mailto:christmasvalleychurchsda@gmail.com).

### WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

#### Monroe Church Seeking Missing Members

Monroe Church in Monroe, Washington, is looking for the following missing members: Jonathan Anderson; John French; Roger A. Johnson Jr.; Douglas Lake; Melody Leong; Laurie Lindsay; Jessica Mann Martinez; Michele Mich; Paty Mich; Samuel Perea; Chuck Roybal; Mindy Smith; Rachel Smith; Heather Sturm; Victor E. Tessaro; Michael VanderVeer; Victoria Worsham; Lynda Ralston; Michael Ralston; Robert Boggan; Sarah Lester; E. Joan Sygitowicz; Elizabeth Nelon; Maresha Schmakeit Swartz; Julie Bradford; Barry Crewse; Melodee Dealy; Rick Markgraf; Deanna Norman; Dylan Norman; Dez'Rae Oster; Jorge Perez; Christopher Simpson. If you have any information about these people, please email the church office at [office@monroesda.org](mailto:office@monroesda.org).

#### Sequim Church Seeking Missing Members

Sequim Church is looking for the following members: Janet and Joel Cambern; Nina and Stephane Fourdrinier; Salima Worthington; Ronald Yargus. If you have information, please contact Sequim Church at 360-683-7373 or [sequimadventist@sequimsdachurch.org](mailto:sequimadventist@sequimsdachurch.org).

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JUST FOR KIDS

# A SAVIOR *in the storm*

Peter was one of Jesus' close friends. He watched Jesus heal the sick, and He listened to all of Jesus' teachings.

One day, after feeding the 5,000, Jesus told Peter and the disciples to cross the lake in a boat while He sent the people home and spent time alone to pray.

During the night, the disciples on the boat were in the middle of the lake and it started to get stormy. The wind was blowing hard and big waves splashed against the boat.

In the darkness, the disciples saw a figure walking towards them. They were terrified because they thought it was a ghost.

It was Jesus walking on the water. He said to them, "It is I. Don't be afraid."

Peter said, "Lord, if it's really You, tell me to come to You on the water."

Jesus invited Peter to join him. "Come," He said.

Peter cautiously climbed out of the boat to test if he could really walk on the water. As he put his feet down, they miraculously stayed on top of the water. Peter started walking towards Jesus. He was amazed and couldn't believe he was walking on water.

Walking further away from the boat, Peter's excitement turned to fear as he suddenly remembered the

storm. He could feel the strong wind on his face and the big waves splashing on his legs. Peter began to sink and called out to Jesus, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately, Jesus reached out and caught Peter. "Your faith is small," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt?"

Jesus invites you to walk with Him too, and He will help you do amazing things. We know Jesus' power, but sometimes this world makes us afraid and doubtful. Jesus doesn't get upset at us for getting scared or losing faith. Instead, Jesus catches us and pulls us out of the storm when we call on Him.

SIENNA HUBIN  
*Gleaner copy editor*



More online at  
[NWADVENT.ST/119-3-KIDS-37](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-KIDS-37)



# Oobleck Science Experiment

Oobleck is a strange substance between a solid and a liquid. If you punch it, it feels solid, but if you scoop some into your hand, it will soften and pour out like a liquid. In the story, the water was solid when Peter had faith in Jesus. But when Peter focused on the storm instead, he sank into the water. Play around with your oobleck while thinking of Peter's experience and how you can grow your faith.

## Tools and Ingredients

Container  
Fork  
1½ cups cornstarch  
¾ cup water



1

Combine cornstarch and water in a container.

Mix with a fork until well combined.  
If your oobleck seems too watery,  
add a little more cornstarch.

2



3

Have fun playing with your new oobleck!



### Finished With This Experiment?

Use a funnel to pour the oobleck into a balloon to make a mini stress ball. Make sure there's no air in the balloon before tying it tight.

# How to Reach Generation Z for Christ

*What a time to be parenting a Generation Z kid!*



AUTHOR

**S**o many things compete for my children's attention. I want to do intentional things in my parenting journey that show them who Christ is, but, I am not going to lie, it's hard. I am always reading books, articles and blog posts. I want to impact my kids' lives—a positive impact for Christ. Here's what I'm learning:

A recent Barna study<sup>1</sup> shows that more than half of Gen Z are motivated to learn about Christ. Parents are the most influential and important people in kids' lives.

## What Do We Know About Gen Z?

There are many definitions of who Gen Z is, but many consider them kids born approximately between 1997 and 2012. According to Pew Research,<sup>2</sup> Gen Z is the most diverse generation, and they're also on track to be the most educated.

Gen Zers lean more progressive on social and political issues. They are more inclusive, open-minded and sensitive to people's feelings. They have almost no memory of a world before smartphone technology. They are often referred to as digital natives. Some researchers have linked the use of smartphones with the growth of anxiety and depression in this group. Values and authentic commitment are important to Gen Zers.

Knowing what we do about Gen Z, it's important as parents and adults in the church to provide an authentic Christian experience for this group. We learned from a previous *Gleaner* article on Gen

Z<sup>3</sup> by Carolann De León: "Our kids, youth and young adults are desperately longing for peace and joy. As we disciple them into a relationship with the only fountain of sustainable life, they will find the strength and peace to move beyond their debilitating mental health symptoms and the courage to accept mental health support without shame."

## Practical Ways to Reach Gen Z for Christ

### Utilize Technology

Gen Z learns with a multisensory experience, often with technology involved. We need to provide ways for them to learn about the Bible and Christ in the ways they learn best. Let them ask questions, eat or drink, fidget and move when talking with them about Christ and Christianity. They want to actively participate in discussions at home, school and church.

### Genuine Relationships

Gen Zers want authentic, real relationships based on trust. They want parents, teachers, pastors and family friends who will walk beside them. So get to know this generation better. Engage with the kids in your home, school and church. Provide a judgment-free zone where they are comfortable asking questions and grappling together over issues.

"When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do



More online at  
[NWADVENT.ST/119-3-POV-27](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-POV-27)







*Knowing what we do about Gen Z, it's important as parents and adults in the church to provide an authentic Christian experience for this group.*

everything to spread the good news and share in its blessings" (1 Cor. 9:23-24).

**Get Involved in Community Outreach**

Gen Z wants to see your faith be lived out in the community. So bring your kids to community events, outreach opportunities and bridge events. They want to see Christianity in action. If your church or school isn't actively involved in outreach to the local community, then it's time for you to help plan those events. Better yet, let the

young people plan them. They love having actual leadership roles in the church.

These are just three practical ways to reach Gen Z for Christ as we help to nurture peace, real relationships and a sense of belonging. Gen Z needs authentic mentors.

Don't be afraid to talk openly about mental health issues with Gen Z. Ask them real questions and get to know them. This generation can change the world for Christ—it's daunting and exciting to be parenting this generation of young people.

John 14:27 tells us, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Sources:

1. "Over Half of Gen Z Teens Feel Motivated to Learn More about Jesus." Barna Group, June 27, 2023. <https://www.barna.com/research/teens-and-jesus/>.
2. Parker, Kim. "On the Cusp of Adulthood and Facing an Uncertain Future: What We Know about Gen Z so Far." Pew Research Center's

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3. De León, Carolann. "Trauma-Responsive Discipleship." Northwest Adventists, November 15, 2023. <https://nwadventists.com/news/2023/06/trauma-responsive-discipleship>.

LAVONNE LONG  
Northwest Adventists  
family columnist



# A Place for You

**O**ne summer in Walla Walla, I had the opportunity to tour University Church with Kraig Scott, Walla Walla University music professor. He taught us about the inner workings of the church organ and demonstrated all the different notes the magnificent instrument can play.

A moment I will never forget is when Scott surprised us all by holding the lowest note for an uncomfortably long time. It sounded like a sledgehammer and made everyone cover their ears.

In isolation, it appeared to be an unnecessary key – something that should come with a warning, “Do not touch!”

Yet, when Scott included that note as a compliment to all the keys in his repertoire, it took on a powerful quality that made the music come to life.

The symphony of majestic sound would not have been possible without the “sledgehammer” note. It was a powerful reminder that the best music comes through harmony, not uniformity.

Perhaps this is what the apostle Paul was thinking of when he talked about the church being the body of Christ. Each part of the body works to complement the other parts. It’s not about competition; it’s about integration.

Paul makes the point, “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need

you!’ And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’ On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.”

It is tempting to dismiss those we disagree with as “unnecessary.” I confess I have scratched my head, laughed and cried at comments fellow believers have made at church business sessions.

The music we like, the preachers we listen to and the way we interpret life varies. We are different, and that is okay. What is not okay is thinking that our church would be better if we could just make everyone speak and think exactly the same.

There is a folk song that plays through my head when people start disagreeing at church. It’s called, “All of God’s Creatures Have a Place in the Choir,” and it speaks to how our diversity can actually be our strength. If interested, go to YouTube and search for the lyric video.

While there is nothing funny about church arguments, having this song play through my head, while being baffled by the way some saint is vocalizing their opinion, reminds me to make room at the table of opinions.

Sometimes all you can do is laugh or cry. The church would be



AUTHOR

Kevin McGill



*Make space for those who dare to disagree. Value those who stress love above judgment.*

## PERSPECTIVE

a boring place if we all thought the same way about everything.

We need conservatives and liberals. We need those who are serious as well as those who are silly. We need people who like contemporary music, and we need those who value the tradition of liturgical hymns. The truth is all of God's creatures have a place in the choir.

In being curious instead of judgmental, we become wise. We become open to the weird and the whimsical. We can laugh at our strangeness instead of being threatened by it.

Beware of those who commodify fear and demonize those who see things differently. Make space for those who dare to disagree. Value those who stress

love above judgment. And don't be afraid to listen for the harmony when the sledgehammer noise is driving you insane.

KEVIN MCGILL

*Green Lake Church senior pastor*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-POV-35](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-POV-35)



# Iceberg Ahead

**O**n April 15, 1912, one of the most luxurious and technologically advanced ships of its time sank. Why did it sink? The Titanic sank because they underestimated the dangers of icebergs. The portion of the iceberg you see only constitutes about 10% of its overall mass. What is hidden is much more dangerous than what is visible.

As human beings, we often struggle with inconsistency. It's frightfully easy to slip into the practice of saying to people, "Do as I say, not as I do." In many ways, we can become a human embodiment of the iceberg principle – showing people our best 10% and hiding the rest below the surface. Sometimes we fall into this trap for all the "right" reasons. We want to be – or feel we have to be – a better example than we actually are.

Jeremiah proclaimed, "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9).

Is your religion a true religion, or a performative event in which you take part? True Christians will talk the talk and walk the walk, empowered and enabled by God.

Instead of using ourselves or others as an example to be followed, we should always point people towards Jesus. Jesus, and Jesus alone, is the one we should seek to emulate and imitate. In Christ, there is safety from the stormiest of seas.

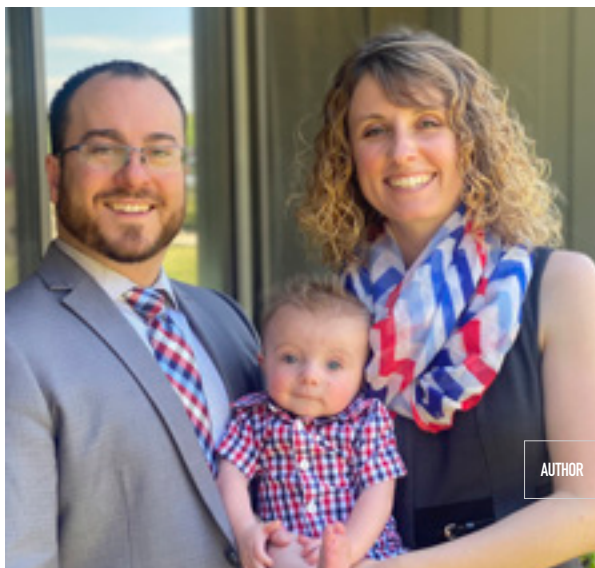
Jesus' words in John are useful here, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15). There is a tug of war that occurs in even the most converted of human hearts. Now, more than ever, authenticity and faithfulness to God's law of love matter.

On our own, we are incapable of living a truly transformed Christian life. It's only through a daily surrendering of self, a wholehearted submission of selfish desires and gain, that we can be truly genuine and devoted Christians.

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:1-3).

Jesus promises that He will be with the true seeker, and He will help our words and actions match. He wants us to be truly transformed by Him living in us. He wants to make us new in Him – not just knowers of the "right" but lovers of the truth, Jesus Christ, that has transformed our whole being.

How is this accomplished in our lives? It's accomplished through daily submission to Jesus and through reading the Bible – not just to check off a box for the day or to have an advantage over others. Read the Bible to get to know who Jesus is and what He desires to do in our lives. Pray to be like Jesus and that His ways become our ways.



AUTHOR

Natashia McVay



## PERSPECTIVE

*If we truly seek Jesus, the Holy Spirit will enable us to live out our faith. With Jesus in our lives and the working of the Holy Spirit we will more fully embody the true nature of Jesus.*

“For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth, one confesses and is saved” (Rom. 10:10).

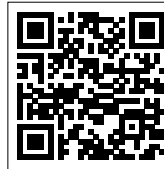
If we truly seek Jesus, the Holy Spirit will enable us to live out our faith. With Jesus in our lives and the working of the Holy Spirit we will more fully embody the true nature of Jesus. We can be authentic Christians who strive to submit our lives more fully each day to Jesus. Then our actions will display this transformation in our lives. This is to be the goal of a Christian's life.

I appreciate Ellen White's statement on this principle in *The*

*Acts of the Apostles*: “Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ.”

God doesn't want icebergs—people who say one thing but, in private or in the secret of their home, act in a completely different way. Rather, God wants mountains. He wants our actions to match our hearts; to truly be transformed by a relationship with Him and have our actions be a true representation of that relationship.

Stand tall and proud because what you have learned about God has changed you; what you say is what you truly believe and live. Stand like a mountain, pointing ever upward to God as the true light and leader of your life.



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Moscow and  
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More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-POV-19](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/119-3-POV-19)



# God's Errands

**I OFTEN LIVE OUT MY LIFE THROUGH MENTAL NARRATIVES ABOUT WHAT'S LIKELY TO HAPPEN NEXT. YET, LIFE DOESN'T HAVE A PERFECT PLAYBOOK.**



AUTHOR Heidi Baumgartner

When recently I parked my car and stepped out to start my workday, I realized three things very quickly: I uncharacteristically forgot my computer bag, there was a hissing sound coming from my car and my day was taking a very different turn.

God had a surprise in store for me for His heavenly playbook for my life.

I soon found a protruding object in my car's back tire that I likely picked up from a pothole.

With a quick call of confirmation, I mapped out and carefully drove to the nearest tire shop where technicians assessed the situation.

With unexpected time on my hands, I settled in the waiting room with a copy of *A Way Forward* by Caleb Foss where I learned more about the art of being interested versus interesting.

This approach to thinking and living is about understanding your identity in Christ, first, and then showing increased interest in other people's lives. It truly does make life more interesting!

After a productive morning of waiting, I headed to lunch

where I noticed an older man approach the car parked next to mine. I instantly recognized the university name emblazoned on his sweatshirt.

As a fellow master's graduate, I had to say something and stepped out of my car to greet him. I soon learned his name is Scotty and we had a great conversation in the parking lot that quickly turned to faith and common connections between our faith traditions and our lived experiences.

"Those of us who believe in Jesus need to stick together," Scotty proclaimed. "Signs of the end are all around and Bible prophecy is evident. We need each other."

Sometimes I hear people say how hard it is to share their faith or make new friends. Sometimes I have thoughts like this, too. My mental narrative tells me I'm not enough in some way, shape or form.

However, I keep finding experiences where God is orchestrating various interactions where a simple curiosity, kindness or willingness to be interested turns into

a divine appointment. God just asks me to be willing to go on His errands and He takes care of the rest.

These encounters remind me God works through the seemingly mundane aspects of life to connect us with others in profound ways.

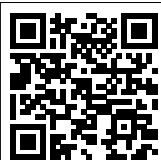
Sometimes our world is right in front of us, waiting for us to show up; to not shirk our word, calling or responsibilities; to make a difference in someone's life for a moment or for eternity; to cultivate joy, peace and grace on the journey toward heaven. That's the best playbook for life!

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

## TABLE TALK PROMPT

What divine appointments has God set up for you recently? How do divine appointments in your life recalibrate your spiritual walk and your relationship with others?

Let's keep the conversation going. Share highlights of your table talk stories and reflections by emailing [talk@nwadventists.com](mailto:talk@nwadventists.com).



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-3-TT-71](http://NWADVENT.ST/119-3-TT-71)

God's errands are full of surprises, like when Heidi Baumgartner's path crossed with Scotty. Every interaction has the potential to influence for a moment or for eternity.



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