

EDITORIAL
Hungry for More

FEATURE
Caring Heart Awards

JUST FOR KIDS
Sharing Together

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



Bringing the Church HOME

A How-To
Guide for
Small Group
Bible Study

JULY/AUG
2025
VOL. 120, N° 4

A full-page background image featuring a sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with vibrant orange, yellow, and blue clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright glow. In the foreground, the ground is cracked and dry, forming a mosaic of irregular shapes. The water reflects the colors of the sky.

IMAGES of CREATION

*Lord, You establish peace for us; all that we
have accomplished, You have done for us.
Isaiah 26:12*

CONTENT

JULY/AUGUST 2025

HUNGRY FOR MORE

AS THE U.S. suffers from an epidemic of loneliness, now is the time for God's people to step forward with God's solution: small groups.

4



Bringing the Church HOME

A How-To Guide for Small Group Bible Study

6

SMALL GROUPS aren't just another church program — they're where real life happens. They're where friendships grow, faith deepens and people feel seen. In many ways, small groups bring the church home, creating space for connection, care and spiritual growth in everyday settings. Whether this how-to guide by Kurt Johnson, General Conference assistant director of Sabbath School and personal ministries, is a refresher or a first step, may it inspire you to invest well in the counter-cultural rhythm of discipleship our world so deeply needs.

NORTHWEST ADVENTIST NEWS

12
NPUC

18
ACCIÓN

20
ALASKA

22
IDAHO

24
MONTANA

26
OREGON

32
UPPER
COLUMBIA

38
WASHINGTON

44
WALLA WALLA
UNIVERSITY

46
ADVENTIST
HEALTH

12

CARING HEART AWARDS

SIXTEEN Northwest academy students received the \$500 Caring Heart Award scholarship, made possible through three-way funding from North Pacific Union, local conferences and academies.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 48 : ADVERTISEMENTS
- 50 : FAMILY
- 54 : JUST FOR KIDS
- 56 : PERSPECTIVES
- 62 : TABLE TALK



HUNGRY FOR MORE

OUR GROUP WAS MEETING IN BRENDA'S APARTMENT FOR A SEVEN-WEEK STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JOHN. ONE NIGHT, WE WERE STUDYING CHAPTER 6 ABOUT JESUS FEEDING THE 5,000 FAMILIES.



JVL EXPRESSIONS

DAN SERNS
North Pacific Union church
planting, revitalization and lay
training director

Through the years, I've appreciated the great opening and discussion questions in *Serendipity Bible for Groups*. This particular night, the opening question was, "When was a time in your life that you were hungry?"

Several of us talked about a time when we missed several meals or went a day without eating. When it was Brenda's turn, she said, "I was hungry from the age of 5 until 13." I think all of us were shocked.

She continued. "I grew up in a single-parent home with lots of siblings. Mama would buy a big tub of potato salad that needed to last the family all week. We ate breakfast and skipped lunch and supper."

As I reflect on that night with that small group, it still has a profound effect on me.

It's one thing to discuss Bible knowledge. It's quite another thing to hear each other's stories and see how God's word can impact our lives as we journey together.

As the U.S. suffers from an epidemic of loneliness, now is the time for God's people to step forward with God's solution: small groups.

- » The Children of Israel were organized into small groups by Moses (Exod. 18:13-26).
- » Jesus led a small group while here on earth (Mark 1:16-20; 3:13-18; Luke 10:1-9).
- » The early church often met in groups in homes (Acts 2:42-47; 5:42; 8:3; 10:2; 12:12; 16:32; 16:40; 18:7; 20:20; etc.).

Ellen White told us it's God's idea, and she showed us how it works in *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 7, page 21.4. She wrote:

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers."

"If in one place there are only two or three who know the truth, let them form themselves into a band of workers. Let them keep their bond of union unbroken, pressing together in love and unity, encouraging one another to advance, each gaining courage and strength from the assistance of the others. Let them reveal Christlike forbearance and patience, speaking no hasty words, using the talent of speech to build one another up in the most holy faith."

"Let them labor in Christlike love for those outside the fold, forgetting self in their endeavor to help others."



Bringing the church home is a step toward deeper discipleship, authentic friendship and a life that naturally draws others to Jesus.

As they work and pray in Christ's name, their numbers will increase; for the Savior says: 'If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven.' (Matt. 18:19)."

Each group, whether based on Bible study, ministry activity, hobby or recreation, should include:

- » **Upreach**—Time to connect with God through the Bible, prayer and praise.
- » **Inreach**—Time to connect with each other for listening, encouragement and celebration.
- » **Outreach**—Time to find ways to share Jesus and the truths of His word with others, and invite them into His final movement.

Why not join a group like that this week? Or better yet, invite a couple of friends to help you start one. As you meet, make a list of others who could be welcomed into a space where they are listened to, loved, served, celebrated and given the opportunity to discover God's beautiful plan for their lives.

If you're unsure where to begin — or want a helpful refresher on best practices — this

issue's feature by Kurt Johnson, General Conference assistant director of Sabbath School and personal ministries, provides practical guidance for launching a life-giving group.

Groups don't need to be large or permanent to make a lasting impact. Invite new members, neighbors, coworkers, classmates and those navigating life changes. Start a short-term group for one to three months for any reason under the sun. Whenever there's a significant life event — a child dedication, wedding, baptism or funeral — start a group to surround those involved with love and support.

Bringing the church home is a step toward deeper discipleship, authentic friendship and a life that naturally draws others to Jesus.



DAN SERNS
*North Pacific Union church
planting, revitalization and
lay training director*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-EDT-62

gleaner

Copyright © 2025
July/August 2025
Vol. 120, No. 4

Gleaner (ISSN 0746-5874) is published bimonthly for a total of 6 issues per year by the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642. It is printed and mailed at Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Rd., Nampa, ID 83687-3193. Subscription rate: \$15.50 per year. Periodical postage paid at Ridgefield, WA 98642 and additional mailing offices.

OUR MISSION: Connecting Northwest Adventists with news and inspiration.

POSTMASTER: send all address changes to:

North Pacific Union Conference
Gleaner
5709 N. 20th St.
Ridgefield, WA 98642
360-857-7000
info@nwadventists.com
nwadventists.com

SUBMISSIONS: Timely announcements, features, news stories and family notices for publication in the *Gleaner* may be submitted directly to the managing editor at the address listed above or submitted online at nwadventists.com/contribute. Material sent directly to local conference correspondents may be forwarded to the *Gleaner* and vice versa.

PLEASE NOTE: Every reasonable effort is made to screen all editorial material to avoid error in this publication. The *Gleaner* does not accept responsibility for advertisers' claims.

ADVENTIST® and SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® are the registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

LITHO U.S.A.

Gleaner STAFF

Editor: Heidi Baumgartner
Managing Editor: Makena Horton
Multimedia Editor: José Segovia
Copy Editor: Sienna Hubin
Advertising: Sandra Osorio
Design: TM Design, Inc.

IMAGE CREDITS:

Cover, pages 3 and 6: iStockPhoto/monkeybusinessimages, Fotkam, Coompla77, Victoria Kotlyarchuk, Eva Jimenez
Pages 3, 12-17: iStockphoto.com/wacomka, ABykov, Dmitrich
Page 5: Getty Images/sturti
Page 7: iStockphoto/Matheus Lorenzet, Image Source
Pages 8-9: iStockphoto.com/monkeybusinessimages, AndreyPopov, SeventyFour, maroot sudchinda
Pages 10-11: iStockphoto.com/monkeybusinessimages, 4maksym, LightFieldStudios, KathrynHatashitaLee, ballykdy, Di_Studio, EyeEm Mobile GmbH, nisara Tangtrakul
Page 24: Getty Images/iStockphoto/courtneyk
Page 45: Getty Images/Emir Memedovski
Page 46: iStockphoto.com/LumiNola
Pages 54-55: Getty Images/PeopleImages, iStockphoto/EvelynGendre
Page 57: Getty Images/EyeEm Mobile GmbH
Page 59: Getty Images/AleksandarGeorgiev
Page 61: Getty Images/Rawpixel

IMAGES OF CREATION, P. 2



"Sunrise Curls Over the Alvord," in Alvord Desert, Oregon, by Mary Lane Anderson, of Forest Grove, Oregon.





Bringing the Church HOME

A How-To
Guide for
Small Group
Bible Study

Small groups aren't just another church program — they're where real life happens. They're where friendships grow, faith deepens and people feel seen. As we live out the gospel in everyday life, small groups become a vital expression of the church in action. In many ways, it's about bringing the church home, creating space for connection, care and spiritual growth in everyday settings.

We invited Kurt Johnson, author of multiple books and seminars on small group ministry, to share a practical how-to guide with *Gleaner* readers. For some, it may be a helpful refresher; for others, it may demystify what small group ministry can look like. Wherever you find yourself on the journey, may this guide inspire you to invest deeply in this counter-cultural rhythm of discipleship — one that offers real connection in a world that often feels increasingly disconnected.

The year was 1902, and Ellen White had recently relocated her home, Sunnyside, on Avondale Road in Cooranbong, Australia, to California. On that particular morning, she was writing an article for *Australasian Union Conference Record*, to be published in the Aug. 15 edition. She wrote, “The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members but for unbelievers also” (*Evangelism*, p. 115).

Furthermore, she counseled church leadership to provide training for church members on how to conduct “Bible readings” and “cottage meetings” in homes (*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, pp. 82–83). Bible readings would be similar to what are termed today as traditional Bible studies, and cottage meetings relate to small group Bible studies. Notice also that the purpose of the small companies was to work for the salvation and discipling of both Adventist Church members and unbelievers.

Combining this counsel with Acts 2 gives us guidance on the agenda for a small group Bible study meeting:

“Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where [the disciples] were sitting. Then there appeared to them

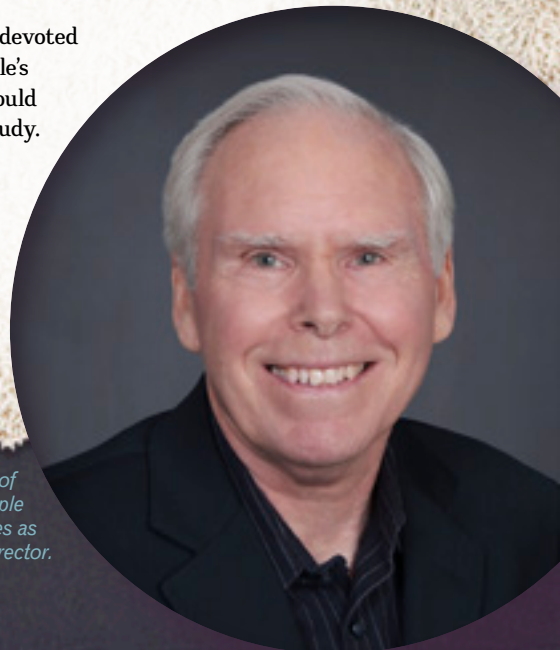
divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:2–4).

Scripture describes the listeners hearing the gospel message in their own languages. Miracles occur as people are healed and their lives are transformed by the message of salvation through Jesus. Hearts are convicted. Acts 2 describes a time — Pentecost — when a Spirit-filled church was directed and guided by God. Verses 38–41 describe how 3,000 people responded and were baptized. Verses 41–47 explain what church life was like for the newly baptized members of the newly formed, relatively pristine, Spirit-filled church. Verse 42 lists key items that were part of their church life.

First, the believers devoted themselves to the “apostle’s teachings.” Today, we would refer to this as a Bible study.

Second, there was a sense of “fellowship” with one another — loving, caring, sharing and nurturing.

Kurt Johnson, General Conference assistant director of Sabbath School and personal ministries, has authored multiple books and seminars on small group ministry. He also serves as Voice of Prophecy International Bible School director.



Third, they “broke bread” together. That is, they ate meals together and shared the emblems of the Lord’s Supper.

Fourth, they “prayed” together.

Verse 43 adds a fifth element. It states that miracles and supernatural signs occurred in the church, in answer to prayer and the faith of the believers.

Verses 44–45 add a sixth dimension. These verses tell us the believers had “all things in common” and sold their possessions in order to give freely to anyone “in need.”

Verse 46 states that the members met in the “temple”—large meetings of corporate worship—as well as “house to house”—small group meetings. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

By combining scripture and White’s supportive comments, we discover the following principles, which apply to both corporate worship and home worship. Applying these principles specifically to a small group home meeting, we discover the agenda and purpose for a small group home Bible study.

The agenda for a small group home Bible study based upon these biblical principles would be similar to this:

Agenda:

- » Sharing time: 20 minutes
- » Bible study: 45 minutes
- » Prayer: 15 minutes

Adding more detail, the agenda would be:

- » Welcome, prayer
- » Sharing time
- » Bible study
- » Prayer time
- » Mission: invite someone to come with you to the group next week.

Understanding the Agenda

Sharing Time

For the group to be successful, it’s essential that each member actively participates in the discussion and is willing to share their thoughts openly. To set the stage for each meeting, the group needs to begin with a time of sharing. This sharing time helps everyone relax and discuss their week and personal life in a non-threatening manner. It allows group members to become acquainted with each other, to be aware of each other’s needs and to get the quiet group members involved in the group process, so they will continue to share and interact during the Bible study time.

Most groups have two types of questions for sharing time. These are present situation questions and getting acquainted questions. For example, at the beginning of the sharing time, the leader simply asks the group, “How has your week gone for you? Who would like to share?”

In Acts 2, they:

Today you can:

Studied the apostles’ doctrine

Study the Bible with your group.

Fellowshipped

Develop friendships with your small group members.

Broke bread

Share regular meals and the Lord’s Supper in worship.

Prayed and saw answers to prayer

Pray together and privately. Celebrate answered prayers.

Had commonalities

Meet in small groups in homes to fulfill the principles of Acts 2:41–47.

Worshipped in the temple and in houses

Attend Sabbath worship services and invite group members to attend with you.

People were added daily

Invite members and nonbelievers to your small group. Decisions will be made within the group and people will be baptized. Develop fully devoted disciples of Jesus.

They pause and wait for someone to share. Then they ask, "Who else would like to share?" If someone's situation is especially challenging, the group pauses and prays for them immediately; otherwise, they can be included in the prayer time.

The second question asked is a question to get acquainted. These questions are not to be controversial, political or divisive. The leader asks questions such as, "What is your favorite hobby?" or, "What was your favorite vacation trip?" or, "What was your favorite pet's name?"

Depending upon the number of group members, not everyone will have time to share each week, unless the group members keep their answers short! It's the group leader's responsibility to guide this process and keep the meeting on schedule.

Once the sharing time ends, the group leader will say, "It's time now for our Bible study. Let's discuss our study guide together."

Bible Study

A Bible study small group is a discussion-based study as opposed to a teacher-based classroom setting. The leader facilitates the discussion but does not dominate the conversation. The leader guides the group in discovering the truths to be learned. This style is the opposite of the seminar approach, in which the teacher shares information, answers questions and leads a brief discussion. However, the small group discussion must be based on scripture, otherwise it becomes a pooling of thoughts and personal ideas with no scriptural basis.

A group can use a printed Bible study guide designed for small groups or individual use. Either style should be easy to use to keep the group on topic and facilitate an interesting discussion.

In most cases, the leader reads the introduction to the topic as printed in the guide, reads the biblical question and the group looks up the corresponding Bible text. The group is asked to write the answer in their guide and then asked if there are any thoughts, comments or questions.

An inductive discussion Bible study has three key components:

- » **Observation:** What does the text say? What is the context and background of the passage? Group members list the facts and gain as much understanding as possible about the passage.
- » **Interpretation:** What does the text mean? This involves reviewing the historical and textual context and asking what the text meant when it was originally written.
- » **Application:** What parallels can we find between the original context and our contemporary time? Group members ask, "So what?" and, "What difference does this text make to me today?"

It's critical that, at the end of a Bible study, the leader always asks, "Is this topic clear to you? Do you have any questions?" If a group member has unanswered questions, they will not decide to accept and live out the truth in their personal life. Because there is more than one person in the small group, the leader may need to spend individual, personal time with group members who require more assistance in studying a given topic.

Prayer Time

Prayer is the lifeblood of the group. Prayer bonds group members together, strengthens members for daily life and invites the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of the group members. It's safe to assume some members of any group may have never prayed privately or publicly. Others are scared to pray out loud and might never join a group if they believe they will be asked to pray publicly. A good rule to follow is to let group members know they will never be put on the spot and asked to pray out loud unless you already know they are comfortable doing so. Prayer will always be voluntary.

Once the group members become acquainted with each other and feel at ease in the group environment, they will be more open to participating in the prayer time.



Mission

The goal of every small group is to help group members develop an eternal relationship with God. This means not only accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior, but also experiencing God meeting the everyday needs of their lives. As group members, we want everyone in our community to have this experience.

To accomplish the mission as a group, pray weekly for God to bring new people to your small group. Encourage group members to invite their family and friends. If the group becomes too large, then start a new group!

Beginning Your Group

To begin your group, form a leadership team consisting of a leader, an assistant leader and a host. Invite your neighbors, friends, general acquaintances and those who have participated in community events hosted by your church, such as seminars, evangelistic meetings, health events, etc.

The group leader needs to remember that their role is not to “tell scriptural truth” to group members, but to assist them in “discovering scriptural truth.” “Discovered truth” is personalized very quickly, while being told something belongs to the teller alone, until the listener decides to internalize a particular truth personally, which may take a long time for some.

We must never forget that biblical learning is a step-by-step process. As long as a person attends the group Bible study, they will continue to grow and learn. The Holy Spirit, combined with continued study of scripture, acceptance, love, friendship and respect for each group member, will help each member discover the truth of scripture and establish an eternal relationship with God.

Once group members decide to attend Sabbath worship services with you, it's critical to bridge this transition. It's beneficial to have a small group Sabbath School at your church that is patterned after their weekly small group. For some, this will be their first time experiencing a church worship service of any type.

Once your small group members begin attending Sabbath worship services and make a decision to be baptized, celebrate these decisions with your small group members. Invite members to attend the baptism. Have a meal together and celebrate the special day.

Disciple the newly baptized group members. Invite them to attend church events with you, involve them

in ministry, assist in developing a devotional life and continue their small group experience. These efforts, led by the Holy Spirit, will prepare the group members for an eternal relationship with God.

As you can see, a small group experience is a discipleship experience. Small group members are not only studying the Bible, making friends, praying together, supporting each other, growing in a daily

walk with Jesus, but they are also sharing their faith with others! This is following the call of Jesus! It's no wonder the early church of believers grew so quickly, and Christianity spread around the globe!

And guess what? God will do the same for your church in your community! So start a home-based small group today!

Getting Started

Follow these easy steps:

- ✓ Talk with your pastor about starting a small group Bible study.
- ✓ Team up with three church members. One will serve as the group leader, another as the assistant leader and the third as the host.
- ✓ Pray for God's guidance.
- ✓ Choose a set of Bible study guides designed for a small group discussion.
- ✓ The three church members meet weekly and follow the previously described small group agenda as they study the chosen Bible guides.
- ✓ Once they have studied several of the Bible guides and are familiar with the group process, they are now ready to launch their small group.
- ✓ The three church members:
 - Choose a start date for their small group.
 - Invite others from their community to join the group.
 - Use their chosen set of small group Bible study guides and begin with lesson one. (Because the three church members have already completed the first several study guides, this prepares them for the first few small group meetings.)

**PRAY CONTINUALLY. GOD WILL GUIDE
AND BLESS YOUR SMALL GROUP!**



KURT JOHNSON
General Conference assistant director of
Sabbath School and personal ministries

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-FT-46

CARING HEART AWARDS



2025

Sixteen Northwest academy students received the \$500 Caring Heart Award scholarship, made possible through three-way funding from North Pacific Union, local conferences and academies.

Students were selected by their schools for exemplifying the spirit of the Caring Heart — a willingness to serve others. Each student is gifted with a plaque and an engraved Bible, courtesy of North American Division. The scholarship funds may be used toward tuition at an Adventist school or on a short-term mission trip.

NICHOLE NOLL-HAYES



PAUL DODGE

Amazing Grace Academy

Paul Dodge, AGA junior, has volunteered and worked at Alaska Camps for numerous summers, which has given him leadership opportunities to work with campers and other staff.

Last year, Paul went to the Dominican Republic on a mission trip with AGA. During the mission trip, Paul worked with the group as they built a church for the local community.

This year, Paul is the student association president, and every Friday morning, he helps lead music and interactive presentations about the monthly spiritual focus for chapel.

We're looking forward to seeing how God continues to work in Paul's life and how He will continue to lead him to impact others in a positive way. Paul plans to attend Walla Walla University after graduation.



JEREMIAH MIRAN

Auburn Adventist Academy

Jeremiah Miran, AAA junior, currently serves as an associated student body officer, maintains honor roll status, plays cello in the AAA orchestra and a community youth symphony, visits elementary schools as an AAA ambassador and leads as Project Unity coordinator for campus ministries.

While many AAA students are deeply involved, Jeremiah is set apart by the heart, excellence and intentionality he brings to everything he takes on.

Rochelle White, AAA choir teacher, shared, "He played with the concert choir and was both intentional about getting it right and thankful to be asked."

As Project Unity coordinator, Jeremiah is responsible for putting together six chapels per year, each focused on highlighting a cultural heritage of AAA students. Most of these chapels have more than 40 participants, whom Jeremiah organizes with ease.

Jeremiah is the epitome of a willing spirit and an example of striving for excellence in all he does.



HALLE GATES

Cascade Christian Academy

Halle Gates has spent her entire academic journey at CCA. As senior class president, she has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, earning the respect and admiration of her peers. Halle has a deep compassion for those with special needs and for anyone who might be considered an underdog.

This empathetic nature is evident in her everyday life. She cares for her older brother with special needs, a role many have witnessed firsthand. In elementary school, Halle volunteered alongside her mom to provide lunches at the park.

Her passion for helping others extends globally, as she has participated in a mission trip to Belize, where she assisted at an orphanage.

Halle's hard work and commitment to excellence are reflected in her impressive 3.8 high school GPA. This fall, she will be attending WWU, where she plans to study business communication with a focus on Spanish and French.



JARON GARBI

Columbia Adventist Academy

Jaron Garbi, CAA senior, stands as a testament to the quiet power of service. A true behind-the-scenes force, he has spent countless hours ensuring that events run smoothly, often working late into the night to perfect sound systems, troubleshoot electronics and lend a steady hand wherever needed.

Whether setting up for a school assembly, assisting a friend with a technical issue or dropping everything to help when something goes wrong, Jaron's willingness to serve never wavers.

He has also spent time helping his church's community service center and working in their garden to raise produce for low-income families. For his senior project, Jaron researched the needs of the homeless and then chose to learn to crochet to make beanies and scarves.

Though naturally introverted, Jaron speaks volumes through action. As a friend to all, his quiet, unwavering commitment to service makes him a remarkable Caring Heart Award recipient.



KADYN TABOR

Gem State Adventist Academy

Kadyn Tabor, GSAA junior, is known to be kind and respectful. He works hard and is considerate of others, often reaching out to include those on the sidelines.

He is friendly, regularly stopping by the deans' office to say, "Hi," or leaving class with, "Thank you," or, "Have a nice day," to teachers. Kadyn also loves making people laugh and brings joy to the people around him.

The spiritual growth of others is important to Kadyn. After attending the prayer retreat, he returned ready to start events in the dorm to improve the spiritual culture on campus.

One staff member commented, "Kadyn exemplifies Christ in his even-keeled demeanor and his desire to do the right thing. I have always admired his willingness to be helpful to anybody and to lead by example."

CHARLENE VOGEL



ARIELLE TEAGUE

Livingstone Adventist Academy

Arielle Teague, LAA junior, has a heart for caring acts of service and is quick to ask about someone's day, hold a door or offer a hug.

Arielle lights up around babies and younger kids. She has been a teacher's assistant in the first- and second-grade classrooms for several years, and she has a goal of teaching kindergarten in the future.

Arielle is heavily involved in youth ministry and service ministry at her church. Every month when the church puts on a children's church program for kids, Arielle is one of the key helpers, organizing and communicating to make the event run smoothly.

She is also active in service ministry, helping regularly with a group of church members who go out to the community for yard cleanup, wood hauling or anything else needed.



PAUL KALONJI

Milo Adventist Academy

Paul Kalonji, MAA senior, has demonstrated kindness, maturity and a genuine interest in others throughout his four years at MAA.

Affectionately known sometimes as "Pastor Paul," he is empathetic, supportive and always willing to help others, prioritizing their well-being and putting others first, often above his own needs and cares.

He is dedicated to connecting with others and often gives up his free time to start new clubs or groups to learn a new language, play chess or work on robotic projects.

Paul not only lives his love and enthusiasm for Jesus, but also brings smiles to the entire school body with his energetic welcome at the end of each vespers program as he shouts, "Happy Sabbath," for all to hear. Paul is a caring heart!

He aims to "change the world" with a future career in engineering or law, whether here in the U.S. or his native country of Congo.



NATHANIEL TAYLOR

Mount Ellis Academy

Nathaniel Taylor, MEA junior, has been a welcome addition to campus since his arrival in the middle of his freshman year. Nathaniel is the epitome of kindness and care.

Nathaniel looks for ways to be involved in both church and school, as he is a student representative on the church board and participates regularly in church services through music, scripture and prayer. In 2023, he went on a life-changing mission trip to Belize.

His school involvement includes being an academically exemplary student in all of his classes, an avid music program participant and a leader in the soccer and basketball programs.

Nathaniel is an integral part of MEA as junior class president and as he serves on the associated student body team that plans events and feeds school spirit.

KATIE HARVEY



MARIA BURNS

Orcas Christian School

Originally from Indonesia and now a resident of Orcas Island, Maria Burns, OCS junior, exemplifies compassion and service. She has shown a passion for mission work, eagerly participating in every school-sponsored mission trip she can.

Maria's commitment to service extends beyond mission trips – she radiates kindness and positivity across her campus. Through her actions, she fosters a welcoming environment, building strong and mature relationships with peers and students alike.

Whether lending a hand or offering words of encouragement, Maria's light shines bright, embodying the Christian values of love and connection in all she does.

Her dedication to helping others makes her a true role model and an inspiration to those around her. Maria's dedication to making a difference serves as a powerful example of how one person can positively impact their community and inspire others to do the same.



TRYGG PATCHIN

Portland Adventist Academy

Trygg Patchin, PAA senior, is a true blessing to the school community. A dedicated athlete, high-achieving scholar, skilled communicator and visionary leader, Trygg consistently seeks out marginalized individuals, ensuring they feel seen, valued and included. His infectious smile and joy inspire those around him.

Trygg has led in the student association, his class and as basketball team captain. He also founded the Jesus Club.

When Trygg spoke for student week of worship, students and adults leaned in to listen, not just because his testimony was meaningful, but because Trygg has spent his four years at PAA living a Christ-centered, character-driven life.

He powerfully shared his testimony of giving his "yes" to Jesus and invited everyone on campus to do the same. It was a profound moment for the community to hear a student so highly regarded share the way Jesus has changed his life.



MIA T. CHAI

Puget Sound Adventist Academy

Mia T. Chai, PSAA senior, is one of the hardest-working students on campus. She is known by many as a kind and generous person. For a couple of younger students this year, her outreach and befriending have been paramount to their success and love for school.

Besides achieving top marks academically, she pours herself into as many music opportunities as her schedule allows. She plays in the band and sings in the choir. At chapel, she leads a praise team regularly.

She also often plays piano accompaniment for PSAA and KSDA choral groups, all the while displaying focus and professionalism. Her love of music and desire to serve others fuel this prolific participation. She also performs piano solos occasionally.

She is a loyal friend, and her presence will be missed by students and teachers when she starts her next chapter.



BRAIDEN PERRY

Rogue Valley Adventist Academy

Braiden Perry, RVAA senior, was new his freshman year, as his family had just moved to this community. To almost everyone, he was quiet and unassuming, but deep down he was a leader in the making. He became a driving force on the basketball team and is currently a strong team captain.

With his younger siblings attending RVAA, he is a positive influence on students in all grades. He has been a student association officer and encourages his classmates to engage fully with all school activities.

Braiden is known for helping those around him. He spends summers working on campus and has also helped church members with yard work.

Braiden also joined the Medford Church mission trip to India. He witnessed true miracles happen. He's an exceptional son, brother, student and community member who has made a meaningful impact.



JASMIN CRUZ

Skagit Adventist Academy

SAA is pleased to nominate Jasmin Cruz as a recipient of the Caring Heart Award. Jasmin, SAA senior, has always attended SAA and is the student most likely to smile and greet you as you come on campus.

Jasmin has a heart for service. Any time something needs to be moved or put away, she is the first to offer a hand. During all-school activities, she mixes with the elementary students and encourages their participation.

During the last mission trip, Jasmin helped by painting the lunchroom, moving concrete blocks, picking up used materials or trash, and interacting with the local students.

Jasmin is a servant leader. She isn't always leading from the front of the room, but she's always involved, making sure the small details don't get missed.



ISABELLA BRANDON
Tualatin Valley Academy

Isabella Brandon, TVA junior, is a dedicated and compassionate young leader with a heart for service. Actively involved in youth leadership ministry at Beaverton Church and Pathfinders, she mentors younger students, helping guide them with wisdom and care.

Her grit and determination shine through in every challenge she takes on, and she has excelled in leadership roles, serving as both class president and student association president.

Last summer, Isabella participated in a local mission trip to Milo Academy, where she supported the school's mission and engaged with the students.

Her selflessness, strong leadership skills and ability to inspire others have earned her the respect of her peers and mentors. Isabella embodies the values of kindness, compassion and service that the Caring Heart Award represents.



KAITLYN RIVAS
Upper Columbia Academy

Kaitlyn Rivas, UCA senior, has attended all four years and UCA Elementary School for seventh and eighth grade. She and her family have been instrumental in service projects at church and school.

As a member of the UCA student body, Kaitlyn has been a leader as a cafeteria worker and supervisor and is essential to childcare on campus. She has volunteered many hours on weekends at UCA and at Providence Medical Center in Spokane.

She has a heart for service, though sometimes this is only noticed behind the scenes. UCA has been blessed to experience the gifts that God has given Kaitlyn. She hopes to become a nurse where she will surely be the face of Jesus for many of her future patients.

Adventist schools across the Northwest create active opportunities for Christian growth. Find a Northwest Adventist school near you at npuc.org/schools.

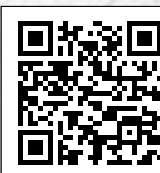


ASHER PETERSON
Walla Walla Valley Academy

Asher Peterson, WVAA senior, is the ultimate caring heart. Asher is always cheerful and kind. He is a friend to everyone – especially students who might struggle to connect with others.

He is friendly, always greeting students and teachers by name in the hallways. He always gives someone the benefit of the doubt, even when they don't return the favor. He looks you in the eye and asks how you're doing – and he genuinely wants to know!

Asher is an athlete, a musician, a thespian and a leader. He always wants to help. He offers heartfelt compliments, and he never gossips. Students trust Asher, which is some of the highest praise that can be offered.



More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-4-NPUC-25

Pentecost 2025 Ignites Idaho

“AND EVERY DAY THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR COMMUNITY THOSE WHOM HE WAS CALLING TO SALVATION” (ACTS 2:47).

The growth of churches is a top priority for Idaho Conference. Therefore, Pentecost 2025, a North American Division evangelism initiative, has answered many prayers. The financial resources, strategic support, spiritual backing, materials and ideas provided by this initiative have enabled the Idaho community to experience revitalizing evangelistic efforts.

All the Hispanic churches united under this initiative, leading to multiple evangelistic campaigns. One such effort featured four congregations from the Treasure Valley area: Payette Spanish Church, Caldwell Hispanic Company, Nampa Spanish Church and Boise Hispanic Company. They collaborated with Meridian Church to host an evangelistic campaign with Peter Simpson, North Pacific Union vice president for Hispanic ministries and ministerial director, as the speaker.

From April 19–26, around 250 people attended each night and 40 individuals received Bible studies. Music was led by Wander Bello. On Saturday, April 26, the event culminated in the baptism of 33 souls.

A powerful example of this transformation is Filemón and María Lourdes Ledezma. They had struggled to establish a spiritual life and Filemón admitted he had never been interested in spiritual matters. However, María Lourdes shared her longing for a relationship with Jesus with one of their daughters, Rosío, who lives in Los Angeles, California.

Together, they prayed for a spiritual awakening and Rosío encouraged her mother to find an Adventist church in Caldwell. This led María Lourdes and Filemón to Caldwell Hispanic Company, where they were deeply impressed by the love and joy of their welcome. Ndzana

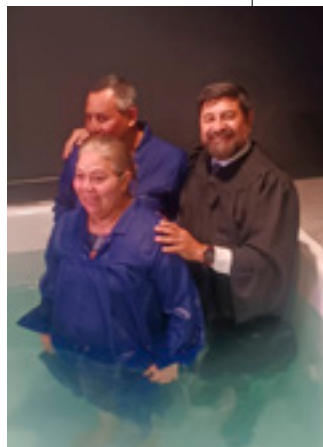
Patience and Donaldo Roblero, Caldwell Hispanic Company elders, made them feel like part of the family, and they began taking Bible studies and eventually got baptized.

Their baptism was not only a powerful testimony in Caldwell, but it also reached all the way to Los Angeles. Inspired by her mother's testimony, Rosío made the decision to be baptized as part of Pentecost 2025 at her own church.

This remarkable journey showcases the power of community and the importance of spiritual connection in igniting the spirit of Pentecost in Idaho. Praise the Lord for the amazing work He is doing through Pentecost 2025 and for the lives being transformed throughout the region.

GERALD MARGIL

Idaho Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator



María Lourdes and Filemón are baptized.
María Lourdes y Filemón son bautizados.



Pentecost 2025 Enciende Idaho

“Y CADA DÍA EL SEÑOR HACÍA CRECER LA COMUNIDAD CON EL NÚMERO DE LOS QUE ÉL IBA LLAMANDO A LA SALVACIÓN” (HECHOS 2:47).

El crecimiento de iglesias es una prioridad para la Conferencia de Idaho. Por ello, Pentecost 2025, la iniciativa de la División Norteamericana, fue una oración contestada. Los recursos económicos, el apoyo estratégico, el respaldo espiritual, los materiales y las ideas provistos por esta iniciativa han permitido a la comunidad de Idaho disfrutar de una experiencia evangelística revitalizadora.

Las iglesias Hispanas se unieron a la iniciativa, dando lugar a múltiples esfuerzos evangelísticos. Uno de esos esfuerzos contó con cuatro congregaciones del área de Treasure Valley: Iglesia Hispana de Payette, Compañía Hispana de Caldwell, Iglesia Hispana de Nampa y Compañía Hispana de Boise. Colaboraron con la Iglesia de Meridian para organizar una campaña evangelística con Peter Simpson, vicepresidente de ministerios Hispanos y director ministerial de la Unión del Pacífico Norte, como orador.

Alrededor de 250 personas asistieron cada noche del 19 al 26 de Abril y 40 de ellas recibían estudios bíblicos. También se contó con el ministerio musical del cantante Wander Bello. El sábado 26 de Abril se concluyó con un bautismo total de 33 almas.

Un ejemplo es Filemón y María Lourdes Ledezma. Ellos habían tratado de establecer una vida espiritual sin lograrlo, Filemón mismo reconoce que nunca se interesó en cosas espirituales. María Lourdes compartió con una de sus hijas, Rosío, quien vive en Los Angeles, su necesidad de tener una relación con Jesús.

Ellas oraron por ese despertar espiritual y Rosío propuso a su mamá encontrar una iglesia en Caldwell. Así es como María Lourdes y Filemón llegan a la Compañía Hispana de Caldwell. Una de las cosas que más les impresionó al llegar fue el amor y alegría con que fueron recibidos. Los ancianos, Ndzana Patience y Donaldo Roblero, ancianos

de la Compañía Hispana de Caldwell, los hicieron sentir como parte de la familia, y empezaron a recibir estudios bíblicos y finalmente fueron bautizados.

Este bautismo no solo fue un poderoso testimonio en Caldwell, sino que sus efectos llegaron hasta Los Ángeles. Rosío, inspirada en el testimonio de su madre, ha tomado también la decisión de bautizarse como parte de Pentecost 2025 de su iglesia.

Este extraordinario viaje muestra el poder de la comunidad y la importancia de la conexión espiritual para encender el espíritu de Pentecostés en Idaho. Alabado sea el Señor por la increíble obra que está haciendo hasta Pentecost 2025 y por las vidas que se están transformando en toda la región.



GERLAD MARGIL
Coordinador de
ministerios Hispanos de
la Conferencia de Idaho

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-4-HSP-77](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/120-4-HSP-77)



- At the end of the evangelistic series, 33 people are baptized.
- Al final de la serie evangelística, 33 personas son bautizadas.

Youth Revival Week of Prayer Inspires Renewal

AS BLESSED HOPE CHURCH BEGAN PREPARING ITS 2025 CALENDAR, THE YOUTH OFFICERS RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO INTENTIONALLY REACH OUT TO THE YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE, BOTH WITHIN THE CHURCH AND THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

Moved by this conviction, a proposal was presented to the church board for a week of prayer focused on youth, while still welcoming participants of all ages. The board responded with support and encouragement for the event to move forward.

From March 8–15, the church had the honor of hosting a spiritually uplifting Youth Revival Week of Prayer. This special week of devotion and inspiration culminated in a celebration on Global Youth Day, leaving a lasting impact on all who participated.

Each evening, the congregation was blessed by the ministry of Ray Sasa, South Bay Church pastor. Sasa's heartfelt and powerful messages resonated with attendees, stirring hearts and inspiring renewed commitment to faith. His calls for spiritual dedication touched lives in profound ways, creating a spirit of revival that carried through the week.

One of the most beautiful outcomes was the decision of 11 individuals—ranging in age from 5 to 72—to surrender or rededicate their lives to Christ through baptism. Their step of faith marked a significant moment in their spiritual journeys and was a source of great joy for the entire church family.

Among these were Hannah Felise and her 5-year-old daughter, symbolizing a touching generational commitment to Christ.

Another young candidate, 7-year-old Taliatalosaga Ifopo, expressed his joy, saying, "I'm so happy to finally get baptized because I've been wanting to for a long time, but my parents said I was too young to understand the importance of the decision I was about to make." His determination and understanding moved many in the congregation and reminded us that God calls hearts at every age.

Another candidate was 72-year-old Mareko Utuga, who was overwhelmed with emotion. He shared, "I am so happy to have this opportunity to rededicate my life, along with my wife and two adult daughters, to the Lord after being out of the church for 25 years." His testimony was a powerful reminder of God's enduring grace and the unifying power of faith across generations.

A young adult, Kellet Mariner, remarked, "I want to rededicate my life to the Lord's service along with my fiancé as we prepare to unite in holy matrimony as a family. We want to raise our children in the ways of God." This testimony echoed the theme of commitment and spiritual renewal that resonated throughout the week.

The revival not only blessed the guests who came seeking spiritual growth, but also rejuvenated the congregation. Members experienced a renewed sense of purpose, deeper spiritual connection and strengthened bonds of fellowship.

All glory and praise are given to God for His abiding presence and the blessings poured out during this unforgettable week. It was truly a time of reflection, renewal and revival—a milestone in the life of the Blessed Hope Church family as they pray for guidance and opportunities to continue to share with their community.

Hannah Felise and her daughter are baptized by Ray Sasa, South Bay Church pastor, assisted by Ionatana Neufeldt, Blessed Hope Church pastor.



Ray Sasa (left) gets ready to baptize Mareko Utuga (right), who joyfully rededicates his life to Jesus.



LORUAMA NEUFELDT
*Blessed Hope Church
member*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-AK-39

Delta Junction Church Dedicates Children to Christ

“JESUS SAID, ‘LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE’” (MATT. 19:14).

Delta Junction Church in Alaska once found itself missing the joyful sounds of children and prayed for God’s blessing. Despite not having a pastor for two years, the congregation’s faith remains strong and the church continues to grow. Each member understands that all are called to play a part in the Great Commission. God has blessed the church as they share the good news that He is trustworthy and is doing great work in their town.

With the arrival of new families to the church – along with two new babies – the time had come for a baby dedication. However, the families wanted their older children who had not been dedicated to be included as well. This brought together other parents with older children who also wished to present their children as a gift to the Lord. In all, 16 children were ready for dedication.

On March 28, the church was filled with joy to invite previous pastors to be a part of the Sabbath celebration. Zack

and Celesta Babb, Fairbanks and North Pole district pastors, were happy to accept the invitation.

Zack delivered a sermon and Celesta led the dedication ceremony. Celesta did a wonderful job commissioning the parents. She challenged fathers to heed Eph. 6:4: “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” She encouraged mothers to “follow the example of the mothers who brought their children to Jesus” (Mark 10:13–16). She also called parents to show their children how to pursue Jesus and to pursue Jesus with them.

The ceremony ended with an invitation. Everyone willing to support the parents in their journey surrounded the families as Celesta offered a prayer of dedication. The church is filled with gratitude for the children God has blessed them with.

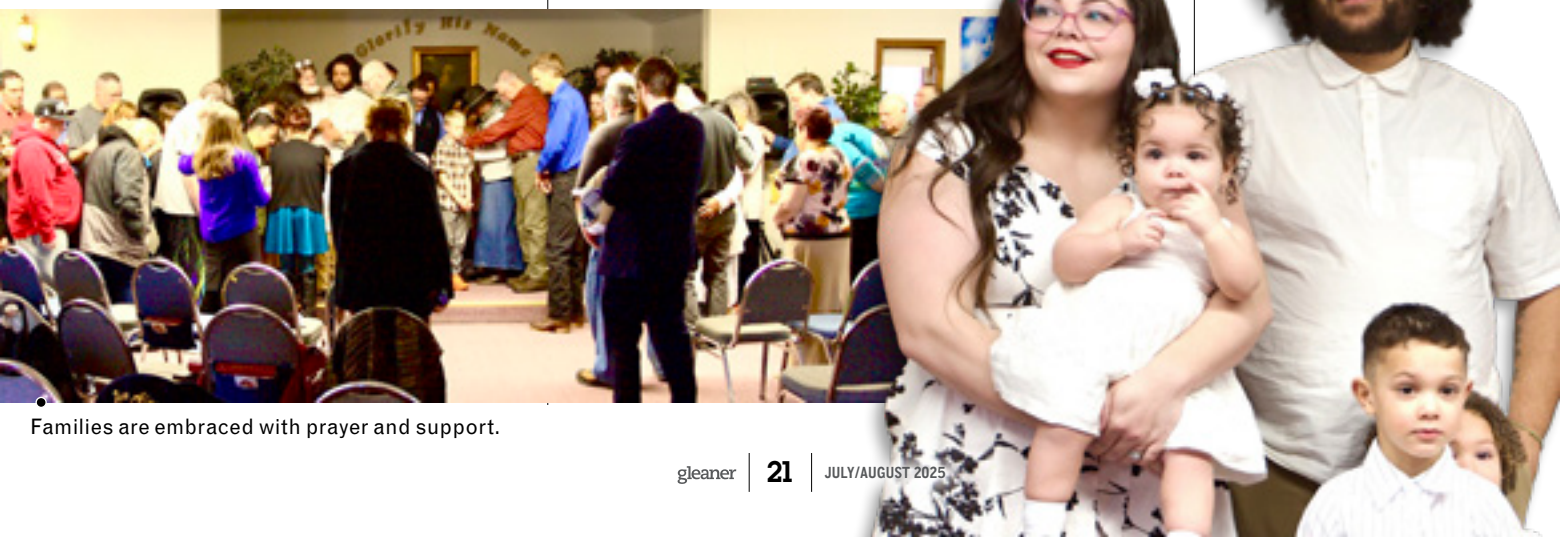


More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-AK-37

DEBBIE UEECK

*Delta Junction Church
communication leader*

• Jessica and Marshal Brown dedicate their three children.



Families are embraced with prayer and support.

Churches Embrace Pentecost 2025

IDAHO CONFERENCE CHURCHES HAVE EMBRACED PENTECOST 2025. SOME STARTED EFFORTS EARLY IN THE YEAR, WHILE OTHERS HAVE EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR THE FALL. THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN 62 BAPTISMS AND PROFESSIONS OF FAITH, WITH MORE TO COME. CHURCHES LARGE AND SMALL HAVE ENGAGED IN BRIDGING EVENTS AND REAPING EVANGELISTIC SERIES.

Nampa

Bill McClendon, North Pacific Union vice president for administration, spoke at meetings held at Nampa Church, which resulted in many baptisms.

Ann moved onto her father-in-law's property. She and Don, her father-in-law, talked about the Bible and topics such as the Sabbath. When Don received a flyer in the mail for Prophecies of Hope, he shared it with Ann. She and two of her teen children decided to go. By the end of the meetings, Ann joined the church family by profession of faith and her daughter was baptized. Don has attended church with them.

Mindy, a member, couldn't attend the evening meetings, but on Sabbath, a card response asked for those who wanted to be baptized or rebaptized. Mindy checked that she wanted to be rebaptized. She was baptized when she was young but then walked away from God. Recently, she has felt a need to change her life and return to God. She is looking forward to being rebaptized soon.

Cloverdale

At Cloverdale Church, Marlon Seifert, pastor, presented nightly meetings for a week, and then moved to a weekly format. During the first week, the sewer backed up, but they were able to move the meetings to their community center, HUB 365. The devil tried but God still won.

Teri has been witnessing to her family members and recently started giving her son-in-law, Marc, Bible studies. Teri was baptized after attending evangelistic meetings in 2022. Seifert met with Teri and Marc as they studied the Bible to answer any questions, and he invited Marc to this year's meetings.

Marc and Jessica, his wife, attended all the meetings and expressed a desire to be baptized. Marc had been invited to church before and had been interested in being baptized, but for one reason or another, never followed through. This time, he made his decision and would not let anything discourage him. The following Sabbath, Marc and Jessica were baptized.

Marc's story shows the benefits of having evangelistic meetings every year.

One year, his mother-in-law was baptized, and he had attended a few nights of other meetings, but this most recent one was the one that caused him to finally make his decision for Jesus.

Payette and Weiser

Payette Church and Weiser Church had meetings presented by Michael Mirra, their pastor. As the meetings at Payette Church finished, Samantha, a young lady with a Mormon and Baptist background, joined the church by profession of faith. She had been previously baptized by immersion but accepted the new truths she heard at each presentation. She spoke of how welcoming the church was to her.

Samantha was invited by the Brown family. Rebecca Brown and her son, Ryman, joined the church through the Great Reset series in 2023. They were very helpful during the series, along with D. Brown, who, although not joining church membership, was also very encouraging throughout the series.

Marc and Jessica are baptized as a result of the meetings at Cloverdale Church.

Bill McClendon, NPUC vice president for administration, speaks at Nampa Church meetings.





Tim Roosenberg, evangelist, presents at Emmett Church.



Guests and members at Emmett Church listen to the evangelistic series.



Cheri Gatton, Parma Church pastor, presents her first meeting series, Forecasting Hope.



Bill McClendon, NPUC vice president for administration, greets Nampa Church meeting attendees.

Additional Locations

Cheri Gatton, Parma Church bi-vocational pastor, led a heartfelt series of meetings that resulted in three baptisms—a testament to her faithful witness. Among those baptized was Tonya, who had been attending the church for some time. A member of a nearby church faithfully brought her to each meeting. She was baptized during the series, followed by a father and son who made their decision the next Sabbath.

Salmon Church has a membership of 100. James Farber, pastor, reported they are hosting a MindFit series as a bridge event to meetings they will hold later in the year.

Ontario Church in Oregon held a MindFit series and a revival series with Dan Gerard. This small church with a membership of 53 serves a town that has more than a dozen marijuana dispensaries. Todd Parker, pastor, shared that they had several members from the community attend the MindFit series and are looking forward to continuing their relationship with those guests.

Emmett Church hosted Tim Roosenberg, evangelist, with his Islam and Christianity series. Several community members attended. Starting the second meeting, two nightly meetings were held, with a light meal in between. The first meetings were a repeat of the previous night. The second meetings had the new subject. Follow-up continues with those who attended.

Peter Simpson, Idaho Falls Church pastor, began weekly meetings at his church in January. So far this year, this church of about 150 has had seven baptisms. One of them was a Pathfinder whom the Adventurer director had been working with for a few years. Pathfinders and Adventurers are a great avenue of evangelism.

Hispanic

Idaho Hispanic churches and companies have held several meetings already this year, with more to come. While all the baptisms haven't been reported yet, Gerald Margil, Hispanic ministries coordinator, initially reported 33 baptisms to date. Read

more about the evangelistic series from Peter Simpson, NPUC vice president for Hispanic ministries and ministerial director, on pages 18–19 of this issue.

Haxel Fley, Southeast Idaho Hispanic district part-time pastor, has held meetings in Idaho Falls and Heyburn. There have been at least four baptisms as a result, with more to come.

Out of the 49 churches and companies in Idaho Conference, plus a couple of unofficial groups, 26 congregations had planned to participate in Pentecost 2025. Idaho Conference is excited to see what God has in store for the rest of the year!



EVE RUSK
*Idaho Conference
communication director*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-ID-64 

Hispanic churches and companies in the Treasure Valley work together to present meetings at Meridian Church.



Marlon Seifert, Cloverdale Church pastor, presents meetings at HUB 365, the church's community center.



Mount Ellis Alumnus Appreciates Community

ANAS AND WAFAA, A PALESTINIAN COUPLE WITH DEEP ROOTS IN THEIR FAITH AND CULTURE, FOUND THEMSELVES ON AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY THAT LED THEM TO BOZEMAN, MONTANA.

Anas, physician, and Wafaa, dentist, both share a story marked by resilience, hope and love—qualities that resonate deeply with the message found in 1 Cor. 13:13: “And these three remain: faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.”

As a 15-year-old Palestinian exchange student, Anas set out on a path that would take him away from his home, family and country and lead him to an unexpected awareness of a new world that offered hope, opportunity and community.

In 2010–2011, he attended Mount Ellis Academy where he discovered a close-knit community. “School was like a family. Faculty and community families strengthened these relationships,” he recalled.

Being a Muslim in a Christian school allowed him to see the commonalities, devotion and community service that stem from religious values. Anas fondly recalls Sabbath afternoons spent in different church members’ homes eating good food, visiting and deepening relationships.

After breaking his leg skiing, Anas experienced firsthand the value of being part of a close-knit community. The support he received from his host family, teachers, church members and classmates who helped him left an indelible impression.

Following his injury and subsequent surgery, Anas remembers Darren Wilkins,

former MEA principal, sitting with him in his hospital room offering encouragement and support. This experience deeply impacted Anas and led to his dedication to service and his patients.

This same community drew him and his wife to return to Bozeman. Expecting their first child and unable to return home to Gaza due to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, they knew they wanted to bring their son into the world surrounded by family and community.

Without having formed any connections yet in the United Kingdom where Anas is pursuing his doctorate in population health studies, the decision was easy. Anas and Wafaa returned to Bozeman for several months to stay with their American family for the birth of their son before returning to the U.K. where Anas will complete his doctorate.

Today, Anas and Wafaa hope to pass on the values of faith, hope and love to their child—a testament to the enduring impact of MEA and the community that embraced them. Their story is a reminder that love truly is the greatest of all, capable of bridging divides and building a brighter future.

Anas leaves us with this final message of encouragement: “Always have faith that things can go in the right direction. Take care of what you can control. I can’t stop

the war in Gaza, but there are things that I can control. I can do well in my job. I can continue my education. I can help others and give a helping hand in whatever way I can. Be a part of a community. You don’t really know what kind of opportunities God can open up just by you being a part of a community.”



KEBRINA VINGLAS
*Mount Ellis Academy
development and alumni
relations director*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-MT-10



BIBLE READINGS for *August* 2025

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Acts 18:19–28	2
3 1 Cor. 1–4	4 1 Cor. 5–8	5 1 Cor. 9–11	6 1 Cor. 12–16	7 Philemon	8 2 Corinthians	9
10 Rom. 1–7	11 Rom. 8–16	12 Acts 19–28	13 Jude	14 Colossians	15 Ephesians	16
17 Philippians	18 1 Timothy	19 Titus	20 1 Peter	21 Hebrews	22 2 Peter	23
24 2 Timothy 31 Rev. 14–22	25 1 John	26 2 John	27 3 John	28 Rev. 1–7	29 Rev. 8–13	30

Find the complete 2025 reading plan online now by scanning the QR Code or visiting the link to the right.

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/120-1-BLE-61



Solidarity Wall Creates Opportunity for Encouragement and Connection

"IF YOU COULD SAY ONE ENCOURAGING THING TO A SURVIVOR OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, WHAT WOULD IT BE? WRITE IT ON THE WALL."

On the University of Oregon campus, thanks in part to the Storyline Church community and North Pacific Union, more than 20 volunteers spent several days connecting with students and staff through the Solidarity Wall, a project back for the first time since the pandemic.

The Solidarity Wall is a four-sided, 12-foot by 8-foot black structure where anyone passing by can stop and write a message of support and encouragement for survivors. "You are more than what happened to you," encouraged one message.

"We had volunteers positioned around the area and down the street a little passing out love letters. Each love letter was a message of God's hope and love but worded for a secular campus," shared Jess Berwick, Storyline Church member.

"We were passing out these letters on the sidewalks," said Berwick. "A lot of students were happy to receive them, but even the ones who didn't want them were super polite. Almost everyone took a letter. You would see them open the letter up as they were walking away, and you'd see them stop. It was like something that they had read resonated with them. Some of the volunteers even shared that some would stop and turn to look back before they left."

"Several students came back and said, 'I wanted to say thank you for the letter you gave me. I really needed to hear that.' A lot of students were very open and shared with us," shared Berwick. "I heard a lot of stories from people who had survived sexual assault and others who were just

very supportive. Even staff members came by. There were just a lot of people deeply affected by it, and so many that said, 'Thank you for being here.'"

"They just needed someone to listen," said Berwick. "They didn't need advice, just someone to listen. And that was really impactful for me."

Although their mission was simply to show love and support to their community, Berwick said their group got a lot of curious questions about their church. "There were several staff members and students who would ask us, 'Who are you guys?' We would tell them, 'We're Storyline, but we're not here to get people to come to our church. We're just wanting to come out here to show support and love. So many students told us how much they appreciated us doing that, because their experiences with churches had been that they only showed up to try to get people to come to their church.'"

"When you show people love, you're showing them God," said Berwick. "Because God is love. You don't have to say his name in every single conversation, because ultimately, it's God, not us, who is responsible for someone's salvation. That's between God and the person, and He can do amazing things. He can do so much better than we can, and He knows what He's doing. All we need to do is be willing to be His hands and feet and to share His love."



A student leaves a note on the Solidarity Wall.



Solidarity Wall team members spend several days connecting with students and staff through the project.



KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference
digital content specialist

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-OR-63

Prayer Conference Encourages Prayers of Gratitude

IN LATE MARCH, NEARLY A HUNDRED PEOPLE ENJOYED A THREE-DAY JOURNEY OF PRAYER, REFLECTION AND COMMUNITY REVIVAL AT OREGON PRAYER CONFERENCE.

Held annually at Twin Rocks Friends Camp and Conference Center in Rockaway Beach, the event is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with friends and develop a deeper relationship with God and a stronger prayer life.

Richard Davidson, Andrews University Theological Seminary senior research professor of Old Testament interpretation, led this year's presentations. Davidson has served as a professor at the school since 1979, served as Adventist Theological Society president and spent many years as Andrews University Old Testament department chair.

Davidson's broad biblical knowledge and deep study of prayer made him an

excellent choice for the event. Many came away with a renewed enthusiasm for prayer.

"Davidson led the group in Christ-centered, sanctuary-focused reflections on a central doctrine for Adventists," shared John McVay, Oregon Conference president. "He taught us how to pray in a sanctuary-inspired pattern that encourages deep gratitude to God for the gospel. I was blessed."

Next year's prayer conference is already in the planning stages. Watch for more details later this year. Scan the story QR Code to read a reflection from photographer, Dick Duerksen, and to see more photos and moments.

DICK DUERKSEN



Richard Davidson, prayer conference guest speaker, teaches attendees how to pray in a sanctuary-inspired pattern.



KALEB EISELE
*Oregon Conference
digital content specialist*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-4-OR-67](https://www.nwadventist.org/120-4-OR-67)

Learn more at www.OregonAdventist.org



Join us for a time of rest, renewal, and reconnection.



Featured speakers this year include Ty Gibson, and George Knight.

Together
in
Christ

GLADSTONE CAMP MEETING
JULY 22-26, 2025

YOUTH



PATHFINDERS HELP PREP FOR CAMP MEETING

ON MAY 4, more than 100 Pathfinders, staff and parents from 10 clubs came together to prepare Gladstone Park Conference Center for this year's camp meeting.

Pathfinders certainly were "going on God's errands" as they worked tirelessly to ensure the campgrounds were ready for camp meeting. They weeded flowerbeds, trimmed trees and blackberry bushes, planted new trees, cleaned bathrooms, scrubbed all the outdoor tables and chairs, cleaned the Snack Shack and blew off the Holden Center parking lot.

"They were outstanding!" enthused Athena Gray, Oregon Conference events coordinator. "The Pathfinders' efforts brought beauty back to the campgrounds!"

Dedication and commitment to service were on display all day. They not only helped prepare the campgrounds physically, but also helped foster a sense of unity and collaboration. Their contribution is a testament to the power of collective effort and the importance of community involvement in making events successful. Thank you, Pathfinders!

JACKEE DUVALL
Oregon Conference
Pathfinder club ministries
executive coordinator



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-OR-69

Volunteer Lay Pastor Revives Dwindling Church

IN 2023, OREGON CONFERENCE ESTABLISHED THE VOLUNTEER LAY PASTORS MINISTRY TO ENCOURAGE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF BOTH CONGREGATIONS AND MEN AND WOMEN WHO FEEL CALLED TO VOLUNTEER PASTORAL MINISTRY.

Since then, the Oregon Conference Latino-Hispanic department has launched this ministry in the Hispanic congregations of Canby, Newberg, Independence, Kelso-Longview and The Dalles, with five extraordinary men who have accepted the call to serve these churches.

Each of these five congregations and five men has a wonderful story to tell about how God has blessed them abundantly. Here's the story of the Hispanic congregation of The Dalles Spanish Company.

For years, The Dalles Spanish Company had been the smallest congregation in the Hispanic district of Hood River. In 2020, due to the pandemic and later the lack of a suitable and consistent place to worship, attendance decreased considerably. It was thought the best option might be to merge its few attendees with Hood River Spanish Church.

However, the Lord had a better plan: to call a volunteer lay pastor to take care of that small group of believers. This is how Miguel García's ministry began.

García previously served as an elder at Hood River Spanish Church. The leadership and the hard work of García and his family, along with tremendous support from Nick Gosney, The Dalles Church pastor, and his leaders, have been blessed by God.

Where it once seemed a small group of Adventists might disappear, more than 50 people now gather every Sabbath afternoon in the beautiful church of The Dalles, enjoying views of Mount Hood and the Columbia River while they worship the Lord!

Thank you, García and family! Thank you, Nick Gosney and church leaders! Thank You, Lord, for manifesting Your glory in this beautiful part of Oregon Conference!



DAVID PACZKA
Oregon Conference
Hispanic ministries
director

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-OR-66



MISSION AND OUTREACH

Big Lake Expeditions Takes Leadership Training to Nepal

SINCE 2009, A PARTNERSHIP HAS GROWN BETWEEN SEVERAL MEMBERS OF OREGON CONFERENCE AND THE VILLAGE OF KUMARI IN NEPAL.

Some may have learned of the unfolding story from the documentary *Kumari: A Father's Dream*, which was selected as a finalist at Banff International Film Festival in 2022. This spring, the team at Big Lake Expeditions and the Common Ground Church plant partnered to return to Kumari once again.

"Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world," shared Les Zollbrecht, Big Lake Youth Camp and Big Lake Expeditions director. "A lot of people we work with and employ through these expeditions don't have much in the way of sustainable, life-giving work other than what we can bring in. So, when we bring in an expedition, we do everything we can to intentionally hire local and think about how we work with people, making sure everything we do is giving life to the community and we're treating people well."

According to National Library of Medicine, around 30% of people in Nepal survive on less than \$1.25 per day. Access to quality medical services remains one of the greatest needs in the country. Together, Big Lake Expeditions and their partners have helped fund and facilitate the construction of a local medical clinic, a major road and access to electricity, sustainable jobs and education in the village of Kumari.

"We're constantly revisiting how we engage with the community," said Zollbrecht. "How are we doing the things we do? What are the best ethics for how we work with local guides, porters and others in the area?"

In addition to the community development and relief efforts, the Big Lake Expeditions team aims to train strong and compassionate leaders through intensive mountaineering experience.

"The beauty of mountaineering is that you don't have winners and losers. The whole team wins together," said Zollbrecht. "When you get up to the pass, there are significant winds. It's cold. People are struggling. It's the highest elevation most people have been to besides the guides."

"No one is jumping ahead to get to the summit first—we do it together," said Zollbrecht. "That, to me, is such a powerful metaphor for what true leadership is. We win as a team, and when we struggle, we're going to struggle together. We don't leave anyone behind."

"I think a lot of people want to be part of a healthy culture, but they don't know how to do that very well," Zollbrecht continued. "Having the chance to go and have this deep connection with the people you're walking with all day long, hanging out with in the evenings, listening to their stories and doing really hard things together is huge. For many, it's the hardest thing they've ever done in their lives, but it's also so rewarding."

"You find a community that's all in for you. Everybody is willing to fill the gap because that's what healthy leadership is, and here everyone is a leader. Everybody has influence," said Zollbrecht. "I think that's what a lot of people come to find—the value of a healthy culture in one of the most beautiful places on earth."



KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference
digital content specialist

More online at 
[NWADVENT.ST/120-4-OR-65](https://nwadvent.st/120-4-or-65)

LES ZOLLBRECHT



The Big Lake Expeditions team treks near Manaslu in Annapurna National Park, Nepal.

JONATHAN SCHWAB



The expedition to Nepal combines leadership training and mentorship with local community development.

CHURCH

Roseburg Church Project Inspires Photographer's Journey

IN OCTOBER 2023, ROSEBURG BETTER LIFE CHURCH DECIDED TO CREATE A PHOTO DIRECTORY, UNAWARE OF THE IMPACT IT WOULD HAVE BEYOND JUST CAPTURING PHOTOS.

MELONY COLEMAN



Katy celebrates the new life ahead of her.

The photography company the church chose sent Katy, a talented, vibrant, smiley photographer from across the country, to spend three days capturing photos of church members. She quickly connected with members, making everyone feel special and beautiful.

The church welcomed her with a mini Oregon mug and a copy of *The Great Controversy*. Katy had always felt a deep connection to Jesus, and one night when she read through *The Great Controversy*, she couldn't put it down.

The pastor's wife quickly developed a special bond with Katy, leading them to exchange contact information. Their friendship grew through text messages and

rich conversations about the Bible. When she went home, Katy shared her excitement about the book and her experience with the congregation with her husband.

That autumn, Roseburg Church hosted an evangelistic series led by Brian McMahon, which Katy and her husband watched via livestream. A year later, the church held another evangelistic series with Louis Torres. Katy and her husband again eagerly attended each night via livestream.

On the evening of the baptism invitation, she texted her request to be baptized. However, plans to connect her with a local pastor in her area were interrupted when her husband became gravely ill and tragically passed away.

As Katy navigated her trauma, connecting with an area church didn't happen. This February, McMahon returned to Roseburg Church for another series of meetings, and the pastor's wife, who had stayed in contact with Katy, invited her to attend again via livestream.

Katy was so excited to attend another one of McMahon's seminars, and she eagerly attended every night online. When the baptismal call came, she eagerly sent her request via text. This time, arrangements were made for her to come to Roseburg Church for the baptismal Sabbath.

The moment was incredibly special for both Katy and Roseburg Church. After two years of prayer and connection, on March 8, Katy, along with a group of others, was baptized. Although she doesn't reside in the area, she remains an active member, attending weekly Sabbath services and Sabbath School online and Bible study groups via Zoom.

God used a church's need for a photo directory to reach a precious soul. Katy is an incredibly talented photographer with an even more amazing story of how Jesus hugged her tight through life's trials and trauma and how He never let her go.



MELONY COLEMAN
Roseburg Church member

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-OR-08

YOUTH

Dozens Certified in Children's Ministries at Fortaleza Salem

SALEM SPANISH CHURCH, ALSO KNOWN AS FORTALEZA SALEM, RECENTLY CELEBRATED A MILESTONE: NEARLY 60 MEMBERS RECEIVING THEIR NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CERTIFICATION.

"When my wife and I were dating, an older pastoral couple told us, 'If you want to have a healthy church, work with the children,'" shared Walter Ramos, Fortaleza Salem pastor.

"Children bring parents and grandparents, uncles and aunts, siblings and friends," he continued. "Everyone works to support children in a family, so when you take good care of kids, you have the whole family working with you. We want our church to be a big family. If you want that big family to be healthy, you work to make individual families healthy, and children are the most important part!"

To rally the community behind this mission, Ramos said much of the turnout can be credited to the hard work of two women: Dina, his wife, and Silvia Sanchez-Vazquez, church ministry director.

"We presented the idea to everyone, and they liked the plan. However, people will often say yes to something like this and then not show up," shared Ramos. "But Silvia is tremendous when it comes to logistics. She called everyone. Thanks to her, only about 25% of people dropped out. We started with around 80 people interested and ended up with 58 people graduating from the program!"

Dina's education and training also played a major role in the experience. "I've always been a motivator and presented ideas in every church we've worked," continued Ramos, "but I married a

children's expert. She has a degree and is an expert in early childhood education, so she develops the plan. She's fundamental to this, and she and Silvia made a great team!"

"A church that prioritizes children is a church that doesn't prevent children from coming to Jesus," said Dina. "It's a church where children can participate just like adults."

"That's the culture we want—a place where children can preach, lead worship and be leaders to carry out the mission, not just one where they're taking in information," she shared. "Instead, they can take in, give and grow. That's a church where children are the priority. Not only are the leaders being trained to accompany the child, but the child is being trained to be an active part of the church."

For those in churches that do not currently have any children, Ramos has this advice: "Even if you don't have children attending now, prepare yourselves to care for children in your church."

"Train your adults to serve children, because sometimes the reason families with kids don't stay is that the other adults don't have the patience or understanding to relate to them," Ramos elaborated. "They

DINA RAMOS



Nearly 60 members of Fortaleza Salem receive Children's Ministries Certification.

never prepared. Like the farmer who plows the land in the summer to plant when the rains come, you must prepare the land before the planting and rain."

KALEB EISELE

Oregon Conference digital content specialist

DESIREE RINZA

Oregon Conference communication assistant



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-4-OR-72](https://nwadvent.st/120-4-OR-72) 

Spring Women's Retreat Hits Record Enrollment

WOMEN OF ALL AGES ENJOYED A RESTORATIVE DAY OF WORSHIP AT UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE WOMEN'S AND YOUNG WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT HELD ON MAY 3. THIS YEAR'S THEME, "CRAFTED BY GRACE," EMPHASIZED GOD'S ABUNDANT GRACE-FILLED PLAN FOR OUR LIVES.

PHOTOS BY PATTY MARSH



More than 160 women attend the retreat.

The assembly room was jam-packed with more than 160 women in attendance, representing more than 40 different churches and including several non-Adventist community members. Those who attended the event appreciated beautiful music, stirring speakers, fresh food, handmade artwork and a welcoming community of women.

Keynote speaker Jean Boonstra, Voice of Prophecy associate speaker and Discovery Mountain radio show creator, shared powerful personal stories highlighting grace, as well as how empathy acts as an antidote to shame. Additional guest speakers included Shauna Cruttenden, Bonners Ferry Community Thrift Center manager and treasurer; Heidi Jones, hospice chaplain; and Cindy Williams, UCC health ministries coordinator.

"We invited Boonstra to speak in 2021, but, due to the pandemic, that ended up being online instead, which was still such a

blessing," said Patty Marsh, UCC director of women's ministries. "It was a delight to have Boonstra with us in person this year and with one of her daughters as well!"

Special music for the weekend was provided by several talented musicians, including Olga Grigoryan, cellist, accompanied by Tatiana Sirotinskaya, pianist, as well as Sarah Droze, vocalist, accompanied by Ellen Tupper. Worship throughout the day also included musical praise led by Tracy Ganson, Jenni Won and Michelle Carlile.

"We prayed for a good attendance and should not have been surprised by how quickly people signed up," said Wendy Urbin, UCC women's ministries administrative assistant, "and for a good number of attendees, this was their first year attending."

With record-high enrollment for this one-day retreat, registration closed two weeks early due to limitations on space. The women's ministries team worked hard



Jean Boonstra, keynote speaker, shares powerful personal stories highlighting God's grace.

to find ways to squeeze more people in and was able to invite every person on the wait list to still attend.

One community guest who has attended for the last two years said, "I loved every portion of this special day! I am so glad that I came and I'm looking forward to next year. Thank you so much!"

Gratitude was echoed by many other attendees. "I felt seen," said another woman, "and that was exactly what I needed right now."

More information regarding upcoming UCC women's retreats and other initiatives can be found at uccsda.org/womensministries.



ISAAC MEYTHALER
Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
coordinator

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-UC-79

Marsh Retires After 25 Years of Service

PATTY MARSH, UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES, CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES, URBAN MINISTRIES, DISASTER RELIEF AND ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES, ANNOUNCED HER RETIREMENT IN MAY AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AT UCC.

When announcing her retirement, Marsh acknowledged the numerous people she has been privileged to work alongside throughout her career.

"Anything valuable that has been accomplished during this time is because I have worked with other talented individuals. Much can be accomplished when we collaborate!" said Marsh.

Before working at UCC, Marsh was a full-time mother and an active member of her local church, volunteering with women's ministries, ACS and teaching Sabbath School for several decades.

In 1992, Marsh took a position at Upper Columbia Academy, initially working in communications, tutoring and alumni relations before serving as registrar until 2000. Then, in 2008, Marsh returned to UCC as a ministry director. Marsh brought a vision for expanding community outreach in UCC, as well as developing a robust disaster response program.

"When I first began as a UCC director, I lamented to my husband that I was concerned about being bored because my job description was only a half page. I need not have worried—the job description now encompasses several pages!" said Marsh with a smile.

In time, God opened the door for Marsh to engage in an ambassador role, especially in the Spokane area. Opportunities opened for Marsh to attend council meetings, board meetings and engage with other non-profits connected with communities in the conference. Over time, Marsh has built relationships with city officials, religious leaders and philanthropists, representing what

Adventist churches are currently doing and identifying areas where churches can meet community needs.

"ACS is an external ministry; we build relationships with the community and let Jesus shine through," said Marsh.

A passionate pioneer of community outreach for the conference, Marsh has debuted several programs and initiatives during her service, including the development of UCC's urban ministries department, Renew Spokane, His Travelers, S.T.E.A.M. Ahead, VBS in the Park and the yearly Children's Leadership Expo. Throughout her years of dedication, Marsh has secured millions of dollars' worth of grants to support conference initiatives.

"Little did I realize that training in the area of writing taken early in my new position would be of great assistance—we've been able to do so much more because of the grant funds God has brought our way," said Marsh.

Marsh began the UCC urban ministries program, which has so far primarily focused on addressing the large urban population of Spokane. Because urban populations are largely secular or unchurched and have different needs than other areas in the conference, urban ministry requires a different approach. Better Living Center has been one of the key focal points of urban ministry in Spokane.

Marsh and her husband, Larry, plan to spend more time with their children and grandchildren and look forward to having more time to appreciate God's creation. Marsh still plans to be active in her community during her retirement.



Patty Marsh, retiring UCC director of women's ministries, children's ministries, urban ministries, disaster relief and Adventist Community Services

Marsh shared, "With faith, openness to new methods in meeting the needs of our ever-changing world and courage to face inevitable challenges, there is no limit to what God can do through us!"

ISAAC MEYTHALER
*Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator*



More online at 
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-UC-89

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Good News Broadcasting Network Purchases He's Alive Broadcasting

THERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE LIVING NEAR SPOKANE AND COEUR D'ALENE. SINCE MAY 2, A NEW TELEVISION BROADCAST IS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE WITH A DIGITAL ANTENNA. THE NEW BROADCAST IS A RESULT OF THE RECENT PURCHASE OF HE'S ALIVE BROADCASTING BY GOOD NEWS BROADCASTING NETWORK, BASED IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA.

"This is fantastic news for anyone living in the Spokane area," said Dustin Jones, Upper Columbia Conference communications director. "Our community will continue to hear a message of hope and wholeness from a variety of Adventist content creators."

The deal has been in the works for more than a year following the decision of the He's Alive Broadcasting board of directors to sell off its assets in 2023. As a board member, Jones took on the responsibility of facilitating the sale and contacted several Adventist broadcasting networks to see if there was any interest in purchasing He's Alive Broadcasting.

"After a discussion with Luke Skelton, GNBC president, I knew we had found a partner that could bring fresh vision and content into the Adventist broadcast in the Spokane area," said Jones. "I am very excited about the future of GNBC in this region."

GNBN has grown from a single English television channel broadcasting in Phoenix, Arizona, in 2009 to four channels—English, Spanish, children's and nature/music—broadcasting on 14 television stations in four states. These

communities have a total population size of more than 11 million people.

GNBN delivers a balanced variety of the highest-quality, compelling Bible-based Christian programs for all ages that inspire vibrant physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. It leads viewers to a personal, saving relationship with the loving Savior and further encourages continued spiritual growth and Christian service.

"Based on our analysis over the last five years, churches in areas where we broadcast experience a considerable increase in souls being saved due to the ministry," said Skelton. "Furthermore, viewers are more likely to become strong Christians who understand the Bible, want to become active in their church and help their community. They want to share their faith with others. It's exciting to be impacting the lives of so many in our communities!"

The broadcast in the Spokane region will include Good News TV, Good News TV Latino, Good News TV Kids and Good News TV Music. For more information on this new outreach, please see gnbn.com.



Dustin Jones (left), UCC communications director, and Luke Skelton (right), GNBC president, shake hands.



ISAAC MEYTHALER
Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
coordinator

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-UC-70

Pathfinders Climb Courageously

SUSPENDED 60 FEET OFF THE GROUND, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING HOLDING YOU UP: TRUST. SPIRITUAL LESSONS IN FAITH LIKE THIS WERE EXPERIENCED FIRST-HAND BY TEENS AT THIS YEAR'S UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE PATHFINDER TEEN EXTREME ROCK CLIMBING EVENT, HELD APRIL 25-27.

This year saw a large increase in attendance, with 70 teens and 44 adult staff for a total group of 114, representing 17 UCC Pathfinder clubs.

"God provided in miraculous ways and our team really stepped in to make it possible to accommodate the larger group. Rather than controlled chaos, the weekend was characterized by a spirit of enthusiasm, camaraderie and encouragement," said Sara Maniscalco, UCC Teen Extreme Rock Climbing coordinator.

Pathfinders began arriving at Spokane Valley Adventist School on Friday afternoon for registration and supper. The rest of the evening included group icebreaker activities, worship and fundamental climbing safety. By the end of the evening, everyone was fitted for their gear for the weekend and excited to start climbing the next day.

Sarah Thomas, climbing instructor, spoke during the weekend's worships on the event's theme of courage, challenging teens to have the courage to trust and follow God and to speak courage into the lives of others.

"Our goal for the weekend is spiritual and personal growth; rock climbing offers an incredible opportunity to talk about faith, courage, encouragement and prayer," said Maniscalco.

After worship on Sabbath, Pathfinders headed out to McLellan Rocks in Riverside State Park in north Spokane. In the morning, Pathfinders rotated through stations, focusing on learning skills needed for the afternoon: the foundations of rock climbing; rappelling and belaying; how to use anchors and tools; and a trust fall. In the afternoon, Pathfinders rappelled down rock walls, completed Prussiks and did a horizontal traverse.

To complete a Prussik, climbers use lanyards with Prussik knots to ascend a 30-foot rope, then meticulously descend the same rope in reverse. The Prussik challenges a climber's strength, flexibility and endurance, valuable skills for climbers.

"There were many shorter rappels available, but the 'Big Rappel' involved a 60-foot rappel off an overhang where the climber ends up free hanging in midair away from the rock wall," said Maniscalco, "talk about trust!"

After a full afternoon of climbing, Pathfinders enjoyed a hearty meal, evening worship and free time to socialize.

Sunday morning, Pathfinders cleaned up and packed up basecamp at SVAS before heading out for a final day of climbing at Q'emiln Park in Post Falls, Idaho. Pathfinders took turns climbing and belaying each other, spread out across 17 ropes on two side-by-side rock walls.

UCC Teen Extreme regularly offers rock climbing, caving and mountain biking events. UCC has held Teen Extreme events since 2004. Rick Pummel, former UCC Pathfinder lead events coordinator, started the events after being inspired by similar events he had helped coordinate in Oregon Conference.

For more information on upcoming Pathfinder events, see uccsda.org/pathfinders.



ISAAC MEYTHALER
Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
coordinator

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-UC-90

JARED MEHARRY



Teens gear up to climb.

DANIKA REESE



Brave Pathfinders go down the "Big Rappel," 60 feet above the ground, hanging in midair part of the way down.

RICK PUMMEL



Rock climbing gives Pathfinders a tangible test of their trust.

Wenatchee Church Opens Garden for Community

COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN WENATCHEE NOW HAVE A PLACE TO GROW THEIR OWN FOOD, THANKS TO WENATCHEE CHURCH.

The community garden, called The Edge, is more than just a community garden; it's a shift in perspective based on Lev. 19:9-10: "When you harvest, leave the edges for those who are poor and aliens." This simple yet profound idea speaks to the importance of leaving room for others.

In a world often consumed by scarcity and isolation, The Edge serves as a powerful reminder that generosity can turn barren spaces into places of connection, growth and hope. "The Edge began with the idea that if the edges of our properties, our time and our lives were surrounded by generosity, then hunger and isolation would diminish," said Troy Fitzgerald, Wenatchee Church pastor.

Fitzgerald first began The Edge in 2014 at Walla Walla Valley Academy, where it operated for three years. In 2021, work began on a new garden across the street from Walla Walla University Church. When Fitzgerald moved to Wenatchee in 2024, he brought The Edge idea with him.

The Wenatchee project began with a locally funded garden behind Avamere Retirement Center, transforming a vacant plot of land into a flourishing community garden.

As roots in the garden grew deeper, so did interactions between residents, their families and volunteers. One resident shared with a volunteer how the garden has given them hope while going through difficult changes. Students from a nearby college also heard about the garden and soon began coming by to pick vegetables they couldn't afford otherwise.

One volunteer shared how residents often stopped to chat, reminiscing about their own gardening experiences. "It's a beautiful thing," she said. "This garden brings everyone together."

"My favorite story from the garden is when I found Hector, a local taco vendor, quietly gathering ingredients for his business from the garden," said Fitzgerald. "When I said hello, Hector nervously explained how he was trying to make ends meet and how his kids needed shoes and school supplies. He said he didn't want to take too much. I listened and reassured him that this garden was made for moments like this, leaving room for a little more."

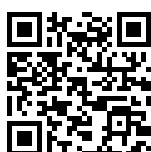
Hector's story reflects the heart of The Edge's mission: It's not about who benefits more or less; it's about creating space for others to thrive, whether through a fresh meal, a moment of relief or the simple joy of connection.

"The Edge is a living reminder that when we leave room for others, life flourishes—not just in soil, but in our hearts and communities," said Fitzgerald. "In these last months, I've been amazed to watch generosity, connection and joy grow in ways I could never imagine."

Serving one's community is very much a part of the Serve One More project at Upper Columbia Conference. If you would like to join the mission to serve one more, either by volunteering, donating or simply sharing the harvest, see serveonemore.org.

ISAAC MEYTHALER

*Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator*



RICHIE BROWER
*Upper Columbia
Conference Serve One
More associate director*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-UC-61

PHOTOS BY TROY FITZGERALD



Volunteers of all ages generously contribute to the community garden.



The Edge is quickly growing to be a community gathering place.



The once barren land behind Avamere Retirement Center now hosts a lush and colorful garden.

YOUTH

Teen Pathfinders Serve All Nations in Wapato

FIFTY-FIVE PATHFINDERS AND THEIR LEADERS FROM AROUND UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE TRAVELED TO ALL NATIONS CENTER CHURCH THE LAST WEEK OF MARCH FOR TEEN PATHFINDER MISSION ADVENTURE.

ANC is a small congregation that reaches out to the diverse population living on the Yakama Reservation. Pathfinders and their leaders provided amazing support to the church and community, serving in a variety of ways with cheerful attitudes.

When asked why they chose to spend spring break in Wapato, Washington, many Pathfinders said, "I want to serve others."

Throughout the week, Pathfinders were divided into six teams with adult leaders. Several teams worked around the church. Some were tasked with painting inside and outside the church. Others were involved in landscaping activities, such as weeding and laying ground cover.

Other teams went out into the surrounding community to serve. Activities included helping nine elderly Native American families in the Satus area clean their yards and surrounding land, painting two rural fire stations in Sawyer and Brownstown, washing vehicles at a nursing home, picking up trash and painting over graffiti in Wapato, helping the Toppenish Cultural Center library fill more than 60 extra-large bags with leaves and pine needles from raking their grounds,

as well as cleaning the baseball diamond at Toppenish Native American School.

In addition to committing their spring break to serving others and paying for their trip, these teens also committed to having less than two hours a day with their phones. As the week progressed, Pathfinders made new friends and found other ways to spend time away from their phones. One evening, they were so involved with their new friends and activities like volleyball, singing and games that they forgot to pick up their cell phones!

The Pathfinders were led by an amazing group of 26 leaders. Leaders accompanied their teams on projects and taught the teens many skills from gardening to painting.

Every day, the group met for morning and evening worship in the ANC sanctuary. The evening speaker for the week was Jake Wilkinson, pastor, who led the group on a journey of discovering God's amazing promises.

On Sabbath, ANC was privileged to hear Pathfinders share their gifts of music as they led the congregation in song. That afternoon, the six teams – dressed in

their new purple TPMA shirts – divided Wapato into six areas. Altogether, they distributed 576 copies of *The Great Controversy* and a free health magazine in both English and Spanish.

A survey was also included in the packet asking how the church could be of service to the community. From the survey, 27 people showed interest in Bible study. Each person contacted by Pathfinders was open to receiving prayer.

The ANC congregation is very thankful for the work these young people and their leaders accomplished in a week. This TPMA trip – totaling more than 2,800 man-hours – has helped build community trust and inspired those who live in Wapato to reach out in new ways to connect with the people who live on the Yakama Reservation.



TAMA SHEPARD
All Nations Center
Church correspondent

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-4-UC-00](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/120-4-uc-00)

Pathfinders work to landscape All Nations Center.



A Pathfinder gives the church sign a fresh coat of paint.



Teenagers clean up the grounds of Toppenish Cultural Center.



Prison Ministries Introduces Inmates to Gospel

FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, WASHINGTON CONFERENCE PRISON MINISTRIES HAS BROUGHT THE GOSPEL BEHIND BARS, OFFERING HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST. TODAY, THE MINISTRY IS ACTIVE IN FIVE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES, AND WHILE THE WORK ISN'T ALWAYS EASY, THE IMPACT IS UNDENIABLE.

"Prison ministries isn't just about visiting inmates," said Floyd Marshall, Washington Conference prison ministries coordinator. "It's about letting them know that no matter their past, God's love reaches them right where they are. Many of them tell us, 'I've been set free behind bars.' And when you hear that, you know the Holy Spirit is at work."

Each facility has its own structure, but the goal remains the same — to introduce people to Jesus. Some prisons allow for weekly Friday night gatherings, while others open their doors two Sabbaths a month. Volunteers lead Bible studies, worship services and Christian film discussions, creating space for meaningful conversations about faith.

Those conversations are changing lives. Marshall recalls

a woman who found Christ while incarcerated for eight years. After her release, she returned — not as an inmate, but as a volunteer. When a former fellow inmate saw her, she was in shock.

"I thought you'd be back here as an inmate, not as a minister," she said. Then came the realization: "If God can change you, He can change me too." That encounter led her to Bible studies, and later, baptism.

Moments like this remind us why this ministry exists. In November 2024, four men at Special Commitment Center on McNeil Island made the life-changing decision for baptism. After months of Bible study, they stepped into an inflatable baptismal pool, surrounded by fellow inmates

singing hymns of praise. Doug Bing, Washington Conference president, was there to share words of encouragement after the ceremony.

Marshall recently gave a presentation at National Alliance of Reentry Professionals. His presentation addressed the harsh realities of trauma before incarceration, during incarceration and the challenges former inmates are confronted with as they cope with trauma after their release. Marshall gave attendees strategies and approaches they can utilize to assist former inmates navigate their trauma and experience a successful transition.

Prison ministries wouldn't be possible without dedicated volunteers. Before the pandemic, around 40 people were involved in prison ministries. Today,

that number is down to 25. Marshall and his team are actively rebuilding, training new volunteers and praying for others to volunteer.

"We always need more volunteers," Marshall said. "As a matter of fact, one of the last things Jesus did before he died was to minister to a prisoner. Some mistakes take people to prison, but God's love is still extended to them. We have an opportunity to go to these individuals."

Lives are changing, and you can be part of the story. If you would like to learn more about this ministry and how you can support it, contact Marshall at floyd.marshall@waconference.org.

ENOC GARCIA
*Washington Conference
communication director*



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-WA-34

- The Yelm chapter of Adventist Prison Ministries Fellowship serves Special Commitment Center on McNeil Island.



MISSION AND OUTREACH

SAGE Volunteers Build Church in Dominican Republic

A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS FROM SENIORS IN ACTION FOR GOD WITH EXCELLENCE WRAPPED UP A PROJECT IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ON FEB. 6. THEY ORGANIZED THIS PROJECT THROUGH MARANATHA VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL, A SUPPORTING MINISTRY OF THE ADVENTIST CHURCH.

PHOTOS BY RICK AND VALERIE SERNS



SAGE volunteers stand triumphant in front of the building they helped construct for La Nueva Barquita Church.



Maranatha crew members race against rain to install the church building's roof and finish right before the downpour.



Volunteers work with joyful hearts to meet their construction goal.

Team members constructed a church building for La Nueva Barquita Church's congregation. They also conducted an evangelistic series, passed out more than 500 pieces of literature, painted another church, led children's ministry programs and saw nearly 400 patients at medical clinics. They attribute all positive outcomes to God's intervention, which was especially obvious on multiple occasions.

SAGE volunteers working on La Nueva Barquita Church's building were dedicated to their construction goal: finishing the church walls so Maranatha's construction crew members could add the roof before Sabbath worship in the new structure. "They worked hard and stuck with it until the expectation for each specific day was met," recalled Valerie Serns, SAGE secretary.

"There's always a plethora of problems and difficulties that everyone has to deal with on a trip like this. I just feel like God walked ahead of us and solved most of those

problems with such accuracy. We knew that that wasn't us; it was Him," said Valerie.

God's guidance also shone through a woman named Vanesa, a university student from the Dominican Republic who happened to stop by one of SAGE's medical clinics. "It was not random — it was a divine appointment," said Rick Serns, SAGE president.

Because the medical team needed a translator, Vanesa offered her services for the rest of the day. She worked with the medical team nearly every day for the remainder of the project. She also attended the group's evangelistic meetings and worshiped with volunteers on the last Sabbath of the trip.

"As far as I know, she had no church background at all. We got word that she's been going to church every week since we left," remarked Rick.

SAGE is a ministry for and by those 50 years and older in Washington Conference. It's designed to enhance the

spiritual, mental, physical and social health of its members through local and international service projects, spiritual retreats and social events. "A lot of the time, people who reach retirement kind of lose contact with other people and lose the social aspect," explained Rick.

Maranatha has helped plan SAGE's annual international service trips since 1995. "There's no better way to do an international trip than to partner with Maranatha. There's the camaraderie that you build with your work group who came on the trip, but also the camaraderie with the Maranatha crew members and the local church," said Rick.



SIDNEY NEEDLES
*Maranatha
communication
specialist*

More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-4-WA-20 +

Maranatha Church Education Day Inspires Learning

IN AN EFFORT TO CHAMPION THE VALUES OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION, MARANATHA CHURCH IN SEATTLE HOSTED EDUCATION DAY ON MARCH 22.

With the theme “Education for Life and Eternity,” the event aimed to celebrate learning as both a spiritual and academic journey and to inspire a renewed commitment to Christian education. From the opening Sabbath School prayer to the closing evening appeal, the day offered moments of worship, reflection, connection and inspiration.

Pedrito Maynard-Reid, Walla Walla University senior associate vice president for diversity and inclusion and theology professor, shared a powerful message titled “Beyond the Alpha and Omega,” inviting attendees to consider how true education begins and ends with Christ. His message resonated with the central theme that education is preparation not only for a career, but also for eternity.

Throughout the day, students and parents had opportunities to engage with Adventist educators, university recruiters and local leaders who shared insights and encouragement. Exhibit tables and seminars highlighted the many educational paths available within the Adventist system, while also offering practical guidance on scholarships, school culture and faith communities in higher education.

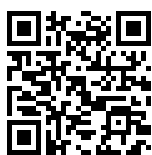
The standout feature of the afternoon was Fruit of Education Rally, where students and alumni offered personal testimonies of how Adventist education had shaped their character, deepened their faith and opened doors of opportunity. Their stories reminded those present that education is more than textbooks and tests. It’s about building identity, cultivating purpose and serving others in a Christ-like manner.

In addition to spiritual and intellectual enrichment, the day included fellowship, music and generosity. Offerings were collected to support scholarships for students pursuing Adventist education as a tangible expression of Maranatha’s commitment to investing in the next generation of Christian scholars.

While the schedule was full, the purpose of the day was simple: to recommit to the calling of Adventist education. Maranatha’s leadership hopes this new annual event will continue to grow each year, not just in attendance, but also in impact.

“Education Day was a call to remember the sacred responsibility we have as a church to nurture the minds and hearts of our young people,” said Byron Dulan, Maranatha education coordinator and event organizer. “It’s not just about getting our children into classrooms; it’s about helping them grow into the people God created them to be.”

As the day ended, it became clear that Adventist education matters, now more than ever. At Maranatha, the journey of learning – for life and for eternity – is one that the whole church is embracing and ready to walk together.



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-WA-35

ENOC GARCIA
Washington Conference
communication director



Laurie Yoshihara, Puget Sound Adventist Academy and Kirkland Adventist School principal, encourages students and parents to seek opportunities to be part of Christian education.



Michelle Wachter, Washington Conference vice president for education, shares about the seven advantages of Adventist education.



Alumni from a variety of Adventist schools share their testimony during Fruit of Education Rally.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

School Mission Trips Bring Hands-On Learning

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE SCHOOLS HAVE COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH THEIR COMMUNITIES AND BEYOND. THROUGH A VARIETY OF SERVICE PROJECTS, STUDENTS ENGAGE IN HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT TAKE THEM BEYOND THE CLASSROOM AND EXPAND THEIR VIEW OF THE WORLD.

PROVIDED BY KAMIGRIFFIN



OCS students help paint, landscape and construct a new bathroom for Hope Christian Academy in Belize.

RACHEL MCELVAIN



KACS helps build a church in El Salvador and leads VBS.

GINA HUBIN



AAA students work with doctors, nurses and dentists in the Philippines.

GREGORY PASKELL



CAS students sew dresses to support underprivileged girls in Haiti.

Orcas Christian School

A group from Orcas Christian School traveled to Belize, where they painted, landscaped and constructed a new bathroom for Hope Christian Academy.

The team quickly bonded with local students and staff. They immersed themselves in the culture through Belizean meals, worship services and exploring historic sites like the Altun Ha Mayan ruins.

Their week also included moments of celebration and rest, such as snorkeling near San Pedro Island and ziplining through the jungle.

By the end of the trip, the group had not only completed their service projects, but also experienced profound spiritual and personal growth through connection, faith and adventure.

KYLER MORGAN
Orcas Christian School teacher

Kitsap Adventist Christian School

The Kitsap Adventist Christian School team went to El Salvador to begin construction on a church for the small San Rafael de Oriente congregation. They also planned Vacation Bible School in an old building with no windows and only two ceiling fans that the congregation rented as a temporary church.

Five children showed for VBS, and though they had prepared for more and were exhausted from the heat, the team launched into the program with all the energy they could summon.

The Adventist community in the area was small, but all were grateful for the help KACS provided.

JOEL REYES
Kitsap Adventist Christian School principal

Auburn Adventist Academy

During spring break, 32 Auburn Adventist Academy students participated in a medical mission trip to Pagudpud, Philippines, through In His Service Amianan.

Each day started with breakfast and worship before students began their choice of service for the day. They could choose to work alongside doctors, nurses and dentists at the on-campus clinic or travel with the mobile health clinic to remote Barangays; plan and organize the evening VBS program; or work on construction projects.

Students forged beautiful friendships, grew spiritually and gained valuable medical experience. For more information about the mission, visit ihsamission.com.

GINA HUBIN
Auburn Adventist Academy director of recruiting and admissions

Cypress Adventist School

Fifth- sixth- and seventh-graders at Cypress Adventist School in Lynnwood are making a difference through an outreach that supports underprivileged girls in Haiti. Students use donated fabric and sewing supplies to make beautiful dresses. In each dress pocket is a note telling the girl that Jesus loves them.

CAS is proud that students are stepping up to share Jesus' love, learning a new skill, economically using leftover materials and praying that they can make an impact for Jesus—one stitch at a time.

AUTUMN PASKELL
Cypress Adventist School principal



LACEY STECKER
Washington Conference communication intern

More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-4-WA-50 

Q&A With Incoming AAA Principal Nelson

MARC NELSON JOINS AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY AS PRINCIPAL STARTING THE 2025–2026 ACADEMIC YEAR. WASHINGTON CONFERENCE HAD A Q&A WITH HIM TO HEAR HIS UPCOMING PLANS FOR AAA.



Marc and Melissa Nelson

Q: How do you integrate faith into your leadership?

NELSON: Faith in leadership means more than just managing academics; it's about leading students to Christ. That's the whole purpose of education. Everything on campus, even casual conversations, should ultimately point back to Jesus. I see education as the left arm of the gospel, and being a faith leader is a continual, growing process for me.

Q: Why did you accept the call to AAA?

NELSON: After 25 years in education – including five years in Africa – and nearing completion of my doctorate, I sensed God calling me back into Adventist education. When the opportunity at AAA came, my wife and I prayed and felt at peace. AAA has tremendous potential. I'm excited to work alongside a team committed to growing and advancing the mission.

Q: What excites you most about AAA?

NELSON: I'm excited about the strong academic programs, the integration between day and boarding students, and the incredible technical education programs, like the auto shop, wood shop and welding lab. The vibrant music program is also a powerful ministry. AAA has a strong legacy, and I look forward to building on it.

Q: What do you want parents to know about Adventist education?

NELSON: Adventist education isn't about "fixing" kids. It's about guiding them to make better choices and deepen their relationship with Christ. It nurtures the whole person – mind, body and spirit. It's an investment not only for a better life, but also for eternity.

Q: What's your vision for AAA?

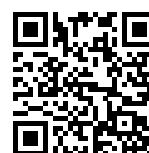
NELSON: I hope AAA will be a place where students want to come, parents are eager to send their kids and young people graduate with a deeper, lasting relationship with Jesus. I want it to be a community preparing students to serve, lead and share Christ wherever life takes them.

Q: Can you share your favorite Bible verse?

NELSON: Micah 6:8 reminds me daily: "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?"

Q: How can we pray for you this school year?

NELSON: Pray for wisdom. I need wisdom to lead well, to serve faithfully and to help AAA flourish for God's glory.



ENOC GARCIA
Washington
Conference
communication
director

More online at www.adventist.org/conferences/washington **NWADVENT.ST/120-4-WA-52**

BIBLE READINGS for September 2025

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 James	2 Acts 17	3 Galatians	4 Acts 18:1–18	5 1 Thessalonians	6
7 Mark 10–11	8 Luke 19	9 Matt. 22–23	10 Mark 12–13	11 Matt. 20–21	12 Luke 18	13
14 Luke 20–24	15 John 14–17	16 Matt. 27–28	17 2 Thessalonians	18 Matt. 24–26	19 Mark 14–16	20
21 Acts 5–8	22 Acts 9–10	23 Acts 11–14	24 Acts 15–16	25 John 18–21	26 Acts 1–4	27
28 John 11–13	29 Luke 17:11–37	30 Matt. 19				

Find the complete 2025 reading plan online now by scanning the QR Code or visiting the link to the right.

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.

gleaner

43

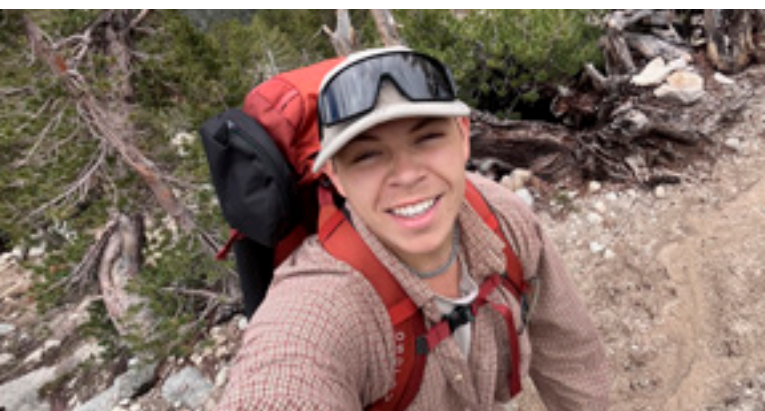
JULY/AUGUST 2025

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-1-BLE-61



Student Balances Academics and Leadership

FOR KOBE WILKINS, WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY SENIOR HEALTH SCIENCE PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MAJOR, WWU HAS BEEN A LAUNCHING PAD FOR HIS FUTURE IN HEALTHCARE AND A COMMUNITY THAT HAS FOSTERED HIS PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH.



Kobe Wilkins, WWU senior health science pre-physician assistant major, reflects on his journey at WWU, balancing academics with leadership.

Born in Bozeman, Montana, Wilkins grew up hiking, skiing and other outdoor activities. When he was 11 years old, his family moved to Kettering, Ohio. The move was a big life change and cultural shift for Wilkins, as the opportunity to do things he loved became limited. “There was definitely a yearning to get back to the Pacific Northwest,” he said, calling it the driving force that led him to attend WWU.

Like many college students, Wilkins started his journey with uncertainty, initially enrolling as a mechanical engineering major. However, after realizing his passion lay elsewhere, he transitioned to

biology and eventually found his calling in the pre-physician assistant track.

He credits WWU’s dedicated faculty, especially professors like Jeremy Wiggins, associate professor of biology, and Trudy Klein, health and physical education instructor, for making his learning experience engaging and applicable.

Wilkins has taken full advantage of the opportunities available to him at WWU, working as an emergency room technician at Providence St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla to gain the clinical hours required for PA school. His role has given him firsthand experience in patient care, from

performing electrocardiogram tests to preparing for his phlebotomy certification.

“This job has taught me that not every day in healthcare is great, but it’s about learning from each experience and taking the good with the bad,” Wilkins said. He emphasizes how his classes have provided a strong foundation for the work he does in the ER, particularly in understanding medical terminology and disease processes.

Beyond academics, Wilkins has been a key leader in WWU’s student life, serving as intramurals director, a position he stepped into unexpectedly during his sophomore year. Managing campus sports leagues while balancing his studies and ER job was no small feat, but Wilkins took the challenge.

“Intramurals at WWU is one of the most student-led programs out there. It teaches leadership, organization and patience,” said Wilkins. Despite facing funding limitations and scheduling conflicts, he’s proud of the community he helped build through campus sports.

Reflecting on his time at WWU, Wilkins emphasizes the sense of belonging the

university provides. “WWU does an amazing job of making students feel independent while still being part of a community. It’s not cliquey. People are kind, welcoming and always willing to support each other,” he said.

As he prepares to graduate, Wilkins knows he’ll miss the daily interactions with professors and friends, as well as the close-knit environment WWU has cultivated. However, he leaves with confidence, knowing the experiences and education he’s gained here have prepared him for the next steps in his career.

For prospective students looking for a university that blends academic excellence with leadership opportunities and a strong community, Wilkins has no doubt—WWU is the place to be.

For more information about life at WWU or to visit campus, visit wallawalla.edu/visit.



STACY WISENER
WWU university
relations student
writer

More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-4-WWU-11 

Flexible MBA Program Launches

IN JANUARY, WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY LAUNCHED AN AMBITIOUS ONLINE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM TO EQUIP WORKING PROFESSIONALS WITH SKILLS TO BECOME STRATEGIC, TECH-SAVVY, ETHICAL LEADERS IN TODAY'S BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT.

Lessons from accomplished business leaders and industry experts play an integral role in the flexible, asynchronous online program. For example, Johnny Jesson, WWU and MIT Sloan School of Management graduate who has served as Walmart senior director and Google Cloud pricing senior principal, shared his experience in finance and analytics. Rachel Ruggeri, WWU alumna and Starbucks executive vice president and chief financial officer, offered insights on character, integrity and business ethics.

"This MBA program at WWU has been amazing so far," said Mikey Stewart-Tapasco, current student. "The professors are supportive and do an amazing job of integrating collaboration into the program. This allows me to connect with and learn from both instructors and peers, despite my busy schedule. Based on the quality, flexibility and cost of this program, I highly recommend it to anyone seeking to further their education with an MBA."

Launching the program has been "on the drawing board" for some time, said Bruce Toews, WWU School of Business dean and accounting professor. The consistent success of the university's undergraduate business seniors and considerable expertise among WWU business alumni provided a strong foundation for a master's-level program. "The timing finally felt right to introduce this virtual 'third floor' to Bowers Hall," he said.

WWU's MBA program emphasizes ethical principles, strategic decision-making and real-world applications. The virtual learning community connects students with their professors and peers through colloquium events,

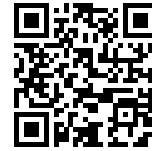
guided book readings and discussions, and networking events with highly accomplished business leaders.

Students can enroll in September, January, April or June, and the general MBA degree can be completed in one year. Starting this fall, students may choose to add high-demand specializations that include business analytics, artificial intelligence, finance, healthcare administration and cybersecurity.

Earning an MBA distinguishes graduates as strategic business leaders, prepares them to confidently deal with continual change and complex challenges in the business environment, and broadens their global perspective and professional networks.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a faster growth rate for overall employment in management occupations than the average for all occupations until 2033. While many employers do not require it, BLS notes that some employers prefer to hire candidates who have an MBA.

Learn more about WWU's MBA program at wallawalla.edu/mba.



HAILEY WERNER
WWU university
relations student writer

More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-4-WWU-04 





Prayer: Opening Your Heart to the Most Compassionate Friend

ON NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY TOOK TIME TO PRAY ABOUT THEIR JOYS, DESIRES AND CONCERNS.



Adventist Health Roseville hosted a prayer gathering on National Day of Prayer. “We spent time praying for our organization, our government, the vulnerable and sick, as well as specific prayer requests we received. We received so much positive feedback about our prayer time. God is good!” said Kristine Johnson, Adventist Health Executive Mission Formation director and Roseville, California, campus Mission and Spiritual Care leader.

TALKING WITH GOD ABOUT WHAT'S ON YOUR HEART

In a survey of 2,000 adults in the U.S. conducted by Barna Group in 2022, 77% of respondents said they believe in a higher power. Nearly half – 44% – said they are more open to God today than they were before the start of the pandemic in 2020.

What do we do when we're confronted with trouble, pain or confusion in our personal lives and in the world around us? Many people turn to God for meaning, comfort and hope. This turning to God often takes the form of prayer – expressing your thoughts or feelings to God. This can be as simple as pausing to acknowledge the spiritual presence of God, or it can mean pouring out to God your questions, sadness or anger – whatever you are feeling. Prayer is talking to God about the things on your heart or just sitting in silence with Him.

“We must pray who we actually are, not who we think we should be. In prayer, all is not sweetness and light. The way of prayer is not to cover our unlovely emotions so that they will appear respectable, but expose them so that they can be enlisted in the work of the kingdom,” wrote Eugene Peterson in his book *Answering God*.

“Through prayer, we receive an extra measure of strength, wisdom and encouragement to face the things that challenge our sense of well-being,” said Sam Leonor, Adventist Health chief mission officer.

Leonor leads the team of chaplains at Adventist Health who provide emotional and spiritual care for patients and their caregivers. “When we face anxiety about our health or the health of family and friends, expressing our trust in God's goodness and praying for God's power to meet our needs provides peace, rest and renewed hope,” said Leonor.

10 IDEAS FOR PRAYER

Here are some things you can pray about during your personal devotions, family prayers or as you go about your day:

- » People who need mental, physical and spiritual healing
- » People who are grieving or vulnerable
- » The unhoused
- » Medical professionals and healthcare leaders
- » Our environment and the animals
- » Students of all ages
- » People facing financial hardship
- » Our churches and schools
- » Local, state and federal government leaders
- » Faith communities

May each of us find strength and renewed hope in the practice of prayer.



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

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-4-AH-82](https://www.adventisthealth.org/NWADVENT.ST/120-4-AH-82)

CEO Encourages Next Generation of Leaders

KERRY L. HEINRICH, ADVENTIST HEALTH PRESIDENT AND CEO, SPOKE TO STUDENTS IN INTRODUCTION TO HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION AT WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY IN MAY. HEINRICH ALSO SPOKE TO STUDENTS, FACULTY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR A COLLOQUIUM LECTURE SERIES SPONSORED BY WWU SCHOOL OF BUSINESS.



Kerry L. Heinrich, Adventist Health president and CEO, shares his personal journey and discusses the complexities of leading a healthcare organization.

"Heinrich's observations about the complexities of leading a healthcare organization in a tough and rapidly changing business environment were inspiring," said Brendan Collins, Adventist Health Office of Mission program manager and class instructor. "Heinrich seems more energetic than ever to attack the challenges head-on and is deeply committed to the mission of Adventist Health to live God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope."

Heinrich shared his journey graduating as a history major at WWU, completing law school at University of Oregon, becoming general counsel at Loma Linda University Health, serving as CEO for six hospitals and now leading

Adventist Health. He challenged listeners to open their horizons and not limit themselves in their personal lives and career journeys. He discussed how God always has a plan for our lives and challenged listeners to "stay open to His greater purpose for our journey."

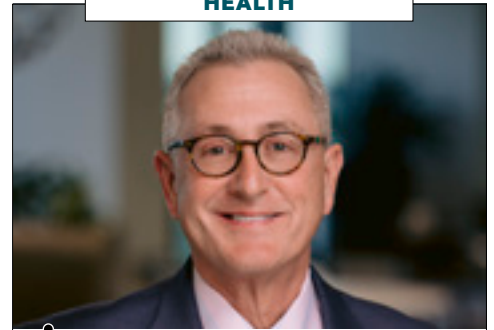
Heinrich reminded students that the mission of Adventist healthcare is carried forward not just through clinical roles, but through meaningful work in business, marketing, communications, operations, IT, innovation, chaplaincy and many other ways.

Collins said the WWU class provides opportunities to create connections between Adventist Health and WWU. "Getting to know students and encouraging them to discover where God is calling them is very rewarding – whether in healthcare at Adventist Health or elsewhere. Heinrich's time engaging with students and inspiring them as they consider their own journeys was extremely well received at WWU," said Collins.



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

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-AH-80



Kerry L. Heinrich, Adventist Health president and CEO

HEINRICH RECOGNIZED FOR EXCEPTIONAL HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP

KERRY L. HEINRICH, Adventist Health president and CEO, was recently named to the Becker's Hospital Review list of great leaders in healthcare.

They noted Heinrich's leadership of a mission-driven organization that provides faith-based care and his unique perspective in enhancing clinical excellence, operational efficiency and strategic expansion.

"Under his leadership, Adventist Health has successfully acquired five new hospitals, is currently transitioning to Epic as its exclusive EHR provider and achieved record retention rates for employees and registered nurses," stated the Becker's article.

Earlier this year, Heinrich led the 2025 Engage Tour, visiting Adventist Health hospital locations. The tour served as a reminder that although the Adventist Health geographical footprint covers many miles, each care team member is united in the Adventist Health mission of living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope in every interaction with patients and the communities they serve.

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



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-AH-81

EMPLOYMENT

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY IS SEEKING

qualified Adventists who may fill open roles in fulfilling our mission to seek knowledge, affirm faith and change the world. If this is of interest to you, please check out our current openings at andrews.edu/jobs.

NE OREGON ADVENTIST LOOKING

FOR ASSOCIATE OPTOMETRIST with ownership opportunity. Country living at its finest! Two and a half hours to Walla Walla, Washington. Email jbaileyod@gmail.com for more information.

NW WASHINGTON SMALL PHYSICAL

THERAPY CLINIC is looking for a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. Employment and ownership opportunities are available. North Cascade National Park, San Juan Islands, church and school nearby. Rural living. Email nw.wa.ptclinic@gmail.com.

QUICKBOOKS-CERTIFIED BOOKKEEPER

Experienced in both online and desktop versions. Fully remote or could meet in-person with clients in the Medford, Oregon, area where I live. Jenny Rasmussen, 541-821-7347.

RADIO BROADCAST MISSION

POSITIONS — STATESIDE Looking for that special place to apply your adventurous spirit? Want to reach thousands and make an eternal difference? Degree not required. Practical communication skills and kingdom dedication essential. Visit radioofhope.org/mission.

WE ARE SEEKING CERTIFIED TEACHERS

to join us at Sycamore Academy, an online school serving grades K-12. Work part-time from home, providing live teaching and tutoring sessions in a Zoom environment. For more information, call 817-645-0895.

EVENTS

DEAF CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

Sept. 3-7 at Camp Tilikum in Newberg, Oregon. For more information, email: bumaho@gmail.com or tawnysusan@yahoo.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

ACTIVE SMALL CHURCH, QUIET SMALL

TOWN Enjoy small-town living and the hospitality of a small, active and mission-minded Adventist church. Heppner, Oregon, lies in the Willow Creek Valley just 20 minutes from the Blue Mountains. Everything in town is within walking distance. Heppner welcomes new residents, and Heppner Church welcomes new members. Come to visit! Come to stay! For information, see our website, heppneradventist.org, or visit heppnerchamber.com. Heppner Adventist Church on Facebook.

BUYING U.S. GOLD/SILVER COINS,

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

CONSIDERING RURAL LIVING?

Explore Greeneville, Tennessee! Located near the Smoky Mountains, Greeneville Adventist Academy has an accredited K-12 day school program, supported by two constituent churches, prioritizing the Bible, evangelism, mission trips, academics and a high-quality music program (voice, band, bells and strings). mygaa.org. 423-639-2011.

LOOKING FOR MOTORCYCLISTS

with a desire to minister. Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry is an opportunity to join an outreach ministry that spreads the word through fellowship rides and other activities. For more information, call 425-239-4545 for Seattle to Bellingham, or 360-798-6861 for other Northwest areas. Send email to motorcycles@edmondsadventist.org.

NORTHWEST ADVENTIST CHOIR, LES

CHANTICLEERS is a music ministry organization that has been touching the hearts and minds of audiences of all ages in the U.S. We invite you to visit our website, leschanticleers.org, for more information and how to support our ministry.

REAL ESTATE

ACTIVE OREGON REAL ESTATE BROKER

serving eastern Oregon. Wallowa Mountain Properties, Enterprise, Oregon. Contact Mike Lavezzo: office, 541-426-5382; cell, 509-429-1917. Email detroswestern@yahoo.com.

EXPERIENCED ADVENTIST REAL

ESTATE BROKER serving the greater Seattle-Tacoma area. Megan Bonifant with John L. Scott Real Estate. Call 253-737-7804 or email meganb@johnlscott.com.

SERVICES

DEWOLFE AND SONS MOVING EST. 2012

offers residential and retirement moving with the customer service that you deserve. Open six days a week. Specializing in retirement moving. ODOT #149881. Contact Dion DeWolfe at 541-231-7674 or diondewolfe@gmail.com.

KIDS NEED NEVER BE BORED!

Just point them to lifetalkkids.net and let them listen to great adventures, faith-building Bible stories, captivating science and awesome nature programs and more 24/7. Kids grow better with radio. Download our free app at lifetalk.net.

MOVING? RELAX!

Your move with Apex Moving and Storage will be great! As the single point of accountability, we offer peace of mind for the relocating family or individual. Give us a call and take advantage of a volume-rated discount for Adventists. Call Marcy Danté at 800-766-1902 or visit us at apexmoving.com/adventist.

SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE,

an Adventist community in a rural setting, offers affordable homes or apartments and caring neighbors, with fellowship you will enjoy. Onsite church, planned activities and transportation as needed. Onsite Wolfe Living Center offers independent living and nursing homes. Visit summitridgevillage.org or call Bill Norman, 405-208-1289.

TEACH SERVICES HELPING AUTHORS

Publish your book, including editing, design, marketing and worldwide distribution. Visit teachservices.com to submit your manuscript for a free evaluation or call 706-504-9192. Shop for new/used Adventist books at teachservices.com or at your local ABC.

7TH ELEMENT HEATING AND AIR

CONDITIONING Servicing the Treasure Valley, for all your installation, service and maintenance needs. We offer free estimates on major repairs and installation. Licensed, bonded and insured. Visit our website 7thelementhvac.com. Call 208-724-0111 or email 7thelementhvac@gmail.com.

VACATIONS

GREAT CONTROVERSY TOURS

invites you to visit 60 places in 15 cities. Locations include Switzerland, Germany, France and Rome, Italy. September 2025. Contact 470-833-2887 or email gctours@naver.com.

MAKE BEAUTIFUL SUNRIVER, OREGON, YOUR SUMMER VACATION DESTINATION

Stay in our Quelah condo and relax or enjoy the many activities available. Visit sunriverunlimited.com for more information or call 503-253-3936.

SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

Perfect base for enjoying world-class recreation and cultural activities. Adventist church has two guest rooms for \$85/night donation. Each

has two queen beds, a full bath, mini-fridge, microwave and Wi-Fi. Apartment also available for \$125/night donation. It has two bedrooms with queen beds, full bath, full kitchen, living/dining area. Donations help us make the guest rooms available for our emergency housing ministry. To book, contact Yvonne at 208-721-1629. woodrivervalleyid.adventistchurch.org/ministries/guest-room.

SUNRIVER, CENTRAL OREGON Four-bedroom vacation home on the North Woodlands golf course. Two master king suites, two queens, one bunk set, hot tub, A/C, loft, Jacuzzi bath, gas log fireplace, BBQ, W/D, bikes, all "lodge amenities," sleeps 10, no smoking, no pets. For rates, photos and reservations: 541-279-9553 or schultz@crestviewcable.com.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT YELLOWSTONE tours from a creation perspective. Dan Buell offers affordable, no frills yet exciting wildlife, geyser or hiking tours. Mention *Gleaner* for \$50 off, 503-577-2333 or cheapyellowstonetours.com.

ONLINE
MORE CLASSIFIED ADS online at nwadventists.com/classifieds.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

SEPT./OCT.	JULY 7
NOV./DEC.	SEPT. 8

Dry camping available.
Reserve a spot by calling 360.623.2092

Learn more at
www.winlockwa.adventistchurch.org

WINLOCK SDA CHURCH

CAMP MEETING

AUGUST 7-10, 2025



Dr. Eric Walsh Pastor Jean-Noel Adeline Pastor Cameron Koronko



First Friday at Adventist Health Portland

Join us for a night of joyful praise, fellowship and inspiration each month as we gather as a community to hear a fresh message of hope and encouragement.

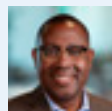


First Friday of every month

6 p.m. — Free soup and salad dinner
Registration required

7:15 p.m. — Featured speaker

"This event is open to everyone — bring your friends and family. While registration is not required to attend, please let us know if you're planning to join us for dinner."



Dr. Terry Johnsson,
Mission Integration Executive



Scan QR code to RSVP
or visit our website at
AdventistHealthPortland.org.

1934–2023

NAOMI MARIE (BOESEN) KUHNS

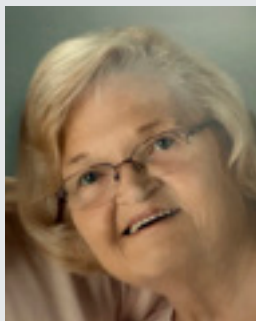
Naomi Marie (Boesen) Kuhns was born on Dec. 23, 1934 in Tacoma, Washington, to Niels and Edna Boesen. She passed away on Oct. 27, 2023 in Burlington, Washington. Beginning with helping her deaf parents navigate the hearing world, her life was marked by her kind service to others.

In 1955, she married Robert “Bob” Kuhns, a soldier stationed at Fort Lewis, which was the beginning of a beautiful partnership of 68 years. Eventually, they made their permanent home in Yakima, Washington. Naomi was the office manager for Bob’s medical practice, as well as the behind-the-scenes hostess extraordinaire in her home circles.

Naomi and Bob touched the lives of countless teens while leading the Yakima Church youth group for several years. Known for her delicious food, she created a warm atmosphere for all who entered her home.

In the world of silence that she lived in as a child and preferring a life in the background as an adult, Naomi was always there to support her husband and daughters. She truly had a servant’s heart and will be missed by all who knew her.

Naomi is survived by her daughters, Cheryl Vyhmeister and Susie Bunch; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Baker; 14 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

BRACKETT – Jim, 81; born July 14, 1943, Palo Alto, California; died March 22, 2025, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Neva Brackett; daughters, Kathy Page and Kimberley Fisher; 5 grandchildren.

BROWN – Marion Julia (West), previously Marion Smith, 93; born Oct. 9, 1931,

Portland, Oregon; died March 19, 2025, Port Angeles, Washington. Surviving: son, Marvin Smith; daughter, Pam (Smith) Hooper.

CHRISTENSEN – June Rose (Page), 95; born June 4, 1929, Longview, Washington; died March 29, 2025, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Kenneth, Ronald, Gary and Dale; daughter, Nancy (Christensen) Barnett; 10 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

1933–2024

ROBERT “BOB” GENE KUHNS

Robert “Bob” Gene Kuhns was born in Lansing, Michigan, to Lyle and Hazel Kuhns on June 10, 1933 and passed away on March 4, 2024 in Burlington, Washington. While stationed at Fort Lewis, he met Naomi Boesen, whom he was married to for 68 years.

Bob obtained his medical technology degree from Emmanuel Missionary College. Later, he graduated from medical school at Kansas University. He and Naomi settled in Yakima, Washington, with their two daughters and lived there until the last year of his life.

Bob began his general practice with a doctorate in osteopathic medicine in 1965. He later became certified in family practice. He delivered babies, assisted in surgeries and performed other in-office procedures, skills he used later on short-term mission trips abroad.

Always up for an adventure, he took a cross-country bicycle trip with his daughter, Susie, and her spouse, spanning six summers, which he finished at the age of 70.

He was a beloved doctor and friend, but he is most treasured for the wonderful husband and dad he was.

Bob is survived by his daughters, Cheryl Vyhmeister and Susie Bunch; sister, Janet Marsh; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



AARON – Mary Marlene (Richards), 85; born Dec. 26, 1939, Aberdeen, Washington; died May 14, 2025, Shelton, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Tom; son, Robert; daughters, Ann Marie Barrios-Ruiz and Marilyn Aaron; 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

APPLING – Judith Lee (Corbin), previously Judith Castle, 82; born Dec. 3, 1942, Pueblo, Colorado; died March 28, 2025, College Place, Washington. Surviving: son, Keith Appling; daughters, Sandy (Castle) Wiebe, Teresa

(Castle) Clark and Kristen (Appling) Ravencroft; sister, Lynn (Corbin) Carey; 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

BAKER – Patricia Annette (Wells), previously Patricia Launderville, Patricia Smith, 87; born Aug. 17, 1937, San Diego, California; died Feb. 14, 2025, Hillsboro, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, J. Ron Baker; sons, Jimmie, Tommy and David Smith; daughters, Vicki Launderville, Sherri Launderville Wood and Nancy Smith Darrow; stepson, Richard

1938–2025

NAOMI MARY (BUDD) PARSON

Naomi Mary (Budd) Parson passed away on Feb. 22, 2025 at the age of 86. She was born on July 10, 1938 in Union, Oregon, as the youngest of John and Josephine Budd's 10 children.

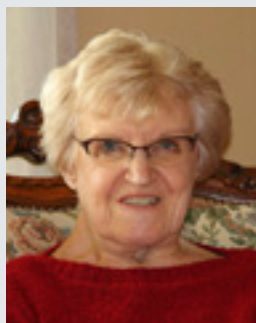
She attended Auburn Adventist Academy and graduated from Walla Walla College in 1961.

She married Bill Parson on June 30, 1968 in a double wedding in Glendale, California, with her oldest sister, Rose (Budd) Ludlow.

Naomi was a lifelong Adventist, always willing to serve where needed in church work. She served for many years as Northern California Conference prayer ministry director, leading out in prayer conferences and prayer ministry at Redwood Camp Meeting. Naomi helped direct a daily prayer ministry phone call for five years.

Naomi was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters, Rose Ludlow, Angie Allen and Marjorie Hart; and her brothers, Joe, Orpheus and Lyle Budd.

She is survived by her husband, Bill Parson; daughter, Dola Parson; sisters, Cleo Wentland Forgey, Hazel Burns and Ruthie Jacobsen; grandchildren, Stephanie Novotny, Gavin Cantrell, Zoey and Gia Berchenbriter; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.



Greg; daughters, Alanna Jones and Debra Variano; brother, Gordon Constable; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

KENNEDY—Edward Kevin, 54; born March 23, 1970, La Mesa, California; died March 11, 2025, Greeley, Colorado. Surviving: spouse, Kristina Kennedy; parents, Edward and Linda; sons, Thomas and Christopher; daughter, Sierra; sisters, Melony Coleman and Jessica Green.

KERSHNER—Walter Lee Madison, 87; born Oct. 17, 1937, Oakwood, Oklahoma; died Dec. 26, 2024, Wenatchee, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Rita Mae (Sparto); daughters, Vicki (Kershner) Downer and Gina (Kershner) Benson; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

KISSEE—Helen Lorane (Bender), previously Helen Peterson, 99; born Jan. 14, 1926, Eugene, Oregon; died March 16, 2025, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: stepsons, Ted, James and Brian Kisse; stepdaughter, Kim (Kissee) Phillip; 9 step-grandchildren and 9 step-great-grandchildren.

NELSON—Corrine Lois (Eastman), previously Corrine Rumble, 92; born June 11, 1932, Iron Mountain, Michigan; died Jan. 8, 2025, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Cary and James; daughter, Renee Barnwell; 3 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

PFLUGRAD—Edvern, 90; born Dec. 8, 1934, Walla Walla, Washington; died Feb. 23, 2025, John Day, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Viola Pflugrad; son, Terry; daughter, Sherry Schultz; 6 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

RICE—Peggy Joyce, 77; born Aug. 7, 1947, Bend, Oregon; died April 9, 2025, Corvallis, Oregon. Surviving: son, Jonathan; daughter, Tina Batten; brothers, John Anderson and Bob Anderson; 1 grandchild.

SMITH—Robert Bruce, 85; born Oct. 13, 1939, Mandeville, Jamaica; died March 15, 2025, Wenatchee, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Cheryl Smith.

VENDEN—Phillip J., 85; born Oct. 11, 1939, Vancouver, Washington; died Feb. 13, 2025, Kennewick, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Lin (Boicourt); son, Jon; daughter, Wendi Standley; sister, Anice Venden.

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

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

CORSON—Bonnie Lea June (Tym), 70; born Aug. 18, 1954, Two Hills, Alberta, Canada; died April 9, 2025, Oregon City, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Dave; son, David; daughters, Michelle (Corson) Schweitzer and Cindy Corson.

DERTING—Clyde LeRoy, 87; born Dec. 9, 1937, Pasco, Washington; died May 1, 2025, Ellensburg, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Theo (Beltz); daughters, Renee Hider, Christine Derting, Lori Parker, Shannon Caracol and Erin Rand; 21 grandchildren,

32 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

HENSEL—Caroline Lois (Tupper), 94; born May 4, 1930, Seattle, Washington; died March 10, 2025, Colville, Washington. Surviving: son, Kenneth; daughter, Linda Hensel Schumacher; 7 grandchildren.

KAMMER—Eileen M. (Constable), 87; born April 10, 1938, Battle Ground, Washington; died April 25, 2025, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: sons, Wade and

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION

Offering

- July 5—Local Church Budget
- July 12—Digital Strategy for Mission (GC Session Offering)
- July 19—Local Church Budget
- July 26—Local Conference Advance
- Aug. 2—Local Church Budget
- Aug. 9—Christian Record Services (NAD)
- Aug. 16—Local Church Budget
- Aug. 23—Local Conference Advance
- Aug. 30—Local Church Budget

Pentecost Week of Prayer

Pastors, leaders and members, you're invited to lead your own local week of prayer and fasting Aug. 16–23. Join with churches across our union in seeking God's guidance and revival. Host it in a way that fits your community—through nightly gatherings, Sabbath services, personal devotion, prayer teleconference or Zoom prayer calls. Find inspiration at npuc.org/pentecostmentoring.

NPUC Young Adult Outreach Summit

Calling all Northwest young adults and leaders! Mark your calendars for NPUC Young Adult Outreach Summit happening Sept. 12–13 in Seattle, Washington! Expect powerful worship, practical inspiration and a chance to dream big in a \$60,000 Spark Tank ministry challenge. Spark Tank application deadline is Aug. 24. Head to npuc.org/spark to learn more.

Pentecost Week of Reaping

This November, join fellow pastors and members for a focused week of evangelism and decisions for Christ from Nov. 15–22. This is the capstone time for Pentecost 2025 evangelism initiative efforts in the Pacific Northwest, across North America and around the world! Let's work together to bring in the harvest. Find a 90-day plan at pentecost2025.com.

Pentecost Baptism Day

Is God calling you — or someone you know — to take the next step in faith? Start preparing now for our union-wide day of baptism on Nov. 22. Invite a friend, start a conversation and be part of what God is doing. Share your stories at nwadventists.com/contribute.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Volunteer Park Church Anniversary

Volunteer Park Church in Seattle is celebrating 60 years! We're inviting all past and present members to join us on Aug. 15 at 7 p.m. for vespers and Aug. 16 at 11:30 a.m. for worship gathering, lunch and afternoon activities. For more info, visit volunteerpark.church/events.

North Pacific Union Directory

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

President	John Freedman	Hispanic, Ministerial and Multicultural.	Peter Simpson
Executive Secretary, Evangelism	Bill McClendon	Information Technology	Loren Bordeaux
Assistant.	Kristina Lopez	Associate	Daniel Cates
Treasurer	Jeffrey Fogelquist	Legal Counsel	André Wang
Undertreasurer	Brent Plubell	Native Ministries Northwest	Steve Huey
Associate.	Anne Vu	Public Affairs, Religious Liberty	André Wang
Communication	Heidi Baumgartner	Regional and Outreach Ministries.	EuGene Lewis
Assistant.	Makena Horton	Trust (WAF).	James Brown
Media Coordinator	José Segovia	Association Treasurer.	Jay Graham
Creation Study Center	Stan Hudson	Women's Ministries	Sue Patzer
Education	Keith Hallam	Youth and Young Adult	Rob Lang
Elementary	Becky Meharry	Associate	Velvet Lang
Secondary	Brian Harris	Church Planting and Lay Training. . .	Dan Serns
Certification Registrar.	Deborah Hendrickson		
Early Childhood Coordinator	Renee Young		

Local Conference Directory

ALASKA CONFERENCE

6100 O'Malley Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99507-7200
907-346-1004 • alaskaconference.org
Rodney Mills, president; Ashwin Somasundram, v.p. administration; Garrett Holmes, v.p. finance

IDAHO CONFERENCE

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

MONTANA CONFERENCE

175 Canyon View Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-3101 • mtcsda.org
Jim Jenkins, president; _____, v.p. administration; Solomon Agdon, v.p. finance

OREGON CONFERENCE

19800 Oatfield Rd.
Gladstone, OR 97027-2546
503-850-3500 • oregonadventist.org
John McVay, president; Kara Johnsson, v.p. administration; Eric Davis, v.p. finance; Ron Jacoban, v.p. education

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

3715 S. Grove Rd.
Spokane, WA 99224
509-838-2761 • uccsda.org
David Jamieson, president; Eric Brown, v.p. administration; Allee Currier, v.p. finance; Adam Littell, v.p. education

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

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

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

204 S. College Ave.
College Place, WA 99324-1198
509-527-2656 • wallawalla.edu
Alex Bryan, president; Pamela Cress, v.p. for academic administration; Prakash Ramoutar, v.p. for financial administration; Darren Wilkens, v.p. for student life; Jodi Wagner, v.p. for university relations and advancement

Adventist Book Centers

800-765-6955 • adventistbookcenter.com

NAMPA ABC

1350 N. Kings Rd., Nampa, ID 83687-3193
208-465-2532
M–Th 10:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

OREGON ABC

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

UPPER COLUMBIA ABC

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

COLLEGE PLACE ABC

505 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324
509-529-0723
M, F, Sun 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
T–Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

AUBURN ABC

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



Sunset times:
nwadventists.com/sunset

Miracles Still Happen!

WATCH. BE INSPIRED. SHARE WITH YOUR CHURCH.



From "Witch" to Witness

awr.org/ranja

Ranja was held captive by the evil spirits that possessed her . . . until the day she turned on her radio.



Trading Guns for God

awr.org/rebels

More than 700 rebel assassins just laid down their guns in exchange for a new life in Jesus . . . and they're already leading others to Him!



Taking a Bold Stand

awr.org/wisam

Wisam's own family tried to stone and stab him for his belief in God, but today he is an Adventist pastor in the Middle East!

Download the new AWR360°
app to watch these and many
more miracle stories at:

awr.org/apps

1-800-337-4297

awr.org

[/awr360](https://www.facebook.com/awr360)

[@awr.360](https://www.instagram.com/awr360)

[@awr360](https://twitter.com/awr360)

awr.org/videos



AWR360°
BROADCAST TO BAPTISM

12501 OLD COLUMBIA PIKE
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20904 USA

NO WALLS. NO BORDERS. NO LIMITS.



SHARING TOGETHER



It's fun to spend time with friends and family, isn't it? Maybe you eat together or sit next to each other at church. A long time ago, right after Jesus went back to heaven, His friends spent time together too.

While on earth, Jesus showed people that God loves them very much. He told His friends that the Holy Spirit would help them love others and tell people about God.

Jesus' friends believed Him. They met in churches and homes. They prayed and studied together. They grew closer to God and each other. They were filled with love and the Holy Spirit's power.

God's love and power were so good that they couldn't keep quiet! And when other people heard and believed, they felt God's love too. They wanted to be kind and treat others the way they wanted to be treated. That's the golden rule: "Do to others as you want them to do to you."

They had to share, too! No one made them share. They wanted to! It made them feel happy inside. Here's how they shared:

- » They talked about how good God is.
- » They spent time together and became good friends.
- » They sang praise songs and read the Bible together in small groups.

- » They ate meals together every day.
- » They worked together — like planting gardens, cooking food and telling people about Jesus.
- » They even shared things like olive oil, tools, houses and money!

You can share too! You could invite people to your house for a meal. You can let them use your remote-control car or share your favorite coloring book.

You can sing songs and pray with your friends and family at home.

Jesus lives in you, and He loves it when you do kind things for others. Ask Him to help you find ways to share and show love!

You can read Acts 2:1–39, 42–47 for worship.



PAULA WART
Just for Kids columnist

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-KIDS-51

Circle of Sharing

Sharing brings people together. Let's make a paper chain and share like they did in the early church!

Get together with a small group of people. You could invite family, neighbors, friends and visitors from church. Once you have gathered your group and supplies, follow these steps:



Cut paper strips: Measure and cut five to 10 strips of paper. The strips should be about 1 inch wide and 6 inches long.



Write ways to share: On each strip, write one way you can share with others. Examples: "I can share my lunch," "I can pray for a friend," "I can help clean up."



Decorate each strip: Add stickers, draw small pictures or write short verses — like Luke 6:31 or Acts 2:47.

Make the chain: Loop the first strip into a circle and tape or glue the ends. Loop the next strip through it and keep going to create a chain.

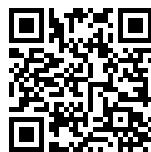


Connect the chains: Link your chains together. Notice how sharing connects us and makes our circle bigger. Reflect on this experience and pray together about what God is asking you to do next.



You'll need:

- » Other people
- » Construction paper of various colors or plain paper
- » Scissors
- » Glue stick or tape
- » Markers, crayons or colored pencils
- » Stickers (optional)



PAULA WART
Just for Kids columnist

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-KIDS-53



10 Bible Verses for Tired Parents



Parenting is hard, right? I've shared that multiple times over the last few years.

However, it's truly one of the most important jobs in the world.

In therapy this month, I am learning how not to be a "personal assistant" to my children. That isn't helping them or me. Wearing so many hats – doing so many things – is robbing them of their autonomy and causing me to be exhausted. (You learn a lot about yourself in therapy, don't you?) Are you tired? Keep reading for some hope.

The best thing about this Christian parenting journey is that I am never alone. I have a 24/7 cheerleader and encourager, Jesus Christ. So, as I'm practicing better parenting methods, I have been clinging to God's word and specific Bible verses to help me do better. He's given me love and grace and promised from His word to help me. And, I know He'll help you too!

Here are 10 great Bible verses for weary parents. You can find so many more. Open your Bible and see

which ones you can add to this list. I pray that

you, too, glean some hope on your parenting journey in these verses.

AUTHOR

LaVonne Long



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-POV-59

1 Isa. 41:10 – "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

2 Joshua 1:9 – "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

3 Deut. 31:8 – "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

4 Psalm 46:10 – "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!"

5 Rom. 8:26 – "Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

Remember, you can put your name in each of these verses and make them just for you! Pray scripture over yourself and your kids. It's a prayer game changer. His word is for you and me!

As I continue on this parenting journey, I am always trying to do better, apologize, make repairs and learn. I want to do this parenting job well. I am thankful I have so many Bible verses to glean hope from. Will you continue to pray for me and my family as we parent our kids and serve the Lord?

“

The best thing about this Christian parenting journey is that I am never alone. I have a 24/7 cheerleader and encourager, Jesus Christ.

6 Phil. 1:6 – “And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

7 John 15:5 – “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

8 Matt. 11:28 – “Then Jesus said, ‘Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.’”

9 2 Cor. 12:9 – “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

10 Psalm 63:8 – “My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.”

LAVONNE LONG
Northwest Adventists family columnist





Worth the Risk

*“Where there
is love, there
is courage.”
—Louise Penny*



R

effect for a moment on the initial stirrings of romantic attraction. With that awakening, a potent mix of exhilarating excitement, unsettling fear and wide-eyed wonder likely surged. Remember the butterflies and the nervous energy that felt both thrilling and terrifying?

For me, that first spark ignited in seventh grade. Her name was Brittany. Our school banquet was approaching, and the possibility of asking Brittany to be my date suddenly dawned on me. The very thought both electrified and paralyzed me.

The week leading up to the banquet, I devised a plan: simply walk up to her and ask. Yet, as so often happens, reality proved far more daunting than theory. Each time I approached her, she was surrounded by a constellation of friends. Even making eye contact felt like a monumental task.

Day after day, I promised myself I would find the courage, but each day, the circumstances never seemed quite right. The day before the banquet arrived, and my nerves still failed me. My friends knew

my intentions; her friends were likely aware too, but the

crucial words remained trapped within me.

As the final school bell rang, a wave of resignation washed over me. A date with Brittany, it seemed, was not in my destiny. However, just as Brittany was heading out the classroom door, one of my friends yelled, “Wait!” Then, with a well-aimed kick to my backside, I was propelled forward.

I landed awkwardly on my knees just as Brittany turned around. Without me uttering a single word, she declared, “Fine, I will go with you!” My initial foray into the world of dating, however unconventional, was a success.

Fast-forward a decade. A stress management elective in my final year at Walla Walla University presented a similar challenge: Our professor gave us an assignment to step outside our comfort zone. For someone who still found summoning the courage for romantic pursuits a significant hurdle, this felt like a pointed opportunity. I had noticed a girl playing tennis. Her smile captivated me, and the positive things I’d heard about her intrigued me.

So, I looked her up in the student directory and found her number. As the phone rang, a wave of doubt washed over me. She didn’t know me; I had no idea what to say. I ended up leaving a message.

Fortunately, we connected, and our first date took place on Valentine’s Day in 2006.

As graduation loomed for both of us, the future of our connection remained uncertain. Pursuing a relationship would mean navigating the complexities of distance: My girlfriend, Danelle, would be working as a nurse in Loma Linda, California, while I would be in Spokane, Washington, pursuing a Master of Social Work. Despite the logistical challenges, we decided to take the leap and keep dating.

That summer, I found a job in Memphis, Tennessee, and embarked on a cross-country

AUTHOR

Kevin McGill



PERSPECTIVE

Trust that when it comes to love, the risk is always worth taking.

adventure in my “trusty” 1994 Ford Taurus station wagon. Danelle and I spoke almost daily on the phone, and, at the end of the summer, she flew to Memphis. We planned a road trip back in the aging vehicle.

Initially, the drive was wonderful, but by the time we reached Colorado, the Taurus began to protest with ominous noises. Just outside Denver, it finally succumbed, losing all power. Luckily, I managed to coast to a stop by a designated carpooling spot.

A kind stranger approached us. “Do you need any help?” he asked, observing the smoke billowing from my engine. “I’m no car expert, but I know some people.” He made a few calls; his friends confirmed the engine’s demise, and they generously took us to their home while I searched Craigslist for a replacement vehicle.

Later, at their house, they casually asked, “Do you know who that was who helped you?” It turned out to be Turk Wendell, a professional baseball player who pitched in the 2000 World Series.

After some frantic online searches and financial maneuvering, I acquired a 1989 Audi. It carried us to the beautiful landscapes of Monument Valley, Utah, before it, too, succumbed to mechanical woes. With help from some local mechanics, I ordered the necessary replacement part with hopeful anticipation. However, when it arrived half a week later, it was not the right one.

Faced with a looming start date for her new job, we scrambled

to find transportation for Danelle back to Loma Linda. We eventually secured a seat for her on a tour bus. Left alone with my broken-down Audi, I eventually cut my losses and sold it.

Looking back on the stress I felt at that time, I am left with nothing but appreciation and good memories. The truly remarkable aspect of that entire chaotic adventure is that my girlfriend stayed with me through it all.

We are now married, navigating life with two kids and, thankfully, reliable vehicles. This journey was made possible, in part, thanks to a stress management class assignment, the unexpected kindness of a professional baseball player, and the unreliable spirit

of my 1994 Ford Taurus. I figure, if Danelle could stick by me while stranded in the middle of Monument Valley, she’s the kind of girl I never want to let go.

Love fuels courage. Where is love calling you to be brave? Pick up the phone. Write the letter. Say the words. The desire for genuine connection makes facing fears and taking risks worthwhile.

Whether it’s reaching out, being vulnerable or committing despite uncertainty, allowing love to lead provides the strength to step into the unknown. Trust that when it comes to love, the risk is always worth taking.

KEVIN MCGILL
Green Lake Church senior pastor



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-4-POV-60](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/120-4-POV-60)





Should You *DIY* Evangelism?

Our modern world loves the idea of a DIY – Do It Yourself – project. Many YouTube tutorials, Pinterest ideas and TikTok videos show you how to do projects yourself. Many of them are very helpful and allow a novice the opportunity to attempt a project on their own. This can help save time and money and allow a sense of ownership over the finished project.

However, DIY can come with some dangers. You can start a project and quickly find out you don't have all the tools you need to complete the project. You then realize, to acquire those tools, you would need to spend substantially more money than it would have cost to hire someone to do the project for you.

You can also hurt yourself as you try to do something you are not equipped to do. This is why so many DIY projects are abandoned halfway through. Without the proper tutoring, education or mentoring, these projects prove to be beyond our abilities.

Too often, the approach to evangelism and church growth is centered on this DIY concept.

It starts as an idea you have, a great idea, and you run with it.

Because it's your idea, you lead it, but right here

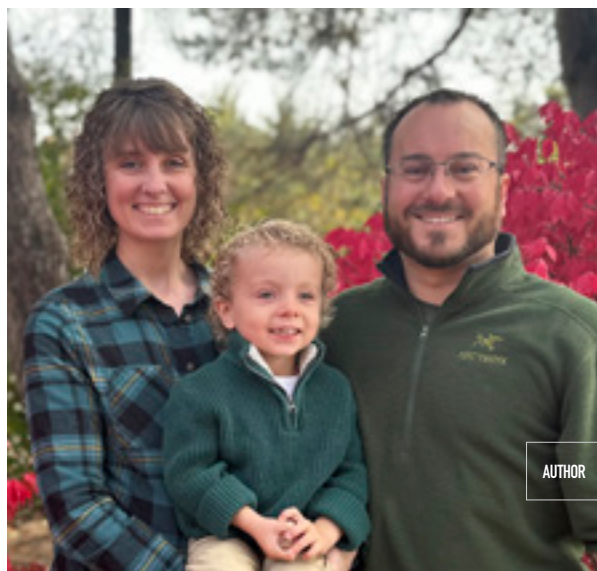
is where the trouble can begin. Instead of reaching out for the help or involvement of others, you hoard it – you do it yourself. You run an amazing event or project, and you may even be able to do it for years by yourself.

However, the problem emerges when you step down or age out and suddenly that amazing thing stops. Why? Was it a bad idea or not a useful form of evangelism? No, in fact, it might have been an amazing chance to reach others for Jesus, but you never delegated or involved others.

When an evangelistic or gospel-sharing effort is done from a DIY perspective, it will never grow to its full potential because there's just no way it can truly continue and grow without giving some of it away.

Within leadership circles, there's a concept called "key chain leadership." This is the concept that you can start something, but then you delegate and hand the keys to the next person and they, in turn, hand the keys to someone else. Pretty soon, many people are intricately involved, and now this small project has grown and can continue into the future because people are becoming involved and taking ownership of it.

Let me speak briefly from personal experience, so you don't feel I am just pointing fingers at others. When I began pastoring, I was young and had lots of energy and ideas. I wanted to start ministries and programs, so I did. What I found very quickly was that, if you have energy behind something, people will often get on board because it's exciting. But they will lose interest quickly because they are not personally invested.



AUTHOR

Natashia McVay



*Our job as devoted Christians, true
followers of Christ, is to MODEL
evangelism: Make Other Disciples so
Everyone Learns about Jesus!*

The first year I ran Vacation Bible School at Moscow Church, I did everything myself. It went fine, but it wasn't super successful and I nearly died trying to do it all. So, the next year and every subsequent year, I involved people in every little tiny aspect of the event – from prep, to setup, to the actual event.

This did mean that many things weren't done exactly as I would have done them, and that was okay because it actually ended up better than if I had done it myself. The result was the church took full ownership of VBS, and they have continued to host this evangelistic event even without my help!

Did Jesus spread the gospel by Himself? No, He gave to His disciples and worked to have them hand things off to others.

Matt. 28:19–20 says, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The great commission of Jesus to His followers was to go into all the world and share His love and salvation with others and then teach them to go and share too.

2 Tim. 2:2 says, “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

Paul reminds Timothy that he cannot do all the work of ministry on his own. He needs to build up disciples whom he can delegate

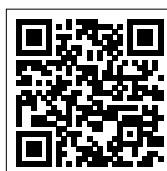
the work of disciple-making to. Appointing others to appropriate roles and delegating work is an important part of making disciples who, in turn, will make disciples.

Don't fear letting go or handing off something. Rather, prayerfully look for others to involve so they can continue to lead and work to make disciples of Jesus.

Our job as devoted Christians, true followers of Christ, is to MODEL evangelism: Make Other Disciples so Everyone Learns about Jesus!

NATASHIA MCVAY

Pacific Northwest pastoral columnist



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-4-POV-75





Seeds of Friendship

**ALL FORMS OF
EVANGELISM
MATTER. AT
THEIR CORE?
RELATIONSHIPS.**

In my work and across the church, evangelism is a regular topic of conversation, especially this year with the Pentecost 2025 initiative.

With 5,800 sites across North America and nearly 300 in the Northwest, the movement is gaining momentum with its focus on prayer, community engagement, proclamation and discipleship.

After some initial hesitation about settling into my new neighborhood, I began praying for an opportunity to engage. Then the Holy Spirit nudged me: Befriend your neighbors.

I made trail mix and cheerful yellow cards for our two immediate neighbors. The first knock seemed to wipe out my rehearsed speech, yet the elderly man and the young family both accepted our gift of neighborliness. I realized later I had forgotten to ask their names!

One afternoon at the playground, I overheard a mom I'd seen before give her son the "three-minute warning" before leaving. I felt that nudge again. "Go talk with her!" In just 20 minutes, a new friendship blossomed.

I'm praying that these small connections grow into something more — a space for community, conversations about faith and maybe even a small group someday.

I recently met two friends on the other end of the friendship-and-faith spectrum.

Ed, a retiring mechanic of 47 years, started hosting prayer groups in the back of his shop. He

wished he had a Bible to support those gatherings.

One day, he mentioned this to his tool rep, Rick, who happens to be a lay leader at Voice of Hope Church in Lakewood, Washington. Rick offered him a Bible and invited him to church.

His choice changed everything. Three months after his baptism, Ed attended the third annual Propel Conference to keep learning how to share his faith.

In a Propel Conference presentation on relational evangelism, a speaker quoted Ellen White's call to become "intensely interested in the salvation of others" (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, chapter 27). I highly recommend listening to more at propelconference.org/podcasts.

This relational approach is essential to the work of evangelism — because you can't lead someone to Jesus if they don't trust you.

I know not everyone feels excited when they hear the word *evangelism*. For some, evangelism brings to mind fear, pressure, awkward conversations or programs that feel disconnected from real life. If those past experiences resonate with you, I can see why you'd hesitate.

But what if we looked again and saw evangelism less as a script and more as a relationship?

Our role is simple yet sacred: plant seeds, invite, believe, pray — and be present, whether in friendship, small groups or other moments of discipleship.

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union communication
director and Gleaner editor

TABLE TALK PROMPT

What are some challenges you face when it comes to connecting with others and starting new friendships? What's one small, practical step you can take this week to overcome those challenges and build a relationship with someone in your community?

Let's keep the conversation going. Share highlights of your table talk stories and reflections by emailing talk@nwadventists.com.

BENDALUSONG



AUTHOR Heidi Baumgartner

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



More online at
[NWADVENT.ST/120-4-TT-73](https://nwadventist.org/120-4-TT-73)

Make us part of your summer plans.

**Schedule a visit to Walla Walla University today.
We will even help cover some of your travel costs!**

During a summer visit to WWU, you will:

- ✓ Go on an informative campus tour customized to your interests.
- ✓ Meet with helpful people like financial counselors and academic representatives.
- ✓ Food and lodging is on us for up to three days and three nights during in-person visits.
- ✓ Learn about what it's like to live in the residence halls.
- ✓ Explore our college town and surrounding valley.



► **Not able to make it to campus? Join us online for a virtual tour.**
Schedule your campus visit today at [**wallawalla.edu/visit**](https://wallawalla.edu/visit).



Your church can grow beyond what you've ever seen before!



**JOIN A FREE MONTHLY
ZOOM COACHING SESSION**
for pastors, church leaders &
church members

- First Sabbath of each month
- 4-5 p.m., Pacific
- Hosted by Dan Serns & friends

Details & Resources
[**npuc.org/pentecostmentoring**](https://npuc.org/pentecostmentoring)

Upcoming

**WEEK OF PRAYER
WEEK OF REAPING
PENTECOST BAPTISM DAY**

**August 16-23, 2025
November 15-22, 2025
November 22, 2025**



gleaner

North Pacific Union Conference
5709 N. 20th St.
Ridgefield, WA 98642

nwadventists.com

Whole-person care for the whole you



You were made for more moments spent with them

Which is why our mission is to provide health, wholeness, and hope to everyone who walks through our doors. We serve more than 100 communities throughout California, Hawaii, and Oregon with high-quality care, innovative treatments, and cutting-edge technology. All meant to inspire wellness for your mental, physical, and spiritual health. So you can enjoy more of the moments you were made for.

Learn more at AdventistHealth.org

Adventist Health 

MADE FOR MORE