

PERSPECTIVE
Living Water

JUST FOR KIDS
When Elijah Ran

TABLE TALK
Before We Speak, We Pray

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



IT'S BEGINNING TO **RAIN**

A Five-Year Report of Mission, Growth and God's Leading

NPUC CONSTITUENCY REPORT
2021-2025

JULY/AUG
2026
VOL. 121, N° 4

For I will pour water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants. They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams.

Isaiah 44:3-4

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JULY/AUGUST 2026

A PEOPLE IN THE RAIN OF HIS PROMISE

OUR GOD-GIVEN MISSION is to reach all people across North Pacific Union and beyond with the Christ-centered Adventist message of hope and wholeness.

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AS NPUC PREPARES for its 30th constituency session on Aug. 23 at Walla Walla University, the theme "It's Beginning to Rain" offers a reminder of God's renewing work through His people and the lives He continues to change.

Through every generation, God has called leaders, pastors, educators, members and young people to serve faithfully. More than a gathering to conduct church business, this season invites delegates and members alike to listen closely and seek God's leading for what comes next.

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DO YOU HAVE a system in place to regularly collect the living water? Have you diverted the living water into a tunnel so that you will always have an abundant supply no matter what happens in life?

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A PEOPLE IN THE RAIN OF HIS PROMISE

**WE ARE INVITED INTO
A MISSION OF ETERNAL
SIGNIFICANCE. EVEN NOW,
THE PROMISED LATTER
RAIN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS
BEGINNING TO FALL. IN THIS
PROMISE, WE ARE CALLED
TO STEP FORWARD IN FAITH
— TRUSTING THAT GOD WILL
ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK
THROUGH HIS PEOPLE.**



JOHN FREEDMAN
North Pacific Union president

Our God-given mission is to reach all people across North Pacific Union and beyond with the Christ-centered Adventist message of hope and wholeness.

This distinctive message, rooted in the Three Angels' Messages of Rev. 14:6–12, is centered on the eternal gospel of Jesus Christ. It speaks to a world marked by division, anger and brokenness — yet it also points to a people who are preparing for Christ's return.

Together, we are seeking unity, praying with purpose and longing for His coming in power and glory. We know that only Jesus Christ can restore what has been broken and bring God's creation back to His original design.

The evil one stole the innocence of humanity. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, was sent by the Father to take upon Himself human flesh. Fully God and fully human, He provided for humanity what we could not provide for ourselves after the fall: perfect righteousness.

Since the fall of Adam and Eve, humanity has been born in sin — inclined toward it and separated from God. Humanity is spiritually dead, and the wage for sin is eternal death.

Jesus won the battle for the salvation of humanity. By living a perfect life in human flesh, He became sin for us on the cross so that we could become the righteousness of God in Him.

Jesus suffered the curse of the second death so we may receive the gift of eternal life in Him. In Christ, we have been made alive. On the cross, Jesus also demonstrated that God is love and He desires to adopt us into His family.

The Holy Spirit, who lives in us, works out the victory Christ won in our lives. We are not left to live the Christian life on our own — we are not spiritual orphans. The Holy Spirit becomes our Guardian, Guide and Teacher of spiritual truth, empowering us to live in Christ. The power to overcome sin is His work.

The Spirit was the greatest gift Christ could give us upon His ascension. We receive Him as we pray in humility and recognize our need.

Christ will soon return to our rebellious, sin-stricken planet. He will bring an end to violence and evil, restore the earth and dwell with us for eternity. Pain and death will be no more.



Together, we are seeking unity, praying with purpose and longing for His coming in power and glory. We know that only Jesus Christ can restore what has been broken and bring God's creation back to His original design.

The world needs to hear this message and see it embodied in those who believe it. This is our mission.

The Godhead itself models this mission. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit work in perfect unity for the salvation and restoration of humanity and continue in concert until the great controversy is brought to its conclusion.

Christ has called us into that same shared work. We are a community of believers joining Him in this mission. We cannot grow weary. We must not lose faith in the power of the gospel or the blood He shed for forgiveness.

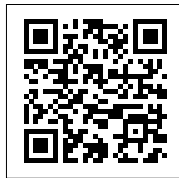
We press forward in unity, sharing the good news that God is love and that Jesus will return soon. He who lives in us is greater than He who is in the world. We must pray for His strength, wisdom and power as we seek those lost in sin and lies.

The darkest part of the night is right before dawn. Soon we shall see Jesus, the Bright and Morning Star, appear in the eastern sky.

Those who love Him and are alive at that time will shout, "This is our God, whom we have waited for!" Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!

Let's keep looking up. Jesus will transform us into His image and restore the earth. Together, let us pray for the latter rain of the Spirit and move forward with our God-given mission. It's beginning to rain – the signs are everywhere.

JOHN FREEDMAN
North Pacific Union president



More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-EDT-39 

gleaner

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IMAGES OF CREATION, P. 2

"Barley Field Sunset,"
near Steptoe, Washington,
by Robert Bond,
of College Place, Washington.





IT'S BEGINNING TO

RAIN

A Five-Year Report of Mission, Growth and God's Leading

In every generation, God works through leaders, pastors, educators, members and young people, each using their gifts to bring encouragement, growth and renewal to His church.

2021-2025

President's Report

Our theme, “It’s Beginning to Rain,” reminds us that God has always chosen to work through His people — often in ordinary places, through faithful lives, and through the gifts He entrusts. In scripture, rain is a sign of His blessing, His timing and His renewing presence.



*John Freedman,
president*

North Pacific Union’s 30th constituency session will gather on Sunday, Aug. 23, on the Walla Walla University campus. Beyond coming together to conduct the work of the church, the most important invitation to members and delegates alike is to listen for the voice of God and discern how He is leading His people in this season.

Our union of conferences serves to strengthen mission and unity across a broader region, supporting collaboration among the six conferences that comprise NPUC — Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Upper Columbia and Washington — each faithfully shaping ministry to the communities they serve.

Each week, our union team gathers for worship, prayer and encouragement, sharing stories of how God is at work across the territory. These moments remind us that the same mission we speak of in this report is already being lived out in real time as we pray, listen and witness God’s ongoing faithfulness.

Education and Healthcare

Among the many ways mission is lived out in NPUC, education and healthcare are two of our most visible expressions of service and witness.

WWU remains a valued, God-given gift within NPUC, continuing its mission of Christ-centered,

Adventist Christian education in a complex and changing landscape. Under the leadership of Alex Bryan, WWU president, and the investment of outstanding professors and staff, the university is navigating these challenges while remaining committed to academic excellence, spiritual development and service.

The NPUC education department plays a key role in strengthening the work of local conference education ministries. They collaborate closely with North American Division on curriculum development and provide ongoing in-service training and support for teachers throughout the territory. In partnership with WWU, the education department also helps facilitate access to affordable graduate education, supporting the continued professional development of educators.

NPUC is also blessed by the presence of three Adventist Health hospitals in our territory, each carrying forward a shared mission: “Living God’s love by providing health, wholeness and hope.” We are grateful for this ministry of healing and presence in our communities. Delegates will hear more from Kerry Heinrich, Adventist Health corporate CEO, and Kyle King, Adventist Health Portland president.

IT'S BEGINNIN

Evangelism and Church Growth

The Adventist Church carries a vital mission entrusted by God, demonstrated through Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Our theme reflects a renewed focus on mission across NPUC over the past five years. We are seeing encouraging evidence of spiritual renewal and engagement within our territory.

Pentecost 2025 evangelism — initiated by NAD and supported by NPUC and local conferences — engaged hundreds of churches and schools in coordinated community outreach. The result: God honored our mission focus with new baptisms, church growth, church plants and church revitalizations. Truly, it's beginning to rain, and the call to mission continues before us.

We have recently added church planting, church revitalization and lay leadership development. Additionally, NPUC Ministerial Convention, bringing pastoral leaders and families together just before constituency session, will strengthen shared vision and collaboration across ministries.

Next Generation Investments

NPUC continues to invest intentionally in youth and young adult ministries, supporting their growth, calling and engagement in the life of the church. Through initiatives such as Growing Young/Growing Together and DiscipleTrek, along with public campus ministries and targeted scholarships, we are equipping the next generation for leadership and service.

These efforts include support for WWU students and for young adults pursuing a calling to pastoral or teaching ministry. NPUC Pathfinder ministries continues to flourish and grow, and Adventist summer camp ministries is in its 100th year.

Ministry Integration

Ministry in the Pacific Northwest is strengthened as departments and leaders work together, aligning their efforts to support the growth of local conferences and churches, as evident in the work of Hispanic and regional ministries.

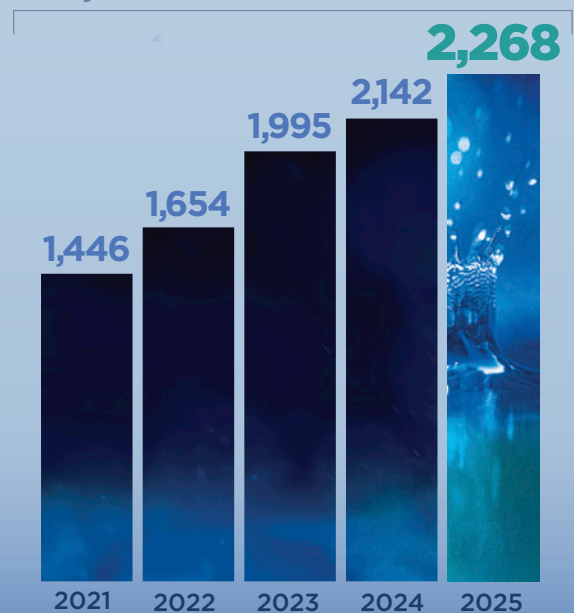
Hispanic ministries continues to see encouraging growth in baptisms and the planting of new congregations, reflecting a shared focus on evangelism and mission.

EuGene Lewis, NPUC vice president for regional ministries, has provided continuity in regional ministries following the retirement of Byron Dulan. Collaboration with regional leaders has also contributed to baptismal growth during initiatives such as Pentecost 2025.

This collaborative mission is also strengthened through religious liberty, Adventist Community Services, Native, women's, urban and prison ministries across the territory.

GOD'S GROWING FAMILY

9,505 NEW MEMBERS



G TO RAIN



Mission Support

The communication department provides creative support for ministry departments and conferences. The team produces the *Gleaner* magazine, which continues to serve our members through high-quality and award-winning storytelling, and is finding ways to work more efficiently and provide new ways to serve our staff.

The information technology team continues to provide effective and cost-efficient technology support. Four years ago, following an external evaluation conducted in collaboration with Oregon Conference, it was affirmed that maintaining internal IT services provided the best value and service for the organization.

Financial Stewardship

Jeff Fogelquist, NPUC chief financial officer, leads the treasury team, which supports the financial health of NPUC while also training and assisting local conference leaders in the use of NAD financial systems. Mark Remboldt, who retired in January 2025 after 20 years of service, contributed significantly to the strength and stability of this work.

The trust department, in partnership with Western Adventist Foundation, supports stewardship and planned giving. In addition, NPUC Association oversees the Revolving Fund, which provides loans for the construction and renovation of churches and schools. At present, more than \$24 million is invested in mission infrastructure through this fund, which remains open to new deposits.

Across the past decade, NPUC has focused on responsible stewardship of resources, including adjustments in staffing and operations that have strengthened support for conferences and ministries while improving efficiency. At the same time, rising operational and facility costs continue to shape how resources are balanced between maintenance and direct mission support, with ongoing conversations focused on long-term sustainability.

In 2025, there were 2,268 accessions — combined baptisms and professions of faith — the highest number we have seen in NPUC in 13 years.

A Season of Transition

On March 13, 2026, I announced my upcoming retirement after 45 years of service in the Adventist Church. My term at NPUC will end at the close of the 30th session. It has been a privilege to serve the last 10 years as your president.

Malinda and I began our pastoral ministry journey in New Jersey Conference during the summer of 1981. We then served in Rocky Mountain Conference and Northern California Conference. We began our administrative ministry journey in 1998 in Washington Conference and continued our calling in NPUC.

Bill McClendon, NPUC vice president for administration, also announced his transition from elected leadership. He has been my right hand for eight years and served NPUC with distinction. We have both offered to help in the leadership transitions as needed.

My Prayer for NPUC

The mission of the Adventist Church remains unchanged. While methods and approaches may continue to adapt in response to a changing environment, our calling is still to be Christ-centered, people-focused and mission-driven.

I deeply appreciate the desire I see — by our diverse members across NPUC — to make a difference and to be change agents through the power of the living Christ. I'm grateful for the ministry done every week in our Northwest communities.

As we move forward, my prayer is that we will continue to seek God's wisdom for faithful and effective ministry in every context. With confidence in Christ, we move into the future together, trusting Him as the source of our strength and security.

In every season, the call remains the same: to be faithful, to be united, to look for the rains of blessing and to proclaim the hope of His soon return.

May we enter this season with prayerful preparation and expectancy, asking the Lord for His "latter rain" (Zech. 10:1), and opening our hearts to His shaping work.



JOHN FREEDMAN
North Pacific Union president

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/121-4-FT-42](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/121-4-ft-42)

SIGNS OF REN

Secretariat Report

Signs of renewal are beginning to appear across North Pacific Union, and the secretariat office has served as a rain gauge for the Holy Spirit's work by tracking accessions, supporting governance and credentialing, preparing for constituency and preserving the records that help tell what God is doing among His people.

During the past five years, encouraging signs have emerged in three important areas: gathering again, lives changed and church vitality. Behind these signs of renewal, the secretariat office continues to strengthen the church through governance, records and organizational support.

Gathering Again

When the pandemic disrupted church life, attendance naturally dropped sharply and many congregations experienced the challenge of scattered participation. It has taken time for the church family to reassemble in person.

Over the past year, combined in-person and online participation has climbed to 40%, up from less than 20% in person in the years immediately following the pandemic. Like the first raindrops after a drought, these numbers remind us that the Holy Spirit is still drawing people back into community, worship and mission.

Lives Changed

Accessions — a term that includes both baptisms and professions of faith — help tell the story of how people are joining the church family.

Behind every number is a life changed — someone who has chosen to follow the Lord and unite with His remnant church. The last time NPUC recorded more than 2,200 accessions in a single year was 2013. That changed in 2025 when accessions reached 2,268 — the highest total in more than a decade.

These stories reflect the continued commitment of conferences, pastors and members to the mission of the church. As a result of this ongoing emphasis on evangelism, NPUC membership reached 104,543 at the close of 2025.

Church Vitality

Across the quinquennium, conferences and local churches faithfully shared the gospel through Bible studies, public meetings, small groups, acts of service and personal invitations.

Pentecost 2025 — a North American Division initiative that encouraged coordinated evangelistic outreach — became a particularly meaningful experience as churches and schools across the Northwest worked together and witnessed many individuals make decisions to follow Christ. As churches renewed their focus on mission and sharing the Adventist message in their communities, additional signs of new life began to emerge in the vitality of our churches.

In 2020, a large majority of congregations were identified as declining, with relatively few churches experiencing measurable growth. By 2025, the number of declining congregations had decreased substantially, the number of growing churches had more than doubled and several congregations had entered a multiplying phase of ministry.

Across more than 500 congregations, these trends reflect churches rediscovering purpose, reconnecting with their communities and finding fresh energy for ministry — encouraging signs that the Holy Spirit is continuing to work throughout NPUC.

EWAL



*Bill McClendon,
vice president
for administration*



*Kristina Lopez,
secretariat
assistant director*



*Malinda Freedman,
executive assistant
and receptionist*



*Linda Tigner,
receptionist*

Strengthening the Church

The secretariat office continually seeks to support and strengthen the church in its renewal and growth by providing the structure, records and processes for effective ministry. This work includes coordinating executive committee actions, maintaining official records, supporting the credentialing process and assisting with bylaw and policy matters.

Significant time was devoted to assisting conferences with leadership evaluations, supporting nominating committees as they prepared for constituency meetings and helping ensure that the constitutional and governance processes of NPUC were followed carefully and consistently.

The secretariat office also works closely with conference secretaries to maintain accurate membership records and promote consistent accession, membership and attendance reporting throughout NPUC. Though much of this work happens quietly, it strengthens the foundation of the church and supports the mission taking place in each local congregation.

This quinquennium was also marked by several significant leadership transitions across NPUC and its institutions. The secretariat office assisted in transitions, including NPUC vice presidents for Hispanic ministries and regional ministries, NPUC chief financial officer and the presidents of Walla Walla University, Alaska Conference, Montana Conference, Oregon Conference and Upper Columbia Conference.

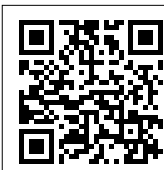
I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving NPUC during the past five years. I have been continually encouraged by the dedication of conference leaders, pastors, church members, conference secretaries and our conference and union office staff whose faithful service continues to advance the mission of the church across our territory.

Watch for God's Rain

The work of the secretariat office helps the church recognize where God is moving, strengthen the church for today and prepare faithfully for what comes next. We see regular examples of how it's beginning to rain.

The signs of renewal we have seen during this quinquennium — people returning, lives changed, churches growing stronger and congregations engaging more fully in mission — are fresh signs of God's rain among His people.

We look to the future with confidence, trusting that the God who has begun this good work will continue to bless the ministry and witnessing of NPUC in the years ahead.



BILL MCCLENDON
*North Pacific Union vice
president for administration*

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-FT-91

STREAMS OF

Treasury Report

Across the Northwest, countless acts of faithfulness have joined together like raindrops becoming a stream, providing the resources needed to sustain ministry and prepare for what comes next.



*Jeff Fogelquist,
chief financial officer*

These continuing streams of support have enabled North Pacific Union to strengthen evangelism, education and ministry across the Northwest.

The treasury department's mission is clear: to faithfully and accountably steward the resources God provides, using them in tangible ways to help share the distinctive, Christ-centered, Adventist message of hope and wholeness.

We are grateful for the trust placed in the ministries and conferences of NPUC and strive to honor that trust through consistent, principled, forward-looking and mission-focused financial leadership.

Throughout this quinquennium, the treasury team has worked to safeguard these resources with integrity, transparency and accountability to ensure that financial practices comply with the law, align with church policy and follow Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Financial Stewardship in Action

Faithful stewardship requires more than careful intentions; it also depends on strong systems, clear accountability and financial leadership.

Monthly financial statements and key performance indicators are regularly provided to executive committee and departmental leadership, enabling informed decision-making and timely evaluation of financial trends.

Annual budgets are prepared with input from officers and directors, ensuring that each ministry area participates in the planning process.

In addition to internal responsibilities, the treasury team serves as a resource for conference, university and academy finance personnel, providing insight, training and support in areas ranging from software support and accounting practices to human resources.

Over the past five years, the treasury department has continued to strengthen financial systems and leadership across NPUC. Conferences and academies have benefited from ongoing training and support in the use of North American Division's accounting and payroll software.

Annual treasury councils have provided opportunities for collaboration, policy updates and professional development for conference treasury teams and academy finance leaders. These gatherings have fostered a culture of shared learning and have helped ensure consistency in financial practices throughout NPUC.

Monthly financial reporting has been enhanced to include key performance indicators and analytical tools that assist leaders in understanding trends and making informed decisions.

Committees have met regularly to evaluate financial performance, review audit findings and recommend adjustments to budgets and policies. These committees play a vital role in maintaining accountability and ensuring that financial decisions support the mission of the church.

During this quinquennium, NPUC continued to receive clean, unqualified audit opinions each year from General Conference Auditing Service, affirming the reliability of our financial reporting and internal controls.

Showers of Blessing

Tithe across NPUC remained strong — reflecting the faithfulness of our members even during periods of economic uncertainty — amounting to \$564,387,524, which represents an increase of 16.57% over the prior quinquennium, or an annualized growth rate of 3.11%.

Support for education has remained a high priority. Appropriations totaling \$26,542,387 were made to Walla Walla University by NPUC and its conferences for operating, capital and special initiatives, including Bright Future and NextGen scholarships.

SUPPORT



*Kody Hendrickson,
undertreasurer*



*Anne Vu,
associate treasurer*



*Penny Ford,
accounting clerk*



*Kelly Lehto,
maintenance*

Contributions to the K-12 system across the union through direct appropriations, scholarships, curriculum, training and professional development initiatives totaled \$16,218,578.

Evangelism funding was emphasized, with substantial allocations directed to local conferences to support outreach initiatives, public meetings and community engagement efforts totaling \$8,952,642.

Mission Priorities

Several opportunities and challenges are emerging that will shape NPUC's financial leadership and mission in the years ahead.

STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION

Inflation, rising costs and changing giving patterns continue to place pressure on churches and conferences across the Northwest. These challenges also create an opportunity to strengthen stewardship education and expand the use of digital giving tools, helping members see how faithful giving supports lives changed through God's mission locally and globally.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Leadership transitions create an opportunity to strengthen the next generation of financial and ministry leaders. As experienced leaders retire or change roles, intentional mentoring, training and internships can help preserve institutional knowledge, strengthen understanding of church structure and policy, and prepare new leaders to serve with confidence and stability.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND SECURITY

Governmental, legal and financial regulations continue to increase, creating added pressure for conferences, churches and schools. Smaller organizations may need additional support to meet audit expectations, denominational policies and regulatory standards. Continued investment in training, internal controls and cybersecurity will help protect the overall organization and reduce risk.

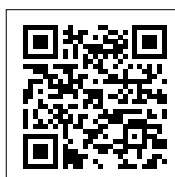
ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

Increased collaboration in administration and services will remain vital to effective ministry. Making full use of available denominational systems can help conferences, churches and schools work more efficiently while strengthening support across the Northwest.

Partnering With God

The treasury department remains committed to supporting the mission of NPUC through responsible financial management, transparent reporting and collaborative leadership.

We express deep appreciation to our members, employees and ministry partners for their faithfulness and dedication. With God's guidance, we will continue to steward His resources with integrity, wisdom and a steadfast focus on advancing His work throughout our territory.



JEFF FOGELQUIST
*North Pacific Union
chief financial officer*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/121-4-FT-96](https://www.nwadvent.org/NWADVENT.ST/121-4-FT-96) 

Education

The education department is committed to cultivating schools where the seeds of faith and learning can grow. As educators pursue continuous spiritual and professional growth, model Christlike character and provide high-quality, purposeful learning, they help prepare the ground for the Holy Spirit's rain to take root in the lives of students.



*Keith Hallam,
vice president
for education*



*Brian Harris,
secondary education
director*



*Becky Meharry,
elementary and
curriculum education
director*



*Renae Young,
early childhood
education coordinator*



*Debbie Hendrickson,
education certification
registrar and
administrative assistant*

This work matters because every student — 100% of NPUC students — should be loved, challenged and prepared to live, serve and share with confidence in God's purpose.

The education ministry focus has been:

- » Growing leaders and teachers spiritually and professionally.
- » Developing positive school cultures.
- » Advancing standards-based learning, grading and reporting.
- » Providing spiritual encouragement and holistic training for students.

This report is offered with expressed appreciation to our conference and school leaders and teachers who have united in purpose and collectively collaborated to grow spiritually and professionally. They are the heroes of Adventist education.

Ministry Highlights

TEACHING AND LEARNING

- » Led the adoption of a shared teaching framework across NPUC schools
- » Provided focused leadership training that fosters spiritual growth and enhances professional skills in teachers

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- » Strengthened principal leadership for standards-based learning and expanded leadership meetings to include all full-time principals
- » Established spiritual retreats for superintendents and principals, supporting renewal and connection
- » Deepened partnership with Walla Walla University School of Education to train new teachers and first-year principals

DATA AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- » Implemented School Culture 360 Survey and integrated data into continuous improvement for goal setting and planning
- » Improved accreditation oversight for elementary and junior academy schools across NPUC

MISSION AND ACCESS

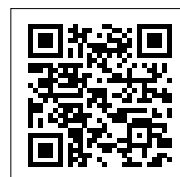
- » Sponsored NPUC Youth Prayeradigm Shift retreats
- » Established the Helping Others Pursue Education scholarship to support immigrant, indigenous and underserved families

BY THE NUMBERS

- » 521 educators hold North American Division educator certification processed through the NPUC education department.
- » There are 115 institutions of learning: 20 early childhood programs, 79 K-8/10 schools and 16 academies (five boarding and 11 K-12).
- » 206 students celebrated baptism in the 2024-2025 academic year, with 22 coming from non-Adventist families.

Mission Priorities

Looking ahead, we are seeking to expand access to Adventist education by strengthening financial support for families, thoughtfully evaluating the future of the boarding school model in our territory and continuing to affirm the vital role of Adventist education in shaping students' spiritual growth and life values from kindergarten through higher education.



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/121-4-FT-89](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/121-4-ft-89)

Regional Ministries

Regional ministries exists to strengthen, connect and advance the mission of African American churches throughout the territory. It focuses on leadership development, evangelism, youth engagement and strengthening local regional churches so they can thrive where they are.



*EuGene Lewis,
vice president for
regional ministries*



*Patric Parris,
regional ministries
administrative assistant*



*Kimberly Hudgens,
regional ministries
administrative assistant*

This ministry builds on the legacy of those who came before — faithful leaders who laid the groundwork — and it continues today through the dedication of pastors, volunteers and members whose service keeps the ministry moving forward.

A Season of Growth and Renewal

The 2021–2025 ministry years show real signs of progress. There’s a growing sense of spiritual renewal — like long-awaited rain beginning to fall. That renewal is showing up in tangible ways across the field.

Baptismal growth is one of the clearest signs of this advancement. Baptisms increased from 19 in 2024 to 145 in 2025 — a 663% rise. This reflects stronger outreach, deeper engagement and a renewed spiritual focus.

Of note, Washington Conference’s all-in involvement in Pentecost 2025 evangelism initiative resulted in 126 baptisms within regional churches. Alaska Conference and Upper Columbia Conference both reported eight baptisms, while Oregon Conference and Idaho Conference both reported three baptisms within regional churches. Together, these results point to steady momentum across the region.

This progress didn’t happen by accident. It reflects intentional work in several key areas:

- » Strengthening pastoral leadership and support
- » Expanding community-centered evangelism
- » Encouraging active member involvement
- » Investing in youth and young adult engagement

At the same time, financial trends point to both encouragement and opportunity. Idaho Conference and UCC experienced modest regional tithe increases, while Washington Conference and Alaska Conference saw declines. Overall, regional tithe across NPUC decreased by 8.31%. These trends highlight the ongoing importance of stewardship education, member engagement and strengthening the financial foundation for future ministry.

New Connections

One encouraging sign of growth was the opportunity to visit Oasis Church in Boise, Idaho. What began as a simple visit quickly developed into a meaningful connection. After worshiping with the congregation and spending time with its members, it became clear that Oasis Church is a church with strong potential and a heart for ministry. We were pleased to welcome Oasis Church into the regional family.

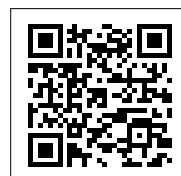
We are also encouraged by the number of children from Oasis Church who attend Boise Valley Adventist School. Their involvement reflects growing family engagement and helps lay a strong foundation for future ministry and discipleship in the region.

Mission Priorities

Mission priorities include expanding community outreach, developing new leaders, strengthening youth involvement and rebuilding and stabilizing financial support within regional ministries.

There’s a real sense that what we’re seeing now is just the beginning. The “rain” has started, but there’s more to come. With continued faith, teamwork and commitment, regional ministries is well positioned to grow stronger and reach even more communities in the years ahead.

To view the Adventist Community Services and urban ministries reports, please visit NWADVENT.ST/121-4-FT-85.



Move online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-FT-92

Hispanic Ministries

Hispanic ministries is committed to serving, supporting and strengthening Hispanic congregations across North Pacific Union through local conferences. We seek to equip pastors, church leaders and members with the resources needed to fulfill our shared mission: reaching Hispanic communities throughout our territory and preparing hearts for Christ's glorious return.



*Peter Simpson,
vice president for Hispanic ministries
vicepresidente de ministerios Hispanos*



*Carolina Simpson,
Hispanic ministries administrative assistant
asistente administrativa de ministerios Hispanos*

Ministry Highlights

- » More than \$355,000 has been invested in missionary initiatives across Hispanic churches, including \$100,000 for Pentecost 2025 evangelism outreach. In addition, approximately \$370,000 in Hispanic capital funds has supported the purchase, construction and renovation of church facilities.
- » Thanks to the teamwork of pastors and members, 3,056 new souls joined Spanish-speaking churches between 2021 and 2025.
- » Hispanic congregations increased from 68 in 2021 to 98 in 2025, representing 44% growth during the quinquennium, with new groups forming in previously unreached areas.
- » Faithful stewardship contributed to a 14% increase in Hispanic tithe from 2021 to 2025.

By the Numbers

- » Today, 17,971 Hispanic members are part of the NPUC family, representing 17% of the total membership.
- » In 2025, Hispanic ministries celebrated 831 baptisms — the highest number in the past five years. This remarkable growth of 110% since 2021 reflects a strong spirit of outreach, with Hispanic baptisms accounting for 37% of all baptisms in NPUC.
- » Seventy Pentecost 2025 projects were embraced within Hispanic congregations; some of these efforts led to more than 30 baptisms in just one day, as happened in Idaho Conference and Oregon Conference.

Mission Priorities

The Hispanic ministries team is prayerfully committed to planting 50 new Hispanic congregations over the next five years and acquiring 10 new church buildings to support continued growth.

A special focus is being placed on establishing a Hispanic ministry within Montana Conference, where a small but faithful group of believers is already laying the foundation.

We ask for prayer that God will bless these efforts, allowing this ministry to grow and become firmly established as it reaches new communities with the hope of the gospel. Everywhere we look, we see how it's beginning to rain with the Holy Spirit's blessings.

Hispanic ministries celebrated 831 baptisms in 2025 — the highest number in the past five years.

Ministerios Hispanos celebraron 831 bautismos en 2025 — constituyendo la cifra más alta en los últimos cinco años.

Ministerios Hispanos

Ministerios Hispanos se compromete a servir, apoyar y fortalecer a las congregaciones Hispanas en toda la Unión del Pacífico Norte a través de conferencias locales. Buscamos equipar a pastores, líderes de iglesias y miembros con los recursos necesarios para cumplir nuestra misión compartida: alcanzar a las comunidades Hispanas en todo nuestro territorio y preparar los corazones para el glorioso regreso de Cristo.

Logros Ministeriales

- » Se han invertido más de \$355,000 en iniciativas misioneras en iglesias Hispanas, incluyendo \$100,000 para la evangelización de Pentecostés 2025. Además, aproximadamente \$370,000 de fondos de capital Hispano han apoyado la compra, construcción y renovación de instalaciones de iglesias.
- » Gracias al trabajo en equipo de pastores y miembros, 3,056 personas se unieron a iglesias Hispanas entre 2021 y 2025.
- » Las congregaciones Hispanas aumentaron de 68 en 2021 a 98 en 2025, lo que representa un crecimiento del 44% durante el quinquenio, con la formación de nuevos grupos en áreas previamente no alcanzadas.
- » La fiel administración de los recursos contribuyó a un aumento del 14% en el diezmo Hispano entre 2021 y 2025.

Datos Relevantes

- » Actualmente, 17,971 miembros Hispanos forman parte de la familia de la NPUC, lo que representa el 17% del total de miembros.
- » Durante el año 2025, el número de bautismos Hispanos alcanzó 831 — constituyendo la cifra más alta en los últimos cinco años. Este notable crecimiento del 110% desde 2021 refleja un fuerte espíritu de servicio, ya que los bautismos Hispanos representan el 37% del total de bautismos en la NPUC.
- » Se lanzaron 70 proyectos de Pentecostés 2025 en las congregaciones Hispanas, lográndose en algunas de ellas, más de 30 bautismos en un solo día, como sucedió en las Conferencias de Idaho y Oregon.

Prioridades de Misión

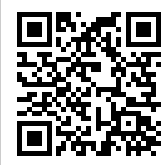
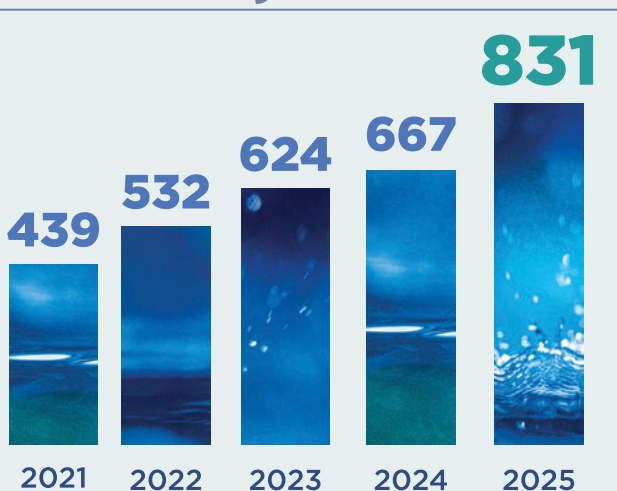
El equipo de ministerios Hispanos, dedicado a la misión y guiado por la oración, planea apoyar la plantación de 50 nuevas iglesias Hispanas en los próximos cinco años, así como la adquisición de al menos 10 nuevos templos para respaldar el crecimiento continuo.

Se está haciendo especial hincapié en establecer un ministerio Hispano dentro de la Conferencia de Montana, donde un pequeño pero fiel grupo de creyentes ya está sentando las bases.

Pedimos oraciones para que Dios bendiga estos esfuerzos, permitiendo que este ministerio crezca y se establezca firmemente al alcanzar nuevas comunidades con la esperanza del evangelio. Dondequiera que miremos, vemos cómo empieza a llover con las bendiciones del Espíritu Santo.

BAPTISMS/BAUTISMOS

3,093



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/121-4-HSP-90](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/121-4-hsp-90)

Ministerial Association

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION SERVES pastors and their families across North Pacific Union through local conferences, providing resources that support spiritual growth, strengthen their calling and encourage professional development for effective ministry.

The department provides resources and training to support pastors and conference ministerial teams, including coordination with Andrews University to serve twice yearly as a host site for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry program, offered in English and Spanish. An annual ministerial retreat provides training, encouragement and renewal for ministerial leaders, along with ongoing mentoring and professional development for pastors across the territory.



*Peter Simpson,
ministerial and
multicultural director*



*Carolina Simpson,
ministerial and
multicultural
administrative assistant*

Multicultural Ministries

MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES SEEKS to reach every ethnic group in NPUC, sharing the gospel in each person's language and cultural context while supporting diverse congregations as they grow in discipleship and mission.

NPUC includes congregations representing many ethnic and language communities, including Indonesian, Filipino, Kenyan, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan and Ukrainian communities, among others across the Northwest. Multilingual congregations continue to grow across the territory, creating new opportunities for outreach and discipleship.

Within this ministry, Nemaia Faletogo, Washington Conference evangelist, was appointed in 2025 to additionally serve as NPUC Asia-Pacific ministries

By the Numbers

- » More than \$100,000 secured for Walla Walla University summer ministerial internships
- » Ongoing mentoring and professional development for pastors across the territory



326 PASTORS SERVING 510 CONGREGATIONS

Mission Priorities

Ministerial Association's mission is to strengthen mentoring and discipleship for pastors, expanding professional development opportunities through new technologies and encouraging young people to consider pastoral ministry. We remain committed to prayerfully supporting both current and emerging generations of pastoral leaders.

coordinator to support the growing number of Asia-Pacific members in the territory. The department continues to provide resources and guidance for multicultural congregations and leaders, helping strengthen ministry among diverse language groups across NPUC.

Mission Priorities

We pray that the Lord of the harvest will send workers from every nation, people and language to share the everlasting gospel throughout our territory. In response to this calling, we are working to develop multilingual councils for ethnic ministries, support the growth of new multicultural congregations and strengthen outreach within diverse communities.

Church Planting, Revitalization and Lay Training

THE CHURCH PLANTING, REVITALIZATION AND LAY TRAINING DEPARTMENT IS ACTIVELY ADVANCING

the Adventist mission in the Pacific Northwest, responding to the Holy Spirit's rain and seeing lives transformed. The department's role, in connection with Rev. 14:6-12, is to mobilize every converted man, woman, youth and child to take the Adventist message to the Northwest and the world in this generation.

Working with the six conferences and WWU, the department trains, equips, activates and mobilizes teams for mission in their homes, schools, workplaces, churches and new communities.

In Matt. 24:14, Jesus said that when the everlasting gospel is preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, then the end will come. We look forward to the day when pain, war, disease, famine and suffering will end and Jesus will return to take His people home.

CHURCH VITALITY TERM INDEX

Missional Small Groups:

3+ people meeting regularly for upreach, inreach and outreach

Mission Groups:

12+ people starting a church group in an unreached community

Developing Churches:

25+ people forming a company of believers

Growing Churches:

Established churches strengthening discipleship and local mission

Multiplying Churches:

50+ people launching and supporting new groups and churches



*Dan Serns,
church planting,
revitalization and lay
training director*



*Lois Serns,
church planting,
revitalization and lay training
administrative assistant*

Ministry Highlights

Across NPUC, it's beginning to rain, as God's blessings and breakthroughs become increasingly evident.

- » Each year, more individuals are embracing the Adventist message through baptism and profession of faith, with 2,268 joining in 2025. Over the past five years, 9,505 people have united with the Adventist movement in the Northwest.
- » As populations shift from rural to metro areas, the department is focusing on establishing missional small groups in every community, particularly in major metro areas. Some of these groups will develop into church plants.

By the Numbers

- » Nearly 16 million people live within the NPUC territory, with about half living in our four largest metro areas — Seattle/Tacoma, Portland/Vancouver, Boise/Treasure Valley and Spokane/Coeur d'Alene. Every one of them needs an invitation to accept Jesus as Lord, to embrace the truths of scripture and to become part of a vibrant Adventist fellowship.
- » There is approximately one Adventist for every 153 people, one congregation for every 30,000 people, one minister for every 47,000 people and one Adventist school for every 131,000 people in the Pacific Northwest.

Mission Priorities

We emphasize prayer for volunteer workers, for the Holy Spirit, for unity and for boldness. We seek to make disciples who go, disciple, baptize and teach, focusing on activating missional small groups and multiplying churches across the territory. In 2027 we plan to activate 2,700 missional small groups, each one leading someone to Jesus and into His final movement. We also plan to launch a new ACTS Church Planting cohort that will develop 27 new mission churches. This work is carried out in cooperation with key initiatives, such as Pentecost and Beyond, OneVoice27 and 50,000 Missional Small Groups.

Youth and Young Adult



Rob Lang,
youth and young adult
ministries director



Velvet Lang,
youth and young
adult ministries
associate director

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

PROVIDES ministry support and training for the full range of discipleship, leadership and outreach activities serving children, youth and young adults across NPUC.

The department's mission is to help young people develop a personal, saving relationship with Jesus and grow as His disciples, prepared to share the Christ-centered Adventist message of hope, wholeness and the soon return of Jesus.

This work includes children's ministries, Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs, youth and young adult ministries, summer camps and conference centers, Sabbath School, Master Guide and teen leadership training, public campus ministries, Adventist Christian Fellowship, National Servicemen's Organization, Growing Together cohorts and DiscipleTrek.

Ministry Highlights

- » Two *Alive in Jesus* children's ministries training events
- » Children's ministries leader certification training
- » 2022 NPUC Pathfinder Camporee in Kalispell, Montana, with 1,656 attendees
- » Growing Together cohorts supporting church revitalization
- » Annual NPUC Leadership and Discipleship Summit
- » Annual collegiate DiscipleTrek spiritual growth and leadership program
- » Annual Young Adult Outreach Summit and Spark Tank
- » Host site for NAD Adventist Christian Fellowship Institute in 2025 and NPUC ACFI in 2024

BY THE NUMBERS

6,123

decisions for Christ at camp

7,001

family campers

16,375

youth campers

3,069

young adult and
volunteer camp staff

3,925

NPUC attendees at
2024 International Pathfinder Camporee

29

young adult
Spark Tank
ministry teams

18

churches participating
in Growing Together
cohorts

76

young adults in
DiscipleTrek leadership training

Mission Priorities

Current mission priorities include supporting conference leaders in providing *Alive in Jesus* training and encouraging wider use of the curriculum in local churches; strengthening discipleship opportunities for senior youth and young adults; providing resources for strong youth and young adult Sabbath Schools; establishing additional Adventist Christian Fellowships on secular campuses; continuing to emphasize Growing Together church revitalization; actively supporting camp accreditations; and equipping young adults for active involvement in church life, church planting and mission.

Communication



*Heidi Baumgartner,
communication
director and Gleaner
editor*



*José Segovia,
media ministries
coordinator and Gleaner
multimedia editor*

FRANCELY ZURITA

THE COMMUNICATION TEAM AND GLEANER MAGAZINE SERVE four core purposes: to inform, instruct, inspire and invite. Through this framework, the *Gleaner* builds trust, offers pastoral care, fosters reader engagement and invites an expanding base of contributors and voices.

Ministry Highlights

- » Distributed the *Gleaner* to approximately 38,000 households six times each year
- » Curated a weekly Northwest Adventists email newsletter for nearly 10,000 subscribers
- » Made nwadventists.com available in 12 languages, with more available upon request
- » Received Society of Adventist Communicators awards recognizing excellence in writing and design
- » Co-sponsored Creators Lab with Oregon Conference and Washington Conference communication teams
- » Sponsored WWU communication students to attend SAC for networking and professional development
- » Launched the Adventist Community app for local conferences, churches and schools in partnership with IT

Mission Priorities

Priorities include strengthening connections with readers, expanding digital evangelism and creating more opportunities for creative contribution. This includes growing capacity for media ministries and digital storytelling in NPUC's revitalized studio, alongside continued partnership with conference communication teams. We continue to nurture the relational connections that stories naturally build.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY PLAYS a vital role in supporting the mission and daily operations of NPUC, local conferences and youth camps. In recent years, efforts have focused on strengthening core infrastructure, equipping pastors, teachers and staff with reliable tools and ensuring technology effectively supports ministry, education and administration.

Ministry Highlights

- » Provided education and support for tools like Adobe, Microsoft Copilot and Office that help employees write, plan and collaborate more effectively
- » Supported staff and leadership across multiple conferences, deployed new systems and updated network links, helping ensure technology issues did not unduly slow ministry
- » Increased awareness around email safety and online threats, while responding quickly when issues arose to protect information, people and organizations

Information Technology



*Loren Bordeaux,
information
technology director*



*Daniel Cates,
information technology
associate director*



*Tami Edwards,
information technology
support specialist*

By the Numbers

- » In 2025, NPUC, Oregon and Washington conferences held 2,463 Zoom meetings with 13,224 participants, totaling 649,954 minutes.
- » Pastors and staff collectively receive more than 1 million email messages each year — about 90,000 per month.

Mission Priorities

Our mission priorities include helping staff use new tools confidently, creatively and ethically to support ministry and communication, while building a culture of attentiveness and shared responsibility around digital safety. We seek to reduce manual tasks and complexity so staff can devote more time to ministry and mission. We also seek to develop purposeful uses of AI that increase productivity and improve insights.

Native Ministries



Steve Huey,
Native ministries
director

NATIVE MINISTRIES BRINGS the gospel of hope, wholeness and pastoral care to Native American communities across NPUC in collaboration with local conferences and North American Division Native Ministries Council. This work spans 28 Native churches, groups and ministry sites in the Northwest.

Building trust in Native communities requires a long-term, relational presence. Native ministries collaborates with conferences to train pastors and lay leaders, provide cross-cultural training and support outreach through culturally informed resources.

By the Numbers

- » Present in 13 of 49 federally recognized Northwest reservations and 15 of 220 Native villages in Alaska
- » Celebrated 23 Native baptisms in 2025
- » Supported eight Native camp meetings across the Northwest
- » Reaching more than 300 subscribers through a quarterly email newsletter
- » Praying for 12 Adventist radio stations serving Native populations in Alaska

Ministry Highlights

- » Developed *Native New Trails*, a 13-part video series in partnership with SafeTV to prepare individuals for baptism
- » Held an annual Native summer camp in Alaska
- » Opened a new Living Hope Center on Fort Peck Reservation in Montana
- » Hosted an annual leadership training weekend in Alaska, equipping members in pastoral care, addiction recovery and church leadership

Mission Priorities

As this work continues, priorities include completing the *Native New Trails* video series, developing additional Bible study resources, expanding online outreach and sharing Native ministries through exhibits at conference camp meetings across the Northwest.

Legal Counsel, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty



Andre Wang,
general counsel, public
affairs and religious
liberty director



Debbie Morauske,
public affairs and
religious liberty
administrative assistant

NORTHWEST RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSOCIATION WORKS in the areas of legislative, civic, judicial, academic, interfaith and corporate arenas on behalf of the church and all people and institutions of faith. Concurrently, the general counsel office advises and supports NPUC and its six conferences in complying with federal, state and local laws, as well as denominational policies. This work includes private education, contracts, disability accommodations, employment matters and premises liability.

Ministry Highlights

- » **Mediation cases:** Sabbath accommodation in employment, academic and correctional settings, labor union exemption, U.S. citizenship and school athletics
- » **Government relations:** federal, state, county and municipal levels, with legislative advocacy in our five state capitals
- » **Educational advocacy:** preaching assignments and presentations to churches, camp meetings, civic groups, academic symposiums and radio/podcast appearances
- » **Liberty campaign:** subscription processing, mailing, donor letters and fundraising on behalf of *Liberty* magazine
- » **Human resources support:** support for conferences in complicated employment rules and workplace regulations

Mission Priorities

Through public affairs and religious liberty initiatives, we will continue to advance the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom for people of all faiths, particularly through government relations and workplace mediation services. The general counsel office will also monitor emerging legal issues, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VII religious exemptions and the increasing liability risks facing churches and schools.

Association and Trust

THE ASSOCIATION SERVES as a depository for funds entrusted by members, churches and institutions across NPUC. These deposited funds are loaned to church-related entities to help purchase, build, expand, repair or remodel ministry facilities.

Trust services also provide coordination and support for trust departments across NPUC. In recent years, policies and procedures have been updated to create greater consistency throughout the territory and to align with practices used by other ministries in the NAD. The team continues to assist in the development of charitable trusts and gift annuities.

By the Numbers

- » 81% of loan payments are made via ACH direct deposit.
- » All but 17 depositors receive their quarterly interest check via direct deposit.
- » 86 managed loans are valued at approximately \$24 million.
- » 349 managed depository accounts are valued at approximately \$29 million.
- » 62 Revolving Fund loans, valued at \$25 million, have been provided to ministry entities in the past five years.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CALLS for women in the pews to discover their spiritual gifts, grow in faith and step into service. Between 2021 and 2025, women's ministries directors provided leadership training, seminars, retreats and outreach experiences that have motivated women to action across the Northwest. These opportunities strengthened local ministry, equipped new leaders and encouraged women of all ages to be intentional in ministering to their churches and communities.

Women's ministries continues to reflect the grassroots spirit of training for service that has shaped the department since the 1980s. I count it a privilege to be a liaison and support to these amazing, tireless conference servant-leaders, most of whom are volunteers.

Ministry Highlights

- » A free dental clinic in Washington opened the door for one woman to study the Bible and attend a spiritual retreat.
- » Because of financial and spiritual support, Deaf women from the Northwest have their own retreat in Oregon.
- » A Montana retreat invitee heard the gospel presented for the very first time and accepted Jesus as her Savior.
- » What started as a 40-day prayer group on Zoom is still growing and going strong in Alaska.
- » Because of the witness of others, a woman was baptized at the 2025 Idaho retreat.



*Jim Brown,
trust director*



*Jay Graham,
association treasurer*



*Debbie Morauske,
association and planned
giving administrative assistant*

Mission Priorities

As NPUC entities continue to seek loans to purchase, build, expand, repair or remodel their facilities, maintaining adequate funds in the Revolving Fund remains essential. The Revolving Fund is open and actively seeking new deposits to support this ongoing ministry. With many longtime depositors now in later stages of life, we are placing increased emphasis on sharing these investment opportunities with younger members, while also offering competitive interest rates that encourage continued participation in this ministry.

Women's Ministries



*Sue Patzer,
women's ministries
director*

Mission Priorities

As we move forward in mission, women's ministries continues to seek creative new ways of outreach, mentoring young women and supporting those experiencing loss. We aim to increase the use of technology to connect women, especially across the rural areas of the Northwest. We strive to expand the emphasis on prayer before plans and programs, as well as provide training to emphasize the value of connections formed via church and neighborhood small groups.



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-FT-85

Women's Ministries Hosts Forgiveness-Focused Spring Retreat

WOMEN FROM ACROSS ALASKA GATHERED MAY 1-3 FOR THE ANNUAL ALASKA CONFERENCE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SPRING RETREAT, AN EVENT THAT PAIRED WORSHIP WITH PRACTICAL SESSIONS ON PRAYER AND FORGIVENESS.



Attendees gather for group sessions that included worship, teaching and fellowship throughout the retreat weekend.

Claiming the promise of Phil. 1:6 served as the guiding theme of the retreat: "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," emphasizing that God would complete the work begun in each attendee.

The weekend was filled with worship, praise and fellowship. Friday evening opened with music by Tselane Angasan-Reyes, Cecilia Angasan and Marilyn Shuler, Hillside O'Malley Church members and praise team leaders, along with Giny Lonser, Anchorage Northside Church member and pianist.

Cheri Corder, guest speaker from Michigan Conference, presented "When God Doesn't Make Sense." Corder, a longtime women's ministries leader and former Missionary Care for Adventist Frontier Missions coordinator, spoke throughout the weekend.

Sabbath morning began with a prayer session presented by Judith James, Homer Company member. The session provided an opportunity for attendees to share prayer requests and bring their petitions before God.

Pamela Mills, speaker from Alaska Conference, presented the first of three sessions on forgiveness. Mills has served in family and women's ministries for more than 45 years and has worked alongside her husband, Rodney Mills, Alaska Conference president, during decades of pastoral leadership.

Following an Alaska mission spotlight on camp ministries, morning worship concluded with Corder's presentation, "Love in Any Language."

After lunch and fellowship, afternoon sessions focused on forgiveness and reconciliation. Mills presented "Forgiving the Unforgiven," followed by Corder's session, "The Truth About Forgiving." The evening concluded with a light supper followed by a watercolor class led by Corder. Participants, many with little or no prior experience, created hand-painted cards and expressed amazement at their work.

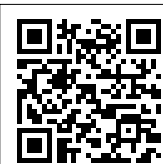
Sunday morning opened with a second prayer session, followed by a presentation by Mills entitled "Forgiving God," which addressed reconciling disappointment and faith during life's challenges. Corder then delivered the closing message, "Now



From left to right: Pamela Mills, Cheri Corder and Judith James are recognized for their messages on prayer and forgiveness during the retreat.

Go Change the World," encouraging participants to apply lessons from the weekend in their personal lives, families and communities.

Alaska Conference expresses appreciation to Jean Gobah, volunteer women's ministries coordinator, and the women's ministries team for organizing the event.



BRENDA CAMPBELL-JOHNSON
*Alaska Conference
communication director*

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-AK-87

From left to right: Karen Olsen, Linda Troutman and Karly Weber enjoy the weekend of fellowship and worship.



Wasilla Team Perseveres Through Ecuador Mission Challenges

AFTER A LONG AND DEMANDING FLIGHT FROM ANCHORAGE TO GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR, IN EARLY MARCH, THE FIRST PORTION OF THE WASILLA CHURCH MISSION TEAM MADE THE LATE-NIGHT DRIVE TO PUERTO CAYO.

The group was accompanied by local David Polk, known as “Relic.” In Ecuador, a nickname is given only when someone is well-liked, and Relic had earned his. Yet when the group arrived, he seemed discouraged.

Guests who stayed at his small resort during Carnival left it in disarray. Toilets and faucets were broken, towels and room supplies were stolen and nearly everything needed replacing. Shaking his head, he said, “The longer I have this place, the more I dislike people.”

Before any planned outreach began, the team found themselves caring for someone who was discouraged and overwhelmed. Over the next three days, the team repaired fixtures, cleaned the resort, did laundry and bought needed supplies. Slowly, the resort – and Relic’s spirit – recovered, and by the time the rest of the crew arrived, his joy and warmth had returned.

The second group landed in Ecuador around midnight and began the three-hour journey to the resort. At a toll booth, the truck and van became separated, a delay the team later viewed as God’s protection.

About 40 minutes outside Guayaquil, two motorcycles with their lights off pulled alongside the truck. Men climbed onto the truck, cut loose luggage and scattered bags across the road while vehicles behind them collected the newly stolen items. Two large trucks blocked traffic, and the team realized it was a coordinated robbery.

Relic stopped the truck after noticing bags falling onto the road. Mike Fithian, mission participant, saw a gunman approaching his wife, Barbara, and stepped out to protect her. The gunman grabbed Fithian’s backpack – with his passport, license and cash – and fled.



The Wasilla Church mission team gathers with local families and ministry partners.

Though shaken by a series of challenging experiences, the team chose to continue the mission, refusing to let fear and loss define the rest of the trip. While some helped build the Healing the Nations treatment room at the mission farm, others handed out flyers for the upcoming seminar and rebuilt the Vacation Bible School materials that had been stolen.

Seminar attendance grew each night, testimonies were shared and several locals decided to begin Bible studies. Though the mission trip included unexpected setbacks, the team returned home grateful for God’s protection, the kindness of the Ecuadorian community and the reminder that ministry often unfolds in unplanned ways.



DENISE COLE
Wasilla Church
member

Move online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-AK-93



Wasilla Church volunteers help construct a treatment room.



Kiwi (left) and Relic (right) clean the resort after Carnival.

Evangelistic Caravan Brings Regional Harvest Across Two Conferences

A HISPANIC EVANGELISTIC CARAVAN TRAVELED FROM CHURCH TO CHURCH AND CITY TO CITY ACROSS IDAHO CONFERENCE AND UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE THIS SPRING.

The initiative filled churches, resulting in more than 300 baptisms across the two conferences and sparking renewed spiritual energy among church members.

“The evangelism caravan concept is not limited to Spanish-speaking churches,” said Peter Simpson, North Pacific Union vice president for Hispanic ministries and ministerial director. “Any church, representing any language, can host coordinated evangelism and seek the power of the Holy Spirit.”

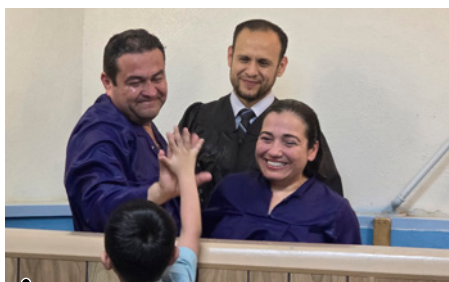
The springtime caravan aligned with Pentecost and Beyond, North American Division’s 2026 evangelism initiative. In Idaho Conference alone, eight Hispanic churches worked together and officially launched the caravan on Jan. 19.

Gerald Margil, Idaho Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, led the project with support from local conference administration and NPUC.

Three volunteer Bible workers joined the effort, spending weeks offering friendship evangelism through social activities, personal visits and Bible studies before public meetings ever began.

The outreach teams served Spanish-speaking communities across southern Idaho, including Idaho Falls, where Haxel Enoc Fley, Southwest Hispanic District pastor, partnered with Carlos Lara, volunteer; Heyburn, where Lennin Polanco, Heyburn Church lay pastor, led efforts; Jerome and Twin Falls, where Elvis Torres, volunteer, joined Fley; Boise, Nampa and Payette, where Fredi Murrieta, district pastor, worked

PHOTOS BY GERALD MARGIL



Hispanic evangelistic meetings across Idaho Conference and UCC led to more than 300 baptisms.

Las reuniones evangelísticas Hispánicas en la Conferencia de Idaho y UCC conducen a más de 300 bautizos.

alongside Ricardo Avelino, volunteer; and Caldwell, where Margil served.

After three months of preparation, evangelistic meetings were held in seven Idaho congregations with speakers representing local pastors, lay leaders, a theology professor and a musician.

One element gave the entire campaign a special character: Junior Kelly Marchena, evangelistic singer, visited each congregation, offering an evening of music and a message that prepared hearts for decisions.

The Idaho closing celebration was held April 18 at Caldwell Hispanic Church, marking a milestone in the project. By that point, 66 people had joined Idaho Hispanic congregations, compared to 58 in all of 2025. In just three months, that total had already been surpassed, with more decisions still unfolding.

The caravan then moved into UCC territory, including Sunnyside, Yakima,



Peter Simpson, NPUC vice president for Hispanic ministries, delivers a closing appeal. Peter Simpson, vicepresidente de NPUC para los ministerios Hispánicos, presenta un último llamamiento.

Wenatchee, Toppenish, Kennewick, Othello, Pasco and surrounding areas, with 240 baptisms and about 1,500 people in attendance at the concluding rally. The caravan next proceeds through Washington Conference.

Jesus did not send His disciples to organize events. He sent them to live among people, earn their trust and sow patiently.

Pentecost and Beyond serves as a reminder that when the church embraces evangelism as a way of life rather than an occasional activity, God honors that faithfulness with an extraordinary harvest.

“When people ask me what is happening, I tell them, ‘It’s beginning to rain.’” Simpson said. “The focus is on the word ‘beginning’ because I believe it’s not fully raining yet.”

NW ADVENTISTS TEAM

MISIÓN Y ALCANCE

Caravana Evangelística Lleva la Cosecha Regional a Través de Dos Conferencias

UNA CARAVANA EVANGELÍSTICA HISPANA VIAJÓ DE IGLESIA EN IGLESIA Y DE CIUDAD EN CIUDAD A TRAVÉS DE LA CONFERENCIA DE IDAHO Y LA CONFERENCIA DEL UPPER COLUMBIA ESTA PRIMAVERA.



The Idaho Hispanic community celebrates 66 new members.

La comunidad Hispana de Idaho celebra 66 nuevos miembros.

La iniciativa llenó las iglesias, dando como resultado más de 300 bautismos en ambas conferencias y despertando una renovada energía espiritual entre los miembros de la iglesia.

“El concepto de la caravana evangelística no se limita a las iglesias de habla Español,” afirmó Peter Simpson, vicepresidente de la Unión del Pacífico Norte para los ministerios Hispánicos y director ministerial. “Cualquier iglesia, de cualquier idioma, puede organizar un evangelismo coordinado y buscar el poder del Espíritu Santo.”

La caravana de primavera se alineó con Pentecostés y Más Allá, la iniciativa evangelística de 2026 de la División Norteamericana. Solo en la Conferencia de Idaho, ocho iglesias Hispánicas trabajaron juntas y lanzaron oficialmente la caravana el 19 de enero.

Gerald Margil, coordinador de ministerios Hispánicos de la Conferencia de Idaho, dirigió el proyecto con el apoyo de la administración local de la conferencia y de la NPUC.

Tres obreros bíblicos voluntarios se sumaron al esfuerzo, dedicando semanas a realizar un evangelismo de amistad mediante actividades sociales, visitas personales y estudios bíblicos, incluso antes de que comenzaran las reuniones públicas.

Los equipos de evangelización sirvieron a las comunidades Hispánicas en todo el sur de Idaho, incluyendo Idaho Falls, donde Haxel Enoc Fley, pastor del Distrito Hispano del Suroeste, colaboró con Carlos Lara, voluntario; Heyburn, donde Lennin Polanco, pastor laico de la Iglesia de Heyburn, lideró los esfuerzos; Jerome y Twin Falls, donde Elvis Torres, voluntario, se unió a Fley; Boise, Nampa y Payette, donde Fredi Murrieta, pastor de distrito, trabajó junto a Ricardo Avelino, voluntario; y Caldwell, donde sirvió Margil.

Tras tres meses de preparación, se celebraron reuniones evangelísticas en siete congregaciones de Idaho con oradores que representaban a pastores locales, líderes laicos, un profesor de teología y un músico.

Un elemento le dio un carácter especial a toda la campaña: Junior Kelly Marchena, cantante evangelístico, visitó cada congregación, ofreciendo una velada de música y un mensaje que preparó los corazones para tomar decisiones.

La celebración de clausura en Idaho tuvo lugar el 18 de abril en la Iglesia

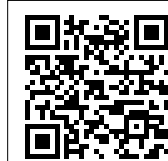
Hispana de Caldwell, marcando un hito en el proyecto. Para entonces, 66 personas se habían unido a congregaciones Hispánicas de Idaho, en comparación con las 58 de todo 2025. En tan solo tres meses, esa cifra ya se había superado, y aún quedaban más decisiones por tomar.

La caravana se dirigió luego al territorio de UCC, incluyendo Sunnyside, Yakima, Wenatchee, Toppenish, Kennewick, Othello, Pasco y sus alrededores, con 240 bautismos y la asistencia de aproximadamente 1,500 personas al acto de clausura. La caravana continuó su recorrido por la Conferencia de Washington.

Jesús no envió a sus discípulos a organizar eventos. Los envió a vivir entre la gente, a ganarse su confianza y a sembrar con paciencia.

Pentecostés y Más Allá nos recuerda que cuando la iglesia abraza la evangelización como una forma de vida, en lugar de una actividad ocasional, Dios honra esa fidelidad con una cosecha extraordinaria.

“Cuando me preguntan qué está pasando, les digo: ‘Está empezando a llover,’” dijo Simpson. “Hago hincapié en la palabra ‘empieza’ porque creo que aún no está lloviendo con toda su fuerza.”



EQUIPO NW ADVENTISTS

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-ID-83 

EDUCATION

BACS Holds Science Fair

CURIOSITY WAS SPARKED, IDEAS CAME TO LIFE AND EXCITEMENT FILLED THE AIR AT BAKER ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S SCIENCE FAIR HELD APRIL 7.

The event showcased a wide array of creative displays and hands-on experiments, bringing together 62 young scientists from across eastern Oregon and southeast Washington. Students of all ages participated, eager to share their discoveries and learn from one another. The youngest participant, just 4 years old, impressed attendees with a thoughtful exploration of color mixing, while older students presented projects ranging from the science of bread mold to complex observational studies.

Interactive exhibits such as M&M data collection, plant growth in varied mediums and a live demonstration of the chicken life cycle captivated visitors and encouraged deeper exploration of the natural world. The diversity of research, observation and experimentation reflected both creativity and scientific curiosity. Judges commended the participants' efforts, awarding medals and certificates in recognition of their work.

Enhancing the experience, Greater Oregon STEM Hub brought an immersive

planetarium show. Inside a large inflatable dome, participants were transported into the wonders of space, gaining a deeper appreciation for the universe – and even imagining a glimpse of the Artemis II mission as it orbited the moon.

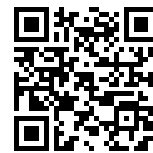
The excitement continued with a lively presentation from “mad scientist” Boyde Hosey, Baker City Church member, who amazed the audience with a dynamic demonstration featuring bubbles, fire and even disappearing water – much to the surprise of his colleague, Daniel Threthewey, Baker City Church pastor.

Additional highlights included a fascinating rock exhibit featuring petrified wood and cut geodes, as well as interactive stations exploring magnetism, plant science, robotics and the power of a Van de Graaff generator. These hands-on experiences kept participants fully engaged as they rotated through each activity.

The grand finale of the event was an RC airshow, where Jim Culbertson, pilot, skillfully demonstrated the principles of flight using model airplanes and

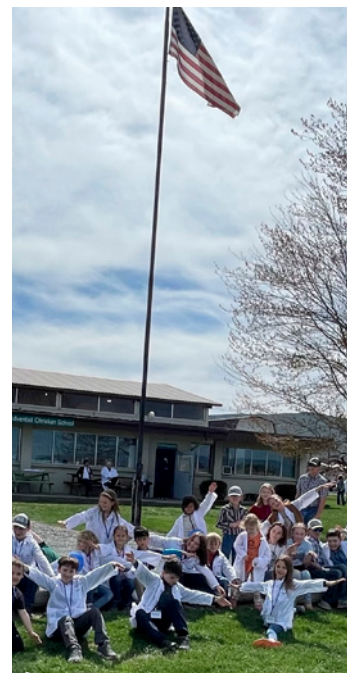
helicopters, complete with dramatic landings and the occasional crash, much to the delight of the crowd.

The science fair provided an inspiring and educational experience that encouraged young minds to explore, discover and dream.



LAURIE HOSEY
Baker Adventist Christian School teaching principal

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-ID-81



PHOTOS BY LAURIE HOSEY

BACS students participate in the science fair.



Daniel Threthewey, Baker City Church pastor, holds fire in his hand with the help of Boyde Hosey, Baker City Church member.



A young scientist discovers static electricity firsthand.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Churches Rebuild Hope in Jamaica

ON FEB. 17, AMID BLIZZARD-LIKE CONDITIONS IN MONTANA, A TEAM OF BELIEVERS FROM GREAT FALLS CHURCH AND CHOTEAU CHURCH, ALONG WITH A VOLUNTEER FROM ARKANSAS, BOARDED FLIGHTS TO MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA.

Rather than seeking to escape typical Montana winter weather, these church members sought to leave a lasting imprint on lives previously devastated by Hurricane Melissa. Their assignment was to help rebuild homes for two families whose lives had been upended by the October 2025 hurricane. In return, an imprint was made on their own hearts.

Hurricane Melissa brought widespread destruction to parts of central and western Jamaica. With sustained winds of 185 miles per hour, torrential rains and flooding, the storm left many families displaced and struggling to recover. Homes were damaged or completely destroyed, infrastructure was compromised and communities faced the daunting task of rebuilding in the aftermath. One Adventist pastor shared that 70% of his church members lost their homes and the storm reduced two members' homes to near ruins, leaving them in urgent need of both material and physical support.

Moved by compassion and guided by faith, the two Montana Conference churches raised funds to cover the cost of materials, and the team traveled to Jamaica at their own expense. Their efforts focused on rebuilding two homes, one constructed with concrete blocks and another using wood framing.

The work was physically demanding, drawing sweat from the volunteers in the unfamiliar tropical humidity and the hot Caribbean sun. However, each block laid and each nail hammered was done with a spirit of dedication.

The construction process was more than just labor; it was an act of ministry. As the team worked side by side with local community members, barriers of culture and geography quickly dissolved. They shared meals, stories, laughter and worship, forming bonds that transcended culture and distance. What began as a mission trip soon became a deeply relational experience, filled with mutual encouragement and faith-building moments.

The trip turned out to be as much of a blessing for the volunteers as it was for the families served. Each member reflected on how the experience deepened his or her understanding of service. Witnessing the resilience and gratitude of the Jamaican people reminded the volunteers of the power of faith and joy in adversity. They returned home not only grateful for the opportunity to serve, but also transformed by the relationships they had built.

As the team looks back on their time in Jamaica, one truth stands clear: In serving others, they encountered Christ in meaningful ways. In the rebuilding of homes, they witnessed the rebuilding of hope in the community.



JENNIFER JONES
Great Falls
Church member

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-MT-67

JOEL HONORE



Great Falls Church and Choteau Church members travel to Jamaica for a mission trip.

KRISTY SINCLAIR



Participants work as a team to lay the foundation for a house.

JOEL HONORE



Kristy Sinclair, Choteau Church member, works on a roof.

Prayer Conference Experiences Miracles

THE ANNUAL OREGON PRAYER CONFERENCE, HELD MARCH 20–22, WAS SHAPING UP TO BE EXTRAORDINARY. HOWEVER, A WEEK BEFORE THE CONFERENCE, THE COORDINATING TEAM RECEIVED A CALL THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING.

For 14 months, attendees eagerly anticipated the arrival of Pavel Goia, well-known prayer speaker. Interest was so strong that registration filled early and planners found themselves carefully piecing together details to make room for as many attendees as possible. Excitement ran high, plans were in place and everything seemed ready.

Early in March, Tawny Sportsman, Oregon Conference prayer ministries coordinator, attended meetings at Roseburg Church and met Dan Serns, North Pacific Union church planting, revitalization and lay training director.

As the final details were falling into place for this year's prayer conference, Sportsman thought about getting a jump on next year's event. She introduced herself to

Serns and asked if he would consider being the keynote speaker for Oregon Prayer Conference 2027. They exchanged phone numbers, planning to connect on dates the following week.

When March 10 rolled around, Sportsman received a call from Goia, who shared news of a heartbreaking family emergency. Sportsman assured him, "Go be with your family. God's got this."

After she hung up, Sportsman went for a walk to pray. With only a few days before setup was to begin, she was struck by the absence of panic. Instead, there was peace. As she prayed, one clear impression came: Call Dan Serns!

She hesitated for just a moment, remembering that he was scheduled to be in Seattle, but called anyway and left

a message explaining the situation and asking if there was any chance he could step in.

Almost immediately, the phone rang. It was Serns and he said yes.

In less than an hour and a half, the conference had lost a world-renowned speaker and gained a world-renowned speaker that God handpicked!

Serns proved to be God's "minute man." Attendees arrived early for every session. People sat on the edge of their seats. The energy and enthusiasm were palpable.

The weekend culminated in four baptisms – moments when attendees were privileged to watch the very population of heaven grow. Despite the sudden speaker change, registration remained strong. Attendees shared a deeply moving anointing service, and prayer request boxes overflowed.

Even in Goia's absence, God did immeasurably more than they could ask or imagine. In fact, God answered their prayers before they even knew to ask.

TAWNY SPORTSMAN



Despite the sudden speaker change, registration remains strong and attendees arrive early for every session.



TAWNY SPORTSMAN
Oregon Conference prayer ministries coordinator

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-OR-63

MISSION AND OUTREACH

MAA Students Put Faith Into Action

IN MARCH, STUDENTS AND STAFF FROM MILO ADVENTIST ACADEMY HEADED TO INDIA ON A SPECIAL MISSION TRIP THEY WON'T SOON FORGET.

"I got closer to my classmates, made new friends in a new country and strengthened my relationship with God through mission work," shared Joel, MAA junior. His words reflect the impact of a life-changing mission trip taken over spring break, when a team of 18 students, staff and family members from MAA traveled to northeastern India to serve alongside Grace Advent School and Bakenang Church.

Each morning, the team led Vacation Bible School programs for local children,

filled with Bible stories, songs, games and crafts. In the afternoons, they helped build an outdoor assembly pavilion for the school and assisted with work on the new church building.

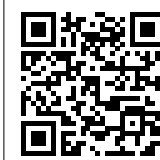
A meaningful part of the trip was a student sponsorship initiative, with each MAA student sponsoring a child's tuition at Grace Advent School. Team members also formed lasting friendships while worshipping together, visiting homes and experiencing the faith and generosity of the local community.



MILO ADVENTIST ACADEMY

MAA students serve in northeastern India.

Before returning home, the group visited Delhi and Taj Mahal. The whole experience reminded everyone that when we go to serve others, God often blesses us in return.



AMINA KYSER
*Milo Adventist
Academy registrar*

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-OR-60



EDUCATION

Winslow Appointed MAA Principal

THIS SUMMER, JOHN WINSLOW IS JOINING THE TEAM AS MILO ADVENTIST ACADEMY PRINCIPAL AFTER RANDY THORNTON STEPPED AWAY FROM THE ROLE AT THE END OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR.

Winslow comes from Alaska Conference, where he served as youth and young adult director, education superintendent and Pathfinder director. He is an experienced leader, serving as a teacher, academy principal and district pastor. His track record in fundraising and financial planning, multicultural education and renovation projects will be a blessing to MAA.

"We are excited to welcome Winslow as MAA principal," said Ron Jacaban, Oregon Conference vice president for education. "His extensive experience in boarding school environments, combined with his background in pastoral ministry, positions

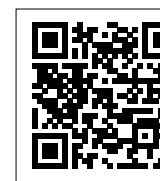
him uniquely to lead with both educational excellence and spiritual depth. We look forward to the Christ-centered leadership he will bring to campus, fostering a strong sense of community, discipleship and purpose among students and staff."

"We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Randy Thornton for his years of dedicated service to MAA," continued Jacaban. "His unwavering commitment to Adventist education and his genuine care for students have left a lasting impact on the school community. We are thankful for his leadership, his passion and the legacy he leaves behind."



MILO ADVENTIST ACADEMY

John Winslow (left) succeeds Randy Thornton (right) as MAA principal.



KALEB EISELE
*Oregon Conference
communication director*

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-OR-61



YOUTH

Albany Pathfinder Develops PBE Master App

WHEN THE “FAITHFUL FOUR” FROM ALBANY PATHFINDER CLUB REACHED THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION LEVEL OF THE PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE THIS YEAR, THEY CARRIED MORE THAN JUST THE WORD IN THEIR HEARTS: THEY BROUGHT A NEW WAY TO STUDY IT.

PBE is the official NAD Bible study program where teams of six members immerse themselves in a specific book of the Bible, memorizing portions of scripture and progressing from their local district up to the national level. For the 2025–2026 season, Pathfinders from all over North America and beyond focused their studies on the first 33 chapters of Isaiah.

The Albany team faced a tough challenge. Since they only had four members instead of the usual six, each Pathfinder had to memorize 170 verses. Thankfully, Enoch Arakawa, team leader, had recently tapped into a skill he had been learning over the past few years: coding.

Inspiration struck last year while Arakawa prepared for his first PBE and realized how hard it was to use the currently available PBE study tools on his phone. Having already developed a medical calculator for his father and a budget tracker for his club’s trip to International Pathfinder Camporee, Arakawa saw an opportunity to support his fellow Pathfinders.

“At first, I was having trouble because studying shouldn’t be that hard to do on a phone,” Arakawa shared. “Then I realized, ‘I can help with this.’”

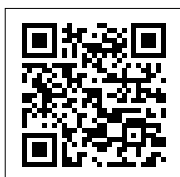
Arakawa spent his summer developing PBE Master, a free app available on both Android and iOS. It contains no ads and can

work offline, a bonus for parents concerned about data access. The app includes the relevant passages from the New King James Version, is officially licensed and is already updated for the 2027 PBE season covering Mark and the epistles of Peter and John.

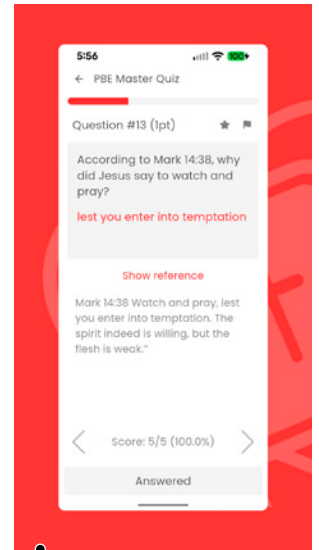
Pathfinders like Arakawa are inspiring their friends to see that their skills and interests are more than just hobbies; they are powerful tools for ministry. Whether music, technology or even an encouraging word, everyone has a God-given gift that can be used to help others. Even as Albany Pathfinder Club celebrates their first-place finish at the NAD finals, Arakawa is already looking for the next way to code a path for ministry.

To learn more or download the app, visit pbemaster.com.

TIM ARAKAWA
Albany Pathfinder Club director



Move online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-OR-54



PHOTOS BY ALBANY PATHFINDER CLUB

PBE Master is an app that allows Pathfinders to quiz themselves on their scripture memory.



The “faithful four” wear their PBE hoodies based on Isaiah 28:10.



Albany Pathfinder Club team joins 260 other teams at NAD PBE.

CHURCH

Trainings Equip Elders for Interpersonal Ministry

THIS SPRING, ELDERS FROM CHURCHES ACROSS OREGON CONFERENCE GATHERED IN GLADSTONE, ROSEBURG AND BEND, OREGON, FOR TRAINING EVENTS.

This year's topics included the biblical calling for hospitality, how to have difficult conversations, conflict resolution, the importance of active listening, lessons from chaplaincy and more.

"We really want each of our elders to feel a sense of belonging," shared Benjamin Lundquist, Oregon Conference pastoral ministries associate director. "There's always going to be an element of equipping and training for practical ministry ... but there's also an element of celebration. These men and women have taken on this incredibly important role, so we celebrate that."

John McVay, Oregon Conference president, helped lead the trainings. "Sometimes we think of elders as people who attend meetings," explained McVay. "It's easy to miss the work they do in navigating conflict and relationships. Perhaps that's part of the hunger I felt in the room there. There was a sense of meaning and significance. The needs that were being addressed give me hope that the impact made there will be a lasting one."

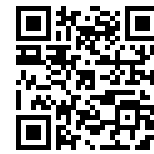
You can find resources for elders from the 2025 and 2026 events on the Oregon



BENJAMIN LUNDOQUIST

Dan Serns, NPUC church planting, revitalization and lay training director, speaks at one of the elders training events.

Conference pastoral ministries page. Watch for details on next year's elder training event coming early in 2027.



KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference
communication director

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-OR-62

CHURCH

Pi Day Potluck Brings Community to Beaverton

MARCH 14 – PI DAY – FELL ON A BEAUTIFUL SABBATH DAY. THIS CALENDAR DATE IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MATHEMATICAL CONSTANT PI, REPRESENTED BY THE FAMILIAR NUMBER 3.14.

The Beaverton Church young adult group was responsible for organizing the monthly fellowship meal and saw a unique opportunity. Recognizing that Pi Day rarely coincides with the Sabbath – with the next occurrence not until 2037 – they decided to embrace the moment with a creative theme.

Because "pi" sounds like "pie," March 14 has become a lighthearted occasion for many to enjoy pie in all its forms. The young adults invited the church family to participate by bringing dishes in a pie shape, both savory and sweet.

That Sabbath morning, tables quickly filled with an impressive variety of dishes:

classic fruit pies, rich cream pies, hearty pot pies, quiches, pizza pies and other creative interpretations of the theme.

Laughter and conversation filled the fellowship hall as members and guests sampled the assortment of dishes. The event created an atmosphere of warmth and connection, where generations mingled and shared in both food and fellowship.

As the next Sabbath Pi Day won't come for another a decade, this celebration will surely be remembered as a special and joyful occasion in the life of the church.



BEAVERTON CHURCH

Beaverton Church members share a variety of dishes to celebrate Pi Day.



KENDRA GIBSON
Beaverton Church
secretary

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-OR-59

PAA Highlights an Unexpected Superstar

HIS NAME IS VASYL, AND IF YOU SPEND ANY TIME ON THE PORTLAND ADVENTIST ACADEMY CAMPUS, YOU'LL QUICKLY LEARN THAT HIS TITLE — CONTRACT JANITOR — TELLS YOU ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT WHO HE ACTUALLY IS.



Vasyl, PAA janitor, (right) shares the school's mission, helping students feel known, valued and genuinely loved, through his everyday work.



PHOTOS BY U'LEE BROWN

Loved by the students, Vasyl's janitor closet is filled with notes, cards and graduation announcements from those whose lives he's touched.

Vasyl arrives as the school day winds down. His time with students and staff may be brief, but his impact runs deep. English is not his first language, yet he communicates in ways that need no translation at all.

He plants flowers around campus, and when they bloom, you might find them arranged in vases in the hallways or quietly placed on a teacher's desk. When classes celebrate different cultures with food, Vasyl shows up with homemade Ukrainian dishes he made himself. He learns students' names. When students write him Christmas cards every year, he treasures every single one. However, the most extraordinary thing about Vasyl is his story.

He grew up in Ukraine under communist rule, where owning a Bible was illegal, so his family memorized scripture instead. They hand-copied verses and chapters to share with others. Their faith was not something they kept private — it was something they lived openly, even when it cost them. Some family members were sent to work camps as punishment for sharing Christ.

Vasyl carries those stories with him, and over the years, he has shared his testimony through chapel and with history classes at PAA, giving students a living, breathing connection to faith under pressure. That faith shows up in everything he does here.

He writes cards by hand in careful, meticulous English, filled with Bible verses and words of encouragement for students and staff he can see are struggling.

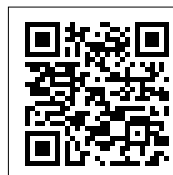
He prays for them individually in his own personal worship time. He is always the first to notice when someone's burden is heavy and the first to do something about it. Whether that means rolling up his sleeves to help or simply showing up with fresh-baked bread, Vasyl finds a way.

At every important PAA event, without fail, you will find him there — concerts, graduations, celebrations of every kind. He comes dressed formally, always making his way to the very back of the room, where he stands quietly and watches with so much pride. He is not there to be noticed. He is there because these students and this community matter to him, and he would not miss a moment of celebrating them.

No one is humbler or is less likely to call attention to themselves — and yet, few people at PAA have left a bigger mark.

He reminds our students that a life of faith is not about titles or platforms. It is about showing up with a servant's heart, day after day, in the everyday moments most people walk right past.

At PAA, Vasyl is our unexpected superstar. He helps our students feel known, valued and genuinely loved, which is exactly what this school is meant to be about. We are so grateful he is ours.



U'LEE BROWN
Portland Adventist
Academy
communication and
development director

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-OR-57

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Church Collaboration Restores Cheney Member's Kitchen

IN DECEMBER 2023, MELANEE WAITE CAME HOME TO A FLOODED KITCHEN CAUSED BY FROZEN PIPES. SHE REACHED OUT TO HER INSURANCE COMPANY AND HAD REPAIRS COMPLETED BY A LOCAL COMPANY.



Ian Nesteruk (left) and Jason Lennon (right) repair kitchen drywall.



Volunteers reinstall the repaired kitchen cabinets.



From left to right: Melanee Waite, Ian Nesteruk, Jason Lennon and Paul Wilcox

PHOTOS BY ROB PETERSON

While the frozen pipes were repaired, the job was still largely unfinished – including a big hole in the kitchen wall, a floor patched with plywood and the kitchen counter and sink sitting on the back porch.

Waite's husband had recently suffered a stroke and was newly placed in convalescent care. Legally blind and a senior citizen, Waite did not have the resources, energy or ability to finish the repairs on her own. She resigned herself to having a non-functioning kitchen.

In spring 2024, Rob Peterson, a church friend, stopped by to visit Waite. He was concerned by the condition of the kitchen and asked if he could help. Over the course of several months, he made numerous phone calls to her insurance company and the repair company to no avail. Neither was willing to do anything further to complete the work. Determined, Peterson decided to find another way to make the necessary repairs.

"I never expected to have a functioning kitchen," said Waite. "I was just resigned to live with the makeshift mess. I am so blessed to have a church family that cares so much."

After finding a good bid for flooring, Peterson brought a proposal to the Cheney Church board, which approved the project and proceeded to raise nearly \$4,000 to replace Waite's kitchen floor. With board approval and funds raised, the flooring was purchased early this year, and a team got to work.

The floor wasn't the only problem. The kitchen counter and sink that were left outside were beyond repair, and a kitchen cabinet was heavily damaged. For additional help, Peterson reached out to Tyler Kern, Shine 104.9 chaplain, who had connections with Jason Lennon, Spokane Linwood Church member and leader of Beyond the Walls, a church ministry to help people in need with home repair projects.

Beyond the Walls came out to assess the project and agreed to take it on. They were able to salvage a cabinet that had been sitting out in the elements for almost two years. Paul Wilcox, Cheney Church member, set aside an entire day to help Lennon rebuild and restore the weatherworn cabinet. Ian Nesteruk, Spokane Linwood Church member, spent several evenings replacing the kitchen's

missing and damaged drywall, including sanding and texturing. Peterson and Wilcox painted the wall.

A new countertop was purchased with funds personally donated by one of the volunteers. Nesteruk worked on the finishing touches, including plumbing the kitchen sink, hooking up the dishwasher and sealing everything in place. The project was completed on March 16, 2026.

"It is amazing how God works in bringing people together in times of need," said Peterson. "It took some time, but God and His people came through every step of the way. A big thank you goes out to all who helped with the project."

ISAAC MEYTHALER

*Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator*



More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-UC-38

Food Pantry Provides Gospel Proof in Pasco

WHEN WE LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL, IT'S ATTRACTIVE. THAT'S THE QUIET REALITY BEING LIVED BY PASCO RIVERVIEW CHURCH MEMBERS AND THEIR COMMUNITY. EVERY WEEK, ADVENTIST MEMBERS, CHURCH OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS MISSIONARIES AND NEIGHBORS COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT AROUND 1,500 FAMILIES WITH THEIR BASIC FOOD NEEDS.

Recipients often express their gratitude with tears and even handwritten notes of appreciation. The pantry opens its line at 6:30 a.m. and operates until 12 p.m. each Wednesday. This means that some volunteers arrive as early as 3 a.m. to make sure everything is ready to go by opening time.

There is more going on here in Pasco than sharing meals – much more. Each week before opening the line for clients on their way to work, the team of volunteers pauses to share prayer requests, stories and a season of prayer together. Over time, this has bonded a diverse group into what one volunteer now calls her “home.”

Some might ask why the team is doing this. Jason Worf, Pasco Riverview Church pastor, shared, “I previously pastored a church with a food bank, which regularly served about 40 people. There were a lot of people who really valued the food bank and that ministry, but there were people who said, ‘Why are we doing this? They should work.’ and ‘What’s the point of this investment? They’re not really becoming Adventists.’”

“We’re preaching to them. We don’t have an evangelistic series going. And the truth is, we do this because this is the culture of God,” said Worf. “This is the heart of God. He loves simply because

He loves, not because He’s going to get something back, not because He’s going to win a convert or get somebody to fall in love with Him. He just loves because that’s who He is. I think that’s what we need to do as a church.”

The scope of what these volunteers do every week is amazing. The passion, joy and openness to creating a broader team of community volunteers is inspiring. The affection among team members is obvious, and that is impacting some who are finding themselves drawn toward Jesus by the experience of serving alongside His people.

Ellen G. White said this would be the case. In *Letters and Manuscripts*, she wrote, “Christians are to love one another as Christ has loved them. Upon the manifestation of this love hinges the world’s recognition of the truth of the gospel.”

Worf concluded, “It’s not that evangelism should be replaced by service, but evangelism can’t work without service.”

Watch a short video about Pasco Food Pantry at news.uccsda.org/servecafe526.



RICHIE BROWER
Upper Columbia
Conference Serve One
More associate director

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-UC-72



Church members and community volunteers alike serve with joy and passion.



Volunteers unload pallets of food for Pasco Food Pantry.



Every week, food is sorted and packaged for distribution.

Pathfinders Make a Lasting Impact in Northeast Oregon

SEVENTY TEENS AND 46 ADULT LEADERS FROM UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE DEDICATED THEIR SPRING BREAK TO SERVICE, TEAMWORK AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH DURING THE 2026 TEEN PATHFINDER MISSION ADVENTURE AT CAMP MEADOWOOD SPRINGS IN NORTHEASTERN OREGON.

Roberta Shugars, Kennewick Pathfinder Club assistant director, captured the spirit of the week, saying, “Can you imagine teenagers giving up their spring break to work hard? UCC teenagers do it!”

The theme of this year’s mission was “Our Voices for His Purpose.” Morning and evening worship time examined how serving others is a silent voice for good, which builds friendships designed to last for eternity.

The Pathfinders began by dividing into nine working teams of 11–12 members each. Altogether, the groups contributed an impressive 4,163 combined hours of labor across multiple project sites. Their efforts focused on improving Camp Meadowood Springs and its surrounding community spaces, leaving behind visible and meaningful results.

At Camp Meadowood Springs, several teams tackled forest management projects, processing downed trees into numerous cords of firewood for future use. Teams also cleared and thinned brush across large portions of the property, reducing fire risk while enhancing forest health and overall appearance.

Additional work extended into the local community. Just up the road from the camp at Walla Walla Valley Academy Lodge, Pathfinders cleared brush and split firewood. In local towns, service projects continued with a team excavating a septic riser and removing old trim at Umapine Church.

At Athena Church, crews took on a major renovation project: removing old siding, installing new exterior siding on two sides of the building and completing fresh paintwork. Another team served at Milton-Stateline Adventist School, assisting with cleaning, landscaping and grounds clearing.

The mission spirit reached beyond institutions into personal ministry as well. Pathfinder teams provided spring yard cleanup for several elderly church members in surrounding communities, offering practical help and encouragement.

The week’s efforts culminated in a celebration banquet and Friday evening vespers, where four individuals made decisions for baptism, marking a powerful spiritual highlight of the trip. Pathfinders also led the worship service at Athena Church on Sabbath, sharing their faith through testimonies of their experiences, music and participation.

Reflecting on the experience, Matthew Clayville, Pendleton Pathfinder Club member, shared, “It was a lot of work, but everyone that I talked to by the end of the week said they enjoyed it a lot and wanted to come back next year, and I can’t help but agree.” Clayville remarked that in their service, his fellow Pathfinders had exemplified the Pathfinder pledge “to be servants of God and friends to mankind.”

Ashley Brown, Sandpoint Pathfinder Club member, echoed Clayville’s sentiment, adding, “TPMA is truly a blessing, not only for those who are served, but also for those who attend. If you’re a teen Pathfinder and have never been to a TPMA event, I would encourage you to go the first chance you get.”

In a week, this year’s mission adventure not only strengthened facilities and landscapes, but also deepened faith and connection among participants, demonstrating the lasting impact of service when young people step forward to lead.

JARED MEHARRY

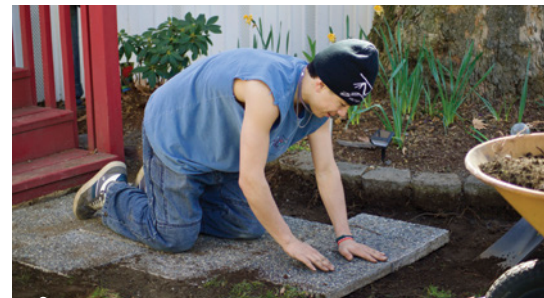
Cascade Christian Academy teacher



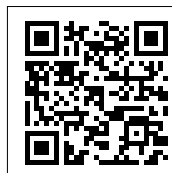
More than 100 Pathfinders and staff dedicate an entire week to service.



Pathfinders use camping skills to chop firewood.



Beyond helping institutions, Pathfinders aid elderly church members in the region with yard work and landscaping.



More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-UC-78 +

All Nations Center Church Relives Religious Liberty Moment

THIS SPRING, MEMBERS AND GUESTS AT ALL NATIONS CENTER CHURCH STEPPED BACK INTO ONE OF THE MOST PIVOTAL RELIGIOUS LIBERTY MOMENTS IN ADVENTIST HISTORY THROUGH A LIVE REENACTMENT OF THE 1888 SUNDAY LAW HEARING BEFORE THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR.

In a thoughtful and compelling production, church members portrayed the historic figures involved in Henry W. Blair's proposed Sunday Rest Bill and the now-famous response given by Adventist leader Alonzo T. Jones.

The reenactment brought to life the arguments presented in defense of religious liberty and the separation of church and state – principles that remain deeply relevant today.

"It was a significant amount of content for us to work through, but I learned so much," said one member. "I see many of the same arguments being made in favor of a Sunday rest law today as I did in this script compiled from 1888."

Audience members were given a rare opportunity not only to learn about this defining chapter of Adventist history, but also to experience its urgency in a vivid and memorable way.

Particularly powerful was the portrayal of Jones' defense of religious freedom. His insistence that civil government should never legislate matters of worship or compel religious observance reminded listeners that religious liberty is a God-given right.

Jones' arguments from 1888 still echo powerfully in a world where questions of liberty, faith and governmental authority



Talented church members, both on and off stage, recreate the courtroom drama.

continue to arise. The event was more than historical education – it was spiritual reflection.

"I had read Jones' transcript several years ago," one audience member shared. "However, seeing the debate reenacted in person by actors was eye-opening; it brought the entire discussion to life on a much deeper level."

Many attendees expressed that seeing these issues dramatized helped them better understand both prophecy and the ongoing importance of protecting religious liberty for all people, regardless of belief.

The production also highlighted the immense

talent within the local church body. From script preparation to staging, costuming, narration and performance, the event represented a collaborative ministry effort.

The All Nations Center Church reenactment stood not only as a tribute to the courage of those who defended liberty in 1888, but also as a call for today's believers to prayerfully and actively uphold religious freedom while opportunity remains.

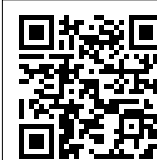
As Adventists continue to emphasize the biblical principles of worship and freedom, events like this reenactment provide more than a history lesson; they serve as a solemn reminder



From left to right: Jim Wenzel, Malon Bruce, Melissa Espinoza, Scott Stockton, Leonard Galloway, Larry Beggs, Jared Lee and Jennifer Gabel

of our present responsibility. Preserving religious liberty is not merely a prophetic concept; it's a living mission.

To preserve and share this educational opportunity, the performances were recorded and will be publicly available on the All Nations Center Church YouTube channel.



KALYSE WEIJOHN
All Nations
Center Church
member

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-UC-14

Home of Shalom Celebrates First Baptism

ON MAY 9, HOME OF SHALOM GATHERED BY THE SPOKANE RIVER FOR THE CHURCH PLANT'S FIRST BAPTISM.

Crystal Umbarger heard about Home of Shalom through Shine 104.9 FM. She and her mother decided to attend a church get-together and quickly became engaged and active participants.

Before the baptism, Home of Shalom held an outdoor unplugged worship service at Minnehaha Park in Spokane featuring acoustic worship music, time in nature and studying God's word on the importance of rest.

After the service, they gathered at the riverside where Umbarger shared her personal testimony before her baptism. Umbarger left the church she was raised in after experiencing spiritual trauma.

Seeking God elsewhere, her journey led to pursuing Islam in Saudi Arabia, where she was later kidnapped.

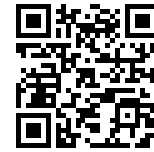
"Instead of an answer from a human authority, God answered directly through His word," said Umbarger. "He led me to Psalms 146, where it says, 'Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings who cannot save you.' In that moment, everything became clear: While the world failed me, God did not. While people could not save me, God could, and He did!"

One attendee shared that they appreciated how personal and familial the baptism felt, noting a stark contrast from their former experience of large-scale baptisms.



Crystal Umbarger (left) is baptized by Tyler Kern (right).

Another baptism is already planned, and others have expressed interest. See the baptism at news.uccsda.org/hosbaptism526.



ISAAC MEYTHALER
Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
coordinator

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/121-4-UC-13](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/121-4-UC-13)



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The Cross Still Speaks at 7 Last Words Celebration

THE CROSS WAS AT THE CENTER OF A SPIRIT-FILLED WEEKEND AS WASHINGTON CONFERENCE REGIONAL MINISTRIES HOSTED ITS INAUGURAL “7 LAST WORDS OF CHRIST” MULTICULTURAL RESURRECTION CELEBRATION ON APRIL 3–4.

The gathering invited members, leaders and guests to reflect on Christ’s final words and the hope of the resurrection through worship, testimony and prayer. Held across two sacred evenings – Friday at Breath of Life Church in Seattle and Sabbath at Mount Tahoma Church in Tacoma – the celebration brought together regional churches from across Washington Conference and beyond. What unfolded was more than a program; it was a shared moment of worship, reflection and spiritual renewal.

Each message, delivered by a dynamic lineup of current and former regional pastors and leaders, carried weight, clarity and Christ-centered urgency. The seven last sayings of Jesus were not simply preached; they were experienced. From forgiveness to surrender, and from suffering to victory, the word met people where they were and redirected hearts back to Calvary and forward toward purpose.

Presenters included Randy Maxwell, Washington Conference vice president for administration; Byron Dulan, former NPUC vice president for regional ministries; Deneil Clarke, Renton Church pastor; Kerwin Jones, Mount Tahoma Church pastor; Derek Lane, Maranatha Church pastor; Kimberly Watkins, Breath of Life Church pastor; and Ulric Hetsberger, Emerald City Community Church pastor. Each voice contributed to a unified message centered on the cross and the hope found in Christ’s resurrection.

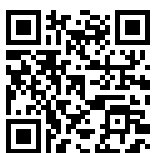
A defining moment came when Maxwell opened the floor for spontaneous testimonies and prayer. What followed was unscripted and deeply moving. Stories of gratitude, breakthrough and answered prayer filled the room, including one

powerful testimony shared on Sabbath evening that reminded attendees God is not only worthy of remembrance, but also actively at work.

This gathering marked the first event of its kind for regional ministries and demonstrated a spirit of unity that extended beyond conversation into lived experience. Churches, leaders and members came together not just in attendance, but also in alignment, worshiping, reflecting and responding as one body.

Organizers expressed appreciation to Wendy Bucknor and Gesele Thomas, Washington Conference executive committee representatives; Northwest Adventist African American Local Elders’ Federation members; and Regional Advisory Committee for their presence and support. Appreciation was also shared for those who helped with planning, communication and promotion, as well as host pastors Watkins and Jones, who helped create space for the Spirit to move.

As Washington Conference looks ahead through the lens of “Beyond Pentecost,” this gathering served as a reminder that revival is measured not only by events, but also by churches united in prayer, worship and renewed commitment to Christ’s mission. The embers of that powerful, Spirit-filled weekend are still burning. The cross still speaks, and the church is still responding.



DEREK LANE
*Washington Conference
outreach ministries
director*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-WA-98

PHOTOS BY ENOC GARCIA



Byron Dulan, presenter, reflects on “Father, Forgive Them,” calling attendees to consider how Christ’s forgiveness speaks into modern life, relationships and community.



Attendees pause for prayer during a reflective moment of the weekend celebration.

EDUCATION

AAA Athlete Practices Faith Beyond the Scoreboard

AT AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY, GABRIEL DELGADILLO, RECENT AAA GRADUATE, FOUND A PLACE TO GROW AS A STUDENT, ATHLETE AND FOLLOWER OF CHRIST WHILE PURSUING EXCELLENCE ON AND OFF THE BASKETBALL COURT.

GINA HUBIN



Gabriel Delgadillo (center) stands with members of the AAA Falcons basketball team.

Born in Málaga, Spain, to Bolivian parents, Delgadillo grew up connected to both cultures. Basketball became his passion, and his talent opened doors to higher levels of competition. In Bolivia, he trained under national-level coaches and learned the cost of pursuing excellence.

He remembers being 13 and missing birthdays, family gatherings and time with friends because of training. The experience taught him sacrifice and that talent alone is not enough. “You have to put in the work,” Delgadillo said, reflecting on James 2:17 and the connection between faith and action.

Delgadillo was 14 when he was selected among 60 young basketball players in Bolivia for a chance to represent his country. After a year of training and cuts, he became one of 12 athletes chosen for Bolivia’s team at a South American U16 tournament in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November 2022.

For Delgadillo, the experience was more than a basketball milestone. “Representing Bolivia was a privilege I will always carry with me,” Delgadillo said. “Wearing the colors of my flag is something I will never forget.”

As competition intensified, Delgadillo began wrestling with how basketball fit with his Adventist faith. High-level sports often meant Friday night and Sabbath games. Over time, he realized his athletic life and spiritual life were becoming disconnected.

That changed when his family moved to Washington in early 2023 and he enrolled at AAA. “AAA became the refuge I found during difficult moments of change in my life,” Delgadillo said.

He arrived in a new country with a new language, without his former team, after basketball season had already ended. Yet he found a Christian community that embraced him, supported him and helped strengthen his faith.

At AAA, Delgadillo discovered he could grow as an athlete while still honoring the Sabbath and deepening his relationship with God.

“My faith influences the way I compete because it reminds me I represent something bigger,” he said.

Delgadillo’s growth continued on the court. During his time at AAA, the boys basketball team reached three consecutive Adventist

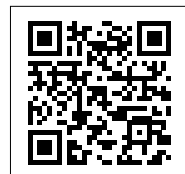
academy tournament finals and advanced to the state tournament this year.

Delgadillo was named MVP at this year’s Walla Walla University Friendship Tournament, and he has been invited to participate in the AdventistHoops All-American Weekend, happening July 29–Aug. 2.

Delgadillo plans to attend WWU and study business. For him, Adventist education represents whole-person growth. “I want to become a positive, hardworking person,” Delgadillo said, “one who keeps growing in faith, living with purpose and standing for truth.”

ENOC GARCIA

*Washington Conference
communication director*



More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-WA-89 +

PSAA Students Share Jesus' Love in Belize

PUGET SOUND ADVENTIST ACADEMY STUDENTS WENT TO BELIZE FOR A SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP THAT COMBINED CONSTRUCTION WORK, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND OUTREACH MARCH 22-29. WHAT THE 19 STUDENTS EXPERIENCED LEFT A LASTING IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY THEY SERVED AND ON THE STUDENTS THEMSELVES.



PSAA mission trip participants and Billy White Primary School students stand next to the completed construction.



Abril Aguilar and Valeria Nizovtsev, PSAA juniors, assist in the construction of a space that will support meal service for students.



Students and Dennis Borland (right) unload bags of concrete for the construction site at Billy White Primary School.

DENNIS BORLAND education and community outreach. Borland hopes to expand educational opportunities for young people in Belize. His next goal is to build an Adventist high school on the same property so students can continue their education close to home.

PSAA students also led Vacation Bible School programs, played games and built relationships with children. "Each of us would gather about 10 kids to have a prayer and do a small activity," said Abril Aguilar, PSAA junior. "Their hugs and smiles were enough to make our day. It was incredibly heartwarming to see how giving and loving they were, even though we had just met them."

By the end of the week, the children could often be seen running hand-in-hand with PSAA students. "This trip is something I will never forget, not just because of the fun we had, but because of the perspective it gave me," said Lisi Allen, PSAA junior. "It reminded me to be grateful for the opportunities I have and to not take them for granted."

After returning home, several students began discussing ways to support the children and ministry, and one

student is exploring ways to help pay tuition for a child he met.

"I feel grateful for this mission trip," said Troy Ahrens, PSAA chaplain and mission trip sponsor. "Our students were involved in worthwhile outreach and made incredible connections with the elementary kids. I feel full with God's blessings as I reflect on the ways the Holy Spirit worked through our team and through the people in Belize."

As Faith FM Belize expands its radio ministry and plans for a future Adventist high school in Billy White, Borland hopes additional mission groups will partner in the ongoing work. To learn more, contact Borland at faithfmbelize@gmail.com.

LAURIE YOSHIHARA
Kirkland Seventh-day Adventist School and Puget Sound Adventist Academy principal



ENOC GARCIA
Washington Conference communication director

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-WA-96

CHURCH

Forest Park Church Hosts Annual Retreat

FOR MANY, R&R MEANS REST AND RELAXATION. AT FOREST PARK CHURCH, IT ALSO MEANS ROSARIO RETREAT.

Forest Park Church members gathered March 27-29 at Walla Walla University Marine Laboratory at Rosario Beach in Anacortes, Washington, for their annual church retreat. About 150 people attended, including some who stayed for the weekend and others who drove up for Sabbath.

The weekend offered fellowship, food, kite flying, campfire songs, sunsets and walks along nearby trails. More importantly, it created space for spiritual refreshing and restoration. Bill Roberts, Washington Conference ministerial director, led worships that pointed attendees to Christ and

encouraged deeper connection with God and one another.

The highlight came Sabbath afternoon as the church family gathered on the shoreline for four baptisms. Each candidate shared how Christ had led them into a committed relationship with Him before stepping into the cold waters of the Puget Sound.

“The baptism for me marked a profound step in my spiritual journey,” said Liz Mungai, newly baptized member. “Rosario will forever remain special.”

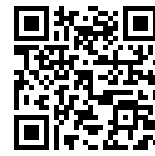
Volunteers cooked, organized, led music and helped keep the weekend running. Some went home tired, but the



CALEBRISTON

Forest Park Church celebrates four baptisms during Sabbath afternoon at Rosario Beach.

church family left renewed and already asking who they can lead to Jesus before next year’s Rosario Retreat.



VINCENT WOOLSEY
Forest Park
Church pastor

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-WA-00

CHURCH

Steps to Christ Church Marks 20 Years of Ministry

STEPS TO CHRIST CHURCH IN FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON, CELEBRATED 20 YEARS SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION AND 10 YEARS SINCE THE DEDICATION OF ITS HOUSE OF PRAYER.

Hundreds gathered for the anniversary celebration on April 18, including church members, guests, neighboring congregations, community leaders and friends who have witnessed the church’s journey.

The congregation was formed by immigrants from Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and other countries of the former Soviet Union. For many families building a new life in a new country, the church became more than a Sabbath worship space. It became a spiritual home where they could pray in their native language, preserve Christian

values, support one another and pass faith to the next generation.

Steps to Christ Church has grown into a mature church family with music, children’s, youth, prayer, educational, social and missionary ministries. Members have served as musicians, teachers, preachers, builders, organizers, volunteers and mentors, creating a culture where ministry is seen as an opportunity to serve God and others.

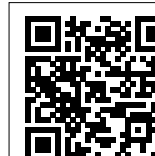
The celebration included greetings from neighboring congregations; Jim Ferrell, Federal Way mayor; Ted N. C. Wilson, former General Conference

president; and David Woods, Maranatha Volunteers International representative. As members reflected on answered prayers and God’s leading, the anniversary became not only a remembrance of the past, but also the beginning of a new chapter in ministry.

ALEXANDER HARMASH



A choir and orchestra share special music during Steps to Christ Church’s anniversary celebration, one of many musical selections featured throughout the day.



ALEXANDER HARMASH
Steps to Christ
Church pastor

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-WA-03

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Renton Church Hosts First 5K Fun Run

RENTON CHURCH HOSTED ITS FIRST HEALTH 5K FUN RUN ON APRIL 19 ALONG THE CEDAR RIVER TRAIL NEAR RENTON COMMUNITY CENTER AND CEDAR RIVER PARK IN WASHINGTON.

Held under the theme “Faith in Every Step,” the event brought together 101 participants for a Sunday morning focused on health, fellowship and community connection.

The idea began with church leaders who wanted to create more than a race. They envisioned an outreach activity that would encourage movement, strengthen relationships and connect the community with Jesus. After weeks of planning and prayer, runners and walkers gathered on a bright morning to take the first step together.

Children ran their organized race first. Then adults challenged themselves

along the trail. Older participants walked with family and friends. Throughout the morning, participants encouraged one another, proving that the event was about more than physical wellness.

The run created space for people of all ages to move, laugh and build relationships outside the church walls. After the 5K ended, many stayed to visit and celebrate the shared accomplishment. “This was our first,” organizers shared, “and by God’s grace, many more will follow.”

For Renton Church, the first Health 5K Fun Run became a reminder that faith can move forward one step at a time.

• Renton Church members and community participants celebrate together at the finish line.



OSCAR SANTANA



OSCAR SANTANA
Renton Church member

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-WA-06

North Hill Celebrates Mortgage Burning

ON APRIL 25, NORTH HILL FELLOWSHIP IN EDGEWOOD, WASHINGTON, CELEBRATED THE BURNING OF ITS MORTGAGE AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF FAITHFUL GIVING, SACRIFICE AND PRAYER.

The mortgage burning and worship service marked a financial milestone, but the day also became a celebration of God’s leading and the church family’s mission to “Love God, and Love People.” The mortgage was paid in full at the end of 2025 after an anonymous donor matched payments toward the principal, inspiring even more generosity as the finish line came into view.

The service included music, testimonies, church history reflections, a slideshow of North Hill’s ministries and special music from the Samoan Young People’s Choir and Judah Edwards on saxophone.

Aimee Edwards reflected on growing up at North Hill, and Alan Altman, founding member, remembered the early days of the church plant.

The celebration also highlighted North Hill as a place of belonging and spiritual growth. Members shared stories of friendship, recovery, worship and service that have shaped the congregation beyond the walls of its building.

CJ Yoon, pastor, concluded the service with a gospel-centered message titled “Our Debt, His Payment,” reminding attendees that while the mortgage had been paid,

Christ had already paid humanity’s greatest debt.

North Hill now looks ahead to its 20th anniversary celebration in October.



ENOC GARCIA



ENOC GARCIA
Washington Conference communication director

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-WA-07

ACTS AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

After Jesus returned to heaven, His followers went everywhere sharing the good news about Him. This year, let's explore together Acts through Revelation in the Bible, alongside *Acts of the Apostles* from the *Conflict of the Ages* classic commentary.

JULY

	Bible	Acts of the Apostles
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	James 4	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	James 5	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Review	Chapter 33
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Review	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	1 Peter 1	
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	1 Peter 2	
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	1 Peter 3	
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	1 Peter 4	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	1 Peter 5	
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Review	Chapter 51
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Review	
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	2 Peter 1	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	2 Peter 2	
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	2 Peter 3	
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	2 Peter 3	
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	2 Peter	
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Review	Chapter 52
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Review	
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	1 John 1	
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	1 John 2	
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	1 John 3	
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	1 John 4	
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	1 John 5	
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Review	Chapter 53
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Review	
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	2 John 1	
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	3 John 1	
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	3 John 1	
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Jude	
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Jude	
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Review	Chapter 54

AUGUST

	Bible	Acts of the Apostles
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Review	Chapter 54(cont')
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Revelation 1	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Revelation 2	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Revelation 3	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Revelation 4	
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Revelation 5	
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Review	Chapter 55
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Review	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Revelation 6	
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Revelation 7	
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Revelation 8	
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Revelation 9	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Revelation 10	
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Review	Chapter 56
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Review	
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Revelation 11	
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Revelation 12	
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Revelation 13	
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Revelation 14	
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Revelation 15	
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Review	Chapter 57
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Review	
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Revelation 16	
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Revelation 17	
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Revelation 18	
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Revelation 19	
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Revelation 20	
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Review	Chapter 58
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Review	
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Revelation 21	
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Revelation 22	

As you read, let P.R.A.I.S.E. guide you: » **Pray**, asking God for wisdom, » **Read** the Bible passage for the day, » **Apply** the Bible passage to your life, » **Interact** with a Bible study group, » **Share** something good with someone, » **Encourage** others to join the journey.





EDUCATION

EDUCATION

PROVIDED BY MATTHEW FITTING



Matthew Fitting, WWU vice president of student life

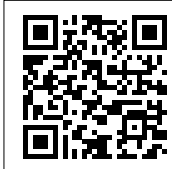
FITTING NAMED VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE

MATTHEW FITTING is joining Walla Walla University as vice president for student life. He comes from Andrews University, where he has served since 2022 as dean for undergraduate residence life, overseeing residence hall operations and student programming.

At WWU, Fitting will lead housing, spiritual and social programming, student missions and athletics. He succeeds Darren Wilkins, who is stepping away to focus on his tour company.

Fitting looks forward to bringing his passion for student community to WWU.

JODI WAGNER
WWU vice president of marketing and enrollment



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-WWU-84

AI Literacy Programs Offered

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY IS EXPANDING AI TRAINING TO HELP STUDENTS AND FACULTY USE NEW TECHNOLOGY WITH SKILL AND DISCERNMENT.

The WWU Department of Computer Science's new Bachelor of Science in artificial intelligence teaches students to build, evaluate, critique and responsibly use AI systems.

"I think a lot of programs treat AI as a purely technical skill set, but we want to graduate students who can build these systems and ask hard questions about them," said Chiké Abuah, WWU visiting computer science professor. "That ethical grounding isn't just an afterthought or elective for us; it runs through our whole curriculum."

WWU's MBA program also offers an AI specialization. Paul Rhynard, WWU MBA program director, said, "AI is changing the workplace very quickly, especially white-collar jobs. It is paramount we teach our graduate business students, who should be future leaders in their organizations, how to manage and leverage AI effectively."

The School of Education and Psychology has embedded AI learning into education technology and other courses. Brian Hartman, WWU associate professor of education, is teaching an online class on using AI to support standards-based learning.

"Teaching standards-based learning requires teachers to develop new curricula and assessments. This process takes a significant amount of time. Leveraging the use of AI will assist them in making the transition to a new curriculum that will be more effective for students," said Hartman.

WWU faculty and staff will also complete AI Ready training from



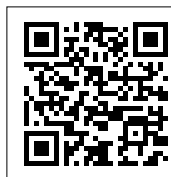
COLBY KUSCHATKA

WWU launches new AI degrees and programs to prepare for the future.

the Council of Independent Colleges, supporting AI adoption in teaching and business.

Guided by excellence in thought, generosity in service, beauty in expression and faith in God, WWU prepares students for life after graduation. "AI raises some of the deepest ethical questions out there about autonomy, fairness and core human values. WWU gives students a coherent moral framework to wrestle with those questions, and I think that is very special," said Abuah.

Learn more at wallawalla.edu/cs and wallawalla.edu/mba.



HAILEY WERNER
WWU university relations student writer

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-WWU-71



Online MSW and MEd Programs Offered

TO MEET WORKING PROFESSIONALS WHERE THEY ARE, WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY NOW OFFERS BOTH ITS MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK AND MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN A FLEXIBLE, ONLINE FORMAT.

The online MSW program utilizes a combination of live digital meetings and asynchronous coursework, which fosters a connected learning community while maintaining more balance for students' studies, work, family and lives.

Depending on the student's undergraduate degree, this degree can be earned in one to two years. During the program, students complete fieldwork requirements within their local communities and engage in a curriculum focused on ethics, social justice and hands-on practice. "This is convenience without compromising quality," said Deisy Haid, WWU professor of social work.

The Stackable Graduate Certificates Program is an exciting new pathway to

a WWU MEd for less than \$14,000. It offers professional certificates in several specializations, meaning graduate students can apply many course assignments to their work.

"This is truly a flexible program for the modern professional," said Maria Bastien Valenca, WWU School of Education and Psychology dean. "Start when you want. Pay as you go. Earn one, two or all three certificates – we want to support your professional goals and your schedule."

Both programs provide the same high-quality, accredited education as their in-person counterparts, just in a more customizable format. We want our degrees to fit our students, not the opposite.



CHRIS DRAKE

WWU offers online graduate programs for working professionals.

To learn more about WWU's online MSW program, visit wallawalla.edu/online-msw. For more about the online MEd program, visit wallawalla.edu/med.

HAILEY WERNER

WWU university relations student writer



More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-WWU-09



Sweet reasons to see for yourself!

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.



I Choose Joy

ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES PATIENTS HAVE WHEN THEY ARE ADMITTED TO A HOSPITAL IS A CERTAIN LOSS OF FREEDOM.

They used to be at home with the freedom to eat what they wanted. They used to have a body that allowed them to go where they chose. They used to not be confined to a hospital bed that has become their new dwelling place.

Now, everything has changed. Illness or injury has taken away some of their freedom to be who they are used to being. Illness has robbed them of their joy.

But sometimes even the seemingly saddest cases of lost freedom don't produce the outcome we might expect.

Recently, I sat with a patient who was in her mid-20s and going through her second battle with aggressive cancer. The first time, it was ovarian. This time, there were tumors on her brain. She had been robbed of her freedom – robbed of her youth.

As I sat and visited with her, I was astounded to see a wide smile on her face

and joy radiating from her inner being. It was dumbfounding. This was not what I expected.

I asked her, "How are you coping with all these medical setbacks? It seems as if I'm sitting in the presence of somebody at the beach enjoying a relaxing vacation. I'm seeing peace."

She responded, "You know what? I choose joy. I know that doesn't make any sense, but I figure God has blessed me with 26 wonderful years, a loving family and friends that are as close to me as my sisters. I'm truly blessed – and soon, I will be truly free."

"I choose joy." Wow.

I entered the room wanting to be some sort of blessing. Instead, I left the room having been blessed.

Clinically trained chaplains at Adventist Health see and hear many things.

We hear deep, dark secrets. We receive tear-filled confessions. We sit with, pray over and hold the hands of all kinds of patients going through all kinds of trials. This is what we are trained to do.

And sometimes, we walk into a room and are blessed with joy – joy in the midst of trial, joy in the midst of pain, joy in a hospital bed, joy-giving freedom.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:2-4).

MARK WITAS

Adventist Health mission and spiritual care director



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-AH-56



HEALTH

A Good Night's Sleep for the Whole Family

WHETHER YOU'RE TRANSITIONING FROM SUMMER TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR OR RETURNING HOME AFTER A TRIP, THERE ARE MANY REASONS YOU MAY BE WORKING TO GET YOUR FAMILY INTO A ROUTINE. A BIG PART OF THAT IS THEIR SLEEP SCHEDULE. THE LAST FEW WEEKS BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS IS AN IDEAL TIME TO EASE BACK INTO GOOD SLEEP HABITS, BUT YOU CAN ESTABLISH A SLEEP ROUTINE ANY TIME. HERE'S HOW.

WHY IS SLEEP IMPORTANT?

Getting a good night's sleep provides energy for the day, but there's more. Kids who get enough rest are better able to regulate their emotions and less likely to have behavioral problems. Those who get sufficient sleep may also have better cognitive function, including decision-making, conflict resolution, memory and learning, which can significantly affect their success at school. Children who aren't getting enough sleep may struggle to pay attention in class and have a hard time keeping up with schoolwork.

HOW MUCH SLEEP DOES A CHILD NEED?

Less than half of school-age kids get the recommended amount of sleep on weeknights. These are the recommendations:

- » **Ages 3–5:** 10–13 hours, including naps
- » **Ages 6–12:** 9–12 hours
- » **Ages 13–18:** 8–10 hours

THE IMPORTANCE OF A SLEEP SCHEDULE

Children thrive on consistency, sleep included. Kids whose parents set a consistent bedtime get more sleep at night. With bedtime set, work back about an hour to start winding down and getting ready to sleep.

A good bedtime routine prepares your child for sleep and helps them settle down from the excitement of the day. Bedtime routines should involve the same activities from night to night, including weekends, so your child's brain gets the cue that it's time to rest. Try these tips:

Start before they're sleepy. Your child may not be thrilled about ending playtime, but wrangling an overtired kid through bath time and teeth brushing can lead to meltdowns. Start preparing an hour before actual bedtime.

Skip screens. Videos and games can be overstimulating for tired brains. Set a window when kids don't have to go to bed but can't watch TV or use screens.

Recap the day. Make time for connection by asking your child about their day.

Let kids have a say. Your middle schooler might prefer quiet time in their room before bed, while your preschooler will love one-on-one moments reading books together.

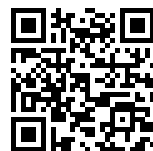
SLEEP HYGIENE TIPS

Your whole day can play a role in the quality of sleep you get at night. Try these tips to ensure your family wakes up on the right side of the bed:

Don't get overbooked. Extracurricular activities are great for socializing and learning beyond the classroom, but make space for free time, too, to help your child rest and use their imagination.

Say no to caffeine. Even if your child isn't drinking coffee or energy drinks, they could be getting caffeine through soft drinks or chocolate, which can keep them up at night.

Make time for exercise. Going for a family walk or playing in the yard during the day can result in better sleep at night. Plus, exposure to daylight can improve sleep quality and duration.



C.J. ANDERSON
Adventist Health
Portland marketing and
communications manager

More online at  NWADVENT.ST/121-4-AH-10



BIGHAM – Della Delores (Deroo), 93; born Dec. 14, 1932, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada; died Feb. 17, 2026, Coos Bay, Oregon. Surviving: son, Norman; daughters, Crystal (Bigham) Rees and Cindy (Bigham) Carlin; 1 grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren.

ANDERSON – Barbara Jean (Dickerson), 89; born April 27, 1935, Los Angeles, California; died Dec. 2, 2024, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: spouse, James; daughter, Joyce (Anderson) Wilkens; sons, Eric and Bryan; 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

BARNETT – Maxine Delores (Dorland), 90; born Jan. 30, 1935, Westport, Washington; died Dec. 10, 2025, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Harold and Mike; daughters, Delores (Barnett) Lee and Janet (Barnett) Stuart; brother, Guy Dorland; sister, Barbara (Dorland) White; 7 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

BLACKBURN – Ira Lee, 89; born Oct. 11, 1935, Englewood, Kansas; died Nov. 11, 2024, Fruitland, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Winifred Forshee Blackburn; sons, Thomas, Donald and Ronald; daughter, Kendra Blackburn; 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

DIETZ – Dennis, 82; born March 16, 1943, Valley City, North Dakota; died Dec. 21, 2025, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Donna (Dondino); sons, Dennis Jr. and Derek; daughters, Eileen and Jennifer; stepsons, Terry, Rus and Jeff; stepdaughter, Karen; brother, Philip.

EICHNER – Bonavee “Bonny” Jean (Kyle), 97; born Jan. 14, 1929, Hamilton, Montana; died April 10, 2026, College Place, Washington. Surviving: sons, Doug and David; daughters, Bambi Eichner and Diane (Eichner) Katsma; brother, Bill Kyle; sister, June (Kyle) Iseminger; 4 grandchildren.

GARDNER – Gary Wayne, 73; born Oct. 14, 1949, Greenville, Tennessee; died June 11, 2023, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Debra; sons, Andrew and Alexander; daughter; 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

GIFFORD – Gary Donald, 81; born July 3, 1944, Glendale, California; died April 5, 2026, College Place, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Jerri; son, David; daughter, Shauna Gifford.

GOODHEW – Merry Jacque (Downs), 86; born April 12, 1939, Boise, Idaho; died March 27, 2026, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Larry; son, Larry; daughter, LaVonda (Goodhew) Kellog; 2 grandchildren.

1930–2026

DOLORES “LORRY” YATES BURNS

Delores Jane Cobb Yates Burns – known to many as Lorry – was born May 9, 1930 to Herman and Constance Cobb in Salem, Oregon, and went to sleep in Jesus Feb. 22, 2026, at the home of her daughter, Connie, and son-in-law, Lewis Bissell, in Milton Freewater, Oregon.

She attended Laurelwood Academy and graduated in 1949. That Christmas, she married Eldon Lloyd Yates. Together, they raised three children: Denis Yates, Sheila Schroeder and Connie Bissell. They lived in Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Arizona.

A 1982 airplane accident left Eldon in a coma. Lorry faithfully cared for him until he passed in 1990. She later married Duane Burns in 1999.

She is preceded in death by both husbands and a brother, Robert Cobb. She is survived by her sisters, Margie Buell and Carol Paulson, three children, eight grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Lorry graced many church services with beautiful piano and organ music, becoming well known for her musical ministry. She also worked for Oregon Conference Trust department, where she was affectionately known as “Trusty Lorry.”

God blessed Lorry and miraculously preserved her for 95 years. A humble and generous mother, she modeled God’s love in word and action. Her final prayer expressed her desire to meet her family and friends in heaven.



HAAS – John-Joseph Randazzo, 39; born April 15, 1983, Roseburg, Oregon; died Feb. 6, 2023, Roseburg, Oregon. Surviving: mother, Linda (Ortman); sister, Ambyr Haas-Pettengill; son, Austin; daughter, Scarlett.

HESSE – Curtis Culvin, 80; born March 1, 1945, Bakersfield, California; died Dec. 24, 2025, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Anica Didara Hesse; son, Christopher Hesse; daughter, Candyce Joy Briant; stepson, Edwin Krkljus; stepdaughter, Sylvia Bowen; brother, Lee; 3 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

KLEIN – Fred Andrew, 68; born April 11, 1957, Denver, Colorado; died Feb. 8, 2026, Kennedy, Minnesota. Surviving: spouse, Pam (Juhl); daughters, Sandi (Klein) Isaacs and Dana (Klein) Weyerts; brother, Don; 4 grandchildren.

LEPIANE – Dennis LeRoy, 78; born Aug. 22, 1947, Walla Walla, Washington; died March 27, 2026, College Place, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Carol; daughter, Jaymie (Lepiane) Doll; brother, Darrel; sister, Annette (Lepiane) Jeske; 1 grandchild.

PARMENTER – Neva J. (Abbot), 88; born July 21, 1937, Dallas, Texas; died March 28, 2026, Eugene, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Mike and Steve; daughter, Roxanna Parmenter; 6 grandchildren, 10 step-grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 5 step-great-grandchildren.

PENSIERO – Jenny Teresa (Nakayama), previously Jenny Nakamuro, 72; born Nov. 19, 1953, Jerome, Idaho; died March 24, 2026, Houston, Texas. Surviving: spouse, Jim Pensiero; daughters, Kayce (Nakamuro) Matzer and Lindsay Nakamuro; sisters, Kathy (Nakayama) Alcock and Keri Nakayama; 4 grandchildren.

RAY – Evert Stanley, 92; born Feb. 2, 1934, Artesia, California; died March 10, 2026, Touchet, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Florence; sons, Scott and Steven; daughters, Karen and Heidi; 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

RINGERING – Margaret Ellen (Neisner), previously Margaret Young, 91; born Jan. 3, 1934, Loup City, Nebraska; died May 19, 2025, Gladstone, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Arnold Ringering; sons, Richard (Young) Ringering and Gene (Young) Ringering; daughters, Twyla (Young) McIntyre and Paula (Young) Benson; stepdaughters, Norene (Ringering) Carey, Phyllis (Ringering) Mow and Jane (Ringering) Briggs; 6 grandchildren, 7 step-grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, 15 step-great-grandchildren, 15 step-great-great-grandchildren and 1 step-great-great-great-grandchild.

SCOTT – Thelma Pearl (Akers), 95; born Jan. 9, 1931, Akersville, Pennsylvania; died March 18, 2026, Citrus Heights, California. Surviving: son, Jerry; daughter, Jodi Schall; 2 grandchildren.

SHULTZ – Dan McLloyd, 87; born April 8, 1938, Brandford, Pennsylvania; died March 12, 2026, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Carolyn (Stevens); son, Jeffrey; daughters, Denise (Shultz) Hickerson, Karan Shultz and Rhonda (Shultz) Moravec; brother, Larry; sister, Barbara (Shultz) Martin; 7 grandchildren, 1 step-grandchild, 6 great-grandchildren and 6 step-great-grandchildren.

SLOOP – Sharlene Evonne (Wood), 90; born May 5, 1935, Council Bluffs, Iowa; died Jan. 3, 2026, Yakima, Washington. Surviving: sons, Richard, Randal and Gregory; 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

STAFFORD – Charles “Chuck” Richard, 88; born Oct. 31, 1937, Seattle, Washington; died Feb. 7, 2026, Rice, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Ruth (Emery); sons, Merlin and Laren; daughters, Lori (Stafford) Gulley and Marilee (Stafford) Kier; brothers, Thomas and John; 9 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

SUMMERS – Judy L. (Corbin), 79; born July 3, 1946, Yakima, Washington; died March 1, 2026, Florence, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Charles; daughters, Corinna Ransom, Shannon Summers, Renae Summers and Aimee Anderson; 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

WHITNEY – Sandra Lee (Lind), previously Sandra Lee Perkins, 79; born Dec. 9, 1946, Klamath, California; died Jan. 25, 2026, Tacoma, Washington. Surviving: spouse, James Marvin Whitney; son, Gary Perkins; daughters, Annette (Perkins) Green and Julie Atkinson; step-daughters, Lonna (Whitney) Major and Carrie (Whitney) Garcia; sisters, Lori Lind and Tracy (Lind) Meyer; 9 grandchildren.

WILLIAMS – Larry White, 85; born Oct. 27, 1940, Yakima, Washington; died March 12, 2026, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: son, Branden; daughters, LaZann Williams Allen, Larrilee Williams Norton and Bridget Williams Vogel; 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

WILLIAMSON – June C. (Cain), 86; born June 9, 1939, Ogden, Utah; died Feb. 26, 2026, Gresham, Oregon. Surviving: son, Guy; daughter, Thonie (Williamson) Marcus.

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.

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CLASSES

NEED A VOCATION? Gain a valuable trade in HVAC, welding or other fields — and be equipped to share the Three Angels' Messages. Streams of Light Training Institute is where trades meet mission. Learn more at streamsoflightinstitute.net or call 888-765-7654.

EMPLOYMENT

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY continuously seeks qualified candidates to fill various positions around campus, including faculty, salaried staff and hourly staff positions. If you are interested in working at SAU, we encourage you to view the positions that are currently open at sau.catsone.com/careers and apply as God leads. To view current open educational positions pre-K through college across North American Division, please visit jobs.adventisteducation.org.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SEEKS applicants for EMS coordinator in the international rescue and relief program. This full-time exempt role includes benefits. The coordinator develops and manages the EMS component, with teaching and administrative duties. View job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

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

100 YEAR CELEBRATION Rogue Valley Adventist Academy is hosting an alumni event Aug. 15. Anyone who attended RRA, RRJA, RVAS and RVAA in the beautiful Rogue Valley in Southern Oregon or pastored the local churches, please join us for this event. Sabbath service/roll call, haystack lunch and an evening of catching up with old friends. Contact the school office for more information at 541-773-2988.

WINLOCK WASHINGTON CAMP MEETING begins Thursday, Aug. 6-9 at 7 p.m. Speakers include Norman McNulty, Cam Koronko, Anthony Burrell and Edwin Cotto of adventdefenseleague.com. Dry camping available. Location: 2660 State Highway 603, Winlock, Washington, 98596. Call 360-623-2092 or 360-785-4914 to register. Find details at: winlockwa.adventistchurch.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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. Email motorcycles@edmondsadventist.org.

REAL ESTATE

ADVENTIST REAL ESTATE FIRM serving Walla Walla/College Place area. Spinoza Real Estate. T.J. Espinoza, broker/owner, 509-540-5342, tj@ucwallawalla.com. Call us for all your real estate needs. Hablamos Español.

ESTABLISHED BUSINESS FOR SALE TECH Appliance and TV Repair, 303 California Ave., Libby, Montana. "The Home of Polar Bear Rick." After 44 years at the same location, owner must retire due to health and age. Sale includes tools, test equipment and inventory sold as-is. Business has specialized in RVs, campers, vacuum and appliance repair, plus CB, marine and high-band radio sales. Call 406-293-5534 for details and terms. Please leave a message if no answer.

FOR SALE Southern Oregon country home near Milo Adventist Academy. 3 bed, 2 bath manufactured home; vaulted ceiling with skylights; central heat/AC and pellet stove; attached two-car garage; large office hobby building; new Tuff Shed; deep well; septic; tiered, mature landscaping. Contact Chris Gritton, Oregon broker, Lamonte Real Estate Professionals, 541-802-6997, chris@grittonproperties.com.

FOR SALE

IS YOUR SCHOOL in debt? *Christ's Object Lessons* was given to our schools as a fundraising book. A family could also use this program to pay tuition. To learn more, order or download a copy of *God's Evangelistic Plan* at letsgohomeministry.org. Lareda Neves, 208-573-3353.

THE PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY is a book that teaches the importance of knowing God, understanding the words we read, line-by-line studies, one item multiple descriptions, who is being talked about, how to study a single verse, topical studies, etc. Contact Lareda Neves, 208-573-3353, mybiblestudytools.com.

SERVICES

AUTHORS, TRANSFORM YOUR MANUSCRIPT into a globally distributed book. Get a free evaluation from a trusted Adventist publisher of 42 years. If accepted, we edit, design, layout, market and distribute worldwide. Submit today at teachservices.com. Look for red "Submit Manuscript" button at top of homepage. We buy/sell used Adventist books at infbooks.com. 706-504-9192.

PRAYER NEEDS Facing a challenge? Have a concern? At LifeTalk Radio we believe in prayer and want to pray for you. Whatever your problem, God is bigger. Share your prayer needs at lifetalk.net/prayer. Live with hope! Listen at lifetalk.net.

SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT

VILLAGE, an Adventist rural community, offers affordable homes or apartments and caring neighbors with fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site, church-planned activities and transportation as needed. On-site Wolfe Living Center offers independent living and nursing homes. Visit summitridgevillage.org or call Bill Norman at 405-208-1289.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION

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- July 4 – Local Church Budget
- July 11 – World Budget (GC)
- July 18 – Local Church Budget
- July 25 – Local Conference Advance
- Aug. 1 – Local Church Budget
- Aug. 8 – Christian Record Services (NAD)
- Aug. 15 – Local Church Budget
- Aug. 22 – Local Conference Advance
- Aug. 29 – Local Church Budget

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Monday–Thursday 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

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Associate Anne Vu	Regional and Outreach Ministries EuGene Lewis
Communication Heidi Baumgartner	Trust (WAF) James Brown
Media Coordinator José Segovia	Association Treasurer Jay Graham
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Local Conference Directory

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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

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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

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Gladstone, OR 97027-2546
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John McVay, president; Kara Johnsson, v.p. administration; Eric Davis, v.p. finance; Ron Jacaban, v.p. education

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Spokane, WA 99224
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32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S.
Federal Way, WA 98001
253-681-6008 • washingtonconference.org
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When Elijah Ran



“Get ready for rain!”
Elijah told King Ahab.

No rain had fallen for three and a half years, but God had promised rain and Elijah believed Him. Elijah prayed for rain and sent his servant to look out toward the sea. Six times the servant returned with the same answer: “I see nothing.”

Elijah continued to pray. This time, the servant hurried back with news: “I see a little cloud rising from the sea. It’s so small ... about the size of a man’s hand.”

Woosh! The wind blew in cold and damp. Dark clouds rolled across the sky. Boom! Thunder rolled. It began to pour down rain.

The rain was so heavy that Ahab could not see the road, but God gave Elijah special strength. He ran ahead of the chariot all the way to Ahab’s hometown.

When Ahab told his wife Jezebel all that had happened that day, she got mad. She wanted to kill Elijah because he showed that God was the only true God. When Elijah heard he was in danger, he ran again. This time, he ran with his own strength. He ran all day until he couldn’t run anymore. Then he slept under a tree.

An angel woke him and said, “Get up and eat!” After eating, Elijah slept again. Again, an angel woke him and gave him food and water.

Elijah walked to Mount Sinai and rested in a cave. In the morning, God said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

God wanted Elijah to think about why he had run away from the bully, Jezebel. Elijah had been strong for God when the rain fell, but he forgot that God was with him.

Elijah was tired, hungry and lonely. God fed him, gave him time to nap and told him that 7,000 people in Israel loved God. God also gave Elijah a helper who would someday replace him as God’s prophet.

There are still people like Ahab who believe in a false god and bullies like Jezebel. Elijah’s story reminds us that God stays with us when we feel sad, tired, afraid or lonely. He feeds us, gives us rest and fills us with His love and power. We can trust Him to pour down His Spirit on us as surely as He sent heavy rain to water the dry land.

You can read 1 Kings 18:41–46 and Joel 2:25 for family worship.



PAULA WART
Just for Kids columnist

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-KIDS-85

CREATE A HOLY SPIRIT RAIN CLOUD

Just like rain falls and helps plants grow, God's Spirit helps us grow like Jesus. God gives us wisdom and a knowledge of truth through His Spirit. When we feel scared, tired or alone, God is with us.



You'll need:

- » White, blue and yellow paper
- » Scissors
- » Tape or glue
- » Pencil/marker/crayon

1. Make a Cloud

- » Draw and cut out a large cloud shape from white paper.
- » Write a message on it, such as "Holy Spirit Rain" or "God sends us His Spirit." You can decorate it more if you want.

2. Make Raindrops

- » Draw and cut out five to 10 raindrop shapes from blue paper.
- » On each raindrop, write a fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, etc. — or how God's Spirit helps you — the Holy Spirit helps me be brave.

3. Make Lightning

- » Draw and cut out two or three lightning bolts from yellow paper.
- » Write what God's Spirit instills in you on the lightning bolts: courage, strength, joy, etc.

4. Attach the Rain

- » Cut thin strips of blue paper at different lengths to connect raindrops to the cloud.
- » Tape or glue raindrops to one end of the paper strips — one drop per strip. The strip and adhesive should be on the back side of the raindrop. Do this until all drops have strips.
- » Tape or glue the other end of each strip to the back of the cloud.
- » Tape or glue your lightning bolts to the back of the cloud.

5. Hang the Cloud

- » Hang your rain cloud on a wall or window, or put it on your refrigerator.

Say a short prayer whenever you look at your Holy Spirit rain cloud: "God, please send Your Spirit to help me today."

God does not just give enough — He gives more than enough!



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PAULA WART



PAULA WART
Just for Kids
columnist

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-4-KIDS-86

A Word That Is Disappearing

Let me ask you something: When was the last time you tried to unsubscribe from an email newsletter? If you've ever tried, you know how hard it was.

The experience went something like this: You found the unsubscribe link in tiny letters at the bottom of the email. You clicked it. Then you filled out a survey explaining why you wanted to leave. Then you confirmed you really meant it. Then, you verified you weren't a robot. Meanwhile, subscribing in the first place required exactly one click on a big, colorful button.

Something strange is happening in our digital world: The word "no" is disappearing.

THE VANISHING OPTION

When apps ask if you want to try their premium version, they offer three options: "Yes, I want the demo," "Give me more information" or "I'll do it later." Notice something? All three are affirmative responses. No button says, "No, I'm not interested."

Please stop asking."

They only leave you with the option to say "yes." The other thing you might be able to do is to close the window. That's it.

Imagine if real-life conversations worked this way. You're at the supermarket checkout and the cashier asks if you want to donate to their charity. Your only

options are to donate \$5, donate \$10 or abandon your groceries and leave the store entirely.

Now, in addition to amusing linguistics and language manipulation, I look at this as something that is costing us money, time and peace.

WHEN "YES" BECOMES EXPENSIVE

Scripture gives us profound wisdom about the power of our words. James 5:12 says, "Let your 'yes' be yes, and your 'no,' no." Jesus taught the same principle in Matt. 5:37, but in our digital age, we've lost the second half of that equation.

We say yes to free trials and forget to cancel before they become paid subscriptions. We say yes to "just browsing" and end up with shopping carts full of items we never intended to buy. We say yes to one more streaming service, one more app and one more monthly commitment, each one just \$9.99, but collectively draining hundreds from our budgets.

When "no" disappears from our options, it begins disappearing from our vocabulary. We stop using what we no longer see. Society pays the price through stress, hyperactivity and exhaustion.

The prefix "hyper" means excessive. "Multi" in multitasking means many. These words can very well describe a culture that has lost the ability to say no.

MELISSA SÁNCHEZ



AUTHOR

Oscar "Mike" Sánchez



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/121-4-POV-01](https://nwadvent.st/121-4-pov-01)





*When we reclaim the word 'no,'
we reclaim control over our
resources, time and peace.*

THE BIBLICAL GIFT OF BOUNDARIES

God Himself models the power of “no” throughout scripture. In the garden, He said no to eating from one tree to establish boundaries in the context of the great controversy between good and evil. Jesus said no to Satan’s tempting offers in the wilderness. Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 6:12, “Everything is permissible for me – but not everything is beneficial.”

The ability to say no is actually a form of stewardship. Every yes to something is a no to something else. When we say yes to another subscription, we’re saying no to margin in our budget. When we say yes to endless scrolling, we’re saying no to time with family. When we say yes to impulse purchases online, we’re saying no to savings that could serve God’s kingdom.

RECLAIMING “NO” AS A FINANCIAL PRACTICE

Now, only in this context, I am inviting us to start treating “no” as the default, not “yes.”

Before subscribing to anything – streaming services, newsletters or apps – ask, “What am I saying no to if I say yes to this?” Set a calendar reminder for one day before free trials end. Make cancellation as easy as choosing to subscribe.

Review your bank statement monthly. Circle every recurring charge. Ask yourself, “Am I actively using this, or am I just paying because I forgot to cancel?”

Practice saying no to pop-up offers, promotional emails and “limited time” deals designed to make you act without thinking. The urgency is manufactured. Your financial peace is real.

THE REST THAT “NO” PROVIDES

I want to share with you a piece of beautiful wisdom I learned when I studied philology: “Our ‘no’ is just two letters, but sometimes there’s no word in the dictionary that will give you more rest.”

This is more than just my linguistic insight. It’s stewardship theology. When we reclaim the word “no,” we reclaim control over our resources, time and peace.

Every day can be wonderful when we remember that “no” is often the most faithful answer to a world demanding our constant yes.

OSCAR “MIKE” SÁNCHEZ

Counting What Counts columnist



Living Water

Whenever you do something new, you have to contend with the mystery of the unknown. Sometimes

the discovery of that mystery comes with excitement, fear or a combination of several emotions. That's what it was like for me the first time I went through Hezekiah's Tunnel in Jerusalem.

Our group knew that we were going to walk through the tunnel and that we'd get wet. But, as we descended the shockingly steep staircase single file through hewn rock, I couldn't help but think that this might be an intense experience.

When we finally arrived at the entrance to the water portion of the tunnel, we prepared ourselves to get wet. I already had my swimwear underneath my pants. I stowed my pants and shoes in my backpack, got out my flashlight and went in.

Hezekiah's Tunnel is a little wider than shoulder width and tall enough that you can almost always walk upright. The water gently flows just above your ankles as you walk, single file, through the length of the 1,750-foot tunnel. The only light is what you bring with you. I chose to go

barefoot and noticed that the rock under my feet was smooth, presumably from the constantly flowing water and the innumerable multitudes who have walked that same path.

It's widely believed that the tunnel was constructed during the reign of Hezekiah, King of Judah, dating to the late 8th or early 7th century BC, as a channel for water. As the story goes, King Hezekiah

had some advanced warning that Sennacherib, King of Assyria, planned to come and lay siege to Jerusalem (2 Chron. 32:1-5, 30).

In a siege, the attacking force surrounds a city, cutting it off from all supplies, in the hope of forcing it to capitulate. In this scenario, food and especially water supply became paramount.

In anticipation of the siege, King Hezekiah built the tunnel to divert the water of the Gihon Spring. Originally, the spring flowed out of the city walls to the Kidron Valley, where the attacking force would have had access to it. By diverting the water to the west, it remained inside the city walls, extending the supply of water to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and preventing the invaders from using it (2 Chron 32:30).

King Hezekiah understood that water is everything. No one can survive without water. By diverting the water, King Hezekiah gave himself and his city a significant strategic advantage during a very difficult time.

On one of my trips to the Holy Land, someone asked our guide why ancient civilizations always seemed to build on the same places. The answer was simple: access to water. It's all about water.

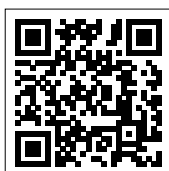
In the Bible, water functions as more than just an essential for survival. Hezekiah's Tunnel ends at the Pool of Siloam, which is mentioned in John 9. Jesus put mud on a blind man's eyes and sent him to the pool to wash and receive sight for the first time. This is typical of what

MARTIN WALLACE



AUTHOR

Ryan Wilson



More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-POV-88





PERSPECTIVE



Since several references to water in John also include the Spirit, it seems that the water/salvation metaphor means not only cleansing from sin, but also the new life we have by the power of the Holy Spirit. Both are necessary in the plan of salvation.

we find throughout the Bible: water used as a metaphor for salvation.

In John 9, the man born blind receives his sight by washing his face in the Pool of Siloam, which is fed by Hezekiah's tunnel, which played a crucial role in saving Jerusalem from the Assyrian siege.

The book of John has numerous instances of the water/salvation metaphor. Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine (John 2:1-11). Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born of water and the Spirit (John 3:5). Jesus offered the woman at the well living water (John 4:14). Jesus healed the crippled man who

was hoping to be healed in the water at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-17). Jesus washed His disciples' feet (John 13:3-12). Finally, water and blood flowed out of Jesus' side when the soldier pierced him after His death (John 19:34). In each of these references, the imagery of water points us to the realities of salvation.

Since several references to water in John also include the Spirit, it seems that the water/salvation metaphor means not only cleansing from sin, but also the new life we have by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3:5; 7:37-38). Both are necessary in the plan of salvation.

God's blessings and mercy – His salvation – are always available to us, but receiving them takes intentionality. Do you have a system in place to regularly collect the living water? Have you diverted the living water into a tunnel so that you will always have an abundant supply no matter what happens in life? My encouragement to you is to consider the habits of your life and ask yourself if those habits are collecting the living water or letting it flow on by.

RYAN WILSON
Bible history columnist



Stagnant

Spring is an amazing time of year. Things begin to grow again after a winter of being dormant and you are reminded just what plants are hidden around. Even though spring happens every year, there are some years when the beauty is in larger abundance. When there is a rainy springtime, it causes life to pop up in an even more vivid way. Rain is needed to help bring more beauty and life to the earth.

With the spring rain comes fuller rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs. The higher water levels mean a greater length of life for the surrounding areas. However, there are some reservoirs that have a very small inlet and an almost non-existent outlet.

These ponds or reservoirs look alright in the early spring, but as time goes on, and as the rains cease, things begin to change. With no spring to feed them, and no outlet to cause a cleaning movement in the water, there is only one possible end to these glorified ponds: stagnant water.

There is a small reservoir near my home that is nasty. By June it is getting gross, and by July there are signs posted telling you to stay out of the water and not let your pets drink it, as it has begun to grow dangerous algae. As the summer progresses, fish begin to die and animals avoid it. All this happens because there is no movement of the water; it's stagnant.

Have you ever asked yourself if your faith is stagnant? Are you stuck thinking that an occasional connection with Jesus will sustain your faith and practice? Will a little spiritual rain keep your reservoir healthy if there isn't a regular intake and a thriving outlet?

Our relationship with Jesus must contain two vital characteristics: intake – a personal daily connection with Jesus as our Lord and Savior – and outlet – sharing Jesus, His salvation and love for humanity and how others can come to a saving relationship with Him. If we do not possess both of these characteristics, we are at risk of being stagnant.

The Bible is crystal clear on this concept. The inlet – our relationship with Jesus – is vital for our salvation. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Rev. 3:20). We are to invite Jesus into our lives and let Him transform us.

When we spend regular time with Jesus, our faith will last during both good and trying times, and we will have something to truly share with others. Much like a pond would dry up if it had no inlet and just an outlet, we must have an active relationship so we have something to share or let out.

The outlet is just as important if we want a living relationship with Jesus. James 2:26 says, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”



AUTHOR

Natashia McVay



Like a healthy waterway needs an inlet and outlet, we too must have Jesus as our source and spill over with Him and share with others.

We can't truly experience real faith until we let that faith actually transform our actions. When we have been changed by getting to know Jesus, we can't help but share how He has saved us and how He longs to save all those who will come to Him.

A love for God that drives a living relationship with Him will cause us to be like springs of living water, but we can't stop there. Our relationship with Jesus is to be so real and alive that we must share. Like a healthy waterway needs an

inlet and outlet, we too must have Jesus as our source and spill over with Him and share with others.

Don't be stagnant; instead, be truly alive with Jesus. Fill yourself with Jesus as the Living Water, and let your relationship with Him pour out of you so others may see the salvation they, too, may have in Jesus.

NATASHIA MCVAY
*Lewiston Church
administrative pastor*



More online at  NWADVENT.ST/121-4-POV-08



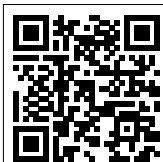
Before We Speak, We Pray

BEHIND THE STRUCTURE AND DISCUSSION OF CHURCH BUSINESS IS A DEEPER REALITY: PEOPLE GATHERING, SPEAKING, QUESTIONING AND PRAYING AS THEY SEEK WISDOM BEYOND THEMSELVES.



REMSCAPE

AUTHOR Heidi Baumgartner



More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-4-TT-90

I remember being invited for the first time to observe an executive committee meeting as a 20-something communication intern. It felt intimidating to walk into that space, yet there was a measure of curiosity about how church business unfolds.

Shortly after the opening devotional, the executive committee split into small groups for prayer. I still remember the recording secretary, my friend and colleague Janeth, turning to me and inviting me to pray with her. That moment brought reassurance and a new sense of connection.

Over time, that simple practice of praying with leaders became a personal tradition. More than that, it shaped how I began to see church business meetings and the vital role prayer plays within them.

In the years that followed, I noticed three recurring themes at denominational meetings at every level of the church.

First, committee members, delegates and invitees alike are human beings, all dependent on God for wisdom, discernment, grace and every good gift of heaven. Committee members and teams are often called to make decisions that are difficult, nuanced and open to question. Through prayer and the best available data in the moment, they seek to discern the best possible way forward.

Second, every person carries a voice in the room, whether

outspoken or quiet. While there are many ways that voice is expressed, prayer is one of the most unifying.

Some enter these meetings eager to share their perspective – sometimes more than once. Others arrive and rarely speak at all. Yet each person’s presence matters, and each has access to a shared form of contribution: speaking to the Lord in prayer.

Third, questions are good. Careful, well-placed questions help a committee discern the best possible decision. What works well in one ministry area, church or conference may not translate directly to another context. There is true value in the counsel of many (Prov. 11:14).

What I have come to value most in these settings is not only what is said, but also what is held in common beneath it: a shared dependence on God and the dignity of every voice in the room.

As we approach the upcoming NPUC constituency session, wherever someone is at or whatever their role, each person carries

a voice before God in prayer. Titles, perspectives and levels of responsibility may differ, but dependence on God does not.

Beneath process and discussion lies something more fundamental – our shared need for God. In that space, prayer is not an addition to the work, but its center.

Here, something deeper is taking shape: a community of faithful believers learning again and again to seek God’s wisdom together. Prayer is what holds the church together – in its people, its decisions and its shared life. Before we speak, we pray.

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union communication director and Gleaner editor

TABLE TALK PROMPT

Where and how have you seen prayer shape the way people listen, speak or make decisions together?

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

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



Prayer is woven into leadership life, from routine meetings to major moments like NPUC’s 30th constituency session.

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