

EDITORIAL
A Singular Sign

JUST FOR KIDS
A Woman With Two Names

TABLE TALK
The Heart of the Table

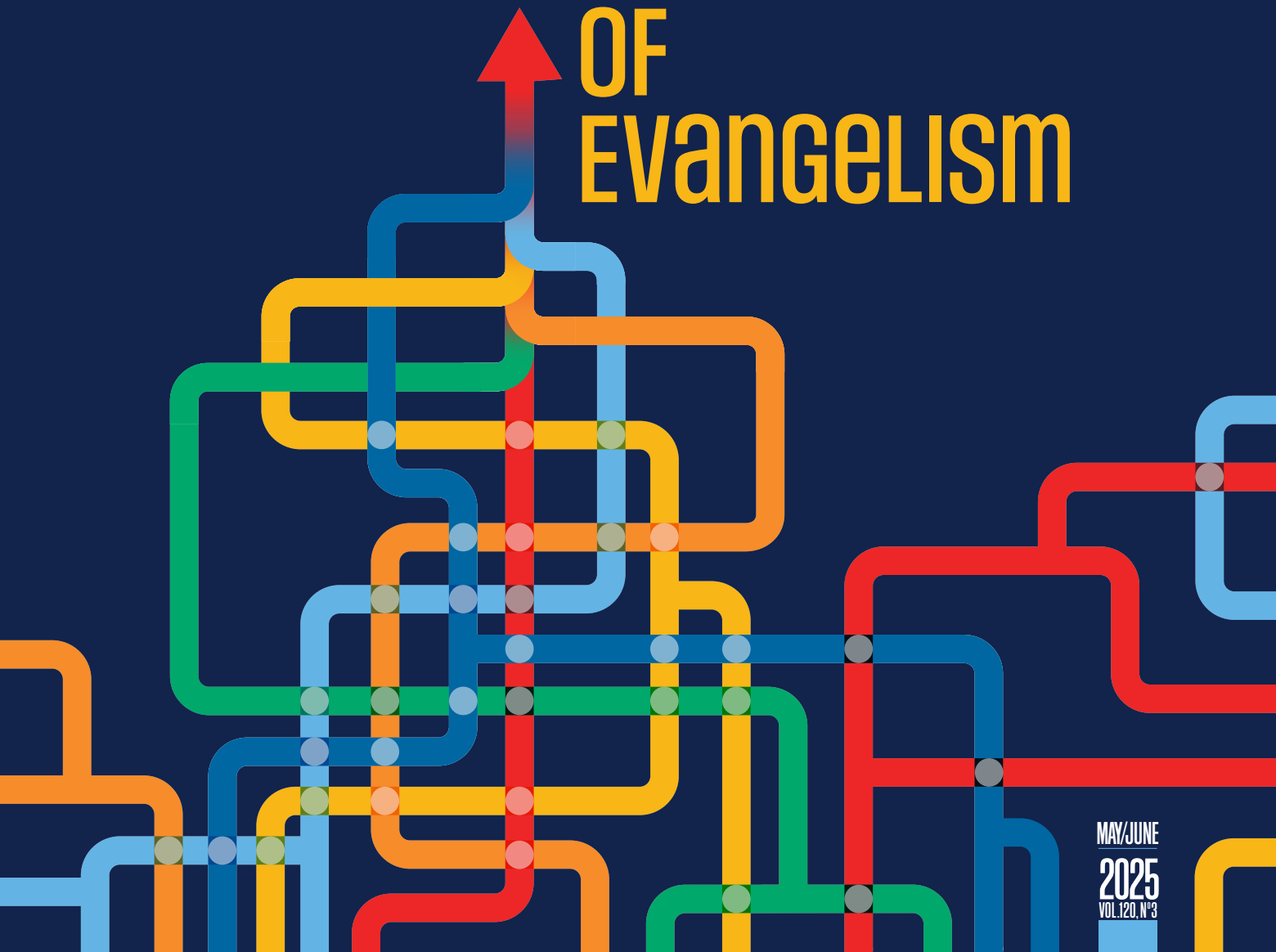
gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

RHETORIC VS. RELATIONSHIP

THE CROSSROADS

OF EVANGELISM



MAY/JUNE
2025
VOL. 120, N°3

A photograph of a waterfall in a dense forest. The water flows over large, dark rocks covered in vibrant green moss. The surrounding area is filled with various types of ferns and other lush vegetation, creating a rich, green environment. The lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the moss and the movement of the water.

IMAGES of CREATION

*The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its
effect will be quietness and confidence forever.
Isaiah 32:17*

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A SINGULAR SIGN

IN JANUARY, WILDFIRES TORE THROUGH CALIFORNIA, CLAIMING 30 LIVES, LEAVING DOZENS MISSING AND DESTROYING MORE THAN 16,000 STRUCTURES. IN THE AFTERMATH, INVESTIGATORS SEARCHED FOR ANSWERS, WHILE THOSE AFFECTED — GRIEVING AND UNCERTAIN — SOUGHT CLARITY.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

PETER SIMPSON
NPUC vice president for
Hispanic ministries

As theories emerged, some rational and others speculative, religious interpretations surfaced: Could this devastation be a warning?

In the face of calamities, people often seek answers, hope and the reassurance of a higher purpose amidst the chaos. In our longing for the Second Coming, could the latest disaster be another sign of the end? After all, some authors suggest more than 100 signs of the Second Coming.

The term “signs” is a favorite in religious circles. “Signs of the times” has become a classic religious response to natural disasters, wars, epidemics, political upheavals and similar turbulent events that shake us and lead to reflection.

This discussion traces back to the Mount of Olives, where the disciples asked Jesus a crucial question, as recorded in three of the four gospels:

- » In Luke 21:7, the disciples inquired, “Teacher, when will this happen? What will be the sign when all this will occur?”
- » In Mark 13:4, they asked, “Tell us, when will this happen? What will be the sign when all this will come to an end?”
- » In Matt. 24:3, they came to Him privately and said, “Tell us, when will this happen? What will be the sign that You are coming again, and when will the world come to an end?”

A careful reading reveals that the disciples spoke about a singular sign rather than multiple signs—a nuance particularly noted by Adventists versus other denominations. Jesus’ response in Matt. 24:4–13 to their question clarifies and emphasizes the singularity of a sign.

- » Matt. 24:4: “Watch out that no one deceives you.”
- » Matt. 24:6: “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.”
- » Matt. 24:7: “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.”
- » Matt. 24:8: “All these are the beginning of birth pains.”
- » Matt. 24:14: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

A closer examination shows that calamities—whether natural or man-made—do not signal the end times or the Second Coming of Jesus. Portraying these events as divine warnings risks misrepresenting God, casting Him as a vengeful, punitive force rather than the loving and compassionate deity He truly is.



Evangelism is about sharing the good news and demonstrating Christ's love in action, upholding the dignity of all people through compassionate service and tangible care.

The true sign is singular: the preaching of the gospel. This mission carries a dual nature — both proclamation and humanitarian outreach.

Evangelism is about sharing the good news and demonstrating Christ's love in action, upholding the dignity of all people through compassionate service and tangible care.

If we perceive current events as heralds of the Second Coming, it deepens the significance of our commitment to preaching and caring for our neighbors. This understanding is crucial for Christians today.

I recall a Sabbath School lesson from 2002, *Great Apocalyptic Prophecies*, which reinforced this truth. The May 13 reading stated: "Two things must be noted regarding these predicted events. First, they are not signs of the end but events that will happen while God's people wait for the end."

The lesson reading went on: "Although Jesus described various trials and tribulations His followers would face—persecution, prejudice,

apostasy, treason and absence of love—none of these is 'the sign' of the end. The sign is the preaching of the gospel to the world, and then the end will come."

As true disciples, we must stop viewing all these catastrophes as God's "evangelizing agents" for His return. Instead, we should redirect our focus to those who need a human voice to share the gospel of grace and love that Jesus commissioned us to deliver.

Do we genuinely want Jesus to come? Absolutely! Let us fulfill the mission He entrusted to us as His disciples. Then, and only then, will the end come.



PETER SIMPSON
*North Pacific Union
vice president for
Hispanic ministries*

More online at
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Managing Editor: Makena Horton
Copy Editor: Sienna Hubin
Advertising: Sandra Osorio
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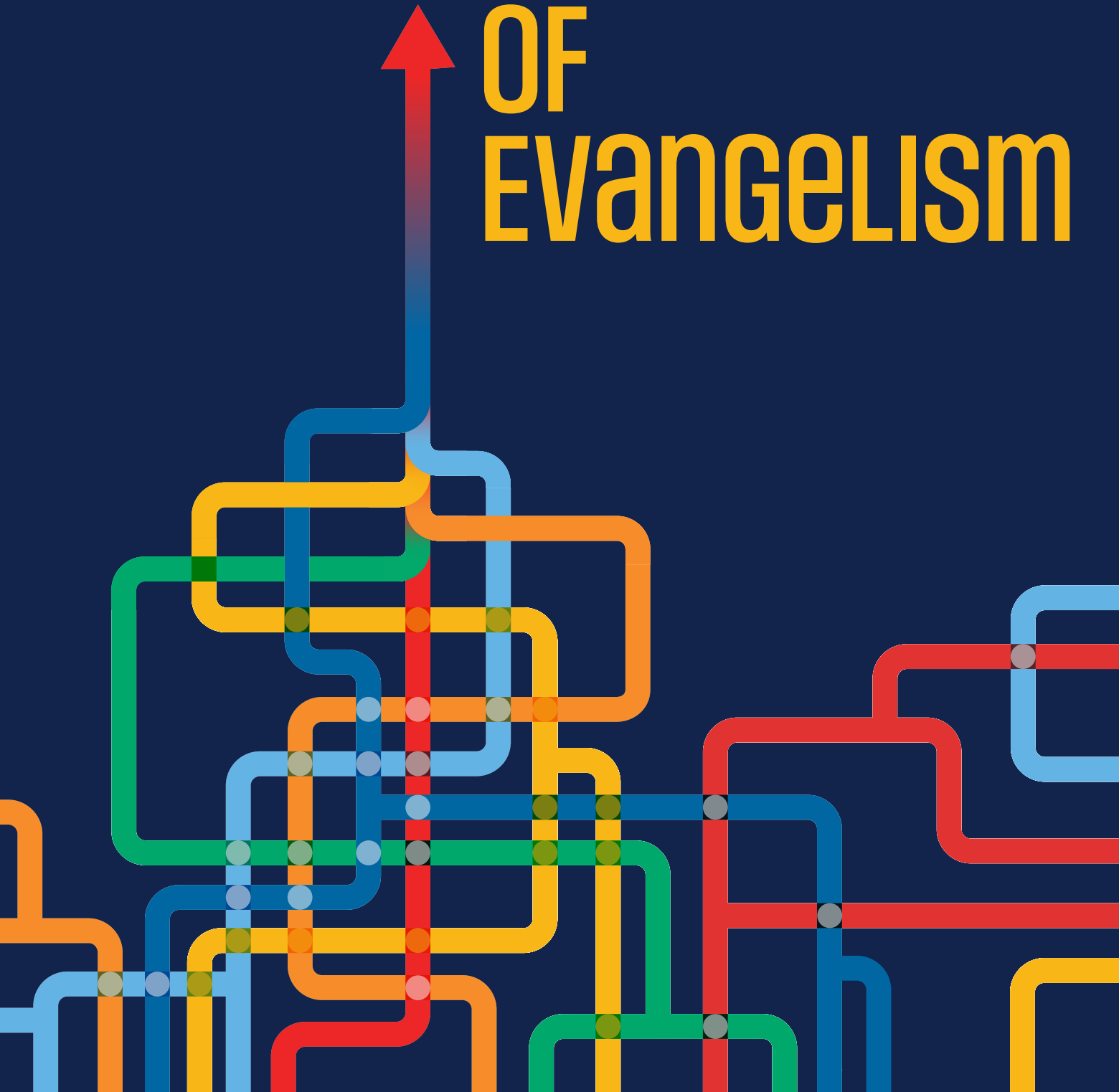
IMAGES OF CREATION, P. 2



"Flowing Waters,"
in Idleyld Park, Oregon,
by Keith Lundquist,
of Eagle Point, Oregon.

RHETORIC VS. RELATIONSHIP

THE CROSSROADS OF EVANGELISM





IMAGINE TWO CHURCH BOARD MEETINGS HAPPENING AT THE SAME TIME. THESE TWO CHURCHES, BOTH WELL-ATTENDED AND DEEPLY ROOTED IN ADVENTIST TRADITION, ARE SEPARATED ONLY BY A FEW MILES. AS THEY GATHER TO DISCUSS EVANGELISM, THE APPROACHES DIVERGE IN UNEXPECTED WAYS.

In the first meeting, one board member—an elder—remarks that due to the poor turnout of the last food drive two years ago, the evangelism budget should instead go toward more traditional efforts, like a concert or seminar series. Installing a micro-pantry as an extension of the food drive, they argue, would require constant supervision and maintenance and could become inconvenient. No one mentions that the previous food drive was only advertised in the church bulletin.

Meanwhile, at the second church, the board consists of members from different walks of life and ages. They eagerly discuss ways they can partner with the local homeless shelter and make plans to use the church as a warming station come winter.

One board member shares that someone who regularly visited their food pantry attended their Bible study the following week. Another mentions that a person who frequents the pop-up dental clinic recently asked the chaplain for prayer and wanted to talk about Christianity.

These two conversations take place in our churches regularly, and, in each one, we expose our expectations of evangelism—expectations that are deeply influenced by the communities around us, our experiences and sometimes our fears.

The word “evangelism” has become a conflicting term in recent years. While the Great Commission is ingrained in our collective thinking, calling us to share the gospel, the practical reality of evangelism can feel uncertain. When the moment comes to share, we might hesitate, unsure which approach to take or if we should take *any* action. Do we lean into polished rhetoric? Do we lean into authentic, relational connection? Is it about blending both? What’s the right approach?

Perhaps fear holds us back—fear of saying the wrong thing or not knowing how to answer tough questions. Maybe it’s worry about how we’ll be perceived—could talking about faith make a conversation awkward or risk straining a friendship? These uncertainties often leave us frozen at a crossroads, unsure of how to step forward in faith.

Evangelism, at its core, has a dual purpose. It’s both proclamation and connection, both speaking the truth and living it out. No single method is the “right” way—what truly matters is a willing heart and openness to God’s leading.

Let’s look at how the crossroads of life and faith bridge the past, present and future through intentional relationships and the art of using everyday language to inspire and influence others.



HISTORICAL EXAMPLE

By necessity and through a deep sense of urgency, our Adventist pioneers blended personal, public and practical evangelism in ways that helped establish the foundation of our church today.

Consider the story of Augusta Moorhouse, the first known Adventist in the Walla Walla territory. After accepting the Sabbath truth at tent meetings in Iowa, she was swept away by her husband to a location where there were no other Adventists.

For seven years, she prayed to find another believer who shared her faith. One day, she learned of a Seventh-day Baptist family—the Stephen Maxsons—living nearby, so she visited them.

Over time, her repeated visits made an unexpected impact. James Franklin Wood, the Maxsons' son-in-law and local school superintendent, was so unsettled by Moorhouse's direct, persistent evangelism that he decided to move his family hundreds of miles away in an attempt to escape her "meddling."

Ironically, they settled next door to an Adventist family in Windsor, California. There, after attending tent meetings, Wood encountered Adventist teachings again and embraced the Sabbath message.

Convicted by his newfound beliefs, Wood returned to Walla Walla to share the message with his former neighbors. While his beginning efforts had meager results, his persistence marked the beginning of Adventist growth in the region.

Early Northwest Adventists had plenty of their own problems to navigate: false teachings, interpersonal conflict and even financial mismanagement. When they aligned their hearts with God and one another, the church grew and multiplied.

As the church grew, church planting through traveling tent meetings and literature evangelism helped expand a network of Adventist believers across Walla Walla, the Upper Country, Oregon's Willamette Valley, western Washington, Idaho's Treasure Valley, Montana and Alaska.

These early stories of evangelistic grace and growth are detailed in *Adventism on the Northwest Frontier* by Doug R. Johnson, which chronicles the expansion of the Adventist Church before its formal organization into the structure we know today.

Just as Adventist pioneers adapted their methods to the unique challenges of the frontier, we have the opportunity to engage with people in a way that is culturally sensitive, relational and attuned to life's struggles and joys.

INSIGHTS FROM SCRIPTURE

Scripture offers a rich tapestry of evangelistic approaches, shaped by different personalities, circumstances and cultures.

The woman at the well immediately shared her testimony after encountering Jesus. Her personal experience became an invitation: "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did!" (John 4:29). Her boldness in sharing her encounter led many in her town to seek out Jesus for themselves.

In contrast, Martha demonstrated evangelism through the behind-the-scenes gift of hospitality. By welcoming Jesus, His disciples and her community into her home, she created a space where people could experience the gospel through acts of kindness and fellowship (Luke 10:38–42).

Philip ministered to people in their daily lives. His encounter with the Ethiopian official on the road in Acts 8:26–40 was a divine appointment—one that required attentiveness and readiness to respond. His willingness to explain scripture led to an immediate decision for baptism, illustrating how evangelism often happens in personal, unexpected moments.

Paul, a relentless missionary, adapted his approach to different audiences. In synagogues, city centers, homes and even prison cells, he preached the glad tidings of Christ (Acts 13–14). Sometimes he reasoned through scripture; other times, he built relationships and met people where they were. His adaptability underscores that evangelism is about following the Spirit's leading, not a rigid formula.

Despite their differences, these biblical figures had one thing in common: relational intentionality. Whether through public proclamation, hospitality, personal conversations or missionary journeys, their witness flowed from a heart transformed by Christ and a deep commitment to sharing His message with everyone around them.



CHRIST'S MODEL

At the heart of all evangelism is Christ. Jesus didn't confine His ministry to synagogues or formal teaching settings. He met people where they were – on dusty roads, at dinner tables, by fishing boats, on mountainsides and in crowded marketplaces.

His approach wasn't transactional or agenda-driven. He listened before He spoke, healed before He called and built trust before He invited people to follow Him. He saw individuals, not just audiences, and led with compassion.

Ellen White, Adventist Church co-founder, wrote in *Ministry of Healing*, page 143, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people."

This commonly quoted method – mingling with people, showing sympathy, meeting needs, winning trust and then inviting them to follow Him – remains the foundation of effective evangelism.

Northwest ministry leaders emphasize that true evangelism is still rooted in genuine relationships that naturally lead to deeper conversations about faith. Without authentic connection, rhetoric alone falls short.

"This counsel is not given for a specific culture, time or generation; it's the only method that will work," said Peter Simpson, North Pacific Union vice president for Hispanic ministries and ministerial director. "More than talking about religion, we need to demonstrate it; more than discussing beliefs, we need to show them."

Eric Brown, Upper Columbia Conference ministerial director, echoed this thought: "The reason Jesus came was to build a relationship with people, not just to do nice things for them. He gained their trust to allow for deeper conversations to take place."

Brown continued, "If in the process we are meeting [physical] needs but viewing people as projects, then we aren't following Christ's model. A lot of churches like being nice people but don't like to engage in relationships with people with whom they disagree or maybe with whom they don't identify. We must enter into our evangelism with humility and equality, not superiority."

Evangelism isn't just about the programs or events we put on; it's about the hearts that engage with others and the authenticity behind every action. Without this heart connection, the methods fall flat.

MISSIONARY MINDSET

Evangelism today continues to be at a crossroads. Over the last century, evangelism became an institutionalized work of paid clergy, but, in reality, evangelism is still a communal responsibility.

Evangelism still isn't a one-size-fits-all model. Reaching people effectively requires the time to listen, learn and adapt our methods – whether through digital outreach, community events or one-on-one conversations. Flexibility is key.

A group of Northwest Adventist pastors and leaders recently participated in an internationally-attended church planting conference. Their key takeaway? Too often, church members are passive consumers. When relational discipleship happens – doing life with people as Jesus did – movement begins, churches are revitalized and churches are planted.

All forms of evangelism remain relevant. "When you do a public evangelistic series, on average, 80–90% of people who make the decision already have some kind of connection to the local church," noted Tyler Long, Washington Conference personal ministries director and evangelism coordinator.

Barna researchers identified a rising spiritual openness, especially among young people. In 2022, 59% of Gen Z and 54% of Millennials reported being more open to God today than before the pandemic.

Outreach, especially to younger generations, thrives on genuine connections where faith grows naturally through honest questions, shared stories and met tangible needs. Evangelism isn't about perfect answers; it's about walking alongside people, fostering conversation and allowing God to work. It should prioritize relationships over arguments and community over condemnation because the gospel offers more than ideas – it offers belonging.

"Evangelism is active," reminded Chris Evenson, Nampa Church pastor, whose church recently purchased a community service building to intentionally walk alongside 130–160 people per week. "We are called to take care of our community physically and spiritually."

Relational evangelism is already present in humanitarian aid, healthcare, education, small groups and personal outreach. When we seek divine appointments, new doors open – not through perfect persuasive speech, but through genuine relationships, deep care and space for the Holy Spirit to work.

EVANGELISM STARTS WITH YOU

Here are four things every believer can do to lead people to Jesus, into His Word and into His final movement. You can be a:

1. Prayer warrior. Think of those who seem ready to make a decision for Jesus and those who seem impossibly disinterested. Make a list of seven people and pray for Jesus to surround them with influences that will draw them to Him.

2. GLOW missionary. Pick up GLOW tracts at your church or order them online at glowonline.org. Keep some in your pocket or purse and cultivate the habit of silently praying for people you see before smiling at them and saying, “Here’s something to brighten your day,” as you hand them GLOW titles.

3. Neighborhood pastor. Jesus placed you in your neighborhood for His honor and glory. He knows the people in your neighborhood who are looking for something better in life, for a caring person or group, and for hope for their future. Your smile, your dinner invitation, your prayer for their situation and your willingness to listen can make an eternal difference.

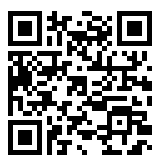
4. Baptism coach. Ninety percent of Adventists live their entire lives not knowingly leading anyone to Jesus and baptism, but it doesn’t have to be that way. As you intensify your prayer life, Jesus will show you people hungry for a deeper walk with Him.

The Holy Spirit will give you the courage to ask them, “Would you like Jesus to be in your life? Would you like to be baptized? May I be your baptism coach?” If they say yes, schedule a weekly meeting to review Bible study guides.

Work with your pastor to schedule their baptism two to three months away and invite others to join your study group. After their baptism, ask them to be your partner and baptism coach for some of their family and friends.

DAN SERNS

*North Pacific Union church planting
and lay training director*



More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-3-FT-86

Dan Serns, NPUC church planting and lay training director, has adopted the BELLS model of evangelistic living – Bless others, Eat together, Listen to the Spirit, Learn Christ and understand yourself as Sent by God into others’ lives to spread the gospel.

“I ask God for divine appointments every day,” Serns said. “Knowing that people need to know Jesus loves them and will change their lives gives me daily purpose.”

Through his Mobilizing for Mission trainings, Serns often encounters evangelism myths – it’s optional for a believer, it’s only for professional evangelists, public evangelism no longer works or some forms of evangelism are better than others.

“People think evangelism is some complicated formula; it’s simply sharing ‘good news,’” Serns said. “In reality, almost anything that is done with Jesus in your heart will result in effective evangelism.”

Recent data from eAdventist shows a promising shift in the vitality of Adventist churches in North America. Since 2024, 31% of churches are growing, a significant increase from just 16% in 2017. Meanwhile, the percentage of declining churches has decreased from 65% to 57%, and plateauing churches have dropped from 19% to 12%. This positive trend reflects the energizing effect of regular baptisms, discipleship and transformed lives within congregations.

“God is raising up people to respond to the desperate needs of society,” Serns said. “Most people respond well to genuine people who care about others. That’s why we need missional living.”

OUR CONTINUAL CROSSROADS

Evangelism will always be at a crossroads — where lives intersect, decisions are made and hearts are invited to turn toward Jesus.

For too long, it has been seen as the work of a few rather than the mission of all. But true evangelism isn't about polished programs or perfect rhetoric, it's about relationships. It's about meeting people where they are, listening before speaking and creating spaces where faith can grow naturally.

The gospel is not just an idea to be debated, but a life to be shared. Whether through digital outreach, community service or everyday conversations, we are called to engage — not as passive consumers, but as active disciples.

The world needs authentic witnesses — those willing to cross the road and meet others where they are. Trust that God will lead you, take a step of faith and move forward on this journey of relationship-building and gospel-sharing.

The message of Jesus is timeless, but how we share it must be as dynamic and responsive as the world around us. May we move forward with compassion, humility and the deep conviction that, no matter the method, the heart of evangelism is always about relationships built on trust and love.

As we embrace the opportunities before us, may we be faithful in extending the invitation, guiding others to take that next step in faith. Who in your life is standing at a crossroads, waiting for a word of hope? Now is the time to invite them to turn the corner and follow Him.*

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

**Nicole Dominguez, freelance writer, contributed to the introduction and conducted three interviews.*



More online at
[NWADVENT.ST/120-3-FT-94](https://nwadvent.st/120-3-FT-94) +

Fogelquist Appointed CFO

NORTH PACIFIC UNION IS EMBRACING A FORWARD-LOOKING VISION WITH THE ELECTION OF JEFFREY FOGELQUIST AS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.

A skilled accounting and financial professional, Fogelquist brings fresh insight, a talent for financial software training and a leadership passion for equipping church and conference treasurers with the tools they need to support ministry. His appointment reflects NPUC's priorities to engage and empower young adults while ensuring strong financial stewardship for the future.

"By bringing young professionals into our team now, we have time to share knowledge from one generation to the next," said John Freedman, NPUC president. "I've followed Fogelquist's career from the beginning and watched how God has grown him and equipped him for this new role."

Fogelquist grew up in the Pacific Northwest in the home of a pastor's family. He learned early the value of character, education, evangelism, mission and stewardship.

Following in the footsteps of his family, he attended Upper Columbia Academy followed by Union College where

he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting and finance. He went on to earn a Master of Business Administration from Andrews University.

Fogelquist began his career as a business intern and staff accountant for Washington Conference, where he gained expertise in church financial management, including budgeting, payroll and accounts receivable/payable processing. He became known for his financial software training and customer service support to local church treasurers.

Two years later, Washington Conference promoted him to associate treasurer and property manager, where, for five years, he oversaw daily accounting operations, assisted with budgeting, managed a summer intern auditing program and contributed to multiple boards and committees.

Recognizing his skills, North American Division invited Fogelquist to manage the implementation of Adventist Accounting Software International,

Church Treasury System and School Treasury System, a role he will have served in for nearly 10 years by the time he joins NPUC.

"Guided by the prayer of 2 Thess. 1:11-12, I strive to live a life worthy of God's calling, driven by faith and goodness," Fogelquist said. "My goal is to support the growth and impact of this organization, further the mission of the church and bring glory to our Lord Jesus Christ."

Fogelquist and his wife, Shari, have three young children. The family anticipates arriving in the Pacific Northwest this summer.

In the spirit of transparency, NPUC acknowledges that Fogelquist is related to a member of our executive team by marriage and that this relationship was fully disclosed to the NPUC executive committee before his election.

"We are truly blessed by the unique gifts God has given Fogelquist, and we are confident in his qualifications, experience and vision for financial leadership," Freedman said. "This decision reflects our strong belief in his calling and capability, and we are excited to see how he will help advance our mission with integrity and accountability."



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

More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-3-NPUC-44



• The Fogelquist family

CHURCH

Volunteer Lay Pastor Initiative to Launch

ONE OF THE LATEST NORTH PACIFIC UNION MINISTRY INITIATIVES IS THE CREATION OF A NETWORK OF VOLUNTEER LAY PASTORS TO SUPPORT LOCAL ADVENTIST CHURCHES AND CHURCH PLANTS.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

To support the growing needs of churches and new church plants, NPUC is launching a volunteer lay pastor initiative.

“The 16 million people in our territory need to know Jesus loves them and He’s coming soon,” said Dan Serns, NPUC church planting and lay training director. “It takes more than our pastoral team to reach this many people, and we need a volunteer team of lay pastors to join us in this work.”

VLPs can come from a variety of vocational backgrounds. They need to have a passion for the Adventist mission, demonstrate humility, healthy relationships, leadership skills and theological and financial integrity. They must be recommended to their conference leaders by a pastor in their conference. Typical responsibilities include preaching, communion, visitation, small group facilitation, evangelism, ministry planning, and baptizing, but not counseling.

“VLPs can strengthen and support the wonderful work of our pastors,” Serns

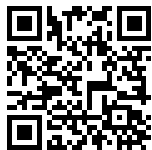
said. “We hope to add 50 VLPs this year in NPUC – half focused on growing churches and half focused on planting new Adventist work.”

Before beginning their ministry as a VLP, they must be ordained as a local elder and receive 20 hours of training. They sign a volunteer agreement and receive a VLP credential for one year that may be extended or discontinued by either party. Once installed, they report monthly to a supervising pastor. Throughout the year, they receive continued online training in theology and practical areas.

“The VLP program will put many more dedicated leaders into the harvest and open up more lanes for mission and ministry,” Serns said.

“If anything helps you grow as a Christian, it’s sharing your faith,” said Bill McClendon, NPUC vice president for administration. “We need more people to talk with their neighbors, host Bible studies and partner as VLPs.”

To become a VLP, talk with your pastor and let them know you’d like to be recommended to conference leadership as a potential VLP. God is calling for workers in His great harvest field.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union
communication director
and Gleaner editor

More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-3-NPUC-95

CHURCH



Nemaia Faleto, NPUC Asian-Pacific ministries coordinator

NEW ASIAN-PACIFIC MINISTRIES LEADER BEGINS

WITH THE GROWING presence of Asian-Pacific communities in North Pacific Union, there’s an increasing need for spiritual support that honors these unique cultural backgrounds.

Nemaia Faleto, incoming NPUC Asian-Pacific ministries coordinator, will play a vital role in addressing these specific needs while continuing his work as a Washington Conference evangelist.

“With Faleto’s deep understanding of Asian-Pacific cultures and passion for ministry, we’re confident he’ll provide the leadership needed to grow this vital area of service,” said John Freedman, NPUC president.

Faleto grew up in West Seattle, where God rescued him from a life of crime, addiction and gang activity.

In 1996, Faleto became Samoa-Tokelau Church lay youth pastor in Honolulu, Hawaii. Hawaii Conference later hired Faleto as lay pastor and associate pastor for Hauula Church and Samoa-Tokelau Church from 2000–2004. Since 2014, Faleto has helped plant three churches in Washington Conference.

Faleto uses innovative methods for evangelism, outreach, discipling and church planting while actively sharing the gospel across faith communities.

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union
communication director
and Gleaner editor



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-NPUC-38



Hayley and Leilani Armata demonstrate a Kindergarten class activity.

Alive in Jesus Expands to Kindergarten and Primary

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES LEADERS ACROSS NORTH PACIFIC UNION ARE DEEPENING THEIR TRAINING IN THE ALIVE IN JESUS SABBATH SCHOOL CURRICULUM, NOW EXPANDING TO KINDERGARTEN AND PRIMARY CLASSES.

"We already have positive reports from churches implementing Baby Steps," said Sherri Uhrig, North American Division children's ministries director. "Churches are attracting younger parents and seeing them empowered with the honor of guiding their own children's spiritual development."

The Feb. 2 training program, held in Spanish and English, started with the scope and sequence of the entire curriculum. Each lesson uses a Bible story to illustrate a core value.

"The 28 Fundamental Beliefs provide the framework for Alive in Jesus. We believe they're the elements children need to understand to say yes to Jesus," said Ryan Burville, NAD children's ministries presenter.

"The Alive in Jesus curriculum uses Christ's method of ministry," said Chrystal Flerchinger, NAD children's ministries presenter. "We should sympathize with our children's needs, pray for them and show them we desire their good. We should inspire them to join the mission of the gospel and celebrate their new insights."

Highlights of the day included sample activities for Kindergarten and Primary classes with practical suggestions for engaging children in different ways.

"I'm a teacher by trade, and I can see this program is designed in line with the different ways kids learn. I believe it would be easy to use even if you're not a teacher,"

said Terri Wilkinson, Turning Point Church volunteer children's ministries leader.

The concepts of the Alive in Jesus curriculum can be helpful even if a Sabbath School teacher uses another program.

"I still love our last curriculum, GraceLink, and how easy it is to use," said April Burville, NAD children's ministries presenter, "but I've already started using Alive in Jesus ideas with GraceLink lessons in my classroom. Small changes have increased engagement with my students."

Conference leaders immediately saw ways that using principles from the Alive in Jesus curriculum could benefit their ministries and inspire new leaders.

"Our past programs have focused on how good values lead to success, but this approach can lead to legalism," said David Salazar, Idaho Conference youth and young adult director. "Instead, we must focus on how the power of God works through these values. We need our children to learn that developing a passion for God, returning to God, is what truly matters."

"I hope this curriculum will inspire more people to join children's ministries with confidence," said Brooke Reynolds, Alaska Conference children's ministries volunteer.

"I'm so excited about the scope and sequence of this new curriculum! It's designed to walk a child through the beautiful truths of the Bible as they

progress from Beginners to Youth. God's loving character is highlighted throughout and abounds in beautiful artwork," said Velvet Lang, NPUC children's ministries leader.

The Alive in Jesus presenters ended the day's training with special words of encouragement for leaders, teachers and parents.

"You may not see it now, but you will see the seeds you planted grow," said Pamela Daley, NAD children's ministries presenter. "Who our children are inside, how they choose to treat others, is decided when they're young. I can see that in my adult kids."

"I will die doing this ministry—I think it's that important," said Rosa Morales, NAD children's ministries presenter. "We need to prepare our kids to work for the Second Coming. This generation could be the people who receive Jesus!"

JANELLE SUNDIN
Freelance writer



More online at
[NWADVENT.ST/120-3-NPUC-16](https://nwadvent.st/120-3-npuc-16)



April Burville, NAD children's ministries presenter, demonstrates dynamic storytelling skills.



Northwest children's ministries conference teams are now equipped to bring the Alive In Jesus curriculum training to local church Kindergarten and Primary leaders.

YOUTH

8 Northwest PBE Teams Advance

PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS FOR HELPING CHILDREN, TEENS AND THEIR ADULT COACHES ENGAGE DEEPLY WITH SCRIPTURE.

Each year, teams sign up for this Bible knowledge testing experience. They participate in up to four qualifying rounds at the area, conference, union and division levels. First-place teams advance to the next round.

At every stage, teams answer 90 questions related to the year's designated Bible books. This year, participants studied Romans, 1 Corinthians and the accompanying Bible commentary.

Paul Betlinski, from Tillamook, officiated the union-level event on March 8 at Sunnyside Church. After the rigorous testing, judges finalized scores before the long-awaited results were announced.

IDAHO CONFERENCE

- Boise Ponderosa from Cloverdale: First place
- Nampa Zephyrs: First place

MONTANA CONFERENCE

- Helena Lightbearers: Third place

OREGON CONFERENCE

- Flaming Swords from Fort Vancouver: First place
- Steadfast Watchmen from Whipple Creek: First place

- Faithful Watchmen from Whipple Creek: First place

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

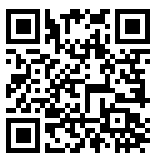
- Redeemed from Colville and Deer Park: Third place
- Yakima Braves: First place

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

- Chehalis Mountaineers: First place
- Coals of Fire from Bellevue Sojourners: First place
- Truth Seekers from Bellevue Sojourners: Second place

The eight first-place teams advanced to the division-level event on April 25-26 in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Looking ahead, the PBE theme for 2025-2026 will be "Isaiah 1-46," offering a new challenge for teams to dive into and explore.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union
communication director
and Gleaner editor

Move online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-NPUC-47

PHOTOS BY HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



Don Russell, Idaho Conference Pathfinder director, high-fives PBE participants.



Alki-Columbia District Pathfinders lead the 11 qualified PBE teams in reciting the Pathfinder pledge, law, aim and motto.

Eugene Spanish Church Hosts Evangelistic Campaign

IN A HEARTFELT INITIATIVE OF PENTECOST 2025, EUGENE SPANISH CHURCH IN OREGON SET OUT ON A POWERFUL MISSION TO TRANSFORM LIVES THROUGH FAITH.

In January, they positioned a large, vibrant heart on the pulpit, inviting church members to write the names of individuals they wanted to lead to Jesus. Throughout each service, the congregation came together in fervent prayer, earnestly asking for divine intervention in the lives of these precious souls. The outcome of their dedication would prove to be nothing short of miraculous.

For two months, the church community united in prayer, engaged in Bible studies, organized special programs and shared fellowship meals that fostered a lively and encouraging atmosphere. This dynamic environment set the stage for an uplifting evangelistic campaign led by Gerizin de Peña, Oregon Conference evangelist, which took place from March 1-8.

Every day of the campaign welcomed an impressive turnout, with the excitement

culminating in an inspiring final Sabbath, where around 170 attendees filled the church. Such a significant response from the community resulted in 30 individuals deciding to give their lives to Jesus through baptism, signaling a remarkable movement of faith.

Thinking back on the event, Cristian Alvear, Eugene Spanish Church pastor, shared his emotions: "I'd never experienced the privilege of baptizing so many individuals in a single day. Like the early church during Pentecost, I believe the Holy Spirit is being poured out this time. Witnessing children, young people and adults choosing to follow Jesus is truly awe-inspiring and fills one's soul with joy."

Among those who embraced this transformative experience was Metabel, who'd been a member of an Adventist church in Mexico during her childhood. After losing her way due to personal

challenges, she learned that her sister had written her name on the heart at the church, joining the community in prayer for her. This heartfelt gesture stirred something within her, prompting her into Bible study with her family.

With each truth unveiled, tears of realization filled her eyes as she absorbed the messages of hope and love. During the campaign, a profound moment arrived when she, alongside her husband, two daughters and son-in-law, stepped forward to be baptized. In that moment, Christ became the steadfast center of their family, solidifying their commitment to a life of faith together.

CRISTIAN ALVEAR
Eugene Spanish Church pastor



Eugene Spanish Church hosts a Pentecost 2025 campaign.

Iglesia Hispana de Eugene organiza una campaña de Pentecost 2025.



Iglesia Hispana de Eugene Organiza Campaña Evangelística

EN UNA INICIATIVA CONMOVEDORA DE PENTECOSTÉS 2025, IGLESIA HISPANA DE EUGENE EN OREGÓN SE EMBARCÓ EN UNA PODEROSA MISIÓN DE TRANSFORMAR VIDAS A TRAVÉS DE LA FE.

En enero, colocaron un gran y vibrante corazón en el púlpito, invitando a los miembros de la iglesia a escribir los nombres de las personas que deseaban llevar a Jesús. Durante cada servicio, la congregación se unió en ferviente oración, pidiendo sinceramente la intervención divina en las vidas de estas preciosas almas. El resultado de su dedicación resultó ser nada menos que milagroso.

Durante dos meses, la congregación se unió en oración, participó en estudios bíblicos, organizó programas especiales y compartió almuerzos que fomentaron un ambiente animado y alentador. Este entorno dinámico preparó el escenario para una campaña evangelística edificante dirigida por Gerizin de Peña, evangelista de la Conferencia de Oregón, que tuvo lugar del 1-8 de marzo.

Cada día de la campaña recibió una impresionante asistencia de visitantes, culminando en un inspirador sábado de clausura, donde alrededor de 170 asistentes llenaron la iglesia. Tal respuesta significativa de la comunidad resultó en que 30 individuos tomaran una decisión de entregar sus vidas a Jesús a través del bautismo, lo que indica un notable movimiento de fe.

Reflexionando sobre el evento, Cristian Alvear, pastor de Iglesia Hispana de Eugene, compartió sus emociones: "Nunca había experimentado el privilegio de bautizar a tantas personas en un solo día. Al igual que la iglesia primitiva durante Pentecostés, creo que el Espíritu Santo se está derramando en este tiempo. Ver a niños, jóvenes y adultos elegir seguir a Jesús es verdaderamente inspirador y llena el alma de alegría."

Entre aquellos que abrazaron esta experiencia transformadora estaba Metabel, quien había sido una miembro de una iglesia adventista en México durante

su infancia. Después de alejarse de la iglesia debido a desafíos personales, supo que su hermana había escrito su nombre en el corazón de la iglesia, uniéndose a la iglesia entera en oración por ella. Este gesto conmovedor despertó algo dentro de ella, lo que la llevó a tomar estudios bíblicos juntamente con su familia.

Con cada verdad revelada, lágrimas de alegría llenaron sus ojos mientras absorbía los mensajes de esperanza y amor. Durante la campaña, llegó un momento emocionante cuando ella, junto a su esposo, dos hijas y su yerno, tomaron la decisión de ser bautizados. Desde entonces, Cristo se convirtió en el centro de esta familia.



CRISTIAN ALVEAR
Pastor de Iglesia
Hispana de Eugene

More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-3-HSP-66



- Lluvia Ramos (center) is baptized with her husband, Arodi Gonzalez (right).
Lluvia Ramos (centro) se bautiza con su esposo, Arodi González (derecha).

- Metabel (center) is baptized with her husband and daughter.
Metabel (centro) se bautiza con su esposo y su hija.



Petersburg Church Shares God's Love

PETERSBURG CHURCH, A GROUP OF ABOUT 14 MEMBERS, FELT CALLED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE AND MESSAGE AROUND THE WORLD — A TASK THAT SEEMED DAUNTING. HOWEVER, IT TURNED OUT TO BE LESS OUT OF REACH THAN IT INITIALLY APPEARED. SHARING GOD'S LOVE TRANSLATED INTO MANY POSSIBILITIES.

In their small community of Petersburg, Alaska, with a population of around 3,300, the church used small tokens of love and kindness to express God's love. They understood that reaching someone's heart didn't always require a grand event; when actions were performed with sincerity, God could work wonders. Here are a few ways they showed God's love and their love for others in their community.

In 2024, Petersburg Church members organized their second fall food drive to benefit the local Salvation Army. By partnering with them, the church not only helped meet the needs of the community, but also began building a bond with another organization that furthered God's love and compassion. This simple act blessed everyone involved — the givers, collectors and receivers of the donated food.

Leading up to Thanksgiving, to celebrate fall, Petersburg Church members collected various items to create gift bags for the residents of their long-term care facility. This special gesture aimed to remind those who could not spend time with family that they were thought of and cared for by their neighbors.

Christmas provided yet another opportunity to bless the residents. Following the fall outreach ideas, the group gathered items from Petersburg, Juneau and all the way from Tennessee! The residents received socks, toiletries, handmade wooden ornaments, candies and homemade baked goods to brighten their days.

As they entered the new year, the focus shifted to February, the month known for love. The group engaged in two outreach activities centered on sharing God's love.

Gathering at a member's house, members enjoyed a short devotional reading and then created handmade Valentine's cards to give to the long-term care residents. The cards included poems and Bible verses that highlighted God's love for them, with crafts and creativity adding a personal touch. They also included pocket-sized copies of *Steps to Christ*.

Later in the month, they baked a variety of homemade goods and delivered them to Petersburg public service workers, which included the local volunteer fire department, police station, harbor station and hospital.

What a true blessing it was for them to share God's love with others!



DELINDA HERBRANDSON
Petersburg Church member

More online at
[NWADVENT.ST/120-3-AK-32](https://nwadvent.st/120-3-AK-32)

Lorie Sells and Wes Abbott, Petersburg Church members, make cards sharing God's love.



Petersburg Church members prepare gift bags.



From left to right: Lorie Sells, Keith Stathem and Alice Merrill prepare baked goods for Petersburg public service workers.



Anchorage Community Church Hosts Pentecost Series

ANCHORAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH HOSTED A PENTECOST 2025 PROCLAMATION SERIES FEB. 24–MARCH 1.



Joel Honoré, Great Falls Church and Choteau Church pastor in Montana



Attendees respond to Joel Honoré's call to rededicate their lives to serving God and their community.

The series emphasized the vital role of the Spirit of God in empowering individuals and churches to connect with their communities and spread the message of God's unconditional love.

The meetings were supported by sister churches, with members attending from Hillside O'Malley Church, Anchorage Korean Church, Anchorage Northside Church and Anchorage Spanish Church. Attendance averaged 42 adults nightly, with a peak of 96 attendees on Sabbath.

Joel Honoré, Great Falls Church and Choteau Church pastor in Montana, delivered inspiring messages during the series. Referencing Acts 2, Honoré pointed out three things that happened at Pentecost: obedience, unified prayer and worship.

Honoré shared that when praying, one needs to recognize God, surrender to God, make requests, consider relationships, ask for guidance and acknowledge who God is. Prayers are fundamental for strong relationships with God and others. Such was the experience after the day of Pentecost. Disciples multiplied daily, and

love abounded among them. That's the result of the Holy Spirit's empowerment.

As the Spirit of God works, believers are equipped to overcome their own dysfunctional backgrounds or past experiences and become healing agents. Believers can listen to and empathize with the stories and experiences of others while helping them rewrite their narratives from negativity to redemption.

When a believer follows Jesus, they will become a leader among others, which is the mandate from Matt. 28:18–20. They lead by being a servant, knowing people—really knowing them—and serving God disinterestedly. They don't focus on how it benefits them, but how it enriches God's kingdom.

"When we serve others disinterestedly [with pure motives], God grows His kingdom through us," said Honoré. God grows His kingdom in the hearts of His followers. They are God's power message and God has packaged His message into them.

God can be too much for non-believers to understand, and that's where believers

empowered by the Holy Spirit come in as power transformers who reduce the voltage to what the appliance can manage. God uses those who have been touched by His grace to communicate with the unreached. When God's love, forgiveness and grace are displayed through His people, the miracle of salvation reaches everyone.

Throughout the proclamation series, the Holy Spirit spoke mightily, imploring attendees to surrender to God and be used for His power messaging. Hearts surrendered to God's use, and members shared being blessed and ready to bless others. Others seeking confirmation about their walk with God and His mission in their lives reported that God's word, in this series, was a confirmation without a doubt and that they are ready to do God's bidding.



EDMORE MANGENA
Anchorage Community
Church pastor

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-AK-50

GSAA Welcomes Cast Members of 'The Chosen'

GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY STUDENTS ENJOYED A Q&A CHAPEL WITH *THE CHOSEN* CAST MEMBERS AND COLLECTED CANNED FOODS FOR A COMMUNITY EVENT IN NAMPA, IDAHO.

The ministry of Jesus has come to life anew as a result of the multi-season series *The Chosen*. Top-notch actors help make the series so successful and popular.

To learn and grow spiritually from the experiences of such actors, Christian Outreach Multimedia Events Inc. invited four cast members for the second time to the Boise area for *The Chosen: A Celebration of Jesus Christ* at Ford Idaho Center in Nampa on Saturday, Feb. 1. It was a free event where ticket holders were simply asked to bring canned foods to support local food banks.

The day before the event, GSAA students were honored with an on-campus visit. As Elizabeth Tabish, who plays Mary Magdalene; Kirk Woller, who plays Gaius the centurion; Luke Dimyan, who plays Judas; and Shaan Sharma, who plays Schmuel the Pharisee, entered the building, they seemed genuinely interested in meeting and interacting with staff and students.

The cast's down-to-earth personalities came through as they answered questions during a special chapel event. All four cast members were asked general questions

about acting, make-up, costumes and previous roles in which they have starred. Questions specific to *The Chosen* were also asked, such as what each actor's favorite episode was, as well as what miracles they witnessed while filming the series.

Lastly, character-specific questions were asked. Sharma was asked what it's like to play the Pharisee who sought to end Jesus' ministry, and Dimyan was asked what it's like to play a role with an inevitably bad ending. Students saw both inspirational and humorous sides of each actor.

Students were clearly impacted by the chapel and had very positive responses. Nathan, GSAA student, noted that he could see Jesus in them on screen and in real life. Zach, another GSAA student, enjoyed hearing the cast talk about how the show impacted their faith.

The next day was Jeans Sabbath at GSAA Church. On such days, students and church members participate in outreach activities after the church service. This particular Jeans Sabbath provided a great opportunity to do a canned food drive for the evening event in Nampa.

Students went door-to-door in four neighborhoods asking for nonperishable food and giving tickets for the evening event. Students learned skills in connecting with neighbors, and neighbors were generous with their donations.

The day culminated with a group of students delivering the collected food donations to the Ford Idaho Center entrance before attending the evening's event where they gained further insight from the personal testimonies of the cast members.

Brinley, GSAA student, shared words to the cast members that wrap up the blessings that were felt by the weekend's events: "You all were so friendly and kind! For a small school, your participation meant the world to us! Thank you so much!"



LAVONNA WATERHOUSE
GSAA Church Jeans
Sabbath coordinator

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-ID-19

Students gather for a group shot with *The Chosen* cast members.

Shaan Sharma, who plays Schmuel, shares wisdom about his character.



CHURCH

Camp Meeting to Empower Pentecost 2025 Evangelism

IDAHO CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE JUNE 10–14 AT GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY. THE THEME, “LET IT RAIN!” WILL TOUCH ON PENTECOST 2025 INITIATIVES.

JVL EXPRESSIONS



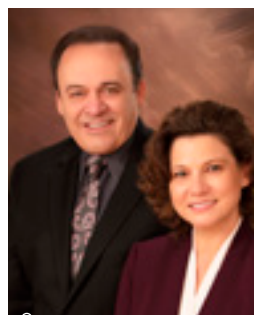
Dan Serns will be a seminar and weekday worship speaker.



G. Alexander Bryant will be the weekend speaker.



Julie Gee will teach an acrylic painting class Wednesday through Friday.



Omar and Nesity Grieve will present for the Spanish language camp meeting.



Richie Halversen will speak Tuesday through Thursday and Sabbath evenings.

G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division president, will speak Friday evening and Sabbath morning.

Richie Halversen, Southern Union church growth and revitalization director, coaches churches, pastors and lay leaders to maximize their impact in evangelism, church planting and revitalization. He will speak on Tuesday through Thursday and Sabbath evenings.

Dan Serns, North Pacific Union church planting and lay training director, has traveled the world teaching and preaching about Jesus, Bible truth and God's final movement on earth. He makes complex Bible subjects clear, understandable and practical while mobilizing people for God's mission. He will be a seminar and weekday devotional speaker.

Kevin Wilfley, recently-retired Upper Columbia Academy Church pastor, will be another seminar speaker. For the past 43 years, Wilfley has served various churches in Oregon Conference, Upper Columbia

Conference and Washington Conference, in addition to health ministry, prayer ministry and ministry to pastors.

Tim Roosenberg, Islam and Christianity director and speaker, loves God and is committed to following Him and His Word. Roosenberg's first book was published in 2011, and he left 25 years of pastoral ministry to begin a full-time traveling ministry doing seminars on Dan. 11, Islam and Christianity prophecy. Roosenberg has a master's in divinity and speaks internationally at conferences, pastors' meetings and seminars. He will be a seminar and weekday worship speaker.

Mark Sandoval, New Paradigm Ministries founder and president, is board-certified in emergency medicine and lifestyle medicine. He provides counseling, health consultations and seminars to those in need. He will be the health seminar speaker.

Julie Gee, local artist, has a bachelor's degree in art education for grades K-12

with an emphasis in painting. She will provide an art class.

Young Adults will meet in the tent at the southeast corner of the campus.

Omar and Nesity Grieve, La Voz de la Esperanza director and associate director, will speak for the Spanish language camp meeting.

Come and enjoy the talents of various groups and individuals from around Idaho Conference as they share their worship in music at a Sabbath afternoon concert. Watch idahoadventist.org and social media – Facebook, [@idahocampmeeting](https://www.facebook.com/idahocampmeeting) and [@idahoadventist](https://www.facebook.com/idahoadventist); Instagram, [@idahoadventist](https://www.instagram.com/idahoadventist) – for more information.



EVE RUSK
Idaho Conference
communication director

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-ID-70

Jenkins Unanimously Elected President

ON MARCH 31, MONTANA CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED JIM JENKINS TO SERVE AS ITS NEXT LEADER.

With prayer and humility, Jenkins accepted this new responsibility and stepped into this new role immediately.

Jenkins was born in Great Falls, Montana, and spent his childhood in Missoula after his family relocated there. To fund his college education, he started working in a print shop, where he remained for 18 years. During that time, he married Sandy Harris and they started a family.

Jenkins became actively involved in Missoula Church, teaching Primary Sabbath School and serving as a deacon and local elder. During that period, he began to sense the call to ministry. With the encouragement of Clarence McKey, Missoula Church pastor at the time, he developed skills in leadership, visitation and preaching.

Perry Parks, former Montana Conference president, then called him to be Havre/Shelby/Fort Belknap district pastor, where he served for more than six years. Jenkins went on to pastor several Montana Conference church districts, building great relationships for God's kingdom.

During the pandemic, his members from Livingston Church, Mount Ellis Academy Church and Bozeman Church collected more than 160 photographs to fill empty pews so he would see the beaming faces of his members while he preached for the livestream.

Three years ago, he answered the call to serve as Montana Conference vice president of administration, giving him a bigger picture view of ministry throughout Montana and beyond.

The thorough multi-week search for a new conference president began with a survey, inviting the constituency to share the character traits and skills they valued

in a leader. Using these insights, the board developed a presidential profile, updated the job description and prayerfully reviewed more than 60 potential candidates. Among them, Jenkin's name stood out repeatedly. In the end, it became clear that the Lord was calling him to serve in this role.

It was very evident from the beginning of the presidential search process that Jenkins had earned the respect and trust of many Montana Conference members. God has obviously prepared Jenkins to be a president with solid and successful pastoral, administrative and leadership experiences.

Just after Jenkins accepted the presidential responsibilities, board members gathered around him for a powerful and moving prayer of dedication.

The board's excellent work deserves deep appreciation. Their preparation, engagement, thoughtful questions and



STEPHEN CARLILE

• Jim Jenkins, Montana Conference president

prayerful spirits fostered a harmonious atmosphere and strong team. Each member humbly sought God's wisdom, asking, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" and turned to Him in prayer throughout the process.

As Montana Conference works together with Jenkins, the conference will experience an anointing of the Holy Spirit that will lead to a revival of godliness and a powerful witness of the glory of God throughout the state of Montana. "Lift up your heads." The Lord is returning soon!



JOHN FREEDMAN
North Pacific Union president

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-MT-05



• Montana Conference board of directors and NPUC leaders surround Jim Jenkins in prayer as he begins his new role as president.

EDUCATION

Agricultural Training Aids Student Engagement

MOVING TO A NEW SCHOOL IS HARD FOR ANYONE. MEETING NEW PEOPLE, EXPERIENCING A NEW ENVIRONMENT AND MAKING NEW FRIENDS AREN'T ALWAYS EASY. THIS WAS THE CASE FOR ONE PARTICULAR STUDENT AT TETON ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL. SHE WAS HAVING AN INCREDIBLE CHALLENGE WITH ACCEPTING THIS CHANGE IN HER LIFE.

She didn't want to be at TACS; she wanted to be at her old school with her old friends. She wanted no part of being integrated into the classroom. During the first week of class, she sat by herself against the wall with her arms crossed, refusing to participate. Day by day, she began to soften, but the progress was painfully slow.

On the first Friday of the 2024–2025 academic year, students helped put plastic on the newly assembled caterpillar tunnel. They also pulled the silage tarp off a newly tilled plot, measured out beds and laid drip line. It was quick work with so many eager helpers.

The next week, students helped finish preparing the beds and planted seeds. Besides the transformation in the new school garden, another transformation took place over the course of the weeks.

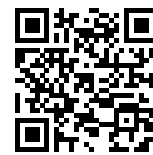
The new student came out of her shell. She was a right-hand helper, excited to help in every aspect of the gardening process. She expressed how much she enjoyed the tasks. She started engaging with staff and students in the garden and her attitude change extended into the classroom, as well.

In a few short weeks, she was fully part of TACS and wanted to be there each day, sometimes even working with others. Still, more progress was needed, but the biggest hurdle was cleared. The ice had been broken.

School gardens can be very important tools. They can help students, who otherwise don't engage effectively in the classroom, connect with others in an environment outside the classroom. The gardening experience truly made a difference in this student's transition to TACS.

TACS is pleased to utilize the Acquainting Agriculture curriculum. It has helped guide teachers as they establish an effective agriculture program. The kids love learning about the garden and they enjoy the opportunity to learn outside the classroom. Harvesting, of course, is their favorite part. Participating in the garden has also encouraged students to try new healthy foods that they otherwise wouldn't be willing to try and has expanded their palettes.

The science and Bible connections are wonderful, and TACS has applied them to these subjects in the classroom. The Acquainting Agriculture curriculum has been a real blessing to TACS and teachers look forward to continue seeing its impact on students.



KATIE HARRIS
Teton Adventist
Christian School
board chair

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-3-MT-06](https://nwadvent.st/120-3-MT-06) 

KATIE HARRIS



TACS students are actively involved in agricultural learning, which is improving their overall student engagement.

TACS Takes New Steps of Faith

AFTER NEARLY 25 YEARS OF CLOSURE, A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL IN CHOTEAU, MONTANA, REOPENED IN 2022 WITH A NEW NAME: TETON ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL.

The school serves families in several small towns throughout Teton County. The first school board meeting, held Jan. 2, 2022, included four individuals inexperienced with school leadership and one experienced interim pastor. They had a sharp learning curve as they navigated the establishment of a new elementary school, yet they saw remarkable miracles as details quickly came together.

Within four months, almost all the pieces were in place to reopen the school: a renovated classroom, a hired teacher, a website, paperwork and all the other details needed to be ready to operate. The school board clearly learned that God can't be outworked!

The school was ready for students. By the end of May, only one student was enrolled. The excitement of all the planning and preparing was turning into concern. Nevertheless, God's timing is always perfect, even if it feels last minute.

TACS started its first year with seven part-time and five full-time students and ended the year with 14 full-time students. The enrollment nearly doubled the following year, and the school added a second teacher.

School leaders realized it was time to expand when parents asked what to do when their children graduated from eighth grade. Additionally, a local pre-K program closed. TACS is now in its third year of operation with 30 students, a pre-K program, a ninth-grade program and a part-time pre-K teacher.

The growth the school has experienced has not been without growing



TACS students share the gospel with their community through a memorable performance at their Christmas program.

pains, but it has nevertheless blown away the expectations of the potential of the little school. There was a need in the community for a Christian school, a greater need than realized, and the school is on a mission to meet that need the best it can.

TACS is currently searching for more teachers and in the process of purchasing a second school campus in the nearby town of Fairfield to establish a junior academy. Grades seven through 10 will attend the new campus, while grades pre-K through six will remain in Choteau.

Generous donors and church members have supported TACS with time, resources and skills, allowing the school to grow and thrive. As TACS takes a new step

of faith amid financial challenges and a teacher shortage, God's provision and guidance remain evident. This school is a vital ministry, positively impacting lives in rural Montana by sharing Christ's love. Continued prayers are needed for TACS and Adventist schools worldwide as they work to spread the gospel.



KATIE HARRIS
*Teton Adventist
Christian School board
chair*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-MT-07

JOEL HONORÉ



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Seventh-day
Adventist Church 



Leaving Earth Alive Camp Meeting

Revival and Reformation

JUNE 26-28, 2025



David Shin



Dustin Pestlin



Laura Williams



Ernie Hernandez

Starts Thursday 9am. Programming 9am-8pm Children's programs, music concert...
Location: 60670 Brookwood Blvd. Bend OR. 97702 (Cascade SDA Church)
Mobile: 541-223-8984 /Email : centraloregoncampmeeting@gmail.com
Free food, parking, on-site camping (dry camping, no RV hookup's)
Register at: www.centraloregoncampmeeting.com.

BLYC Receives Generous Generator Upgrade

THIS PAST WINTER, BIG LAKE YOUTH CAMP STAFF RECEIVED WORD THAT A GENEROUS DONOR WOULD BE GIVING BLYC A MUCH-NEEDED UPGRADE TO ITS BACKUP POWER SYSTEM IN THE FORM OF A NEARLY NEW PROPANE GENERATOR.

Somerset Lodge, the senior living facility that sits on the back side of the Oregon Conference Gladstone Park campus, was recently required by the state of Oregon to upgrade its generator despite it being nearly brand new. Instead of profiting from the sale of the generator being replaced, an offer was made to pass the system on to BLYC as a gift.

"It's so important to have consistent power at Big Lake," shared Les Zollbrecht, BLYC director. "When a line breaks in the forest or we lose power for any other reason, everything is at risk—especially food. Every couple of years, we deal with an electrical short that impacts camp, and

that can be a catastrophic event, so having a dependable backup system is critical.

"Big Lake is a remote camp, especially in the winter," he continued. "If power goes down, you have to take a snowcat ride out to the road to get to town, and, if you have a group of people at camp, you have to get them all transported out safely, which cuts their visit short."

In addition to the generator itself, the system also includes a high-dollar transfer switch, allowing the generator to turn on automatically in the event of a power outage. This donation will allow BLYC staff, campers and visitors additional security and peace of mind in the coming years.

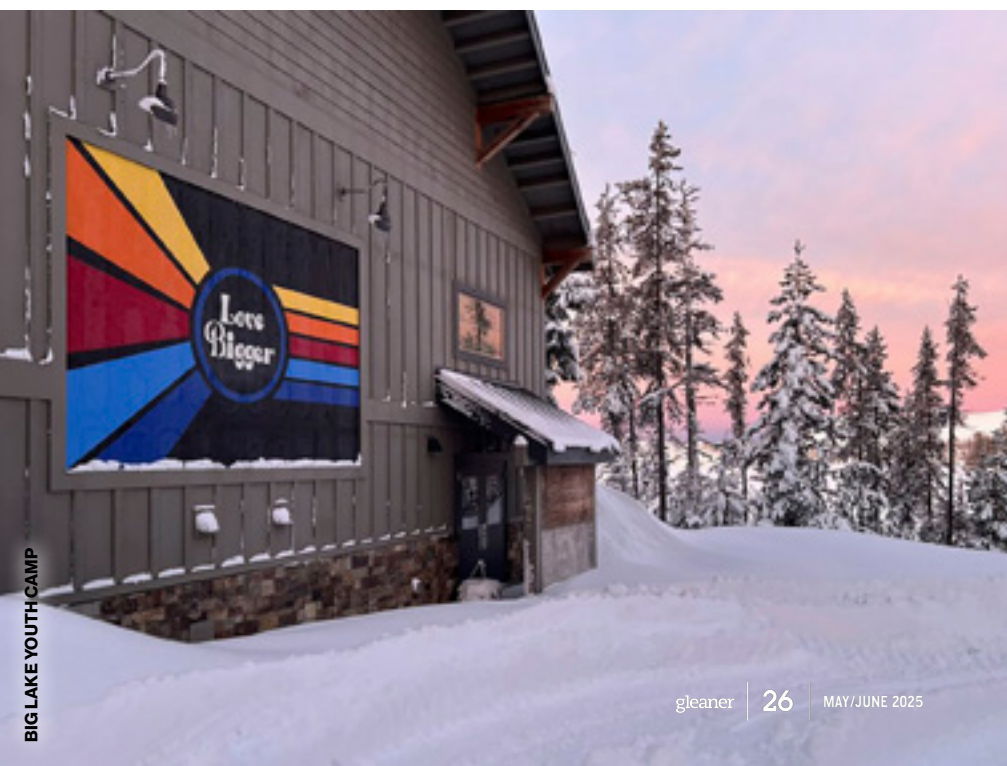
"The thoughtfulness and generosity of this donation is an absolute game changer for Big Lake's functionality," said Zollbrecht. "We're really grateful for this."

BLYC is already well into planning its summer events, interviewing potential staff, preparing programs and preparing the grounds. If you feel called to invest in BLYC or their campers, you can find more information by visiting biglake.org/donate today.



KALEB EISELE
*Oregon Conference
digital content specialist*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-OR-62



• BLYC's backup power system is upgraded with the donation of a new generator.

EDUCATION

Help Arrives at RVAA During Historic Snow Fall

A NEW SIGN HANGS IN THE ROGUE VALLEY ADVENTIST ACADEMY GYMNASIUM AFTER AN UNLIKELY ENCOUNTER DURING A RECENT HISTORIC SNOWFALL. DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY, THE MEDFORD, OREGON, AREA EXPERIENCED THE SEVENTH-LARGEST 24-HOUR ACCUMULATION OF SNOW ON RECORD.

"As a school leader and principal, big weather events can be a challenge," shared Brad Bennett, RVAA principal. "This event hit right in the middle of a school day. Traditionally, it warms up enough, and other schools were staying open that day, but snow kept falling and we had to dismiss early."

In the wet and heavy snow, Bennett spent the last hour and a half of the day making sure vehicles could come and go as parents picked up students. "We survived unscathed, but when we started thinking bigger picture about the coming days, we thought, 'How are we going to clear this driveway and parking lot to make them accessible? We don't have the kinds of maintenance and shoveling crews that the public school district has,'" recalled Bennett.

Some time later, Mike Glasgow, RVAA maintenance worker, was headed to a routine medical appointment when he noticed a tractor plowing the parking lot of the medical building. He immediately thought of the school. Glasgow called Bennett and asked, "Do we need to hire someone to clear our driveway?"

"I knew we did because we'd attempted to do it ourselves and hadn't made a lot of headway. We'd probably accumulated a foot of snow over two days and our work had already disappeared," said Bennett.

Glasgow talked with the man plowing the parking lot of the medical building, and later that day they arrived at RVAA with their tractors. "In no time, they'd taken care of our drive and the parking lot for Valley View Church, too! It was just such a miraculous way that God made that connection for us," Bennett said.

After the crew finished plowing the parking lot, they connected with Bennett. "The man told me they would normally charge close to \$1,000 for the work they did," shared a grateful Bennett, "but he said, 'We're not going to charge you. The only thing we ask is enough money to pay for the fuel we used.' The total was around \$200."

"We were excited to share the story," said Bennett. "In our gym, we have areas for business advertising that help fund our sports programs, and we're going to give them a free spot as a thank you for their help," said Bennett. "Even though our little private school doesn't have the laborers for something like this, God found a way to send them to us right when we needed them."



KALEB EISELE
*Oregon Conference
digital content specialist*

More online at 
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-OR-61

PHOTOS BY BRAD BENNETT



A local plow crew generously works at RVAA for only the cost of fuel.



The team's tractors and skid steers quickly clear the school and church parking lots.

Ordination Celebrations Affirm Pastoral Ministry

IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, SEVERAL CHURCHES ACROSS OREGON CONFERENCE CELEBRATED PASTORAL ORDINATIONS TO GOSPEL MINISTRY.

PHOTOS BY NATE HELLMAN



Five Oregon Conference pastors are ordained.

After years of experience, including meeting specific leadership benchmarks, receiving an assessment of their leaders and going through a personal review with conference leaders, a pastor's journey culminates with ordination or commissioning. It's an important moment in a pastor's journey when their ministry is recognized, celebrated, affirmed and supported by their local leaders, congregations and Oregon Conference leadership.

Tanner Martin, Valley View, Central Point and Ashland district pastor, first sensed his calling to ministry during a

mission trip to the Philippines, where he felt a deep conviction to serve God and others. He began his journey as a Bible worker, gaining valuable experience. As he opened scripture, prayed with people and pointed them to Christ, he found great joy in ministry, and God continued to affirm his calling.

Gemedi Geleto, Oromo Church pastor, was born and raised in Ethiopia. He gave his heart to Jesus at age 12 and moved to the U.S. when he was 15. He grew into adulthood in Oregon Conference while engaging in ministry and learning English. Initially working in public health, he later

answered God's call to pastoral ministry, helping to grow the Oromo group into a company and eventually an official church.

For **Troy Wallace**, Crosspoint Church and Hillsboro Church pastor, his ministry is marked by a deep personal relationship with Christ, reflected in his positive approach to ministry and relationships. He leads a diverse church community with compassion, fostering a sense of love and value among the congregation.

Oleksandr Skibelskyi, House of Peace Church pastor, was born in Ukraine. He initially aspired to be an artist but felt called to ministry. In 2017, Skibelskyi joined Hope Media Group Ukraine, serving as a chaplain and media host. Amidst the challenges of war, he and his family relocated to the U.S. Known for his patience and wisdom in leadership, he also continues to nurture his artistic talents, creating children's illustrations.

Evan Davies, Meadow Glade Church family and children's pastor, is known for his authentic faith and positive approach to ministry and strong leadership. He is deeply engaged in church growth and guiding others to Jesus.

Oregon Conference celebrates these amazing pastors' ministries and congratulates each pastor on their ordination.



NATE HELLMAN
*Oregon Conference
ministerial director*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-3-OR-68](https://nwadvent.st/120-3-or-68)

Medford Church Releases Worship Album

LAST FALL, MEDFORD CHURCH CELEBRATED A MILESTONE IN ITS MINISTRY WITH THE RELEASE OF ITS FIRST PRAISE AND WORSHIP ALBUM, *ALL VOICES, VOL. 1*. THIS HEARTFELT, SELF-PRODUCED ALBUM, RECORDED LIVE DURING CHURCH SERVICES, IS A GIFT TO THE CONGREGATION AND BEYOND.

The album, featuring more than 25 church musicians, reflects the diverse talents within the community and the shared desire to glorify God. It's an invitation to worship, connecting listeners to God through a familiar and authentic sound.

The worship team's vision for this project was to give back to the congregation and share their worship experience with the world. The name, *All Voices, Vol. 1*, underscores the profound truth that God delights in hearing all His children's voices in worship, regardless of skill level or perfection. This inclusive approach resonates deeply, as evidenced by the album's global reach.

Since its release, *All Voices, Vol. 1* has garnered more than 2,000 streams across platforms, with listeners tuning in from South Africa, Canada, Nigeria, Brazil and other far-flung places.

"We wanted to facilitate worship for our church members during the week," shared Tim Morse, Medford Church worship leader. "We wanted to give church members an opportunity to worship throughout the week with music in a style and with people they're familiar with. So, over several years, we just recorded as many praise and worships and special musics as we could."

Recently, Medford Church has seen an increase in musical volunteers, and Morse shared that he sees this album as one way to help recognize them. "We saw a need in our community," he said, "and we also wanted to recognize the work, time and energy that volunteers have given by leading worship at our church, so this is a way to do that."

For anyone feeling called to minister in their own churches, Morse shared this: "Take this story as encouragement. If you have an idea, do something about it and see it through, even if it takes several years. We started recording back in 2020 and it's been a long process, but it was worth it to be able to share this with everyone. So don't give up if you see a calling God has placed on you, your church or your ministry!"

Building on this success, the Medford Church worship team is already at work on *All Voices, Vol. 2*, scheduled for release in September. This second volume promises to continue the spirit of inclusive worship and community connection.



All Voices, Vol. 1 serves as a reminder that God delights in hearing all His children's voices in worship, regardless of skill level or perfection.

All Voices, Vol. 1 is available for streaming and purchase on all major music platforms, including Medford Church's YouTube channel, youtube.com/@medfordsdachurch7002. Whether you're a member of the Medford Church family or a listener from afar, this album is an invitation to join a chorus of worship to God.

KALEB EISELE

Oregon Conference digital content specialist



TIM MORSE
Medford Church worship
leader

More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-3-OR-64

PAA Teachers Demonstrate Continued Excellence

PORTLAND ADVENTIST ACADEMY IS BLESSED WITH MORE THAN OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS; IT'S BLESSED WITH STAFF WHO DEEPLY INVEST IN THE LIVES OF THEIR STUDENTS, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.

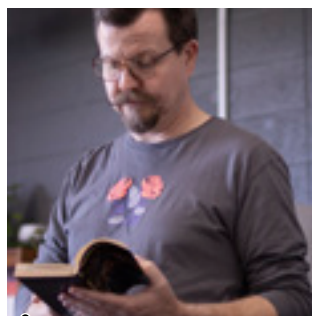
PHOTOS BY NICK MINDEN



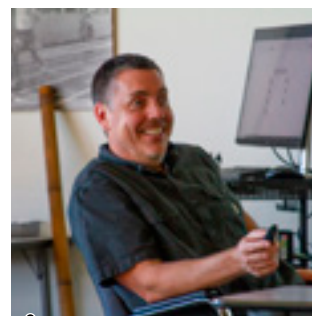
Mark Smith, PAA computer science, math and outdoor leadership teacher



Mechelle Peinado, PAA principal



Geoff Heald, PAA English and AP literature teacher



Stephen Lundquist, PAA Bible teacher

At PAA, teaching goes beyond textbooks—it's about cultivating relationships and inspiring young people to become Christ-centered, character-driven individuals. Walking through the halls of PAA, one can immediately feel the impact of dedicated staff who go beyond delivering lessons.

Every staff member is committed to serving students with excellence. Staff mentor, innovate and create spaces where students thrive academically, spiritually and personally. PAA students, families, churches and community love the staff.

For a period of time, Alumni Award Foundation granted annual Excellence in Teaching Awards to educators across North American Division. PAA believes it's unique to have four staff members who were individually recognized with prestigious Excellence in Teaching Awards.

Mark Smith—awarded in 2011 at PAA

Smith, former engineer turned educator, has served at PAA for 28 of his 35 years in Adventist Education, teaching a variety of computer, math, science and leadership classes. Beyond the classroom,

he founded the school's rock climbing club and was instrumental in introducing college-credit courses to the curriculum at PAA, giving students opportunities to advance their academic journeys while still in high school.

Mechelle Peinado—awarded in 2014 at Mount Ellis Elementary School

Peinado, PAA principal, has previous roots in the classroom, where her focus on meeting individual student needs made a lasting impact. Her passion for inclusive education, personalized learning and celebrating each student continues as she supports teachers in creating environments where every student can find success.

Geoff Heald—awarded in 2014 at Lake City Junior Academy

Heald, PAA English and AP literature teacher, brings a legacy of innovation in education. Heald was recognized for revitalizing traditional curricula by integrating advanced, college-level materials and making learning engaging and meaningful for his students. He brings that same energy and creativity to PAA's English department.

Stephen Lundquist—awarded in 2018 at PAA

Lundquist serves as a Bible teacher. His thoughtful integration of school core values into his lessons helps students live out their faith in practical, transformative ways. Lundquist creates a classroom environment that students find safe, inviting, encouraging, stimulating and always suffused with God's love for every one of His children.

At PAA, excellence in teaching is a daily commitment to preparing students to be Christ-centered and character-driven individuals. The legacy of all the educators is inspiring. Their service, creativity, deep care and excellence are evident in all they do. PAA believes every staff member deserves an Excellence in Teaching Award.



U'LEE BROWN
Portland Adventist
Academy communication
and development director

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-OR-69

BIBLE READINGS for *June* 2025

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Exod. 7–9	2 Exod. 10–12	3 Exod. 19–21	4 Exod. 22–24	5 Exod. 25–27	6 Exod. 28–29	7
8 Exod. 30–32	9 Exod. 33–38	10 Exod. 39–40	11 Lev. 1–4	12 Lev. 5–7	13 Lev. 8–10	14
15 Lev. 11–13	16 Lev. 14–18	17 Lev. 19–21	18 Lev. 22–23	19 Lev. 24–25	20 Lev. 26–27	21
22 Num. 1–2	23 Num. 3–6	24 Num. 7	25 Num. 8–10	26 Num. 11–13	27 Exod. 13–14	28
29 Exod. 15–16	30 Exod. 17–18					

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

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

Follow us @nwadventists on Instagram and Facebook.

More online at
[NWADVENT.ST/120-1-BLE-61](https://nwadvent.st/120-1-BLE-61)



EDUCATION

Littell Accepts VP for Education Position

ADAM LITTELL ACCEPTED THE INVITATION TO SERVE AS UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION. PREVIOUSLY, LITTELL SERVED AS OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT, A POSITION HE HAS HELD SINCE 2022.

"I am honored and excited to join the team at UCC," said Littell. "My wife, Nina, and I believe that God has called us to UCC and we are answering that call. It's my desire to seek God's will and to daily carry it out because He is the ultimate and perfect leader of all. I have heard great things about UCC and the education team across UCC."

With a wealth of experience spanning from teaching math and science at Union Springs Academy, in Union Springs, New York, to serving as principal at Midland Adventist Academy, in Shawnee, Kansas, Littell brings a unique blend of expertise, dedication and vision to his role.

Littell holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry with certification to teach sciences and math at a high school level. He has a Master of Science in education with a focus on instructional leadership. Both degrees are from Southern Adventist University. Littell is currently in a Ph.D. program through Liberty University, with a focus on educational leadership, which he will complete in May 2026.

"We are looking forward to Littell joining our administrative team, leading our educational ministry and motivating our teachers, students and schools to Serve One More," said David Jamieson, UCC president. "Many of our school principals

were able to take part in the interview process, are excited about his arrival on June 1 and look forward to his leadership during the 2025–2026 academic year."

Littell's journey into education administration began at Mount Pisgah Adventist Academy in Candler, North Carolina, where he enjoyed being vice principal for academics. He went on to become Midland Adventist Academy principal.

His leadership has always been characterized by a steady, level-headed approach, underpinned by his strong background in math and science. Littell values data-driven decision making and collaborative efforts, ensuring that every step taken is well-considered and inclusive.

Beyond his professional achievements, Littell considers himself a family man. Dedication to family and the importance of quality time are core values Littell brings to his interactions with colleagues and the community.

In his free time, Littell enjoys exploring the great outdoors with his wife. Whether hiking, canoeing, kayaking or playing sports like golf, baseball and volleyball, Littell embraces an active lifestyle.

Littell's guiding principle, derived from John 3:30, "He must increase, but I



Adam Littell, UCC vice president for education

must decrease," exemplifies his humility and reliance on divine guidance in his role. Littell believes that true success in education comes through God's leadership, not his own.

Littell has an unwavering commitment and a passion for continuous growth, both personal and professional.

"We eagerly look forward to being there soon," said Littell.

He will start his work at UCC in June and will begin with meeting and interacting with educators, students and families across the conference.



DUSTIN R. JONES
*Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
director*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-UC-81

Record Retreat Attendance Shows Promise for Next Generation

IN THE MIDDLE OF A COLD AND DARK WINTER, TEENS FOUND REKINDLED HOPE AND THE WARMTH OF FRIENDSHIP AT THE “TRUST HIS PROMISE” PATHFINDER TEEN RETREAT. A GROUP OF 70 ADULTS AND 111 TEENS ATTENDED THE ANNUAL RETREAT AT CAMP MIVODEN ON JAN. 24–26 — THE HIGHEST ATTENDANCE IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

“For many teens and staff, it marked their first time attending Pathfinder Teen Retreat,” said Ryan Whitehead, Upper Columbia Conference youth and young adult ministries associate director. “For others, the retreat is a longstanding tradition spanning generations. One staff member remarked on coming to Pathfinder Teen Retreat as a teenager, and now their own children are attending.”

First-timers and seasoned veterans of Pathfinder Teen Retreat enjoyed a weekend filled with fun activities, time to connect with peers and worship that challenged their understanding of God.

The weekend’s worship thoughts were led by Jason Calvert, Oregon Conference associate director of youth ministries. Calvert’s vivid sermon illustrations spoke to God’s character and His promises of unconditional love.

Saturday night, 21 Pathfinders shared on response cards that they desired to study for future baptism. The responses were shared with the Pathfinders’ club leaders and home churches.

Teens formed and strengthened relationships during a rotation of trust and team-building activities on Sabbath afternoon, including blindfolded tent building, blindfolded obstacle courses, working together to untangle ropes and several other activity stations.

Pathfinders expressed their creativity in several ways during the retreat. At meals, Pathfinders socialized as they drew on paper table settings with crayons. A Saturday night talent show featured numerous vocal and instrumental performances and even a puppet show.

Pathfinders also contributed their musical talents on praise teams and in special music during worship services.

“We wanted to showcase the gifts our Pathfinders have and demonstrate that we want them to be active participants in their church and their community,” said Whitehead. “Our whole mission with Pathfinders is to see our youth in the kingdom one day by creating a space where young people can make lasting relationships with God and their community.”

The food provided by Camp MiVoden’s kitchen staff was widely celebrated by teens all weekend long. “I look forward to the food at Pathfinder Teen Retreat every year,” said one Pathfinder. On Saturday night, teens also enjoyed swimming, time with friends and playing games.

Following the 2024 International Pathfinder Camporee, UCC Pathfinder membership has grown rather than shrunk, as often happens after an international camporee.

“Richie Brower laid a strong foundation for Pathfinders in UCC before I came here, and we are seeing our Pathfinder clubs grow because of it,” said Whitehead. “I’ve been glad to see the overwhelming support this conference has for its young people, at every level.”



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-3-UC-31](https://nwadvent.st/120-3-UC-31)

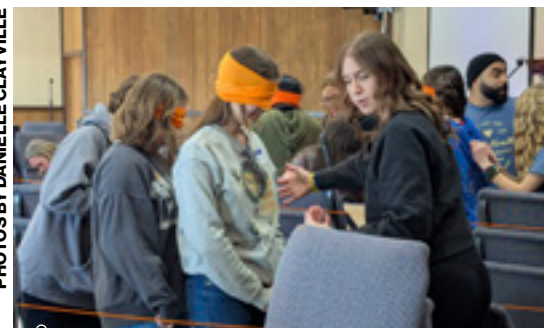
ISAAC MEYTHALER
Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
coordinator



A group of Pathfinders pose for a picture in front of Hayden Lake during the 2025 Pathfinder Teen Retreat.



Pathfinders actively participate in worship, playing instruments and leading praise songs.



Blindfolded teens trust their fellow Pathfinders through a maze of chairs.

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE CLAYVILLE

ACS Troy Thrift Store Remodels and Reopens

DISTANCE MADE THE HEART GROW FONDER FOR RESIDENTS OF TROY, IDAHO, AFTER 10 LONG MONTHS OF SEPARATION FROM A TRUSTED COMMUNITY MEMBER — THE LOCAL ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES THRIFT STORE AND FOOD BANK.

Troy Thrift Store and Troy Community Food Bank reopened on Jan. 20 after 10 months of renovations. More than 80 people attended the store's reopening. June Miner, ACS Troy and Deary director, spoke about the building's history and recognized those who contributed to the renovation project.

"This building has a long history of serving its community, stretching back to when it was first built in 1897 as a church in Nora Creek, Idaho," said Miner. "Since its construction, it has moved to Troy and taken on new functions as a meeting place, food bank and thrift store."

Troy Thrift Store aims to provide essentials such as clothing and household items at low prices that all people can afford, especially those with low incomes. All are welcome in the thrift store, regardless of social or economic status.

Over time, it became increasingly apparent that Troy Thrift Store needed renovation. Single-paned windows gave poor insulation, rickety stairs were dubious and old siding with lead paint posed a potential health hazard.

"The old building started to lean toward one side and overall had become unsafe," said Miner. "It was time to do something, so in 2022 we began raising money for remodeling."

The main floor and basement were completely remodeled. Old floors, windows and siding were replaced, the store was completely rewired and an old stage was removed. These changes left a clean slate for the architect and contractor to improve the functional capacity of the building.

Space was made for a donation bin, a donation sorting area with a washer and

dryer, a shipping room and a dedicated cashier area. A brand-new heating and air conditioning system was installed, and the building was made more accessible with a ramp and a stair climbing chair.

ACS has two community non-profit thrift stores located in Troy and Deary, Idaho, as well as a 5,000-square-foot warehouse that sells secondhand furniture and other larger items. ACS also operates two community food banks alongside the thrift stores, which receive roughly 18,000 pounds of food and service more than 1,000 people each month.

ACS Troy and Deary have established themselves as trusted members of their local community through more than 35 years of service. Daily operations rely on the support of approximately 65 regular community volunteers.

"When we began to fundraise for the renovation, there was overwhelming support from the community," said Miner. "We raised \$285,000 thanks to generous donations and grants we received in large part due to the active involvement of Kandy Nelson, our accountant."

Renovations were completed debt-free, with enough funds remaining to put a new roof on the building in 2026.



ISAAC MEYTHALER
Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
coordinator

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-UC-56



Troy Thrift Store closes for remodeling.



Old floors, windows and siding are replaced in addition to other renovations.



Troy Thrift Store reopens with better insulation and improved accessibility.

Camp MiVoden Achieves Monetary Goal for Second Year

THANKS TO LONGSTANDING EFFORT AND DEDICATION, CAMP MIVODEN HAS ACHIEVED A KEY GOAL BY REMAINING UNDER BUDGET FOR TWO YEARS IN A ROW AS OF THIS YEAR.

"This was possible because of the support of our Camp MiVoden vision to connect campers with Christ that we've seen from church members, camp alumni, camper's parents, pastors, teachers, each member of our full-time and seasonal Camp MiVoden staff, and Upper Columbia Conference office staff," said Jeff Wines, Camp MiVoden director since 2016. "Each person contributes something and that is so crucial to what we do here at camp."

In recent years, Camp MiVoden has operated over budget for several reasons, including the lingering effects of the 2020 pandemic, rising costs and low registration in some camp programs.

While Camp MiVoden stayed open for summer camp in 2020, the accompanying lack of facility rentals for five months during the pandemic and the additional costs of running camp created a deficit. However, given time, Camp MiVoden's facility rentals resurged due to the work of Caleb Foss, Camp MiVoden program director who works with rental groups that use Camp MiVoden year-round. In the past few years, Camp MiVoden has remained booked nearly every week from UCC ministry events, church retreats and rentals to other organizations.

To address financial shortages, Wines worked with Camp MiVoden board members and UCC administration to compare the average support of camp ministries from Adventist conferences in North American Division. They found that UCC was below the median average. A plan was made to gradually raise the annual

conference support for Camp MiVoden to the lower end of the average.

"To be clear, Camp MiVoden is a ministry first and foremost and always will be; however, good stewardship means we have to make decisions to keep this camp ministry running with what God has provided," said Wines.

Camp MiVoden began its mission to connect campers to Christ in a holistic outdoor environment in 1940, providing a ministry of hope for youth as the world descended into WWII. Eighty-five years later, Camp MiVoden's ministry remains crucial as it specifically grows the spiritual life of campers, families and young adults.

Camp MiVoden has a unique ability to connect people with Christ who would never set foot in a church building. Camp forms a first impression for many Adventists.

Research sponsored by NAD Camp Ministries found that 50% of campers reported that their spiritual life grew because of their experience at camp, and nearly 65% of campers saw an increase in their spiritual identity.

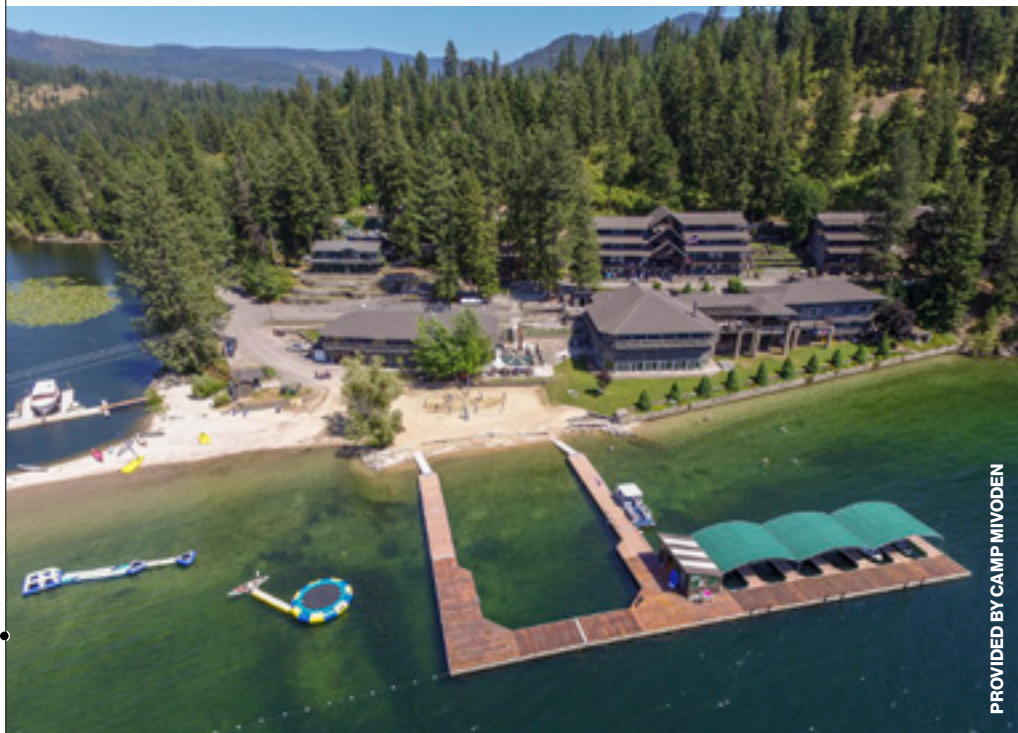
"Camp MiVoden is a special place," said Wines. "There's a unique community at camp, like the fellowship of believers found in Acts 2. You don't find that just anywhere."



ISAAC MEYTHALER
*Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
coordinator*

More online at 
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-UC-79

Camp MiVoden connects visitors to Christ in a holistic outdoor environment.



Serve Summit Fans the Flames of Ellensburg Community Engagement

SERVE SUMMIT, HELD AT ELLENSBURG CHURCH ON FEB. 21-22, MARKED A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN THE CHURCH'S EFFORTS TO ENGAGE WITH AND SERVE ITS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

The weekend began with a teleconference call that brought together key figures from the City of Ellensburg, including Rich Elliott, mayor; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, city manager; and several other city hall employees. During the call, the city officials shared a comprehensive list of needs that the church could help address, highlighting areas where the church's involvement could make a meaningful impact.

The needs discussed during the call ranged from disaster response and family preparedness to connecting with residents of local assisted living centers and tackling housing instability. These areas were identified as pressing concerns that could benefit from the church's active engagement.

As church members heard the report on Friday night, their enthusiasm was palpable and their eagerness to get involved was evident.

The heart of the Serve Summit training is to equip churches with practical tools and creative ideas to engage with their communities effectively. Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference prayer ministries coordinator, encouraged participants to blanket their community with prayer and shared a powerful and fun presentation that taught members how to create prayer blankets for members of their community.

One of the main goals of the training is to help

participants recognize the vast array of resources available to them that often go untapped. Whether it's the congregation's talents, existing partnerships or financial resources, churches often have more at their disposal than they realize. This shift in perspective can help churches better plan, fund and follow up on service events.

In addition to the workshops and discussions, Serve Summit provided attendees with a wealth of creative ideas for connecting with their communities. One standout aspect of the training was the focus on sustainability and long-term impact.

Participants were challenged to not only meet

immediate needs, but also build lasting relationships within their neighborhoods. This wholistic approach to service ensures that the church's outreach efforts continue to bear fruit in the years to come.

One attendee shared their enthusiasm, stating, "It was wonderful! I feel encouraged and excited to see how God leads our churches to help others." Serve Summit not only energized Ellensburg Church, but also set the stage for a future of compassionate service and collaboration with the wider community as they partner to Serve One More.

To schedule a Serve Summit weekend in your church or district, email richieb@uccsda.org.

RICHIE BROWER
Upper Columbia Conference
Serve One More associate
director



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-UC-55

• Kathy Marson (upper right) leads a hands-on presentation about making prayer blankets.



BIBLE READINGS for *July* 2025

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		<u>1</u> Isa. 64–66	<u>2</u> 2 Kings 20–21	<u>3</u> 2 Chron. 32–36	<u>4</u> Nahum	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u> Zephaniah	<u>7</u> Jer. 1–3	<u>8</u> Jer. 4–6	<u>9</u> Jer. 7–9	<u>10</u> Jer. 10–13	<u>11</u> Jer. 14–22	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u> Jer. 23–25	<u>14</u> Jer. 26–29	<u>15</u> Jer. 30–33	<u>16</u> Jer. 34–37	<u>17</u> Jer. 38–40	<u>18</u> Psalm 74, 79	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u> Habakkuk	<u>21</u> Jer. 41–45	<u>22</u> Jer. 46–48	<u>23</u> Jer. 49–52	<u>24</u> 2 Kings 22–25	<u>25</u> Lam. 1–3	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u> Lam. 4–5	<u>28</u> Ezek. 1–3	<u>29</u> Ezek. 4–8	<u>30</u> Ezek. 9–12	<u>31</u> Ezek. 13–15		

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

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

Follow us @NWAdventists on Instagram and Facebook.



ACF House Church Plant Provides Students a Home

APPROXIMATELY 25 MILLION STUDENTS ATTEND ONE OF THE MORE THAN 5,400 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE U.S. HOW MANY OF THEM SHOULD HEAR ABOUT JESUS?

For John Leis, Washington Conference public campus ministries director and North Pacific Union Adventist Christian Fellowship director, this question is at the heart of his prayerful mission and ongoing pursuit of new ways to share the gospel with students.

One consistent need across college campuses is the need for community. Amid large student populations, many individuals feel lost, leading to loneliness and isolation. ACF was created to address this need, serving as a spiritual home and church presence on campus. Across North American Division, more than 100 such clubs exist—many of them supported by local churches that provide spaces where students can grow as disciples of Jesus.

In fall 2024, students gathered weekly in the Leis family home. It became clear that this house was transforming into something more than just a meeting place. It had become a safe and welcoming space where students could rest, breathe and experience spiritual connection after a busy week. Students shared their longing for a consistent spiritual community and the challenges they faced in accessing one. Although there are churches in the area, it takes 40 minutes to walk to the bus stop, ride the bus and walk the final path to the church.

After prayerful reflection, Leis and his team felt God leading them to plant ACF House, a church within walking distance of the University of Washington. It offers a space for worship, fellowship and community to students.

ACF House opens the Sabbath with a shared meal and community-building

conversations. As the evening continues, students gather in the living room. There, they relax on sofas, sharing personal victories and challenges and recounting how they've seen God move during the week. A time of worship follows, concluding with heartfelt prayers as students lift one another up and reflect on God's goodness.

Additionally, ACF House is committed to addressing tangible needs. With food insecurity on the rise, particularly among college students, ACF House has made this a key part of its mission. A 2022 report from *The Seattle Times* revealed that nearly 49% of students in the area experience food or housing insecurity. In response, ACF House provides a weekly meal and snacks for students to take back to campus and share with their peers.

ACF House is continuing to have conversations with students and advocates, and it has become a planning space for reaching the mission field that includes 50,000 students. If you would like to learn how you can support ACF House or how you can launch your own space on campus, contact Leis at john.leis@wc.npuc.org.

JOHN LEIS

Washington Conference public campus ministries director



LACEY STECKER
Washington Conference communication intern

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-WA-36



ACF House is a safe, welcoming space where students can rest and experience spiritual connection after a busy week.



Every Sabbath gathering begins with brunch.



Students play Soularium, a game that helps them learn more about each other and their various spiritual journeys.

PHOTOS BY VIOLET LEIS

CHURCH

Camp Meeting to Focus on Pentecost



THIS YEAR'S WASHINGTON CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING THEME, "THE TIME IS NOW!" REFLECTS THE URGENCY OF THE HOUR AND THE PRIORITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. HELD JUNE 16–21 AT AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY, THE THEME CALLS FOR PRAYER AND REVIVAL ON THE EVE OF THE LORD'S RETURN.

Craig Newborn, retired pastor, professor and founding director of Oakwood Branch Office of the Ellen G. White Estate, will carry attendees into the courts of heaven for a revelation of Jesus that will stun and thrill hearers in the nightly meetings.

Paul Dybdahl, Walla Walla University mission and New Testament professor, will bring fresh "manna" at the

early-morning devotional hour. The newly famous backyard barbecue will open the week-long convocation on Monday evening.

This year's seminar presenters include Stan Hudson, North Pacific Union creation ministries director, on creation science and César and Carolann De León, North American Division family ministries director and associate director,

on marriage and mental health. Donn Leiske, end-time living presenter; Richard Kurtz, retired pastor; and others will present on health, witnessing, family and biblical topics.

Musical offerings by local groups and choirs will stir the soul, and Jonah's Bait Shop will again be a magnet for the little ones.

Join Washington Conference in praying and

preparing for Pentecost. Register now at washingtonconference.org/cm25.



RANDY MAXWELL
Washington
Conference
vice
president for
administration

More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-3-WA-51 +

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Northwest Creatives Connect

CREATORS LAB PROVIDES A PLATFORM FOR CREATORS TO EXPAND THEIR INFLUENCE THROUGH NETWORKING WITH PEERS AND INDUSTRY LEADERS.

The second annual Creators Lab, held Feb. 21–23, was themed "Called to Create," emphasizing the divine inspiration behind creativity. The event featured workshops led by experienced professionals who inspired and mentored creators.

Creators Lab welcomed returning and new presenters. Among the returning creatives were Kevin Wilson, content creator; Evelin Velinova, filmmaker; Kaleb Eisele, Oregon Conference digital media specialist and host of *Bridges Over Walls*, *How the*

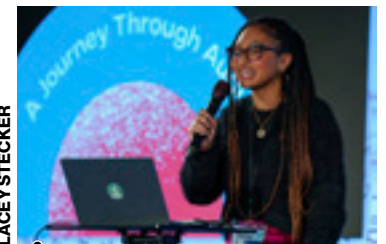
Church Works and *Humans of Adventism* podcasts; and Ernesto Hernandez, Washington Conference media director. Their sessions provided fresh perspectives on their respective fields, keeping attendees engaged and inspired.

New presenters included Rome Ulia, Auburn Adventist Academy Church pastor; Alex Portillo, content creator; Lindsey Gispert, podcaster; Khari Dixon, video editor and producer; and Victor and Andrei Melniciuc, Load the Ark game creators. Their

contributions expanded the creative discussions, offering valuable insights across various media disciplines.

Creators Lab intentionally incorporated relationship-building opportunities. One highlight was a facilitated networking session led by Eisele.

Creators Lab was made possible through the combined efforts of Washington Conference communication and media teams, Oregon Conference communication staff and North Pacific Union.



LACEY STECKER

Creators Lab features experienced professionals who inspire and mentor aspiring creators.



LACEY STECKER
Washington
Conference
communication
intern

More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-3-WA-35 +

Tacoma Central Church Starts Inclusive Ministry

SHAMA FELIX, SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, AND LENORA POLLARD, PARENT OF TWO NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN, TOOK ACTION TO CREATE A MORE INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR WORSHIPERS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES AT TACOMA CENTRAL CHURCH.



LEONARD MGENI

A participant sorts food as he learns about Daniel and making healthy choices.

For many families who have a relative with special needs, attending traditional church services can be overwhelming. Structured settings, long periods of sitting still and unexpected noises can create significant challenges.

The idea for an inclusive church service first emerged when Felix met a fellow teacher who had stopped

attending church due to her autistic children's difficulties in structured services. Later, a client asked if Felix's church had anything for their child.

"I really wish I could have told her, 'Yes, we have something that fits your son's needs,'" said Felix. Conversations with fellow church members and professionals led to the development of an inclusive fellowship designed to accommodate special needs individuals in a welcoming and flexible environment.

With support from a Young Adult Spark Tank grant and additional church funding, the inclusive ministry launched as a self-paced, hands-on experience. Unlike a conventional service where attendees sit through structured lessons, this program offers multiple interactive stations that cater to different learning styles. Activities reinforce the

themes of the service through sensory play, storytelling and physical engagement. Participants can move between stations at their own pace before coming together for a brief group session.

Examples of interactive lessons include acting out biblical stories, sorting healthy and unhealthy foods in lessons on Daniel, and building and knocking down block walls to learn about the walls of Jericho. These engaging activities help reinforce biblical teachings in a way that resonates with participants.

Pollard, who previously struggled to manage her children's needs during traditional services, was eager to participate. "It was always a gamble. How are they going to behave today? How long will I have to sit outside? And the service is only an hour. So, I miss a lot of it. I can't go to the adults' class. I can't go to the kids' class," Pollard stated.

Pollard's sons have enjoyed the inclusive service. With hands-on learning, her sons are internalizing lessons

and learning the good news of Jesus. Her oldest has become a little missionary, asking neighbors why they don't go to church on Sabbath.

Since its launch, the program has served individuals ranging from ages 5–63 and has been spearheaded by a handful of volunteers who are passionate about making the gospel accessible to everyone. The ministry meets on the second Sabbath of each month, with an upcoming break from May through July to plan future services.

"It's easy to get into the rut of leaving an individual with a disability at home because it's easier. But this is a way to help development and learning while creating an opportunity for community," stated Felix.

Through their dedication, Felix and her team are fostering a space where all individuals, regardless of ability, can connect with their faith in a meaningful way.



A group of volunteers starts Tacoma Central Church's new inclusive ministry.



LACEY STECKER
*Washington
Conference
communication
intern*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-3-WA-91](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/120-3-wa-91)

Nelson Named AAA Principal

AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF MARC NELSON AS PRINCIPAL FOR THE 2025–2026 ACADEMIC YEAR, MARKING AN EXCITING MILESTONE IN AAA'S JOURNEY OF CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION.

Nelson joins AAA with an impressive background in Adventist and career-focused education. He is completing his Ph.D. in educational leadership at Andrews University and brings significant leadership experience. His previous roles include Maxwell Adventist Academy principal and business manager, Battle Creek Academy interim principal, and Michigan public school high school teacher and department head.

Michelle Wachter, Washington Conference vice president for education and AAA interim principal, expressed enthusiasm for Nelson's leadership. "Nelson is a dedicated leader who embodies servant leadership with integrity and grace," Wachter

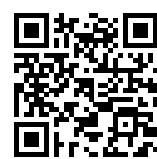
said. "His extensive experience in guiding Adventist school communities, combined with his passion for Christ-based education, will be a tremendous asset to AAA."

As Nelson assumes his new role, Wachter reflected on her year as interim principal: "It has been a blessing to serve AAA during this transition. I'm confident Nelson's vision and commitment will lead AAA into a bright future. While I return to my full-time role at Washington Conference, I will continue to pray for and support this wonderful school."

Nelson's appointment ushers in a new chapter for AAA, promising continued excellence in its mission to provide faith-based education.



Marc and Melissa Nelson



ENOC GARCIA
Washington Conference
communication director

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-WA-58



AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY



**Contact Gina Hubin, Director of Recruiting,
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SEEKING —
Divine Wisdom
INSPIRING —
Innovative Minds
BUILDING —
Eternal Relationships



Young Scientists Hop Into Hands-On Science

STUDENTS' REACTIONS TO FROG DISSECTION ARE AN EARLY SIGNAL OF FUTURE MEDICAL PROVIDERS, AND ONE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE TEACHER IS INTRODUCING VIRTUAL AND ACTUAL ANIMAL DISSECTION TO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE.

Sandy Hawkins, Buena Vista Adventist School second-grade teacher, started integrating animal dissection into her lower elementary classrooms in Colorado and Washington as a way to teach the wonders of God's creation.

"Frogs have organs like humans," Hawkins said. "How can this be except for God?"

Hawkins has scholars, as young as kindergarten, learning about dissection through a paid educational app to learn the steps because "it is clean, not bloody and easy to learn."

She tried squid and cat dissection before landing on frogs. She roughly estimates that she has offered frog dissection classes a dozen or more times.

"My students delve into it and practice over and over," Hawkins said. "They have an eagerness to learn."

Alumni of her dissection unit come back to assist younger students and have now created a video summary of their experience. Hawkins shows this visual story to reassure students ahead of a dissection.

Over the years, Hawkins has observed a range of student reactions – from initial hesitation to pure fascination. Some start out squeamish but quickly become engrossed as they recognize how the organs connect and function.

She finds that the hands-on experience helps students bridge the gap between textbook learning and real-world application, deepening their appreciation for anatomy and the intricacies of God's creation.

Recently, Hawkins undertook a huge feat: hosting 70 students for a dissection session. The group consisted of 22 second-graders, 25 eighth-graders and 23 Korean students from Youngnam Sahmyook Academy, BV's sister school. The students were paired across grade levels.

The frog dissection environment was set up in BV's gymnasium to accommodate all the students, parents and chaperones. Hawkins led out in the instruction and partnered with Heaven Chinn, eighth-grade teacher, to coach young scientists in the process.

"I've never done this large of a class; it was a huge undertaking," Hawkins said. She borrowed trays, scalpels and other supplies from Puget Sound Adventist Academy and Auburn Adventist Academy to supplement her own collection of supplies. Additionally, she found donors interested in investing in future medical professionals.

As Hawkins prepares to retire for the second time, she's considering offering frog dissection classes at small schools particularly in western Washington.

"Frog dissection drives the message of a creator God into each student's view of creation," Hawkins said. "It's an epic experience for everyone. I always have students who will exclaim, 'I want to become a surgeon!'"



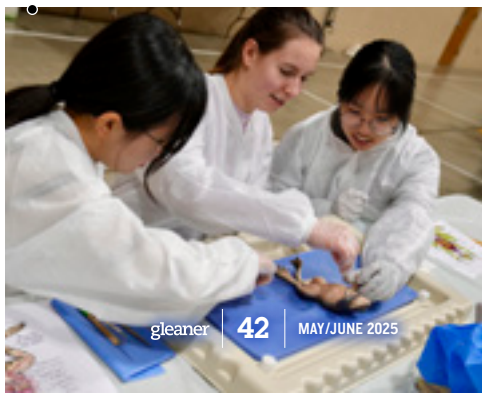
HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union
communication director
and Gleaner editor

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-3-WA-33](https://nwadvent.st/120-3-wa-33)

Though some were squeamish to start, they got the hang of dissecting and learned how the organs connect and function.

Three students carefully examine a frog, discovering the intricacies of God's creation up close.

In her largest dissection class to date, Sandy Hawkins is surrounded by 70 students who took part in an unforgettable hands-on science experience.



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awr.org/wisam

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

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NO WALLS. NO BORDERS. NO LIMITS.

Students Practice Public Evangelism

FOR 33 YEARS, A GIANT YELLOW AND WHITE STRIPED TENT PITCHED ON THE LAWN AT WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY HAS SERVED AS A CENTER FOR MUSIC, TESTIMONIES, GOSPEL PREACHING AND ALTAR CALLS. INTENTS, THE SPRING EVANGELISTIC SERIES, IS PLANNED AND IMPLEMENTED BY STUDENTS ENROLLED IN WWU'S PUBLIC EVANGELISM CLASS.



"While InTents is one treasured tradition at WWU, students across campus routinely practice evangelism through service to others, a wholistic approach where personal and social concerns are equally significant," said Pedrito Maynard-Reid, WWU theology professor and *Complete Evangelism: The Luke-Acts Model* author. "True reform movements throughout Christianity recognized the connection between social and spiritual aspects of Christian outreach."

"WWU has long been known for its mission-minded students. Our student missions program is where faith in God

meets generosity in service," said Andrea Keele, WWU associate chaplain for missions. "God's love is made real to us, and through us, by our actions—serving and showing up for others."

Spending a year as a student missionary is a major commitment. Whether teaching high school in Pohnpei, offering practical help to mothers and babies in Chad, or mobilizing a youth group in the Philippines, each student missionary's experience is unique. "This experience produces a practical blend of discipleship, evangelism and service,"

Keele said. This year, at least 95 students have expressed interest in extending WWU's 66-year tradition of serving as student missionaries around the world.

One doesn't need to travel far to proclaim the gospel through service. "Students can see faith in action through meaningful service opportunities right here in our community, fostering a gospel that is lived, not just spoken," said David Lopez, WWU Center for Humanitarian Engagement director.

Established in 2018, CHE helps WWU students find a calling, not just a career.

Through long-term community relationships, CHE pairs skilled students with local and global organizations.

Whether running a Walla Walla Tool Library workshop, staffing the Hey Neighbor Neighbor project, joining the annual Service Day or participating in Community Action Relief Experience weekends, students offer support for nonprofits serving marginalized community members. "In doing so, our students extend the gospel, not just through words, but through love in action," Lopez said.

"At WWU we work fervently to follow the

WWU fosters the future of Adventist evangelism by encouraging students to preach, teach, build and serve in the way of Jesus.

COURTESY OF CHE



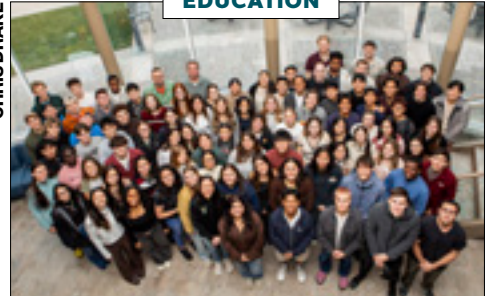
footsteps of Jesus,” Maynard-Reid added. “Jesus not only proclaimed personal salvation, but He combined it with social outreach and service as revealed in His opening statement of mission in Luke 4:18–19 – caring for the poor, the brokenhearted, the oppressed, those physically and mentally sick, and more. This is what inspires us. This is what drives us!”

Students of WWU’s public evangelism class plan and preach at InTents evangelistic meetings every year.



EDUCATION

CHRIS DRAKE



INNOVATIVE RESOURCE AVAILABLE FOR PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY has long been preparing students for acceptance into and excellence in post-graduate health programs — medical, dental, physical therapy and more. In fall 2023, to better serve students planning to enter the health professions, WWU established Center for Health Professions.

Directed by Jeremy Wiggins, WWU biology associate professor, Center for Health Professions provides pre-health students with a dedicated advisor to ensure they enroll in necessary courses and make proper preparations for eventual application to medical school, no matter their major.

Center for Health Professions will have a dedicated space within Rigby Hall for students to go for advice on pre-health programs and meet with representatives from medical schools like Loma Linda University and University of Washington.

“We’re just getting started,” Wiggins said. “There’s more exciting stuff to come.”

JODI WAGNER
WWU vice president for
university relations and
advancement



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-WA-75



JODI WAGNER
WWU vice
president for
university relations
and advancement

More online at 
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-WA-73



Eat Heart-Smart All Day

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT, OR SO THE SAYING GOES. THIS APPLIES TO YOUR HEART TOO. MAKING SMALL ADJUSTMENTS TO YOUR DAILY DIET CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT ON YOUR HEART HEALTH. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS FOR SMART CHOICES YOU CAN MAKE FOR YOUR HEART THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

QUICK, HEALTHY BREAKFASTS

Breakfast gives you a chance to start your day with foods packed with energy and nutrition. People who eat breakfast typically have lower cholesterol and lower weight than those who skip it. Some great options include:

- » **Oatmeal:** Cooked or overnight oats have complex carbs and lots of fiber. Skip the sugar and throw on some berries to get the antioxidants going for your day.
- » **Avocado toast:** Top whole-grain toast with sliced avocado and drizzle with a little heart-healthy olive oil.
- » **Smoothies:** Stick to plant-based ingredients like berries, spinach, dates and plant-based milks.

HEALTHY LUNCH IDEAS

A combination of lean protein and fresh produce will help fuel your body midday and keep your energy going through the afternoon. These food groups can be turned into:

- » **Salads:** Salads don't have to just be "rabbit food," but piles of salad dressing, croutons and cheese can steer salads in the wrong direction. Instead, aim to load up on a rainbow of fresh veggies. Don't forget to throw on a few berries for some heart-healthy antioxidants.
- » **Wraps:** Wrap your favorite protein and salad vegetables in a whole-wheat tortilla to create a delicious, heart-healthy wrap.



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-3-AH-60](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/120-3-AH-60)

MISSION AND OUTREACH



PORTLAND VOLUNTEERS ASSEMBLE KITS FOR HOMELESS COMMUNITY

IN FEBRUARY, Adventist Health Portland's Volunteer Squad assembled 100 winter kits for individuals experiencing homelessness in Portland. The kits were distributed through Blanchet House.

Blanchet House is a nonprofit social services organization dedicated to making a difference for homeless individuals through food, clothing and supportive housing programs.

Each winter kit assembled by the Volunteer Squad contained emergency blankets, gloves, antibiotic ointment, band-aids, ponchos, snacks and hand warmers — items carefully selected to provide warmth and basic first-aid support to those facing harsh weather conditions. In addition, every kit included a heartfelt message encouraging recipients to stay safe.

Through this volunteer effort, Adventist Health Portland reaffirms its commitment to community service and compassionate care. The event reflects the organization's ongoing dedication to supporting vulnerable populations and strengthening partnerships with impactful nonprofits such as Blanchet House.

By working together, Adventist Health Portland and Blanchet House continue to bring comfort and hope to those in need, one relationship at a time.

TERRY JOHNSON
Adventist Health
Oregon Network mission
integration executive



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-AH-59

» **Sandwiches:** Whole-grain bread above and below your favorite lean protein and veggies is a lunchtime classic. Keep your sandwiches heart-smart by skipping mayo and adding a light vinaigrette or hummus instead.

In addition to helping your heart, you'll be helping your wallet as you avoid costly trips to local restaurants for lunch.

DELICIOUS DINNERS FOR YOUR HEART

Lean protein and fresh vegetables are key to a tasty, heart-healthy dinner. These steps can keep your dinner heart-focused:

- » Load your plate with vegetables and eat them first. Try including a salad and a cooked vegetable.
- » Consider choosing a plant-based menu at least a few times each week. Try a Mediterranean quinoa bowl. Scan the QR Code below for the recipe.
- » Pick your protein carefully. Plant-based proteins — like beans combined with whole grains — are a great way to reward your heart for a job well done. If you eat meat, choose baked cold-water fish or skinless chicken breasts and skip the fried foods.



Scan the QR Code for a
Mediterranean quinoa
bowl recipe.



DON'T FORGET DESSERT

Believe it or not, you can even enjoy dessert while staying focused on keeping your heart healthy. Take it easy on the sugar and load up on really nutritious fruit like berries.

SATISFYING SNACKS

No matter how well you plan, you may find times when you need some help keeping hunger at bay between meals. Choosing your snacks wisely is one of the best ways to make sure you're feeding your heart the foods it needs to serve you well.

- » **Nuts and seeds:** These are a great source of healthy fats. Just eat them in small amounts, as they are dense with calories. Avoid salted nuts and seeds.
- » **Fruit:** Fruit gives you an energy boost that satisfies a sugar craving while adding lots of vitamins to your diet.
- » **Popcorn:** Stick to air-popped popcorn for some whole-grain goodness without piles of oil and salt.

We have many more snack ideas on our blog at adventisthealth.org/portland/blog. And you can always check with your primary care provider or heart doctor for more ideas on the best way to fuel your heart for life.

C.J. ANDERSON
Adventist Health Portland
communications manager

EMPLOYMENT

ALASKA LODGE SEEKS SUMMER HELP

Beautiful setting with restored historic log cabins. Room and board provided. RT airfare, wages, 30+ hours per week guaranteed. Couples welcome. Sabbaths off. Richard and Judy Dennis, 907-822-5299, redeaglelodge.com.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY IS SEEKING

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

COUPLE SEEKS JOB OPPORTUNITY

as estate managers/caretakers/executive assistant. Oversight of estate/related vendors; plant-based chef; driver; care for homebound person(s), children, pets, plants, etc. His experience: 30 years as attorney (Arizona licensed) and commercial real estate trust manager, Navy veteran, California Highway Patrol. Her experience: retired pediatric RN (California/Indiana licensed). Looking for long-term situation (more than one year), separate housing onsite. Compensation based on duties assigned. Bondable. References/additional information available at 650-269-2220 or williamtsohara@aol.com.

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seeking qualified applicants for office coordinator for the physician assistant program. This is a full-time, non-exempt position with excellent benefits including tuition assistance for dependents. This role supports the program director and clinical coordinator, serves as a liaison between students and faculty, assists with event and meeting planning, and other duties. Please see the job description and apply at uau.edu/employment or contact Megan Heidtbrink at megan.heidtbrink@uau.edu for more information.

EVENTS

CENTRAL OREGON CAMP MEETING

begins Thursday at 9 a.m. on June 26–28. Speakers include David Shin, Dustin Pestlin, Laura Williams and Ernie Hernandez. Free food and dry camping. Location: Cascade Church, 60670 Brookwood Blvd., Bend, Oregon, 97702. Mobile: 541-223-8984 Email: centraloregoncampmeeting@gmail.com. Register online at centraloregoncampmeeting.com.

DEAF CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

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

NORTHWEST ADVENTIST CHOIR, LES

CHANTICLEERS, is a music ministry organization that has been touching the hearts and minds of audiences of all ages in the U. S. We invite you to visit our website, leschanticleers.org, for more information on events and to learn how to support our journey to the General Conference session in Washington D.C. this year.

OREGON ADVENTIST MEN'S CHORUS

ANNUAL CONCERT You're invited to the OAMC annual spring concert on Sabbath, May 17, at 3:30 or 7 p.m., at Sunnyside Church, 10501

SE Market St., Portland, Oregon. Free and open to the public. The "In the Name of the Lord" theme counts more than 50 names for God in the 13-song repertoire. More info: oamcministry.org. See ad in this issue.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

LOOKING FOR MOTORCYCLISTS

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

WINGS OF LIFE MISSIONS

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Offering

- May 3—Local Church Budget
- May 10—Disaster and Famine Relief (GC and NAD)
- May 17—Local Church Budget
- May 24—Local Conference Advance
- May 31—Local Church Budget
- June 7—Local Church Budget
- June 14—Women's Ministries (NAD)
- June 21—Local Church Budget
- June 28—Local Conference Advance

NPUC 49th Regional Convocation

North Pacific Union invites you to attend the 49th annual NPUC Regional Convocation at Mount Tahoma Church on May 16-17. There will be adult, young adult, children and youth programming. Presenters include Garth Dottin, Jesse Wilson, Pedrito Maynard-Reid, Almonds Sebirokwa and Darnisha Thomas. For more information, visit npuc.org/ministries/regional/convocation.

ALASKA CONFERENCE

Wrangel Church Seeks Missing Members

Wrangel Church in Wrangell, Alaska, is searching for the following missing members: Jeremy Black; Amanda Chadwick; Cynthia Chadwick; Lynda Chadwick; Ronald Chadwick; Seth Chadwick; Brenda Galyean; Donald Griswold; Karen Washington. Please contact Brooke Reynolds, church clerk, at wrangell7thday@gmail.com or call 907-874-3039 with any contact information.

IDAHO CONFERENCE

Cambridge Church Seeks Missing Members

The Cambridge, Idaho Church is interested in locating these missing members: LeRoy Box; Casey Karloski; Barbara Maas; Monte Page; Sara Vandyne; Joan Yeatts; Timothy Clark; Melissa Jefson; Ted Lechner; Don Stenvenson; Michelle Ward; Bev and Joe Shaffer. Please contact the church clerk at 208-407-6018.

OREGON CONFERENCE

Portland Adventist Academy Alumni Reunion

Portland Adventist Academy's annual Alumni Reunion is May 2-3. All current and former PAA students, staff and friends are invited to attend. This year's honor classes are '45; '50 (75-year); '55; '65; '75 (50-year); '85; '95; '00 (25-year); '05; '15; and '20 (5-year). Visit paasda.org/alumni for more information.

North Pacific Union Directory

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

President	John Freedman	Hispanic Ministries and Ministerial	Peter Simpson
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Creation Study Center	Stan Hudson	Association Treasurer	Jay Graham
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Secondary	Brian Harris	Associate	Velvet Lang
Certification		Church Planting and Lay Training ..	Dan Serns
Registrar	Deborah Hendrickson		
Early Childhood Coordinator	Renee Young		

Local Conference Directory

ALASKA CONFERENCE

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

IDAHO CONFERENCE

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

MONTANA CONFERENCE

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

OREGON CONFERENCE

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

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

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

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

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

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204 S. College Ave.
College Place, WA 99324-1198
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F 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

UPPER COLUMBIA ABC

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

COLLEGE PLACE ABC

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509-529-0723
M, F, Sun 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
T–Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

AUBURN ABC

5100 32nd St., Auburn, WA 98092-7024
253-833-6707
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Questions?
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Help us tell the GC session story – through a Northwest lens!

Share your words, photos or videos via



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info@nwadventists.com

AYERS – Vera Evelyn (Curtis), 94; born Nov. 15, 1930, Stanwood, Washington; died Jan. 18, 2025, College Place, Washington. Surviving: son, Kevin; 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

BARTHOLOMEW – Marjorie June (Davis), 94; born July 8, 1930, College Place, Washington; died Feb. 1, 2025, Meadow Glade, Washington. Surviving: daughters, Sheryl Shears, Kathryn Kaiser, Shirley Johnson and Janis Machina; sister, Roberta Fischer; 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

BECKER – Elaine Anne (Ratzlaff), 90; born Sept. 17, 1934, Goessel, Kansas; died Feb. 19, 2025, Eugene, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Danny and Dale; daughters, Ilene (Becker) Gott and Debra (Becker) Bohannan; sister, Imogene (Ratzlaff) Berg; 8 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

BECKER – Vernon Dale, 92; born Aug. 26, 1932, Hillsboro, Kansas; died Dec. 22, 2024, Eugene, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Danny and Dale; daughters, Ilene (Becker) Gott and Debra (Becker) Bohannan; brother, Elden; sisters, Roselyn (Becker) Bry, Grace (Becker) Martens and Loretta (Becker) Schneider; 8 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

BLAKE – Chester Douglas, 84; born Feb. 11, 1940, Seattle, Washington; died Jan. 14, 2025, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Shirley

(Fuller) Blake; son, Douglas Blake; daughter, Elaine (Blake) Hinshaw; stepson, Bruce Filman; stepdaughter, Debbie (Filman) Proctor; 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

BRANDT – M. Elizabeth (Bright), previously Elizabeth Fleck, 81; born Nov. 14, 1942, Coos Bay, Oregon; died Oct. 19, 2024, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Curtis; daughter, Karen Brandt-Mayo; sister, Marilyn Westerbeck; 5 grandchildren. *(This is a reprint with corrected information from March/April 2025.)*

DANCEL – Cris A. Jr., 84; born May 7, 1940, Maui, Hawaii; died Nov. 14, 2024, Phelan, California. Surviving: son, Cristopher; sister, Sharon (Dancel) Dunaway; 5 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren and 7 step-great-grandchildren.

GIBSON – Priscilla (Dietrich), 94; born Oct. 1, 1930, Medford, Oregon; died Feb. 23, 2025, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: sons, Tim, Ron, Larry, Jim and Ted; daughter, Janine Gibson; 12 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

HANSON – Cheryl Faye, 77; born July 3, 1947, Portland, Oregon; died Jan. 10, 2025, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: brothers, Dick and J. Scott.

HALL – Ruth Ann (Helm), 81; born Feb. 11, 1943, Portland, Oregon; died Oct. 31, 2024, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, James; sons, Greg and Mark; daughter, Julie Hall; 2 grandchildren.

HECK – Joel, 95; born Feb. 3, 1929, Harmon, North Dakota; died Oct. 28, 2024, Wood Village, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Kim and Timothy; daughters, Wendy (Heck) Coffin and Melanie (Heck) Ament; sister, Maria Simmons; 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

HIXSON – Stanley Weldon, 80; born June 27, 1944, Scotia, California; died Jan. 30, 2025, Newcastle, Wyoming. Surviving: brother, Rich Hull; sister, Annie Kruger; 7 grandchildren.

HUNTINGTON – Viola Ruth (Winn), previously Viola Vipond, 101; born May 9, 1923, Galt, California; died Jan. 12, 2025, Gresham, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Terry and Randy Vipond; daughter, Karen (Vipond) Fisher; stepdaughter, Brooke (Huntington) Stafford; sister, Dorothy (Winn) Heft; 6 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, 1 step-great-grandchild and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

JORDAN – Richard “Rick” Charles, 71; born May 16, 1953, Warsaw, Indiana; died Nov. 15, 2024, Anchorage, Alaska. Surviving: spouse, Bonnie (Anderson); sons, Nils and Lars; 2 grandchildren.

KANE – Ronnalee (Gevirtz), 77; born Nov. 4, 1947, San Francisco, California; died Feb. 22, 2025, College Place, Washington. Surviving: son, Jonathan Sussman; daughter, Debbie (Kane) Forsyth; brother, Ralph Gevirtz; sister, Bonnie (Gevirtz) Duncan; 1 grandchild.

LARSON – Dorothy Inez (Robertson), 99; born Dec. 15, 1924, Falls City, Nebraska; died Nov. 1, 2024, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: son, Tim; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

MARTIN – Beverlee Ann (Fanning), 90; born Oct. 6, 1932, Lewiston, Idaho; died Jan. 12, 2023, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Chris; brother, Brad Fanning; 2 grandchildren.

MARTIN – Clemment Arthur, 89; born Jan. 16, 1935, Chattanooga, Tennessee; died July 22, 2024, Renton, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Emma Jane (Humphrey); daughters, Anne (Martin) Jensen, Becky (Martin) Beckfield and Darla (Martin) Smith; 7 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

MASON – Dale Winsal, 93; born Feb. 21, 1931, Yakima, Washington; died Oct. 29, 2024, Gladstone, Oregon.

ORSER – Delmar “Del” Allen, 80; born June 2, 1944, Modesto, California; died Jan. 3, 2025, Athol, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Bonnie Crisp Orser; sons, Delmarty and Stanley; brother, Donald; sister, Cheryl Orser; 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

RAMSEY – Lawrence Eugene, 76; born July 29, 1947, Madera, California; died June 11, 2024, Shelton, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Kathy; son, Christopher; daughter, Dena Roy; brothers, Marty and

1932–2024

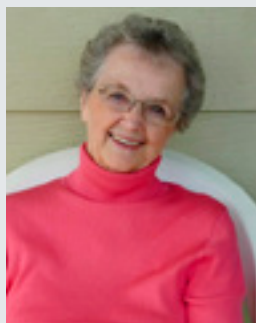
CAROL JEANETTE HOMANN PIFER PERRIN

Carol Jeanette Homann was born at home to Charles and Cynthia (Steeves) Homann in College Place, Washington, on Nov. 10, 1932. She attended Portland Adventist Academy and graduated from Columbia Adventist Academy.

She later attended Walla Walla College until she married Gene Pifer, with whom she had four children. Carol loved being a mom and put her mothering instincts to good use as she worked with students as Laurelwood Academy business manager and Walla Walla College Portland campus nursing residence hall dean.

She married Milford Perrin on April 11, 1999. They enjoyed volunteering at their church and in their community, visiting family and friends around the country and traveling the world. Carol passed suddenly and unexpectedly in her College Place home on Nov. 10, 2024.

Carol is survived by her husband, Milford Perrin; son, Ron Pifer and his wife, Sandi; daughters, Jan King and her husband, Dennis, Teri Richardson and her husband, Paul, and Nancy Myers and her husband, Lee; and brother, Ed Homann. She is also survived by Milford's daughter, three sons, and their spouses. Many grandchildren and great-grandchildren bring the family total to 95.



SLUSSER—James Neilson, 83; born May 22, 1941, Akron, Ohio; died Jan. 9, 2025, Brownsville, Oregon. Surviving: son, Wesley; daughters, Jennifer Crocker and Wendy Cunningham; brothers, Bob and Jack; 11 grandchildren.

SMITH—Roberta Jean (Devereaux), 96; born Nov. 4, 1928, Yakima, Washington; died Feb. 16, 2025, Olympia, Washington. Surviving: sons, Dwayne and Greg; daughter, Debbie (Smith) Meyer; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

WELLS—Margaret Florene (Fouts), 83; born Sept. 7, 1941, Caldwell, Idaho; died Jan. 10, 2025, Beaverton, Oregon. Surviving: daughter, Tamara Wells Kirschner; 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

WOODS—Berton Garfield, 98; born Feb. 15, 1926, Springfield, Massachusetts; died Jan. 23, 2025, Sequim, Washington. Surviving: sons, Doug and David; daughter, Laurie Sim; 6 grandchildren, 6 step-grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

YOUNG—Greta Pauline (Christensen), 97; born Sept. 15, 1927, Veneta, Oregon; died Oct. 6, 2024, Salem, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Mark and Jonathan; daughter, Karen Young; 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

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.

John; sisters, Vicki Wilson and Barbara Cosgrove; 2 grandchildren.

REEVE—Derral William, 70; born Dec. 22, 1954, Brewster, Washington; died Jan. 20, 2025, Niles, Michigan. Surviving: spouse, Barbara (Hill); daughters, Johanna (Reeve) Pewitt and Sanna (Reeve) Ortega; brothers, Harold and John; sisters, Joy (Reeve) Fish and Barbara (Reeve) Eno; 6 grandchildren.

REID—David, 78; born July 17, 1946, Chico, California; died Oct. 30, 2024, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Rosanna (Delinger); sons, Daryl and Rhyann; daughter, Lora Tomlinson.

SANDVIK—Vivian "Ibbie" (Pearson), 92; born Aug. 9, 1932, Hermiston, Oregon; died Jan. 29, 2025, Palmer, Alaska. Surviving: sons, Chuck and Randy; daughters, Ronda Sandvik and Vonya Sandvik; 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.



A WOMAN WITH TWO NAMES

A few months before He died, Jesus gathered 70 of His followers. They had watched Jesus heal the sick, feed the hungry and teach people about a God of love. It was time for them to tell others the good news.

After Jesus went back to heaven, His friends couldn't keep quiet! They kept talking about God's love and the things Jesus did. It wasn't always easy. People who hated Jesus were mean and tried to hurt them, but Jesus' friends kept loving and sharing.

Some preached to strangers. Some talked to friends. Some wrote letters. Some helped others with food or clothes. Each work mattered to God.

Different Helpers, Different Work

Dorcas lived in Joppa, a port city filled with many people. Some knew about God's love and loved Him back, but some didn't. Dorcas was kind to all of them. She sewed clothes for people who needed them. She cheered up those who were sad.

Some people called Dorcas by her Jewish name, Tabitha. No matter what name they called her, they all knew she loved God — and them.

One day, Dorcas got sick and died. What would the people do without her loving service? They sent for Peter, who was

preaching in a town nearby. Peter hurried to Joppa. He went to the room where Dorcas was laid. Many crying people told Peter how she had loved them and taken care of them.

Peter asked all the people to leave the room. He knelt and asked God to bring her back to life and health. Then he turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up!" Just like that, she opened her eyes and sat up.

Peter and Dorcas both loved people with God's love, but they did it in different ways. It's the same for today.

How can God use you? You can recite a Bible verse for church. You can tell your friends that Jesus loves them. You can invite a kid at your school or church to play with you. You can help other people like the woman with two names.

Read Luke 10:1 and Acts 9:36–42 for worship.



PAULA WART
Just for Kids columnist

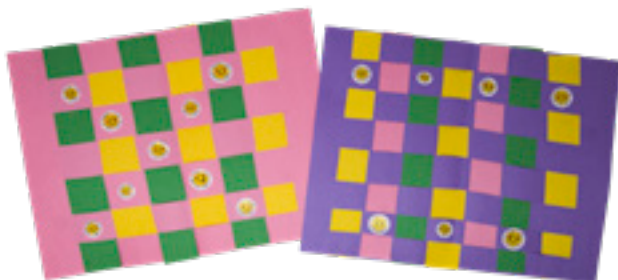
More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-KIDS-52

Weave Your Own Place Mats

Create a colorful place mat using just paper, scissors and your creativity!

Supplies Needed:

- » Three to four sheets of colorful paper or white paper to color
- » Kid-friendly scissors
- » Stickers, markers or crayons for decorating
- » Glue or tape to secure the ends



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Pick your paper:** Choose a bright-colored sheet of paper or decorate a plain one with crayons and markers.
2. **Fold and cut:** Fold the paper in half like a book. Starting at the folded edge, use scissors to cut six straight or wavy lines, about 1 inch apart. Stop cutting 1 inch before the edge so the paper stays connected. This is your weaving base.
3. **Make strips:** Take another sheet of paper and cut it into 1-inch-wide strips. These will be your weaving pieces.
4. **Start weaving:** Take one strip and weave it over and under the cut slits in your base paper. Push it up to the top.
5. **Keep weaving:** Use more strips and keep weaving, alternating over and under. Slide each strip close to the one before it. Once all the strips are woven in, use glue or tape at the ends to keep them in place.
6. **Decorate:** Add stickers, draw designs or color patterns on your place mat.

A Special Idea: Share a Meal and Share Jesus

Your place mat is ready to use! But here's something extra special — talk with your parents or guardians about who you could invite over for a meal. Maybe there's a friend, neighbor or church member who would love to share a meal with your family.

Just like Dorcas, you can use your hands to create something special — a place mat for your table — and share God's love through hospitality.

As you eat together, you can talk about Jesus' love, share a favorite Bible story or pray before eating. A simple meal and a kind heart can brighten someone's day!

Who could you invite to share a meal with your family?



NW ADVENTISTS TEAM

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-KIDS-77



Four Ways Kids Can Share Their Faith



AUTHOR

As we feature evangelism, it seems like a great time to involve kids in outreach efforts. This is their church, too, and we need to provide ways of sharing their faith in their schools, communities and neighborhoods.

In Matt. 28:19–20, Jesus says, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” This command includes our kids. They can share their faith alongside us adults.

Sharing your faith can be scary, so starting your kids young in outreach efforts is important.

Here are four ways kids can share their faith through simple actions:

1. PRAY FOR OTHERS

Start your day with your kids in prayer. Encourage them to pray for their teachers, friends and even classmates they might not get along with. We like to pray together in the car on the way to school and church. We also like to end the day with prayer.

Help your kids identify people who might be struggling and pray for them. Keep a family prayer list so no one is forgotten. Remind your kids to ask for guidance from God in their daily lives and decisions. Model this behavior for your kids as well.

2. HELP OTHERS

Encourage kids to actively seek ways to help others, whether at school, home or in the community. There are people in your circle of influence who need help. Let them choose who and how they can help.

Teach them the importance of being a supportive and kind friend. Is there a classmate who sits alone at lunch? Is there a classmate who gets picked on? Talk through conflicts they might be having with friends. Disciple your kids on how to navigate friendships. Model healthy friendships for your kids as well.

Participate in activities that benefit others, such as volunteering or donating to charity. Encourage your child’s school or church to engage in community service. You can bring sack lunches to a local park to feed the homeless. You can also make blessing bags filled with small toiletries for those in need.

3. LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH

Let your actions reflect your faith – show kindness, compassion and honesty. Model these behaviors to your children. If your actions as parents do not reflect your faith, then they might be hesitant to do so as well.

Share your faith naturally and respectfully, answering questions and explaining your beliefs. Help your kids write their testimony of what God has done in their lives. Practice with your kids, give them



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/120-3-POV-57





*Sharing your faith can be scary,
so starting your kids young in
outreach efforts is important.*

scripts and encourage them to share their faith in social situations.

If they get the chance to share the gospel message with their friends, teach them the ABCs of salvation. We have used this basic model for years in outreach.

- » **Admit:** Acknowledge that everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's glory, as stated in Rom. 3:23.
- » **Believe:** Trust in Jesus Christ as the only way to salvation, as He died on the cross for our sins and rose again.
- » **Confess:** Publicly declare your faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior, as stated in Rom. 10:9–10.

If your kids are older and online, encourage them to share positive and uplifting messages online and to be mindful of their online interactions. Sharing their faith online might be the easiest way to share when your kids are older. In a world of damaging social media, our kids can be radically different and share what an awesome God we serve.

4. SHARE YOUR STORY

Help your children understand the core message of their faith, Jesus Christ and the gospel message, and how it relates to their lives. Encourage them to share how God has worked in their lives, both the good and the challenging times.

God works in our kids' lives, and they have a story.

Encourage your children to invite non-church friends to church or faith-related events. Provide a ride for their friends who don't attend church. We like to invite their non-church friends to youth night, video game night and other fun outings we have for the kids in our youth ministry.

What other ways can we help our kids share their faith? Visit us on social media and let us know. We're all on this faith journey together, even our children, and we must help them navigate this.

Philemon 1:6 tells us, "And I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full

knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ." Let's help our kids share their faith with others in ways that are simple for them to do.

LAVONNE LONG
*Northwest Adventists
family columnist*





Our Everyday Call to Evangelism

Evangelism is a hot-button issue currently within our denomination. Leaders would have evangelism done in mainly public large-scale ways, while pastors and the laity often want a smaller and more personal approach. Some say evangelism only occurs when there are public meetings, and others declare public evangelism completely useless.

There are some big questions asked around this topic that deserve some thought.

Is evangelism solely based on numbers or is there more? Can evangelism be effective if we don't baptize a dozen people or hold public meetings? How do we do effective evangelism in 2025, and should it look different than it did in 1844? These questions deserve answers, yet I wonder if we might be asking the wrong questions.

I fear that many focus too much on the numbers that accompany evangelistic efforts—baptisms, memberships or tithe giving. Should our focus instead be more on the personal aspect of evangelism? I'm not just talking about friendship

evangelism where we know people for

years but never actually present the truths of Jesus or the Bible to them. Rather, I am speaking here of personal evangelism. Let me explain through an illustration.

My husband and I have a friend who is a farmer. He lives a

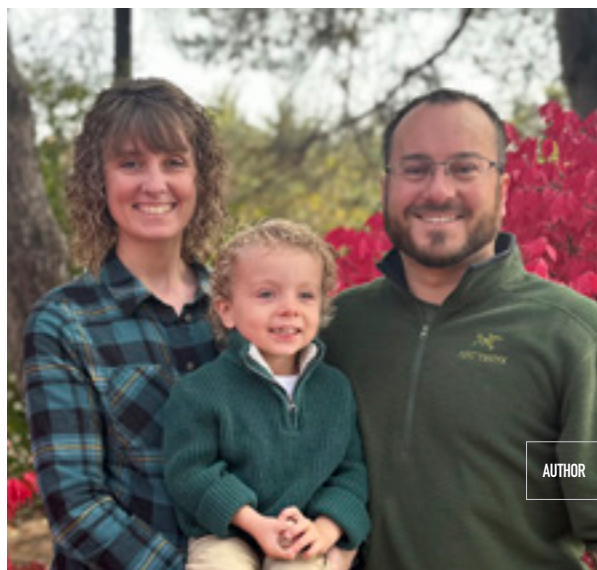
little way out of town in a small modest home. He has all the needed equipment for farming, the correct licenses, the right connections and the knowledge to make his farming business successful. He spends his time in the spring prepping his equipment, tilling the soil and then planting seeds.

After the seeds are planted, he spends time working on his equipment and deals with weeds, pests and water damage or lack of water. Then in the late summer, he harvests for months. After harvest, it's time to prep his equipment for the winter and the next season, which he will work on until the next season begins. So, I ask you: When is he a farmer?

Is a farmer only a farmer when he or she is doing only one aspect of the farming process; such as seeding or reaping? Or, are they a farmer all the time, no matter the task they are completing? I would argue, as would our farmer friend, that a farmer is always a farmer all the time. They live and breathe farming; that is their life.

So, we come back to the issue of evangelism. Rather than asking churches, pastors and laity, "What form of evangelistic efforts will you do this year?" we instead should ask, "How do we, leaders, help empower local congregations and people to get to know Jesus personally so they can effectively share Him with the world?"

The goal becomes a form of evangelism that is effective



AUTHOR

Natashia McVay



PERSPECTIVE

We are not just called to share Jesus with the world for a couple weeks while meetings are happening. We are called to be everyday witnesses of Jesus.

because the individuals, first and foremost, are truly dedicated to Jesus themselves.

Being an evangelist for four weeks during a series is great, but what about the other 48 weeks of the year? Do we stop being evangelistic in purpose when the meetings end?

There is a great example given in scripture in the story of the Samaritan woman and her personal interaction with Jesus. Once she had a personal encounter with Jesus, she shared with others and they in turn came to Him.

"Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to Him, they urged Him to stay with them, and He stayed two days. And because of His words, many more became believers. They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world'" (John 4:39-42).

Churches will grow, conferences will grow and tithe will increase when the believers within the church are empowered by Christ living in them. When the main driving force is numbers, we miss the real purpose of evangelism.

Jesus didn't preach just to gain numbers for the church. He preached, shared and taught

to bring people into a saving relationship with Him. The disciples and apostles told others of Jesus because they first loved Jesus themselves. And thousands were added to their numbers. Why? Because people encountered Jesus through those followers, those true Christians, who lived out their love for Christ.

We are not just called to share Jesus with the world for a

few weeks while meetings are happening. We are called to be everyday witnesses of Jesus – to be living evangelists, daily evangelists and personally transformed Adventist evangelists.

This evangelism begins today as you personally commit your life to following Jesus. Let Him truly live in and change you to be more like Him.

NATASHIA MCVAY
*Pacific Northwest
pastoral columnist*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-3-POV-76](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/120-3-POV-76)





The Language of God

*“If I speak in the
tongues of men or
of angels but do not
have love, I am only
a resounding gong or
a clanging cymbal”
(1 Cor. 13:1).*



Did you know there are estimated to be more than 7,000 languages in existence? I often wish I could simply speak more than one.

When my wife and I were first married, we went as missionaries to Palawan Island in the Philippines. We were tasked with connecting with the locals and learning the language. Thankfully, other missionaries had gone before us and made a simplistic guidebook that translated common phrases into English. For instance, next to a picture of a baby, the guidebook would have a phrase like, “Your child is so beautiful, so healthy.”

I took the word “beautiful” and applied it to other beautiful things like mountains, sunsets and my wife. Every day I would return from teaching math at the school and proclaim to Danelle, my wife, “Where is my beautiful wife?” At least I thought that’s what I was saying.

It wasn’t until a month later that I learned that a healthy/beautiful baby is a “fat” baby. So, the literal translation I was saying to Danelle was, “Where is my fat wife?” However, I said it with love in my eyes, and love covers a multitude of sins.

Another day, I returned to school after my lessons. The students asked why I was there, and I meant to say, “I am here to take your picture (pata),” but I accidentally said another word – patai – which means kill. So, I told the students with a smile on my face that I was there to kill them!

They laughed and laughed. Language mishaps can be funny, and they knew that even with my

linguistic stumbling, I had a deep compassion for them in my heart.

Of the thousands of languages in existence, have you ever thought about what language came first? What was the language of Adam and Eve? What language would children speak if they were never spoken to?

One person who pondered these questions was King Frederick II of Sicily. He was one of the most powerful figures of the Middle Ages and ruled a vast area, beginning with Sicily and stretching through Italy all the way north to Germany. He viewed himself as a direct successor to the Roman emperors of antiquity. He was powerful, intelligent and controversial – so much so that one contemporary historian described him as diabolical.

The diabolical label came in part after an experiment he did on children. He set out to discover the “natural” language of humans. He aimed to do this by selecting infants to be raised in complete isolation, without exposure to any language, to see what language they would spontaneously speak when they began to talk. He wanted to determine what language God gave to Adam and Eve and hypothesized that it would be Hebrew, Greek, Latin or Arabic.

Frederick’s experiment reveals the dangers of assuming that one language – or culture – holds divine preference over others.

Salimbene di Adam, a theologian and historian who lived during Frederick’s time,

AUTHOR

Kevin McGill

[Love] crosses barriers and misunderstandings, bridges polarizing divides and, in the end, is the only thing that makes us happy.



PERSPECTIVE



took particular issue with the king's experiment. While he acknowledged Frederick's intellect and linguistic abilities, he criticized his lack of faith.

Writing about the emperor, Salimbene remarked, "If he had been rightly Catholic and had loved God and His church, he would have had few emperors his equals in the world." However, according to Salimbene, Frederick had no faith in God and was "crafty, wily, avaricious, lustful, malicious and wrathful."

He especially took issue with the language experiment because when the children were deprived of touch, interaction and affection, they died. He said, "Children could not live without clappings of the hands, gestures, gladness of countenance and blandishments."

The medical terminology we have today for such deprivation is known as failure to thrive. It's as if we were designed for connection. We were built for love. If there is a "language of God," it's not so much about the sounds we make with our tongue and lips as it is about the actions that come from our hearts.

Nearly 800 years after Frederick's failed experiment, researchers at Harvard University set out to answer a very different question. In 1938, George Vaillant launched what would become the longest-running longitudinal study in developmental history, tracking the lives of 268 male undergraduate students to determine what leads to a fulfilling life.

Unlike Frederick's grim experiment, which revealed the devastating consequences of isolation,

Vaillant's study sought to uncover the foundations of happiness. At the time, many assumed that wealth, status, and physical advantages would be the greatest contributors. However, 75 years later, the study arrived at a five-word conclusion: Happiness is love, full stop.

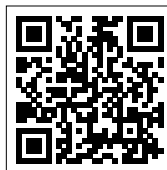
Love, it turns out, can override all sorts of obstacles and complications. As long as we have love, it leads to a fulfilling, meaningful and ultimately happy existence.

If there is such a thing as a "heavenly" language, I believe that language is love. It crosses barriers

and misunderstandings, bridges polarizing divides and, in the end, is the only thing that makes us happy. The language of God is love, full stop.

KEVIN MCGILL

Green Lake Church senior pastor



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/120-3-POV-43](https://nwadvent.st/120-3-POV-43)





The Heart of the Table

I STARTED TABLE TALK WITH A DEEP DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE YOU, AS READERS, TO GATHER AROUND YOUR OWN TABLES AND SHARE YOUR OWN STORIES OF FAITH AND GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.



BENDALUSONG

AUTHOR

Heidi Baumgartner



More online at NWADVENT.ST/120-3-TT-15

Allow me to introduce you to Ken and Lisa Krenzler and their ministry, At Table. A few months ago, they reached out to share about their table-centered ministry here in the Pacific Northwest.

Ken, a chef with years of experience preparing meals for celebrities, cancer patients, care homes, cooking schools and crowds of up to 3,000, was inspired by a sermon about the significance of biblical foods. Intrigued, he began studying these foods and was struck by how often Jesus engaged in ministry "At Table."

This study turned into menu planning, as Ken sought to recreate ancient dishes—Jacob's pottage, King David's banquets, the feasts Jesus attended and Roman fig cake, a delicacy Paul may have enjoyed.

However, it wasn't enough for the Krenzlers to simply tell me about their ministry; they invited me to experience it firsthand. One wintry Friday evening, my family and I stepped into an evening that engaged all our senses.

After worship to open the Sabbath and a prayer for the meal, steaming bowls of aromatic lentil soup were passed around to a table of a dozen friends in ministry—both familiar and new.

Ken skillfully combined ancient recipes with elemental offerings. The table was laden with bowls of olives, grapes, pomegranates, melon, figs, hummus, a refreshing cucumber salad, a tangy apple-walnut-feta

salad, pistachios and more. It was an abundant spread, full of color and flavor.

Nearly everything was intentionally served at room temperature. Two types of flatbread were presented: wheat bread, eaten by the wealthy, and barley bread, a staple of lower-class families. The barley bread was especially remarkable!

As our plates filled with biblical foods, the next key element of the At Table experience began. Ken and Lisa guided us in sharing personal stories of how God had worked in our lives. As the conversation progressed, we laughed, teared up and exchanged meaningful stories.

As dinner wound down and conversations shifted to smaller groups, four hours later, we reluctantly said goodnight. We were satisfied, not only

in body, but also in spirit, after such meaningful time spent At Table and in community.

The beauty of this ministry isn't in the menu—it's in how any meal, simple or elaborate, can become an entry point to rich, heartfelt conversation. At the heart of the table, we find opportunities to deepen relationships and share God's faithfulness. Perhaps, as you gather around your own table, you'll discover that a simple meal becomes a sacred moment.

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

North Pacific Union communication director and Gleaner editor

TABLE TALK PROMPT

How might you create a space at your table for meaningful conversations about God's faithfulness? What's a story of God's grace that you would share with others around your table?

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

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



Ken and Lisa Krenzler use their culinary skills and research on biblical foods to invite people to the table for an enriching evening of conversation and community building.

gleaner

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MAY/JUNE 2025



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YOUNG ADULT SPEAKER

Almons Sebirokwa, Sr.
Theology Student, Walla Walla University

YOUTH SPEAKER

Pastor Darnisha Thomas
Associate Pastor, Southview SDA Church
Minneapolis, MN

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Dr. Jesse Wilson
PELC President Oakwood University and
Professor

Pedrito Maynard-Reid
Professor of Biblical Studies & Missiology

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Friday 7:00 PM & Sabbath 10:00 AM

YOUTH SOCIAL AND GAMES

Saturday 8:30 PM

CONCERT

Sabbath 6:00 PM

The background of the entire page is a collage of various images. It includes a city street scene with people, a landscape with a body of water and trees, a church building, and a group of people in prayer. The colors are muted, with a lot of greens, blues, and oranges.

gleaner

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

nwadventists.com

Come, Holy Spirit

Pentecost 2025 is a movement inviting Seventh-day Adventists in North America to collectively hold 3,000 or more proclamation events throughout the year 2025.

The response has been overwhelming — with over 5,200 churches and schools registered to participate! The Holy Spirit is moving powerfully, and lives are already being transformed as people of all ages respond to God's call.

Will you join us in prayer and active participation in Pentecost 2025? Prayer must be the hallmark of every Pentecost 2025 activity. There will only be success where the Holy Spirit is present and working in the lives of all involved.

pentecost2025.com

PENTECOS
2025

A large, white, stylized cross graphic is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the 'PENTECOS 2025' text and extending towards the bottom right corner.