

PERSPECTIVE
No Need to Fear

JUST FOR KIDS
God Loves to Celebrate

TABLE TALK
What a Fellowship

gleaner



A LIVING LEGACY

ROOTED AND REACHING THROUGH 50 YEARS
OF REGIONAL MINISTRIES CONVOCATION

1976

SEPT/OCT
2026
VOL. 121, N°5

A close-up photograph of an owl with striking yellow eyes, perched amidst tall, dry grass and green foliage. The owl is looking directly at the camera, and its feathers are detailed with brown and white patterns. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of warm colors, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

IMAGES of CREATION

*Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your
waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place.*

Ephesians 6:14

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TO UNDERSTAND what transformative community looks like — and how it can change the world — we must look back 2,000 years to a simple, radical reality built on food, fellowship and persistent prayer.

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FOR 50 YEARS, NORTH PACIFIC UNION

Regional Ministries Convocation has strengthened believers, united churches and inspired generations. This year's "Rooted and Reaching" celebration honors that enduring legacy while extending an invitation to each of us. Whether we gather at a regional convocation, camp meeting or local church, we are beneficiaries of someone else's faithfulness — and caretakers of a legacy that will continue to grow through the lives we touch.

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No Need to Fear

JESUS WALKED CLOSELY with people, sharing in the joys, sorrows and ordinary moments of life, reminding early believers and us today that there is no need to fear.

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THE SACRED REVOLUTION

**IN OUR HYPER-CONNECTED
YET DEEPLY LONELY
MODERN WORLD, WE
CONSTANTLY SEARCH FOR
THE SECRET TO BUILDING
GENUINE COMMUNITY.**

ERNESTO HERNANDEZ



EUGENE LEWIS
*North Pacific Union vice
president for regional ministries*

We build apps and curate trendy spaces, yet often find ourselves staring at screens in crowded rooms.

To understand what transformative community looks like – and how it can change the world – we must look back 2,000 years to a simple, radical reality built on food, fellowship and persistent prayer.

In the book of Acts, the early Christian church was defined not by massive institutional structures, but by a beautiful daily rhythm of shared life. Acts 2:42 records that the believers “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

To understand the explosive growth of the early church, we must see that three elements – food, fellowship (koinonia) and prayer – were not separate, optional activities. They were three strands of a single cord that fueled a spiritual revolution.

THE TABLE AND THE THRONE: JOINING FOOD AND PRAYER

In the early church, eating and praying were seamlessly integrated. When they “broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts” (Acts 2:46), their tables became altars. They didn’t just pray a polite, rushed grace; their meals were framed by active gratitude and praise.

Prayer was the oxygen of their community – a constant conversation that sustained unity, aligned hearts and invited the Holy Spirit to transform ordinary spaces into holy ground.

THE GREAT EQUALIZER OF KOINONIA

The Greek word for fellowship, “koinonia,” implies a deep, mutual partnership and a shared life. In the highly stratified Greco-Roman world, dining was rigid and exclusionary – slaves, women and the poor were relegated to the margins.

The early church shattered these social hierarchies simply by eating together. At the Christian table, wealthy landowners shared bread with destitute widows, and masters sat next to slaves. When they bowed their heads, they did so as equals. By breaking bread and praying together, they declared that cultural dividing walls had been leveled by grace.



Prayer was the oxygen for the early church's community, sustaining their unity and reminding them that even ordinary tables could become holy ground.

SHAKING THE WORLD

When the church faced immediate pressure and persecution, this shared life kept them anchored. Threatened by authorities in Acts 4, the apostles didn't call a strategic board meeting; they returned to their community and prayed.

The text records that "after they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly" (Acts 4:31). Their fellowship offered safety, their food sustained them, but prayer gave them divine courage to face a hostile world.

THE MAGNETISM OF A SHARED LIFE

This table-centered, prayer-saturated lifestyle had an organic, magnetic result: They "enjoyed the favor of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

People were drawn to a community that loved each other at the dinner table and

interceded for each other on their knees. Perhaps the greatest lesson the early church offers us today is this: Our most powerful witness is not a polished program, but a warm kitchen and a prayerful heart.

When we open our homes, pull out extra chairs and lift our voices together, we invite a weary world to taste and see that the Lord is good. As one elderly church member humorously corrected her pastor after a sermon on divine goodness: "Pastor, chicken is good, but God is great." Our hospitality and fellowship are indeed good, but they ultimately exist to point toward something far greater.



EUGENE LEWIS
*North Pacific Union
vice president for
regional ministries*

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Gleaner STAFF

Editor: Heidi Baumgartner
Copy Editor: Sienna Hubin
Guest Copy Editor: Paula Wart
Multimedia Editor: José Segovia
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IMAGES OF CREATION, P. 2



"The Family's Protector: Burrowing Owl," in North Pasco, Washington, by Paul Pantorilla, of Pasco, Washington.





A LIVING LEGACY

ROOTED AND REACHING THROUGH 50 YEARS
OF REGIONAL MINISTRIES CONVOCATION

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me” (John 15:4).

1976

2026



In John 15, Jesus provides a description and illustration of a healthy tree. Unseen yet essential, the roots of a healthy tree quietly deepen over years, providing strength and visible growth. At the same time, the tree stretches toward the sky through branches that continue reaching outward, producing new life season after season.

As people from all generations gathered to celebrate the 50th North Pacific Union Regional Ministries Convocation, the theme, “Rooted and Reaching,” was more than words printed on a program. It came to life through the people who gathered at Warm Beach Camp and Conference Center in Washington — from first-time attendees beginning their own convocation story to those whose memories stretched back to the very first gathering 50 years ago.

Together, their voices reveal what makes convocation a living legacy.

From a child discovering the joy of Christian fellowship, to a pioneer reflecting on five decades of God’s faithfulness, to young adults embracing their calling to share Christ and cultivate friendships rooted in faith, each story offers a different perspective of the same enduring truth: A legacy is not sustained by looking backward alone but by faithfully passing forward what has first been received.

Like the branches of a healthy tree, each generation draws strength from the same roots while reaching further than those before them could have imagined. The stories that follow are more than personal accounts; they are glimpses of what happens when faith is nurtured across generations.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
AND HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

GROWING NEW MEMORIES

For Loren Larry, Sharon Church youth member, convocation was simply fun.

Participating with the youth, Larry spent the weekend forming new friendships, enjoying group worship and engaging in social activities. The energetic musical performances by Nicholas Miller and Zacardi Cortez left a lasting impression, while the evening swim quickly became his favorite.

When asked whether he would return, his answer came without hesitation: “Of course.”

That response is exactly what regional ministries is hoping to continue to cultivate in Generation Alpha — creating memories that will one day become traditions, nurturing friendships grounded in faith and introducing individuals to the joy of belonging to a broader spiritual family. Today’s experiences become tomorrow’s stories, ensuring that the legacy is deeply rooted and continues to grow.

50 YEARS OF WATCHING GOD’S PEOPLE GROW

Having attended the very first NPUC Regional Ministries Convocation at Sunset Lake 50 years ago, Japhena Hall, Sharon Church member, is one of the few eyewitnesses to the growth and development of the event over the years.

“I’ve always looked forward to it,” she reflected, “to be spiritually uplifted and to see friends

I haven’t seen for long periods of time.”

Today, Hall has the pleasure of attending convocation with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren — four generations deeply rooted and continuing to grow.

When asked what this year’s theme meant to her, Hall shared, “Rooted means that you are planted deep, and a deeply rooted plant grows abundantly.”

For Hall, “reaching” isn’t simply about numbers; it’s about lives impacted. Over the last five decades, she has watched God work, drawing people together, building relationships, strengthening faith and extending the ministry’s influence from one generation to the next.

Reflecting on the early years, she recalled the leadership of Elder Ed White, the first NPUC regional ministries director; seeing Elder William and Sister Florence Penick, Sharon Church members, paddling a canoe across the lake; weekends spent in the cabins at Sunset Lake; and Friday evening worship services.

Vibrant music, she explained, has always been one of convocation’s defining characteristics. Long before nationally recognized artists became part of the weekend, local church choirs and musicians filled Sabbath afternoon concerts with songs of praise.

Among those she remembers most fondly is Joyce Matthews, Maranatha Church member, whose voice has blessed convocation audiences since she was a young singer.

Alongside Betty Blakeney, Mount Tahoma Church member, Hall would later become part of that musical heritage, helping lead Friday evening worship during the early convocations. Her lifetime of service reflects the countless volunteers whose quiet faithfulness has sustained NPUC Regional Ministries Convocation through five decades.

CARRYING CONVOCAION BEYOND THE WEEKEND

At 24 years old, Robert Schlatter, Sharon Church young adult, represents another branch growing from those same deep roots.

For him, convocation became a place of renewal.

“This weekend has been a place to find peace, joy and prayer,” he shared. “I found some of that here, and I’m praying I’m able to take it with me.”

Beyond the worship services, Schlatter spoke enthusiastically about meeting other young adults who were sincere in their faith. He hopes others his age will experience convocation for themselves, describing it as a place where meaningful friendships can be formed and spiritual lives strengthened.

For Schlatter, the



weekend also clarified his own responsibility to share Christ with others.

“Reaching,” he explained, “means using whatever God has placed in your hands — whether everyday conversations, personal relationships or even social media — to share the love of Christ.” Echoing the Great Commission, he believes every believer has a role in inviting others into a relationship with Jesus through both words and example.

Finding renewal in the quiet places scattered throughout the Warm Beach campus, he described convocation as a place where God restores weary souls beside still waters before sending them back into everyday life.

For Schlatter, convocation was never meant to end on Sunday afternoon. Its purpose is fulfilled when those who have been refreshed return home ready to extend God’s love into their churches, neighborhoods, workplaces and communities.

COMING FULL CIRCLE

Shawn Sharper, with roots at Emerald City Community Church, has been a part of convocation for as long as he can remember and returned home to visit from South Carolina. His earliest memories center on reconnecting with friends from churches across the Pacific Northwest.

As those friendships continued into adulthood, they began organizing annual reunions of their own — gathering for worship, fellowship and time together. While the friendships endured, Sharper realized the spiritual purpose that first brought them together had gradually taken a back seat.

As plans began for another reunion during the 50th convocation, Sharper suggested something different. Rather than gathering somewhere else after worship, why not let convocation itself become the reunion?

The change in setting changed the experience.

Those who came found themselves drawn into meaningful conversations about faith, scripture and God’s work in their lives. One friend who attended convocation for the first time left deeply encouraged; another responded during the appeal made in the church service, reminding Sharper that God is still writing new chapters.

Even the evening basketball tournament reflected how both time and faith had reshaped their priorities. Rather than competing, Sharper and his friends found joy in serving as organizers and referees, investing in the next generation instead.

Looking back, Sharper realized convocation had become far more than an annual reunion. It had become a place where lifelong friendships continued to grow deeper in Christ.





A LIVING LEGACY

Together, these voices remind us why NPUC Regional Ministries Convocation remains a living legacy, revealing the beauty of this year's theme without ever needing to define it. It's seen in a child discovering the joy of convocation's fellowship, a pioneer watching generations follow behind her, a young adult embracing his calling to reach others and lifelong friends discovering that the deepest relationships are those centered on Christ.

Fifty years ago, devoted men and women established what would become NPUC Regional Ministries Convocation — a gathering designed to strengthen believers, unite churches and inspire generations to come. Today, that vision continues to flourish, reminding us that we are both the beneficiaries of someone else's faithfulness and the caretakers of a legacy that will one day belong to those who follow us.

That is what "Rooted and Reaching" has always meant.

Whether at NPUC Regional Ministries Convocation, a local or district convocation, camp meetings or another gathering of God's

people, the invitation remains the same. To be rooted is to remember the faith that has sustained us. To keep reaching is to ensure that what has been entrusted to us continues to grow through the lives we touch.

These gatherings become more than events on a calendar. They are places where faith is shared, relationships are strengthened and one generation entrusts to the next the hope, wisdom and love found in Christ.

When lives remain connected to Christ, roots grow deeper. Branches reach farther. Lives bear fruit. Generation after generation discovers that the greatest legacy we leave is not simply what we build, but also what we faithfully pass on.

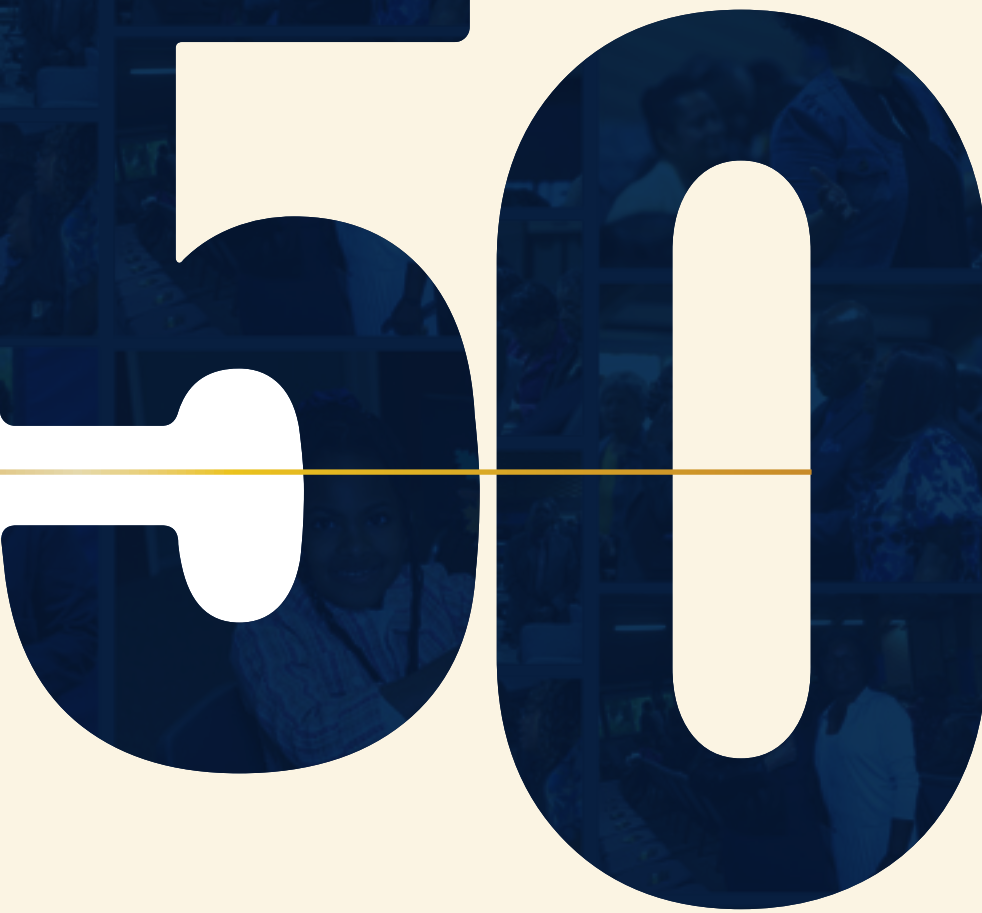
THAT IS A LIVING LEGACY.



LONIKA WAGNER
*North Pacific Union regional
ministries communication volunteer*

More online at
[NWADVENT.ST/121-5-FT-56](https://nwadvent.st/121-5-FT-56)





A PERSONAL REFLECTION: 50 YEARS OF ROOTED AND REACHING

My wife, Tamala, attended the very first North Pacific Union Regional Ministries Convocation in the spring of 1976 as a high school senior. Returning for this year's 50th anniversary celebration made the experience especially meaningful for both of us.

That first convocation, led by Elder Ed White, the first NPUC regional ministries director, brought members from just three churches to Sunset Lake Camp in Washington. Today, NPUC regional ministries encompasses 12 churches across the Pacific Northwest serving more than 3,300 members. What God hath wrought!

The theme, "Rooted and Reaching," reflected a legacy that has continued to grow through faithful leadership and generations committed to Christ's mission.

As part of the anniversary celebration, we acknowledged the faithful leadership of Ed White, E. Wayne Shepperd, Roscoe Howard, Alphonso McCarthy, Byron Dulan and our current leader, Eugene Lewis, whose collective service has helped regional ministries flourish.

Throughout the weekend, Corey Johnson, keynote speaker, reminded attendees that miracles still happen, encouraging us to recognize God's power at work today while remembering His faithfulness throughout history. One thought stayed with me:

"Some of us are so concerned with 'next' that we cannot appreciate 'now.'"

Throughout the weekend, worship music and messages reminded us of God's faithfulness and His abiding presence in every season of life. As we left convocation, I found myself reflecting on an evangelism chorus that has stayed with me for decades:

"Lord, lay some soul upon my heart, and love that soul through me. And may I humbly do my part, to win that soul for Thee."

As we remain rooted in Christ and keep reaching others with His love, may we continue the work He has entrusted to us until the day He returns.



KARL NEWSOME
Sharon Church member

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-FT-57



CARING HEART



Fifteen Pacific Northwest academy students received a \$1,000 Caring Heart Award scholarship, funded by the North Pacific Union Conference Office of Education.

Students were selected by their schools for exemplifying the spirit of the Caring Heart — a willingness to serve others. Each student is gifted with a wooden award plaque and an imprinted Bible, courtesy of North American Division. The scholarship funds may be used toward tuition at an Adventist school or on a school- or conference-led short-term mission trip. The profiles here reflect class standings from the 2025-2026 school year.

AWARDS 2026



SARAH JANE HOEHN

Auburn Adventist Academy

Sarah Jane Hoehn, AAA junior, exemplifies the compassion, leadership and Christ-centered character that define the Caring Heart Award. An outstanding student and natural leader, Sarah Jane demonstrates both academic excellence and a deep commitment to serving others.

In the classroom, she is thoughtful, engaged and intellectually curious, often leading peers in meaningful discussion and collaborative study. Her teachers consistently note her dependability, discipline and desire to perform at the highest level.

Beyond academics, Sarah Jane's faith is evident through her joyful service in church ministries, praise teams, Sabbath School and community outreach. As an associated student body officer, she brings enthusiasm, encouragement and genuine care to her classmates, working to make every student feel valued and included.

Sarah Jane's kindness, humility and servant leadership reflect the love of Christ in action. AAA proudly nominated her for the Caring Heart Award.



CHRISTINA FRANKLIN

Cascade Christian Academy

Christina Franklin, CCA junior, exemplifies the spirit of the Caring Heart Award. She consistently volunteers – offering her home for class vespers, speaking for worship and helping plan class and student association events – without being asked, and she follows through with excellence.

As class chaplain, she organizes meaningful vespers with games, music and fellowship, and she has shared sermons and her testimony at local churches. She has participated in two CCA mission trips to Belize and spent part of her summers at Young Disciple Camp. Christina is pursuing her Pathfinder Master Guide while mentoring younger Pathfinders.

She cares deeply for her classmates, planning events that bring them closer together and closer to Christ. Even when tasks stretch her comfort zone, she steps forward willingly. Kind, respectful and joyful, Christina was chosen for her genuine care and faithful service.



FAITH GALE

Columbia Adventist Academy

If you're looking for a CAA student who expresses love and care for their fellow students, you haven't narrowed the field much for a Caring Heart Award nominee. If you look for one who talks about their amazing family and deep love for God, you've narrowed it marginally.

If you know they value being a leader and have accepted an invitation to speak publicly about their Christian walk, then you've decreased the number of choices. If you find out the student is so committed to Jesus that they've followed Him in baptism, you've made great strides in determining who CAA's choice is.

If you were sitting with this person when suddenly they said, "That student is eating lunch all alone. I'm going to talk with them," then you'd know CAA's choice for the Caring Heart Award is Faith Gale, CAA senior. She is an unashamed disciple of Jesus, and we are proud to recognize her for this honor.



MELEAH BRYSON

Gem State Adventist Academy

Meleah Bryson, GSAA junior who emanates kindness and an appreciation for life, is this year's recipient of the Caring Heart Award. One teacher commented, "When Meleah smiles, it's straight from her heart."

On campus, Meleah is very involved, participating in multiple music groups and with her class. She helps with Jam and Bread vespers and has been involved in helping with the annual Idaho Youth Conference. She has written personal notes to everyone on campus.

Meleah's experiences working at Camp Ida-Haven increased her confidence in God and in herself. Additionally, her own family is very important to her. Her words and her actions show much love and compassion for them.

Meleah's positive attitude and care for others are evident to all. She is a shining example of someone making God first in her life.



HANNAH GABRIEL

Livingstone Adventist Academy

Hannah Gabriel, LAA junior, has been a part of East Salem Church and the LAA community since she was 8 years old. Hannah has been an active participant in Pathfinders and is now rising through Teen Leadership Training.

Hannah is part of the East Salem Church choir and sings with different praise groups, as well as plays violin and piano. She is a leader for the LAA music ministries group. Hannah has also been a leader in athletics.

Hannah is an extremely ambitious and intelligent young woman who constantly seeks to do her best in all areas. Through challenges, she strives to keep a positive mindset.

Hannah embodies that one of the best ways to have a caring heart is to share happiness and joy with everyone you come into contact with. This is the kind of person Hannah is and why she is a deserving recipient of the Caring Heart Award.



JESSE READ

Milo Adventist Academy

Jesse Read, MAA junior, is the recipient of this year's Caring Heart Award for the genuine compassion and selflessness he demonstrates every day. Known across campus for treating everyone with dignity and respect, Jesse consistently stands up for others and makes people feel valued. He is a friend to all – especially those who may feel overlooked – and is intentional about including everyone.

Jesse has served as a class officer for the past two years, going above and beyond in his service to the Class of 2027. He also contributes through teaching LEGO robotics, assisting with boys' soccer, leading small group Sabbath School and serving on the school's church media team.

Jesse hopes to pursue welding and become a heavy equipment diesel mechanic. He is the son of Josh and Sarah Read of Omak, Washington, and is truly a blessing to the MAA community.



HANNAH BALATGEK
Mount Ellis Academy

Hannah Balatgek, MEA senior, is like a sunny day. She faithfully uplifts those around her with a smile and kind comment, always striving to make sure those around her feel welcome to chat.

As a MEA senior, Hannah takes her role seriously as a school tone-setter for the younger students; she goes out of her way to befriend new students and invites anyone who is sitting alone to her lunch table. Each month, Hannah and her fellow Dynamics and Bellissimo students visit different churches across Montana to lead out in their worship services. During the summer she works as a camp counselor.

MEA's staff agrees that Hannah is an excellent example on our campus and it's bittersweet to watch her graduate. Hannah is interested in continuing her music performance career. We wish her well!



CJ NUNEZ
Orcas Christian School

Born in Anacortes, Washington, and raised on Orcas Island, CJ Nunez, OCS junior, has grown into a young man whose faith quietly shapes everything he does at OCS. His relationship with Christ is not just something he talks about, but also something he lives out daily through kindness, responsibility and service.

On campus, CJ is known as a steady leader who encourages others and sets a positive example for his peers. He has a genuine heart for mission work and has been a strong source of support for fellow students preparing for mission trips.

During his time at OCS, he has participated in three mission trips to eastern Oregon, Belize and Hawaii. Through these experiences, his faith has deepened and his desire to serve others has grown, leaving a lasting impact on both his school and the communities he has served.



DANNIKA AUDUONG
Portland Adventist Academy

Dannika AuDuong, PAA senior, is this year's Caring Heart Award winner. Intentional in her interactions, she listens first and truly notices people. Dannika brings a bubbly spirit and genuine joy that help others feel welcome and included. She builds community with thoughtful words and humor that lifts people up. Generous and attentive, she consistently seeks ways to serve.

A dreamer with a steady commitment to personal growth, Dannika speaks up for others and values inclusive spaces where everyone belongs. She participates fully in ministry through campus ministries leadership, local church involvement and PAA mission trips.

Dannika plans, leads, performs for and faithfully attends spiritual events, showing reliability and heart. In music, athletics and service, she models kindness, consideration and joy. Those who know her describe someone who notices needs, responds with care and inspires others to grow together in community.



VANESSA ZARABIA

Puget Sound Adventist Academy

Vanessa Zarabia, PSAA senior, is a kind and sensitive person. She senses when others are having a difficult day and will connect with them. Sometimes it is a simple hello and warm smile. At other times, she'll ask questions to see if she can help in any way.

Around campus, she often smiles and laughs with others. Vanessa enjoys people and learning their stories. Whether it's a few people or a larger gathering, she often brings enthusiasm and energy to the room.

Vanessa has a sincere desire to grow in her faith and asks good questions about the Bible, seeking to deepen her understanding and conviction. Her peers see her as one with a personal faith. As her last year at PSAA ends, she is considering the possibility of a career in nursing.



CASSIDY SHARP

Rogue Valley Adventist Academy

Cassidy Sharp, RVAA senior, has been a wonderful addition to our campus. She loves to help out in all age groups and has been a tutor to several students in our elementary grades.

She has enthusiastically participated in each mission trip – first to North Carolina after devastating hurricanes tore through that region, followed by her time in the Dominican Republic. Each trip has made a lasting impression on her outlook and has been a guiding light for her future plans.

Cassidy hasn't quite landed on the school she plans to attend, but she is confident in the plans God has in store for her.



LUIS CRUZ

Skagit Adventist Academy

Luis Cruz, SAA junior, is a bright and steady presence on the SAA campus. He is a young man whose leadership is felt not only in his words, but also in the kindness and sincerity he brings to every interaction.

Luis carries a genuine love for Jesus and the gospel, and he shares that love with a beautiful openness. Whether he is preaching in local churches, helping lead spiritual life activities on campus or offering encouragement to a classmate, Luis consistently looks for ways to let God's light shine through him.

He has been a meaningful part of student-led Weeks of Worship and the Belize mission trip. The SAA school community is truly better because Luis is part of it.

SAA staff deeply appreciates Luis and the many ways he enriches our student body. We are grateful to have one more year to watch him grow, lead and share his spiritual gifts before he graduates.



ABDIEL CASTRO RODRIGUEZ

Tualatin Valley Academy

Abdiel Castro Rodriguez, TVA junior, is a student who leads with humility, service and a genuine desire to help others. This year, he demonstrated initiative and leadership by partnering with another student to plan and organize a Bible study for students at our school, creating a space for encouragement and spiritual growth among his peers.

He is dependable and always ready to step in when help is needed. At school and at his church, he faithfully serves as a sound technician, using his skills behind the scenes to support others. His willingness to serve is evident in both big and small ways. When our school playground needed a team to help remove equipment, he immediately stepped forward without hesitation.

Through his humble character, steady work ethic and servant-hearted leadership, Abdiel sets a strong example for our school community.



JACOB VANDENBURGH

Upper Columbia Academy

Jacob VanDenburgh, UCA senior, decided to trade the sunny beaches of Hawaii for the wheat fields of Spangle, Washington. Since his arrival junior year, UCA has felt the Holy Spirit work through his passionate, vibrant personality.

Jacob's bold love for Jesus shines through his service to others. He has served his peers as a resident assistant in the dorm and associated student body spiritual vice president and has been heavily involved in music and worship leadership.

Staff and students alike have been blessed by his attention to relationships, especially when he prays with others, no matter their class standing or age. Jacob's impact on our campus will leave a ripple effect of love, compassion and thrill for Jesus for years to come. Jacob plans to attend Pacific Union College.



EMMA OLTMAN

Walla Walla Valley Academy

Emma Oltman, WWVA senior, is known for her heart of service and steady leadership. She takes every opportunity to check in on fellow students, both on and off campus, consistently demonstrating genuine care for those around her.

Emma serves quietly and faithfully – not for recognition, but from a sincere desire to help others feel accepted and valued. She has generously given her time, energy, resources and emotional support to ensure the people in her community feel seen and appreciated.

As senior class president and an associated student body officer, Emma leads with humility and purpose. She is also actively involved across campus as a baritone player in the band and a member of the varsity volleyball team. Through every role she holds, Emma exemplifies compassion, commitment and a deep dedication to uplifting others.



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-NPUC-12

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- Anchorage Junior Academy
- Golden Heart Christian School
- Sitka Adventist School

Idaho Conference

- Gem State Adventist Academy
- Baker Adventist Christian School
- Boise Valley Adventist School
- Caldwell Adventist Elementary School
- Desert View Christian School
- Eagle Adventist Christian School (preschool only)
- Enterprise SDA Christian School
- Hilltop Adventist School
- La Grande Adventist Christian School
- Salmon Seventh-day Adventist School
- Treasure Valley Seventh-day Adventist School

Montana Conference

- Mount Ellis Academy
- Blodgett View Christian School
- Five Falls Christian School
- Glacier View School
- Libby Adventist Christian School
- Mount Ellis Elementary
- Mountain View Christian School
- Teton Adventist Christian School
- Trout Creek Adventist School
- Valley Adventist Christian School

Oregon Conference

- Columbia Adventist Academy
- Livingstone Adventist Academy
- Milo Adventist Academy
- Portland Adventist Academy

- Rogue Valley Adventist Academy
- Tualatin Valley Academy
- Canyonville Adventist Elementary School
- Central Valley Christian School
- Chetco Adventist Christian School
- Emerald Christian Academy
- Grants Pass Adventist School
- Hood View Adventist School
- Journey Christian School
- Klamath Falls Adventist Christian School
- Lincoln City Christian School
- Madras Christian School
- Madrone Adventist School
- McMinnville Adventist Christian School
- Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School
- Mid Columbia Christian School
- Portland Adventist Elementary School
- Rivergate Adventist Elementary School
- Riverside Christian School
- Roseburg Christian Academy
- Shady Point Adventist School
- Three Sisters Adventist Christian School
- Tillamook Adventist School

Upper Columbia Conference

- Cascade Christian Academy
- Upper Columbia Academy
- Walla Walla Valley Adventist Schools
- Beacon Christian School
- Colville Valley Junior Academy
- Cornerstone Christian School
- Crestview Christian School
- Goldendale Adventist School
- Hermiston Adventist School
- Lake City Academy
- Milton-Stateline Adventist School
- Omak Adventist Christian School
- Orofino Adventist Christian School

- Palisades Christian Academy
- Palouse Hills Christian School
- Pend Oreille Valley Adventist School
- Pendleton Christian School
- Sandpoint Junior Academy
- Spokane Valley Adventist School
- Tri-City Adventist School
- Upper Columbia Academy Elementary School
- Yakima Adventist Christian School

Washington Conference

- Auburn Adventist Academy
- Orcas Christian School
- Puget Sound Adventist Academy
- Skagit Adventist Academy
- Baker View Christian School
- Buena Vista Seventh-day Adventist School
- Cypress Adventist School
- Deeply Rooted Outdoor School
- Enumclaw Adventist Christian School
- Forest Park Adventist Christian School
- Grays Harbor Adventist Christian School
- Kirkland Seventh-day Adventist School
- Kitsap Adventist Christian School
- Lewis County Adventist School
- Northwest Christian School
- Olympia Christian School
- Peninsula Adventist Elementary School
- Poulsbo Adventist School
- Shelton Valley Christian School
- Sky Valley Adventist School
- Whidbey Christian Elementary School

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

Trust Services Leaders Sharpen Ministry Skills

**HELPING FAMILIES NAVIGATE ONE OF LIFE'S MOST DIFFICULT SEASONS
REQUIRES MORE THAN COMPASSION; IT REQUIRES EXPERTISE.**

That's why Planned Giving and Trust Services professionals from across North America gathered May 18–21 in Henderson, Nevada, for the annual Planned Giving and Trust Services Convention.

Hosted each year by either North American Division or a union, the convention provides continuing education and allows Trust Services officers to earn 16 hours of continuing education required for certification.

Because tax laws, financial strategies and estate planning tools and resources continually change, Trust Services professionals must stay current.

This year, North Pacific Union and Pacific Union jointly hosted the event.

"I really tried to put together speakers who are very unique, very talented and very good at what they do," said Jim Brown, who serves both unions as Planned Giving and Trust Services director.

The convention featured nationally recognized speakers who shared practical insights on a variety of estate planning topics: Shari Fox, a charitable giving

expert, and Joe Bull, American Council on Gift Annuities president and attorney.

Participants also took part in interactive sessions, including "Gifts, Money and Taxes: The Game Show," which turned technical estate planning concepts into practical, engaging learning experiences.

While grieving a loved one, organizing financial affairs is the last thing a family wants to do. Planned Giving and Trust Services, a ministry of the Adventist Church, helps families prepare estate plans, wills and trusts so those decisions have already been made before they're needed.

Its mission is stewardship of the family, ensuring that finances and final wishes are organized in advance. Through estate planning, education and personal guidance, the ministry seeks to provide trust, clarity and peace of mind during life's most difficult seasons.

Trust Services professionals recognize that their work helps ease unnecessary stress during times of grief, providing insight and relief for families by helping

untangle the red tape that accompanies estate planning and ever-changing tax laws.

"What we do is take care of people until we bury them. So how do you relate to the surviving family members? How do you minister to them?" Brown said. "It's not all about the money; it's about the relationships. We're the only organization in the church that brings in millions of dollars to the function of the church besides just tithes and offerings, and I need people to be aware that it's not just about money. It's about taking care of families."

At its heart, Planned Giving and Trust Services seeks to help families prepare ahead of time so that, when loss comes, they can focus less on financial burdens and more on caring for one another.

As Brown put it, "We're here as a trusted helpmate."



NICOLE DOMINGUEZ
Freelance writer

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/121-5-NPUC-08](https://nwadvent.st/121-5-NPUC-08) 

Planned Giving and Trust Services professionals gather during the annual convention, strengthening their expertise to better serve families through estate planning and financial stewardship.



Washington Hispanic Churches Unite in Mission

PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN WASHINGTON PRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE. HERE, FAITH ENCOUNTERS MATERIALISM, SECULARISM AND INDIVIDUALISM. WHILE WE MAY NOT HAVE LARGE HISPANIC POPULATIONS, WE DO HAVE A RICH CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY. EACH DOOR WE APPROACH REPRESENTS A DIFFERENT CULTURE. NONETHELESS, THE GOSPEL TRANSCENDS THESE BARRIERS, AND GOD OPENS HEARTS.

The Light Up Your Light With 100 Souls for Christ project was launched this year, thanks to the support of Washington Conference and North Pacific Union.

Hispanic ministries trained and organized churches into 120 small groups, each led by its own leader. Additionally, we appointed 24 district coordinators and five area coordinators. This structure fueled highly successful small group and pastoral evangelism campaigns. During the last week of May, guest evangelists led harvest campaigns, culminating in a grand baptismal ceremony on Saturday, May 30.

On that day, more than 300 members traveled from various parts of the state to participate. Despite highway closures and travel difficulties, the celebration proceeded. Each district arranged buses for the baptismal candidates and their supporters, who sang heartily throughout

the journey. Upon arrival, they walked nearly a mile to the beach, where a worship team welcomed them. Those ready for baptism approached the water filled with joy and reverence.

Onlookers were curious about who we were and marveled at what they witnessed. As evening fell, we celebrated 116 individuals entering the water to be baptized, surrendering their lives to Christ.

We were honored by the presence of NPUC and conference leaders and their spouses, including John Freedman, NPUC president; Doug Bing, Washington Conference president; and Peter Simpson, NPUC vice president for Hispanic ministries.

Light Up Your Light With 100 Souls for Christ was more than just a project; it was a testament to the Holy Spirit's power within a united church. In Washington, God continues to demonstrate that His

gospel knows no bounds and that it is possible to go beyond Pentecost. We remain committed to this work, trusting that the Lord will continue to open doors in this diverse and challenging territory.

WAGNER CILIO

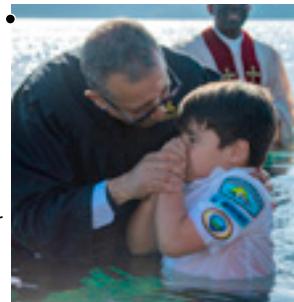
Washington Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator



More than 300 members from all over the state gather to celebrate the ceremony.

Más de 300 miembros de todo el estado se reúnen para celebrar la ceremonia.

José López, one of the evangelists, affirms a boy who has decided to give his life to Jesus. José López, uno de los evangelistas, afirma a un niño que ha decidido entregar su vida a Jesús.



PHOTOS BY HEIDI BAUMGARTNER AND JEHIEL BALABARCA-MARTINEZ



Iglesias Hispanas de Washington Se Unen en la Misión

PREDICAR EL EVANGELIO EN WASHINGTON ES UN GRAN DESAFÍO. ACÁ, LA FE ENFRENTA AL MATERIALISMO, AL SECULARISMO Y AL INDIVIDUALISMO. NO TENEMOS GRANDES CONCENTRACIONES HISPANAS, SINO UNA FUERTE DIVERSIDAD CULTURAL Y LINGÜÍSTICA. CADA PUERTA REPRESENTA UNA CULTURA. PERO EL EVANGELIO TRASCIENDE BARRERAS Y DIOS ABRE CORAZONES.

Este año nació el proyecto En100de Tu Luz Con 100 Almas Para Cristo, gracias al apoyo de la Conferencia de Washington y de la Unión del Pacífico Norte.

El ministerios Hispanos entrenó y organizó a las iglesias en 120 grupos pequeños, con sus respectivos líderes; 24 coordinadores distritales y cinco de área. Esta estructura impulsó campañas

de grupos pequeños y pastorales con mucho fruto. La última semana de Mayo, evangelistas invitados dirigieron campañas de cosecha, que culminaron en una gran ceremonia bautismal el sábado 30 de Mayo.

Ese día, más de 300 miembros viajaron desde distintos lugares del estado. A pesar de los cierres de autopistas y dificultades en el trayecto, la celebración no se detuvo. Cada distrito organizó autobuses para sus candidatos y acompañantes, quienes cantaban durante el trayecto. Al llegar, caminaban casi una milla hasta la playa, donde un grupo de alabanza recibía a los participantes, y los decididos al bautismo avanzaban en gozo y reverencia.

Los visitantes del lugar preguntaban quiénes éramos y admiraban lo que veían. Al caer la tarde, vimos a 116 personas entrar a las aguas, bautizarse y entregar su vida a Cristo.

Contamos con la presencia de nuestros líderes de NPUC y de conferencia

y sus esposas: John Freedman, presidente de NPUC; Doug Bing, presidente de la Conferencia de Washington y Peter Simpson, vicepresidente de NPUC.

En100de Tu Luz Con 100 Almas Para Cristo, más que un proyecto, fue la evidencia del poder del Espíritu Santo en una iglesia unida. En Washington, Dios sigue mostrando que su evangelio no tiene límites y que es posible ir más allá del Pentecostés. Seguimos comprometidos a continuar la obra, confiando en que el Señor seguirá abriendo puertas en este diverso y desafiante territorio.



WAGNER CILIO
Coordinador de
ministerios Hispanos
de la Conferencia de
Washington

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-HSP-16



Light Up Your Light With 100 Souls for Christ is a testament to the Holy Spirit's power within a united church.

En100de Tu Luz Con 100 Almas Para Cristo es un testimonio del poder del Espíritu Santo dentro de una iglesia unida.



- Yvan Balabarca, pastor, rejoices with a young adult woman who has given her life to Christ.
Yvan Balabarca, pastor, se alegra con una joven adulta que ha entregado su vida a Cristo.



Delta Junction Church Welcomes an Adventurer Club

FOR A LONG TIME, THE PEWS OF DELTA JUNCTION CHURCH WERE MOSTLY QUIET, WITH FEW CHILDREN FILLING THE SPACE. RECOGNIZING A DEEP NEED, THE CHURCH'S PRAYER WARRIORS BEGAN CONSISTENTLY UPLIFTING A SPECIFIC PRAYER: THAT GOD WOULD BLESS THE COMMUNITY AND SEND FAMILIES WITH YOUNG HEARTS TO NURTURE. GOD DIDN'T JUST ANSWER THAT PRAYER; HE ANSWERED IT ABUNDANTLY.

The church is thrilled to have officially organized its first Adventurer club, the Awesome Owls, in Delta Junction, Alaska. Jessica Brown and Elissa Kyle, Delta Junction Church members, have assumed responsibility for launching the new ministry in the small, remote community of about 1,200 people.

The effort brings a unique set of challenges, from navigating Interior Alaska's extreme environment and dark winter months to coordinating resources where none existed before. Yet, the club's 12 members, ages 4 to 9, show that no climate is too harsh for God's grace to thrive.

Perhaps most exciting of all, nearly half of the club members' families do not regularly attend church. This provides a unique opportunity to build relationships with local families and share the love of Jesus with children who might not otherwise have access to a Christ-centered program.

Club members describe a program centered on faith and friendship. Each session – filled with Bible stories, hands-on activities, creative crafts and lively games – is designed with a singular goal: to lead children to Jesus.

When asked, the club members' responses show the impact is already clear.

"I like to see my friends at Adventurers, and we learn about God there. We play games, and we have snacks," a 7-year-old boy said.

"I like to learn about Jesus and sing the songs," a 6-year-old girl said.

"I like making new friends, and we learn scripture," one of the club's youngest members said, referencing Deut. 7:9.

When Jesus walked the dusty roads of Judea, He openly rebuked those who tried to turn the little ones away, firmly encouraging His disciples to welcome children to Him for a blessing.

In Delta Junction, ministry leaders are honored to follow in those exact footsteps. They are incredibly grateful for the privilege of guiding, teaching and nurturing the precious young ones He has entrusted to their care. Please pray for continued blessings as the Awesome Owls adventure together in faith.



CAROL HAWLEY
Delta Junction
Church member

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-AK-42



Elissa Kyle (left), Jessica Brown (front) and Debbie Ueek (back) lead the Awesome Owls.



Jessica Brown leads Adventurers in a Bible-based craft.



Adventurers take a nature walk to earn their Friend of Animals, Flowers and Spotter awards.

Volunteers Prepare Camp Tukuskoya for Summer

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS SINCE ITS INCEPTION, MISSION POSSIBLE 2026 AT CAMP TUKUSKOYA ON FLAT LAKE NORTH OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, HOSTED A WORK BEE JUNE 24-29, WITH LOCAL AND OUT-OF-STATE VOLUNTEERS COMING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE CAMP.

Concentrating their energy on appropriate tasks, volunteers prepared the camp for another summer of adventures. Marc Guzik, Camp Tukuskoya board member, organized teams and assigned tasks. Dave Evans, Camp Tukuskoya manager, assisted with preparations.

After a 6:30 a.m. prayer session each morning with Martin Kim, from Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism, volunteers had breakfast prepared by Maryann Guzik and Susan Lowe, Anchorage Northside Church members, before heading to their assigned tasks.

Lumber had been delivered, and Tristan Radcliffe, Hillside O'Malley Church member, kept the boardwalk completion team supplied as needed. Another crew set their heads together and tackled the boathouse foundation. A separate squad used chain saws to open the view of the surrounding lake and removed fallen and dead trees from the path of the boardwalk. Other teams – adults and children included – hauled tree debris.

Fred and Susie Fox, California volunteers with Maranatha Volunteers International, and Kristine Bunnell, Hillside O'Malley Church member, tackled the Three Bears Room on the second story of the lodge. Upon completion, the room was in pristine condition and ready for use. Children dressed in garbage bags to protect their clothing shared in the task of painting.

Martin Kim, pastor,
leads a prayer session.

With days filled with work interspersed with prayer sessions and meals, everyone was ready for bedtime. The volunteers were seriously committed to the task, having contributed financially as individuals or family groups and spending time refurbishing Camp Tukuskoya.

Lest it appear that what took place was all work and no play, lake tours were enjoyed in the evenings, in addition to powerful prayer sessions while the children took turns swimming in the cold lake. Happy memories accompanied all participants on their way home.

Another Mission Possible was successfully completed this year, with both the volunteers and camp renewed and ready to glorify God through another summer of ministry.



GINY LONSER
*Anchorage Northside
Church member*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-AK-64



Volunteers spend a week participating in service projects around Camp Tukuskoya.



Aaron Whoehler (left), Fred (middle) and Suzie Fox (right) extend the boardwalk.



Garden Valley Church Shares Faith on the Fourth

PEGGY LUCHT, GARDEN VALLEY CHURCH PERSONAL MINISTRIES LEADER, SUGGESTED SETTING UP A BOOTH IN THEIR LITTLE MOUNTAIN TOWN OF CROUCH ON THE FOURTH OF JULY AND HANDING OUT LITERATURE. SHE KNEW THAT ON HOLIDAY WEEKENDS CROUCH IS GENERALLY TEEMING WITH TOURISTS. CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS ENTHUSIASTICALLY AGREED.

CHERI CASEY



Garden Valley Church hands out all 100 FREEdom bags in less than two hours.

CHERICASEY



Garden Valley Church members praise God for His blessings following the event.

SANDRA BLACKMER



Larry Blackmer, Garden Valley Church head elder, jump-starts the church's holiday weekend with a message titled "America in Prophecy."

"We're told that Jesus mingled with people, desiring their good, and that if we spent more time in personal ministry, we would see greater results," said Lemuel Niere, Garden Valley Church pastor, referencing Ellen G. White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 363. "We were doing something significant for our community through this outreach."

Lucht's plan, though, involved more than simply distributing literature. "We wanted people to be attracted to our booth," Lucht said.

Long hours of prayerful planning and preparation resulted in 100 FREEdom bags containing fun items such as a small American flag, a pen inscribed with the church name, a bottle of water and mints.

Most important, however, the bags also held a copy of the *America in Bible Prophecy* magazine by Amazing Facts International; Ellen G. White's book *Steps to Christ* with the revised title *Footsteps: A Closer Walk With Jesus*, also published by Amazing Facts; and a bookmark with a QR Code to either read *The Desire of Ages* online or listen to an audio version.

Also available at the booth were free copies of the special edition of *The Great Controversy* to mark the U.S.'s 250th year as a nation, published by Remnant Publications with the title *Lessons From History: The Great Controversy That Made Us Free*; as well as additional flags, cold bottles of water and Bible-focused stickers for children.

"Everything was free," explained Cheri Casey, Garden Valley Church secretary. "Some people wanted to give us a donation, but we said no. We just wanted to do something special for everyone."

Any doubts that people would be interested in the FREEdom bags soon vanished as all 100 bags – one per family – were gone in less than two hours. By the end of the afternoon, 40 copies of *The Great Controversy* were also in the hands of event attendees.

"The outreach to the community was very welcomed and appreciated by everyone who came to our booth. It was pure joy," said Mike Van Dyk, Garden Valley Church head deacon and long-time community resident.

Lucht recounted a special encounter with a woman who accepted a copy of *The Great Controversy* for her terminally ill husband. "She also requested a 'Jesus Loves Me' sticker to encourage him," Lucht said. "I believe it was a God-ordained connection."

"What a blessing to see the body of Christ working together to bring this outreach effort together," Lucht added. "We're praying for the seeds that have been planted."



SANDRA BLACKMER
Garden Valley Church
prayer ministries leader

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-ID-77

EDUCATION

CAES Celebrates Faithful Supporters

CALDWELL ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S SUCCESSSES ARE LARGELY DUE TO THE KINDNESS AND SERVICE OF SO MANY. THE MISSION OF THE SCHOOL IS FULFILLED NOT ONLY BY ITS TEACHERS AND STAFF, BUT ALSO BY ITS COMMUNITY OF GENEROUS DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS. THE SCHOOL'S GROWING STRENGTH LIES NOT ONLY WITHIN ITS CLASSROOMS, BUT ALSO IN THE SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY THAT STANDS BEHIND IT.

CAES greatly appreciates the numerous donors who give generously to maintain and enhance the campus. CAES is supported by individuals who have contributed to renovations such as creating a principal's office, replacing classroom flooring, relocating and updating the school library, and completing building maintenance repairs.

Some community members even anticipate needs and step forward to help, such as an individual who recognized the importance of providing staff lockers. Due to the extensive repairs needed for the aging building, CAES has also experienced tremendous generosity through contributions toward the new school building project.

The donations don't stop there. CAES is also the recipient of contributions that support its educational program. For example, we extend our sincere thanks to Dan Drouault, Covington Engineering president, for donating a new, state-of-the-art 3D printer, which will allow students to bring their ideas to life through engineering and hands-on learning.

Specific classroom needs are also met by donors who contribute to classroom funds or purchase wish list items such as supplies, games and other learning materials that enrich the learning experience.

Even with all of these financial gifts, CAES would not be able to fulfill its ministry without students. We are grateful for the supportive churches and individuals who provide financial



CAES workbee volunteers come together to care for the school campus.

assistance to families in need, including one donor who specifically supports single-parent families. These contributions help ensure that every child has the opportunity to benefit from our ministry, regardless of their financial circumstances.

As valuable as monetary contributions are, donations of time are equally important, and CAES is blessed with many dedicated volunteers. Board members support the school outside of meetings by volunteering at events.

Constituent pastors regularly serve by leading chapels, creating promotional videos and responding to various needs as they arise. Community members also roll up their sleeves and contribute at work bees, helping with projects such as weeding, painting, roof repairs, carpet installation and other facility

improvements. In addition, many parents and church members serve during the school day by reading with students, tutoring struggling readers and teaching or assisting with math.

Whether through time devoted as a volunteer or financial support given toward a specific need, the leadership of CAES is deeply grateful. We thank everyone who takes part in CAES's mission to educate children for this earth while preparing them for eternity. We are truly blessed!



LAVONNA WATERHOUSE
Caldwell Adventist
Elementary School
teaching principal

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-ID-83

MEA Church Nurtures College-Aged Young Adults

FIFTY YOUNG ADULTS EAGERLY OPENED GOODIE BOXES FROM MOUNT ELLIS ACADEMY CHURCH RECENTLY.

There are numerous young people, ages 18–22, who live in the greater Bozeman, Montana, area and have ties to MEA Church. Some are alumni, some attend or have attended the church, and all are busy focusing on their new adult lives.

As part of its Hands and Feet of Jesus program, MEA Church members and MEA current students reach out to nurture these young adults through regular goodie boxes.

When MEA Church developed the Hands and Feet of Jesus program, they focused on James 1:22, which reminds all to “be doers of the word, and not hearers only.” Though some projects are aimed at helping the community, it was clear that there was also a group closer to home that needed to be nurtured.

The goodie boxes were the brainchild of Leisel Rogers, MEA music teacher and longtime MEA Church member. She realized that church members give so much time and energy to the current MEA students, but once they graduate, they

leave the primary focal point of both the school and the church.

This group also includes young adults with ties to the church who may not be MEA alumni but may be in college, trade school, internships or their first jobs.

This is a group who are often under a lot of pressure to succeed – whether academically or in the job market – and may begin to feel separated from their early, more active church ties.

Rogers fervently wanted them to know their church family still cares about them, thinks about them and recognizes their challenges.

She formed the idea of filling shoeboxes with practical and fun items and delivering them to the church’s young adults. Members and academy students volunteer three times a year to compile the boxes, label them with recipient names and deliver them.

Seeing the surprised and delighted looks on the faces of some of the young

adults, as well as receiving an occasional note or text of gratitude, has made it clear to the church family that this young adult project is both needed and appreciated.

“This project lets our college-aged young people know that they are loved and have a church family who supports them,” noted Rogers. “How exciting it would be if every church in our conference and union chose to actively demonstrate their love? If you don’t have college-aged kids, how about high-schoolers? If you only have adults, what about your seniors? Just pick a group and commit!”



SHEILA ELWIN
Mount Ellis Academy
Church member

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-MT-71



The MEA library fills with church members and students eager to help pack boxes.



Fellow young adults help with reaching out to their peers.



A young man receives a goodie box from MEA Church.

CHURCH

Montanans Invited to 'Each One Reach One'

THE 64TH MONTANA CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY SESSION, HELD JULY 19 AT BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL, CONTINUED TO INVITE MONTANAN ADVENTISTS TO "EACH ONE REACH ONE."

As Jim Jenkins, Montana Conference president, prepared for his first session as president, he searched ministry archives and found good intentions, forgotten goals and delayed growth alongside many signs of faithful ministry.

As a native Montanan, pastor and now church administrator, this discovery affirmed for Jenkins a leadership vision he had adopted early in his presidency for "Each One Reach One."

"We've each been called to declare the testimony of Jesus," Jenkins said. "It's not enough to keep this to ourselves. We have a testimony to proclaim."

Jenkins invited the 240 delegates in attendance – and, through them, all 4,130 members – to share Jesus with at least one person.

He challenged the conference's 41 churches and companies to have at least one baptism per year.

"We are called to a mission for the day we're living in," he said. "It's a privilege for God to let us be part of what He is doing. We are here to live our lives in such a way that the world can see Jesus. In having Jesus' love in our lives, we have something better than what the rest of the world has."

SESSION ACTIONS

Alongside this vision, delegates reelected Jenkins as president/vice president for administration and Tissiana Bowerman as education superintendent. With Solomon Agdon leaving his finance

role, delegates authorized the board of directors to appoint his successor.

Delegates also approved updates to conference bylaws. They heard from James Stuart, Mount Ellis Academy's new principal, and welcomed Thompson Falls Church, a recent church plant, into the conference family.

LIVING THE VISION

During the camp meeting weekend preceding the session, Alex Bryan, Walla Walla University president, spoke about the wonder and work of "being human."

"When we understand that we are all created in the image of God, it changes how we treat and interact with one another," Bryan said. "We are the precious sons and daughters of God. We can use the impact of the voice God gave us to lift people up."

During adult Sabbath School, Jenkins and Bowerman modeled a discussion-based small-group Bible study.

After prayer and reading a scripture passage, participants considered four questions: What word or phrase stands out? What emotion is present? What is God saying to me today? Who can I share Jesus with this week?

"Find ways in your daily life to give people opportunities to see Jesus," Bowerman said. "Our identity is seen by our everyday actions. We are called to live an active discipleship daily. Disciples make more disciples by surrendering to Jesus."

Explore an online story gallery for constituency session highlights!



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union
communication director
and Gleaner editor

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-MT-19

Jim Jenkins, newly reelected Montana Conference president and vice president for administration, shares an invitation for each Montana Adventist to "Each One Reach One" as part of an evangelism outreach vision.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

PAA Integrates Prayer Into Everyday Life

PRAYER IS WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF LIFE AT PORTLAND ADVENTIST ACADEMY.

Every class period begins with prayer. Students lead out in prayer regularly. They even created a prayer locker where anyone can drop a request, knowing their peers will bring them before God each week. At PAA, prayer is a foundation.

This spring, that foundation showed up. PAA's boys volleyball team made history, winning the first-ever OSAA-sanctioned Boys Volleyball State Championship. The victory was thrilling. However, the most memorable moment came after the game ended.

Players walked across that gym floor, put their arms around their opponents and prayed with them – state champions still

catching their breath, choosing humility and grace before they chose celebration. Winning is remarkable, but honoring others in the moment of victory reflects something deeper.

Then came graduation weekend. After commencement, PAA seniors walked to the north lawn to celebrate. Before the hugs and the photos, they stopped, pulled into a tight circle and sang "Sanctuary" together. Then they asked Stephen Lundquist, PAA Bible teacher, to pray over them, blessing them as they stepped into whatever God has next.

Nobody told them to do that. They just knew. That is what prayer looks like when it becomes part of who you are rather

than something you were told to do. It shows up on a championship gym floor and a graduation lawn.

MECHELLE PEINADO

Portland Adventist Academy principal



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-OR-90

PAA is developing people who pray.



Adventurers Explore the Beauty of Sabbath at Camporee

OREGON CONFERENCE ADVENTURER CAMPOREE SHOWED YOUTH HOW SABBATH CAN BE FUN, INSPIRING AND SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

"We never want kids to feel like Sabbath is a drag," shared Jackee Duvall, Oregon Conference club ministries executive coordinator. "We focused on all the fun things they could do on Sabbath."

Two hundred Adventurers were joined by 450 family members, directors and staff at Gladstone Park in early June.

Billy Hungate, Hood View Church pastor, shared Sabbath messages. Adventurers received a "Sabbath Box" and visited stations featuring ideas for Sabbath activities, receiving or creating an item at each station to put in their box.

On Sunday, Adventurers enjoyed the Oregon Conference Cave Trailer, bouncy houses, scooters and sidewalk chalk art.

"We also had 10 Pathfinder Teen Leadership Trainees who volunteered all weekend to run stations and help. That was huge!" said Duvall, extending a special thanks to the Fort Vancouver Pathfinder Club and their mentor, Laura Graham.

To top it all off, Adventurers headed home from the weekend with a meaningful memento to remember the weekend: their brand-new Delightful Sabbath Award.



OREGON CONFERENCE ADVENTURERS

Weekend activities range from bouncy houses to crafts and bubbles.



KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference communication director

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-OR-68

Creators Lab Brings Collaborative Imaginations Together

“IT’S NOT EVERY DAY THAT I’M IN A ROOM FULL OF CREATIVE MINDS OUTSIDE OF MY OWN FAMILY,” SAID TAPO TSIKIRAI, FIRST-TIME CREATORS LAB ATTENDEE. “I DIDN’T REALIZE HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE WERE OUT THERE WHO HAD SIMILAR INTERESTS TO MINE. THERE WAS SO MUCH INTENTIONALITY!” TSIKIRAI WAS ONE OF MANY PEOPLE EXPERIENCING FIRSTS AT CREATORS LAB THIS YEAR — BOTH AS AN ATTENDEE AND AS A LAB PRESENTER.

“It reminded me that even in religious settings we should be more intentional about what we do,” she said. “Creators Lab challenged me to grow and to surround myself with people who want to be better creators, too. I learned so much from hearing other people’s experiences!”

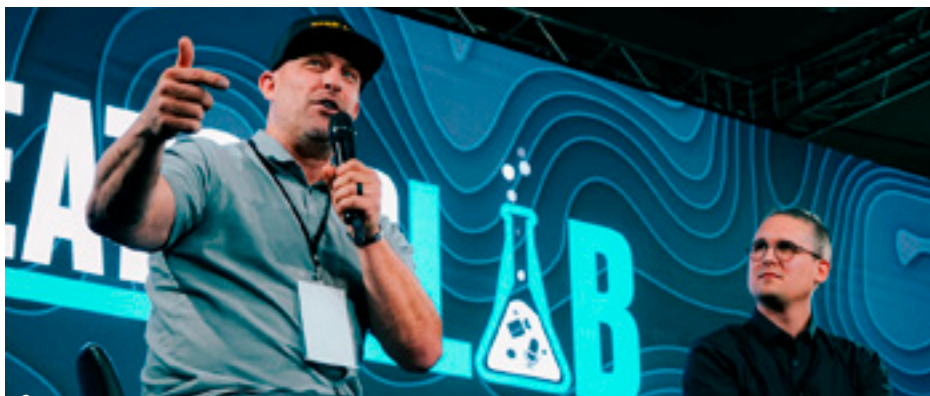
Taji Saleem, Southeastern California Conference communication director, also attended for the first time.

“What I found most valuable at Creators Lab was the connections made with other creatives from all over,” Saleem shared. “Being able to hear their stories and their passion for creating was a reminder of my purpose and calling to create. It was refreshing to be able to network and partner with other Adventists who speak a similar language of creativity that often gets overlooked or misunderstood.”

Creators Lab began May 1 with a welcome vespers, chai made by Kevin Wilson, local pastor and content creator, and a shared meal where participants bonded.

On Sabbath, attendees had the opportunity to learn and connect with others. Kat Armas, theologian and *Abuelita Faith* author, challenged attendees to reflect on their individual impact on their communities. Everett Patterson, BibleProject art director, shared how a small team came together with the goal of exploring the Bible with new eyes and grew into a nonprofit with a team of more than 100, sharing the Bible all over the world in new and creative ways.

Eunice Reyes, Rated V for Vegan content creator, shared how starting a YouTube channel about vegan food shaped how she shares her faith with others today.



Benjamin Lundquist, Oregon Conference ministerial and evangelism associate director, (left) and Kaleb Eisele, Oregon Conference communication director, (right) share their experiences in podcasting.

Benjamin Lundquist, Oregon Conference ministerial and evangelism associate director and *Rise and Lead* podcaster, and Kaleb Eisele, Oregon Conference communication director, rounded out the afternoon sessions, sharing their experiences in podcasting and challenging listeners to take the ideas they’ve carried and to make them a reality.

After supper and community time Saturday evening, many returned on Sunday morning for a few hours of hands-on learning labs on topics such as creative data management, content creation, filming on a budget and entrepreneurship.

Creators Lab is becoming a hub for digital creators of faith to find in-person community, grow their skills and rediscover a compassionate creator God.

Plans are already underway for next year’s event, which will be held April 30–May 2, 2027 in Gladstone, Oregon, at Holden Convention Center.



Throughout the weekend, attendees connect and share ideas, projects and inspiration.



KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference
communication
director

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-OR-95

PHOTOS BY OREGON CONFERENCE COMMUNICATION

CCACS Leader Retires After Nearly 20 Years

A BELOVED LEADER RECENTLY RETIRED AFTER NEARLY 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AT CLARK COUNTY ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES. ELEANOR HETKE SERVED AS A NURSE AND A MISSIONARY FOR DECADES BEFORE JOINING CCACS AS A VOLUNTEER AROUND 2008.

In 2015, Hetke took on the responsibility of executive director and led the team until her retirement this year — just before turning 90 years old!

"Hetke is just so sweet," said Karen Young, CCACS volunteer. "She's always there for anybody. If you had to call in and say you couldn't make it, she'd say, 'You need to take care of what you need to do! Don't worry about it here.' You couldn't ask for a better place to work than the center. Everybody pitches in and helps get everything done. Hetke has always been so upbeat, funny and cheerful — just a joy to be around!"

Hetke's retirement was celebrated by colleagues, friends and family earlier this summer as part of CCACS's awards banquet. When the team asked her what she'd like the theme to be, she said, "Stones!"

"I had to think on that one!" said Young, who worked on the event. "Five of us got together and painted rocks. We decided to make the Flintstones part of the theme, and she thought that was so funny. More than 100 people showed up. We had to pull out more tables because everybody wanted to be there."

David Rodriguez and Gayle Perry, colleagues, shared words of encouragement and appreciation. Hetke's granddaughter sang a song for her. Hetke and her husband even sat in a specially made Flintstones car

as the community recognized the love and care she has poured into CCACS.

In his tribute, Rodriguez said, "Today, we honor Hetke, a woman who has become a living, breathing testament to the truth of Eph. 6:10. Her strength has never been defined by a loud voice or a dominating presence but by a quiet, unshakable reliance on the Almighty."

"In moments where it would have been easier to crumble, to fear or to surrender to cynicism, Hetke chose to stand," continued Rodriguez. "She has taught us that true power is not found in controlling our circumstances but in surrendering them to the One who controls the universe."

"Hetke's life is a beacon that shines light into the darkness," said Rodriguez. "She has shown us that a virtuous woman is not merely gentle, but also fierce in her love for God and unwavering in her devotion to truth."

KALEB EISELE

Oregon Conference communication director



Move online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-OR-67



More than 100 people attended the retirement celebration for Eleanor Hetke (right), a beloved leader who recently retired after nearly 20 years of service at CCACS.

Oregon Conference Celebrates Retirements and Arrivals

THE OREGON CONFERENCE TEAM HAS RECENTLY SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME CELEBRATING RETIREMENTS, WELCOMING NEW TEAM MEMBERS AND PREPARING TO BID LONG-TIME COWORKERS FAREWELL.

After more than 40 years of service in three conferences, Steve Hilde retired from his role as Gladstone Adventist Book Center manager at the end of June. We are thankful for his years of service!

Karen Carlton accepted the role following Hilde's departure. Carlton came from Amazing Grace Academy in Alaska. We look forward to working with her and are so thankful she was willing to take on the task so shortly before the beginning of camp meeting!

Following Jon Holland's departure, Kim Asij Fry accepted the role of Oregon Conference accounts payable clerk. Asij Fry has spent the past five years working for General Conference Auditing Service, auditing conference offices, academies and other denominational entities.

In April, Nate Hellman announced his departure from his role as Oregon Conference ministerial director. He served in Oregon Conference for more than 18 years and is now Eastgate Church pastor.

Matt Ballard, Gladstone Park grounds manager, also retired this spring. Ballard served on the grounds team for more than 20 years, bringing a wealth of knowledge to improving camp meeting preparation, repairing and renovating buildings across campus and working hard to make sure the grounds are a place of camp meeting joy for many years to come.

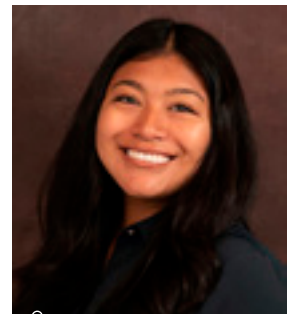
"Ballard has been an invaluable part of our Gladstone Park campus team," shared Eric Davis, Oregon Conference vice president of finance. "His problem-solving skills, common sense, strong work ethic and knowledge of our Gladstone Park campus made him an extremely valuable part of our team. Most importantly, though, I know Ballard was giving his all for the Lord."



Steve Hilde, retired Gladstone ABC manager



Karen Carlton, Gladstone ABC manager



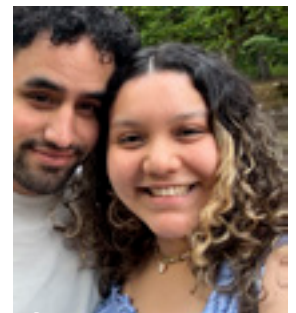
Kim Asij Fry, Oregon Conference accounts payable clerk



Nate Hellman, former Oregon Conference ministerial director



Matt Ballard, retired Gladstone Park grounds manager



Sofia Ramos, Oregon Conference education department administrative assistant

Sofia Ramos accepted the role of Oregon Conference education department administrative assistant. Most recently at Portland Adventist Elementary School, Ramos is helping schools process their testing, assisting the associate superintendents and working with the department's education financial specialist.

We appreciate each of these contributions to ministry here in Oregon Conference!



KRISSY BARBER
Oregon Conference
associate
communication director

More online at NWADVENT.ST/121-5-OR-66 

TVA Graduates First Senior Class

JUNE 14 MARKED A HISTORIC MILESTONE FOR TUALATIN VALLEY ACADEMY. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS 110-YEAR HISTORY, IT GRADUATED A SENIOR CLASS.



A TVA graduate is congratulated by teachers, pastors and board members on his way out.



PHOTOS BY CODY BLAKE

TVA graduates its first high school senior class.

The milestone represented the culmination of years of dreaming, praying and planning as TVA celebrated the first graduating class of its newly expanded senior academy.

The weekend began with Friday night vespers where students and their families listened to a message from Ruth Bradburn, TVA Bible teacher. The graduating class shared memories, collected items to put into a time capsule and had a prayer of blessing from their parents.

Celebrations continued Saturday morning with Baccalaureate at Beaverton Church. Students led the worship service. The class asked Jeff Bradburn, Beaverton Church assistant pastor, to speak, and all three Beaverton Church pastors prayed a blessing over the graduating seniors.

Class Night on Saturday evening gave family and friends time to get to know each student as individuals. Sara Beck, TVA math teacher, shared about the fruit of the Spirit and how it is portrayed through each graduate. She also reflected on the class history, noting that for some it began 14 years ago at TVA Preschool.

The weekend concluded with Commencement on Sunday morning. Students reflected on their high school years through a class video, presented their class gift — a beach volleyball court beside the soccer field — and heard messages from Christina Orozco-Acosta, TVA principal, and Michael Blackburn, TVA history teacher, who delivered the commencement address.

The class also celebrated the Caring Heart Award and cheered for five students who were awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships by Walla Walla University.

Graduates then received their diplomas before teachers, staff, pastors, board members and conference officials lined the aisle to celebrate the school's first graduating class.

Reflecting on graduation weekend, Orozco-Acosta expressed gratitude for the school's graduates this year. "These seniors took a courageous step and became the trailblazers and the pioneers in being the first to start a tradition at TVA," she said. "Because they chose to go first, they helped build a foundation for future generations of TVA graduates."

Additionally, Orozco-Acosta recognized the vital support of the TVA community. "This historic moment could not have been made possible without a group of people, including pastors, board members, parents, high school teachers and conference leaders, whose support and countless hours of work made this dream a reality," she said. "I am very grateful for the community that came together to make history."

MCKENZIE WALLACE

Tualatin Valley Academy English teacher

RACHEL BLACKBURN

Tualatin Valley Academy Gleaner correspondent



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-OR-88

ACTS AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

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

SEPTEMBER

Bible	Acts of the Apostles
☐ 1 Acts 1	Preface
☐ 2 Acts 1	Chapter 1
☐ 3 Acts 1	Chapter 2
☐ 4 Review	
☐ 5 Review	
☐ 6 Acts 2	Chapter 4
☐ 7 Acts 2	Chapter 5
☐ 8 Acts 3	Chapter 6
☐ 9 Acts 3	
☐ 10 Acts 4	
☐ 11 Review	
☐ 12 Review	
☐ 13 Acts 5	Chapter 7
☐ 14 Acts 5	Chapter 8
☐ 15 Acts 6	Chapter 9
☐ 16 Acts 7	Chapter 10
☐ 17 Acts 7	
☐ 18 Review	
☐ 19 Review	
☐ 20 Acts 8	Chapter 11
☐ 21 Acts 8	
☐ 22 Acts 9	Chapter 12
☐ 23 Acts 9	Chapter 13
☐ 24 Acts 9	
☐ 25 Review	
☐ 26 Review	
☐ 27 Acts 10	Chapter 14
☐ 28 Acts 11	
☐ 29 Acts 12	Chapter 15
☐ 30 Acts 13	Chapter 16

OCTOBER

Bible	Acts of the Apostles
☐ 1 Acts 13	Chapter 17
☐ 2 Review	
☐ 3 Review	
☐ 4 Acts 14	Chapter 18
☐ 5 Acts 15	Chapter 19
☐ 6 Acts 15	
☐ 7 Acts 16	Chapter 20
☐ 8 Acts 16	
☐ 9 Review	
☐ 10 Review	
☐ 11 Acts 16	Chapter 21
☐ 12 Acts 17	Chapter 22
☐ 13 Acts 17	Chapter 23
☐ 14 Acts 18	Chapter 24
☐ 15 Acts 18	
☐ 16 Review	
☐ 17 Review	
☐ 18 1 Thessalonians 1-5	Chapter 25
☐ 19 2 Thessalonians 1-3	
☐ 20 Acts 18	Chapter 26
☐ 21 Acts 19	Chapter 27
☐ 22 Acts 19	
☐ 23 Review	
☐ 24 Review	
☐ 25 Acts 20	Chapter 28
☐ 26 1 Corinthians 1-8	Chapter 29
☐ 27 1 Corinthians 9-16	Chapter 30
☐ 28 2 Corinthians 1-6	Chapter 31
☐ 29 2 Corinthians 7-13	Chapter 32(a)
☐ 30 Review	
☐ 31 Review	

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



Hundreds Baptized During Evangelistic Caravan

“TRY WITH JESUS” WAS THE RALLYING CRY OF THE EVANGELISTIC CARAVAN, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN NINE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ACROSS UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE APRIL 17–25. INSPIRED BY GOD AND EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE MOVEMENT STRENGTHENED HISPANIC COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE INLAND NORTHWEST.

Led by the UCC Hispanic ministries team, church leaders and Peter Simpson, North Pacific Union vice president for Hispanic ministries, the initiative demonstrated a timeless biblical truth: While pastors, leaders and church members faithfully labor together, true spiritual transformation is accomplished by the power of God working through willing hearts.

The term “caravan” refers to a traveling team with guest evangelists preaching the gospel night after night and holding baptisms. From Spokane to Hermiston, Othello to Yakima and Wenatchee to Tri-Cities, the traveling caravan of pastors, evangelists, musicians and volunteers served God to change lives and invite people to make decisions for Jesus.

More than 240 individuals were baptized during the evangelistic meetings. On April 25, at the closing meeting in Pasco, more than 1,300 people were in attendance.

“Many of the evangelistic meetings that happened in the last half of 2025 are now bearing fruit this year,” said Eric Brown, UCC vice president of administration. “We are continuing to see the results of Pentecost 2025 and expect to see more than 1,000 baptisms across the conference this year.”

The caravan’s success lies primarily in the hands of church members. Each person had a role to play. Prayer teams, Bible workers, hospitality, outreach, logistics, music and follow-up crews all worked together.

This was not just a program run by a few, but a movement where each member became a missionary to their community.

Months before the caravan arrived, local churches were already at work. Members prayed without ceasing for 50 consecutive days through prayer chains, hosted Bible studies leading friends and neighbors to baptism, and opened hearts no sermon alone could reach.

“Our district, before this evangelistic caravan, had two weeks of evangelistic planting,” said Jefferson Ortiz, Pendleton Spanish Church and Rekindle Church pastor. “We have learned that for our church to remain fervent, alive and focused on its vision, we absolutely need evangelism, not only publicly, but also personally.”

The vision for the evangelistic caravan began with conversations during UCC’s Hispanic ministries retreat about ways to spread the gospel. UCC held several evangelistic caravans in the past, most recently in 2015. Simultaneously, Idaho Conference was looking to hold an evangelistic caravan. The two were then unified into a synchronized wave of evangelism across the Pacific Northwest to ultimately include Idaho, Upper Columbia and Washington conferences. This cooperation with NPUC allowed for a wider impact, stronger use of resources and a beautiful sense of unity across conferences.

Following the caravan, churches remain dedicated to sharing the gospel as



In UCC alone, more than 240 individuals are baptized during a spring evangelistic caravan that traveled across three Northwest conferences.

they move forward. “Over the next few months, we will continue with the same fervor seeking souls for the kingdom of heaven,” said Antonio Ix Rosique, Wenatchee, Quincy and Brewster Spanish district pastor. “Our church understands evangelism is not just another plan or project; evangelism should be the permanent way of life for the church.”

Plans for another evangelistic caravan in 2027 are already underway.

“What happened in this evangelistic campaign was not the finish line — it was the beginning of a process,” said one pastor. “Now, we walk faithfully with each new believer, trusting that what God has started, He will continue to grow.”



CONTRIBUTED REPORT

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-UC-51

Regional Camp Meetings Focus on Jesus and Service

WHILE EACH UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE REGIONAL CAMP MEETING HAD ITS OWN DISTINCT FLAVOR, ONE MESSAGE ECHOED THROUGH THEM ALL: JESUS.

At each convocation, attendees were called to know Jesus above all else – to trust Him, love Him, walk with Him and let Him transform their lives so they will love and serve others as He did. This year, that message was shared in more than words.

Across UCC, camp meeting is becoming a place where inspiring teaching is paired with meaningful action serving others.

In Walla Walla, attendees could choose from a variety of service opportunities. On Friday, volunteers helped with campus landscaping at one of the local Adventist schools. On Sabbath, volunteers delivered encouragement to healthcare workers at St. Mary Medical Center. On Sunday, volunteers provided a free car maintenance clinic, hosted a community fair and packed emergency preparedness kits at College Place ABC.

"I'm so blessed you guys fixed my van," said one recipient of the car maintenance clinic. "I've been walking and riding buses since November. It feels good to drive again. God bless!"

In Wenatchee, volunteers spent Sunday serving at The Edge Garden, a community garden, by giving away free plants, packing meal bags for college athletes and filling backpacks with supplies for families who may be affected by wildfires.

Spokane embraced Father's Day by setting up a booth at Northtown Mall where families could assemble free gift bags for dads. The weekend ended with another unforgettable act of kindness as volunteers gave a local teenage girl an incredible car makeover, surprising her

with a safe, beautifully upgraded vehicle.

"This has been an absolutely amazing, unforgettable Father's Day weekend," reflected Tyler Kern, Home of Shalom pastor who led the project.

For generations, the words "camp meeting" have brought to mind fellowship, worship and inspiring preaching. In UCC, another picture is being added – one that reaches back to its roots. Camp meeting is becoming a time not only to receive a blessing, but also to share one.

Ellen G. White envisioned this idea in *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6*, writing, "There is something for everyone to do. Every soul that believes the truth is to stand in his lot and place, saying: 'Here am I; send me' (Isa. 6:8). By engaging in work at the camp meeting, all may be learning how to work successfully in their home churches."

As teaching moves beyond the pulpit and into hands-on service, camp meeting is helping churches and schools discover fresh, practical ways to love their neighbors – and inviting every attendee to be part of the mission to Serve One More.

RICHIE BROWER
Upper Columbia Conference
Community Engagement director



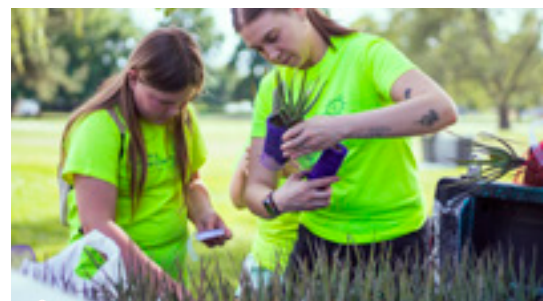
More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-UC-05

UPPER COLUMBIA

SERVE | ONE MORE // CONFERENCE +



In Walla Walla, camp meeting includes a community fair with free seminars, resources and more.



In Wenatchee, free plant giveaways connect members with their community.



In Spokane, families make Father's Day gifts at no cost.



Collaboration with local community organizations, such as first responders, amplifies the impact of service projects.

UCA Names New Principal

THE UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS APPOINTED TWILA S. BROWN AS ITS NEW PRINCIPAL STARTING THE 2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR.

Brown has more than 30 years of educational experience and has served as principal at several Adventist schools, including Lake City Junior Academy in Idaho.

"We were impressed by Brown and think she is a great fit for UCA," said Adam Littell, Upper Columbia Conference vice president for education. "She has a long history in this area and knows how important UCA is to our educational strategy."

Brown is very familiar with the Pacific Northwest as a graduate of UCA and Walla Walla College, where she received a bachelor's degree in health science. Additionally, Brown earned a master's degree in education with a focus on curriculum and

instruction from Eastern Washington University.

For the last 12 years, Brown has served as Learning Tree Elementary School principal in Dalton, Georgia. Under her tenure, enrollment doubled to capacity with more than 80 students. She developed and implemented an outdoor education program and raised more than \$250,000 to support resources for the program.

"God's fingerprints have been all over the events that have recently unfolded, and His calling has become very clear," said Brown. "He is leading me to serve as UCA principal. What a humbling responsibility and what an honor to give back to my alma mater, the school

that helped shape me through the gauntlet of my teenage years, battle scars and all, where I also met my Traveling Companion for life!"

Brown and her husband, Doug, who is a pastor and former professor at Southern Adventist University, enjoy rafting, canoeing, rock climbing, hiking, biking and skiing. They have two grown children and one grandson.

"I'm excited to see what God has in store for each of us and for our school as we walk this next season together," added Brown. "I also look forward to hearing your stories, how UCA has shaped your life, why you continue to invest and sacrifice for this school, and what your hopes and dreams are for its future."



Twila Brown, UCA principal



DUSTIN R. JONES
*Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
director*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-UC-24

Brower Named Director of Community Engagement

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTED RICHIE BROWER AS UCC DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON MAY 7.

This recently formed department brings together Adventist Community Services, disaster response and the Serve One More initiative under Brower's direction.

"Brower has a servant's heart and a deep passion for helping others," said David Jamieson, UCC president, reflecting on his 20-plus years of UCC ministry. "We are delighted to see him continue to lead others in community engagement in this new capacity."

In 1995, Brower graduated with a theology degree from Walla Walla College. He graduated with a master of divinity from Andrews University Theological Seminary in 1999.

After seminary, Brower returned to UCC where he served as a pastor, radio chaplain and church planter.

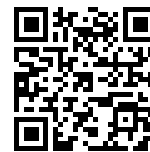
In 2016, Brower accepted an invitation to become youth, young adult and club ministries associate director, where he served for eight years. There, Brower learned firsthand the powerful impact volunteers can make.

In 2024, Brower was named Serve One More associate director, where he provided training and resources enabling bold new community service initiatives.

"I'm excited to help our conference continue to connect and engage their local community," said Brower. "Engagement is a natural pathway for evangelism."



Richie Brower, UCC director of community engagement



ISAAC MEYTHALER
Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
coordinator

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-UC-82



Shafer Named Director of IT Services

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TIM SHAFER UCC DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES ON MAY 7.

Shafer has served as UCC associate IT director since 2020 and is replacing Art Lenz after his retirement.

"Shafer is reliable and has vast technical experience and crucial knowledge of our infrastructure," said Eric Brown, UCC vice president for administration.

In 2005, Shafer earned a bachelor's degree in adventure-based counseling from Canadian University College. In 2009, Shafer joined the maintenance team at Upper Columbia Academy, his alma mater. After three years of maintaining electrical and mechanical systems, Shafer returned to school.

In 2015, Shafer graduated with an associate's degree in computer information technology from North Idaho College. During his education, he interned at UCC under Lenz.

In 2020, Shafer returned to UCC as associate IT director. He has proved to be a good steward of the conference's data and provided essential technical resources for UCC's entities and institutions.

"Our goal is to support our conference ministries working smoothly," said Shafer, "both in proactive maintenance and by streamlining our internal processes as much as possible."



Tim Shafer, UCC director of information and technology services



ISAAC MEYTHALER
Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
coordinator

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-UC-84



Maranatha Volunteers Prepare Camp MiVoden for Summer Ministry

FROM APRIL 26 TO MAY 3, 82 VOLUNTEERS FROM MARANATHA VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL REPAIRED, RESTORED AND RENOVATED CAMP MIVODEN IN PREPARATION FOR SUMMER MINISTRY.

Volunteers ages 8–87 wasted no time getting to work. On Sunday, when volunteers were only expected to check in, several people got right to work clearing debris off the dock after setting their bags down.

"We had planned for volunteers on Monday to clear the debris so one of our teams could repair the dock," said Melody Wheeler, Maranatha project coordinator. "To our surprise, our volunteers were ambitious and got the job done a full day ahead of schedule!"

A wide variety of projects were completed during the week, including building a new set of cement block stairs between the two dormitories, repairs to the railroad tie garden, stocking and cleaning the camp store, constructing a shelter in the horse barn, repairing the dock and performing maintenance throughout the campus.

In addition to their time, several volunteers brought their tools. Professional construction equipment was provided by volunteers. A team of volunteers prepared meals throughout the week, giving the MiVoden kitchen staff a well-deserved break.

"We had a talented group, from every type of vocation you could imagine, with beautiful spirits and willing hearts," said Wheeler. "It was a joy to have such a large group; everyone melded into their worksite and worked hard all week long with a strong sense of camaraderie."

Of all the projects, the largest undertaking was repairing the dock and water sports equipment shed, both of which had been damaged by a fallen tree.

After clearing branches on Sunday, a dedicated dock team spent a large portion of the week making repairs and replacing damaged parts.

The dock repairs were of special importance due to a new activity being added to MiVoden's waterfront this summer. Thanks to a generous donation from an anonymous donor, MiVoden now has a small fleet of kayaks for kayaking on the beautiful Hayden Lake.

The project was blessed with pleasant weather and cheerful workers. Each day began and ended with worship. Several worships were led by Maranatha volunteers, sharing how God worked in other Maranatha projects around the world, including in Cuba and Russia.

"To me it's always inspirational, invigorating and exciting. One of those things you remember with warmth," said Wheeler. "The work brings a sense of community; many people come regularly and look forward to it."

For more than two decades, volunteers have supported MiVoden through more than 20 projects since 2000.

To watch Maranatha volunteers at work at MiVoden, see

news.uccsda.org/maranatha426.



ISAAC MEYTHALER
Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
coordinator

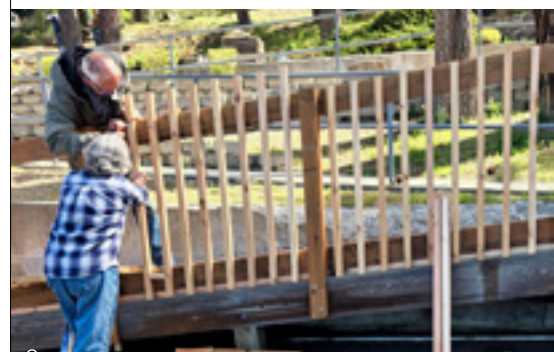
More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-UC-02



Maranatha volunteers process lumber onsite for construction and maintenance projects.



Maranatha volunteers come with a plethora of construction skills, including welding.



Maranatha volunteers install new safety railings.

CHURCH

116 Baptized During Historic Hispanic Celebration

SONGS OF PRAISE, PRAYERS AND TESTIMONIES FILLED THE AIR ON MAY 30 AS HISPANIC CHURCHES FROM ACROSS WASHINGTON CONFERENCE GATHERED FOR THE CONFERENCE'S FIRST CONFERENCE-WIDE HISPANIC BAPTISM CELEBRATION.



Washington Conference Hispanic pastors baptize candidates during the historic conference-wide celebration.

By the end of the Sabbath, 116 people had publicly committed their lives to Christ through baptism, marking the culmination of months of evangelistic meetings, Bible studies, neighborhood outreach, visitation and personal ministry carried out by local congregations.

The celebration represented more than a historic number of baptisms. Each baptism marked a life surrendered to Christ, a family impacted by the gospel and a new disciple beginning a walk with Jesus.

"This experience has been truly impactful," said Elvis Díaz, *El Centinela* evangelism promoter for North America. "Each church brought its baptismal candidates together, creating a contagious wave of baptisms."

Church members traveled from across the conference to support candidates and witness the celebration. For many, the day reflected the result of sustained prayer, preaching and united mission.

Wagner Cilio, Washington Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, said the gathering reflected a broader vision for evangelism. The goal was not only to celebrate large-scale baptisms, but also to encourage Hispanic churches to make disciple-making part of their culture.

"We are always looking for ways to keep the enthusiasm for evangelism alive," Cilio said. "Our pastors are not working alone. They are supported by small group leaders, ministry coordinators and church members."



Church members gather along the shoreline, creating a spirit of praise and support as candidates prepare for baptism.

Among those baptized was Linet Valles Galicia, who said the experience left her overwhelmed. "I'm speechless," she said. "It's so impactful to see so many people together, one by one, giving their lives to Christ."

Valles Galicia decided to surrender her life to God after realizing she wanted to lay her burdens before Him. "I was so lost in the world, but this call was meant for me," she said. "There is peace in Christ and in Christ alone."

For Rubén Castañeda, baptism marked the beginning of a new chapter. Although he had studied the Bible for a long time, his decision to fully surrender came about a month before the celebration.

"I know I can't continue by my own strength," he said. "I pray that

my Heavenly Father will pour out the Holy Spirit on me so I can bring more people to Christ."

As Washington Conference continues moving Beyond Pentecost, Hispanic ministries leaders are giving God glory for the harvest while praying for even greater results in every church, community and language group.

The celebration served as a reminder that behind every baptism is a story of God's grace at work and a new disciple beginning life with Jesus.



JEHIELY BALABARCA-MARTINEZ
*Washington
Conference
summer intern*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-WA-79

PHOTOS BY JEHIELY BALABARCA-MARTINEZ

ARISE Convocation Cultivates Community Across Southern District

CHILDREN SENT BUBBLES LARGER THAN THEMSELVES DRIFTING ACROSS THE LAWN. NEARBY, ADULTS LINGERED IN CONVERSATIONS ON PICNIC BLANKETS. THE JOY OF THE AFTERNOON REFLECTED THE DEPTH OF A COMMUNITY ROOTED IN CHRIST, WHERE FAITH FOUND EXPRESSION IN FELLOWSHIP.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL CORREA

Ty Gibson, Light Bearers Ministry speaker and co-director, shares Christ-centered messages exploring the sanctuary as an invitation into God's heart.



Alvaro Correa, pastor, baptizes a new believer during the convocation, reflecting Washington Conference's continued emphasis on evangelism and discipleship.



A combined orchestra of musicians from southern district churches provides a musical backdrop for Sabbath worship.

The scene captured the spirit of the ARISE Southern District Convocation, held May 29–30 at Chehalis Church as part of Washington Conference's Beyond Pentecost emphasis.

The southern district gathering launched the first of five regional ARISE convocations planned across Washington Conference. Friday evening opened with a Prayer Train led by Randy Maxwell, Washington Conference vice president for administration. Through scripture, music and shared prayer, attendees were invited to seek God's leading, affirming prayer as the foundation of ministry and everyday life.

Approximately 530 people gathered for Sabbath worship, featuring an orchestra and praise team composed of

musicians from churches across the southern district. During the service, Alvaro Correa, Shelton and Elma district pastor, baptized Brenon and Kristina Miller, allowing churches throughout the district to celebrate their commitment to Jesus together.

Throughout the weekend, Ty Gibson, Light Bearers Ministry speaker and co-director, presented messages exploring the sanctuary as an invitation into God's heart. Gibson's presentations renewed appreciation for the beauty of the sanctuary message and God's plan of salvation while inviting attendees into a deeper relationship with Christ.

Conversations following the meetings suggested that many attendees were not simply discussing theological ideas, but also wrestling with a deeper understanding of God's character and what that understanding meant for their own lives.

Following a haystack lunch served by volunteers, fellowship continued throughout the afternoon. Attendees gathered in conversation inside the church and across the grounds.

Sven Frantzen, pastor, and the Creative Juices team from Lacey Church extended warm hospitality by offering their signature Norwegian waffles and boba drinks. Andy Roy, known as "Handy Andy," and his wife, Dina, created engaging activity stations where children could explore while families enjoyed the afternoon together.

Throughout the weekend, the Roys also led children's programming, using object lessons, balloon art and interactive activities to point young hearts to Jesus.

Pamela Burghart, Chehalis Church office manager and one of the event coordinators, said she was encouraged by the collaboration that emerged throughout the weekend. "It was both a spiritual event and a time of strengthening relationships," she said. "It fostered a deeper sense of connection between the churches in our region."



JEREMY FOSS
Chehalis Church
pastor

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-WA-81

Community Health Fair Brings Whole-Person Care to Federal Way

MORE THAN 400 COMMUNITY MEMBERS RECEIVED FREE HEALTH SERVICES, PRACTICAL RESOURCES AND SPIRITUAL ENCOURAGEMENT DURING THE FOURTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR HELD JUNE 7 AT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE OFFICE IN FEDERAL WAY.

Washington Conference health ministries hosted the event with Center for Multicultural Health and a network of churches, healthcare professionals, volunteers and community organizations. Together, they sought to remove barriers to care for uninsured, underserved, immigrant and refugee families.

Participants received screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol and HIV, along with education related to mammograms, brain health and vaccines. The fair also offered Medicaid and Medicare enrollment assistance, fresh produce, clothing, youth activities, domestic abuse awareness, résumé support and transportation resources.

Interpreters were available in 10 languages, helping families receive care and understand available services.

Serving Others Globally Mobile Dental Van, founded by Rick and Delray Luce, provided cleanings, X-rays, fillings and extractions for people without dental insurance. Volunteers stayed three additional hours to care for patients with serious needs.

One participant had not visited a dentist in more than 15 years. "I came in with so much pain and leave with gratitude, pain-free," the participant said.

Twenty-two people received dental services. Another 18 who could not be seen were connected with Blessed Hope Free Community Clinic for continued care.

"The goal was not only to provide services, but also to create follow-up," said

Elida Jerez, Washington Conference health ministries director. "We wanted people to know they had somewhere to turn after the health fair."

Salud for Life Ministries, led by Oscar Santana, health coach, hosted a nutrition station where families enjoyed fruit smoothies and learned about plant-based food choices. Conversations led to 15 new community contacts and three requests for Bible studies focused on health and prophecy.

An exercise station encouraged participants to stretch, move and jump rope while learning how physical activity supports brain health. Gregorio, participant, discovered that meaningful exercise did not require a complicated routine.

"I learned today that I can take 10 to 15 minutes a day to exercise and receive so many benefits," he said. "I haven't jumped rope in years. I didn't know I could do it!"

By day's end, 218 meals had been served. Additionally, 47 people received massages. Organizers also received a \$1,500 donation in gratitude for the services provided.

"This health fair was more than an event," Jerez said. "It was an opportunity to demonstrate God's love through service and compassion."

Organizers hope nearby churches will continue building relationships with participants through local programs and ongoing care. The fair created connections, restored hope and showed that the church cares for body, mind and spirit together.

PHOTOS BY ENOC GARCIA



Volunteers distribute food and fresh produce as part of the health fair's whole-person approach to community care.



Oscar Santana, health coach, prepares fresh fruit smoothies while teaching participants about the benefits of plant-based nutrition.



ENOC GARCIA
Washington Conference
communication director

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-WA-78 

Adventurers Run the Race at Annual Fun Day

CHILDREN RACED ACROSS THE FIELD, NAVIGATED AN OBSTACLE COURSE AND CARED FOR NEWLY ADOPTED STUFFED BEARS AS MORE THAN 400 ADVENTURERS, FAMILY MEMBERS, LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS GATHERED MAY 17 AT BUENA VISTA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL IN AUBURN, WASHINGTON.

Washington Conference Adventurer Fun Day serves as an end-of-year celebration for clubs across the conference, bringing families together for worship, fellowship and fun while recognizing God's blessings throughout the club year.

This year's theme, "Run the Race," encouraged children to care for their bodies, work as a team and remain faithful in their walk with God. Adventurers completed activities connected with the Fitness Fun, Olympics, Health Specialist and Germs awards.

Oscar Santana, local health coach, shared the devotional and encouraged participants throughout the day. Children and their families also participated in a running race and a large obstacle course led by the Burien Master Guide Club.

A highlight of the day was Bear Health Fair, presented through a collaboration between Washington Conference Adventurer, children's and health ministries. Nearly 200 stuffed bears found new homes as children selected a bear and cared for it while moving through interactive health stations.

Families learned about nutrition, exercise, water, sunshine, temperance, fresh air, rest and trust in God. Children practiced these principles with their bears through movement activities, water games, bedtime routines and prayer stations. Adventurers who completed the experience also fulfilled requirements for the Health Specialist award.

About 30 volunteers helped lead the health fair, including young people from churches across the conference. Their enthusiasm, kindness and willingness to

serve helped create a welcoming experience for children and parents.

Local Adventurer clubs also sold food as a fundraiser, giving families an opportunity to support club ministries while enjoying the day together.

Adventurer Fun Day is designed as a screen-free experience where families can worship, play and learn together. For some participants, Adventurer clubs provide one of their first connections with an Adventist church.

Washington Conference Adventurer leaders encourage churches to open clubs and create a welcoming ministry where new families can connect regardless of how many children or young families they may or may not have.

Adventurer Fun Day is more than a single event. It celebrates a year of regular meetings, local ministry and shared experiences that help children grow physically, socially and spiritually.

As the ministry continues to grow, conference leaders hope more churches will recognize how Adventurer clubs and outreach events can strengthen families, build community connections and help prepare children for heaven.

GRETEL DUPERTUIS

Washington Conference Adventurer director



JENNIFER BULLION

Washington Conference women's and children's ministries coordinator

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-WA-74



Adventurer Fun Day brings children from across Washington Conference together for worship, fellowship and fun.



Participants warm up together before taking off in the Adventurer Fun Day race.



Adventurers embrace physical activity as they climb through the Adventurer Fun Day obstacle course.

PHOTOS BY GRETEL DUPERTUIS

EDUCATION

Bliss Joins AAA as Principal

AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY HAS WELCOMED ALUMNUS JESSE C. BLISS AS ITS NEW PRINCIPAL, MARKING BOTH A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE SCHOOL AND A PERSONAL HOMECOMING FOR ONE OF ITS FORMER BOARDING STUDENTS.

Bliss returns to the campus that helped shape his faith, calling and life direction. His family's connection to AAA spans generations, making his return to the Pacific Northwest especially meaningful.

"AAA was transformational for me as a young man," Bliss said. "The teachers and staff invested in me, opened my eyes and helped set a trajectory that shaped who I am today. Coming back to AAA is a homecoming, and I will dedicate my heart, mind and spirit to this place and to the students, families, faculty and staff who call it home."

Bliss brings more than two decades of leadership experience in higher education administration, national organizational leadership, public health and international mission service. He spent 10 years in academic and administrative leadership at Loma Linda University School of Public Health.

Most recently, Bliss served five years on the National Environmental Health Association executive leadership team in Washington, D.C. In that role, he developed and led internship, leadership and workforce development programs.

Throughout his career, Bliss has also served in children's and youth ministries, student missions, public health leadership and cross-cultural community development. He has mentored students and emerging professionals pursuing careers in health sciences, ministry and service.

Michelle Wachter, Washington Conference vice president for education, served as AAA's interim principal during the leadership transition.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jesse Bliss as the next principal of AAA," Wachter said. "He brings a wealth of leadership experience and a deep commitment to Adventist education. His dedication to serving students, staff and families through Christ-centered leadership will be a tremendous blessing to our academy."

Bliss holds a doctorate in public health from the University of Utah School of Medicine and a master of public health from Loma Linda University. He and his wife, Walleska, have two sons, David and Aaron, who also joined the AAA and Buena Vista Seventh-day Adventist School communities.

Bliss said his decision to accept the position followed a season of prayer and reflection about how he could serve God more directly.

"My prayer has been, 'God, how can I do work to build Your kingdom?'" he said. "The opportunity for students' lives to be changed such that their experience at AAA helps shape their passion, purpose and trajectory toward the kingdom, that is everything, and that is why I have answered this call."

As Bliss begins his leadership at AAA, he returns as an administrator and alumnus committed to helping a new generation experience the same transformational influence that shaped his own life.

ENOC GARCIA
*Washington Conference
communication director*



Jesse C. Bliss and his wife, Walleska, return to the Pacific Northwest as their family begins a new chapter with the AAA community.



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-WA-75



Health Students Serve in Guatemala

THIS SPRING, 10 WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS JOINED CENTER FOR HUMANITARIAN ENGAGEMENT'S ANNUAL GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP, SERVING COMMUNITIES WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE DURING A 10-DAY EXPERIENCE SHAPED BY SERVICE, ADAPTABILITY AND COLLABORATION.

NICHOLAS EDGE



WWU premed and pre dental students assist with procedures on a mission trip to Guatemala.

Working alongside healthcare professionals and students from Loma Linda University, WWU premed and pre dental students assisted with dental procedures and medical clinics while seeing firsthand what whole-person care can look like in a global setting.

For Rosalind Osei-Bonsu, WWU pre-health major, even a small role in the clinic helped clarify her calling. "This experience confirmed my interest in pursuing a healthcare career and reinforced my desire to be in environments where I can actively help people and make a real difference," she said.

The partnership with LLU gave WWU students a close view of healthcare as both profession and mission. Students worked beside people further along the same path, learning not only from procedures and patient interactions, but also from the shared commitment to serve with compassion. Together, the two Adventist institutions created a learning environment

where students could connect academic preparation with urgent human needs.

The experience also challenged students to serve when circumstances were unpredictable. Power outages, changing schedules, limited resources and long travel days became part of the lesson. "Healthcare isn't solely about having the best tools or environment," Osei-Bonsu said. "It's about showing up, adapting and doing your best for those you serve."

Students also joined volunteers from Central California Conference Adventist schools on construction projects, including work that supported a local Pathfinder community. Afterward, the group witnessed the first baptisms using the accessible pathways and riverbank infrastructure their service helped create.

For WWU students, the trip offered more than clinical exposure or volunteer hours. It provided a living picture of Adventist education in action: institutions working together, students learning through service and future healthcare professionals discovering that compassion begins by showing up.

CAEDEN ROGERS

WWU university relations supervisor



EMILY DEISCH
*Center for Humanitarian
Engagement
communications specialist*

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-WWU-96

EDUCATION

Educators Share Their Calling

FOR WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND STAFF, THEIR CALLING IS NOT ONLY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS AT THE FRONT OF A CLASSROOM. IT HAPPENS IN OFFICE CONVERSATIONS, RESEARCH LABS, MISSION PLANNING, SENIOR TRIPS AND THE QUIET MOMENTS WHEN A STUDENT REALIZES SOMEONE IS PAYING ATTENTION.



CHRIS DRAKE

WWU educators find their calling in serving students.

Tiago Arrais, WWU associate professor of biblical studies, describes that work in one word: presence. For Arrais, being present means noticing more than what appears on the surface and joining a university mission that prepares students “not only to be the greatest professionals out there, but also to be the kind of people behind the professionals who are deeply related to God.”

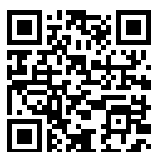
That kind of formation takes different shapes across campus. Matthew Williams, WWU associate professor of biology, sees his calling in helping students learn to investigate the world with care. His hope is that students learn to think “critically, carefully, honestly and, importantly, faithfully” as they engage the world around them.

Ruth Meltzer, WWU associate professor of health and physical education, sees teaching as an extension of her work as a physical therapist. She wants students to become better healthcare providers not only through clinical knowledge, but also through empathy, listening and holistic care.

Brian Schaffner, WWU assistant professor of business, carries a similar desire into the classroom, hoping to offer students the same Christian mentorship he once received at WWU. “WWU does not end when our university students graduate,” he said. “That is the beginning of the relationship.”

For Andrea Keele, WWU associate chaplain for missions, the common thread is listening. She sees God at work when faculty and staff take time to listen to students and one another.

Together, their stories point to a calling shared across disciplines: to teach with excellence, serve with presence and help students become people of purpose, faith and care.

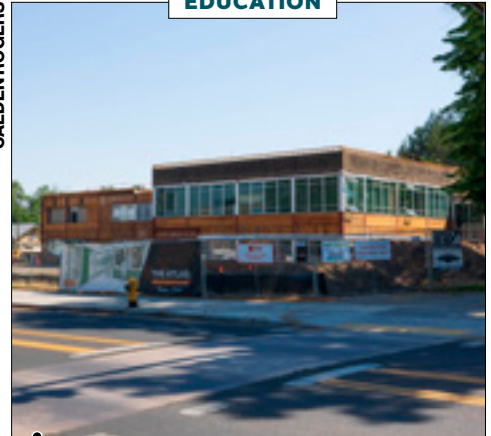


CAEDEN ROGERS
WWU university
relations supervisor

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-WWU-97

CAEDEN ROGERS

EDUCATION



SLMC construction is underway.

STUDENT LIFE AND MINISTRY CENTER CONSTRUCTION ADVANCES

CONSTRUCTION ON WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY'S Student Life and Ministry Center continues to move forward, transforming Kellogg Hall into a 22,000-square-foot hub for gathering, ministry, dining and student life.

Demolition and hazardous materials abatement are about 85% complete, underground utilities are in and crews are preparing concrete work for the new addition. Structural framing for the addition is expected to begin in early fall.

This summer's major focus is the kitchen, and construction is expected to have minimal impact on students during the school year.

CAEDEN ROGERS
WWU university
relations supervisor



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-WWU-09



Volunteers Assemble Foot-Care Kits for Fiji Project

THIS SUMMER, MORE THAN 50 ADVENTIST HEALTH VOLUNTEERS GATHERED AT ADVENTIST HEALTH HEADQUARTERS IN ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA, FOR A SERVICE PROJECT SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES IN FIJI.

Volunteers assembled 1,023 kits designed to address basic foot and wound care, especially for people with diabetes. The kits contained socks, closed-toe shoes and wound-care essentials such as antiseptic, antibiotic ointment, gauze and bandages — essential items in regions where many people go barefoot. Volunteers added a personal touch by including a handout with a message about the importance of foot care, a photo of the volunteers who assembled the kit and handwritten greetings.

Being part of this project was especially appealing to Benjamin Ruderman, Adventist Health electronic health record certified systems analyst, in part because it is a tangible way to make a difference.

"Working in IT on the Epic project, it isn't always easy to feel how our work connects to our mission of living God's love," Ruderman said. "Our mission is why

I'm still with Adventist Health after 17 years. I started as a first responder, and I've seen the impact of that mission on real people, real lives, right in front of me. I also knew I wasn't alone on the Epic team in the desire to make a difference and to connect with other team members. My goal for this project was not only to make a positive impact, but also to create an opportunity for our team to make a difference together in a way that was immediately visible."

The wound care kits will be shipped to Fiji in preparation for an Adventist Health Global Mission trip scheduled for January 2027, when volunteers from Adventist Health Columbia Gorge, Adventist Health Portland and Adventist Health Tillamook will distribute them. The volunteers will also provide diabetes screenings, wound assessment and treatment, and community-based education on diabetes management and foot care.

"Adventist Health will be taking wound care specialists based in our hospitals — both nurses and physicians — directly to communities," said John Schroer, Adventist Health director for Global Mission. "It's a win-win to leverage the knowledge of these experts to expand access to healthcare around the world."

This initiative is part of a collaboration between Adventist Health Global Mission and the 10,000 Toes Campaign, an organization based in Australia dedicated to combating diabetes across the South Pacific. Life in these tropical climates comes with opportunities to walk barefoot, but this also means increased risk of cuts and scrapes on the feet. For individuals with diabetes without proper care, these wounds can lead to serious complications, including amputations.

"I have coworkers with family in Fiji and coworkers born in Fiji," Ruderman said. "I also know many people affected by diabetes. So this project really hits home. As we were working on the kits, I felt overwhelming gratitude for the generosity of time and effort from my teammates. I also felt joy in the camaraderie I witnessed and humility in having the opportunity to be a part of the healing picture in such a tangible way."



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

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-AH-87

- Foot-care kits include first aid essentials, socks and a pair of closed-toe shoes.



HEALTH

8 Surprising Foods to Boost Hydration

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT STAYING HYDRATED, WATER IS PROBABLY THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND. BUT DID YOU KNOW MANY FOODS CAN HELP KEEP YOU HYDRATED TOO?

Gina Woodworth, registered dietitian and certified diabetes care and education specialist, shares eight foods packed with water, along with some of the key nutrients they provide.

BELL PEPPERS — 92% WATER

Nutrients include vitamins C and B6. "One medium bell pepper provides more than 150% of your daily vitamin C; that is more than an orange!" said Woodworth.

GREEK YOGURT — 85% WATER

Nutrients include protein, selenium and vitamin B12.

SPINACH — 92% WATER

Nutrients include vitamin K and folate. "Raw spinach contains slightly more water by weight, although both raw and cooked spinach can contribute to hydration," said Woodworth.

RADISHES — 94% WATER

Nutrients include vitamin C and glucosinolates. Glucosinolates are compounds that may support the body's natural antioxidant and anti-inflammatory defenses.

KIWI — 83% WATER

Nutrients include vitamin C and fiber.

TOMATOES — 94% WATER

Nutrients include potassium, vitamin C and lycopene. Lycopene is an antioxidant that helps protect cells from damage and supports heart and skin health.

ZUCCHINI — 95% WATER

Nutrients include lutein and zeaxanthin — antioxidants that support eye, skin and brain health.

STRAWBERRIES — 90% WATER

Nutrients include vitamin C, anthocyanin and manganese. Anthocyanin supports heart health, and manganese supports metabolism and bone health.

Staying hydrated starts with drinking enough water, but adding water-rich foods to your meals is a simple way to support hydration while giving your body the nutrients it needs.



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

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-AH-85

HEALTH



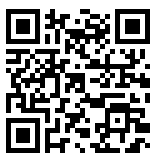
ADVENTIST HEALTH NAMED TO GREATEST WORKPLACES LIST

ADVENTIST HEALTH has been recognized as one of America's Greatest Workplaces in Healthcare for 2026 by Newsweek and the Plant-A Insights Group, highlighting its commitment to fostering a supportive workplace culture amid industry challenges.

The ranking spotlights organizations prioritizing healthcare provider well-being and provides insight into the hospitals and care networks that champion sustainable workloads, strong leadership and psychological safety. The ranking recognizes the best healthcare employers based on success across 10 dimensions of workplace satisfaction. The study combines a national survey, desk research and third-party data to evaluate companies with more than 1,000 employees.

The organizations recognized are employers driving the future of medicine and patient care who invest in people as a framework for success.

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



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-AH-86





6 Words That Determine Who Controls Your Time

W

e think negotiation is for business people. We imagine negotiations in boardrooms debating contracts. The truth

is you're negotiating all day, every day. Most of us are terrible at it.

Think about it. A friend texts, "Let's meet tomorrow at that new restaurant across town for lunch." Sounds friendly, right?

Take notice of what just happened: Your friend decided where — across town — and when — tomorrow at lunch. If you simply say yes, you'll spend tomorrow rushing somewhere you didn't choose at a time that wasn't convenient.

As a philology enthusiast, I can reveal something I consider splendid: Almost any negotiation involves pairs of question words. Whoever controls at least one word from each pair controls the situation. The pairs are where and when, what and how, and who and how much.

Master these six words, and you'll master your calendar, workload and peace.

WHERE AND WHEN: THE GEOGRAPHY OF YOUR LIFE

Here's the principle: If someone tells you where, you decide when. If someone tells you when, you decide where.

For example, a friend sees your social media posts and writes, "Let's meet tomorrow for lunch at this great place on the other side of town!" They're controlling both question words.

You can negotiate by saying, "I'd love to see you! How about next week?" You're giving them the where but taking back the when. Or, "Tomorrow works great; let's meet at

this café near where I'm staying." You're giving them the when but taking back the where.

Scripture gives us permission for these boundaries. Eccl. 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Jesus modeled this. When crowds demanded His presence, He often withdrew to solitary places. He controlled His where and when.

If you always let others decide your location and schedule, you'll either end up where you don't want to be or constantly rushing to keep up with someone else's timeline.

WHAT AND HOW: THE WORKPLACE WISDOM

This pair is critical for work relationships. Bosses and clients control the what — they'll tell you exactly what needs to happen. Don't waste energy fighting the what. Instead, negotiate the how.

"You want this report finished? Great. Here's how I'll approach it," you can respond. You've given them their what, but you're controlling the method, timeline or process.

Prov. 16:3 says, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans." Notice it doesn't say, "Let others establish your plans." When we seek Holy Spirit guidance on the how, we maintain integrity while serving others well.

This is stewardship of your expertise, your time and your mental energy. You'll have happy bosses and clients while setting the pace.

MELISSA SÁNCHEZ



AUTHOR

Oscar "Mike" Sánchez



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-POV-02



PERSPECTIVE

Good stewardship is about having the sanctified backbone to maintain boundaries, seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in daily negotiations and protect the time God gave you for His purposes.

WHO AND HOW MUCH: THE CURRENCY OF ATTENTION

This final pair determines whether others own your time or you do.

When someone says, “How much time will this take?” or “How many hours do you need?” you respond with who will handle it. If you’re leading a team and a client wants extensive work, say, “I’ll assign this to so-and-so on my team.”

Conversely, if someone says, “I need you for this project,” you respond with how much time you’ll dedicate. “I can give three hours on Thursday afternoon.”

Jesus demonstrated this brilliantly. When demands multiplied, He chose the 12. He defined who – the disciples – and how much of Himself He could

invest in them. He said no to many good things – such as healing all the sick at the pool of Bethesda – to say yes to God’s best things – like focusing on the salvation of humanity at Calvary.

THE STEWARDSHIP CONNECTION

Before you say this is manipulation, please let me say that it’s about faithful stewardship of the life God gave us. Eph. 5:15–16 instructs us: “Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity.”

Every time you let someone else control all the question words in a conversation, you’re surrendering stewardship of your time, energy and calling. Good stewardship is about having the sanctified backbone

to maintain boundaries, seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in daily negotiations and protect the time God gave you for His purposes.

Paul wrote in Gal. 1:10, “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings or of God?” We negotiate our lives either seeking everyone’s approval or seeking faithful stewardship of what God entrusted to us.

The next time someone proposes plans, notice which words they are controlling. Then kindly negotiate one back. You’ll discover that power over your life begins with six simple words.

Every day can be wonderful when you steward your time as faithfully as your money.

OSCAR “MIKE” SÁNCHEZ
Counting What Counts columnist





Oasis in the Desert

V

oted one of the New 7 Wonders of the World and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Petra captivates those

who visit. I've been privileged to visit Petra three times, and, in my opinion, Petra is one of the most magnificent places a person can visit in what we consider the Holy Land.

Petra is most well-known for its iconic mausoleum, commonly called the Treasury. The reason this structure is so incredible is that it was carved into the sandstone wall, a true feat of engineering and creative architecture.

Petra, however, is far more than one iconic vista. A short walk past the Treasury reveals a trail – and serious hike – to the High Place of Sacrifice. Just beyond the trailhead is a large amphitheater, which sits opposite the Royal Tombs.

A short walk down the path and around a corner reveals Colonnaded Street – a street lined with Roman columns – the Great Temple and even a Byzantine-era Christian church.

Further still is the Monastery. This mausoleum, also carved into sandstone, is much larger than the Treasury but less ornate. From the Monastery, a short walk reveals an overlook of Wadi Musa.

Petra is not a biblical city since there are no direct biblical references to it. However, it's biblically adjacent.

Petra is located next to Wadi Musa, which in Arabic means "Valley of Moses." It's traditionally believed that Moses led the Israelites to this place and struck a rock that miraculously produced water.

Additionally, the traditional burial site of Aaron, Moses' brother, is located atop a hill visible from Petra. While the archaeological evidence of this assertion isn't ironclad, it certainly makes for a good story.

Petra was the capital city of the Nabatean Kingdom – third century B.C. to 106 A.D. – which accumulated significant wealth as a trade center along major caravan routes.

In New Testament times, the Nabatean Kingdom was thriving. Aretas IV, the most powerful Nabatean king who reigned from 9 B.C. to 40 A.D., was a contemporary of Herod Antipas. Aretas gave his daughter to Herod in marriage, but the two had a falling out when Herod divorced Aretas' daughter so he could marry Herodias, his brother's wife.

In Acts 9, Paul escapes from Damascus by being lowered in a basket from a window in the wall of the city. Paul comments on the experience in 2 Cor. 11:32 by saying, "The governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me." This must be Aretas IV, who ruled the Nabatean Kingdom from Petra, indicating the strength of the Nabateans.

The thing that made the Nabateans incredible was their genius-level ability to manage the scarce resource of water. The desert receives enough annual rainfall to sustain life, but it all falls in a short window of time. If there's no system in place to capture the water, it will run off and be lost.

At Petra, the Nabateans engineered a complex system to collect and store water during the annual rainy season. This system

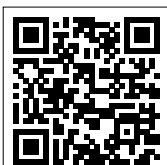
MARTIN WALLACE



AUTHOR

Ryan Wilson

Treasury but less ornate. From the



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-POV-00

“

The world we live in is a spiritual desert. ... We need a system in place to capture the living water.

included many dams, hundreds of miles of channels, reservoirs and cisterns. At its peak, Petra's water system made 12 million gallons of water available each day. The cumulative result of this system was an oasis in the desert.

Petra attracts nearly a million visitors annually. Most come to see the incredible architecture, carved directly into the sandstone. They come to see what's visible. What they can't see is the even more incredible, but hidden, water system that made it all possible.

As I've been contemplating this article, I've come to see Petra as more than an incredible place to visit on vacation. Petra's an example for our own spiritual lives.

The world we live in is a spiritual desert. My message in this

article is nearly the same as in my previous article: We need a system in place to capture the living water. That system is our devotional lives.

When we think of our devotional lives, most of us immediately think of daily Bible reading and prayer. These are excellent things, but without some kind of plan, they can easily become routine.

Additional devotional ideas can include following a Bible reading plan, memorizing scripture, prayer journaling, praying with a prayer partner, joining a small group Bible study and reading spiritual books alongside the Bible.

I recently heard evangelism reports where dozens of people were baptized. Praise God! I'm certain, however, that this was the result of much prayer and Bible study on

the part of the church members involved. They allowed themselves to become channels and reservoirs of living water.

A mentor of mine once told me that the only thing we have to offer of eternal value is the overflow of our time spent with God.

Our western obsession with success focuses primarily on visible results. But we won't see the results we want in the church, and quite frankly in our own spiritual lives, until we learn to focus first and foremost on being filled with living water. Only then can we build an oasis in the desert.

RYAN WILSON
Bible insights columnist





No Need to Fear

W

hen I was a young child, I despised putting my head under the water. My parents put me into swimming lessons to try and teach me it was OK to be in the water if I learned how to do it safely.

I remember a lot of crying and fear because the instructors would try to get me to put my head under the water. I was terrified of drowning, and I understood that under the water was bad because I couldn't breathe. It took me years to gain the confidence to be in the water unafraid.

One summer, there was a young boy who was my instructor. He was different from any of the other instructors I had over the years. He actually got in the water with me, held my hand and did the activities with me.

When it came time to put my head under the water, he held my hand and went under with me. Somehow, having someone right there with me doing the same things made me feel safe.

As soon as I saw another kid put their head under the water right next to me and saw he was OK, I was never really afraid again. It took a personal touch to help me overcome my fears.

Jesus walked with the disciples and people for three and a half years of dedicated ministry on this earth. During that time, He did something no other religious leader had done: He literally walked with the people, ate with them, slept near them and laughed and cried with them.

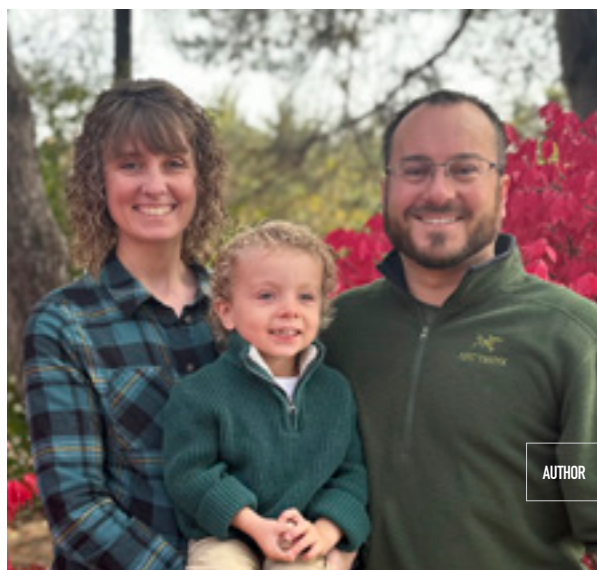
He was God incarnate, living and ministering to the people.

One evening after a long day of ministering to the people, Jesus was exhausted, both physically and spiritually, so He sent the disciples away to go across the lake. It was evening, and Jesus went up into the hills to spend time praying to God.

Jesus needed time to reconnect with God so He could continue to minister to the people. After He spent time praying, He looked and saw the disciples struggling in the boat on the lake in a great storm. Jesus walked out to them on the water. At first, the disciples panicked and weren't sure what they were seeing. But Jesus quickly revealed that it was Him and there was no need to fear. Peter, the ever-impetuous one, quickly responded.

Matt. 14:28-31 shares, "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.' 'Come,' He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' He said, 'why did you doubt?'"

Peter was so eager and filled with such great faith in Jesus that he hopped out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Him. It was miraculous and amazing, and for a moment Peter had his eyes fixed perfectly on Jesus, but then something



AUTHOR

Natashia McVay



Jesus promises that He will never leave us and never turn His back on us. Instead, He is always there desiring to hold our hand and help us see it will be OK.

happened. Peter forgot who he was with and let fear take over.

He looked around, saw the storm and the waves and immediately began to sink into the water. Nothing had changed, except his focus. Jesus hadn't disappeared and left him alone. The storm was no greater at that moment than before; the waves were the same size as they'd been the whole time. The only thing that changed was Peter's focus. He took his eyes off Jesus and suddenly began to sink.

Jesus promises that He will never leave us and never turn His back on us. Instead, He is always there desiring to hold our hand

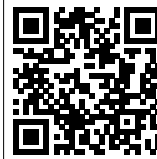
and help us see it will be OK. Waves will still crash around us; there will be scary things in this life. Sometimes we will have to put our faces in the water for a moment, but Jesus is still there holding our hand.

We have a personal, loving, involved Savior in Jesus. He experienced the challenges of life on this planet and felt all the results of sin we deal with. Jesus' desire is that we will not forget that He is with us.

Jesus, God and the angels use the phrase "fear not" more than 365 times in the Bible. That's enough promises for each day of the year. When we keep our eyes

fixed on Jesus, we have nothing to fear because we remember He is always with us.

Jesus desires that we keep our eyes fixed on Him. Take His hand and remember that He will walk with us through the storms. We don't need to fear drowning when we are holding our Savior's hand.



NATASHIA MCVAY
Lewiston Church
administrative pastor

More online at  NWADVENT.ST/121-5-POV-01





JUST FOR KIDS

God Loves to Celebrate



When the Israelites were in the desert, before they entered the Promised Land, God gave them special days to remember Him. These feasts helped them think about His love, care and saving power all through the year.

The Feast of Passover

The night before God led His people out of Egypt, they were packed and ready to go. They ate a special meal standing up. Passover was to remind people that the angel “passed over” the homes that had lamb’s blood on the doorjamb. Jesus is called our Passover Lamb because He gave His life to save us.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

For seven days, the people ate bread made without yeast. They cleaned all the yeast out of their homes. This reminded them to leave sin behind and follow God. It also pointed to Jesus, who lived a perfect life.

The Feast of Firstfruits

The people gave God the first and best part of their harvest. This showed that they trusted Him to provide the rest. Jesus rose from the dead on this special day. He is the first to rise, and one day His people will rise too.

The Feast of Weeks

Fifty days later, the people thanked God for the harvest. They celebrated with joyful hearts. Many years later, God gave the Holy Spirit to Jesus’ followers on this same day. The Holy Spirit helps us share God’s love with others.

The Feast of Trumpets

This feast began the new year. Trumpets were blown to call the people to come close to God. It was a time to get their hearts ready for the Day of Atonement.

The Day of Atonement

This was the holiest day of the year. The people fasted and asked God to cleanse them from sin. They wanted to be close friends with Him.

The Feast of Tabernacles

For seven days, the people lived in shelters made from branches. This helped them remember that God cared for them in the desert for 40 years. It was a happy time of worship, singing and thanking God.

These special feasts all point us to Jesus and remind us that God wants to live with His people forever. He is preparing a big feast in heaven — a dinner party for all His friends.

You can read Lev. 23 and Rev. 19:9 for family worship.



PAULA WART
Just for Kids columnist

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-KIDS-92

YOU'RE INVITED!

God is looking forward to having dinner with you and all your friends! Let's make cards to hand out at church, in your neighborhood or to friends at school.



You'll need:

- » Paper of any color and any kind
- » Colored pencils/markers/crayons
- » Stickers (optional)
- » Glitter and glue (optional)

1. Fold Your Cards

Decide how many people you want to invite to God's dinner party. Here's how to fold a card:

- » Fold a sheet of printer, construction or graph paper in half. Then fold it in half again.
- OR
- » Cut a sheet of cardstock (heavy paper) in half widthwise. Then fold each half into a card.

2. Write a Message

Think of people you want to tell about God's big dinner party. Write a message on the front and inside each card for your friends, neighbors, teachers, family members or church members. Here are a few ideas:

- » Front: God is getting a feast ready for you!
Inside: Jesus can't wait to welcome you home.
- » Front: You're invited!
Inside: Jesus loves you and wants you at His big feast. There's plenty of room at His table.
- » Front: The best celebration ...
Inside: ... is still to come! Jesus is getting a feast and a home ready for everyone who loves Him.

3. Decorate Your Cards

Draw pictures of God's big feast or the happy celebrations in the Bible. Use splashes of color. Add stickers. Have fun making a pretty card!

4. Deliver Your Cards

Share your cards with others. They may smile because your card reminds them that God loves them and wants them with Him forever.



PAULA WART
Just for Kids
columnist

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-KIDS-94

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PAULA WART



An Easy Way to Glow for Jesus

HAVE YOU EVER WISHED YOU COULD TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT JESUS BUT DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET STARTED? PERHAPS THE SIMPLEST WAY IS TO BECOME A GLOW MISSIONARY.

G

LOW stands for Giving Light to Our World. GLOW tracts are small, pocket-sized, colorful tracts with simple messages about Jesus and Bible truth. They can be ordered online at glowonline.org. Many churches supply members with packets so they can hand them out and start spiritual conversations.

A GLOW missionary asks Jesus for divine appointments and says, "Hi, here's something to brighten your day," as they hand someone a GLOW tract.

In fall 2025, I handed GLOW tracts to a young man in a park named Rick.

He'd been through a very tough year, losing a close friend, a truck, a girlfriend, his freedom and almost his life. One day, working at Target, he got on his knees and asked God to show him a better way and to help him find a better job.

The next day, he was walking through a park when I handed him a couple of GLOW tracts. The conversation led to an invitation to Friday family worship.

Five minutes after I met Rick, a man walking by said, "Don't you

work at Target? I saw you there. Are you interested in a great-paying job in construction where you could have weekends free?"

Rick met us for family worship that Friday evening, along with Francisco and Nez Pollock and their daughters. That led to more connections to Godly people, weekly Bible studies at the Pollock family's home, friendships and disciple-making. Francisco and Nez served as Rick's baptism coaches and prepared him for baptism. He was baptized in March.

Rick's life is a testimony of what God can do to turn around a depressed young adult and give him hope through Jesus, His word and His people. As a GLOW missionary, you have the privilege of cooperating with God in seeing souls saved for His kingdom.

To learn more about sharing Jesus, starting groups or planting churches, check out danserns.com or contact me at dan.serns@nw.npuc.org.

DAN SERNS

North Pacific Union church planting, revitalization and lay training director



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-MIN-37



BERRYMAN – Ted, 76; born March 24, 1949, Missoula, Montana; died April 24, 2025, Newberg, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Fern; sons, Paul, Adam and Zeb; sisters, Linda Boydston, Raetha Brose and Tammie Koefeld; 4 grandchildren.

BLAKE – Gardell Arlo, 73; born Oct. 3, 1951, Portland, Oregon; died Dec. 11, 2024, Yakima, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Barbara (Hedger); sons, Jeffrey and Jeremy; 6 grandchildren.

BULLOCK – Carolyn Ruth (Eckley), 81; born March 13, 1945, Rulison, Colorado; died June 8, 2026, Prosser, Nebraska. Surviving: spouse, Travis; daughters, Candace (Bullock) Osgood, Cheri Bullock and Cindy (Bullock) Kiefer; sisters, Rosalind (Eckley) Edwards and Darlene (Eckley) Bullock; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

CARTER – Mark R., 60; born Aug. 12, 1964, San Jose, California; died June 30, 2025, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: mother, Marsha (Martin); son, Joshua; brother, John; sister, Marci (Carter) Brown; 6 grandchildren.

CARTER – Ramon “Ray” G., 83; born June 8, 1941, Fairbury, Illinois; died April 5, 2025, Weiser, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Marsha (Martin); son, John; daughter, Marci (Carter) Brown; 6 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

COLVIN – Phyllis Bertha (Hegney), 80; born Aug. 7, 1945, Chewelah, Washington; died Sept. 5, 2025, Tillamook, Oregon. Surviving: son, Larry; daughter, Linda (Colvin) De Clue; brothers, Ray and Clifford; sister, Esther; 3 grandchildren.

CONLEY – Clinton William, 88; born Dec. 25, 1937, Thermalito, California; died April 20, 2026, Creswell, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Lavonne (Edwards); daughters, Tamara (Conley) Gryte and Teresa (Conley) Brower; sister, Marlene (Conley) Fritz; 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

DORNER – June (Brooks), 94; born July 22, 1931, Long Prairie, Minnesota; died April 22, 2026, Troy, Idaho. Surviving: son, Duke; daughter, Dixie Dorner Hunt; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

DYSART – Jessie Maxine (Lathrop), previously Jessie Peak, Jessie Salido, 94; born May 5, 1931, Enterprise, Oregon; died Dec. 8, 2025, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: daughters, Ginnie (Peak) Kim and Julie Peak; 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

FOX – Charles L., 76; born May 22, 1949, Martinez, California; died Feb. 18, 2026, Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Cheryl (Edwards); daughters, Heidi Rees and Lizzie Winfield; 4 grandchildren.

FUNNER – Carl John, 98; born July 27, 1927, Rathdrum, Idaho; died June 6, 2026, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Mike and Larry; daughters, Sandy (Funner) Johnson and Carla (Funner) Bautista; 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

1939–2026

LORETTA DORENE (HEGSTAD) JOHNSON

Loretta Dorene (Hegstad) Johnson was born Sept. 13, 1939 in Wauna, Oregon, and passed away Feb. 10, 2026 at her home in Monroe, Washington, surrounded by family. She was 86 years old.

Soon after graduating from Portland Union Academy, Loretta married Wallace Johnson, representing a love story that spanned 70 years and welcomed four children.

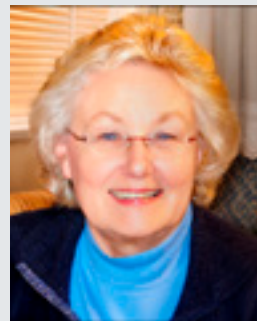
She understood the gift of hospitality and baked thousands of homemade pies with the best crust recipe she learned from her mother. She frequently opened her door and invited old and new friends to her table for a Scandinavian treat, a hot drink and a long conversation.

Loretta cultivated beauty through planting spring flowers and working in her garden, in addition to collecting and selling antiques and art. She loved passing along stories of history and origin.

A member of Green Lake Church, she was highly motivated in her support for community service outreach for homeless and underprivileged people. She also served as Monroe Senior Center chair.

Loretta is survived by her husband, Wallace Johnson; son, Jerry Johnson, and his wife, Suzanne; son, John Johnson; daughter, Cheryl Maddex, and her husband, Tim; 9 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Vernon and Mildred Hegstad; brother, Bruce Hegstad; sister, Marilyn Nicholson; and son, James Johnson.



GARVER-WALLACE – E. Cleta (McPherson), 97; born June 19, 1928, Bigheart, Oklahoma; died Feb. 21, 2026, Battle Ground, Washington. Surviving: stepson, Cliff Wallace; stepdaughter, Vickie Murphy; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

GEARHART – Clarence Ray, 95; born Feb. 3, 1930, National City, California; died Nov. 4, 2025, Coos Bay, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Betty Gearhart; sons, Rick and Randall; daughter, Sandi Merritt; 5 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

1932–2026

MARILYN SUE MORGAN

Marilyn Sue Morgan passed away on March 16, 2026 in Hendersonville, North Carolina, at age 93.

She was born on Oct. 8, 1932 in Boulder, Colorado, to Henry and Harriet Johnson. Marilyn and her sisters, Myrna and Carole, learned resilience and faith through depression-era farm life in Elm Creek, Nebraska.

Marilyn attended Union Springs Academy and graduated from Tacoma Academy in 1950. After graduating from Walla Walla College in 1954, she married Henry Earl Rieseberg.

Their passion for service took them to West Africa, serving in Nigeria, Liberia and Ghana. They welcomed four children: Ted, Michael, Ellen and Loren.

After Henry's passing in 1964, Marilyn continued teaching, serving at academies and colleges and later as principal at Weimar Academy. Marilyn was a gifted editor for *Creation Illustrated* for 32 years.

Later, she married Fred Morgan. Their retirement in Kettle Falls, Washington, included active church, school and community outreach. In her final years, Marilyn lived at Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Marilyn is survived by her sons, Loren and Ted; daughter, Ellen Rieseberg Prest; 8 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Henry and Fred; and her son, Michael.

Marilyn's life was marked by faith, service, resilience and love. Her legacy lives on in the many lives she inspired.



GLENN – Elaine (Hambley), 89; born Aug. 11, 1936, Lacota, Michigan; died Dec. 5, 2025, Richland, Washington. Surviving: son, Gordon; daughters, Jo Collins and Denise (Glenn) Moore; 5 grandchildren.

GLENN – James Reuben, 93; born July 29, 1932, Brownsville, Texas; died Nov. 14, 2025, Kennewick, Washington. Surviving: son, Gordon; daughters, Jo Collins and Denise (Glenn) Moore; 5 grandchildren.

GODMAN – Dan Clair, 81; born Aug. 22, 1944, Yakima, Washington; died June 13, 2026, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Nancy (Knopp); son, Don; daughter, Debra (Godman) McCarver; sister, Patty (Godman) Withers; 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

GRAY – Gary Lee, 84; born April 8, 1942, Kansas City, Missouri; died May 30, 2026, San Diego, California. Surviving: sons, Gary II and Jason; daughter, Gina (Gray) Bell; 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

GREEN – Virginia “Ginger” (Zundel), previously Virginia Twigg, 82; born May 5, 1943, Spokane, Washington; died March 17, 2026, Spokane Valley, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Shelly (Twigg) Parmelee; sisters, Celene (Zundel) Larson, Carol Lowrie, Martha Chamberlain and Francis Smith; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

HAMILTON – Eddie Byron, 90; born June 2, 1935, Meridian, Idaho; died May 26, 2026, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Dealia (Pieratt); son, Lindy; daughter, Micki (Hamilton) Becker; stepdaughters, Darcy Jackson and Bonnie Parrish; sisters, Dera Hamilton and Linda (Hamilton) Davis; 8 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 4 step-great-grandchildren.

HEAGY – Alice Lorraine (Metcalf), 88; born June 11, 1937, Woodside, Montana; died April 22, 2026, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: sons, Glen, Dave, Gary and Clint; daughters, Barb Seerengan and Donna Duffield; 17 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

JOHNSON – Alma Jane, 94; born June 29, 1931, Nara Visa, New Mexico; died May 27, 2026, Salem, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Melvin; sons, Doug and Ralle; daughter, Lana (Johnson) Jones; 8 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

JORGENSEN – Dagmar Enid June (Rustad), 104; born June 18, 1921, Cisco, Minnesota; died April 21, 2026, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Donald and Larry; daughters, Karen (Jorgensen) Hust, Joyce (Jorgensen) Hamblen, Geraldine (Jorgensen) Lyons and Betty (Jorgensen) Tellado; 14 grandchildren, 8 step-grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren, 6 step-great-grandchildren and 19 great-great-grandchildren.

KEGLEY – Ardyce Marilyn (Hanson), 92; born Feb. 3, 1934, Bloemfontein, South Africa; died June 5, 2026, Olympia, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Earl Sr.; son, Earl Jr.; daughters, Marilyn Varela and Cheri McKown; 2 grandchildren, 8 step-grandchildren and 13 step-great-grandchildren.

KINGEN – Beverly, 88; born June 29, 1935; died Dec. 17, 2023, Walla Walla, Washington.

LOGA – Curtis Edward, 78; born May 20, 1947, La Crosse, Wisconsin; died April 18, 2026, College Place, Washington. Surviving: son, Christopher; daughter, Tonia Loga; 5 grandchildren.

MULHOLLAND – Freda Mae, 95; born July 29, 1930, North Bend, Washington; died May 19, 2026, Mount Vernon, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Clarence; sons, Del Griebel and Tony Mulholland; daughters, Mary Mayhew, Debra Mulholland and Tina Mulholland; 7 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

PETRIE – Betty Jean (Zacharias), 93; born Aug. 10, 1932, Walla Walla, Washington; died May 6, 2026, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Gene, Tim and Steve; 7 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

RICE – Howard Allen, 82; born April 20, 1943, Portland, Oregon; died April 5, 2026, Cornelius, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Linda J. Phillips Rice; sons, Scott and Steve; daughters, Tami Rice Young and Krista Rice Toevs; brother, Robert; sister, Shirley Rice Smith; 2 grandchildren.

SCHENK – Michael Lee, 75; born Sept. 28, 1950, San Diego, California; died June 15, 2026, Grants Pass, Oregon. Surviving: son, Michael; brother, Larry; sister, Madline (Schenk) Corwin; 2 grandchildren.

SCRUGGS – Margaret Ethel, 81; born Oct. 8, 1944, Canada; died March 31, 2026, Canada. Surviving: son, Miles; 4 grandchildren.

SEIBERT – LeMel Bruce, 55; born Nov. 15, 1970, Nashville, Tennessee; died Feb. 12, 2026, Vernonia, Oregon. Surviving: mother, Loretta (Sullivan); daughters, Sara (Seibert) Seeley and Emily Seibert; sister, LaRhonda (Seibert) Wheeler; 1 grandchild.

WICKWARD – David Mark, 89; born Feb. 1, 1937, Moscow, Idaho; died March 24, 2026, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Jacquie (Foland Dennis); son, Ken; daughters, Karla Kneller and Bonnie Herbel; stepdaughters, Heidi Hughes, Christie Hodson and Judy Clark; 5 grandchildren, 7 step-grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

WILLIAMS – Carol Elizabeth (Buckmiller), 96; born July 23, 1929, Oroville, Washington; died May 16, 2026, Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Surviving: sons, Alan and Mike; daughter, Susan (Williams) Chamberlain; sister, Ruth (Buckmiller) Cross; 7 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

WOOD – Elberta “Betty” Jane (McGinnis), 90; born Nov. 25, 1935, Martinez, California; died May 6, 2026, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Robert; sons, Brent, David and R. Scott; daughter, Susan; 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

1931–2026

IONE KATHRYN MARKEL RICHARDSON



Ione was born on March 30, 1931 in Elizabethville, Pennsylvania, to Gideon and Erlena (Weaver) Markel and died on April 2, 2026 in College Place, Washington, adored by her family.

As a teenager, she converted to the Adventist Church and graduated from Shenandoah Valley Academy in 1948. She taught elementary grades in one-room schools to earn money to attend summer school at Emmanuel Missionary College in Michigan, where she earned a degree in education in 1957.

Ione met California native Gwynne Richardson while he was attending Potomac University in Maryland. He became the love of her life and partner in ministry. They married May 31, 1959, and spent the next 11 years teaching across the U.S.

In 1970, they transitioned as a couple into pastoring 15 congregations over 46 years. Ione was an Oregon Conference women's ministries assistant director and relief chaplain at Adventist Health Portland in the 80s and 90s.

Ione is survived by her son, Paul, and his wife, Teri; daughter, Kari Olson, and her husband, Eric; and grandchildren, David and Kristen. She is preceded in death by her husband; parents; brother, Paul; and sister, Grace.

Throughout her life, Ione found multiple ways to share “Bouquets of God’s Love” through her acts of kindness, ministry and poetry.

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.

OUR FAMILY

ADVERTISEMENTS

EMPLOYMENT

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks qualified candidates for a computer technician in information systems. This is a full-time opportunity with excellent benefits. The computer technician is responsible for all hardware and software on desktop computers and other end-user devices, including security. Apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks qualified candidates for a full-time TRIO SSS life coach position. This hourly role provides coaching, academic advising, academic support skills and student support services that strengthen retention, engagement and graduation. View the full job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for art and design program director. This is a full-time opportunity with excellent benefits. The program director provides effective leadership for and oversees all aspects of the program, including responsibility for communication, program assessment and planning, fiscal management and faculty evaluation/professional development while carrying a regular teaching load. See the full job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

EVENTS

EASTGATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Eastgate Church invites members, former members, pastors, friends and visitors to celebrate Oct. 10. Sabbath School begins at 10:30 a.m., worship at 11:45 a.m., potluck at 1 p.m. and memories at 2:30 p.m. 380 Tausick Way, Walla Walla. Learn more at eastgatesda.org.

ENTERPRISE 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Enterprise Church invites current and former members and friends to celebrate six decades of ministry Oct. 16–17. Come reconnect with the church family and share cherished memories, stories and photographs. For more information, please call 541-426-3751 or email sdaenterprise914@gmail.com.

HOMEcoming WEEKEND at Port Orchard Church Oct. 3. We are looking for former members, friends and guests. A Sabbath potluck will be served. Join us at 5000 Bethel Road SE, Port Orchard, Washington. For more info, please call John Baker at 731-571-5138.

MICHIGAN'S BATTLE CREEK

TABERNACLE invites you to its 100th anniversary celebration Oct. 2–10. Featured guests include Erton Köhler, General Conference president; Pavel Goia, Adventist World Radio evangelist; Norman McNulty, neurologist and author; and King's Heralds Quartet in concert. Visit tabernacle100years.com for event details.

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE Redlands Custom

Spanish-Mediterranean-style 4-bed 4-bath home. 3,942 ft. on 1.2 acres. Great room, family room, formal dining room, office, shop, sunroom and four fireplaces. Outdoor room with fountain, pool, jacuzzi, fire pit, vegetable garden, Japanese garden, orchard with more than 50 citrus and fruit trees. 60 solar panels and water shares come with property. Check real estate websites for 11530 Terracina for pictures, videos and price. Questions? Email bradrafuse@gmail.com.

FOR SALE Southern Oregon

country home near Milo Adventist Academy — ideal for academy families. This 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features vaulted ceilings, skylights, central heat/AC, pellet stove, attached 2-car garage, office/hobby building, new Tuff Shed, deep well, septic and mature landscaping. Contact Chris Gritton, Oregon broker, 541-802-6997, chris@grittonproperties.com.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY Two renovated homes in College Place near WWU with excellent rental history are for sale. Front home offers 3 bedrooms; back home features 2 bedrooms. Walk to WWU, WWU Church and Rogers Elementary. \$450,000 for both properties. Contact Jay at 208-661-6715 or groundhog@live.com.

EXPERIENCED ADVENTIST REAL

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

ADVENTIST REAL ESTATE FIRM

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION

Offering

- Sept. 5 – Local Church Budget
- Sept. 12 – World Budget (GC)
- Sept. 19 – Local Church Budget
- Sept. 26 – Local Conference Advance
- Oct. 3 – Local Church Budget
- Oct. 10 – Walla Walla University (NPUC)
- Oct. 17 – Local Church Budget
- Oct. 24 – Local Conference Advance
- Oct. 31 – Alaska Conference (NPUC)

Native Ministries

North Pacific Union is seeking a mission-minded, self-supporting individual or couple to lead Bible studies, conduct Sabbath services and build relationships with people of the Queets village on the Quinault Indian Reservation in Washington with support from Forks Church.

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Steve Huey, NPUC Native ministries director, at 509-834-3899 or Monte Church, NPUC Native ministries assistant, at 503-880-5111.

VACATIONS

SUN VALLEY, IDAHO Perfect base for enjoying world-class recreation and cultural activities. Adventist church has two guest rooms for \$85/night donation. Each has two queen beds, a full bath, mini-fridge, microwave and Wi-Fi. Apartment also available for \$125/night donation. It has two bedrooms with queen beds, full bath, full kitchen, living/dining area. Donations help us make the guest rooms available for our emergency housing ministry. To book, contact Yvonne at 208-721-1629 or visit woodrivervalleyid.adventistchurch.org/ministries/guest-room.

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NOV./DEC. SEPT. 14
JAN./FEB. NOV. 9

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North Pacific Union Directory

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

President	John Freedman	Hispanic, Ministerial and Multicultural	Peter Simpson
Executive Secretary, Evangelism		Information Technology	Loren Bordeaux
Assistant	Bill McClendon	Associate	Daniel Cates
Treasurer	Jeffrey Fogelquist	Native Ministries Northwest	Steve Huey
Undertreasurer	Kody Hendrickson	Public Affairs, Religious Liberty and Legal Counsel	André Wang
Associate	Anne Vu	Regional and Outreach Ministries	EuGene Lewis
Communication	Heidi Baumgartner	Trust (WAF)	James Brown
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Secondary	Brian Harris	Associate	Velvet Lang
Elementary	Becky Meharry	Church Planting, Revitalization and Lay Training	Dan Serns
Early Childhood	Renae Young		
Certification Registrar	Deborah Hendrickson		

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 and v.p. administration; _____, 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 Jacaban, v.p. education

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

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

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

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

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

204 S. College Ave.
College Place, WA 99324-1198
509-527-2656 • wallawalla.edu
Alex Bryan, president; Pamela Cress, v.p. for academic administration; _____, v.p. for financial administration; Matthew Fitting, v.p. for student life; Jodi Wagner, v.p. for marketing and enrollment; Gayla Rogers, v.p. for alumni and advancement

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OREGON ABC

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

UPPER COLUMBIA ABC

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

COLLEGE PLACE ABC

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

AUBURN ABC

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

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Sunset times:
nwadventists.com/sunset



What a Fellowship

WHERE DO YOU FIND FELLOWSHIP EACH WEEK?

Every Sabbath morning, Adventists across the Pacific Northwest choose where to worship.

For some, Sabbath morning means a familiar pew. For others, it means a living room, a Bible study or a quiet walk with God. If you are like 4 in 10 Northwest Adventists, you likely worshipped with others – in person or online – last Sabbath.

Church attendance has trended downward for years. That's why a Hartford Institute for Religion Research study recently drew attention, with the first signs of increased worship attendance in two decades.

Behind every survey and statistic are stories – your stories. Each of us has reasons for attending church regularly, occasionally or not at all. These stories are shared among friends, family and even strangers, whether around lunch tables, over the phone, online or face to face.

Christianity has always been more than a belief system. It's a fellowship – a community of believers who worship, encourage, forgive and grow together.

Fellowship doesn't require that we all think alike or worship alike. It isn't limited to the people we already know well. It grows as we listen to one another's stories and encourage one another in faith.

That doesn't mean the experience is always easy. Some have been deeply hurt by words or actions. Others are limited by mobility or caregiving responsibilities. Some are still searching for a place to call home.

The church isn't perfect. We won't always agree, and our worship styles and perspectives will differ. Yet God continues to shape us into His family.

The invitation in Heb. 10:22–25 isn't simply to attend church. It calls us to encourage one another and to spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

The question changes from, "Should I go to church?" to, "Who might be encouraged because I show up?"

Fellowship takes many forms – a house church, a weekly Bible study, family worship with neighbors, an online prayer group or a local congregation. God may even lead you to worship in a different style, language or culture, discovering a broader picture of His family.

So consider this an invitation – not simply to attend, but to fellowship. Pray about where God is inviting you to be present. Pray for healing where you've been wounded, wisdom where boundaries are needed and courage to step fully into Christian community.

Then show up. Bring your gifts, your questions, your experiences and your faith. Someone may need the encouragement only you can offer, and you may discover that God has been preparing a place where you, too, can be strengthened.

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union communication director and Gleaner editor

TABLE TALK PROMPT

What does Christian fellowship look like in this season of your life, and who could you help experience a greater sense of belonging?

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



REMSCAPE

AUTHOR Heidi Baumgartner



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/121-5-TT-07

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Every Sabbath, Primotivo greets people with a smile as they arrive for worship, whether at Tacoma Central Church or camp meeting. His ministry of hospitality reflects one of the simple ways Christian fellowship begins.





ONE VOICE 27

MISSION FOR ALL

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)



For resources and to learn more, visit:

onevoice27.org

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