

EDITORIAL
The Object of Education

FEATURE
For Such a Time as This

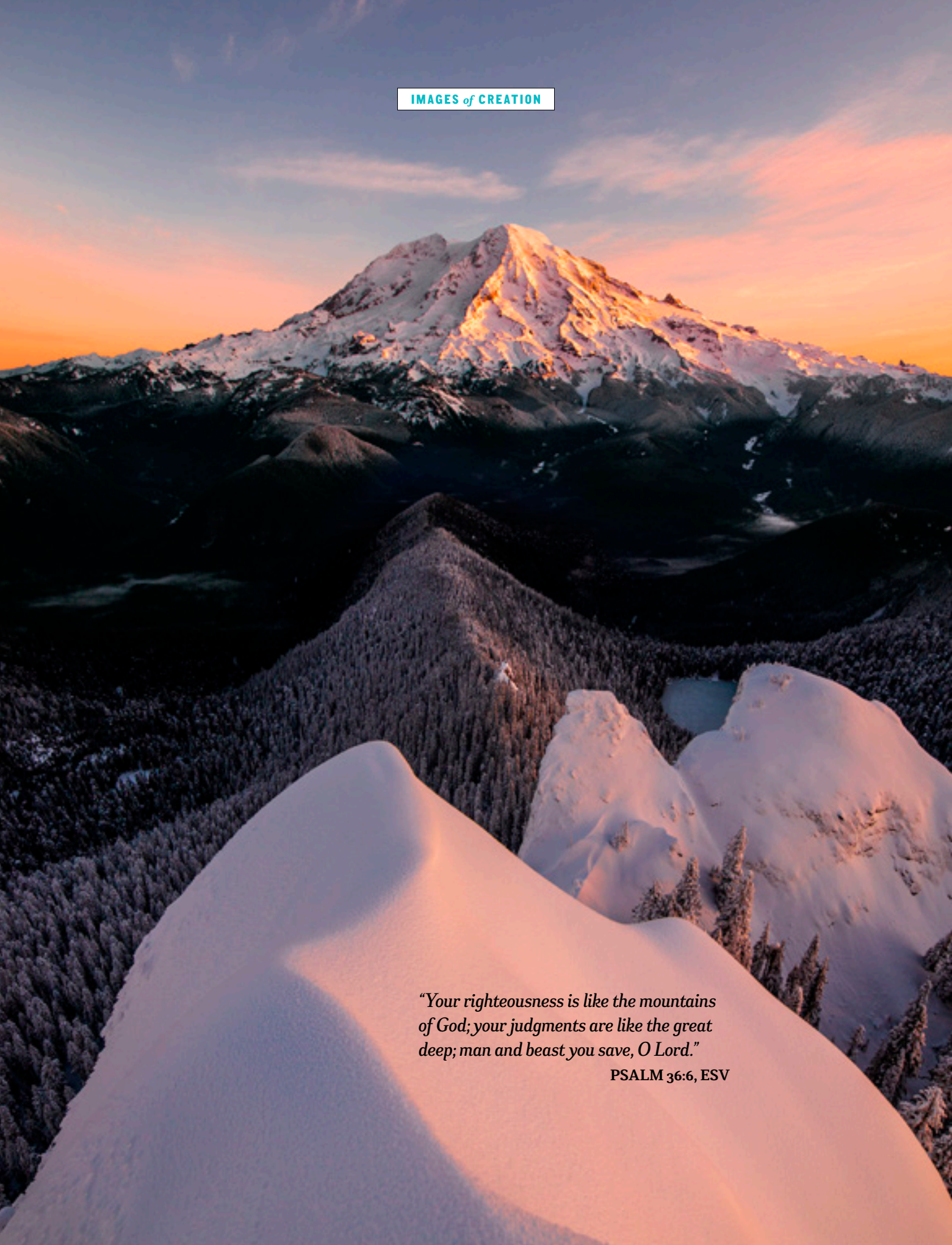
PERSPECTIVE
Sabbath in Jerusalem

gleamer

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

Prepared for a
Purpose

JAN/FEB
2023
VOL. 118, No. 1



*"Your righteousness is like the mountains
of God; your judgments are like the great
deep; man and beast you save, O Lord."*

PSALM 36:6, ESV

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

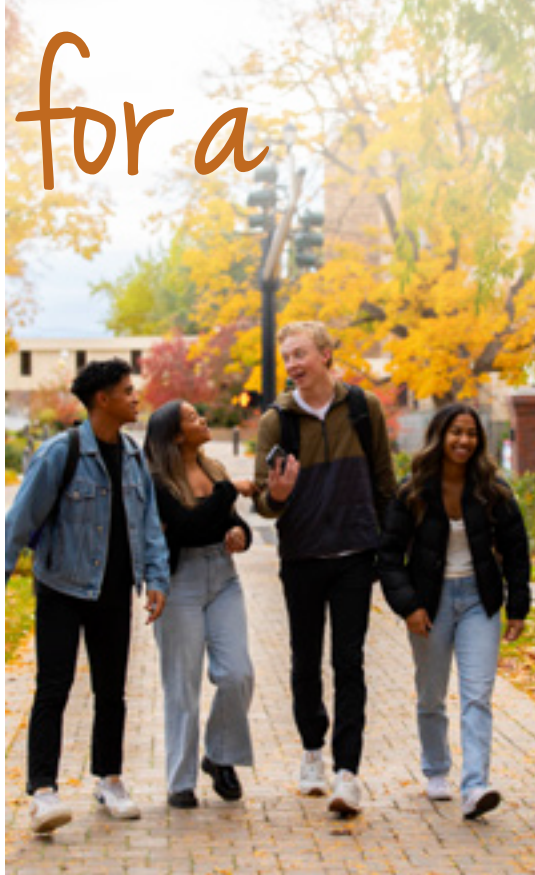
THE OBJECT OF EDUCATION

4 WE HAVE ALL been anxious for life to return to normal, but is it too harsh to admit that there is no normal on this earth?

Prepared for a Purpose

The core outcomes of a liberal arts education are not only desired by today's employers, but critical to minister to an ever-changing world. Meet four WWU students who are combining their academic pursuits with experiences that will prepare them to be the service-minded world changers God calls them to be.

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Thank You, Matthew McVane

After more than 21 years of partnership, our contract graphic designer, Matthew McVane, has decided to focus on other endeavors. When Matthew took over the *Gleaner's* design in 2001, he revolutionized it, ambitiously redesigning the layout and bringing full color to each page of the magazine. Throughout the past two decades, he initiated creative and award-winning design improvements that brought the *Gleaner* to the forefront of church publications around North America and the world. He also pioneered new technology to streamline magazine production, drastically improving workflow and content management systems. Matthew, we are so grateful for your sharing of your talent, drive and high calling. We wish you all the best in your projects going forward. You will be missed!

—The *Gleaner* Staff

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The Object of Education

WE HAVE ALL BEEN ANXIOUS FOR LIFE TO RETURN TO NORMAL, BUT IS IT TOO HARSH TO ADMIT THAT THERE IS NO NORMAL ON THIS EARTH? OUR NATION, OUR WORLD IS NOT IMPROVING. AS WE TRY TO MOVE ON FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WE SEEM TO BE FACING WHAT SOME SAY IS THE WORST ECONOMIC RECESSION IN 40 YEARS. HOPE SEEMS TO BE UNATTAINABLE FOR SO MANY, BUT WE AS ADVENTIST-BELIEVING CHRISTIANS DO HAVE A MESSAGE OF HOPE. JESUS CHRIST IS RETURNING, AND WE ARE ANXIOUS FOR EVERYONE TO BE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEAVEN WITH HIM.

It is exciting to share what's happening in Adventist education in this issue of the *Gleaner*. But first, let's back up and remind ourselves of our worldview and put this all into perspective. We believe God created the human race perfect – without sin. Yet, God would teach Adam and Eve face-to-face in the perfect classroom, the garden, to grow them in their character for a life of eternity. Adam and Eve, however, chose to sin and that sentenced us all to death.

This sin was a statement of distrust of God and who He said He is. It brought a physical separation from God and the first classroom was abandoned. But God, the Trinity, in their deep love for us, exercised their pre-determined plan to save us humans from this death sentence by having

Jesus come to earth and save us through His death on a cross. Jesus came to live with His creation, teach us who God really is and sacrifice His life for ours. This is our gift from God, our redemption, our hope.

However, our world view doesn't end with saving in sin but takes us to saving from sin. This learning of Jesus is our Adventist education mission. Specifically, our mission is: "To lead students to encounter Jesus, accept His gift of Salvation and follow Him." It is foundational to who we are and why our homes, schools and churches are so important to our spiritual health and character growth.

In her book *Education* on pages 15–16, Ellen White shared with us, "To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to perfection in which he was created,

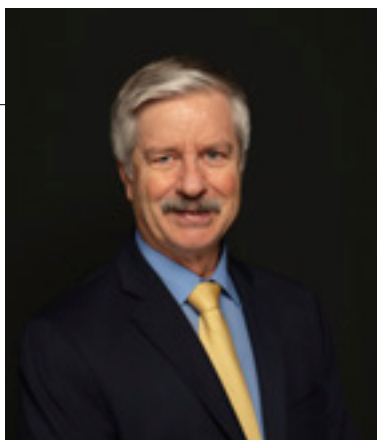
to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized – this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life." In Job 28:28, Job tells us, "The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding." Let's be in agreement that Adventist education is for everyone!

Our homes, schools and churches are all to be united in the purpose of growing each human being from birth to end of this life in our character development by focusing our minds on Jesus. As this change happens in us, we become more like Jesus and share this amazing love story with others. This is evangelism.

In the pages that follow you will find evangelism stories and reports of this

NPUC Welcomes Keith Hallam as Vice President for Education

page 12



mission in progress inside our early childhood centers, our elementary schools, secondary schools and our university. These stories are shared to bring courage to our hearts by seeing what God is doing in our institutions and by being reminded we are not alone but a united family in the Pacific Northwest.

Behind each story we have teachers, administrators, support staff and a host of volunteers who are actively pouring Jesus into our children

and young adults. To each of them, we say thank you for your ministry. We are blessed by your participation in this organized system that is infusing seeds of love within our children for the Holy Spirit to convict their hearts and minds.

We also wish to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who supports our centers, schools

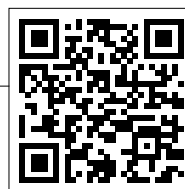
and university behind the scenes with faithful tithing and financial gifts. Gifting is such an important part of ministry. Knowing there is financial support brings encouragement to every worker and student.

Maybe you have been thinking about becoming a teacher or you are presently teaching in another system and are thinking about ministering in a classroom that has Jesus as its foundation. Please don't push the thought aside. Reach out to your conference superintendent or Walla Walla University School of Education to see how you can become a teacher in our classrooms. Teaching is a highly rewarding ministry that touches lives for God. I know I would not be here today if it weren't for teachers who invested themselves into me as a child and young adult.

It wouldn't be right to end this without soliciting each one of us to pray for the ministry that happens inside our classrooms. It is only through the Holy Spirit that lives are changed and healing happens.

KEITH HALLAM
North Pacific Union
vice president for education

More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-1-EDT-96



gleaner

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Images of Creation, p. 2



"Snowy Sunrise,"
in Mount Rainier,
Washington,
by William S. Frohne,
of Walla Walla,
Washington



PHOTOS BY CHRIS DIRAKE

Prepared for a Purpose

BETWEEN CHANGING JOB MARKETS AND TALK OF STUDENT LOAN DEBT, MORE FAMILIES ARE QUESTIONING THE VALUE OF A COLLEGE DEGREE. HOWEVER, THE CORE OUTCOMES OF A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION – THE ABILITY TO THINK CRITICALLY AND CREATIVELY, COMMUNICATE CLEARLY, WORK COLLABORATIVELY AND ADAPT TO NEW TECHNOLOGIES – ARE NOT ONLY DESIRED BY TODAY’S EMPLOYERS, BUT CRITICAL TO MINISTER TO AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD.

At Walla Walla University, rigorous academic programs integrated in a faith community are primed to train the next generation to excel in their vocations while understanding the higher call of being a light to the world, always.

Meet four WWU students who are combining their academic pursuits with experiences that will prepare them to be the service-minded world changers God calls them to be.



Taylor Peterson

Major: Business administration, accounting

Hometown: Palmer, Alaska

The habit of service is one Taylor Peterson, junior business administration major, has been practicing for some time. She has volunteered on 14 short-term mission trips over the last eight years and continues to find service an important part of her life. "Service fills my cup. It might not be like that for everyone, but for me it's such a special way to step out of my comfort zone and make real connections. I find so much energy serving alongside others," she said.

"I love that I'm working to make service accessible," said Peterson. "Students often think they must travel abroad or spend a year as a student missionary to make an impact. It's cool to shine a light on the great organizations in our area and what they are already doing for our community."

Accounting might seem a little out of left field, but Peterson sees the value a strong accountant can have. "I'm a small-town girl, and my parents ran a private practice. I see myself working in a smaller organization like that where I can treat people like people and not just numbers," said Peterson.

The close-knit and service-minded campus community is one perk of studying at WWU. Peterson loves the small class sizes and mentorship from faculty that she found here. "The professors will say, 'Hey, I want to make sure you succeed. I'm going to set up time outside of class for study groups.' And they're just funny," said Peterson.

Peterson is sure to take this personal touch into her own career, wherever that may be. "I just enjoy being able to use my love of service to show what it can do in other people's lives. We can use the gifts that God's given us in a way to help make somebody's day a little better," she said.

It's cool to shine a light on the great organizations in our area and what they are already doing for our community.

Deciding to work at WWU Center for Humanitarian Engagement was relatively easy for Peterson. She met executive director David Lopez on a mission trip with Maranatha as a high school student, and he encouraged her to join the team. She's been working in the office since 2021 as a volunteer coordinator where she connects with local partners to create service opportunities for students.

Peterson's commitment to serving others also led her to begin college as an education major and earn her EMT license in 2021. It wasn't until she stumbled into an accounting class during fall 2022 that she discovered her interest in the field and switched her major to accounting.



Eddie Coberly

Majors: Mathematics and computer science

Hometown: Battle Ground, Washington

Somewhere along the way, Eddie Coberly, mathematics and computer science double major, developed a whole lot of good-natured warmth. Perhaps it is for that reason Albert Handal, lead campus chaplain, reached out to Coberly about becoming a dorm chaplain. Even a short chat with Coberly makes it easy to

As a dorm chaplain, Coberly organizes a weekly worship alongside his support of students and resident assistants. He appreciates that his job reminds him of the value in pursuing Christ intentionally and in supporting others. "I love what I do, and I want to help people. My work is a really easy way to do that in a way I'm proficient," said Coberly.

Coberly is also proficient in math. He has loved math since he was in high school, and now he's simultaneously

majoring in mathematics and computer science. It's part of what makes him the perfect candidate to serve as a front desk worker for the mathematics and computer science departments. He hopes to one day share his love for math as a college professor, but for now he's channeling that passion and intelligence into tutoring.

Coberly tutors all lower-division math classes in the Student Development Center on campus. He

explains that his work is more than just helping students grasp math concepts. Coberly is learning how to meet students where they are and communicate in ways that encourage as well as instruct.

"It's a really good way to reach students and help them salvage whatever enjoyment they could possibly have left for math. I sincerely wish other students could enjoy math as much as I do, but the older I get, the more I realize sometimes you have to pick your battles," he laughed.

It's clear that Coberly is finding ways to serve on campus that utilize his unique combination of skills and give him a sense of fulfillment. And while learning differential equations, Coberly is also discovering how to support others spiritually and academically. All in all, he's just the kind of open-hearted, math-loving, service-focused Christ follower you might hope to have as a math professor.

I love what I do, and I want to help people. My work is a really easy way to do that.

believe he would be a valuable resource to the residents of Sittner Hall.

"I'm kind of like a localized support system. They don't have to go anywhere or call anyone. The guys can just stop by my room and say, 'Hey I'm not doing so great. Can I talk to someone about it?'" explained Coberly.



Liberty Anderson

Major: Business administration and marketing

Hometown: Orlando, Florida

These days you're likely to find Liberty Anderson, sophomore business administration major, playing pickleball on the new courts, leading out at a Black Student Christian Forum event or picking up coffee before a study session. "I enjoy school in general, so I enjoy going to class," said Anderson. "However, I've found that my deepest relationships have been built outside the classroom."

Anderson is involved in many things outside of class that build on her marketing studies. Her initial interest in marketing was born out of the work she did with BSCF her freshman year. "We get a lot of positive feedback from students of color on our campus that it's so nice that we are able to provide spaces where they can worship, interact and express their own culture," said Anderson.

Anderson is now serving as BSCF president, assessing the community's needs, planning and advertising events, and coordinating volunteers to create a wholesome space for club members. Her hard work and expertise have clearly paid off. The club has grown significantly in the past two years, despite the extra challenges created by former pandemic restrictions.

Anderson seems to have a clear understanding of the importance of forming purposeful relationships with those around her. "I think there's a unique experience, a bond, that you share with people when you serve together," said Anderson.

I think there's a unique experience, a bond, that you share with people when you serve together.

Recently, Anderson and 12 other students sacrificed their weekend study schedule to spend Saturday cooking for more than 400 people, only to wake up on Sunday at 6 a.m. to continue ministering to members of the small Wallowa community that was devastated by a hailstorm. "Afterwards we got incredible positive feedback from the community members expressing how grateful they were, and how amazed they were that students would choose to spend their weekend cooking and installing windows with them," she said.

Every weekend, Anderson can be found leading similar service projects in the Walla Walla Valley. Her work as Care Weekend coordinator for CHE requires her to create consistent, varied opportunities for students to find joy in service. As a pastor's kid, she grew up

with service-dedicated lives exemplified to her, and she's building on that heritage in her own way.

"My ultimate goal with my business degree is to work in the nonprofit sphere," said Anderson. "I've seen my parents dedicate their lives to service and giving to others, so I just can't imagine doing it a different way."



Rachel Langford

Major: Nursing

Hometown: Yucaipa, California

Rachel Langford, nursing major, has known she wanted to be a nurse since she was a kid noting imaginary symptoms on a toy laptop. “As I was growing up, my mom had a disease, so I got to meet a lot of different healthcare professionals from a young age. I grew up thinking, ‘I want to care for people the way they cared for her,’” she explained.

I gained respect for myself in being able to do something I didn't think I'd be able to do.

That childhood dream has grown and developed along with Langford. Briefly, with the wisdom of a kindergartner, she wanted to be a “baby doctor.” Now she admits she’s considered a few different careers in the medical field and landed on being a baby nurse. “I definitely want to work with kids,” she said.

In summer 2020, Langford was struggling through quarantine requirements to serve as a student missionary in Majuro, an island of less

than 4 square miles in the Marshall Islands. After weeks of travel and isolation, she was finally able to see what she had come for—the kids. “Every day I was touched by the noise in the classroom of the laughter and the excitement of the kids to learn,” remembered Langford.

Since returning stateside, Langford has leaned on the connections she made as a missionary. She also brought home a new independence, appreciation for the privileges of her education and assurance that she did not want to go into teaching. “I gained so much

respect for teachers, and I gained respect for myself in being able to do something I didn't think I'd be able to do,” she said.

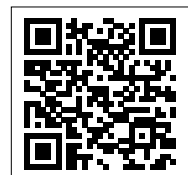
Now Langford finds herself doing things she wouldn't have considered before her time of service. She spoke at a student missions-focused vespers in fall 2022 and is volunteering at Circle Church, a student-led Sabbath service. “Being involved with Circle Church gives me what we call a circle family,” she said. “It gives me more people to get out there and meet, even though I have

that stress and anxiety of not knowing anyone on campus anymore.”

While in many ways her year of service was challenging, Langford also saw it as highly rewarding. Her love for kids and penchant for service were confirmed there.

More than anything, she feels she learned to step out in faith in a new way. Langford said, “My motto is, if you hear the call, follow it. If you think God is calling you to do something with your life, trusting His process is hard, but it will be extremely worth it in the end.”

KELSI NASH
WWU university relations supervisor



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-FT-99](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-1-ft-99)

Northwest Adventist Schools

NORTH PACIFIC UNION OPERATES MORE THAN 110 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE NORTHWEST, WITH APPROXIMATELY 6,400 STUDENTS ATTENDING EACH YEAR. IN ADDITION, WE OPERATE WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY, FEATURING A FULL COLLEGIATE LIBERAL ARTS CURRICULUM. SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOLS ARE OPEN TO ALL QUALIFIED STUDENTS, REGARDLESS OF GENDER, RACE, COLOR, ETHNIC BACKGROUND OR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

Alaska Conference

- Amazing Grace Academy
- Anchorage Junior Academy
- Dillingham Adventist School
- Golden Heart Christian School
- Juneau Adventist Christian School
- Sitka Adventist School

Idaho Conference

- Gem State Adventist Academy
- Baker Adventist Christian School
- Boise Valley Adventist School
- Caldwell Adventist Elementary School
- Eagle Adventist Christian School
- 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
- Highland View Christian School
- Libby Adventist Christian School
- Mount Ellis Elementary
- Mountain View Christian School
- Teton Adventist Christian School
- Trailhead Christian School
- Trout Creek Adventist School
- Valley Adventist Christian School
- Valley View Adventist Christian School

Oregon Conference

- Columbia Adventist Academy
- Livingstone Adventist Academy
- Milo Adventist Academy
- Portland Adventist Academy
- Rogue Valley Adventist Academy
- Canyonville Adventist Elementary School
- Central Valley Christian School
- Cottage Grove Christian School

- Countryside Christian School
- Emerald Christian Academy
- Gold Coast Christian School
- 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 Adventist Christian School
- Portland Adventist Elementary School
- Rivergate Adventist Elementary School
- Riverside Adventist Christian School
- Roseburg Christian Academy
- Scappoose Adventist School
- Shady Point Adventist School
- Shoreline Christian School
- Sutherlin Adventist Christian School
- Three Sisters Adventist Christian School
- Tillamook Adventist School
- Tualatin Valley Academy

Upper Columbia Conference

- Cascade Christian Academy
- Upper Columbia Academy
- Walla Walla Valley Academy
- Beacon Christian School
- Brewster Adventist Christian School
- Colville Valley Seventh-day Adventist School
- Cornerstone Christian School
- Crestview Christian School
- Goldendale Adventist Christian School
- Hermiston Junior Academy
- Lake City Academy
- Milton-Stateline Adventist School
- Omak Adventist Christian School
- Orofino Adventist Christian School
- Palisades Christian Academy
- Palouse Hills Christian School
- Peaceful Valley Christian School

- Pendleton Christian School
- Pend Oreille Valley Adventist School
- Rogers Adventist 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
- Cedarbrook Adventist Christian School
- Cypress Adventist 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.

Union Welcomes Hallam as VP for Education

NORTH PACIFIC UNION WELCOMED KEITH HALLAM AS THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION IN SEPTEMBER DURING THE 2022 NPUC CONSTITUENCY SESSION, WHERE HE WAS NOMINATED TO FILL THE VACANCY LEFT BY DENNIS PLUBELL WHO RECENTLY RETIRED. THE VOTE WAS TAKEN AND QUICKLY AFFIRMED.

“This invitation to return to NPUC was a surprise to my wife and I,” shared Hallam. “We had always thought we would finish our ministry in Southern Union. However, our grandchildren were living on the West Coast, and we knew we could not live so far away. We wrestled

with knowing if this was a call from God or something we as grandparents just wanted.”

Hallam and his wife, Kandyce, have three children, Kristofor, Korrine and Kurtis—all graduates of Auburn Adventist Academy—and five grandchildren.

“It was amazing to see how God placed people into our lives whom we respect as God-fearing people, who didn’t even know our dilemma, to council us,” shared Hallam. “Our prayers changed from, ‘Make the way clear,’ to, ‘Lord, if this opportunity remains open, we will accept the call.’”

Hallam’s experience includes teaching at Wisconsin Academy and serving as principal of Enterprise Academy and Auburn Adventist Academy. Hallam also worked at Potomac Conference as vice president of education. Most recently, he was the associate director of secondary education and director of education at Southern Union Conference in Peachtree Corners, Georgia.

“I look forward to seeing how God will move his work forward in our schools in NPUC and the hearts of our teachers and students,” said Hallam. “NPUC has always been very supportive of our Adventist education as a major part of our church’s evangelism for our young people and families. It is my prayer that I will be faithful and use my skills to bless others in their journey of service.”

Hallam earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Walla Walla University in College Place, Washington, and later earned his master’s degree in education from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

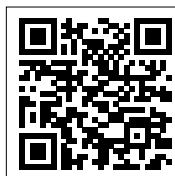
“I am very much encouraged by the commitment and determination to have our early childhood centers and schools be safe havens for our young people,” shared Hallam after meeting with the education leaders throughout NPUC during the last few months. “These are places where children know they are loved and supported in their spiritual and academic development. I pray that my efforts to assist our education professionals will bring courage to stay faithful to our mission to lead students to encounter Jesus, accept His gift of salvation and follow Him.”

AUTUMN DUNZWEILER
Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator



CHRIS DRAKE

● Keith Hallam
NPUC vice president for education



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-1-NPUC-95

U-DAYS 2023

at Walla Walla University



U-Days at Walla Walla University is not something a high school student should miss. If you know a junior or senior*, encourage them to sign up for one of these special events where they'll tour the campus, attend classes, visit with a financial counselor, enjoy fun-filled events, earn scholarships, and more. Plus, their stay is on us—we'll even help with travel costs (up to \$350 per visitor). Space fills fast, so they should sign up now!

**Seniors in NPUC academies will be attending the April event with their schools.*

► Sign up for U-Days!

MARCH 2–4, 2023

APRIL 2–4, 2023

wallawalla.edu/udays



NextGen Scholarship Equips Aspiring Pastor to Answer the Call

JEREMIAS CRUZ, FRESHMAN THEOLOGY MAJOR AT WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY, WAS AWARDED THE NEXTGEN PASTOR SCHOLARSHIP DURING SUMMER 2022. WWU WAS PROVIDED WITH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING BY NORTH PACIFIC UNION. THIS FORWARD-THINKING INVESTMENT WAS DESIGNED BY NPUC TO EQUIP AND RECRUIT THE NEXT GENERATION OF PASTORS AND TEACHERS.

Cruz grew up with a gift for speaking and a passion for God, but faced unique barriers during his childhood, including a rare condition that required him to undergo surgery every six months between the ages of 2 and 15.



As a young person, Cruz considered a few career paths before realizing his calling. Cruz credits his father with helping him connect his ability to speak with his love for God. When his father invited him to preach, Cruz felt God speaking to him and through him. He knew it was what he wanted to do for the rest of his life and began looking for a way to answer the call.

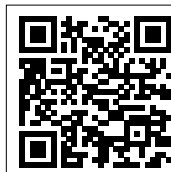
A year before coming to WWU as a freshman, Cruz had no idea that the university existed. He was enrolled at Andrews University with a down payment submitted and a roommate assigned before it became evident that finances would simply not allow him to pursue higher education there. After considering community college options, Cruz recalled his father praying, “Lord, how is it so hard for my son to serve?” Just two days later, a local pastor’s wife sent the family a link about the NextGen Pastor scholarship offered at WWU.

A rush of adrenaline hit Cruz when he found out he had earned the scholarship just one month before fall term began at WWU in 2022. Shortly after, he called Carl Cosaert, School of Theology dean and biblical studies professor, and realized it would be possible to attend WWU. Cruz remembers his parents listening to the call at his door and shedding tears of gratitude.

According to Cruz, attending WWU has renewed the fire inside him to serve, and he has a difficult time imagining himself anywhere else. His foremost goal is to develop his relationship with Christ as a friend and savior. He believes this relationship will aid him in every other aspect of his life, including his pursuit of a pastoral role. He mentioned Matt. 6:33 has inspired him. It says, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

If you would like to help fund additional scholarships or NPUC scholarship initiatives, please contact the NPUC at 360-857-7000 and ask for the treasury department. Your involvement will not only strengthen the future of a young adult, but also positively impact both WWU and NPUC.

KELSI NASH
WWU university relations supervisor



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-1-NPUC-36

• NextGen Pastor and NextGen Teacher scholarships are making a Christian college education possible for the next generation of Adventist leaders.



Attracting our

NEXT GENERATION

of leaders: **Join a partnership that offers tuition for future pastors and teachers.**



**NextGen
Pastor Scholarship**



**NextGen
Teacher Scholarship**

More than ever, our world needs leaders who are trained to build communities of faith, discovery, and service. That's why the North Pacific Union Conference and Walla Walla University partnered to offer an innovative pair of scholarships that provide free tuition for qualified education or theology students.

“When I found out I received the NextGen scholarship I couldn't believe it. Everything that shouldn't be matching up was. For a while I had been wrestling with a feeling of God's call for my life. I am now pursuing it!”

—Brandon, NextGen Pastor Scholarship recipient

“Both my husband and I are enrolled at Walla Walla University and because of the NextGen Teacher Scholarship we have an opportunity to achieve our goals. The scholarship will make a significant impact on my future and my goal to become a certified teacher.”

—Leslie, NextGen Teacher Scholarship recipient

“After finding out that I got the scholarship I shed a tear of joy and gave a thank you prayer to God. I would love to work as a youth pastor and engage with the younger generation.”

—Khup, NextGen Pastor Scholarship recipient

There is a waiting list of future pastors and teachers hoping to enroll at WWU. **Learn more about the NextGen scholarships and how you can help by visiting www.npuc.org/nextgen or calling (360) 857-7000.**

Laymen at UCC Renew Their Pact

COWLITZ FALLS CAMPGROUND VIBRATED WITH PASSION AND ENERGY AS 100 LAYMEN, OR “FAITH WARRIORS,” FROM UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE GATHERED AUG. 5–7, 2022 UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MULTI-CULTURAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT.



During summer 2021, a group of approximately 23 leaders, along with their local pastor, took the initiative to plan a leadership retreat to seek God in prayer and to renew their vows with Him. That original group grew exponentially into a group of about 100 men representing each of the UCC Hispanic churches along with their pastors, whose intention it was to “return to the mountain and renew their pact.”

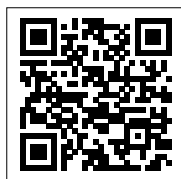
Antonio IX Rosique, pastor and guest speaker, presented powerful messages indisputably inspired by the Holy Spirit that moved the hearts of the attendees and generated genuine brokenness and full surrender. The sessions of intercessory prayer, as well as the testimonies of transformation shared

by several of the attendees, created a beautiful atmosphere of authentic worship.

Unquestionably, one of the most moving moments was when David, a young man who had been invited by a friend, was yearning to experience the “new birth” he had heard about and decided to surrender his heart to Jesus through baptism.

Through time full of spiritual reflections, moments of prayer, testimonies, singing praises, eating together, laughing, games and sports, they experienced a weekend of genuine revival and full surrender to God in the midst of Christian camaraderie. This fine group of men from UCC were positively impacted by a power on high.

FLORENCIO BUENO
Sunnyside-Mabton-Grandview district pastor



More online at 
NWADVENT.ST/118-1-HSP-57

IGLESIA

Varones Laicos de la UCC Renuevan su Pacto

EL CAMPAMENTO DE COWLITZ FALLS VIBRÓ DE PASIÓN Y ENERGÍA AL RECIBIR ALREDEDOR DE UN CENTENAR DE VARONES DE LA UCC DURANTE LOS DÍAS 5-7 DE AGOSTO, 2022 BAJO LA COORDINACIÓN DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE MINISTERIOS MULTICULTURALES Y EL GRUPO DE LAICOS, “GUERREROS DE LA FE.”

Durante el verano 2021, un grupo de líderes junto a su pastor local tomaron la iniciativa de apartar un fin de semana para buscar a Dios en oración y renovar su pacto. Lo que en aquel entonces fue un grupo de 23 varones, para esta ocasión creció de manera exponencial, donde una camarilla representativa de todas las iglesias del área, junto al equipo pastoral se unieron para “regresar a la montaña y renovar el pacto.”

El orador invitado de origen mexicano, Pr. Antonio IX Rosique, presentó poderosos mensajes indiscutiblemente inspirados por el Espíritu Santo, impactando el corazón de los presentes y generando momentos de absoluto quebrantamiento y entrega. Los espacios de oración intercesora, así como las historias de transformación contada por varios de los participantes, crearon una atmósfera de completa adoración.

Pero, indiscutiblemente, uno de los momentos más emotivos fue cuando David, un joven que llegó invitado por un amigo, decidió entregar su corazón a Cristo a través del bautismo para experimentar un nuevo nacimiento.

Entre reflexiones espirituales, momentos de oración y testimonio, alabanzas, comida, risas, el golpe de las guitarras y los juegos deportivos, completamos una jornada de reavivamiento, entrega a Dios y camaradería cristiana. Definitivamente, los varones hispanos de la UCC fuimos impactados con el poder de lo alto.

FLORENCIO BUENO
Pastor del distrito Sunnyside-
Mabton-Grandview



Blessings Through Tragedy for Amazing Grace Academy

The new gym floor at Amazing Grace Academy

IN DECEMBER 2021, AMAZING GRACE ACADEMY AND PALMER CHURCH MET TO MAKE PLANS TO FUNDRAISE FOR A NEW WOOD GYM FLOOR. EXCITEMENT WAS HIGH AS THEY DEVELOPED PLANS, MET WITH CONTRACTORS AND BEGAN FUNDRAISING.

Just a few weeks later in January 2022, a devastating wind storm hit Mat-Su Valley and Amazing Grace Academy. After days of extremely high winds, sub-zero temperatures and power outages, a pipe in the science room froze and burst, flooding all three floors of the school.

Due to the flood, school was closed for a week while teachers, parents and volunteers tried to salvage classroom spaces and supplies. Palmer Church graciously allowed the school to use three classrooms and the fellowship hall for the remainder of the school year.

Volunteers spent more than a thousand hours demolishing the wet and damaged parts of the school within a couple of weeks. The outpouring of support for the school was phenomenal!

Reconstruction was completed two weeks before the 2022–2023 school year began, and, again, many hands came to help the teachers move back into their new classrooms. As students and families came back into the school, they were amazed at the transformation from the old to the new. The rebuilding process allowed for some re-configuration of spaces, refreshing of floors and paint, and updating of things that needed to be updated.



Amazing Grace Academy students and parents celebrate during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for their newly installed gym floor.

The gym floor was completed in October 2022, and the school held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the completion of the project. Due to diligent fundraising efforts and generous donors, the gym floor was completely paid for upon completion.

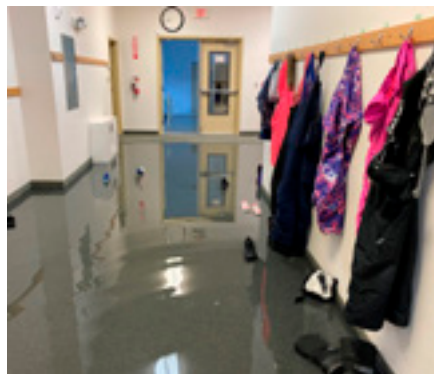
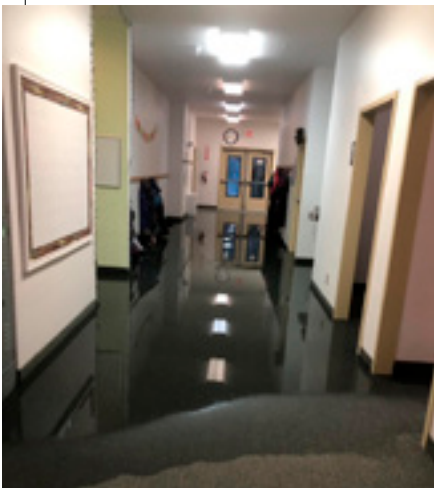
As we look back on the blessings God has provided this past year, we are grateful for the generous volunteers, fundraisers, donors and all who have shown us God can work through difficult situations.

KAREN CARLTON
Amazing Grace Academy principal



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-AK-81](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-1-AK-81)

Amazing Grace Academy sustained significant damage during the wind storm of 2022.



Flooding occurred throughout the school.

Bring Your Brokenness to Jesus

ALASKA

NEWS // CONFERENCE +

MISSION AND OUTREACH

IN FALL 2022, RYAN ROGERS, PALMER CHURCH PASTOR, RECEIVED A CALL FROM PETU KOONOOKA, GAMBELL CHURCH ELDER, ASKING HIM TO JOIN IN COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS TO BRING A MESSAGE TO COMBAT FEAR IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

Only 35 miles lie between the shore of Gambell, Alaska, and Russia.

PHOTOS BY RYAN ROGERS

The people of Gambell were reeling from several deaths and the recent arrival of the U.S. military to guard the island from a potential invasion from Russia. As St. Lawrence Island is approximately 35 miles east of Russia, everyone was fearful and on edge.

The trip, sponsored by Arctic Mission Adventure, was Rogers' first time both off the road system and in a Native village. After settling in, he made his way over to the Presbyterian church where the workshop was to begin at 7 p.m.

Around 7:10 p.m. when no one had arrived, he was told that the meetings were running on Eskimo Standard Time. At 7:34 p.m., a mom with two daughters

arrived. Within a few minutes, she shared about her 7-year-old son who has a cancerous brain tumor that limits use of the left side of his body.

The session started by reflecting on the story of Job to guide discussion about the fear of loss. The group was asked, "What have you lost?" and "What are you afraid of losing?"

With no hesitation, a young woman shared that she lost her mom and had since become an alcoholic. One night, she drank heavily and crashed her four-wheeler, breaking several bones in her face, her ankle and her hip. She is left with scars and a desire to remain sober. Rogers later learned that both women came

from the same family.

God has used their challenges to call them back to Him. The mother is inspired by her son's faith, cheerfulness and outgoing personality. Reflecting on this, she said, "I want to feel like when I was a kid and my heart would be so happy learning about Jesus and his love and that he's always there."

Seeing their determination to hold onto Jesus, Rogers asked how they planned to stay close to Him. Both shared a desire to start going back to church every Saturday morning. The mother of the 7-year-old wants to teach her son about the God he is putting his faith in and to "lean on the Word when times get tough."

With an enthusiastic smile, the other woman shared, "I want to start Bible studies again." Since her head injury she has struggled with forgetfulness, and said, "Next time I see you I might forget your name, but I won't forget this," referring to the spiritual growth shared over the past few days.

We all have brokenness. This family's pain has come in a larger measure than many of us have felt, but their response is the same response we need. Don't let your pain keep you from the Savior for one more moment. Bring your brokenness to Jesus.

RYAN ROGERS
Palmer Church pastor



• Participants of the Fear Workshop with Rogers (left).



• Rogers had opportunity to visit Gambell schools and talk with students about fear.



More online at +
NWADVENT.ST/118-1-AK-32

GSAA Sports Program Continues to Grow

THE SPORTS PROGRAM AT GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY CONTINUES TO DEVELOP AND GROW, GIVING STUDENTS OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN NEW SKILLS INDIVIDUALLY AND IN COOPERATION WITH OTHERS AND TO WITNESS THROUGH SPORTSMANSHIP AND INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER PLAYERS.

For several years, GSAA has been a member of the Idaho High School Activities Association, playing several sports in Western Idaho Conference District III. Tackle football had not been one of those sports, but this year, GSAA formed a co-op football team with students from Greenleaf Friends Academy, a Christian high school just a few miles away, and it was a successful venture.

Jeremy Perkins, GSAA athletic director, explained what a privilege it is to be able to do this, since Friday night has always been the night for football games. In order for GSAA to participate, the entire league had to agree to adjust game days to either Thursday or Saturday nights—and they did!

GSAA players made up the larger portion of the team coached by Perkins. Brad Soulé served

as defensive coordinator and Jeff Roberts from GFA served as offensive coordinator. Two GSAA students were chosen by the IHSAA for awards. Jaden Anderson, GSAA senior, was chosen as First Team All Conference Tight End and First Team All Conference Defensive End. He will play in the Shriners Seniors All-Star Game. Kylan Klemp, GSAA junior, was chosen as Second Team All Conference Kick Returner/Safety.

Overall, this was a good experience for all involved and plans are to continue the co-op team, at least until each school has enough players to have their own team. GSAA and GFA also have a co-op baseball team that will start its third season in spring 2023. GSAA also plays in the state league with girls' volleyball, junior varsity and varsity, and boys' and girls' basketball, junior varsity and varsity.

MARTA STONE
Gem State Adventist Academy teacher and campus communication assistant



• GSAA player keeps his eye on the ball, but so does the defender.



• A GSAA player tries to get by the opposing team.



• GSAA getting ready to kick off.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-ID-71](https://www.nwadventist.com/st/118-1-ID-71)



EDUCATION

Making Music at GSAA

MUSIC HAS LONG BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF EDUCATION AT GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY, AND GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS HAVE GROWN IN THEIR MUSICAL SKILLS WHILE ATTENDING AND LEARNING UNDER A NUMBER OF TALENTED DIRECTORS.

For years, students have had multiple options of music groups to join including choir, band and handbells. A beginning bell choir, dubbed with the name Ripples, was added several years ago to give students the opportunity to learn the basics and grow their abilities before joining the more advanced group, Soundwave.

In fall 2022, Ronnie Anderson became GSAA's newest music director. As the son of a music teacher, Anderson doesn't remember a time he wasn't making or conducting music.

While attending Upper Columbia Academy and Walla Walla University, music became a way of life for Anderson. He had several

influential teachers including his dad, Curtis Anderson; Dean Kravig, from UCA; and Brandon Beck, WWU band director. Coincidentally, Kravig's parents were teachers at GSAA for a number of years, teaching music and other classes, and many students benefited from their dedication. Ronnie Anderson majored in music at WWU with trumpet as his major instrument.

A growing group of students has joined the GSAA music program this year, and Anderson loves interacting with them, introducing them to types of music they may not have previously experienced and even staying after class with students who are interested to show them



• Students learn the basics in Ripples, the beginner bell choir, before advancing to Soundwave, GSAA's advanced bell choir.

“cool stuff” related to music. “A vast exposure to genres, cultures and styles of music aids in rounding out a person's character and garners respect for others,” said Anderson.

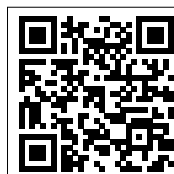
It is important for students to learn that music is a ministry tool and that they can go out to their churches and lead worship. “Skills such as persistence, confidence and group connection are acquired and molded through individual practice, group rehearsals and performances,” explained Anderson. “Music uses skills that apply to all disciplines, from kinesthetic to linguistic and mathematical.”

Anderson believes we often don't realize how much music impacts our daily life

experiences, from movie soundtracks to the way it affects our moods. “Students, and for that matter all of us, need to understand that what we choose to listen to matters,” he explained.

In the first quarter of the 2022–2023 school year, GSAA's music groups made huge progress in learning and producing great music. Students are enjoying new challenges. “It has been so awesome to see the choir grow and to practice fun music with my friends,” commented Ellie Borg, GSAA junior. All the groups came together and presented their first full concert in November 2022 and look forward to many more opportunities through the school year.

MARTA STONE
Gem State Adventist Academy
teacher and campus
communications assistant



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-ID-68](https://www.nwadventist.org/news/2023/1/11/118-1-ID-68)



• Gem State Academy has a strong music program thanks to music director Ronnie Anderson.

BVAS Prayer Answered, 10 Years in the Making

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2022–2023 SCHOOL YEAR, BOISE VALLEY ADVENTIST SCHOOL OPENED ITS DOORS TO 94 STUDENTS. THE FOLLOWING WEEKS INCREASED ENROLLMENT TO 98 — AN ANSWER TO PRAYER 10 YEARS IN THE MAKING. THE PRAYER BEGAN WITH A CAMPAIGN CALLED PRAY 75 AND WAS INTRODUCED BY RANDY MAXWELL, LOCAL PASTOR AND SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AT THE TIME.

Like most schools, BVAS experienced a decline in enrollment and began the 2012–2013 school year with 67 students. Maxwell encouraged the board and staff to step out in faith, stating, “If you put it, they will come.” So, an extra desk was placed in each classroom and staff and students began praying for each desk to be filled. One by one, desks were filled until the school year ended with 74 students. Although enrollment didn’t reach 75, all were encouraged by the power of prayer.

Enrollment continued to hover below 75 for the next 10 years. Fast-forward to 2022, BVAS reached an enrollment of 98. God not only answered the prayers, but went above and beyond! Gerry Essink, BVAS secretary, was a staff member when the campaign began and noted, “It is all in God’s timing!”

School staff and board members attribute the growth to God, His glory and His plan for BVAS. Sabrina Seigal, third- and fourth-grade teacher, shared, “Parents understand the importance of a school community and realize that BVAS offers a Christ centered atmosphere.” In addition,

Jon Miler, school board chair, observed that the recent state of public education has caused many to rethink their child’s schooling and seek a school that more closely aligns with their values.

Courtney Mace, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teacher, noted the benefit of increased enrollment is that she is able “to share more about Jesus with kids who may not get to learn about Him.”

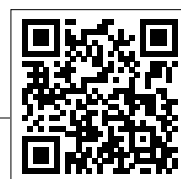
Other contributing factors include the addition of extracurricular activities,

a cohesive staff, Christ-like attitudes, a supportive school board, excellent volunteers, a family atmosphere, happy students and word-of-mouth from caring parents—all working toward the same goal of expanding the ministry, welcoming all who enter the school and introducing students to Christ.

Staff, students and parents alike have witnessed the power of prayer and seen what God can do when things are left to His timing. As for the future, it’s time to set a new goal and watch God do the rest.

MELANIE LAWSON

Boise Valley Adventist School teacher



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-ID-67](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/118-1-id-67)

EDUCATION

BACS Students Show Off Their Shop Class Skills

FROM PICNIC TABLES, SHEDS AND CHARCUTERIE BOARDS, THE STUDENTS AT BAKER ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL HAVE BEEN BUSY MAKING WOOD ITEMS IN SHOP CLASS. SHOP CLASS? IN AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL? YES! BOYDE HOSEY, BACS HEAD TEACHER, TEACHES SHOP CLASS IN ADDITION TO FIFTH THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE.



• At the fall festival, pumpkin painting was a fun activity.

The students love building things. If a student isn't able to go further than eighth grade, when they graduate from BACS they have a marketable skill.

Students in first through fourth grade made charcuterie boards. The results of their work were on display at the school's recent fall festival. Some of the shop items were sold—the charcuterie boards were sold for \$1 per inch. Other items, like the shed and picnic tables, were pre-ordered. At the festival, church and

community members enjoyed food, crafts and games. The fall event helped raise funds for the school and create new friendships.

Two additional sheds have been pre-ordered. Students in first through fourth grade plan to make more charcuterie boards. While they learn woodcraft, the students also have hands-on experience with measuring, math, reading and learning to follow instructions.

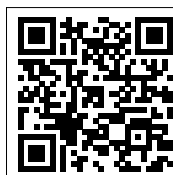
Shop class isn't the only out-of-the-ordinary class in this school. Students help run a small store, learning the skills needed to work in retail or perhaps their own business. Project-based learning is a great fit for this small school!

EVE RUSK
*Idaho Conference
communication director*



• Students in first through fourth grades showed off their handiwork by making charcuterie boards.

• A student helps a younger child with the donut game.



Montana Schools Report From the Field

STUDENTS IN MONTANA HAVE BEEN BUSY WITH AMAZING ACTIVITIES THIS 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR! WITH ACCESS TO NUMEROUS HISTORICAL SITES AND NATURE LOCATIONS, STUDENTS EXPERIENCE LEARNING IN VENUES BEYOND THE FOUR WALLS OF THEIR CLASSROOMS. HERE'S A SNEAK PEEK OF SOME THINGS HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS.

Valley View Christian School • Glendive, Montana

On Sept. 27, 2022, Valley View Adventist Christian School students went on “the best ever field trip” to a potato farm. They watched the operation of harvest, cleaning, sorting and storage. In the field, students were encouraged to glean potatoes after the harvesters had gone through them. The students spent the afternoon sharing potatoes with the local food bank,

care homes, church members, grandparents and others. Students’ families also enjoyed the potatoes. It was indeed “the best ever field trip.”

Joyce Freese, Valley View Christian School principal

Mount Ellis Elementary • Bozeman, Montana

On Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022, Mount Ellis Elementary hosted the second annual Cubs for Change walkathon. The students chose a local nonprofit organization in Bozeman they wanted to help support. This year, they decided to support the HRDC Emergency Shelter. They also raised half the money to fund a project at their local school. They chose to work toward a gaga pit – a fun dodgeball game played in a unique “pit.” Altogether, the students of MEE raised more than \$8,800! It was a great event and a beautiful witness to their local community. It demonstrates that MEE students genuinely have a heart of compassion and service.

Kaila Johnson, Mount Ellis Elementary principal

Five Falls Christian School • Great Falls, Montana

On Sept. 19, 2022, students from Five Falls Christian School, dressed in pioneer attire and pulling covered wagons, started



on a pioneer trek down the trail at Sluice Boxes State Park. Along the trail, they experienced good and bad scenarios that pioneers may have experienced. At the journey’s end, they pulled their wagons into a circle, built “fires” and placed cooking pots on the fire to “cook” lunch. After lunch, the students experienced a river crossing by pulling their covered wagons across the creek. The students played pioneer games before heading back down the trail.

Arlene Lambert, Five Falls Christian School principal

Mountain View Christian School • Missoula, Montana

Jesus is moving in the hearts of students at Mountain View Christian School! On Sept. 7, 2022, MVCS in Missoula reopened its doors after a two-year closure. At the beginning of the school year, some students at MVCS did not know the words to the song “Jesus Loves Me.” One month later, those six students led worship at Missoula Church. It was a



• Students from Mount Ellis Academy pose with the check for HRDC Emergency Shelter.

Students from Valley View Christian School pose for a photo with their "potato farm."



Students from Five Falls take part in a pioneer day by washing their clothes in the river.



beautiful Sabbath that included several songs, scripture recitation, sign language, a handbells performance and a sweet 4-year-old's prayer.

Sheila Armstead, Mountain View Christian principal

Trout Creek Adventist School • Trout Creek, Montana

In spring 2022, Trout Creek Adventist School students took a 1,400-mile road trip across Montana. They divided the trip by exploring significant places along the way. Learners experienced total darkness in the Lewis and Clark Caverns, saw William Clark's signature, saw Native American petroglyphs at the top of Pompey's Pillar and witnessed the changing landscape of Montana.

Once in Glendive, they teamed up with Valley View Christian School and experienced Glendive Dinosaur and Fossil Museum. The Bible-based museum presents all its exhibits from a Christian perspective, providing a unique and faith-building opportunity for our learners. The trip's highlight was going to Baisch Ranch and experiencing a paleontology adventure where every learner successfully found a fossil. Their guides reinforced various evidence of the biblical flood, creation and a Creator God. These valuable faith-building opportunities made the five-day road trip worth every mile.

Maurita Crew, Trout Creek Adventist School principal

Teton Adventist Christian School • Choteau, Montana

After 24 years, 12 students walked through the Teton Adventist Christian School doors. On Jan. 2, 2022, Choteau Adventist Church decided it was time

to reopen its school. They formed a school board and began the hard work of restoration. After many hours of prayer, planning, cleaning and remodeling, TACS returned to life. Since the first day of school on Aug. 24, 2022, two more students have enrolled with more on the way. Thank you to the many people who have supported the school and students in various ways! God has provided for every need, showing that when people step out in faith and follow God's leading, He exceeds our expectations.

Xylia Capote, Teton Adventist Christian School principal

Even if you didn't see a story from your local elementary school, we are still proud of all they do in their community. These additional schools are:

- Blodgett View Christian School in Hamilton, Montana
- Glacier View Christian School in Ronan, Montana
- Highland View Christian School in Butte, Montana
- Trailhead Christian School in Billings, Montana
- Valley Adventist Christian School in Kalispell, Montana

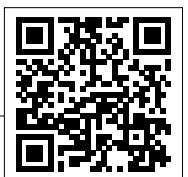
Please continue to pray for our schools and teachers across our conference.

STEPHEN CARLILE
Billings Church pastor and Montana Conference communications coordinator



Students from Trout Creek take part in a paleontology dig.

More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-1-MT-53



EDUCATION

Students Head to Big Lake for Outdoor School



DAVID CANDLER

AFTER A FEW YEARS WITHOUT OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS, BIG LAKE YOUTH CAMP AND OREGON CONFERENCE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PARTNERED AGAIN TO PUT ON SIXTH-GRADE OUTDOOR SCHOOL AT BIG LAKE YOUTH CAMP. FORTY-FIVE STUDENTS FROM COTTAGE GROVE, LIVINGSTONE ADVENTIST ACADEMY, THREE SISTERS ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AND TUALATIN VALLEY ACADEMY GATHERED AT CAMP OCT. 10-13, 2022 FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE OUTDOOR LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

Different from summer camp at Big Lake, Outdoor School focuses on outdoor academic learning. During this session, classes covered water, earth, math in nature and trees/plants. Class teachers included Jennifer Youker, from TVA; Sharon Cutz, from LAA; Kim Cornette, Oregon Conference superintendent for education; and Bethany Bradshaw, long-time seasonal BLYC staff member. Daniel Ortega, Oregon Conference Pathfinder director and parent of a sixth-grader,

shared worship thoughts with the group, and David Candler, TSACS chaperone, brought his guitar and led music in the mornings and evenings.

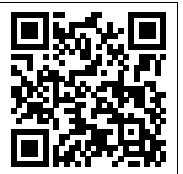
Additional activities included an evening of astronomy and stargazing, BLYC classic capture the flag, a life-size game of hungry hungry hippos, a salmon migration simulation and an epic game of life and death in the forest.

Some of the most significant takeaways for students were not only

learning about God's creation through firsthand contact with nature, but also how quickly new friendships form, the strength we have when we stand together and the impact that small acts of kindness can have on those around us.

LIESL SCHNIBBE
*Big Lake Youth Camp
associate director*

More online at ⁺
NWADVENT.ST/118-1-OR-91



EDUCATION

CHURCH AND SCHOOL WORK TOGETHER TO REACH CHILDREN FOR JESUS

TOGETHER AS ONE IS ALIVE AND WELL AT RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN WASHOUGAL, WASHINGTON.

God has been busy working miracles and we have more than doubled our enrollment in the past few years. Our church has opened all its facilities to help us house our nearly 100 students! On top

of pastoring three different churches and sitting on six different church and school boards, Merrill Caviness leads our kids in chapel every Monday in the sanctuary.

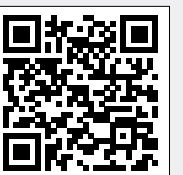
Our students funnel in and out of the church entry every day. We utilize the church library and Sabbath School rooms as our classrooms and breakout rooms. Some church members volunteer to help give our teachers a break to do planning

and others volunteer to do the majority of our maintenance needs.

Our students and families notice! We have many families who started attending our church because of the love and acceptance they experience at school. One of our parents, who started as a community member two years ago, was baptized during chapel. It was an incredible experience to witness, and we are so grateful for the commitment our conference has to schools and churches working together to save lives for eternity. The story doesn't end there! We now have a mother and her daughter taking baptismal classes from our pastor and together we continue to plant seeds for Jesus to grow!

BETHANY EDMUNDSON
*Riverside Christian School
principal*

More online at ⁺
NWADVENT.ST/118-1-OR-87



EDUCATION

Tualatin Valley's Four-Year High School Program

TUALATIN VALLEY ACADEMY HAS NINTH-GRADE STUDENTS ON ITS CAMPUS ONCE AGAIN. WHILE THEY'VE HAD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE PAST AS A JUNIOR ACADEMY, THIS YEAR IS DIFFERENT. THEY PLAN FOR THIS NINTH-GRADE CLASS TO BE THE FIRST GRADUATING SENIOR CLASS FROM THE SCHOOL IN 2026 AS THEIR PROGRAM EXPANDS.

While having a four-year high school program been a dream of teachers and Adventist community on the west side of Portland, the school is now going through the steps to request accreditation to offer grades 11 and 12. Now that the school is undergoing the approval process, they are making plans for the future with their students and families.

With highly qualified instructors and small class sizes, TVA is equipped to provide excellent education to their high school students. TVA's vision is to support whole person wellness as they mentor their students. One of the high school teachers, Michael Blackburn, commented, "What we are currently doing, and what we hope to achieve, would not be possible with a very large class. We are able to spend time getting to know each student and really trying to find what interests them and keeps them motivated to learn."

Blackburn is specifically seeking to encourage student interest in learning through his technology class. While he is currently introducing his pupils to a variety of uses of technology as freshmen, in the upcoming years, he plans to let them hone their focus to their areas of interest through a special collaborative project. He said, "There are few better examples of integrating the fields of STEAM – science, technology, engineering, art and math – than computer game development and I would love to see students with very different passions work together to produce a computer game with original 3D modeling, art, programming and music."

The computer game project Blackburn intends to use to develop his students' technology skills is just one example of the unique instructional approach employed by TVA's high school teachers. Sara Beck, science and math teacher, commented,



• TVA students work on a physics project.

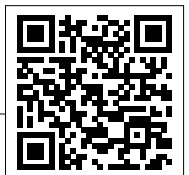
"All of our curriculum is really focused on hands on, applied learning. There's not a lot of lecture that takes place here. It's a lot of interaction." Beck reflected that steering away from a lecture-driven model leads to deeper conceptual understanding while also developing students' communication, collaboration and critical thinking skills.

While offering quality academics to families is important to TVA, the school's motivation to expand is for a greater reason – retaining more students in Adventist education throughout their high school career. In the past, most of their graduating eighth- or tenth-grade students living on the west side of Portland have chosen to transition to public school rather than commute to an Adventist senior academy. TVA's desire is to continue to support students through their teen years to build a relationship with Jesus that will last their whole lives.

MCKENZIE WALLACE
Oregon Conference
education department writer



• A student works on photo manipulation.



More online at [+ NWADVENT.ST/118-1-OR-41](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/118-1-or-41)



All the Little Things

RIVERGATE ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY IS CELEBRATING ALL THE WAYS GOD HAS HELPED KEEP THEIR SCHOOL THRIVING THIS YEAR. ONE CHALLENGE THIS SCHOOL IN GLADSTONE, OREGON, HAS BEEN ABLE TO OVERCOME IS FINDING STAFFING TO OPERATE AT FULL CAPACITY.

In a time when teachers are in short supply, the school was able to find an instructor for their sixth/seventh-grade class just four days before the school year started. RAE thought they had a teacher lined up in advance, but plans fell through and it seemed they would be left without a necessary staff member. Thankfully, another teacher at the school was able to recommend a qualified friend to fill the position!

The school is also praising God for connecting them with a capable hot lunch cook. When their original cook retired just a few months into the school year, RAE was not sure whether they'd be able to continue offering hot lunch.

Just as they were beginning to despair, a qualified parent expressed interest in the position. Now they can continue to offer nourishing meals to students.

Another area in which God has taken care of the school is enrollment. Prior to the pandemic, RAE's enrollment was steadily declining and was as low as 76 students just a few years ago. The school was able to continue in-person instruction under their childcare license during the time when public schools were only offering online instruction. This brought a number of community families to RAE who have grown to love the school and stayed even after public schools fully

reopened. Now enrollment is up to 125 this 2022–2023 school year and the school is utilizing all of their classrooms!

Recently, when RAE knew they were going to lose a student, they started praying that God would bring another student to keep their enrollment stable and enable them to meet their budget projections.

The student pulled out on a Wednesday and by the next week, they already had a new student attending!

Reflecting on all the families that have joined their school community, Megan Hall, RAE principal, shared, "It's been really neat to see these families choosing to invest in our school and seeing the value in what RAE has to offer their

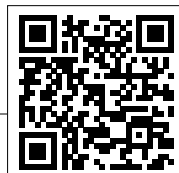
kids academically, spiritually, socially and physically."

All of these miracles are an encouragement to RAE, demonstrating that God cares about even the littlest of details.

MCKENZIE WALLACE
Oregon Conference education department writer



• Students work on a project at Rivergate Adventist Elementary School.



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-OR-40](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/118-1-or-40)

EDUCATION

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

THIS SCHOOL YEAR, THREE SISTERS ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IS CELEBRATING ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROVIDING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TO CENTRAL OREGON. THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF DETERMINED CHURCH MEMBERS, INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS AND HARDWORKING TEACHERS, ALONG WITH THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD, THE SCHOOL CONTINUES ITS MISSION OF BRINGING JESUS' LOVE AND EDUCATION TO STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.



Randy Folkenberg, pastor, introduces students at Three Sisters Adventist Christian School to their new bouldering wall.

Back in 1922, when the City of Bend's population was only 5,415 people, Bend Church began a small two-room school with one teacher and a monthly tuition of \$8.00 for two students. Since opening, the school moved locations to the town of Redmond and then to its current location between the cities of Bend and Redmond.

Blessed with the support of Central Oregon churches, many changes have taken place. Over the years a gymnasium, a bus barn, new classrooms and an office were built. In addition, a new entryway was added, the playground was updated and, in 2022, a new climbing wall was installed.

The school has always championed service in the Central Oregon community. Students have helped at NeighborImpact

in food drives for Redmond Community Service Center and Bend Food Project. TSACS has participated in world missions as well, donating funds to ADRA for wells and educational projects, organizing mission trips to Belize and participating in other outreach endeavors.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the school continued in-person learning with Emergency Childcare status thanks to its state-certified preschool program. God continues to bless TSACS with amazing support from volunteer music and Spanish teachers, librarians, classroom helpers and a hot lunch program.

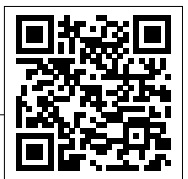
Over the years, so many people have sacrificed for the success of the school. This school year is no different. Though TSACS

had to cap enrollment due to staffing shortages, it is blessed with two full-time teachers, an office manager, two full-time aids and 48 students. The rich history of TSACS, hand in hand with dedication to God's call, is a testament to His abiding love and care.

To celebrate God's faithfulness, the theme Bible verse this school year is Lam. 3:22-23: "The Lord's love never ends, His mercies never cease; they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness." Each morning the students sing "Great is Thy Faithfulness" from the Adventist Hymnal in worship as the school song for the year. Plans for an alumni celebratory birthday party are being made for spring 2023.

If you have a fond memory you wish to share of TSACS, please send it to Jenny Neil at jenny@threesistersschool.com.

JENNY NEIL
Three Sisters Adventist Christian School
principal



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-1-OR-39

It Is All About Jesus

ANTONEE AGUILAR, SCAPPOOSE-ST. HELENS CHURCH PASTOR, AND HIS WIFE, GIRLIE AGUILAR, SCAPPOOSE ADVENTIST SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, WONDERFULLY DEMONSTRATE THE PRINCIPLES OF THE “TOGETHER AS ONE” CHURCH AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION.

The collaboration was initiated and promoted to Oregon Conference by Angela White, associate superintendent of education and former principal of Scappoose Adventist School. While at Scappoose Adventist School, White and Larry Gibson, former Scappoose-St. Helens Church pastor, successfully focused their efforts to connect with children and their families to strengthen relationships with Jesus.

Today, the Aguilar family is spreading the love of Jesus in both church and school. The school's motto is “With Jesus—we grow, we love, we lead.” The school, with nearly 80 community students, includes many families who don't attend church at all. For this reason, a top priority in the search for great educators is that they have a missionary's heart. The school strives to be an impressive school of learning, as well as a builder of students' characters, teaching them to have strong relationships with Jesus and become leaders throughout their lives.

Girlie is a beloved, trusted mentor and helper to both the children and their families. Antonee is continually involved in school activities, teaching math and building relationships

with the children as well as serving as school photographer and an important mentor. He is starting a mountain bike club for the older students.

On the third Sabbath of each month, the church congregation welcomes students' families as the students present a portion of the church service. Students and their families are then invited to join in a potluck following the church service. Many church members regularly assist in classrooms and attend school activities, building relationships with families in this manner as well.

This year, Girlie is excited to add the Three Angels' Messages curriculum. “It is such a blessing and valuable tool to support the message of God's love, to strengthen our children's knowledge of America's rich history and give them a better understanding to articulate their arguments against untruths, as well as spread the message of hope, the Three Angels' Messages,” said Girlie. “It is a timely addition to fill a great need and we thank those who brought us this. There is an intense battle going on between good and evil, and much of it is over our children.”

To reach out to more children in the community, the school has a vision of a larger school, at a cost of \$6.5



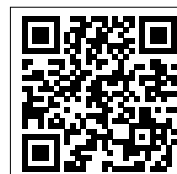
million, as it is not feasible to add on to the current building. The most recent fundraising effort was the school's first gala event, which was held at Columbia County Fairgrounds in St. Helens, Oregon, on Nov. 13, 2022.

If you would like to attend or support the next fundraising event, please contact Girlie Aguilar at 269-697-3136 or visit the website at sasonline.org.

We must remember, our schools are so much more than

educational facilities in the communities they serve.

NANCY REED
Scappoose Adventist School
registrar



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-1-OR-06

EDUCATION

Grants Pass School Does Prayer Partnerships



• Nelson leads the students in prayer.



• Bentley (left) prays over the students and their prayer partners.

THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT OF FIVE CONSTITUENT CHURCHES, STUDENTS AND STAFF AT GRANTS PASS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL ARE COVERED IN PRAYER THROUGH PRAYER PARTNERSHIPS.

On Oct. 7, 2022, each student and teacher received a note telling them who was praying for them. Edward Nelson, Grant's Pass district pastor; Thomas Bentley, Rogue River district pastor; and Kip Bradford, Gateway district pastor, passed out the notes during chapel. Bentley then prayed for the students and their assigned prayer partners. Messages filled with heartfelt prayer requests have made their way to many prayer partners. Several prayer partners have also sent cards to children or staff members.

Forty-five prayer partnerships have been formed through this program. The school board has six prayer partners praying over them as well.

Prayer is essential for us to share our thoughts and feelings with God. Prayer partnerships encourage an experience of God's love and presence. To encourage children to pray is to help foster lifelong relationships with God.

The idea for the prayer partnerships came together because of Heidi Nelson, wife of Edward Nelson. In the months following their move back to Grants Pass, they learned of the school's struggles. Heidi thought that having

someone praying for each of the students and staff would be an encouragement. To know that someone is praying makes a difference! She wanted the children of the school to know not only that someone care for them, but also the Lord is at work. He is at work with them, their families and the school.

In addition to these new prayer partnerships, the school participates in a monthly prayer walk. This is an opportunity to walk the grounds – outdoors or indoors, depending on the weather – and pray for the school's specific needs.

HEIDI NELSON
Whipple Creek Church member

JENNIFER BURKES
Grants Pass Church communication leader



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-OR-85](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/118-1-OR-85) +

ASB Leadership Team Initiates Prayer Focus at UCA

EVERYONE CAN AGREE THAT A TEAM OF DEDICATED CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND STAFF IS ESSENTIAL FOR A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR, BUT WHEN YOU COMBINE THAT WITH STUDENT LEADERS WHO DEEPLY LOVE JESUS AND WANT TO SHARE HIM WITH THEIR PEERS, YOU HAVE A POWERFUL FORCE!

Upper Columbia Academy is blessed this year with just such a team. As Upper Columbia Conference kicked off Vertical: 40 Days of Prayer on Sept. 1, 2022, Jeff Deming, principal, asked the faculty to pray twice daily at 9:31 (morning and evening). This specific time of day was chosen by Deming because of Spangle's zip code, 99031. The Associated Student Body team enthusiastically joined in with their own twist on the concept of daily prayer. They created a prayer board, positioned prominently in the Campbell Administration Building.

During the 40 days of prayer, students were encouraged to post requests and praises. Torin Smith, ASB historian, shared, "The hope is that we will get in the habit of praying for each other. We intend to continue the prayer board throughout the school year."

"I believe that prayer unites us as a community and brings us closer to God," said Sidney Folkenberg, ASB president. Each Monday just before lunch, students gather in front of the cafeteria for prayer on the plaza, another student-lead event inspired by the 40 days of prayer. Folkenberg continued, "This prayer time adds to the spiritual life at UCA. Students and teachers join together to



KRISTA MIKKELSON

share struggles and praises and to pray for guidance. When the weather gets cold or rainy, the group meets inside, but the blessing is the same."

The ASB officers arrived on campus several days before the 2022–2023 school year started to work and pray with their sponsors in preparation for introducing the school year's theme, "A Journey Together." It was apparent from the beginning that the students had put time and thought into what it means to be leaders.

Madi Divers explained, "My role as an officer has nothing to do with being ASB chaplain. That is just a title. What being in this position really means to me is living out my life the way Christ did. This leadership position has given me a chance to serve others daily. I used to find myself thinking I was unworthy of this position because of who I was. However, God calmed my mind and humbled my heart, and now I view my role as an officer as a calling God wants me to fulfill during my senior year at UCA."

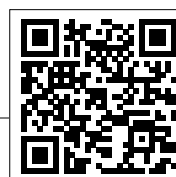
"ASB officers have provided church services and worship talks," Folkenberg said. "These programs bring us all together

• Students pray together on the plaza.

and closer to God. Events are important, but I don't think there has to be an event in order to impact others. Anyone can represent Christ through their character in day to day life."

Even though Vertical: 40 Days of Prayer has finished, UCA plans to continue making prayer a daily practice. ASB officers recreated the prayer board with a theme of Thanksgiving and praise during the holidays, and several staff members' phone alarms continue to ring at 9:31. "What a gift it is to have staff and students invested in the opportunity of connecting through the power of prayer," says Deming. "We are daily asking for God to be the leader of our Journey Together."

KRISTA MIKKELSON
Upper Columbia Academy
director of alumni and enrollment services



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-1-UC-36

EDUCATION

Rogers Adventist School Celebrates Culture

IN MARCH 2020, ROGERS ADVENTIST SCHOOL WAS VISITED BY A TEAM OF ACCREDITORS FROM NORTH PACIFIC UNION. AS ALL SCHOOLS DO WHEN GOING THROUGH ACCREDITATION, THE RAS SCHOOL BOARD, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF SET LOFTY GOALS IN THEIR CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS. ONE OF THE GOALS WAS TO IDENTIFY WAYS TO ADDRESS THE DIVERSE CULTURES AND BACKGROUNDS OF INDIVIDUAL LEARNERS AND PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE AND INCLUSION. A LOFTY GOAL, TO BE SURE, BUT STAFF WERE EXCITED ABOUT THE CHALLENGE.

Just a few days after that accreditation visit, RAS shut down for the COVID-19 pandemic like every other school in Upper Columbia Conference.

However, the goals weren't forgotten. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and to the present, RAS has continued to pursue these goals of acceptance, inclusion and diversity in their student body.

Native American Heritage Month is a favorite at RAS. A team of educators and leaders from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation comes each

November to share a special presentation where RAS students, along with their family groups, rotate through four different stations: dancing and drumming, first foods, storytelling/language and beadwork/regalia. This is a highlight for students and teachers alike as we learn from our local tribes about their cultures and traditions.

Hispanic Heritage Month gives us the opportunity to honor students in our school who speak two languages! Games like lotería; piedra, papel, tijera (rock, paper, scissors); pato, pato, ganso

(duck, duck, goose) and more are always fun to play together. Teachers focus different aspects of their curriculum to honor this month as well.

Art is a wonderful way to learn about different cultures. During the 2022 celebration, students in third and fourth grade learned about and created alebrije (carved and painted animal figurines) and Zapotec weavings with bright colors and geometric designs.

Black History Month has brought us excellent speakers in the past like Gwendolyn Trice, who spoke about her father who worked in a logging town called Maxville which used to be close to Wallowa, Oregon. Her stories of segregation and cross-cultural friendships were inspiring. Hearing from Robert Bartlett who shared the history of the Triple Nickles, a secret World War II smoke-jumping mission based in Oregon staffed by black soldiers, was equally inspiring.

In celebration of Asian American Heritage Month in 2022, we turned

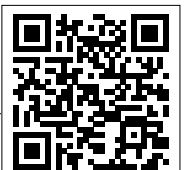
the time over to our Asian American and Pacific Islander parents and students. They made us Asian delicacies like steamed rice buns, shared the scripture and prayer for our chapel in Japanese and Korean and taught us how to make an origami Samurai hat.

We want our Hispanic, Asian, Black and Native American students to feel accepted, appreciated and valued. Teachers and administrators at RAS heard over and over from these households how much they appreciated the acknowledgment of their cultures and histories. We are all stronger when we work together and when we understand each other's backgrounds.

HOLLEY BRYANT
Head of Schools
Rogers Adventist School and
Walla Walla Valley Academy



• RAS students dress in traditional clothes during Asian Heritage Month.



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-UC-37](https://www.nwadventist.org/news/118-1-uc-37)

Walla Walla Valley Academy Agriculture Program

IN A NATION WHERE MANY CHILDREN BELIEVE THAT FRUITS AND VEGETABLES COME FROM THE GROCERY STORE, IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER WE EDUCATE OUR STUDENTS ABOUT AGRICULTURE.

With grocery prices rapidly rising, Walla Walla Valley Academy finds value in teaching students how to grow their own food and how to share that bounty with their community.

At WWVA, Bob Nobuhara, science and agriculture teacher, is dedicated to helping students learn and discover the process of farming from seed to harvest. Mr. Nob, as the students call him, is a marine biologist and avid agriculturist. He teaches chemistry, earth science, biology, anatomy and physiology, and agriculture for students from grades 9–12 where they learn valuable knowledge and hands-on skills.

Nobuhara models his agricultural philosophy and curriculum after Paul Gautschi's Back to Eden gardening method, recreating a sustainable ecosystem where plants thrive in their natural environment. Jean Martin Fortier, "The Market Gardener," is an inspiration for his agriculture program, which centers on regenerative agriculture focusing on the health of the ecosystem as a whole.

"When students watch the progress of things growing, they get excited—they take ownership and it allows them to enjoy and be blessed by getting their hands into the dirt, into the soil," said Nobuhara.

The students are actively part of all the workings on the WWVA farm. They help prepare the soil for planting. During the second semester, they grow seedlings in the classroom using artificial light. Once the plants are thriving, students transplant them to the farm. The planting process for most of the crops starts at the end of

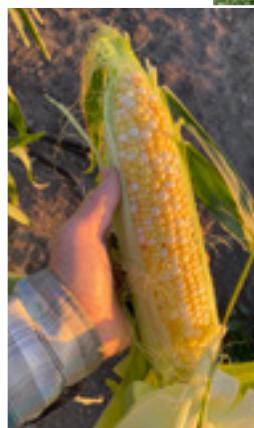
March and early April. However, students plant garlic in November because hard and soft neck garlic winter over till spring.

During the summer, the students join Nobuhara in working the farm. Weeding, watering, pruning and harvesting are just a few of the important tasks essential to maintaining the 2-acre farm. The harvest period in the late summer and fall shows students the reward for their hard work. Corn, garlic, tomatoes, peppers, onions, kale, eggplant, cantaloupe, crenshaw melon and watermelon are just a few of the crops grown on the WWVA farm.

Students share their harvest locally. Most afternoons in September, families can purchase fresh-picked corn off the truck in the WWVA parking lot. The tomatoes, corn, peppers and other produce harvested are shared with families in the community and with students to take home.

WWVA students aren't the only ones who get to participate in learning about farming and agriculture. Nobuhara also shares his wisdom and passion for agriculture with local Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs, touring students through his garden and giving them the chance to get a close-up view of different vegetables on the farm.

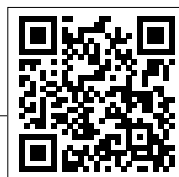
Macyn Scherger, WWVA graduate and University of Idaho student, is currently working on her urban



agriculture, horticulture and crop science studies. She credits Nobuhara's agriculture class for inspiring her to pursue her degree in agriculture. "Mr. Nob's class was a great way to learn and embrace agriculture from multiple perspectives, including the Eden method. His passion for teaching others inspired me to open my own microgreen business and spread the word about how fun it is to grow your own food."

"The future of agriculture will come from people—from a new generation of farmers who embrace small scale, ecological, nourishing farming techniques," said Jean Martin Frontier, author of *The Market Gardener*. At WWVA, we value encouraging a new generation of students who care about farming and food sustainability.

HOLLEY BRYANT
Head of Schools
Rogers Adventist School and
Walla Walla Valley Academy



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-UC-38](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/118-1-uc-38)

EDUCATION

CCA Holds Annual Fall Festival

CASCADE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY CHILDREN GATHERED TOGETHER IN OCTOBER 2022 FOR FALL FUN. CCA RECOGNIZES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO ALLOW KIDS TO HAVE AN EXCITING EVENT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN AUTUMN.

Every year, students plan a booth that their class will host for CCA's annual fall festival. The festival is held in the school's gymnasium with tickets for purchase to use at any fun festival booth.

The theme of this year's fall festival was children's books. Each class picked a children's book to center their booth around, and boy, did the kids get creative! Second-graders chose Dr. Seuss's *Oh, the Places You'll Go* as their book and partnered with Flying L Farm to host a fun petting zoo. There was a wide selection of animals, including a cow, goats, bunnies and more!

The kindergarten class chose to have a bouncy house for their booth, which was consistently filled with jumping children. Eighth-graders hosted the box maze, a yearly staple in the festival fun, per their chosen book *Pete the Cat*. There were many other exciting booths as well, such as a mini theater where students performed a small production, a golf putting booth and food booths serving delicious treats ranging everywhere from spring rolls to Italian sodas.

To show their true spirit in celebrating the event, students also dressed up in fun costumes to help bring

the books to life for attendees. Some popular costume favorites included Cheryl Gabel, CCA music teacher, as a caterpillar and Jenesis Hetterle as The Man in The Yellow Hat with Rachel Carter as Curious George. There was also a pie-eating contest that featured many strong contenders, including Manny Larios and Kaylyn Baerg, but Tobiah Barry was the ultimate winner!

"CCA families came out in amazing support of our fall festival, students and classes, and spent time visiting," said Stephanie Gates, CCA principal. "It was an event full of so much laughter, joy and connection." CCA would like to thank everyone who came to the fall festival and is overjoyed to already see students getting excited about next year!

KASEY BAIS
Cascade Christian Academy writer



• Jenesis Hetterle and Rachel Carter dressed up as The Man in The Yellow Hat and Curious George, respectively.



• Manny Larios (right), Kaylyn Baerg (left), and Tobiah Barry (middle) participated in the pie-eating contest.



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-UC-64](https://www.nwadvent.st/118-1-uc-64)

Conversations With UCC Scheduled Prior to Constituency

IN ADVANCE OF THE UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY SESSION TO BE HELD SEPT. 24, 2023 AT UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY, THERE WILL BE SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH UCC THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE TERRITORY.

Conversations with UCC are for every member to come and hear what is happening in our territory. This year we will have a meal, a devotional, prayer time and Q&A together.

The seven locations and corresponding dates are listed on the chart to the right. Please find a location you can attend and mark it on your calendar. Each event begins at 6 p.m.

“Every person in Upper Columbia Conference is so important to our mission of reaching our communities with the Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist

message of hope and wholeness,” said David Jamieson, UCC president. “We have spent 40 days in prayer focusing on what God has in store for this conference and helping us focus on connecting with every man, woman, boy and girl. It is my prayer that you will join us and discover the wonderful things that are happening in our churches, schools and communities throughout this conference.”

Conversations with UCC

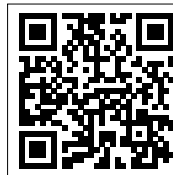
March 11:	Lewiston, ID area
March 12:	Spokane, WA area
April 15:	Coeur d’Alene, ID area
April 29:	Wenatchee, WA area
April 30:	Yakima, WA area
May 6:	Walla Walla, WA area
May 7:	Tri-Cities, WA area

For more information about Conversations with UCC, please visit uccsda.org/constituency.

DUSTIN JONES
Upper Columbia Conference communications director



• David Jamieson, UCC president, presents a devotional thought during the Vertical Vision Summit at Camp MiVoden.



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-1-UC-52

HEALTH

HealthMotivate Clinic Celebrates With Dedication Ceremony

COMMUNITY AND CHURCH LEADERS, ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, GATHERED FOR THE DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR HEALTHMOTIVATE LIFESTYLE AND MEDICAL CENTER IN PULLMAN, WASHINGTON. THE EVENT, HELD ON SEPT. 28, 2022, WELCOMED MORE THAN 150 PEOPLE TO THE CLINIC'S RIBBON-CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE.

The morning ribbon-cutting was attended by Glenn A. Johnson, mayor of Pullman, Washington, and Fred Hardinge, HealthMotivate board member. During the ceremony, Doug Venn, General Conference director of urban centers of influence, shared the history of HealthMotivate's mission and David Jamieson, Upper Columbia Conference president, provided additional remarks.

"HealthMotivate is a great example of an urban center of influence that will meet the identified needs of the community and will serve as a platform to make disciples," said Venn.

The factor that differentiates HealthMotivate from other clinics is its staff who meet daily to pray for patients before they arrive. HealthMotivate is committed to unite the best of science and research-based medicine with the body's own natural healing process to support wholeness. The support care team consists of physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, health educators and



KAI EISELEIN

coaches who are all invested in the infinite value of each person.

"HealthMotivate Lifestyle and Medical Center was built to fulfill the goals and work to pursue wholeness in order to learn to make healthier choices in the community," shared Jayne Peterson, HealthMotivate business manager. "Our clinic offers pathways to wholeness for everyone, building relationships and providing tools and resources to experience one's full health potential."

HealthMotivate also works to partner with local churches and community groups to offer classes, programs and services that encourage daily choices for healthy living. The goal is to help others with pursuing good physical health and creating wholeness and purpose.

"HealthMotivate is working to focus on relationship building to engage with patients, identify realistic starting points for change and then plug the patient into opportunities to work with the in-house lifestyle coaches and participate in lifestyle

Left to Right: Alan McDonald; Linda Spady; Glenn Johnson, mayor of Pullman, Washington; Robert Spady; and Bo Swanson participate in the HealthMotivate ribbon-cutting ceremony.

group programs," said Peterson.

HealthMotivate continues to bring together resources and talents that provide the best opportunities for improved, lifelong wellness. They work to improve and grow their mission and vision and continue to actively recruit additional providers. To learn more, visit HealthMotivate.org.

AUTUMN DUNZWEILER
Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator



More online at  NWADVENT.ST/118-1-UC-34

Disc Golf Lands at SAA

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO PLAY DISC GOLF IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD? AT SKAGIT ADVENTIST ACADEMY, STUDENTS WILL SOON HAVE THAT OPTION ON THEIR CAMPUS.

Students taking Project Design and Implementation at SAA are creating a disc golf course for students to enjoy.



Project Design and Implementation is an elective class at SAA that is creating a disc golf course for the students to enjoy at its Burlington, Washington, campus.

In this new class, students are learning what it takes to begin with an idea and see it through to completion. Along the way, they are learning many new skills and applying them to overcome real world challenges.

Most schools have the option of a soccer field, basketball court or a playground as outdoor activities for their students. Liliana Baerg, SAA sophomore, shared, "These activities are fun, but there is a certain point in time when there should be more options because it can get boring." Other students agree and want to have more activity options at SAA.

When Monte Saxby, SAA teacher, was considering projects for this semester's PDI class, he envisioned adding a disc golf course in the wooded area behind the high school classrooms.

The wooded area on campus had many diseased trees that needed to be removed for the safety of the students. The

process of thinning out trees left empty spaces in the woods, providing an excellent opportunity for a new use of the area.

This is where Saxby suggested adding the disc golf course. Students would have something to work on in the class while also giving the entire student body another activity option at recess.

The PDI class has been hard at work putting this project together. The class wanted to get a feel for the sport, so they threw discs around and watched videos on how to play. Next, they began designing and mapping out a course on campus. Afterwards, they started researching the items they would need, which included tees, baskets, artificial turf and discs.

Compiling all this information, students reached out to sponsors by producing a YouTube video that they shared with everyone they knew, as well as posting it on the school's Facebook page. The video was a great success, helping the PDI class raise enough money to buy all the supplies.

Towards the end of 2022, the class began clearing and weeding the area and

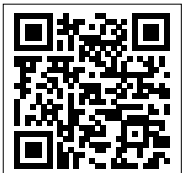
installing necessary components for the disc golf course.

As the school year progresses, there are still some bigger jobs for the class to complete, but for the most part, they are on track to finish before the course ends in January 2023. The class is excited to complete the project and cannot wait to see students enjoying their course.

If you or someone you know is interested in this project or wants to learn more about what we are doing, check out our website or email us at timberwolvesdiscpark@skagitadventist.com.

DAIRA ALVAREZ-RAMIREZ
Skagit Adventist Academy student

DAVID BOBOCEA
Skagit Adventist Academy student



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-WA-63](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/118-1-wa-63)

EDUCATION

The “Why” of Development at Auburn Adventist Academy

ASK ANYONE WHO WORKS AT AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY WHY THEY DO WHAT THEY DO. WHY WORK COUNTLESS HOURS? WHY WORK IN A FIELD WHERE ONE IS CONSTANTLY UNDER PRESSURE FROM A MULTITUDE OF DIRECTIONS FOR LESS THAN THEY CAN MAKE SOMEWHERE ELSE? THE QUESTIONS GO ON, BUT THEY HAVE ONE COMMON DENOMINATOR: THE WORD “WHY.”

In Dan. 3, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego found themselves in the fiery furnace because they chose to obey God rather than bow down to the golden image. They knew the consequences.

Nebuchadnezzar was so angry, he asked his men to make the fire seven times hotter. In fact, it was so hot, the men throwing the three friends into the furnace were instantly killed.

They knew what would happen if they chose God, but they did it anyway. Why? Because they knew God had a plan when He put them in that position, even if death was the outcome. Everyone knows what happened next. While looking into the fire, Nebuchadnezzar saw four men instead of three because Jesus was standing with them, and they were unharmed.

Everyone working in ministry, whether it be for a

church, school or any Christian organization, is under fire.

The ultimate goal is to bring His precious young people closer to the Kingdom of God. The very nature of that goal will bring the fire. When people look in from the outside, what do they see? Who do they see? Do they see Jesus?

When students see faculty teaching or administrating, do they see Jesus? When parents visit, do they see Jesus? When a fundraising campaign is underway, is Jesus at the center of that campaign?

The AAA department of growth and development is tasked mainly with raising funds and building a sustainable fundraising program to keep the academy functioning, not only on a day-to-day basis, but for years to come.



GINA HUBBEN

On the best day, that can be a difficult task, especially in this less-than-stellar economy. But when Jesus is at the center, whether it be a smaller targeted campaign, a matching campaign, an event like Committee of 100 or Hearts of Gold, a letter appeal or a major capital campaign, God will bless it every single time.

So, back to the question: Why? Why do this? Why be in *this* ministry? Why be in *any* ministry?

It comes down to this: God puts His people in positions where they can carry out His plan. In the case of AAA, it's about the students. It's about providing a haven in a world that's falling apart. Most importantly, it's about helping them know Jesus, if not for the first time, in a more intimate way.

Auburn Adventist Academy is providing a haven in a world that is falling apart to help students grow spiritually.

So, if asked why, whatever the role is, no matter how hot the fire is, it's because of the students, and it's well worth the heat.

KELLIE NUNLEY
Auburn Adventist Academy
director of development



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-WA-51](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/118-1-wa-51)

Breath of Life Marks 30 Years

BREATH OF LIFE CHURCH IN SEATTLE CELEBRATED ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY ON OCT. 29, 2022 WITH A FULL DAY OF MUSIC AND PRAISE HIGHLIGHTED BY A LIVELY SERMON FROM ITS FIRST PASTOR, HAROLD GOODLOE.

Special recognition was also given to charter members who still attend Breath of Life: Michele Charity, Herb and Shelia Cheatham, and Gene and Kimberly Trent.

For the afternoon service, the church celebrated the burning of its mortgage and dedication of the building. The day concluded with inspiring musical performances by several groups interspersed with video messages from three other former pastors: Alonzo S. Wagner III, Nigel David and Nathaniel Good.

The church opened in September 1992 following an evangelistic crusade with Breath of Life Ministries at Washington State Convention Center.

Crowds flocked to the meetings as the crusade progressed under the direction of Charles D. Brooks, Breath of Life speaker and director emeritus. Following the series, Breath of Life Company opened its doors for its first Sabbath service.

Goodloe marveled at how quickly the church's membership grew from 55 to



DARREN MCPHERSON

more than 250, and stated, "It was truly a joy to pastor this church from 1992 to 1998. We will cherish those precious memories into eternity."

The church rented space for services during its first five years, but then bought property in South Seattle in 1996. In 2002, under the leadership of Alonzo S. Wagner III, the church purchased its current location in West Seattle, as well as the property next door which served as a women's shelter for a time.

The church has been subsequently shepherded by pastors Nigel David, Wally Lyder, Nathaniel Good and, currently, Hanz Jouissance.

Over the years, Breath of Life members have forged

opportunities to network closely with White Center neighborhood through a number of ways including a booth at the neighborhood's farmers market in the summer, hosting events such as free community health fairs, back-to-school fairs, feeding programs and performing street cleanups through a partnership with the city's Adopt-A-Road program.

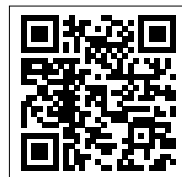
In 2019, the church developed a partnership with West Seattle Interfaith Network, a group of several churches in the area that agreed to pool their resources in an attempt to aid the homeless and others in need.

Fueled by prayer and equipped with the power of

Evelyn Daniels presents Shelia and Herb Cheatham with a small gift of appreciation for being two of the charter members at Breath of Life.

the Holy Spirit, the Breath of Life family will continue to build relationships with people and organizations in their community.

DARREN MCPHERSON
Breath of Life Church member



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-WA-20](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-1-wa-20)

MISSION AND OUTREACH

SAGE Returns to Kenya One Last Time

SAGE VOLUNTEERS RETURNED TO MASAI GIRLS' RESCUE CENTER IN KAJIADO, KENYA, FOR THE THIRD TIME IN SEPTEMBER 2022 AND BUILT A HOME FOR THE SCHOOL'S DEAN.

"This is a bittersweet mission trip experience to Kenya as it is the last of the planned mission trips for the current generation of SAGE volunteers," said Bob Grady, retired SAGE president. "SAGE, Seniors in Action for God with Excellence, has participated in 25 domestic and international mission trips over the span of nearly three decades."

There are now 22 new buildings on the campus, three of them built by SAGE. Soon the kitchen/dining hall will be torn down and replaced by a beautiful new, state-of-the-art building, the campus will be landscaped and the school will be able to serve its mission more fully.

The girls who come to the rescue center have run away from home to escape genital mutilation and child marriages. They miss their mothers, especially, so volunteers who come to work there are like mother or father figures to them.

On the mission trip, Larry Moody, SAGE building superintendent, originally had a crew of nine, until

two came down with a mild case of COVID-19 and had to quarantine for five days. That meant the remaining members had to work harder, but they were able to finish the dean's home in time.

The medical team, headed up by Bill and Sharon Barretto, included four American nurses, one nurse practitioner, two national doctors and two additional national medical personnel. They treated more than 1,100 patients as they went out to different villages each day.

Carol Hargreaves and her four helpers told more than 200 enthusiastic, wiggly children that Jesus loves them as they held two Vacation Bible Schools a day for six days.

Phil Vecchiarelli, pastor, held daily evangelistic meetings, which resulted in 84 baptisms on the last Sabbath.

At the nearby prison, a national chaplain prepared another 33 men and women for baptism, and SAGE members attended the baptisms there.

One evening as the group was eating dinner at Tumaini Gardens, where they were



staying, the male servers came in singing and dancing, bearing a delicious-looking cake. As the rhythmic song continued, the leader came to where Bob Grady, SAGE president, was sitting and pulled him to his feet to join the dance before presenting him with the cake in honor of his retirement!

Of course, no trip to Africa is complete without a safari to see all the exotic animals and birds created by God on this continent. Riding an ostrich, feeding a giraffe and cuddling a python were part of the fun enjoyed by team members before bidding farewell to this

SAGE volunteers work on a Maranatha Volunteer International project in Kenya to build a dean's house.

center that holds such a special place in their hearts.

CARROL GRADY
Bellevue Church
communication leader



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-WA-19](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-1-wa-19)

A SAGE Retirement Farewell

BOB GRADY IS ALMOST SYNONYMOUS WITH SAGE THROUGH NEARLY 30 YEARS OF ENGAGING SENIORS IN ACTION FOR GOD WITH EXCELLENCE. AND NOW, WITH HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY, GRADY IS RETIRING FOR THE SECOND TIME.

When Bob and Carrol Grady first arrived in Washington Conference to join the Trust Services department after a career of mission service and pastoral ministry, they heard about quarterly potluck dinners for retired employees hosted by predecessor Jerry Brass. This got Grady and his colleague, Keith Boyd, thinking.

"In 1994, I got a small group together at camp meeting and we began brainstorming ideas for involving all seniors," Grady remembered. "Our first two projects showed the direction we wanted to go: rebuilding the Church Bowl at Sunset Lake and joining Maranatha to build a church in Mexico."

Grady assembled an inaugural team of officers: Winston and Jeanne DeHaven served as presidential couple along with Stephen and Margaret Tan, Will and Esther Garner, Duane and Norma Anderson, and Lewis and

Eugenia Shipowick as vice presidential couples to take care of fundraising, programming and service projects.

Carrol Grady provided her writing expertise for public relations, and Stan Sargeant joined the team with his travel agent prowess.

The network of volunteers grew through the years, reaching 1,500 people eager to be involved in a plethora of service and mission projects at domestic and international locations.

"There's just something about the camaraderie of working together that inspires you to return and do it again," said Grady.

SAGE volunteers had the privilege of working with Maranatha Volunteers International to build 25 churches and schools around the world. These building trips were coupled with evangelism meetings resulting

in more than 2,000 baptisms, Vacation Bible Schools and medical/dental clinics to touch thousands of lives.

"Many schools and churches throughout Washington Conference have been on the receiving end of SAGE volunteers," Grady noted. "We've painted 147 denominational buildings in North America and the world field under the direction of master painter Mike Altman."

Beyond service projects, SAGE also provided opportunities for fellowship and friendship among seniors. This included picnics, sightseeing trips, dinners, spiritual retreats, talent shows, prayer retreats and more.

To mark Grady's retirement, Washington Conference hosted a luncheon for a final SAGE executive leadership team committee in November 2022. The team reminisced about all the ways the Lord had given seniors opportunities to get out of their rocking chairs to be a blessing to humanity.

After the celebratory dinner, the SAGE committee met and voted to pay for a Maranatha one-day church for a women's prison in Kenya that SAGE volunteers had visited during their last mission trip in September 2022. The remaining funds in SAGE's account have similar philanthropic intentions.



• Bob Grady, retired SAGE leader, recounts story after story about how God provided through worldwide mission service.

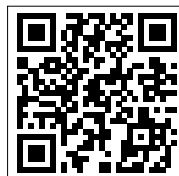
"Many people are asking if SAGE will continue," Grady acknowledged. "This organization, to keep going, needs to have a new generation of volunteers who are willing to step up. I'm praying that God will raise up new leaders to continue involving seniors in mission service."

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
Washington Conference communication director

CARROL GRADY
Bellevue Church communication leader



• SAGE's current leadership team gathers once more to vote on philanthropic projects to invest in as a legacy to nearly 30 years of service and mission work.



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-1-WA-25

BIBLE READINGS

for

January
2023

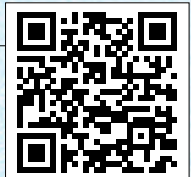
Most Christians have never completely read their Bible. Many start, but then get overwhelmed. Did you know you can read the Bible in a year by reading fewer than four chapters a day?

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Genesis 1-3	2 Genesis 4-7	3 Genesis 8-11	4 Job 1-5	5 Job 6-9	6 Job 10-13 Job 14-16	7
8 Job 17-20	9 Job 21-23	10 Job 24-28	11 Job 29-31	12 Job 31-34	13 Job 35-37 Job 38-39	14
15 Job 40-42	16 Genesis 12-15	17 Genesis 16-18	18 Genesis 19-21	19 Genesis 22-24	20 Genesis 25-26 Genesis 27-29	21
22 Genesis 30-31	23 Genesis 32-34	24 Genesis 35-37	25 Genesis 38-40	26 Genesis 41-42	27 Genesis 43-45 Genesis 46-47	28
29 January 48-50	30 Exodus 1-3	31 Exodus 4-6				

Note: Our reading plan gives you a break on Sabbath to let you spend quality time with God in other ways.

Follow us @NWAdventists on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-BLE-42](https://www.nwadventists.org/resources/reading-plans/2023-january)



Biblical Preaching Class

DURING FALL 2022, WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY OFFERED A RE-DESIGNED BIBLICAL PREACHING COURSE LED BY ALEX BRYAN, ADVENTIST HEALTH CHIEF MISSION OFFICER AND FORMER WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY CHURCH PASTOR. THE PURPOSE OF THE CLASS WAS TO FACILITATE MEANINGFUL INTERACTIONS WITH EXPERTS IN THE CRAFT AND LEARN ABOUT FEATURES OF GREAT PREACHING SOMETIMES NOT FOUND IN TRADITIONAL TEXTBOOKS.



AARON NAKAMURA

The structure of the course was broken down into two parts. Students read and watched sermons, after which they had the opportunity to ask questions and engage with the creators of those sermons in a live setting. Students were able to learn the structure and thought behind preaching. The other half of the class took the form of a preaching laboratory. Students learned to deliver a thesis, read their audience and perfect their public speaking.

A number of high-level pastors and healthcare executives shared their expertise with students, allowing the class to learn in unique ways. Students were able to learn from Karl Haffner, Andreas

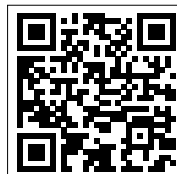
Beccai, Joyce Newmyer, Bill Knott, Sam Leonor, David Jamieson and Dan Linrud.

“Why not interact with professionals who are plying the trade of preaching, of ministry, interacting with some of their material and engaging them live in the classroom setting?” said Bryan. The class was designed to prepare students to excel in public speaking, writing, research and manuscripting, strengthening their candidacy for a wide variety of career paths.

Both students and contributors were excited to move a class in this unique direction. Bryan noticed students seemed really energized and excited to be asking thought-provoking questions. There was a lot of curiosity. “The class is an opportunity

for students to explore their calling, demonstrate their abilities and build connections with potential employers,” said Bryan. According to Bryan, students from any discipline benefit from the strong interdisciplinary skills that form the core of the class.

EMMALANI DODDS
WWU university relations
student writer



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-7-WWU-31

EDUCATION

WWU Receives Grant to Improve Nursing Simulation Lab

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY RECEIVED A \$285,000 GRANT FROM WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL TO UPGRADE NURSING SIMULATION LABS ON THE COLLEGE PLACE CAMPUS.

The grant provides Walla Walla University School of Nursing with needed funds to modernize a nursing lab with three simulators, a realistic hospital room and a long-term care room. Such additions provide a realistic, safe environment for nursing students to practice their skills.

Simulators allow students to interact with manikins that provide verbal feedback, vital signs such as a physical pulse, and lung, cardiac and bowel sounds. A control room allows students to better understand their performance.

Michaelynn Paul, interim dean and professor of nursing, said that as the university's nursing program transitions to competency-based learning, realistic simulation labs will help students master skills more efficiently. "The strong foundation that our nursing students will gain through the simulation lab will set our students up for success throughout the program and into their careers," said Paul.

Paul added that simulation experience will not replace clinical rotations. Instead,

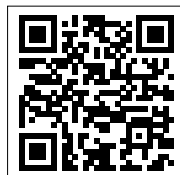
simulations enhance the quality of clinical learning by allowing students to learn in ways they may not be able to in clinicals.


"We are so delighted to be able to provide this rich simulation experience for our students," said Paul. "We are grateful to Washington Student Achievement Council for this grant."

Washington Student Achievement Council is a state agency that works to raise educational attainment through strategic engagement, program management and partnerships.

To learn more about the nursing program at WWU, visit wallawalla.edu/nursing.

KELSI NASH
WWU university relations
supervisor



More online at  NWADVENT.ST/118-1-WWU-43



GIANNI PAQUINI



Global Mission Work Supports Masai Women's Health

A 15-YEAR-OLD MASAI GIRL STUMBLES ALONE THROUGH THE DOORS OF THE AFRICA MISSION SERVICES CLINIC IN KENYA. HER FEET ARE DUSTY RED WITH ROAD DIRT. HER EYES FIX ON THE SMALL BIRTHING TABLE ACROSS THE ROOM. HOLLY GREEN, ADVENTIST HEALTH PERINATAL SPECIALIST, HELPS HER ONTO THE TABLE, NO SHEET BETWEEN HER AND THE FAUX LEATHER MATTRESS USED IN THE CENTER'S MORE THAN 600 DELIVERIES IN 2022.

The patient is in labor. There are no pillows or warm blankets to comfort her. No ice chips. No stirrups to support her. Green can tell by examining her that scar tissue from a female circumcision will mean a more difficult and painful delivery.

A few years ago, before the single operating room was built, Green's patient would have had to walk 37 miles to deliver her baby. Now, through the support of local

- Students from the local school gather in small groups to discuss various health topics with volunteers from Adventist Health.

and international partners, a small, local clinic with a single operating room stands just off the dirt road. But as the area's population has increased, so has the need for clinic expansion that will allow more women to receive the care they need.

Through the support of Adventist Health Global Mission and time and sweat from mission trip volunteers, Africa Mission Services will soon open its doors on a new, larger Maternal and Women's Health Center—a place where local healthcare providers can save the lives of more mothers and babies.

Green—whose day-to-day office is in Roseville, California—is one of the Adventist Health employees who has helped make the long-term goal of a new birthing center a reality. In November, she traveled with 49 Adventist Health employees and volunteers to Kenya's Masai Mara, a land known for its wildlife and for being home to nomadic herders of the Masai tribe. The group took 10 days away from their routine jobs to participate in a medical mission trip organized by the Adventist Health Global Mission team.

Their work focused on the local Maternal and Women's Health Center. Green's small crew led classes with the local midwives, administered immunizations and helped during deliveries. Others worked in the equatorial heat, stacking bricks on the new



two-story birthing center with the Masai construction crew. While 48 of Green's peers gave their time and labor, others are supporting the project from home with donations to Adventist Health Global Mission Fund.

"Global humanitarian impact is rich in the Adventist

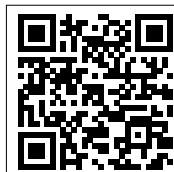
- John Schroer (front right), Global Mission manager for Adventist Health, led a team of 49 Adventist Health employees to help with construction of a new Maternal and Women's Health Center in Kenya.

faith tradition, and this includes delivery of healthcare. I can't think of a better way to experience a sense of vocation and purpose, a feeling like you are part of something important

than by making a difference for others," said Alex Bryan, Adventist Health chief mission officer, who laid brick at the construction site in Kenya. "It's important to care about local causes, but just as important are global concerns. This work has the power to change the world and to change us."

Find more stories about Adventist Health Global Mission at [AdventistHealth.org/Story](https://www.adventisthealth.org/Story).

LAUREN NELSON
Adventist Health story and communication manager



- A nurse from Adventist Health provides a health checkup and consultation for a newborn and her mother.

More online at [AdventistHealth.org/Story](https://www.adventisthealth.org/Story) 
NWADVENT.ST/118-1-AH-46

AGE—Marian Louise (Wallace), previously Marian Dixon and Marian Hunt, 87; born March 24, 1935, Spokane, Washington; died Nov. 29, 2022, Elk, Washington. Surviving: daughters, Judy Golden, Joni Frantum, Kathryn Bardo and Roberta A. Heimgartner; brothers, Lawrence, Wesley and Lloyd; sister, Ethel Price; 8 grandchildren, 1 step-grandchild and 1 great-grandchild.

BOJANEK—Lydia (Klotz), previously Lydia Kutzner, 98; born Jan. 16, 1924, Warsaw, Poland; died Oct. 28, 2022, College Place, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Elizabeth (Kutzner) Heisler; 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

BROWN—Bennie Lewis, 92; born Aug. 10, 1930, El Paso, Texas; died Nov. 25, 2022, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Elaine (Evanenko) Brown; daughters, Tamera MacPhee, Lina Brown and Daina Haas; 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

CARR—Neil Glen, 83; born Sept. 19, 1939, Milton, Oregon; died Oct. 18, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Donna (McDow) Carr; son, Don; daughter, Grace (Carr) Killin; sister, Nelda (Carr) King; 4 grandchildren.

DOWNING—Phillip Lee, 74; born Feb. 3, 1948, Kansas City, Kansas; died Sept. 13, 2022, Klawock, Alaska.

DOWNING—Shirley Allison (Utt), 76; born Aug. 21, 1945, Alameda, California; died May 28, 2022, Ketchikan, Alaska. Surviving: brother, Kenneth Utt.

ENGEN—Glenn Forrest, 97; born April 26, 1925, Battle Creek, Michigan; died Nov. 2, 2022, College Place, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Bona (Whipps) Engen; son, David; daughters, Trudy (Engen) Schmitt and Dorothy (Engen) Anderson; 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

GEIGER—Thomas Wayne, 61; born Dec. 23, 1960, San Diego, California; died Nov. 13, 2022, Forest Grove, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, LexiAnne (Weaver) Geiger; sons, Steve and Justin; daughters, Megan Geiger and Stephanie Geiger; 4 grandchildren.

HAGGERTY—Lydia Edith, 89; born May 22, 1933, Riverside, California; died Dec. 8, 2022, College Place, Washington. Surviving: brother, Ken Haggerty.

JANKE—Mary Ruth (Stevens), 92; born Sept. 16, 1929, Livonia, Missouri; died June 21, 2022, Canby, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Darrell and Dave; daughter, Sue (Janke) Conyers; 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. *(This is a reprint with corrected information from September/October 2022.)*

JONES—Robert Jefferson, 93; born July 25, 1929, Crockett, Texas; died Nov. 29, 2022, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Ruth Jones; sons, Victor, Gerald, Aaron, Brian and Cecil; daughter, Sonja (Jones) Everett; 9 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

KRIEGER—Opal P. (Bigelow), 96; born June 5, 1926, Portland, Oregon; died Dec. 10, 2022, Pendleton, Oregon. Surviving: son, Gary;

1935–2022

RALPH MERLIN ANDERSON



Ralph was born April 13, 1935 in Stanwood, Washington, the firstborn to Warren and Marguerite Anderson. He passed away peacefully at age 87, Oct. 6, 2022 with his beloved wife at his side.

He attended Auburn Academy and Walla Walla College where he met his wife Marlene (Godfrey) Anderson. Ralph received his master's degree from Andrews University in 1967. He served as principal and elementary teacher along with his wife for 36 years in Eastern Washington and Northern California. They were blessed with two children, David and Sheryl.

Ralph lived a life committed to the Lord. He was kind, humble, thoughtful and loving. He was a husband, father, grandfather, brother and educator. He cherished being a part of the lives of his students. He loved and was thankful for his family and many friends. His desire and blessed hope

was to see each one again when Jesus comes.

He is survived by his devoted and loving wife of 65 years, Marlene; son and wife, David and Helene Anderson; daughter and husband, Sheryl and Martin Abbott; grandchildren, Matthew Anderson and Andrew, Christopher, Kaelin and Alyssa Abbot; siblings Betty Penner, Lois Cornell, Marilyn Gepford and Margie Meidinger. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Doris Alderman.

daughters, Cherene Krieger, Sharon (Krieger) Wright, Karen (Krieger) Ojala, Linda (Krieger) Morris, Connie (Krieger) Porter and Lisa Krieger; sister, Leona (Bigelow) Blahak; 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

MACE—Jerry Lee, 90; born April 1, 1932, Boise, Idaho; died Sept. 19, 2022, Meridian, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Mary (Campfield) Mace; sons, Doug, Steven and Tad; daughter, MaryJo (Mace) Truax; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

MANLEY—Arlene June (Goff), previously Arlene Seffanson, Arlene Kinslow and Arlene Huey, 90; born June 22, 1932, Rapid City, South Dakota; died Oct. 12, 2022, College Place, Washington. Surviving: sons, Gene Steffanson, Arlin Steffanson and Dwight Steffanson; daughter, Diane (Steffanson) Jorgenson; 12 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

McCLENAHAN—Judith Carolyn (Worsley), 79; born Nov. 24, 1940, Los Angeles, California; died Oct. 28, 2020, Vancouver, Washington.

Surviving: spouse, H. Larry; daughters, Christine McClenahan and Jennifer (McClenahan) Hill; 1 grandchild and 1 great-grandchild.

McCLUSKEY—Esther (Andregg), 99; born Sept. 2, 1923, Boise, Idaho; died Sept. 21, 2022, Loveland, Colorado. Surviving: sons, Glen and Dale; daughters, Robin McCluskey and Kathy Mosher.

MICHEL—John, 88; born Feb. 27, 1934, San Francisco, California; died Oct. 29, 2022, Union, Oregon. Surviving: daughter, Cathy (Michel) Riley; brother, James Michel; 8 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

PANCOAST—Donald Paul Jr., 92; born Dec. 26, 1929, Mountain Home, Idaho; died Oct. 22, 2022, Lake Oswego, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Patrick, Paul and Peter; daughter, Patricia Roessler-Pancoast; 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

PARMENTER—Norman Eugene, 87; born Feb. 3, 1935, Tacoma, Washington; died Oct. 26, 2022, Spanaway, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Ann Parmenter; daughter, Nancy Wienecke; 3 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

PAULSON—Sandra Mae (Gibson), 82; born July 17, 1940, Morton, Minnesota; died July 26, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Donald; daughter, Rochelle “Shelly” (Paulson) Unger; brothers, Fred Gibson and Terry Vogel; 2 grandchildren. *(This is a reprint with corrected information from September/October 2022.)*

PFUFF—Lloyd Albert, 94; born April 23, 1928, Pingree, North Dakota; died Nov. 13, 2022, College Place, Washington. Surviving: daughters, Linda (Pfaff) Foerderer and Lana (Pfaff) Eiseman; sister, Betty (Pfaff) Klundt; 3 grandchildren, 4

great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

PFLUGRAD—Vernon, 86; born Sept. 26, 1935, Walla Walla, Washington; died Feb. 4, 2022, Wenatchee, Washington. Surviving: daughters, Renee Fritz and Tammy Hubensack; 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

REESE—Lenore Barbara (Grant Duncan), 90; born July 12, 1932, Elma, Washington; died July 19, 2022, Keymar, Maryland. Surviving: son, Michael Roger Reese; daughters, Christine Marie (Reese) Greene and Pamala Ann (Reese) Allen; sisters, Dorthy (Grant) Woelk, Mary Ann (Grant) Lizotte and Louise Marie (Duncan) Lindsey; 4 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 7 step-great-grandchildren. *(This is a reprint with corrected information from September/October 2022.)*

STEWART—Lyle Glenn, 90; born April 27, 1932, Portland, Oregon; died Dec. 9, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Wanda (Fristad) Stewart; son, Cameron; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

WATERBROOK—John Louis, 82; born Feb. 2, 1940, DePere, Wisconsin; died Dec. 10, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Terry (McFee) Waterbrook; son, Johnny; daughters, DeAnn (Waterbrook) Madsen and Dawna (Waterbrook) Hunter; brother, Carl Waterbrook; sister, Bea (Waterbrook) Ross; 7 grandchildren.

WATSON—Ray Hampton, 91; born March 11, 1931, Mesa, Arizona; died July 9, 2022, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: son, Edward Ray;

daughter, Connie L. (Watson) Hathaway; 5 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 9 step-great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. *(This is a reprint with corrected information from September/October 2022.)*

WILLIAMS—Elthaleta Mary (Wright), 96; born Oct. 11, 1926, Chitwood, Oregon; died Oct. 30, 2022, Tillamook, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Paul, Bernard and David; daughter, Mary Ellen (Williams) Grimes; 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

WOODS—Norman James, 88; born March 5, 1934, Springfield, Missouri; died Dec. 14, 2022, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Phyllis Foster Woods; son, Michael J. Woods; daughter, Julie Scott; 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

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

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BIBLE READINGS

for

February

2023

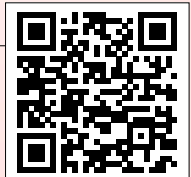
*Most Christians have never completely read their Bible. Many start, but then get overwhelmed.
Did you know you can read the Bible in a year by reading fewer than four chapters a day?*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Exodus 7–9	2 Exodus 10–12	3 Exodus 13–15 Exodus 16–18	4
5 Exodus 19–21	6 Exodus 22–24	7 Exodus 25–27	8 Exodus 28–29	9 Exodus 30–32	10 Exodus 33–35 Exodus 36–38	11
12 Exodus 39–40	13 Leviticus 1–4	14 Leviticus 5–7	15 Leviticus 8–10	16 Leviticus 11–13	17 Leviticus 14–15 Leviticus 16–18	18
19 Leviticus 19–21	20 Leviticus 22–23	21 Leviticus 24–25	22 Leviticus 26–27	23 Numbers 1–2	24 Numbers 3–4 Numbers 5–6	25
26 Numbers 7	27 Numbers 8–10	28 Numbers 11–13				

Note: Our reading plan gives you a break on Sabbath to let you spend quality time with God in other ways.

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More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-BLE-43](https://www.nwadventists.org/resources/reading-plans/2023-2024/february)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION

Offering

JAN. 7 – Local Church Budget

JAN. 14 – Religious Liberty (NAD)

JAN. 21 – Local Church Budget

JAN. 28 – Local Conference Advance

FEB. 4 – Local Church Budget

FEB. 11 – Adventist Television Ministries
Evangelism (NAD)

FEB. 18 – Local Church Budget

FEB. 25 – Local Conference Advance

CAA Alumni Homecoming Weekend

SAVE THE DATE! Columbia Adventist Academy's **120TH ALUMNI HOMECOMING** weekend is March 31–April 2, 2023. This year's Honored Classes are '53, '63, '73, '83, '93, '98, '03, '13 and '23. Additionally, if you have planned a reunion for your class that isn't listed, please reach out so that we can identify you as an honored class. Registration is in the CAA forum, beginning Friday at 6 p.m. followed by the Friday vespers program, sponsored by the Class of '13, at 7 p.m., also in the school forum. Registration continues in the CAA forum Sabbath morning with the Class of '03 doing a special feature in Meadow Glade Church at 10 a.m. followed by the **ANNUAL SESSION OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** business meeting. The church service will follow and is sponsored by the Class of '98. Our speaker, Joedy Melashenko, was the Meadow Glade Church pastor during the time the Class of '98 attended CAA. Current students will be participating in music, serving lunch and playing against alumni in the Saturday night basketball games. We hope to see all of our alumni joining us for the weekend. For more information or to reserve a classroom for your class to meet, please call the CAA office at 360-687-3161 or email Larry Hiday, CAA alumni director, at larry.hiday@caaschool.org.

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LIVING is looking for volunteers and employees to help bring hope and wholeness in Walla Walla Valley, Washington. View current opportunities at sonbridge.org or call 509-529-3100.

EVENTS

THE BURLESON SDA CHURCH, Burleson, Texas, will celebrate their 50th Anniversary April 21–23, 2023. Activities include: **Friday** supper and church history presentation; **Sabbath** breakfast, lesson study by Keith Gray, sermon by Mike Tucker, lunch at Burleson Adventist School, afternoon fellowship, supper at the church with musical concert by Steve Darmody; **Sunday** morning golf. Call 817-295-7141 with questions.

STEPS OF PAUL TOUR with Carl Cosaert, New Testament professor at Walla Walla University. Follow Paul's journey in beautiful Greece and Turkey, April 18–May 5, 2023. For more information, email Carl at info@adventtours.org or visit adventtours.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

LOOKING FOR MOTORCYCLISTS with a desire to minister. Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry is an opportunity to join an outreach ministry that spreads the Word through fellowship rides and other activities. For more information, call 425-239-4545 for Seattle to Bellingham, or 425-344-1303 for other Washington areas. Send email to motorcycles@edmondsadventist.org.

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- President John Freedman
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- Creation Study Center Stan Hudson
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- Associate Carolann De León
- Information Technology Loren Bordeaux
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- Legal Counsel André Wang
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- Associate Carolann De León
- Native Ministries Northwest Steve Huey
- Public Affairs, Religious Liberty André Wang
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- Assistant Velvet Lang

Local Conference Directory

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907-346-1004 • alaskaconference.org
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Boise, ID 83704-8418
208-375-7524 • idahoadventist.org
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College Place, WA 99324-1198
509-527-2656 • wallawalla.edu
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COLLEGE PLACE ABC

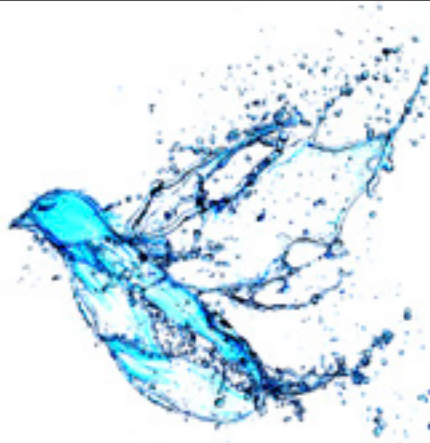
505 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324
509-529-0723
T–Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

AUBURN ABC

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



Sunset times:
nwadventists.com/sunset



POWER TO HEAL HEALTH SUMMIT 2023

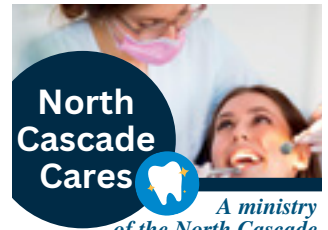
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5 Ways to Show Your Love



VALENTINE'S DAY MAY BE A DAY OF CARDS, CANDY AND ALL THINGS RED AND PINK. HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO A DAY TO SHOW PEOPLE HOW MUCH WE LOVE THEM. AS A KID, LOVE MAY BE A HARD CONCEPT TO UNDERSTAND AND EVEN HARDER TO SHOW. HAVE YOU EVER STRUGGLED TO SHOW SOMEONE YOU LOVE THEM? HERE ARE FIVE WAYS TO SHOW YOUR LOVE TO YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY.

1. Make a Valentine's Day card

Making a card for someone is a great way to show your love for them. You can decorate it however you'd like! Plus, while you're at it, make a couple more that you can share at a nursing home or with a church member.

2. Tell someone how much you love them

Telling your family and friends how much you love them is an easy way to share your love for them. You can also write a little note saying how much you appreciate them.

3. Do something for someone you love

Doing an act of kindness or helping your family allows those you're helping to enjoy themselves because you are doing it together. You can help if you see someone needing help or if you notice something that needs to be done.

4. Spend time doing an activity

Spending time around those you love doing an activity can be a lot of fun. This can include making cards, helping make dinner together or even baking sweet treats. No matter what you decided to do, spending time together shows others how much you love them.

5. Give a hug to someone you love

This last one may seem easy, but a simple hug goes a long way.

Happy Valentine's Day!

AUTUMN DUNZWEILER
*Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator*



Valentine's Day Scattergories

Fill in the blanks with words that begin with each letter of the word "LOVE"

L

O

V

E

Things you love: _____

Something pink: _____

Sweet treat: _____

Places you love: _____

Something red: _____

Valentine's Day gift: _____

People you love: _____

Something white: _____

Valentine's Day activity: _____



Sabbath in Jerusalem

“THE SABBATH IS THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN THE WORLD, OPEN TO THE SOUL OF MAN. GOD IS NOT IN THINGS OF SPACE, BUT IN MOMENTS OF TIME.” — ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL



AUTHOR | Kevin McGill

As the sun was setting in Jerusalem, I went to my hotel window and watched an eclectic range of people move up and down the busy streets. The sounds of traffic merged with church bells and religious worshipers. In Jerusalem, there are many faith traditions that seem to always be on the verge of a clash.

As I was peering out the window, I observed a zealous Orthodox Jewish man walking down the street yelling, “It’s the Sabbath” as traffic passed down the busy street in a blur. Not content at just shouting his condemnation, he went out on the street and set up a metal barrier in the middle of the highway to try and force others to follow his convictions to walk and not drive on the holy day.

I watched as car after car swerved to avoid hitting the barrier. Eventually, a car accidentally smashed into it. The car lost part of its exterior but kept driving by. Now there was auto body debris and the metal barrier on the road. Some cars navigated through it easily, but a driver ran over the barrier and got rear-ended.

The driver got out, surveyed the damage amidst oncoming honking traffic and angrily threw the barrier to the side of the road. The Orthodox Jewish man was long gone by this point, as his “righteous” act was already completed. The blessing of the Sabbath was lost in the debris of self-righteous condemnation. Instead of experiencing the presence of God and the value of sacred rest, the Sabbath became a



legalistic relic of fanaticism. The intended blessing was transformed into a curse.

In Jerusalem, there are Sabbath elevators that stop on every floor all the way to the top so Orthodox believers don't "defile" themselves. The act of lifting a finger to push a floor number is perceived as work that breaks the Sabbath. As you can imagine, getting to the desired floor on the Sabbath elevator can take a very long time. Sometimes Orthodox believers will skip the Sabbath elevator and ask Gentiles to push the floor of their choice to expedite their Sabbath experience.

While I was at breakfast on Sabbath morning, I observed as an Orthodox believer asked a visitor to tear open their bag of tea. If they were to do

that themselves, it would be considered work and they didn't want to "break" the Sabbath in that way. On Friday night as I was visiting the Wailing Wall, I encountered a young Jewish man who asked me what time it was. I reached for my cell phone to tell him. But he quickly said, "No no no!" Using electronics on the Sabbath in his view was a violation. I had a conversation with another Orthodox believer with the hope of finding some common ground. I told him I observed the Sabbath as well. He then grilled me, asking, "Do you light fires on the Sabbath?" and "Do you pre-cut your toilet paper for the Sabbath?" I did not pass his litmus test of orthodoxy. The way that I keep the Sabbath was insufficient in his mind.

I believe the rest and blessing of the Sabbath is valuable. It's great to witness the joy and celebration of many Jewish believers as they bring in the Sabbath. It should be a delight. I resonate with what Jesus said about it in Mark 2:27-28, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

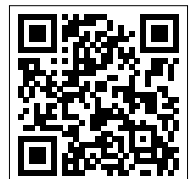
I believe in generous orthodoxy, where beliefs are practiced according to one's own convictions without projecting them upon others. Religion at its best brings freedom and rest. At its worst, religion leads to people causing car accidents in the streets because they don't think driving on the Sabbath should be permitted.

When we see the Sabbath as a legalistic burden, we exude

condemnation and bondage. When we reflect the blessing of the Sabbath, we exude rest and freedom. The Sabbath is a temple in time that reminds us that God is the creator, the redeemer, and it is God who did the work so we can be free.

KEVIN MCGILL

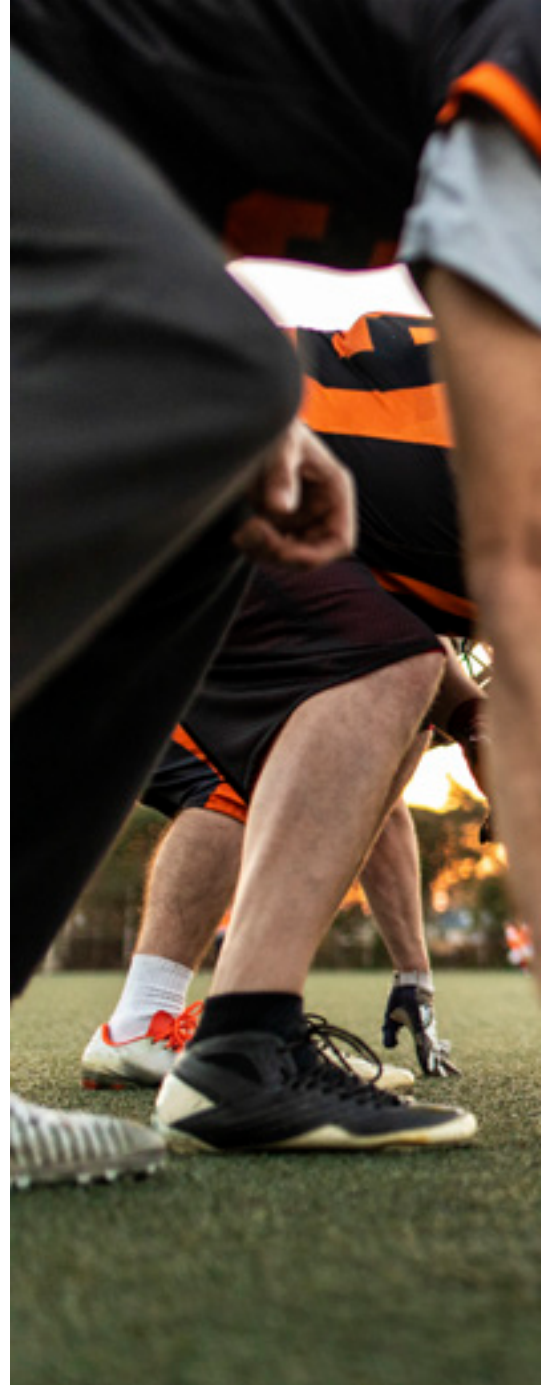
Green Lake Church senior pastor



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-1-POV-22](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-1-pov-22)

False Start

ONE OF THE WORST FEELINGS IS WATCHING YOUR FOOTBALL TEAM MESS UP AT THE END OF A GAME.



AUTHOR | Natashia McVay

Your team is on the 5-yard line, they need a touchdown to win the game, everyone is lined up and ready and suddenly a man jumps forward too soon. “False start,” yells the referee, and now they are sent backwards 5 yards. They never recover from the penalty and end up losing the game. All because one player jumped the gun and moved too fast.

Every new year people make lists of things they want to accomplish, goals they have, dreams for the year and resolutions. The challenge is that most people don’t accomplish even half of what they resolved to do in the new year. They work at it for a few days or weeks, but it is often lost before too long.



So what should we do at the beginning of a new year? Is it wrong to make plans or goals? Simply put, it's not bad to have goals. In fact, we need things we work towards and things we aim to accomplish. However, I would suggest that we start a little smaller or more realistic than we might be tempted. Rather than jumping forward so fast and then failing, why not try a more realistic goal?

As with general goals, in the realm of spiritual growth we often make unachievable goals too, like, "I'm going to

read the whole Bible twice and journal every day." This is a great goal, but if you haven't been doing any real devotional time, this might be a bit lofty. Instead, maybe aim for doing some devotional time each day, even if it's just reading a couple verses and trying to spend some time in prayer.

Prov. 16:3 has good wisdom for us as we begin the new year: "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans."

God wants us to set goals and have plans, but He also

wants us to be successful in our goals. God promises that if we start with Him, He will help us.

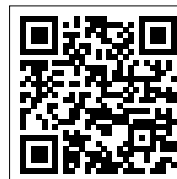
Psalm 16:11 says, "You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Start this year on the right foot, start by putting God in charge of your life, goals and dreams. When He is our leader, we can rest easy knowing He will help us.

If you start this year with God, you can be assured success!

NATASHIA MCVAY

*Moscow and Pullman Church
associate pastor*



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/118-1-POV-41

Love the Children

THIS IS MY FIFTH SCHOOL YEAR AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IN A K-12 ADVENTIST SCHOOL. I GREW UP ATTENDING THIS SAME SCHOOL. ONE OF THE TEACHERS I HAD IS STILL HERE AND NOW WE'RE GREAT FRIENDS. IT'S AMAZING HOW I'VE COME FULL CIRCLE AND CAN CLEARLY SEE THE POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION IN MY OWN LIFE. ADVENTIST EDUCATION TRULY HAS THE ABILITY TO CHANGE LIVES AND FAMILY TREES.



AUTHOR | LaVonne Long

In a previous article, I mentioned the three reasons why I now choose Adventist education for my own children: spiritual focus, caring teachers and high academics. But, honestly, the longer I work at an Adventist school, I realize that whole-person education is becoming a big priority. By focusing on the student's character, I've realized the great importance of mental health education and a changed heart for Christ – on my part and for the students. Prayer is constant on campus. In this day, we need more Jesus.

I've learned three important things (more, certainly, but these three stand out):

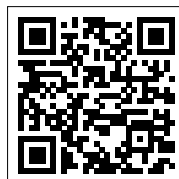
1. Kids want to do well. They want to succeed. They need adults to come alongside them, work with them and care about them.
2. Almost all kids have adverse experiences which affect their learning, retention and behavior. We are living in a time in history where we now understand some effects of ACEs – adverse childhood experiences – on children. Understanding them better helps develop a deeper love and empathy for the kids.
3. We can all do better. I recently had my four-year job evaluation and I was able to write some goals for personal growth. One of my goals

is to understand how to better communicate and help students who are sent to the front office for behavioral issues. Kids need adults to love, encourage, support and model healthy behavior. I am committed to doing this for our kids. Working at an Adventist school has honestly helped me grow and become a better parent to my own kids.

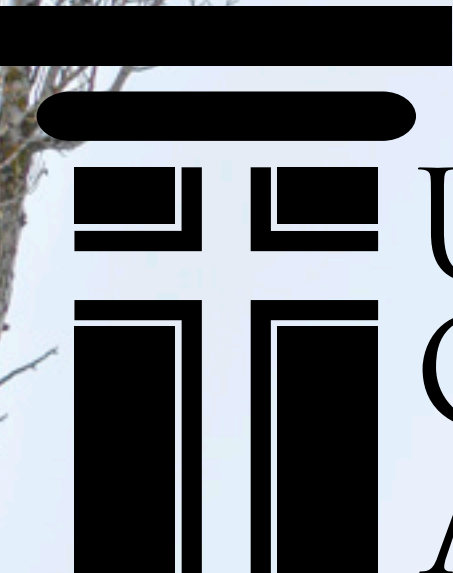
Prov. 18:15 tells us, "An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." And Prov. 16:16 says, "How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver."

Let's all have more empathy and love for kids – the kind of love that God calls us to give. After a long pandemic and a sin-filled world, our kids need us to come alongside them, support and guide them. We are truly discipling kids and making eternal impacts. This is why I keep coming back to Adventist education. Our kids need it. We need it.

LAVONNE LONG
*Northwest Adventists
family columnist*



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