

EDITORIAL

Belonging, Liberty and Rahab

PERSPECTIVE

Vocation

JUST FOR KIDS

Women of the Bible

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

Yes

One Small Word

Six Women
Who Said
"Yes" to
God

MAR/APR

2023
VOL. 118, N°2



*The Lord loves us very much. His loving
concern never fails. His great love is new
every morning. Lord, how faithful you are!
Lamentations 3:22-23*

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MARCH/APRIL 2023

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BELONGING, LIBERTY AND RAHAB

I SAT WITH 500 OTHER PEOPLE; PEOPLE I HAD NEVER MET; PEOPLE WHO I WOULD NOT MEET AGAIN; PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM MANY VARIOUS WALKS OF LIFE AND CULTURES. SO MANY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES WERE REPRESENTED.



KARA JOHANSSON
*Oregon Conference vice president
for administration*

There was a 90-year-old lady from Ukraine who had been ushered in by her granddaughter, sitting to my right. Scarf on her head, she needed assistance standing in order to raise her right

hand and take the oath of citizenship. To my left, a slightly younger 60-year-old lady from Vietnam also took the oath. There was a Canadian man similar in age to myself who, like me, had fallen in love with an American citizen, and so he, too, stood and took the oath of citizenship.

Some shared their joy of now being able to travel with an American passport. Many articulated the ability to now vote. Others spoke of the opportunity that citizenship gave them – an ability to do more things in life. For others, it was the chance to live itself that they now had.

Citizenship – you don’t tend to think much about it until it’s something you don’t have, at least in my experience. As an Australian, it had never crossed my mind. And then I had a reason, a need, to live in a country that was not my own.

Becoming a citizen of the U.S. has made me reflect on my kingdom citizenship. Perhaps it is also something that also can be taken for granted, particularly if one is “born with it.” Rahab was not born with it. In fact, Rahab was as far away from kingdom citizenship as one could get – on paper at least. Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute.

In the lineup of laws that defined one’s good standing as

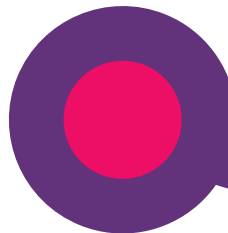
a citizen of God’s people, there were not many that she hadn’t broken. She was a citizen of Jericho who, according to the writers of the Old Testament, was about to be destroyed by the hand of God – and “citizen” was probably a bit of a stretch. Even for those living in Jericho, prostitutes were not the poster children of good citizens.

It is an interesting story, both in its features and brevity. Two spies were sent in to scout out the city of Jericho while Joshua made plans to overthrow it. They slipped in and, of all the places they choose to stay, they stayed at Rahab the prostitute’s house. Smart. With all the men coming and going, they thought they wouldn’t be noticed. They used her immoral rule-breaking for their good.

However, they were noticed. Pretty much straight away. The king sent guards, but she thwarted his attempts at arrest, which sent them on a goose chase outside the walls while she hid the men on her roof. When it was safe, she sent them on their way with a special request: for them to show kindness to her family.

We do not know much about Rahab, but three things are clear:

1. She was a prostitute – an occupation rarely chosen, no matter what time or place a woman is born into.
2. She chose to hide the foreign spies rather than giving them up – either incredibly noble or dishonorable, depending



on which angle you look at it. She betrayed her country, but she protected God's spies. Or perhaps she was just astute—she read the times she was living in and knew the right ship to jump on.

3. She sought to protect her family. For all the harshness of life that she had to endure and do to survive, at the end of the day, she sought to protect those she loved. So, she hung the red cord outside her window as instructed, and when the walls fell on that fateful day, she and her family were protected.

But that protection seems to put the camp in a bit of an awkward situation. In the lead up to taking Jericho, all the men were circumcised. There was a rallying of holiness, so to speak. What does one do with a foreign prostitute? The Bible says that Rahab and her family were given a place to live—*outside the camp*. She was, sadly, probably quite used to being an outsider. She was a woman of the night, outside the world of the day—allowed to live, but not in any meaningful way. She was far enough away not

to be a liability or discomfort to “respectable people.”

As humans, we seem to be challenged when it comes to making space for people we deem as outside our group. We can love everybody, as long as they stay in their allotted place—outside our camp. Because making space does come at a cost. Ways of doing things change, and our preferences are stretched. The comfortable autopilot of life usually needs to be switched to manual to accommodate people from outside our group. It is not easy.

Rahab saved the day for those spies—not only by saving their lives, but also by making a pivotal contribution to the victory of their nation—and the best they could do was give her a place outside the camp.

However, quite a few generations later, when the Word became flesh and lived among us, Rahab was given the pedigree of all pedigrees when it comes to citizenship—a place in the Messiah's genealogy!

No longer was she a foreigner living outside the camp; Jesus declared her family. And from my reading at least, it seems to be a theme of His ministry.

Jesus spoke to His Israelite followers and said, “You are my family *and* I need you to scoot over.

Peter, move your chair closer

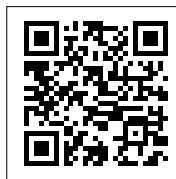
to Andrew's so that Rahab can fit. Paul, would you get up and grab those benches over there for the Philippians and Romans and Corinthians to have a seat? Philip, pull up a chair for the eunuch, so he doesn't have to sit outside anymore. Mark, run outside and invite Mary and the other women in.”

He continues to speak to His followers today, calling us to scoot over, squish up, sometimes even physically get up and drag another bench over in order to make space at the table. If for some reason you feel like you have never had a place, then this story is for you.

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit” (Eph. 2:19–22).

The days of living outside the camp are over. If Rahab is given the ultimate seat, then there is a spot for you. Sit down, we will scoot over.

KARA JOHNSON
Oregon Conference vice president for administration



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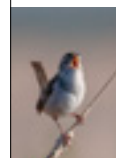
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IMAGES OF CREATION, P. 2



“March Wren Singing,” near Klamath Falls, Oregon, by Noel Chadwick, of St. John, Washington.

WEL



The women you are about to meet live in different states and serve different populations in very different ways — policymaking, marketing, soup nights and ski trips, food pantry work, church-building, and mental health education — but at the heart of it all, they have the most important thing in common: Spirit-led ministry.

One Small Word

Six Women Who Said "Yes" to God

Celesta Babb knows exactly what she's been called to do as an Alaska pastor: build relationships. Introducing small native communities to an unfamiliar faith isn't easy, but she's committed, determined and making headway.

Kindness and compassion waft from *Jill Cornforth* in calming waves You'd never know it was from her own feelings of hopelessness and discouragement that she built a thriving center of service to her community.

All *Kebrina Vinglas* has ever sought to do is follow where God leads, and though sometimes her journey has surprised her, she has never hesitated — even when it meant walking away from her career to volunteer full time.

Kara Johnsson welcomes conversation and talks easily with strangers Moving frequently as a child taught her this skill, and it also taught her what it's like to be left on the outside, a pain she has dedicated her life to alleviating for others.

Natashia McVay knows college students are flexing their muscles as independent adults finding their faith footing. As pastor of a rural Idaho church, she makes herself available to local students as both guide and fellow traveler.

La-Dana Manhertz-Smith has a gift for creating spaces where asking for help is normalized and authenticity is key, providing tools to empower Auburn Adventist Academy's young people to become their best selves.

CELESTA BABB: Putting in the Work

“THIS FOCUS IS NOT ABOUT CONVERTING THE COMMUNITY, IT’S ABOUT FOLLOWING CHRIST’S METHOD OF SHOWING CARE.” — Celesta Babb



Utqiagvik Church in Alaska is the northernmost Adventist church in the world. Though Adventists have been present in this small native village for over three decades, other denominations have been there longer, and Adventism is not very well known.

Celesta Babb, pastor of the Utqiagvik, North Pole and Delta Junction churches, has worked with her churches to expand local understanding and awareness of who Adventists are. For Utqiagvik Church, this included acquiring an actual church building, no small feat in an area where property is almost never for sale.

Delta Junction Church started Ministry Sabbath, a monthly event where members walk through the community, engaging with their neighbors, giving away baked treats or flowers and offering to pray with those they meet.

Another of Babb’s churches began hosting Blue Christmas events, an opportunity for the community to come together, share their grief over those lost during the year and ask for God’s healing in a season when losses are particularly keen.

“This focus is not about converting the community,” Babb clarified, “it’s about following Christ’s method of showing care.”

Even before Babb arrived, church members had begun developing friendships and were getting to know the people of the community, laying the groundwork for introducing them to Christ and the church. This active engagement is key.

“How are we going to minister to our community if we’re not in it?” Babb said. “It’s hard work, yes, but every time I second guess or doubt our efforts, God clarifies and reinstates the peace. We’re on the right path as long as we’re following him, and I look forward to seeing where He takes these churches next.” •



One day during the COVID-19 pandemic, Jill Cornforth, Cloverdale Church member in Boise, Idaho, helped a church member carry items to their car. When they opened the trunk, she noticed a large box of food from a local food pantry.

“I had no idea we had food insecurity in our own church,” Cornforth remembered. “This weighed on me heavily.”

After some research, Cornforth discovered Cloverdale Church’s location was in the middle of a food desert. She launched into action, rallying fellow church volunteers to open what was, at the time, the only operating food pantry and thrift store, which remains thriving today.

This spring, the church hopes to open the doors to their new community center, which will not only house the shop and pantry, but also a large kitchen, meeting rooms and a set of bathrooms with showers. They’ve dubbed the 11,000-square-foot building HUB 365. They hope to soon start a meal program, health classes, health screenings, cooking classes and after-school tutoring.

“We don’t know what the community needs are going to be,” Cornforth said, “but God helped us come up with this building plan, so we trust He knows.”

Cornforth points out that she and other Cloverdale Church members were not immune to the feelings of depression, anxiety and hopelessness that accompanied the pandemic.

“This ministry has truly saved us,” said Cornforth. “It gave us purpose in such a dark time. We are called to serve our fellow humans, and in doing that, we are transformed, as well.” •

JILL CORNFORTH: Meeting the Needs of the People

“WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE
OUR FELLOW HUMANS,
AND IN DOING THAT, WE
ARE TRANSFORMED, AS
WELL.” – Jill Cornforth



Jill

KEBRINA VINGLAS: **Filling the Gaps**

“HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN PART OF GOD’S GREATER PLAN FOR THE ACADEMY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS IS INCREDIBLY HUMBLING, AND, I FEEL, ONE OF THE GREATEST THINGS I COULD POSSIBLY DO.” — Kebrina Vinglas



Kebrina

As a board member at Mount Ellis Academy, Kebrina Vinglas knew the school staff and faculty were “a stellar group of individuals who are incredibly like-minded in their sense of purpose and ministry.” She also knew there just simply weren’t enough of them, and she wanted to help.

“I remember thinking, ‘If this is what the Lord wants, someone will ask me to help,’” she said. “I finally realized I had to be the one to speak up.”

After much discussion and prayer, Vinglas and her husband decided she could volunteer 20 hours per week at the school. After approaching the principal, right away she was given a list of development projects needing followup, and it didn’t take long for her to realize there was far more work to be done.

In February 2020, Vinglas quit her physical therapy career of 21 years and became a full time volunteer staff member at the academy. She put together a group of teachers and staff who met weekly to brainstorm marketing ideas and took a more active role in the marketing and development efforts of the school.

“It took a lot of faith to walk this path,” Vinglas admitted, “but I truly believe this is exactly what I need to be doing, when I need to be doing it.”

Last year, the academy board voted to fully fund the position, and, as of July 2022, Vinglas is officially serving as the *paid* director for development and alumni relations at MEA.

“Anything that happens here is not a result of anything I have done, but what God has done through my prayers and willingness to follow His leading in my life,” she said. “Having the opportunity to participate in part of God’s greater plan for the academy and future generations is incredibly humbling, and, I feel, one of the greatest things I could possibly do.” •



“Growing up, I moved a lot, and I know what it’s like to be on the outside,” said Kara Johnsson, Oregon Conference vice president for administration. “I experienced being invited to the table, and sometimes I experienced *not* being invited to the table. I’ve felt both acutely, and this has driven my passion for hospitality.”

Despite her proclivity for organization and her previous experience as a teacher and pastor, Johnsson never saw herself in church administration.

“As a woman in ministry, I was grateful for the opportunity to pastor and absolutely loved serving my congregations,” she said. Even when she knew her name was being considered, she didn’t expect to be named for the position. There had never before been a female in an Oregon Conference administrative role, so Johnsson felt like she was in an “unexpected zone.”

After a pause, she added, “The flip side is that when I was asked, it felt like a God thing.”

The brilliant part is that within her new role there is plenty of opportunity for Johnsson to utilize her passion for hospitality – what she points out is, from a biblical perspective, simply “loving the other.”

“I want to utilize the influence God has given me to create space at the table for all in His kingdom,” Johnsson said. “My primary goal in this role is to serve with excellence, mindfully allowing God to work through me. To be intentionally in tune with God, rather than doing my own thing. That is, I feel, the absolute best I can do.” •

KARA JOHNSON: Making Space at the Table

“I WANT TO UTILIZE THE INFLUENCE GOD HAS GIVEN ME TO CREATE SPACE AT THE TABLE FOR ALL IN HIS KINGDOM.” – Kara Johnsson



Kara

NATASHIA MCVAY: Connecting Church and Campus

"IF WE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO BE INVOLVED AND MEET OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE THEIR AGE INTERESTED IN SPIRITUAL THINGS, WE GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO CONTINUE OR START A RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM AND WITH GOD."

— Natasha McVay



If you were to visit Natasha McVay, Moscow Church pastor in Idaho, and her husband, Marshall, at home on a Friday evening, you would enjoy a meal and Bible study with a group of local college students. On another day, you might find them in the middle of a game night or out skiing with a group of students.

"Over the six years we've been here, we've had well over 400 different kids come through our home," McVay said. "We try to create a safe space for them, especially during Sabbath hours, as most have no options for God-focused activities available to them."

Moscow is home to the University of Idaho, a campus of 25,000, and is 15 minutes away from Washington State University, a campus twice as large. McVay was specifically hired to reach out to the students in the area, which she has done by establishing Adventist Christian Fellowship as an official club on each campus. Through ACF they can hold campus events, hang posters and generally establish a visible presence.

"We can't make people do things they don't want to do," she pointed out, "but if we provide opportunities for them to be involved and meet other young people their age interested in spiritual things, we give them a chance to continue or start a relationship with them and with God."

"These efforts, completely funded by the church, have impacted the congregation, as well, who have become more open to new things such as guitars up front and young people involved in the service—a significant shift for a smaller, more rural church," said McVay.

"It has been incredible to see church members talk to every student who comes on Sabbath, instead of just letting them sit in the back, unseen," McVay said. "We love seeing older generations not just acknowledging the importance of this ministry, but loving it and being excited about what's happening. We want to see that continue well into the future." •



LD, as she is called on campus, fills a unique role at Auburn Adventist Academy as well-being coordinator, a position cultivated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“To best serve the diverse needs of our students, we knew we had to nurture an environment which makes seeking help a priority and taking care of ourselves a way of life,” she explained.

Some of this is as simple as providing snacks and comfortable seating. She has space for games and other activities, displays a selection of live-cam feeds of various animals and nature scenes, and plays music.

In addition to curating this “wellbeing space” for rest, relaxation and refocusing between classes, Manhertz-Smith makes herself available for short-term crisis management.

“I use the term ‘crisis’ because for the teen, that’s how it feels, no matter how ‘small’ we as adults may think it is,” she explained. “Here they can talk it through and get tools and strategies to navigate not only whatever they may be facing at the moment, but in all of school and life.”

Manhertz-Smith channels her own teen years when talking with students, imagining what could have been helpful for her at that age, and then proactively filling those gaps for her students. She coordinates Mental Health Mondays with freshmen, visits with seniors to reduce their fear of life after high school, educates parents on mental health, provides resources and tools for faculty, and teaches students how to advocate for themselves. Manhertz-Smith has also created a mental health referral network for students who need additional support.

“The whole point of my job is to create equipped and empowered young people,” she said. “God has given us the tools to take care of ourselves and each other, and the more we equip leadership with the skills to hand these tools to our kids, we broaden the support we can offer – that is an overwhelming win.” •

LA-DANA MANHERTZ-SMITH: Equipping and Empowering Young People

“TO BEST SERVE THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS, WE KNEW WE HAD TO NURTURE AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH MAKES SEEKING HELP A PRIORITY AND TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES A WAY OF LIFE.” – La-Dana Manhertz-Smith



La-Dana

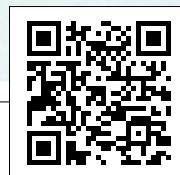
They may come from different angles, but their focus is the same: service, love, inclusion and ministry.

These women are inspiring; the work they do is powerful. And they are only a small sampling of those serving in various ways and places across NPUC and beyond, impacting their world for Christ. If you haven’t stepped up yet, consider this your invitation. Use your gifts, your skills, your opportunities to serve, to love, to minister. All it takes is one small word: Yes!

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another” (1 Peter 4:10).

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people” (Gal. 6:10).

BECKY ST. CLAIR
Freelance writer



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-FT-36](https://www.nwadventist.org/stories/118-2-ft-36)

2023 Northwest Camp Meetings

As the year progresses, camp meetings across the northwest are being diligently planned. Camp meetings provide you the time to connect with God, enjoy fellowship with your fellow conference members and reflect on the soon return of Christ. Consider attending a camp meeting near you.

Alaska Conference

Interior Camp Meeting:

June 16-27 – Harding Lake, Alaska

Southcentral Camp Meeting

July 18-22 – Pioneer Peak, Alaska

Southeast Camp Meeting

July 27-29 – Vank Island, Alaska

For more information, please visit alaskaconference.org.

Idaho Conference

English:

June 13-17 – Gem State Adventist Academy, Caldwell, Idaho

Spanish:

June 13-17 – Gem State Adventist Academy, Caldwell, Idaho

For more information, please visit idahoconference.org.

Montana Conference

July 12-15 – Mount Ellis Academy, Bozeman, Montana

For more information, please visit mtcsda.org/campmeeting.

Oregon Conference

English:

July 18-22 – Gladstone Park Conference Center, Gladstone, Oregon

Spanish:

July 13-15 – Gladstone Park Conference Center, Gladstone, Oregon

For more information, please visit oregonadventist.org/campmeeting.

Upper Columbia Conference

June 14-17 – Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Washington

For more information, please visit uccsda.org/campmeeting.

Washington Conference

June 20-24 – Auburn Adventist Academy, Auburn, Washington

For more information, please visit washingtonconference.org.

Native Spiritual Gatherings

Feb. 24-25 – Nome, Alaska

March 10-11 – Bristol Bay, Alaska

March 17-18 – Bethel, Alaska

April 7-8 – Barrow, Alaska

April 28-29 – St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

Sept. 8-9 – Wapato, Washington

Sept. 29-30 – Poplar, Montana

Dec. 1-2 – Lummi, Washington



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—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.**

Nourishing Bad Soil

PARABLES MAKE UP A LARGE PORTION OF JESUS' WORDS CAPTURED IN THE GOSPELS. JESUS GAVE SOME OF HIS MOST MEMORABLE LESSONS THROUGH PARABLES. STORIES LIKE "THE GOOD SAMARITAN" AND "THE PRODIGAL SON" CONTINUE TO TRANSCEND TIME AND GENERATIONS.

The parable of the sower in Matt. 13:1-9 calls my attention because it challenges the heart of the sower, not so much the condition of the ground.

According to the parable, there are different types of terrain where the seed falls: next to the road, on the stones, in the thorns and on the good ground. A quick reading of this parable can lead us to the conclusion that the work of the sower begins and ends with the exposition of the Word and the various types of soil are responsible for the acceptance or rejection of the gospel message.

However, this would be an erroneous conclusion.

"In the ministry of the Word, there is too much sermonizing and too little of real heart-to-heart work. There is need of personal labor for the souls of the lost. In Christlike sympathy, we should come close to men individually and seek to awaken their interest in the great things of eternal life. Their hearts may be as hard as the beaten highway, and apparently it may be a useless effort to present the Savior to them; but while logic may fail to move and argument be powerless to convince, the love of Christ, *revealed in personal*

ministry, may soften the stony heart so that the seed of truth can take root."¹

The sowers have tangible work to do so the seed won't be choked by thorns or die due to the shallow depth of the soil. The truth is, we need to get personally involved in the sowing process. Evangelistic programming on the radio, television and social media are all excellent. However, unless sowers personally engage in manifestations of Christ's love, I fear that the results of our sowing efforts will remain small.

The work of the sower, despite the diverse conditions of soil, is to *personally* impact individuals with the love of Christ, which softens the heart and transforms it into fertile ground.

"The good seed may, for a time, lie unnoticed in a cold, selfish, worldly heart, giving no evidence that it has taken root, but afterward, as the Spirit of God breathes on the soul, the hidden seed springs up and at last bears fruit to the glory of God. In our lifework, we know not which shall prosper, this or that. This is not a question for us to settle. We are to do our work and leave the results with God."²

Sowing should not be centered on our personal perception of the soil,

but on the power of the Spirit over a human heart which is awakened from its lethargy in response to the gospel. As we engage in this sacred, personal work, we are also recipients of supernatural blessings.

"There can be no growth or fruitfulness in the life that is centered in self. If you have accepted Christ as a personal Savior, you are to forget yourself and try to help others. *Talk of the love of Christ; tell of His goodness.* Do every duty that presents itself. Carry the burden of souls upon your heart, and by every means in your power seek to save the lost. As you receive the Spirit of Christ—the Spirit of unselfish love and labor for others—you will grow and bring forth fruit.

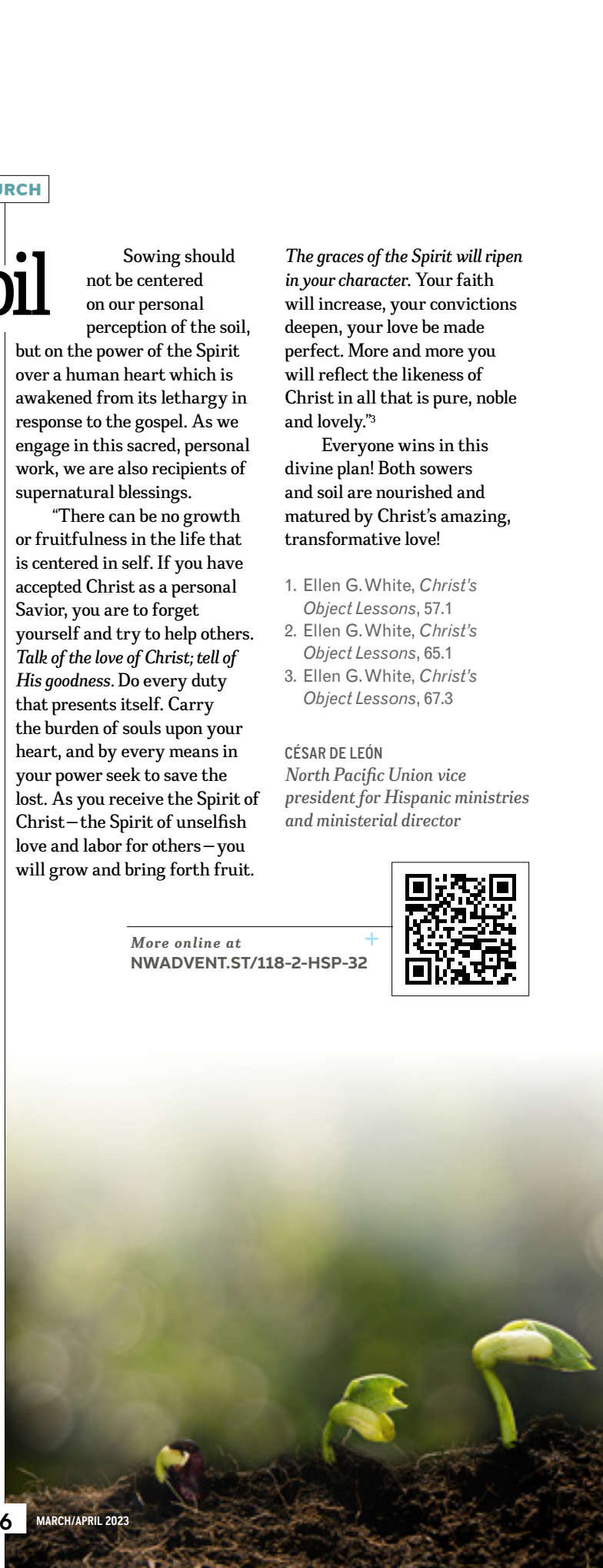
The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble and lovely."³

Everyone wins in this divine plan! Both sowers and soil are nourished and matured by Christ's amazing, transformative love!

1. Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, 57.1
2. Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, 65.1
3. Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, 67.3

CÉSAR DE LEÓN
North Pacific Union vice president for Hispanic ministries and ministerial director

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-HSP-32](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-2-hsp-32)



IGLESIA

Nutriendo Terrenos Malos



LAS PARÁBOLAS COMPONEN UNA GRAN PARTE DE LAS PALABRAS DE JESÚS CAPTURADAS EN LOS EVANGELIOS. JESÚS DIO ALGUNAS DE SUS LECCIONES MÁS MEMORABLES A TRAVÉS DE PARÁBOLAS. TÉRMINOS COMO “BUEN SAMARITANO” E “HIJO PRÓDIGO” HAN TRASCENDIDO LOS TIEMPOS Y GENERACIONES.

La parábola del sembrador en Mateo 13:1–9 en particular me llama la atención porque desafía al corazón del sembrador, no tanto la condición del terreno que recibe la palabra.

De acuerdo con la parábola, hay diferentes tipos de terrenos donde cae la semilla: junto al camino, en las piedras, en las espinas y en el buen terreno. Una lectura rápida de esta parábola puede llevarnos a la conclusión o la excusa de que la

obra del sembrador comienza y termina con la exposición de la palabra, y que cada terreno es responsable de la aplicación del evangelio.

Pero esto es una conclusión herrada.

“Se presenta la palabra con demasiado sermoneo y con muy poca obra de corazón a corazón. Se necesita un trabajo personal en favor de las almas de los perdidos. Debemos acercarnos a los hombres individualmente y con la simpatía de Cristo hemos de tratar de despertar sus intereses en los grandes asuntos de la vida. Quizás su corazón parezca tan duro como el camino transitado, y tal vez sea aparentemente un esfuerzo inútil presentarles al Salvador; pero aun cuando la lógica pueda no conmovier, y los argumentos puedan resultar inútiles para convencer, el amor de Cristo, *revelado en el ministerio personal*, puede ablandar un corazón pétreo, de manera que la semilla de la verdad pueda arraigarse.”¹

De modo que los sembradores juegan un rol activo para que la semilla no sea ahogada por las espinas o perezca debido a la poca profundidad del terreno.

Necesitamos involucrarnos personalmente en la plantación. Las transmisiones espirituales radiales, por televisión o por las redes sociales son excelentes. Pero a menos que los sembradores sean intencionales en desplegar el amor de Cristo, me temo que los resultados de nuestras siembras seguirán pequeños.

El trabajo del sembrador con los diversos terrenos es impactarlos *personalmente* con el amor de Cristo, quien puede suavizar y convertirlo en un terreno fértil.

“Quizás durante algún tiempo la buena semilla permanezca inadvertida en un corazón frío, egoísta y mundano, sin dar evidencia de que se ha arraigado en él, pero después, cuando el Espíritu de Dios da su aliento al alma, brota la semilla oculta, y al fin da fruto para la gloria de Dios. En la obra de nuestra vida no sabemos qué prosperará, si esto o aquello. No es cuestión que nos toque decidir. Hemos de hacer nuestro trabajo y dejar a Dios los resultados.”²

La siembra no debe estar centrada en mi percepción personal del terreno, sino en el poder del Espíritu sobre el corazón para despertarlo de su letargia y hacerlo reaccionar positivamente al evangelio. Mientras sigamos comprometidos en esta labor sagrada, algo supernatural comienza a suceder en nosotros también.

“No puede haber crecimiento o fructificación en la vida que se centraliza en el yo. Si habéis aceptado a Cristo como a vuestro Salvador personal, habéis de olvidar vuestro yo, y tratar de ayudar a otros. *Hablad del amor de Cristo, de su bondad*. Cumplid con todo deber que se presente. Llevad la carga de las almas sobre vuestro corazón, y por todos los medios que estén a vuestro alcance tratad de salvar a los perdidos. A medida que recibáis el Espíritu de Cristo — el espíritu de amor desinteresado y de trabajo por otros — iréis creciendo y dando frutos. *Las gracias de Espíritu madurarán en vuestro carácter*. Se aumentará vuestra fe, vuestras convicciones se profundizarán, vuestro amor se perfeccionará. Reflejaréis más y más la semejanza de Cristo en todo lo que es puro, noble y bello.”³

¡En este plan divino *todos* ganan! Los sembradores, junto con el terreno, son nutridos y madurados por el maravilloso y transformador amor de Cristo.

1. Elena G. White, *Palabras de Vida del Gran Maestro*, 37
2. Elena G. White, *Palabras de Vida del Gran Maestro*, 45
3. Elena G. White, *Palabras de Vida del Gran Maestro*, 47

CÉSAR DE LEÓN

Vicepresidente de los ministerios Hispanos y director ministerial de la Unión Pacífico Norte





Students enjoy the new playground and greenhouse.

ALATC Receives New Playground and Greenhouse

THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY AT ARCTIC LIGHT ACADEMY AND TUTORING CENTER. ARCTIC LIGHT MINISTRIES, AN INDEPENDENT NON-PROFIT MINISTRY BASED IN TOK, ALASKA, RECEIVED A GRANT FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FROM VERSACARE.

Versacare is an independent foundation which supports Adventist ministries along with a select few other humanitarian efforts through financial grants. Prior to the grant, the center's play equipment consisted of a few balls and a couple bats. With the much-needed funds, ALATC added two huge tires for climbing, built a large swing set and constructed a fort with two different slides. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the arrival of the slides, but finally, to the great joy of the

children, all equipment is now in place.

Teaching children practical life skills is a major emphasis of ALM. In 2022, ALM was awarded a grant from Alaska Department of Natural Resources for a greenhouse. In addition, Versacare blessed ALM with a second grant for all the required equipment, potting soil and bedding materials for inside and outside the greenhouse.

Gardening commenced even before the greenhouse was completed. Buckets were utilized for tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, squash and eggplant.

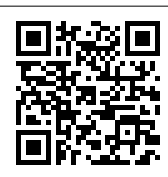
When the greenhouse was finally ready for use on July 1, 2022, green beans, beets, carrots and other seeds were planted directly in the beds. The harvest was enough for the group to preserve tomato sauce and freeze broccoli, cauliflower and green beans.

The fresh produce was used in school lunches and shared with the Tok Church family and ALATC families. Students also sold plants to the community and crafted flower baskets to beautify the center and church grounds. ALM will continue to improve its plant offerings to the community and the quantity and variety for eating, sharing and selling in the coming years.

In October 2022, ALATC students traveled to Kentucky to visit the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter, a life-size structure of the ark of the flood mentioned in

Genesis. The group then went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where they were hosted by Clifton Church while they visited the Cincinnati Zoo and Newport Aquarium. What a fantastic trip for children living in rural Alaska, some of whom had never been out of the state! ALM greatly appreciates the support and prayers that made this learning opportunity possible.

FRANCINE LEE
*Arctic Light Academy teacher
and Tok Church member*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-AK-82](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-2-AK-82)



MISSION AND OUTREACH

Ministries Collaborate to Reach Needs

“TAKE HEED THAT YOU DO NOT DO YOUR CHARITABLE DEEDS BEFORE MEN, TO BE SEEN BY THEM. BUT WHEN YOU DO A CHARITABLE DEED, DO NOT LET YOUR LEFT HAND KNOW WHAT YOUR RIGHT HAND IS DOING” (MATT. 6:1-3).

In a time when public relations can make a world of difference, our Lord’s words really put things into perspective. Some may see these things as “charitable acts,” but churches within Alaska Conference view these actions as “acts of the Spirit” because they really are the work of an awesome God.

In September 2022, the west coast of Alaska was battered by Typhoon Merbok, the worst storm in a half century. It left behind many devastated seaside communities.

Alaska Conference, Arctic Mission Adventure and Adventist Communities Services promptly organized relief efforts with the help of local churches. They arranged a food drive, collected donations, purchased generators and gathered other needed goods. Adrian Neacsu, Wasilla Church pastor, was privileged to be part of the team that delivered the donated items to the affected communities and witnessed first-hand how faith in God – and maybe in humanity as well – was restored.

Alaska residents always hear of needs around the state, which is a vast expanse of mostly untouched wilderness, like grocery stores lost in fires or villages severely affected by record low salmon runs. Relief efforts are always needed.

God was clearly communicating that the Typhoon Merbok relief effort was by no means the end, but the beginning of a ministry collaboration desperately needed in the great state of Alaska. Shortly after Typhoon Merbok, God provided a plane through Gospel Ministries International.

Two volunteer commercial pilots flew the plane multiple times, loaded each time with about 1,000 pounds of fresh produce, fruits and literature all over the state. Generous donors, a network of people that grew larger by the day, worked together to bless others and testified that the only measure of God’s love is love without measure.

ADRIAN NEACSU
Wasilla and Sunshine Church pastor



Volunteers helped unload donated goods from the plane.



Generators were delivered to homes to provide warmth and keep food viable.



The community of Unalakleet was grateful for God-inspired help.



Move online at NWADVENT.ST/118-2-AK-70

Idaho Conference Announces Camp Meeting 2023

THIS YEAR, IDAHO CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 13-17 AT GEM STATE ACADEMY WITH THE THEME "COME, HOLY SPIRIT." RON CLOUZET WILL BRING MESSAGES EACH EVENING FOR THE ENGLISH CAMP MEETING ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT.

For the weekday meetings, Grant Agadjanian will speak about praying for our children, Jack Phillips from It Is Written will speak about soul winning and Fred Hardinge will speak about health.

Children's meetings for beginners through youth will be held during the days and evenings. Kimberley Mitchell, GSAA art teacher, will offer adult art classes during the week (limited capacity). Mini concerts, a staple of Idaho camp meetings, will be provided by local talent Tuesday through Friday evening before the English meeting.

On Sabbath afternoon, The King's Heralds will share their worship through music in a concert.

Our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters will meet each evening and on Sabbath in GSAA Church. Ronald Costa will speak for adult meetings and Sergio Vasquez will speak for youth meetings.

We're looking forward to having a great time of refreshing, recharging and equipping this June! Both the English and Spanish evening meetings and Sabbath meetings will be livestreamed. Keep an eye out on idahoadventist.org and facebook.com/idahocampmeeting for further information. Subscribe to our YouTube channel by searching for Idaho Conference Communication.

Dormitory rooms and RV spaces on campus are available. Contact Leanne Strickland at 208-375-7524 to reserve.

We hope you can join us, either in person or via livestream, to learn more about how we can invite the Holy Spirit into our lives and share the gospel with those around us.

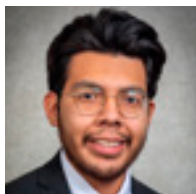
EVE RUSK
*Idaho Conference
communication
director*



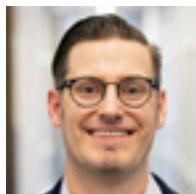
Grant Agadjanian



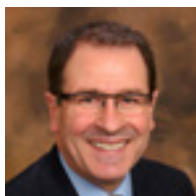
Ronald Costa



Sergio Vasquez



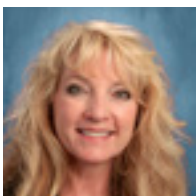
Jack Phillips



Ron Clouzet



Fred Hardinge



Kimberley Mitchell



The King's Heralds



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-2-ID-84

CHURCH

Monte Wood Ordained in Baker City

ON NOV. 5, 2022, MONTE WOOD WAS ORDAINED IN BAKER CITY, OREGON, IN THE LARGEST OF HIS FIVE CHURCHES. HE IS THE PASTOR FOR THE BAKER CITY, DAYVILLE, JOHN DAY, LONG CREEK AND RICHLAND DISTRICT.

PHOTOS BY EVE RUSK



Monte Wood responds and shares his call to ministry.



David Prest Jr. reads the charge to Monte Wood.



The Woods are surrounded by those who will continue to support them in ministry.

Wood's path to pastoral ministry didn't follow the traditional method. Soon after graduating from Laurelwood Academy, he married Dallena Bartell. As life became busier, he walked away from his early commitment to Jesus. After several years, the Woods moved to Vermont. Being immersed in nature, the cares of life began to lift. As can often happen, after the birth of their son Morgan, Wood became interested in spiritual things again. He began studying and decided to follow Jesus. He and Dallena were rebaptized in June 2007.

Wood began volunteering as a Bible worker for his church in 2008 and enrolled at Amazing Facts College of Evangelism in 2010. After graduating from AFCE, Idaho Conference hired him to serve as a Bible worker in Eastern Idaho, an area with a large concentration of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints members. He served there for a little more than four years.

In July 2015, Idaho Conference hired him to pastor the Baker City, Oregon, district. Wood was continuing to work on a religion/theology bachelor's degree online, wedged in among his pastoral responsibilities for five churches.

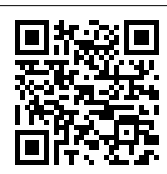
In 2022, after completing his degree and beginning the Master in Pastoral Ministry program, Idaho Conference administration recommended him to North Pacific Union for ordination. While in the past many ordinations have taken place at camp meeting, administration is moving toward ordaining a pastor in one of their churches.

Wood chose Dan Matthews to provide the homily for his ordination service. Matthews was a long-time family friend. He shared the story of Elisha, who was "mantled by the Lord." Lisa Evenson, wife of Wood's mentor Chris Evenson, provided beautiful harp music during the service. Bill McClendon, North Pacific Union vice president, led in the prayer of ordination.

During his response, Wood shared that he got involved in pastoral ministry to share the good news of Jesus. He wants to give others the opportunity to find a Savior who wants to be a Friend.

After the service, Baker City Church provided a wonderful meal for everyone. The fellowship hall was beautifully decorated and some young people served each table. The love the members feel for their pastor and his family was very evident!

EVE RUSK
*Idaho Conference
communication director*



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/118-2-ID-83



Monte, Dallena and Morgan Wood celebrate Monte's ordination.



Pastors and Teachers Unite

IT MAY SEEM THAT PASTORS AND TEACHERS HAVE TWO VERY DIFFERENT JOBS, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, THEY ARE BOTH ON THE SAME TEAM. THAT WAS ONE OF THE TAKEAWAYS FROM JANUARY'S WORKER MEETINGS WHERE MONTANA PASTORS AND TEACHERS SHARED THEIR HEARTS.

Renaë Young, Montana Conference superintendent of education, led the teachers in a discussion while Jim Jenkins, Montana Conference vice president of administration, led the pastors. In the discussions, each group spent time reflecting on three different areas:

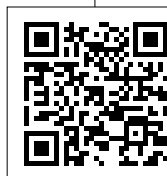
1. What do we want the other group to know we are thankful for?
2. What do we wish the other group knew about our ministry?
3. What do we expect from the other group?

The answers shared by both groups were honest, transparent and beneficial for growth. Teachers wanted to remind pastors they were on the front lines of ministry with them, ministering to families in and out of the church. Pastors wanted teachers to know how much they appreciate their visibility in church on Sabbath mornings. At the end of the day, each wanted the other to know they were on the same team, working together for the Kingdom.

After the discussion, Ken Norton, Montana Conference president, challenged the pastors and teachers to set tangible goals that would benefit their relationship with each other. These goals will be reviewed and followed up during teacher and regional pastor meetings. The truth is, when pastors and teachers work together, everyone benefits, including the school, the church and, most importantly, the students.

Teachers and pastors play a crucial role in the development of children and teens. Working together provides a holistic education that addresses both the mind and the spirit and helps our young people become well-rounded students. May we all lift our teachers and pastors up in prayer as they set out to minister to our students.

JIM JENKINS
Montana Conference vice president of administration



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-MT-06](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-2-MT-06)

CHURCH

Grow Montana

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ACROSS MONTANA IF EVERY CHURCH COMMITTED TO ENGAGING IN A CYCLE OF EVANGELISM? WHAT COULD GOD DO THROUGH EACH OF US AS WE SHARE HIS LOVE AND GRACE WITH OUR COMMUNITIES? THESE QUESTIONS WERE PART OF A PASSIONATE DISCUSSION AMONG MONTANA PASTORS DURING THEIR RECENT PASTORS MEETINGS IN BOZEMAN.

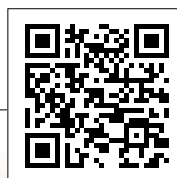
From those discussions, Montana Conference is excited to share, with financial help from North Pacific Union, we are planning to blanket the state of Montana with the Adventist message. Each church will have an opportunity to connect with its community to make friends, meet needs and even invite them to join us in following Jesus.

While some churches may choose a more traditional style of evangelism, remember outreach comes in all shapes and sizes. One church might want to host a neighborhood block party, while

another could start a healthy cooking class. As Ken Norton, Montana Conference president, shared with the pastors in January, "It doesn't matter what method you use to win souls, just win souls."

Our Montana pastors are excited to see what God will do in our churches and communities as we live out the great commission. Are you ready to Grow Montana? Let's share the hope of Jesus in the Big Sky state.

STEPHEN CARLILE
Billings Church pastor and Montana Conference communications coordinator



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-MT-03](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/118-2-MT-03)

Pastors discuss and dream about evangelism plans for 2023.



CHURCH



Nate Hellman Named Associate Ministerial Director

AFTER BEGINNING HIS MINISTRY IN OREGON CONFERENCE NEARLY 15 YEARS AGO IN 2008, NATE HELLMAN ACCEPTED AND STARTED WORKING IN HIS NEW ROLE AS ASSOCIATE MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR OF OREGON CONFERENCE LAST DECEMBER.

Hellman pastored several churches over the years, including in the Roseburg/Glide district, the Madras/Prineville district and, most recently, Gladstone Park Church. “I’ve always said it’s going to take exile or divine intervention to get me to leave Oregon because I love serving in this conference, I really do,” said Hellman. “Even years ago, back when I started as a new pastor, I thought the conference was very supportive of pastors’ efforts to meet the specific needs of their communities rather than micromanaging and trying to make each work the same way – I’ve always really appreciated that.”

In his new role, Hellman will help train and coach other pastors in meeting the unique needs of each of their communities. “I think an overarching desire for me is to actively listen to our pastors, whether they’re seasoned or brand new, so I can better understand what each of their needs are. Those needs can be very diverse throughout this field of Oregon Conference. The needs in a church plant can be very different from those of a multi-staff church, and often we can fall into trying to prescribe a cookie-cutter kind of

approach to equipping pastors. The way I see my role, though, is to listen and take each pastor’s needs seriously.”

Size is one major difference between local church communities, but the diversity of churches in Oregon Conference goes far beyond that. Some pastors, especially in rural areas, minister at multiple churches in their district, while others are one of several pastors ministering in a larger church. Still other pastors are working with nontraditional groups, such as the outdoors-based group, Common Ground, located near Bend, Oregon.

There are also a wide range of churches centered on different cultural groups and ministries, such as the White City Samoan Church, RoC Fellowship, Your Bible Speaks Church, Inside Out Ministries Church, ECHO Church, Grace Russian Company or the Hills and Valleys Church. Each ministers in entirely different settings and serves people with differing needs.

Equipping pastors doesn’t just mean sending out videos or holding seminars for our ministerial team. One important task Hellman is already working on

is connecting newer pastors to more experienced pastors to create strong mentor-mentee relationships.

“We’re looking at how best to bring pre-ordained or pre-commissioned pastors up to speed – to learn more about what their expectations are, where they’re at and how we can best connect them with a mentor – and how to coach them through the process,” said Hellman.

Hellman joins Rick Jordan, Oregon Conference ministerial director, in working alongside all of our pastoral staff members as they deepen their faith and learn how to better connect and serve our neighbors here in Oregon Conference.

KALEB EISELE

Oregon Conference digital content specialist



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-OR-81](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-2-or-81) ⁺

CHURCH

Russian Congregation Celebrates Company Status

ON DEC. 17, 2022, THE GRACE RUSSIAN CHURCH CONGREGATION IN TROUTDALE, OREGON, CELEBRATED ITS OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION INTO “COMPANY” STATUS – THE FINAL STEP BEFORE BEING ORGANIZED AS A “CHURCH.”



• Grace Russian Church celebrates gaining company status.

The history of Grace Russian Church intertwines with the latest wave of Slavic immigration in 2020. The growing Slavic church, Living Word, in the Portland/Vancouver area had reached over 400 members, and a group of 49 adults, 9 youth and 13 children from the Gresham/Troutdale area offered to organize a church closer to home.

The group began meeting together just one month before the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions began, holding their first service on Feb. 23, 2020. Although the pandemic delayed many of their plans, members of Grace Russian Church found ways to navigate their new circumstances. Thanks, in part, to the involvement of their youth, online services were developed and organized, and the congregation continued to move forward.

Church services were recorded and uploaded online, and in the first weeks of quarantine an online prayer group was organized. Early on, the congregation collected funds for mission projects including purchasing food and assisting

in mission relief efforts for six projects in Moldova and three projects in Ukraine.

When a few members of the congregation learned one of their neighbors, a disabled widower who lost his wife to lung cancer, was living alone and needed help, they went to investigate. They learned that the man’s property had become so overgrown with grass that his dog had nowhere to walk. He couldn’t afford the \$500 it would cost to have the issue taken care of.

Several men brought their tools to his home immediately and cleaned the man’s lawn in just two hours free of charge. According to the story, the man walked out on his clean lawn repeating, “Is this even possible?”

Over the past two years, Grace Russian Church has developed children’s programs and various hands-on learning experiences such as baking and music classes, as well as several revival programs. As turmoil and suffering began to escalate in Ukraine in 2022, Grace Russian Church assisted in eight different refugee projects, and is currently striving to



help many who have come to the U.S.

We are excited to welcome Grace Russian Church into company status and look forward to all the ways God will continue to work through them in the coming years!

KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference digital content specialist



More online at  NWADVENT.ST/118-2-OR-80



MISSION AND OUTREACH

ARISE Intensive Comes to Portland

LIGHT BEARERS RETURNED TO OREGON TO HOST ITS ARISE INTENSIVE EVENT IN OREGON CONFERENCE HOLDEN CENTER IN GLADSTONE ON NOV. 4–6, 2022.

Led by Ty Gibson and David Asscherick, the ARISE Intensive program exists to take people through the Bible and the story of God in three days, condensing the weeks-long ARISE program for those who cannot otherwise access the longer ARISE Discipleship program. An intergenerational group of 220 people attended the event.

Nicole Dominguez traveled to Gladstone from Chicago to attend. “ARISE was always something I wanted to do,” she said, “but I knew I would never be able to take three or four weeks off and travel to Australia for it. Having these shorter intensives in other places that I’ve loved visiting, or have always wanted to go to, really worked in my favor. I

love Light Bearers, and this is something I’ve always wanted to support and experience.”

With much of the Adventist Church in North America asking questions like, “How do we engage young adults in spiritual development?” ARISE seems to be doing just that. When asked why she was willing to spend her time and money to attend something like this halfway across the country and what drew her to ARISE in the first place, Dominguez said, “First and foremost, they’re Christian before they’re Adventist. They care most about getting to the core of the Gospel and making sure you understand it. I think that’s a major—and really beautiful—pull that I’ve seen in this

generation of Christians and young Adventists.”

“We’re kind of tired of all the red tape,” said Dominguez. “We’re exhausted from the constant rush of do’s and don’t’s. We’re tired of majoring in the minors. So getting back to the core of why we believe what we believe is key.”

Dominguez shared it was not only the information shared at ARISE that stood out to her, but also the method and language Light Bearers uses to share their message. “Another thing that has been amazing is that ARISE focuses on storytelling. They’re not just making sure the content is grounded, they’re also showing us that the way humans were created to learn also happens to align with



how the Scriptures were meant to be read.”

The ARISE program tells the story of God from eternity past through eternity future. It presents the Bible as the source book which tells the story, showing us God before the creation of the world, the story of creation and the fall, the covenant God made to rescue humanity, the coming of Jesus and humanity’s need for a Savior, the role of the Church, the Second Coming and creation of the new Earth, and how to share the story with others in our lives.

Looking around many local churches, it may seem young adults no longer care about God. We may hear the cynical refrain that young adults are no longer interested in developing their faith. Dominguez shared a different perspective, saying, “The most common breakdown of relationships in so much of our communication comes down to comprehension. I can say, ‘These are the things I need’ and list them out, but if my definition of those things and your definition of those



things do not align, there’s going to be a breakdown there. A gap. We need more listening, more comprehending and more people willing to be engaged enough to stay for the questions that will come up.”

Cutting to the core values, Dominguez concluded her thoughts by sharing, “We’re seeking Christ Himself. We’re not seeking advice on how to tell people the day they worship on is wrong. That’s my take on it.”

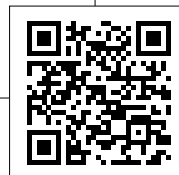
To learn more about ARISE, discover Bible study resources, or support the Light Bearers ministry, visit lightbearers.org.

KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference digital content specialist



“... ARISE focuses on storytelling. They’re not just making sure the content is grounded, they’re also showing us that the way humans were created to learn also happens to align with how the Scriptures were meant to be read.”

NICOLE DOMINGUEZ



More online at NWADVENT.ST/117-2-OR-02 

CHURCH

Pastors Violeta and Ben Bilan Affirmed in Ministry

ON NOV. 19, 2022, TWO CHURCH COMMUNITIES GATHERED AT SUNNYSIDE CHURCH IN PORTLAND, OREGON, TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CALLS TO MINISTRY OF VIOLETA AND BEN BILAN. THE SERVICE WAS PUNCTUATED BY MUSIC AND REFLECTIONS FROM FRIENDS, MENTORS AND MINISTRY LEADERS. THE EXPERIENCE WAS UNIQUE BECAUSE MINISTERS GATHERED TO LAY HANDS ON BOTH BEN AND VIOLETA AS THEIR INDIVIDUAL CALLS TO MINISTRY WERE AFFIRMED.

Ben Bilan began his ministry as a pastor in Ukraine nearly 23 years ago. The joy of studying and sharing the word of God helped motivate Ben to attend Zaoksky Theological Seminary in Russia, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Biblical studies.

Ben came to Oregon Conference as a pastor in 2007, entering the pre-ordination training track. In 2012, as he completed his Master of Divinity at Andrews University Adventist Theological Seminary, Ben

began to feel the call toward chaplaincy and fully pivoted toward hospital

ministry in 2016. "I would've never thought that I would enjoy being a chaplain," Ben explained, "yet I know that God has prepared me for this ministry."

"Growing up, I was not a very talkative person and still am not," shared Ben. "I've always been insecure about it. I like to listen to people and thought it was my weakness. It turns out, that listening is the main tool I use in my ministry now. I'm humbled and grateful that I can be me and, by God's grace, it's enough to serve people in need."

Now nearly 10 years later, the Adventist community has recognized the call through this ordination service. Terry Johnsson, representing North American Division Adventist Chaplaincy ministry, presented Ben with his ordination certificate and officially welcomed him into the community of chaplains.

Growing up in an Adventist family, Violeta Bilan graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biblical studies from Zaoksky Theological Seminary as well. "My journey has been full of surprises," Violeta shared. "I never would've imagined standing here today and being a pastor. When I started my undergraduate theology degree, it wasn't even a dream. It was impossible to become a pastor."

After graduating from Zaoksky, her career began as conference communication director in Eastern Dniprovsk Conference in Ukraine. Coming to the U.S., she experienced life as a mother, pastor's spouse and hospice chaplain.

When the family moved back to Berrien Springs, Michigan, she also completed her Master of Divinity from Andrews University Adventist Theological Seminary, yet it wasn't until 2016 that the impossible began to take shape. That's when Oregon Conference called Violeta to be an assistant pastor at Living Word Russian Church in Portland. It was her turn to join the Oregon pre-ordination track.

On Nov. 10, 2021, North Pacific Union Conference voted to approve Violeta Bilan for commissioning, making her the first woman to graduate from Zaoksky Theological Seminary to be commissioned to gospel ministry. Kara Johnsson, Oregon Conference vice president for administration, represented pastors as she spoke words of affirmation, welcoming Violeta into the community of pastors. Finally, Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president, presented the certificate of commissioning, signifying this significant milestone.

What once seemed impossible, through God's grace, is now possible.

JONATHAN RUSSELL

Oregon Conference assistant to the president for multimedia communications



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-2-OR-76

YOUTH

DANIEL ORTEGA



Pathfinders Rise to the Occasion With Preaching Challenge

HAVE YOU EVER STOOD IN FRONT OF A CONGREGATION TO PREACH A SERMON? IF SO, YOU HAVE A GOOD IDEA OF HOW DIFFICULT THAT CAN BE.

You face the pressure of putting a sermon together and having a panorama of eyes looking at you as you attempt to share a message that is of eternal value. Anxiety, fear and nervousness are just a few of the common experiences for most preachers, especially those with little-to-no experience.

Now, imagine doing that at the age of 11–14! That is exactly what eight Pathfinders did though on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022, at Salem Central Church as they participated in the Oregon Pathfinder Preaching Challenge.

These eight Pathfinders, representing seven different churches, each shared a message surrounding the theme, Parables of Jesus. They each had up to 15 minutes for their sermon and presented to a congregation composed of parents, Pathfinders, teachers and local church members.

In the crowd, three pastors served as the pastoral advisory panel for the

event: Nate Hellman, Belinda Rodriguez and Ben Barcenas. In preparation, each Pathfinder worked with their pastor, parent or Pathfinder director. Some even joined Ben Lundquist for an online, one-hour preaching class. They were ready to execute the challenge!

After each message was presented, all three pastors kindly shared feedback on areas of strengths and areas where improvement could take place. Additionally, each pastor kept track and scored the Pathfinders on eight predetermined parameters for each sermon.

At the completion of the eight presentations, the pastors determined the top three Pathfinders based on their scoring and personal judgment. All presenters were called up on the stage and presented a special certificate of participation and a \$25 gift card.

After congratulating each preacher and recognizing their courage and effort,

Rodriguez came on stage and announced the top three finalists, each being awarded a placement ribbon. The top three placements were: Emmanuel Vazquez of Salem Spanish Church, Isaac Boettner of Redmond Church and Jean Cifuentes of Vancouver Spanish Church.

Our prayer is that this opportunity will serve not just as a stepping-stone for each Pathfinder to preach the word of God more regularly, but also as encouragement to others, young and old, to be willing to publicly share God's word.

DANIEL ORTEGA

Oregon Conference Pathfinder director

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-OR-78](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-2-or-78) +



MISSION AND OUTREACH

Follow the Star Shares Nativity Story With Thousands

AT THE END OF 2022, MORE THAN 4,500 PEOPLE OVER SIX NIGHTS FOUND THEMSELVES EXPERIENCING THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH AT FOLLOW THE STAR IN GLADSTONE, OREGON. FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES, VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL OVER HAVE COME TOGETHER ON THE CAMPGROUNDS AT OREGON CONFERENCE TO BRING THE CHRISTMAS STORY TO LIFE IN THE LIVE-ACTION INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE.

Visitors experience scenes from the story of Jesus' birth including the Magi following the star, angels appearing to shepherds and even the bustling evening markets of Bethlehem. Singing angels announce Jesus' birth; mounted Roman soldiers in full armor ride near the visitors' path. Beggars move through the crowd asking for alms, filling in the sights and sounds that are easy to miss when we sit down to read our Bibles.

Approximately 100 volunteers worked together each night to make Follow the Star possible. Volunteers of every age worked as actors, production staff and in visitor relations, bringing months of planning to life.

One volunteer, April Burville, shared just how important Follow the Star has been to her family. "This last year was my 12th year participating," said Burville. "It would have been the 14th if we hadn't missed the last two years, but I started participating the first year after we moved to Oregon."

"My husband grew up in Gladstone Church where Follow the Star started, so he'd been part of it before," Burville continued. "I did it at first because he was doing it and I found out I could sing as an angel in the choir. I really got involved because I wanted to serve and hang out with people I liked. But every year since I've seen miracles happen."

Burville shared that over the years, there would be frequent worries over volunteers—whether an acting volunteer canceled or not enough people signed up

until the last minute—but God always came through to meet their needs in the end.

"I've seen it happen over and over again. Almost every year I hear people say, 'I don't think we're going to have enough volunteers this year,' or 'Who's going to fill this part?' but I always think, 'Don't worry. God's got this.' And guess what? Every time He actually does. It works out and it's beautiful."

Follow the Star is a visibly intergenerational ministry. From parents and grandparents shepherding children through Herod's temple, to a cast of characters that includes every living generation, visitors and volunteers alike get the chance to spend time face-to-face with people from across the generational spectrum.

Burville shared that Follow the Star has created an annual tradition that has bonded her family even more. "This has turned into a complete family event for us," she said. "I think my son Tyson was in kindergarten when he started as a little shepherd. At the ages of 5 or 6 years old, each of my boys joined the shepherds. My husband now does two parts. He'll be a shepherd on a couple nights and he'll be King Herod on a few nights. Now that my boys have gotten old enough, they know their parts and they don't even need him."

"Follow the Star is something we all look forward to," Burville shared. "We all go out and freeze together and we're all tired over those weekends together. Even Sabbath—after being up late on Friday and then

getting up early and going to church – turns out to be a blessing because we're all tired together so we all come home, laze around and crash for a couple of hours before we get up and go do it again!"

"It turns into family time and makes for these unexpected moments, even just around the dinner table where we share the funny moments or something cute that a kid said or something. Giving our time to the community like

this always turns into this joy that bubbles over into the rest of our lives. It's incredible," said Burville.

As an annual project, Follow the Star is always looking for new partners and volunteers to join them in the upcoming year. "If you feel even the tiniest ping in your heart to volunteer and to be a part of this program, do it," said Burville, "You'll be blessed many times over by answering that call, rather than staying home."

According to Nate Hellman, pastor, 984 people came through Follow the Star on its final night, giving each the chance to connect with new friends and, most importantly, be reminded of the reason for Christmas. The story of God on Earth. The greatest story ever told. The story of Jesus Christ.

KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference digital content specialist

More online at  NWADVENT.ST/118-2-OR-79



CHURCH

UCC Unveils Strategic Plan With Vertical: Vision Sabbath

ON JAN. 21, UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE HELD VERTICAL: VISION SABBATH IN EVERY CHURCH IN UCC, WITH DAVID JAMIESON, PRESIDENT, PREACHING THE SERMON, "BEATING AROUND THE BURNING BUSH."

During the sermon, Jamieson shared the story of Moses and his encounter with the burning bush in the Midian desert.

Jamieson began by asking, "Are you living the dream? Are you living out your ultimate purpose?"

For many, answering that question can be difficult, but he continued, "Everyone has a dream, a vision for their life that fills them with passion and purpose."

Beginning in Ex. 3:1-10, Jamieson recounted the story and shared how uncertain and

scared Moses was. Moses was living comfortably; he didn't want to do anything that would put him outside his comfort zone, even if it meant not doing God's will.

Jamieson then asked, "Did Moses believe? Do you and I believe that God has a purpose for our life?"

Believing in God is a gift because, "God is real. God is alive. God is active. He is a person, but He is also a verb. He does stuff, incredible stuff, previously unbelievable stuff in people's lives when they believe," shared Jamieson.

"Are you living the dream? Are you living out your ultimate purpose?" Jamieson answered, "God takes ordinary people and makes them extraordinary. What God did then, He can do again!"

Ending his sermon, Jamieson shared the new motto for UCC: Serve | One More. Since September 2022, church members, pastors, teachers, administrators and employees have been praying for God's leading in the conference. To Serve | One More as Jesus did is the focus of the UCC Strategic Plan for 2023-2025.

The plan includes 15 strategic priorities and 55 unique initiatives that the conference will focus on over the next three years, the intentions of continuing praying for God's vision in the conference and renewal in your life, and the mission to serve one more lost man, woman, boy and girl.

To view the document or to watch the sermon in English and Spanish, visit uccsda.org/strategicplan.

AUTUMN DUNZWEILER
Upper Columbia Conference communications coordinator



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-2-UC-18 **+**

Adventist Woman Named Among Idaho Women of the Year

IN FALL 2022, IDAHO BUSINESS REVIEW RECOGNIZED 50 IDAHO WOMEN OF THE YEAR HONOREES FROM ACROSS IDAHO FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT, LEADERSHIP, MENTORSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.

Lynda M. Freeman, doctor of healthcare science, master of public health, master of business administration, clinical associate professor and academic skills specialist in the WWAMI medical education program at the University of Idaho, was one of the 50 women recognized. Freeman attends Moscow Church in Moscow, Idaho.

"I was honored to be one of the 50 women in Idaho selected for this year's award from the *Idaho Business Review*," shared Freeman. "It was nice for my hard work and contributions to be recognized."

Freeman is co-founder of The Liberation Movement, Inc., and was this year's guest speaker at The League of Women Voters. Freeman is also the first Black female faculty member in the University of Idaho WWAMI medical education program.

"Lynda is always mentoring the future of

healthcare and medicine," shared Jeff Seegmiller, WWAMI medical education program director. "She is meeting with underrepresented students and has used her privilege and experiences to help those who are less fortunate. She believes in equity for all."

Freeman has shown her leadership skills over the years through her positions as faculty advisor for students in the Idaho WWAMI National Medical Association; member of the University of Idaho Black Faculty and Staff Association; and faculty co-advisor for the Black Student Union.

"I wish to share with other women to stay true to their mission," said Freeman. "When operating in God's will, He will honor you even when others intend the opposite for you. My faith is the reason I can effectively do the work I do. There have been numerous challenges and opportunities

for discouragement, but the Holy Spirit has imparted the wisdom and encouragement necessary to navigate the bumps and boulders on this journey."

Freeman was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, to two loving parents, Fred and Jackie Murphy.

"My parents valued Christian education," Freeman recalled. "They made sacrifices to put my siblings and I through Adventist schools from kindergarten through college."

Freeman attended Greater Atlanta Academy and Oakwood University where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She has studied community health, including rural health, and designed educational tools for health care professionals serving these communities.

Her experience coordinating a rural health education network in rural Alabama sparked her interest in adult learning and education. She obtained her doctoral degree in health science from Nova Southeastern University and two master's degrees in public health and in business administration from University of Alabama at Birmingham.

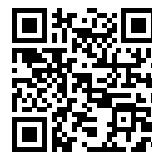
"I strive to impact students, organizations and the community with compassion and excellence," Freeman said. "I am so grateful for this award acknowledging my work and I hope it inspires more women—especially women of color—don't stop. Even when it may at times feel lonely and hopeless, keep your faith. Get some rest, but don't give up."

AUTUMN DUNZWEILER
*Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-UC-15](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-2-uc-15)

MISSION AND OUTREACH



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-UC-21](https://www.adventist.org/ST/118-2-UC-21)

ACS Diaper Bank Making a Difference in Tri-Cities

TRI-CITIES DIAPER BANK HAS BEEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY SINCE 2011. THIS PROGRAM, RUN THROUGH ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES, IS A WASHINGTON STATE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. THEY ARE THE FIRST DIAPER BANK IN THE AREA AND THE FIRST ACS, ADVENTIST DIAPER BANK IN THE COUNTRY.

For many families, government assistance programs and food stamps don't allow families to purchase diapers. Many daycare facilities require parents to provide disposable diapers to attend. "With a lack of diapers, it can force desperate parents to choose between leaving babies in soiled diapers for extended periods or trying to wash and reuse disposable diapers," shared Renée Martin, Tri-Cities Diaper Bank program director.

Tri-Cities Diaper Bank works with local social services, community partners and faith-based organizations to meet this unmet need in their community. Run solely by volunteers, Tri-Cities Diaper Bank has distributed more than

3 million diapers – 300,000 annually – to more than 1,200 children in the Tri-Cities area in Washington.

A note from one of Tri-Cities Diaper Bank's community partners, Catholic Family Charities, shared, "We are most grateful to Tri-Cities Diaper Bank and the Adventist Church ... you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, have brought so much for years to struggling families. It's our responsibility and privilege to give back to a church that has been a beacon of hope for so many. You have been instrumental in meeting our mission 'Motivated by Christ, we bring hope to life to those most in need' each day for so many, for more than a decade."

During summer 2012, Eric W. Shadle, Richland Church pastor, set out to raise community awareness that diapers are basic human needs like food and shelter, and that these needs are not

being met for children living in poverty. Shadle's goal is to advocate for policy reform so that diapers will be included in the definition of and provision for the "basic human needs" of families.

"He was so touched by this need, that he used his Sabbatical time to ride his bicycle all the way across America to raise awareness of local diaper needs and to raise funds for our diaper bank," said Martin. "He also spoke with people on Capitol Hill about the need for diapers to be considered a 'basic human need.'"

Over the years, Tri-Cities Diaper Bank has been making a difference in their community and will continue to make a difference in the future. For more information, visit tricitiediaperbank.org.

AUTUMN DUNZWEILER
Upper Columbia Conference communications coordinator

Tri-Cities Diaper Bank unloads diapers from a Huggies donation.



EDUCATION



Chloe Whitmore, UCA senior

UCA Equestrian Center Flourishes

“MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB ...” ALMOST EVERYONE RECOGNIZES THE NURSERY RHYME ABOUT MARY’S PET LAMB AND THE ENSUING CHAOS WHEN HE FOLLOWED HER TO SCHOOL ONE DAY, SO IT’S NO SURPRISE MOST PEOPLE DON’T EVER QUESTION THE “NO PETS” RULE AT A BOARDING ACADEMY.

For numerous reasons, it isn’t practical to allow animals in a school setting. However, that began to change when Upper Columbia Academy Riding Center opened on UCA’s campus, making it possible to bring horses to school. This is a dream come true for horse enthusiasts, and for several current students it was the deciding factor in choosing to attend.

Now in its fifth year of operation, the riding center has more than 25 students enrolled in a variety of programs and classes. Students can bring their own horse from home and board it at the school’s boarding facility or partially lease one of the horses already contracted to the school from Camp MiVoden. With an active United States Pony Club Riding Center and Certified Horsemanship Association instructors, the barn is also a resource for the local community.

“Students thrive in the barn in ways that are

unavailable to them in other academic settings. Direct involvement with horses inspires a type of connection and empathy that is not found anywhere else,” said Holly Haeger, program director and head coach.

Haeger is passionate about horses and kids. Her commitment to excellence is apparent in the way she interacts with students and in her day-to-day management of the barn. As an educator for more than 20 years, in addition to her professional equestrian experience, Haeger is well aware of the advantages of interacting with horses, and she is dedicated to making this opportunity available to as many as possible.

Limited scholarship funds are available now, and the goal is to grow these so the program is accessible to anyone, regardless of economic background. Reduced anxiety and stress, sharper focus and improved communication skills are just a few of the many benefits Haeger has observed.

“I had almost no exposure to horses before I came to UCA,” said Chloe Whitmore, senior. “I had ridden a couple of times and horses were very interesting to me, but I was scared. Now I’ve been part of the program for almost four years, and somewhere along the way the fear stopped. I started as a beginner, but now I have the knowledge I need to enjoy horses for the rest of my life.”

“My time in the barn has been important because I learned real life skills. Everyone takes responsibility for feeding,

grooming and cleaning up—it’s so much more than just riding,” said Whitmore. “The skills I’ve gained from working with the horses follow me into other parts of my life. I’m much more confident.”

“The culture of the barn is positive, encouraging and a place where students are taught how to learn and teach,” said Haeger. “If you need an entirely different kind of learning and growth, this is where it happens. Here we work on facing our fears and competing with ourselves. It’s the best life preparation I know, and what better way to get to know our Maker than to work with and care for His creatures daily?”

KRISTA MIKKELSON
*Upper Columbia Academy
director of alumni and
enrollment services*



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-2-UC-13 +

Holly Haeger, UCA Equestrian program director and head coach



UCC Provides Grief Support

THE LAST THREE YEARS HAVE BEEN A WHIRLWIND FOR MANY. WITH THE UNCERTAINTY IN THIS WORLD, IT BECOMES MORE APPARENT THAT LOSS IS A REALITY THAT ALL WILL HAVE TO FACE AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIVES.

Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference director of Adventist Community Services, shared, “Too many deaths have intruded into the lives of members, families, neighbors and friends, begging the question, ‘What can we do to support those enveloped with grief?’ and the prayerful answer came in several forms.”

Heidi Jones, Renew Spokane program coordinator and hospice chaplain, took the lead in developing a program for those dealing with grief during the holidays. Renew Spokane is an innovative grant-funded program through Adventist Global Mission Urban Center, North American Division, North Pacific Union and UCC that develops resources to collaboratively serve the unreached urban community in Spokane. Jones partnered with five Spokane-area Adventist churches to provide a Blue Christmas service.

“Many find themselves processing experiences of grief, loss and loneliness amidst a season often filled with holiday bustle and merriness,” shared Jones. “We wanted to give these individuals a quiet place of beauty to be authentic with their feelings and reminded of God’s enduring presence with them amidst this time.”

Along with this service, Spokane Central Church held a grief group study with a six-session series presented by Faith for Today and facilitated by Gerald Haeger. The sessions created a space for those coping with grief to integrate into a group setting to provide support for each other and learn how to face their loss together.

Another resource UCC provides is a supportive newsletter focusing on grief and loss called “Peace, Be Still.” Authors for “Peace, Be Still” include Adventist chaplains, pastors and grief counselors from across the

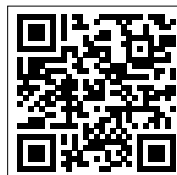
DUSTIN JONES



Five Spokane-area churches partnered together to provide a Blue Christmas service to those experiencing grief and loss.

country, sharing their insights on how to address grief and bring healing. If you are interested in signing up for the “Peace, Be Still” newsletter, visit uccsda.org/peacebestill.

AUTUMN DUNZWEILER
Upper Columbia Conference communications coordinator



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-2-UC-76

serve | ONE MORE

Upper Columbia Conference Camp Meeting
at Upper Columbia Academy
June 14-17, 2023

Featuring


Carlton Byrd
President, Southwest Region Conference


David Jamieson
President, Upper Columbia Conference

 Upper Columbia Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

www.uccsda.org/campmeeting

BIBLE READINGS

for

march

2023

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			<u>1</u> Numbers 14–15; Psalm 90	<u>2</u> Numbers 16–17	<u>3</u> Numbers 18–22	<u>4</u>
<u>5</u> Numbers 23–25	<u>6</u> Numbers 26–27	<u>7</u> Numbers 28–30	<u>8</u> Numbers 31–32	<u>9</u> Numbers 33–34	<u>10</u> Numbers 35–36; Deuteronomy 1–2	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u> Deuteronomy 3–4	<u>13</u> Deuteronomy 5–7	<u>14</u> Deuteronomy 8–10	<u>15</u> Deuteronomy 11–13	<u>16</u> Deuteronomy 14–16	<u>17</u> Deuteronomy 17–23	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u> Deuteronomy 24–27	<u>20</u> Deuteronomy 28–29	<u>21</u> Deuteronomy 30–31	<u>22</u> Deuteronomy 32–34; Psalm 91	<u>23</u> Joshua 1–4	<u>24</u> Joshua 5–11	<u>25</u>
<u>26</u> Joshua 12–15	<u>27</u> Joshua 16–18	<u>28</u> Joshua 19–21	<u>29</u> Joshua 22–24	<u>30</u> Judges 1–2	<u>31</u> Judges 3–7	

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/118-2-BLE-49](https://www.nwadventists.org/resources/reading-plans/march-2023)



Prayer Brings New Energy to Ministry

THE 1,000-SEAT AUDITORIUM HAD 960 SEATS FILLED FOR THE ANNUAL HISPANIC MINISTRIES PRAYER RALLY IN JANUARY. THE RALLY WAS A CULMINATION OF 40 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR HISPANIC CHURCHES BEFORE THE LAUNCH OF SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES.

The atmosphere of the room was electric!

"The auditorium was maxed out. It was like a parade of nations with each district coming forward with their small groups for a prayer of blessing and consecration," said Randy Maxwell, Washington Conference vice president for administration. "There were children, older people and everyone in between. It was a powerful time of unity and excitement about the mission of the church."

But this wasn't the only instance of prayer-filled energy.

That same day in Tacoma, regional churches gathered at Mount Tahoma Church for Days of Celebration, an annual time of prayer and unity, to prayerfully take the

next steps in preparing for a city-wide summer evangelism campaign in Seattle with Breath of Life Ministries.

"Last fall, our team started seeing an increasing trend of interest in prayer," Maxwell said. "We had renewed interest in family worship and prayer through The Altar Project in October, and then local churches adopting 10 days of prayer, 40 days of prayer, weeks of prayer and more. The interest in prayer is definitely on the uptick."

The Altar Project for 2022 encouraged 1,150 email recipients to apply Jesus' command, "Peace, be still," in their lives to make room for family worship and prayer throughout the month of October and beyond.

November 2022 brought the God First Stewardship Week of Prayer. A higher-than-normal level of public prayer requests were shared each day during a noontime prayer teleconference hosted by Tacoma Central Church and a nightly broadcast hosted at Volunteer Park Church.

2023 opened with 21 Days of Prayer for God to give churches fresh wind and fresh power for engaging in ministry post-pandemic. Each day, 1,600 people engaged in personal prayer by watching daily devotional videos, joining a 6 a.m. prayer call hosted by Chehalis Church or participating in a weekly Zoom prayer time.

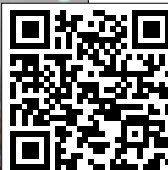
"I enjoyed the morning prayer time and the opportunity to meet with like-minded brothers and sisters in Washington," said Lonna Milburn, prayer participant.

When Dana Schafer from North Cascade Church saw the 21 Days of Prayer plans, she decided to take it a step further with an in-person prayer time at the church.

"I felt impressed to give our church family an opportunity to participate locally," she said. "I basically follow the same format as the 6 a.m. prayer call. We have had up to six join. God is blessing!"

"There's a sense of passion and genuine appreciation for prayer that is being fostered through all of our prayer encounters," Maxwell said. "I'd like to encourage our prayer warriors to keep it up! Let's keep building our prayer ministry to see what God will do!"

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
Washington Conference
communication director



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-2-WA-07

Any passerby at the Hispanic Ministries Prayer Rally to dedicate small groups would feel the energy in the room as the Holy Spirit moved among the maxed out auditorium.

EDUCATION

OCS Celebrates 100 Years

AS OLYMPIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL APPROACHED ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY, GOD PROVIDED ALL THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO HELP WITH THE SPECIAL CELEBRATION.



The Olympia Christian School community reunites to celebrate 100 years of educational history.

A planning team organized all the details – including specialized confetti – for a well-attended special celebration that took place Oct. 21–23, 2022 complete with Friday night dinner and music program, Sabbath services and lunch, and Sunday Fall Fair.

The whole weekend celebrated the people of Olympia Junior Academy and Olympia Christian School. Various music groups performed including the school’s current bell choir and strings group joined by alumni, a teachers’ flute ensemble, the Ed Case family string ensemble and alumni Daynnie and Dale Hansen who performed “I Am Not Alone.” In addition, Judy Castrejon, former teacher and principal, organized an alumni Manos group.

Rick Serns, former principal, spoke and sang a song he had written several years before at OJA. Ken Penner from the OCS community provided a video going back to 1979 highlighting the various school years. Longtime educator Ciri Achord posed for a photo with all her gathered students from her years at OJA.

To document the school’s history, Valerie Serns, retired educator and alumni weekend coordinator, took the lead by collecting old yearbooks, establishing friendships, developing an alumni and friends contact list, and compiling the school’s history.

In 1922, a church school was first established in Olympia in the church’s basement, then located on Bethel Street.

In the early 1950s, the church acquired a piece of property on Springer Road – now 1416 26th Ave. – just up the street from the old church. The property was approximately 8 acres with a creek and cedar trees making a beautiful setting.

In the 1960s, several people helped moved buildings from Fort Lewis to create a four-room school with three classrooms and an office.

Joe Nixon, Olympia Church pastor, asked David Glenn to start a branch Sabbath School with a few Olympia church families to launch Lacey Church. Rick Quast then joined the community to build

and further establish Lacey Church. This gave OJA two supporting churches.

Olympia Transformation Life Center and Lacey Church have faithfully supported the school throughout all its ups and downs and transitions.

Over the years, various changes in teachers, administration and pastors in the 2000s resulted in a new look and a new, more modern name of Olympia Christian School.

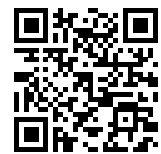
Shortly after, church and school leaders identified some major and costly upgrades needed for the 26th Ave. building, and a new location was found in 2010 at 1215 Ethel St. NW in West Olympia.

Throughout its history, it didn’t matter where the school was located or what name it had; what matters most are the

students learning and growing as disciples of Jesus.

SHARRON SCHWARTZ
Olympia Christian School principal

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
Washington Conference communication director



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-WA-90](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-2-wa-90) 

• Longtime educator Ciri Achord (center) poses for a photo with all her gathered students from throughout her years at OJA.



CHURCH

LifeBridge's Mission

Grows **LIFEBRIDGE CHURCH BEGAN AS A DREAM TO REACH UNCHURCHED YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND FAMILIES IN THE TACOMA AREA.**



VICTORY KOVACH

The LifeBridge Church family step forward to sign the church roster for organizing the 110th church in Washington Conference.

At the beginning of 2020, 20 young adults committed to the church plant core team. Through prayer and studying the community's needs, gifts of the team and calling of the Bible, they embraced their identity as a church to participate with Jesus in His mission personally and collectively. LifeBridge was born.

When the pandemic hit, the team postponed finding a worship gathering venue so they could provide a free dental clinic for the community. Lives were changed, so they did it again. Church was becoming a way of life. God continued to grow the LifeBridge team.

After gathering for worship outside or in a temporary location once or twice a month for over a year, God opened the way to rent their current venue in University Place. LifeBridge Church celebrated its grand opening on Jan. 8, 2022. Less than one year later, it was officially organized as the 110th

church in Washington Conference on Dec. 3, 2022.

LifeBridge's 3 Key Ministry Focus Areas:

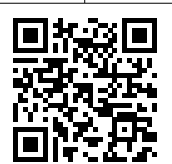
- » **Health:** From 2020–2022, this passionate group of around 50 young adults and families hosted seven free dental, vision or physical therapy clinics, serving more than 600 people with \$260,000 worth of free care. In 2023, they plan to serve more than 900 people with \$300,000 worth of care through two larger-scale health clinics in January and August. The health clinics have provided amazing opportunities to develop young adults as committed missional leaders.
- » **Family:** LifeBridge is supporting families to raise their kids as servant leaders for Jesus. They have launched two thriving LifeBridge Kids groups on Sabbath mornings with plans to add a youth group in 2023. Many young people are involved and making a real difference in ministry. LifeBridge families eat lunch together monthly, have access to an online parenting support group and share powerful series on relationships and family to encourage and equip families to thrive.
- » **Groups:** LifeBridge launches waves of small groups for six to eight weeks leading up to a community seminar. The seminar is followed up by a new wave of groups. This cycle repeats twice a year. The most recent groups wave included six

groups meeting in Tacoma, Lakewood, Gig Harbor, Lacey and Online, which led up to a community Mental Health & Relationship Seminar held on Feb. 24–25, 2023.

LifeBridge Church gathers at 10 a.m. for groups and at 11 a.m. for worship on Sabbaths in University Place, Washington. LifeBridge members live missionally at home, work and play. They prayerfully look for opportunities to make friends, eat with people and invite them into groups. There they make friends, grow spiritually, get involved in serving and are invited to worship gatherings and seminars where they can grow, make decisions for Christ and become leaders. So far, LifeBridge has celebrated more than 20 changed lives through baptism, rebaptism and profession of faith—many from unchurched backgrounds.

LifeBridge wants to help start more church plants in the near future. They want to see every person in the Tacoma area and beyond receive a meaningful invitation into a Jesus-centered life! They invite people to join them in the mission to “live a life that changes others forever.”

DUSTIN SERNS
LifeBridge Church pastor



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-WA-88](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/118-2-wa-88)

MISSION AND OUTREACH



Colporteur-ing Translates Into Successful ESL Classes

MYRNA OVANDO AND IZABELA YOUNGBERG, POULSBO CHURCH MEMBERS, WERE JOINTLY INSPIRED TO REACH POULSBO'S HISPANIC COMMUNITY BY GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR HANDING OUT FREE SPANISH LANGUAGE BOOKS ON COOKING, END-TIME EVENTS, BIBLE PROPHECY, CHILDREN'S STORIES AND MORE.



Poulsbo Church is making friends in their community through hosting English as a Second Language classes.

That was in late 2021 when the pandemic was still greatly impacting our society. Yet, Ovando and Youngberg were not dissuaded.

Many answers to prayer and conversations with the community led to understanding a great desire and need for English as a Second Language classes, which are now held regularly at Poulsbo Church.

Interest in the free, biweekly evening classes has become rather popular among a subset of the local Hispanic community. Many attendees originate from the same community in Mexico, and others originate from Guatemala.

Since May 2022, Poulsbo Church has held two terms of classes that have included 11 registered students for a May to June term and 25 for a September to November term. Bible study interests have also developed and are expected to increase over time.

As each term concludes, the church hosts a graduation dinner party. These parties

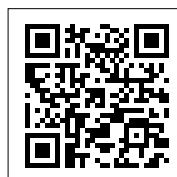
create more community and establish great bonds of friendship for eternity.

Poulsbo Church is solidly behind this program after voting at a January 2022 business meeting. Volunteers were recruited among the church family and include Rosanne Carlson, Kevin Erich, Suzy Liebert, Blanca and Paul McCarty, and Bruce Youngberg (coordinator). Myrna Ovando and Izabela Youngberg remain deeply involved as well.

After classes each evening, the ESL staff gather to discuss successes and challenges while concluding in prayer for each ESL student's economic and spiritual needs.

Greg Bullion, pastor, provided further momentum by successfully applying for awarded funds from North Pacific Union's Shark Tank evangelism funds. Poulsbo Church and the ESL staff look forward to how God will work in further reaching the Poulsbo community in 2023.

BRUCE YOUNGBERG
Poulsbo Church member



More online at NWADVENT.ST/118-2-WA-52 +

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Walk Through Bethlehem Finds Multiple Blessings

THE LOCAL ADVENTIST CHURCHES IN WHATCOM COUNTY CAME TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN TO SHARE THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH WITH THE COMMUNITY. THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS, THEY DISCOVERED MULTIPLE BLESSINGS.

In December 2022, the Walk Through Bethlehem committee was able to put on the Nativity event for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 60 volunteers helped tell the story each night, and even more volunteers helped set up and tear down the sets. Approximately 1,700 guests attended the event.

God has truly blessed the community with this event. People traveled far and wide to attend, from as far as Lake Stevens and Anacortes. Even new local people from Ukraine, who were displaced due to the ongoing war, were able to experience Bethlehem. As the production team talked, they agreed that they never really know what kind of impact the church can have in the community.

Some attendees stated that they were so blessed and amazed that the church would put on this event completely free and for total strangers.

The ripple effects continued after the program concluded. About three weeks after the event, a gentleman called and left a message for the Walk Through Bethlehem committee. The local hardware store where he works had a half pallet of tiki torch oil they did not want to store. He asked if the church would like the oil. The church paid \$1 for \$900 retail value of tiki torch oil.

The gentleman said he attended the Walk Through Bethlehem event before and really supports what the church is doing in sharing Jesus into the community.

"This year it really felt like God was out there working with us and we are so thankful for all of God's blessings we have received throughout the entire process of the event," said Ron Schultz, Bellingham Church pastor. "Taking our opportunities to take a moment to reach out into the community and share Jesus should always be a priority. We never know which total random stranger is listening."

AUSTIN DEXTER
Walk Through Bethlehem event director



Move online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-WA-91](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/118-2-wa-91)

Don Lopes, Ferndale district pastor, volunteers as a rabbi in the Walk Through Bethlehem production.



BIBLE READINGS

for

april

2023

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						<u>1</u>
<u>2</u> Judges 8–9	<u>3</u> Judges 10–12	<u>4</u> Judges 13–15	<u>5</u> Judges 16–18	<u>6</u> Judges 19–21	<u>7</u> Ruth 1–4; 1 Samuel 1–3	<u>8</u>
<u>9</u> 1 Samuel 4–8	<u>10</u> 1 Samuel 9–12	<u>11</u> 1 Samuel 13–14	<u>12</u> 1 Samuel 15–17	<u>13</u> 1 Samuel 18–20; Psalm 11, 59	<u>14</u> 1 Samuel 21–24; Psalm 7, 27, 31, 34, 52	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> Psalm 56, 120, 140–142	<u>17</u> 1 Samuel 25–27	<u>18</u> Psalm 17, 35, 54, 63	<u>19</u> 1 Samuel 28–31; Psalm 18	<u>20</u> Psalm 121, 123–125, 128–130	<u>21</u> 2 Samuel 1–4; Psalm 6, 8–10, 14, 16, 19, 21	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u> 1 Chronicles 1–2	<u>24</u> Psalm 43–45, 49, 84–85, 87	<u>25</u> 1 Chronicles 3–5	<u>26</u> Psalm 73, 77–78	<u>27</u> 1 Chronicles 6	<u>28</u> Psalm 81, 88, 92–93; 1 Chronicles 7–10	<u>29</u>
<u>30</u> Psalm 102–104						

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/118-2-BLE-50](https://www.nwadventists.org/118-2-ble-50)

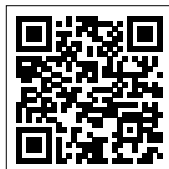




JENNIFER BUYCO

WWU Receives \$100,000 to Support Curriculum Development

IN DECEMBER 2022, WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING WAS AWARDED A \$100,000 GRANT AS PART OF AN INITIATIVE LAUNCHED BY AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF NURSING DESIGNED TO TRANSFORM NURSING EDUCATION AND PRACTICE. THE THREE-YEAR INITIATIVE WAS LAUNCHED BY AACN IN 2022 WITH FUNDING THROUGH AMERICAN NURSES FOUNDATION'S REIMAGINING NURSING INITIATIVE.



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-WWU-22](https://nwadvent.st/118-2-wwu-22)

The grant allows the School of Nursing to introduce new learning strategies and clinical experiences. New supplies and equipment will help the program transition its curriculum to AACN Essentials and a competency-based curriculum, which has already begun at WWU. AACN will also provide technical assistance through March 2025, as well as interim clinical instructors to ensure faculty have time to implement curriculum changes.

“We will present our progress and our completed project at the main AACN conference in Washington, D.C., and we will act as a mentor school for other schools of nursing as they transition their curriculum,” said Michaelynn Paul, School of Nursing interim dean and nursing professor. She added that this grant is a big deal for WWU and the School of Nursing.

The \$100,000 grant required a rigorous application process and was awarded to only 10 schools, including Johns Hopkins University and Texas State University.

WWU was the only Adventist university and the only university in the Pacific Northwest to receive the grant. Competency criteria for a school to be selected included person-centered care, quality and safety, and interprofessional partnerships.

“Changing how we educate nurses and assess their learning, while engaging practice partners more deeply in this process, is the key to preparing more practice-ready nurses,” said Deborah Trautman, AACN president and chief executive officer. “I applaud the 10 schools of nursing selected to participate in this groundbreaking initiative for their commitment to leading change and for sharing their lessons learned and success strategies with nursing schools nationwide.”

To learn more about WWU’s nursing program, visit wallawalla.edu/nursing.

EMMALANI DODDS

WWU university relations student writer



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/118-2-WWU-85

EDUCATION

Students Present Scientific Findings at Murdock Conference

ON NOV. 11-12, 2022, SIX STUDENTS FROM WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY PRESENTED THEIR RESEARCH AT THE MURDOCK COLLEGE SCIENCE RESEARCH CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON.

The conference, which welcomes 28 undergraduate institutions from across the Pacific Northwest, allows students to present research conducted with professors from their universities. There were three poster presentations and one oral presentation from both biology and chemistry majors from WWU.

Kristen Whitley, senior biochemistry major, was selected for the Molecular and Cell Biology Murdock Poster Prize for her poster presentation. Her research, in collaboration with Loma Linda University, targets mitochondrial proteins to potentially help treat neuroendocrine prostate cancer. Hers was one of only 15 projects honored.

In addition to poster presentations, two students

gave an oral presentation to half of the conference's attendees. Nathan Dabney, sophomore biology major, and Nate Iwakoshi, senior biology major, spoke about their research on seagrass wasting disease.

"It is always exciting for them to see how the work they are doing fits in with students from other schools' research," said Cecilia Brothers, assistant professor of biology, who accompanied students at this year's conference.

A majority of Iwakoshi and Dabney's research took place during their internship directed by Brothers this past summer at Rosario Beach Marine Laboratory. Brothers has particularly enjoyed researching seagrass health through the combination of field

and laboratory research with the students. "They come in as students and they leave as researchers," Brothers said of her interns.

The internship helped Iwakoshi gain a variety of skills, including practicing his scientific scuba diving, conducting DNA extractions and using qPCR to measure them, and problem-solving. "Getting an internship makes you deal with real data and troubleshoot these things, not just in a lab with a set data set knowing it's going to work," Iwakoshi said.

Iwakoshi expressed the

conference helped in making connections, not only socially, but in the academic and science world. WWU has attended the conference since 1997 which provides consistent, excellent networking opportunities for students.

To learn more about undergraduate opportunities in the sciences, visit wallawalla.edu/areas-of-study.

SUMMER BOULAIS
WWU university relations student writer



Every year WWU students attend the Murdock College Science Research Conference. This year they displayed three research posters, gave one presentation and won one research award.

Students partner with professors to conduct research during their undergraduate studies. Often research is conducted at WWU's Rosario Beach Marine Laboratory in Anacortes, Washington.





HEALTH

Student Athletes Receive Big League Care

“SEEING ALL STUDENTS AS FAMILY MEMBERS, I CALL ALL MY ATHLETES MY KIDS,” SAID JESSICA JOHNSON, CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINER AT ADVENTIST HEALTH TILLAMOOK, ABOUT HER WORK WITH THE ATHLETICS PROGRAM AT TILLAMOOK HIGH SCHOOL.



Jessica Johnson, certified athletic trainer at Adventist Health Tillamook, evaluates a student injury on the field during a soccer game.

As an athletic trainer, Johnson works directly with high school student athletes before, during and after games to help prevent, diagnose, treat and rehabilitate injuries and illnesses. When seconds matter, Johnson is there on the playing field or court to identify injuries quickly.

Johnson also serves as a liaison between the high school and the hospital. If an athlete needs treatment or further evaluation, she facilitates appointments with healthcare providers, helping students recover and return to their sport as quickly and as safely as possible.

In her position as athletic trainer, Johnson has had an immeasurable impact on the Tillamook community and on the long-term health of the athletes she works with. Athletic trainers cover a wide range of sports, with particular attention given to activities where acute, overuse and contact injuries are the most prevalent and highest risk.

Athletic trainers are the only allied healthcare practitioners trained explicitly in injury prevention for the physically active, as well as patients of all ages,

backgrounds and levels of activity. In the U.S., one in three public schools has no access to athletic trainers for high school athletes.

To support the health of the community, Adventist Health Tillamook provides a full-time athletic trainer and training room for students at Tillamook High School at no cost to the school district.

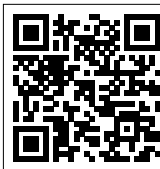
When Johnson isn't on the field with student athletes, she supports the work of Brett LaFleur, orthopedic surgeon at Adventist Health Tillamook, by seeing patients with fractures or those who have had orthopedic surgery, and by helping with bracing or casting.

Johnson recently celebrated the graduation of the first group of students she supported through high school. She recalls the journey of one of these students who had a significant injury his freshman year and another his senior year. Working with this student athlete through the disappointment and frustration of not being able to play was a difficult process, but helping him progress through a rehabilitation program toward better long-term results was rewarding for both Johnson and the student.

“Our students face many challenges on and off the court or field,” Johnson said, “but I see my personal success when I can change minds to lead to more successful health outcomes for students long-term.”

JOHN HAY
*Adventist Health Tillamook
marketing and communication
manager*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/118-2-AH-28](https://www.adventisthealth.org/NWADVENT.ST/118-2-AH-28)



**ADVENTIST
WORLD
RADIO
ANNUAL
OFFERING
MARCH 11, 2023**



WE CAN'T SHOW YOU HER FACE...

... but this is a photo of a former New People's Army general and assassin preaching an evangelistic series. With tears in her eyes, she is sharing the love of Jesus in a village where she used to recruit rebel soldiers.

This story began with hardened rebels—in the midst of a 50-year war—who started listening to Adventist World Radio (AWR) as they lay in wait to attack government forces. Now, just a few years later, the war has ended and an entire island has been transformed by the Gospel. And this is just the beginning ...

ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO

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12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA

On Sabbath, March 11, be sure to share the AWR Offering video with your church. From Ukraine to the Philippines to Africa to your own back yard, you won't want to miss this thrilling update!



Download the
AWR Offering Packet
for **March 11** at
awr.org/offering



AWR360°
BROADCAST TO BAPTISM

BEBEE—James “Jim” Lee, 76; born May 16, 1946, Fort Smith, Arkansas; died Aug. 2, 2022, Kauai, Hawaii. Surviving: spouse, Ruth (Scyphers) Bebee; daughters, Susan Bebee and Deanna (Beebe) Rodovsky. *(This is a reprint with corrected information from November/December 2022.)*

CAMPBELL—Rowland Dean, 90; born Dec. 19, 1931, Eugene, Oregon; died April 19, 2022, Post Falls, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Ruth (Reed) Campbell; sons, Brett, Victor and Bruce; daughter, Jacqueline; sister, Carol (Tannich) Boulden; 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

CHROWL—Ruby Helene (Hall), 92; born Sept. 14, 1930, Kalispell, Montana; died Jan. 6, 2023, Salem, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Roger; son, Larry; daughters, Linda (Chrowl) Brownlee and Wanda (Chrowl) Janssen; 7 grandchildren, 1 step-grandchild, 12 great-grandchildren, 4 step-great-grandchildren and 4 step-great-great-grandchildren.

COLBURN—Jean Laverne (Hayes), 90; born June 17, 1932, Denver, Colorado; died Jan. 1, 2023, Salem, Oregon. Surviving: son, Les; daughter, Roxanne (Colburn) Stevenson; 4 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, 3 step-great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

CURTIS—Eileen I. (Ziegler), 97; born Aug. 18, 1925, Freeborn, Washington; died Dec. 16, 2022, College Place, Washington. Surviving:

son, Harold; daughters, Vicki (Curtis) Jarnes and Kathryn (Curtis) Martin; 6 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

DANIELSON—Velma Elaine (Keightley), 88; born July 12, 1934, Rogersville, Missouri; died Dec. 9, 2022, McMinnville, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Bruce and Lee; daughters, Terry (Danielson) Johnson and Tammi (Danielson) Knobloch; 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

DEDERER—Christopher Alexander, 32; born March 1, 1990, Grants Pass, Oregon; died July 14, 2022, Bend, Oregon. Surviving: parents, Paul and Brenda.

GEIGLE—Ray Duane, 81; born Dec. 3, 1941, Startup, Washington; died Dec. 17, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Lisa Marie; brothers, Richard and Ronald.

GOMES—Patricia Ann (Parks), 86; born March 18, 1936, Genesee, Idaho; died Dec. 7, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Eliseu; sons, David and Daniel; daughter, Rebecca; brother, John Parks; sisters, Ruth Massey and Lois Pryor.

GRANT—Elinor Ruth (Logan), 95; born July 26, 1927, Portland, Oregon; died Jan. 2, 2023, Klamath Falls, Oregon. Surviving: son, Edward; daughters, Florian Dove (Grant) Kimball and Ramona (Grant) Fillman; 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

1934–2022

INGRID JOHNSEN



Ingrid (Rudy) Johnsen died on Nov. 21, 2022 at a nursing home in Lynden, Washington. She was born on April 20, 1934 in Riga, Latvia, to Hazel (Flaiz) and Henry Rudy. After the family returned from mission service in Europe, Ingrid and her older sister, Maxine Wagner, lived in various parts of the U.S. and Canada.

Ingrid completed her master's degree in nursing and later became a registered nurse. She was a well-loved instructor at the Walla Walla College School of Nursing in Portland, Oregon. She then spent nearly three decades as an OB/GYN nurse at Portland Adventist and Emanuel Medical Centers.

Ingrid was married to Lars Johnsen for 53 years. They had one child together, in addition to her three step-children. Ingrid is remembered as mild-mannered, caring, loyal and selfless. Those providing Ingrid's care in her final years appreciated her kindness and sense of humor. She was intelligent, always willing to speak the truth and unwavering in her Adventist faith. She fervently looked forward to reuniting with her loved ones at the Second Coming of Christ.

A graveside service will be scheduled in spring 2023 in College Place, Washington. Full obituary at molesfarewelltributes.com.

HAYDEN—Marion Eleanor, 90; born July 20, 1932, Hamilton, Montana; died Oct. 15, 2022, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Surviving: son, Marvin Keller; daughters, Dawn Hayden and Rhea Hayden; 3 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

HAYNAL—Andrew Paul, 101; born Jan. 29, 1921, Cleveland, Ohio; died Dec. 28, 2022, Gresham, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Helen Babienco Haynal; sons, Andrew, Peter, Mark and Steven; daughters, Susan Jensen and Lois Robinson; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

HEGGM—Dale Sigard, 76; born Aug. 26, 1946, Atascadero, California; died Dec. 1, 2022, Woodburn, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Glenda K. Heggem; daughter, Kim (Heggem) Junkin; 1 grandchild.

ORR—Anita M., 91; born Dec. 22, 1930, Wallace, Idaho; died Nov. 8, 2022, Kalispell, Montana. Surviving: son, John; daughter, Debbie Engdahl; 2 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

PAULSON – Dean Leroy, 57; born April 7, 1962, Walla Walla, Washington; died Feb. 17, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: parent, Donald Paulson; sister, Rochelle “Shelly” (Paulson) Unger.

PAULSON – Merle Raymond, 92; born Dec. 2, 1928, Portland, Oregon; died Dec. 31, 2020, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: brothers, Darrell and Donald Paulson.

PRUSIA – Eleanor “Ellie” (Baltrusch), 84; born Sept. 27, 1938, Bowdon, North Dakota; died Nov. 7, 2022, College Place, Washington. Surviving: son, Kelly; daughter, Laurie (Prusia) Turner; brother, Roger Baltrusch; sister, Kathy (Baltrusch) Smith.

QUINN – Leland Francis, 93; born May 25, 1929, Hagerman, New Mexico; died Nov. 1, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Jana (Quinn) Pearson; sister, Doris (Quinn) Stark; 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

ROY – Cecil O., 93; born April 4, 1929, Tillamook, Oregon; died Oct. 30, 2022, Farmington, New Mexico. Surviving: spouse, Alice (Deardorff) Roy; sons, Cecil Allen and Frederick; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

WALIKONIS – Cynthia Sue (Miller), 65; born Nov. 12, 1957, Great Falls, Montana; died Dec. 24, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: parents, Curtis Miller and Phyllis Fisher; spouse, Steve; daughters, Chairs Walikonis and Christa Walikonis; sisters, Melody (Miller) Drake and Valerie (Miller) Nelson; 1 grandchild.

WHITTED – Gladys M. (Gonder), 88; born Nov. 23, 1934, St. Helena, California; died Nov. 29, 2022, Gresham, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Terry and Dennis; daughter, Carol (Whitted) Arnold; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

All family announcements are published online at NWAdventists.com/family.

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

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

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OF NORTHWEST
ADVENTISTS.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION

Offering

- MARCH 4** – Local Church Budget
- MARCH 11** – World Budget (GC)
- MARCH 18** – Local Church Budget
- MARCH 25** – Local Conference Advance
- APRIL 1** – Local Church Budget
- APRIL 8** – Hope Channel International, Inc. (GC)
- APRIL 15** – Local Church Budget
- APRIL 24** – Local Conference Advance
- APRIL 29** – Local Church Budget

**REACH THOUSANDS OF
NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS.**

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EMPLOYMENT

ALASKA LODGE SEEKS SUMMER

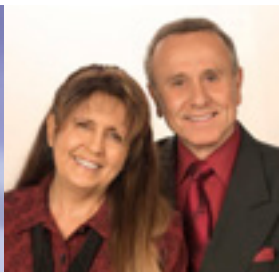
HELP Beautiful setting with restored historic log cabins. Room and board provided, RT airfare, wages 30 hours/week+ guaranteed. Couples welcome. Sabbaths off. Richard and Judy Dennis, 907-822-5299, RedEagleLodge.com.

NURSE PRACTITIONERS/PHYSICIAN

ASSISTANTS If you are interested in working in a rural health clinic setting with possible mission opportunities, you are invited to view our website, stallanthealth.com. Reach out to marva@stallanthealth.com for more information and to submit your CV for consideration. New graduates are welcome! 401(K) available, competitive wages, health insurance for FT. We are actively accepting applications

for this outpatient opportunity located in Weimar, California, so you will want to get your name in early!

PACIFIC PRESS NEEDS YOU! Pacific Press Publishing® Association is the official publishing and printing ministry of the Adventist Church in North America. PPPA is based in beautiful Nampa, Idaho, in the Boise metro area, which is home to Gem State Academy, four Adventist elementary schools and nearly a dozen churches. Whether you have print industry experience or are looking for a new career, we have a wide variety of jobs available for church members. Come build your career in the publishing industry while sharing the good news of Jesus! Learn more at PacificPress.com/jobs.



Kenny & Chris Shelton



Steve Wohlberg



Dakota Day

CENTRAL OREGON CAMP MEETING

“THE SON OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ”

June 15, 16, 17 ,2023

Meetings begin on Thursday at 9:30am.

Location: 60506 Old Lake Rd. Christmas Valley OR 97641 (at the SDA Church)

Mobile: 541-223-8984 /Email : centraoregoncampmeetingcv@gmail.com

Facebook/YouTube: Central Oregon Camp Meeting Christmas Valley

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- Sock
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- 3 rubber bands
- Black marker
- Piece of ribbon
- Scissors

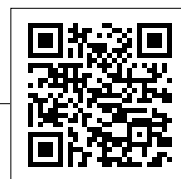


- 1 Place the sock in a tall cup and fold the end of the sock over the edge of the cup. This will make it easy to pour the rice into the sock.
- 2 Measure 1 cup of rice and pour it into the sock.
- 3 Tie the sock closed with a rubber band. This should leave you with a round ball shape for the body and head of your bunny.
- 4 Form the bunny's head by pinching the rice ball in half and adding another rubber band to separate the head from the body.
- 5 Decide where you want the tail to be, pinch another small section and add another rubber band to keep it in place.
- 6 Use scissors to trim the top of the sock until you are left with a few inches for the ears. Make a cut in the middle to separate the ears. Then cut them to the shape you want. You can use a black marker to plan your cuts before you make them.
- 7 Draw eyes and a nose on your bunny using the marker.
- 8 Cut a piece of string or ribbon and give bunny a bow around its neck.

Enjoy your new friend!

SIENNA HUBIN
Gleaner copy editor

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Women of the Bible Word Search

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O Y Z R E H H O D N A D K U U B B I D P
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D K Y L Z B I J H A G A R K M A I R I M
C M E V I J E G B Z C H Z F H O J B K X
X P A K T Z S D H A N N A H T M N T O C
B R P R U S A E V L E R Q Z U D J M I X
T W J T T C C B D J F O L Y R A M B Z Y
J W Y L L H R O E Y E F I A B W W C T Q
K O X H L R A R L T H K C F X Z P E X H
S X H Q B C E A J Q H H P B F M B R U V
L U G Y H X K H H B E P K S M Q R B P O
I Q Q G E S J H T L R B A P S S X W L B
A H O E Z N I H F S X T J K O V Z M S K
G T Q D Z O E Q Z K E Q R A H A B F Z H
I E K Z U H I C I W P M T T X S X I T A
B R F L A R G H A T S A R A H Z Y V R E
A G E V E O O Z D X V Q H D S Z A R D L
S A X V O Y Y P G A P U T N K X Z C A S

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EVE
RAHAB
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ELIZABETH
HANNAH
RACHEL
NAOMI

RUTH
ABIGAIL
LEAH
DEBORAH

ESTHER
MARTHA
MIRIAM
HAGAR

30-DAY *Positive* Parenting Challenge

Here in the Long house, we're always working to improve our parenting and relationships positively. We read new books, watch videos, follow great professionals on social media, listen to podcasts and pray, pray, pray.

Learning new, healthier ways to interact as a family is a long-term, ongoing goal in our home. If we learn these tools now and teach them to our kids, we're hoping unhealthy behaviors can stop now with this generation.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be cycle breakers. Positive parenting takes work, and I frequently make mistakes. But, I also want to own those mistakes, apologize and start over again. Maybe you'd like to commit to being a more positive parent. If so, I want to share this 30-day positive parenting challenge.

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

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

You can edit the challenge to better fit your family's needs, but dedicate 30 days to becoming a more positive parent. Add them to the calendar you look at each day. Make new habits and build a closer relationship with your children. Our children are a gift from God and they are truly our first ministry. Won't you commit to making better choices, for them and you, this year?

LAVONNE LONG
*Northwest Adventists family
columnist*



AUTHOR | LaVonne Long



30-Day Parenting Challenge

PERSPECTIVE

- 1 Choose one thing to do together as a family this month.
- 2 Challenge yourself to go one whole day without yelling.
- 3 Show your child you love them by giving them a hug today.

- 4 Give your child a kiss goodnight.
- 5 Take a deep breath and remind yourself that they're still kids.
- 6 Buy or make your child's favorite dessert.
- 7 Leave a note in your child's lunch or backpack today.

- 8 Plan a fun spring vacation activity.
- 9 Picture yourself from when you were your child's age; remember how you felt at that age.
- 10 Focus on joy today.
- 11 Give your child words of praise.

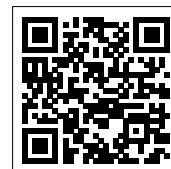
- 12 Pray for wisdom and strength.
- 13 Don't complain all day.
- 14 Remind yourself that being a parent is a gift.
- 15 Remind yourself to be firm but not harsh when it comes to your kids.

- 16 Imagine your child 15 years from now; keep this in mind throughout your day.
- 17 Laugh with your kid today.
- 18 Who is your parenting role model? What qualities do they possess that make them a great parent?
- 19 Teach your kid something to do on his/her own.

- 20 Focus on patience today.
- 21 Forgive your child when they mess up today.
- 22 Think about how you want your children to remember you.
- 23 Replace criticism with love today.

- 24 Don't interrupt your child when they talk.
- 25 Ask your kid for their opinion.
- 26 Encourage your child today.
- 27 Do something for your health today.

- 28 Teach your child something new today.
- 29 Turn off your phone, computer or whatever is distracting you today.
- 30 Focus on love today.



More online at  NWADVENT.ST/118-2-POV-59

Vocation

I

remember being at a camp meeting when I was about 13 years old and hearing a female preacher up front speaking for the first time. She spoke very well; she was polished and talented. I was honestly shocked. Not because she was a good speaker, but because for the first time I was listening to a woman—who was an actual employed pastor—speak in front of a large audience.

Since I was 11, I felt the Lord calling my heart into ministry. I didn't know exactly what that meant at the time, but I knew it meant speaking in front of people about Him and His love for humanity. My parents were super supportive of my desires, even though they didn't know exactly what I would end up doing. They worked to help me meet people who were okay with female pastors and even took me to a church plant near our home where a woman was the associate pastor.

I was blessed to be around people who loved and supported me as I followed the calling into pastoral ministry. I was blessed to attend Walla Walla University and go through the theology program where the professors were super supportive of women in ministry and instrumental in helping me develop the skills needed to proceed into pastoral ministry.

As I have grown, matured and come to deeper understand the call into pastoral work, I have become more and more convicted that ministry for Christ isn't just a job. It goes deeper than that. It is beyond just making money or clocking into work. It's a vocation.

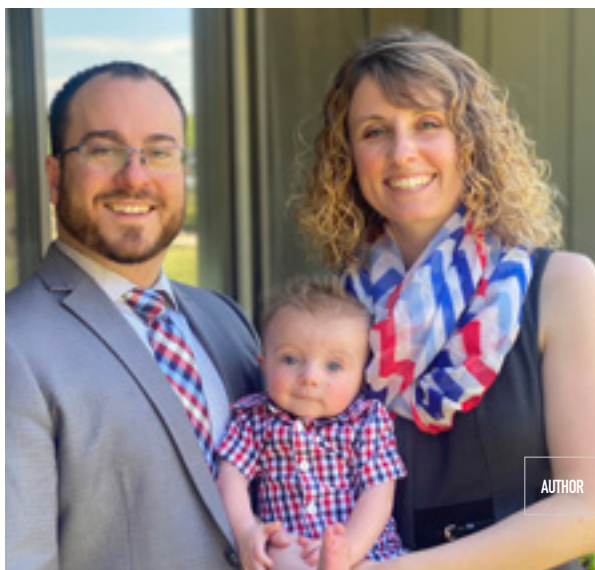
A vocation is more than just a job you do for money. It's something you feel a deep need and desire to do—a calling, if you like. The call to pastoral ministry is really a vocation. It's a life-long, life-changing commitment to the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ no matter what comes your way—a following of the call you have felt in your life to work specially for God in the area of pastoral ministry.

I strongly believe the vocation of pastoral ministry is not something that is restrictive. Both men and women can be called into ministry and accept this vocation in their lives. Both men and women have and continue to feel the call of the Holy Spirit in their lives, to forsake much for the cause of Christ.

Scripture is our guide as we interact with God. As we study and pray, we learn more and more about the character of God and His love for all humanity. It is in Scripture that we are told God will use anyone who is willing to share His message.

The book of Acts tells us that after Jesus' ascension, *all* His followers got together to select a new person to take Judas Iscariot's place. Acts 1:14 says, "All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers." Both men and women, the apostles and others, were together praying and asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

When the Holy Spirit comes down in tongues of fire on the day of Pentecost, we are told in Acts 2:1 that *they* all were together in the upper room. All those who were



AUTHOR

Natashia McVay

followers of Jesus and had just a few days earlier witnessed His ascension were gathered in that upper room. There were older men, young men and women. Anyone who had a thriving relationship with Jesus was present that day, and anyone who was there that day was anointed with the Holy Spirit.

After the Holy Spirit had fallen on the followers of Christ, Peter stood up to speak. Peter made it even clearer that God has used and will use both men and women, young and old, to spread His message. He quoted Joel 2:28, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."

If you are feeling the call of God in your life, whether to be a pastor or a dedicated follower of Him or even a re-dedicated follower of His. I want to encourage you to remember that God can use you. God wants to use you. He wants to build a relationship with you and help you to share His love with the world around you.

You have been given a unique opportunity. No matter if you are young or old, male or female, you can share with those around you the love you have for God and the unending, saving love that God has for them.

As Christians, we are called to make our relationship with God a vocation. Whether you are a pastor or not, you can make sharing Jesus part of your daily life and let that become part of who you are.


If you are a pastor doing ministry on a daily basis, I want to challenge you to

remember that God will use people to share His message. He wants to use you, but He is also capable of using anyone who will listen and follow Him. Don't become prideful and lose sight of our great calling to share Jesus with others. Let us be a part of God's great work and remember that He calls all people to love and share Him.

If you are not a pastor, I would challenge you to make your relationship with God a thriving one. Then when you are out working your daily job, your true vocation as a witness for God will be evident to all. You are capable of reaching people in your daily life and work that no one else can. So, I challenge you to let your light shine.

God wants to use each one of us as we live life here on earth. He will use all those who are willing to share their love for Him to this world. He desires to use you today!

NATASHIA MCVAY
*Moscow and Pullman Church
associate pastor*



No matter if you are young or old, male or female, you can share with those around you the love you have for God and the unending, saving love that God has for them.



More online at 
NWADVENT.ST/118-2-POV-60

A Hill to Die On: PART 1

In 2015, I was in San Antonio for the General Conference meeting. The hot topic was if women should be ordained to the ministry.

On July 8, 2015, the answer was given in newspapers across the country: “Seventh-day Adventists vote against female ordination.” The opening sentence of *The Washington Post* described it succinctly: “Seventh-day Adventists voted Wednesday that individual regions of the 18 million-member Protestant denomination cannot choose to ordain female ministers.”¹

As I observed the voting process in person, I could feel the tension in the air. It wasn’t a spirit of unity; it was a spirit of competition, rivalry and division. The tension was palpable when Jan Paulsen, former General Conference president, got up to the microphone to address the attendees.

Paulsen was “booed from the floor by delegates who were furious that he spoke in favor of ordaining women. Though everyone was asked numerous times not to clap, when the decision not to ordain women was read loud cheering and shouts broke out all around.”²

This was my first year as a full-time pastor, and I went away from these meetings disheartened. Jesus said we should be known by our spiritual fruit and love, but the fruit of the Spirit was not apparent to me in the Alamodome in 2015. Adventists were not known for our love that day. Instead, we were known in headlines across the

country for denying women the right to be ordained as pastors.

Now you may be thinking to yourself, “That is because the Bible denies ordination to women. We are simply being faithful to the Bible.” I hear you. I once believed that and I blame no one for following their biblical convictions. If you believe this way, you are not alone.

Some of our most famous evangelists have echoed this conviction. Notably, one such pastor declared, “It is easier to support from the New Testament that God has ordained that only men should be pastors and elders than it is to support the Sabbath. It’s easy to support the Sabbath. Anyone who does not come to the conclusion that there is a distinction from Adam through Revelation in the roles of men and women in the church has to go through phenomenal mind-bending gymnastics to escape the plain truth.”³

For Adventists who see the Sabbath as anchored in creation, the fourth commandment and the life and teaching of Jesus, those are very strong words. The issue of ordination and this issue of the Sabbath are not comparable. Belief about ordination is not a fundamental teaching of our church.

Fast-forward 12 years, and the same pastor who made it a keystone of his ministry to speak out against the ordination of women said, “It’s not a hill I am willing to die on.”⁴



AUTHOR

Kevin McGill



However, if God is in favor of the equality of all believers, could it be that this is a hill worth dying on? Could it be that God is looking for reconciliation and repentance from a history of misogyny in the church?

Imagine the healing that would come with acknowledging how often limited and sometimes biased interpretations of scripture have hurt the church. Imagine if, at the next General Conference, we had a Jerusalem Council moment similar to Acts 15 acknowledging the fact that God's spirit is poured out through female pastors just as it is through males. Imagine what a public apology would mean to all the women who have been shamed and discriminated against for trying to be faithful to their call.

For years, the church has been praying for revival and reconciliation. What if the path forward is through institutional repentance for the harm that has

been done? What if denying women the opportunity to preach and teach is not a hill worth dying on, but standing up for equality, fidelity and mission is?


One of the Fundamental Beliefs of the Adventist Church establishes the equality of all believers. Fundamental Belief 14 states, "The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation."⁵

Furthermore, the official General Conference working policy opposes discrimination, stating,

"The church rejects any system or philosophy which discriminates against anyone on the basis of race, color or gender. The church bases its positions on principles clearly enunciated in the Bible, the writings of Ellen G. White and the official pronouncements of the General Conference" (BA 60 05).

The policy goes on to address issues of employment stating, "The world church supports nondiscrimination in employment practices and policies and upholds the principle that both men and women, without regard to race and color, shall be given full and equal opportunity within the church to develop the knowledge and skills needed for the building up of the church."

So far so good, right? But the next sentence undermines and contradicts everything. It states, "Positions of service and responsibility (except those requiring ordination to the



Some of the best colleagues I have had as a pastor are female. They have been called by God. The evidence is in the miracles God has done and is doing through female pastors around the world.



A Hill to Die On: PART 1 (cont.)

gospel ministry*) on all levels of church activity shall be open to all on the basis of the individual's qualifications" (BA 60 10). Fundamental Belief 14 should come with a clear disclaimer that says we believe in the equality of all believers, except when it comes to women in ministry.

My appeal to the church is to follow the Spirit's leading, listen to female pastors and ordain them. Denying the full equality of women is not a hill worth dying on.

There are fewer thoughts wiser than "I could be wrong." Religious certainty that masquerades as faith is dangerous. Good people will often disagree. There is a danger in thinking, "I hold the biblical view. If you don't believe like me, you are not following the Holy Spirit." It could be that what we think of as the "biblical view" is wrong.

We are on dangerous ground if we establish tradition above the present truth and movement of God. Many of the religious rulers thought that Christ and his followers were apostate heretics. Is it possible that religious rulers today could speak against the movement of God in the name of misunderstood tradition?

Beth Allison Barr explained, "The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing Christians that oppression is godly. That God ordained some people, simply

because of their sex or skin color (or both), as belonging under the power of other people. That women's subordination is central to the gospel of Christ."⁶

Some of the best colleagues I have had as a pastor are female. They have been called by God. The evidence is in the miracles God has done and is doing through female pastors around the world.

Many of my female colleagues went through seminary at the same time I did, but are unable to pastor in most locations because of their gender. Gender profiling is no more acceptable than racial profiling. It is unethical to take tuition funds while simultaneously denying opportunities for a job.

However, I am encouraged because real Christianity doesn't depend upon faulty institutions, any more than being truly Jewish depended on being circumcised. Being a male isn't what makes somebody a great leader. Real leadership is exemplified by our character, not our genitalia.

In part two of this series, I will share why I changed my mind about women in ministry. Just as God showed Peter the equality of the Gentiles, I believe God may be showing us that both men and women are called to be pastors.

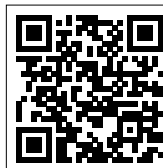
KEVIN MCGILL

Green Lake Church senior pastor

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