

EDITORIAL
LIGHT INTO DARKNESS

PERSPECTIVE
THE APOLOGY I NEVER GAVE

JUST LIKE JESUS
LISA'S CHURCH

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

WALLA WALLA
UNIVERSITY

COMBINING DISCIPLINES

*Prepared
to
serve*



JAN/FEB
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... So that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God

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NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



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JOHN FREEDMAN

gleaner

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*"Berries on Ice,"
in Spokane, Wash.,
by Renae Smith,
of Portland, Ore.*



Light Into Darkness

W WE ARE LIVING THROUGH SOME TOUGH TIMES IN OUR COUNTRY. PEOPLE ARE POLARIZED ON MANY POLITICAL ISSUES, RELIGION INCLUDED. THIS POLARIZATION CAUSES TEMPER TO FLARE AND DISCUSSIONS TO HEAT UP. HAVING PERSONAL OPINIONS ISN'T WRONG, BUT HOW WE TREAT OTHERS WITH DIFFERING OPINIONS IS EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT.

Have you noticed how political and spiritual pride does not change people? A lack of love and respect for others doesn't change hearts either. God's character is what effects real change in times of spiritual darkness.

Political leaders have proved they do not have the answers to our country's problems. Some say even churches

have lost their influence for good. For me, our humble God, revealed in Christ Jesus, is the only answer for our country. Why? Because He is the Light of the world.

The Philippian church faced darkness in the form of pride and a lack of love among the members. In Philippians, Chapter 2, Paul encourages them to humble

themselves as Jesus did, by revealing to them Christ's life. Paul writes, "With humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who ... did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ... He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (NASB).

This truth is particularly relevant today in the face of pride and a lack of love for others. When we look to Christ, descending humbly from the throne of God, living a pure life in the flesh and winning our eternal salvation through the humiliation of the

Being humbled by



John Freedman

AUTHOR

cross, our pride melts. This is an excellent reminder to study and reflect on Christ's life. Being humbled by God's grace and living a life of humility will cause you and me to listen more than we talk, even when we don't agree.

Humility will help us love more too, and the world will know we are His disciples if we have love each other. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "You were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth)" (Eph. 5:8-9, NASB). There is a powerful witness when we preach the

gospel and walk as children of Light.

If we desire others to listen when we speak, God's people must show a consistency between what we preach and how we live. Jesus commands us to take the gospel to the world, so people will "turn from darkness to light, from the dominion of Satan to God" (Acts 26:18). The darker the world gets, the brighter God's church should shine.

As we begin a new year, how can we be a beacon of light to our communities and country? I believe Jesus is the answer. We can shine His light by sharing the Word and consistently living humble, loving lives.

I invite you to make a commitment with me today to seek more of Jesus. Let's commit to pray for and witness to our neighbors and our communities. Let's go forward together to shine light into darkness and make a difference in our world!

John Freedman, North Pacific Union Conference president

*God's grace and living a life of humility
will cause you and me to listen more than we talk.*

Respond to any *Gleaner* topic by emailing talk@gleanernow.com.

+ PICTURE THIS



Idaho craftsman Jesse Ferguson takes on the challenge of building a full-scale replica of the wilderness tabernacle.

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Alaska gains first senior Adventist academy.

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Century birthday celebration includes baptisms.

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Students reenact pioneer life on the Oregon Trail.

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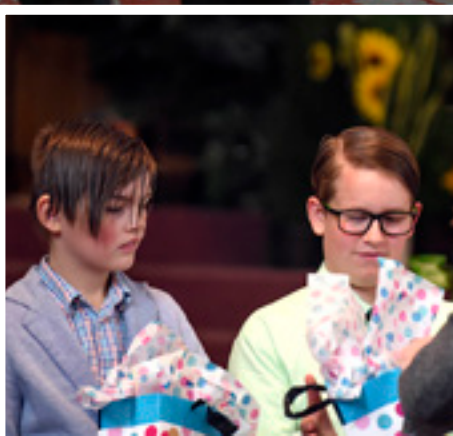


Members serve with wholistic ministry outreach in Eugene.

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Plummer celebrates first Native Adventist church.

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Pendleton Church welcomes seven new members.

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Prepared To Serve

WALLA WALLA
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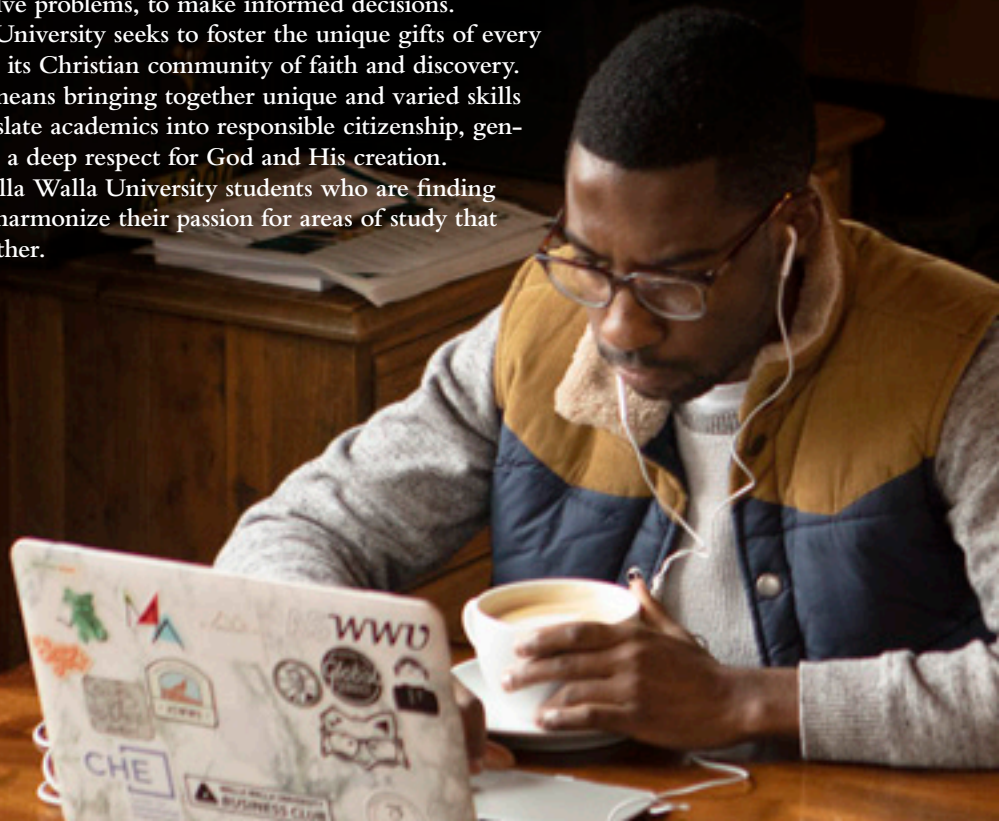
ART AND SCIENCE ARE OFTEN CONSIDERED POLAR OPPOSITES, AND STUDENTS CAN FEEL THE PULL TO CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER. ENGINEERING OR ENGLISH? COMPUTER SCIENCE OR ART? BIOLOGY OR MUSIC?

But is a breaching whale art or science? Is learning to communicate well art or science? Is helping someone heal from depression art or science?

Employers today are increasingly seeking graduates with skill sets that blend the best of both worlds — the ability to interpret data and draw conclusions, to think and communicate creatively, to reason effectively, to work with others to solve problems, to make informed decisions.

Walla Walla University seeks to foster the unique gifts of every individual within its Christian community of faith and discovery. Sometimes that means bringing together unique and varied skills in ways that translate academics into responsible citizenship, generous service and a deep respect for God and His creation.

Meet five Walla Walla University students who are finding creative ways to harmonize their passion for areas of study that are stronger together.





Laura Egolf

MAJOR • **Biology**

MINORS • **Spanish, chemistry, music**

HOMETOWN • **Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada**

THE QUESTION OF STUDYING science or humanities is one WWU senior Laura Egolf has considered for some time. “It’s funny, in high school my brother was always the science one, and I was more into humanities. I really liked to write, and people always thought I would go into English,” Egolf says. “As I got a little older, I got more into science. That is what I ultimately went into. Now music and literature are more for relaxing.”

Egolf is preparing for medical school, so a chemistry minor was a natural fit. “I just needed to take one extra chemistry class to get the minor, and I figured why not?” With family members in Argentina, spending a year studying Spanish at Universidad Adventista del Plata with the Adventist Colleges Abroad program was also an easy choice, and she added a Spanish minor.

“Music was the most unplanned minor,” says Egolf,

who didn’t participate in any musical ensembles her freshman year. She joined choir her sophomore year. Soon she was in I Cantori and providing piano accompaniment for the vocal department. “It’s been a little hectic trying to get everything in, but I’m happy,” she says. “It’s been a good balance for all my science classes to have this whole other music community.”

An expanded campus community is one perk of studying both the sciences and the arts at WWU. Egolf interacts with students and professors from a variety of areas on campus and as a result enjoys a wide social circle and support system.

During her sophomore year Egolf traveled with I Cantori on tour through Georgia, Florida and North Carolina. One of her best memories from that trip was, ironically, singing in an empty church.

“We weren’t singing to anyone. It was just this beautiful

piece. You could hear an echo through the church. It was something that makes you want to cry. There was just beauty,” she remembers.

“Science really challenges me intellectually. I enjoy figuring out how things work, and I like the problem solving,” Egolf says. “Whereas with music there is the creative aspect. You get to make something beautiful and share it with people. Especially in I Cantori we sing for church a lot, and that’s been a really good way to give back. I think of the music as a gift. I feel like these are two aspects of me that are both important to me,” she says.

“IT’S BEEN A GOOD BALANCE

FOR ALL MY SCIENCE CLASSES

TO HAVE THIS

WHOLE OTHER MUSIC COMMUNITY.”



MAJOR • **Biology**
 MINORS • **History, Spanish**
 HOMETOWN • **Portland, Oregon**

Carston Haffner

THESE DAYS YOU'RE LIKELY to find WWU senior Carston Haffner studying in the Atlas cafe, leading out in student government or birding in the Blue Mountains. "I love to be outside," Haffner says. "I like to ski. I like to hike. I like to climb. I like to bird, and I like to find new plants that I haven't seen before."

Haffner grew up hiking in the Columbia River Gorge. "I grew up enjoying the outdoors, but I didn't really appreciate the depth of what there is in nature and how it works until I was starting college," he says. "Getting a better understanding of that has instilled in me the desire

to help protect what nature there is."

Three years ago, as a sophomore, Haffner was winging his way to Sagunto, Spain, for a year of study with the Adventist Colleges Abroad program. He was eager to learn a new language and experience a new culture. "The way we think, behave and live hinges on culture and language. I was interested in learning a different language to try to get closer to a different culture," he says.

Haffner returned to WWU to dive deeper into his major field of study — biology. While he's open to exploring a variety of career paths, Haffner is interested in learning how he can combine his three areas of

study — history, Spanish and biology — through ecology or

other disciplines related to the environment.

"I'm curious about how humans impact our environment. How do we mitigate that?" Haffner says. "A historical perspective is not really one that's at the forefront of most scientific questioning. I'm really interested in the human impact on ecosystems. That's not a static thing; it has been increasing and changing over time. So having that historical perspective is something that's important."

Haffner counts many additional benefits of combining a study of the arts and sciences, including developing the ability to write well both to express opinion and to present scientific research data. "Every course of study has their own way of doing things and methodologies for asking and answering questions. In science we have a very definite way of doing that; in history it's a little different," he says. "Being able to write in those terms is helpful no matter what field you end up in."

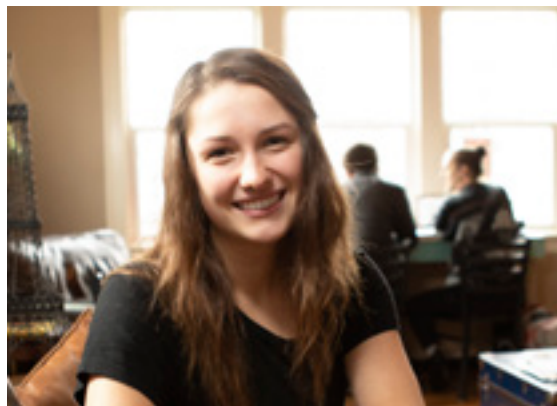
"The biggest impact for me during college has been being hopeful about the future because there are a lot of us out there who are trying to figure out the world and how to do good by it," Haffner says. "What I like to do outside of class relates to what I do inside of class, which is a good and happy place to be."

"I GREW UP ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS,

BUT I DIDN'T REALLY APPRECIATE THE

DEPTH OF WHAT THERE IS IN NATURE

AND HOW IT WORKS UNTIL I WAS STARTING COLLEGE."



Madison Boskind

MAJOR • **Biochemistry**
MINOR • **French**
HOMETOWN • **Gresham, Oregon**

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE

junior Madison Boskind developed a whole lot of grace and charm. Her perfectly accented “bonjour, comment ça va?” can have you savoring an imaginary French baguette on the Champs-Élysées in an instant. Certainly her best qualities are also inspired by her parents — both medical professionals — who have kindled her dream to become a physician. Her calm nature and passion for life are the perfect ingredients for a career that will capture the best of science and the human experience.

“I’m leaning toward neurology,” she says. “I’ve read a ton of books on psychology and the brain itself, and it has always really interested me. I want to learn more about the brain and help people with disorders, such as seizure and stroke patients.”

To that end, Boskind is majoring in biochemistry. “I wanted to do a mixture of chemistry and biology because I wanted to apply both subjects to the body, which is what biochemistry does.”

One thing that stands out to Boskind about her experience at Walla Walla University is the teachers and how much they care. “I remember last year I would go to the office of my organic chemistry teacher, Dr. Brannaka, and ask him about problems. He would just watch me as I sat there staring at his whiteboard trying to figure out the problem. He would give us hints, but he would say, ‘I’m not going to tell you the answer. I want you to figure it out for yourself. I want you to struggle.’”

In that struggle Boskind has found a small community on campus. “Especially for science classes, we struggle to-

gether, and we’ve become this little unit moving from class to class, trying to understand the material and survive,” she says.

She has discovered a good counterbalance to that science-based cognitive struggle in her French minor. “For me, it’s a huge break because all my classes are very math and science oriented,” she says. “Studying French allows me to be more creative and use the other side of my brain. It helps you see the bigger picture in life and become a more well-rounded person.”

Boskind also finds balance through her involvement in another small group that meets biweekly to eat dinner, study the Bible and enjoy community. She works at the campus rock climbing wall in the gym, is a teacher’s assistant for general chemistry, is a member of the Chemistry Club, and likes to get outside and go hiking on most weekends.

From Maddy Boskind one gets the distinct impression she could do anything she wants to do. All in all she is just the kind of French-speaking, rock-climbing, Bible-based, grace-filled person you might hope to encounter the next time you’re in need of a good doctor.

“STUDYING FRENCH

ALLOWS ME TO BE MORE CREATIVE AND

USE THE OTHER SIDE OF MY

BRAIN. IT HELPS YOU SEE THE

BIGGER PICTURE IN LIFE ...”

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LEARN MORE ABOUT PROGRAMS OF STUDY OFFERED
AT WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY AT WALLAWALLA.EDU.



MAJOR • **Mechanical engineering, Global Humanitarian Engineering certificate**

MINOR • **Religion**

HOMETOWN • **Fairfax, Virginia**

Marly Narcisse

MARLY NARCISSE FELL in love with engineering during a field trip when her community college anatomy and physiology class visited the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

“There were different tables for dentists and nurses and doctors, but honestly I don’t remember anybody else. I just remember a lady at one table who was a biomedical engineer. I went home and searched engineering and then that was my love,” Narcisse says.

Narcisse was raised as a Seventh-day Adventist in Haiti and came to the United States after the 2010 earthquake. One day after that field trip, from her new home in Virginia, she Googled “Seventh-day Adventist engineering school” and “Walla Walla University came up as No. 1,” she says.

“I really wanted the spiritual life and to be where people would understand me. I’m a very outdoorsy person, and I saw ASWWU — the Associated Students of Walla Walla University — and I was like, ‘You get me!’” she says.

Narcisse’s primary career goal is to be a missionary. “I do love engineering, but I’ve

always wanted to be a missionary. The religion classes I’m taking are more for me, so that I can use the engineering for others. I always thought in order to be a missionary I had to be a doctor or a teacher or something like that. I discovered organizations like Engineers Without Borders, and I realized that instead of just being a missionary, I can be a humanitarian.”

She is specifically looking to use her background in engineering and religion to interact with farmers around the world in meaningful ways and to help them develop sustainable methods for farming. “A lot of engineers are working to

provide people with electricity and things like that,” she says, “but I feel like agriculture is also very important.” Narcisse is discovering

many benefits of combining STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) studies with classes in the humanities. “I’m logical, and I like things like that. And then the other side helps me step outside and just do some thinking. When you learn about religion, it can help you understand why someone would think a certain way or do a certain thing,” she says.

What stands out most to Narcisse so far about her time at WWU are the teachers and the friends she has made, including through her cross-country team. “We came to school a month and a half early and it was just us, so we had time to bond,” she says. “There are 10 of us. To me that’s the perfect group.”

With a diverse skill set that includes four languages (French, Creole, Spanish and English), Narcisse is poised for a successful international career, but her goals are quite simple: “I just need a job where I can do good and help people,” she says.

“I REALLY WANTED THE SPIRITUAL LIFE AND

TO BE WHERE PEOPLE WOULD UNDERSTAND ME. I’M A VERY

OUTDOORSY PERSON, AND I SAW ASWWU — THE

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY —

AND I WAS LIKE, ‘YOU GET ME!’”



Kyle Lambert

- MAJOR • **Mechanical engineering**
- MINORS • **Drama, mathematics**
- HOMETOWN • **Great Falls, Montana**

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING when a high school teacher can say “I told you so” to one of their former students. But that’s giving away the end of this story.

Prior to second grade, Kyle Lambert wanted to be an astronaut. “Then when I was in second grade the space shuttle *Columbia* blew up,” Lambert says. “I heard about that, and I was like, you know what, I’ll help build these things instead.”

That was the beginning of Lambert’s fascination with engineering, and it has remained to this day. But when he was in high school at Mount Ellis Academy, teacher Leisel Rogers entered the picture with some fancy ideas about music and theater.

“Mrs. Rogers loved music and theater,” Lambert says. “And, of course, as a music teacher, she was trying to sell us on it all the time. I wasn’t really buying it. . . . She said, ‘Somebody you’ll change your mind and I’ll be able to say, ‘I told you so.’”

During his senior year at Mount Ellis, Lambert got involved with a production

of the play *12 Angry Men*, and his response surprised him. “I loved it,” he says.

Now, as a senior at WWU, Lambert has taken that love of theater, blended it with his goal to be an engineer and thrown in a minor in mathematics for good measure. He started off running the lighting board for a handful of stage productions. He went on to take specialized classes in lighting design and has been the lighting designer for eight WWU productions. He even won the Lighting Design Award from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for his work on the WWU production of *A Wrinkle in Time*. “Lighting design is my specific interest in theater, but overall my interest is in how it explores life and philosophy and ideas.”

Lambert has discovered his skills in engineering and theater influence each other. “You can approach lighting from a technical standpoint and from a creative, artistic standpoint. And now I think about engineering a little more from a design perspective. I think someone who

can explore both areas gets a more complete picture of the world and life and how things work.”

As he gets ready to graduate in June 2020, Lambert can look back at college and see he hasn’t left much out. He was a student missionary dean and teacher for 18 months in Denmark. During that time he learned to speak Danish and to enjoy teaching.

“I always try to think about when I look back, what am I going to see? When I look back, am I going to see that I’ve gone where God was pointing me at the moment, or was He pointing me somewhere else and I ran in a different direction?” Lambert

ponders. “There are some things that looking back it’s like, well nope, I didn’t quite hit that one. But you know He’s worked with it.”

He is considering career options in aerospace engineering and exploring graduate work in a climate-related field. He is also thinking about getting involved in community theater and going into deaning. “During my time as a student missionary I really enjoyed the connections I made with the students — seeing how they grew, how they changed, where their interests were,” he says. “It’s really cool to see people change over time.”

And Rogers? “I ran into her two years after I got to Walla Walla when she was on campus for a choral festival,” Lambert says. “I walked over and said to her, ‘You can say it now — ‘I told you so.’”

“NOW I THINK ABOUT ENGINEERING

A LITTLE MORE FROM A DESIGN PERSPECTIVE. I

THINK SOMEONE WHO CAN EXPLORE BOTH AREAS

GETS A MORE COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE

WORLD AND LIFE AND HOW THINGS WORK.”

Kim Strobel, WWU university relations supervisor

NPUC HOSTS STUDENT LEADERS

Why was Jesus the greatest leader this world has ever seen? The simple answer: Jesus came to serve. The leaders in our world, and in our churches, are not servants like Jesus was. The only solution to this problem is to raise up tomorrow's leaders to become servant leaders. This was the goal of the 2019 North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) Student Leadership Conference. Student leaders from 10 of the Adventist academies in NPUC gathered at Camp MiVoden, in Hayden, Idaho, Oct. 10–13, 2019, to learn about the importance of service.

During the day, small group sessions divided by leadership position were held to discuss specific leadership strategies. During these meetings, students shared their experiences and struggles while serving their schools. Students were comforted when they realized they weren't the only ones experiencing difficulties.

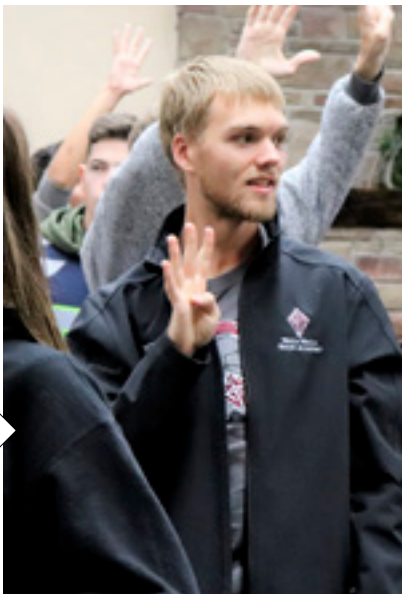
After the small group sessions, keynote speaker Mark Witas, Oregon's Sunnyside Church pastor, shared inspira-

tional stories that captured the importance of service. These two activities occurred every day until Sabbath came.

On Sabbath, the young leaders broke out into an activity called "The Amazing Grace." Students raced in teams to complete fun and challenging teamwork-building exercises. Everyone had a positive attitude and showed great sportsmanship.

Sabbath closed with an emotional communion service

Getting into small groups by number.



More photos online at
glnr.in/115-01-npuc_leaders



A



B



C



D

On Sabbath, the young leaders broke out into an activity called "The Amazing Grace." Students raced in teams to complete fun and challenging teamwork-building exercises.

and the baptism of a student who wanted to dedicate his life to Jesus. Many memories were created at Camp MiVoden over the course of those few days, but the biggest takeaway from the whole conference was the importance of servant leadership. The hope is that these students apply what they have learned so in the next few decades these leaders will serve just like Jesus did.

Kaleb Jones, Mount Ellis Academy student

- A** Mark Witas baptizes a student who decided to commit his life to serving Jesus at NPUC Student Leadership Conference.
- B** Peter Fackenthal, Auburn Adventist Academy principal, led icebreakers and kept everyone on schedule with announcements.
- C** Camp MiVoden provided students and staff with wonderful food during the weekend conference.
- D** "This is steep."

ESFUERZOS MULTIPLICAN LAS CONGREGACIONES HISPANAS EN IDAHO

No tenemos nada que temer del futuro, a menos que olvidemos la manera en que el Señor y sus enseñanzas nos ha guiado en el pasado” (*Notas biográficas de Elena G. de White*, 196).

Estas palabras, fueron el resultado de un análisis personal que la Señora Elena G. White, hizo de los años y eventos, que se dieron en su vida y la de su esposo, mientras servían al Señor.

Y son estas mismas palabras las que podrían resumir lo que ha sido el crecimiento de la obra hispana en la Conferencia de Idaho, especialmente durante el cuatrienio 2015–2018.

El desarrollo de la obra hispana en Idaho, desde su inicio ha tenido un modesto desarrollo, hasta que, a partir del 2013, la administración decidió adoptar una estrategia más agresiva, haciendo importantes inversiones en evangelismo y cuidado pastoral.

Para el inicio del 2015, la obra hispana contaba con cinco congregaciones (Nampa, Payette, Jerome, Idaho Falls y Heyburn). Las últimas cuatro eran pequeñas compañías. Al finalizar el 2019, cuatro congregaciones se han añadido (Twin Falls, Caldwell, Boise y Wilder) para un total de nueve congregaciones.

El impacto del esfuerzo evangelístico resultó con que los bautismos en las iglesias hispanas representaron el 24%, del total de bautismo de toda la conferencia durante el cuatrienio, lo que dio como resultado un crecimiento de la membresía de las iglesias hispanas del 43% y un incremento del 101% de los diezmos, en el mismo periodo. Con este crecimiento en feligresía, hoy 1 de cada 9 miembros de la conferencia de Idaho, es un hispano.

Es importante resaltar que este avance misionero contó con la ayuda de los departamentos de obra hispana de las conferencias de nuestra unión. Fue así como la iglesia de Caldwell adquirió un hermoso edificio, gracias al apoyo económico de todas las demás congregaciones hispanas y el aporte de \$25,000 de parte del departamento hispano de la NPUC.

En esta misma área de bendición, la iglesia hispana de Twin Falls recibió la donación de 2 acres, de parte de la iglesia de habla Ingles de Twin Falls, en una ubicación premium, para construir el futuro edificio para la iglesia hispana.

No cabe duda de que estos resultados, requirió del trabajo en equipo, de parte de la administración de la conferencia, los pastores y el laicado, comprometidos con



Ordenación de ancianos, Iglesia de Idaho Falls que incluyó a la hermana Verónica Alegría, como la primera hermana en ser ordenada como anciana en nuestro distrito. Derecha a izquierda: (primera fila) Imelda y Miguel Hernandez, Blanca y Rosebel García, Verónica y Javier Aguilar, Apolinar García, (segunda fila) hermano Carlos Aguilar y Pastor Gerald Margil.

The elder ordination service at the Idaho Falls Church included the ordination of Verónica Alegría, who is the first woman to be ordained as an elder in this district. Pictured from left (front row): Imelda and Miguel Hernandez, Blanca and Rosebel García, Verónica and Javier Aguilar, Apolinar García, (second row) Carlos Aguilar and Gerald Margil.

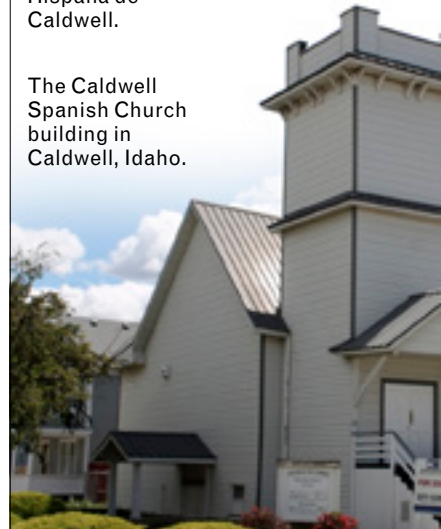
la misión. Sin embargo, estas estadísticas no representan lo que el pueblo ha hecho por amor a su Dios, sino lo que Dios ha hecho por amor a Su pueblo.

Damos por un hecho que, en este nuevo cuatrienio, nos esperan grandes desafíos, pero como lo muestra la historia pasada, no hay nada de que temer, ya que, por el poder del omnipotente, las victorias y el avance esta asegurado.

Gerald Margil, Idaho Conference district pastor

Edificio de Iglesia Hispana de Caldwell.

The Caldwell Spanish Church building in Caldwell, Idaho.



IDAHO CONFERENCE EFFORTS MULTIPLY HISPANIC CHURCHES

We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching through His servant” (*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 196).

These words were the result of Ellen White’s personal analysis regarding the years and events that occurred as she and her husband served the Lord together. These same words could summarize the Hispanic membership growth in the Idaho conference, specifically during the 2015–2018 quadrennial.

The development of the Hispanic work in Idaho Conference began with a modest growth pattern until 2013, when conference administrators decided to adopt a more aggressive growth strategy, including significant investments in evangelism and pastoral care.

At the beginning of 2015, the Hispanic work had five Idaho Conference congregations: Nampa, Payette, Jerome, Idaho Falls

and Heyburn, most of which were small companies. By the end of 2019, four additional congregations were planted (Twin Falls, Caldwell, Boise and Wilder) resulting in a total of nine Hispanic congregations currently in the conference.

The significant result of evangelistic thrusts planned and executed during the last quadrennial resulted in 24% of the total conference’s baptisms coming from Hispanic churches. This translates into a Hispanic membership growth of 43% along with a 101% rise in Hispanic member tithe for the same period. With this unprecedented growth, one in every nine Adventist members in Idaho is Hispanic.

This significant evangelistic growth was supported by the Hispanic departments of other North Pacific Union conferences too. Their support in 2018 made it possible to host eight Hispanic pastors from throughout the NPUC volunteering to preach evangelistic series in Idaho Conference churches.

Another major blessing for the Hispanic work in Idaho was the acquisition of buildings and properties. The Caldwell Church was able to acquire a beautiful building, thanks to the financial support of all the rest of the Hispanic congregations, and the \$25,000 from the NPUC Hispanic



Tereza Godoy takes her baptismal vows in the company of (from left) Gerald Margil, Tereza, Josue, Jerry, Carolina, Daysi, Blanca, Rosebel and Lili.

Toma de voto bautismal en la Iglesia de Idaho Falls. De derecha a izquierda: Pastor Gerald Margil, Tereza, Josue, Jerry, Carolina, Daysi, Blanca, Rosebel y Lili.

ministries department.

Additionally, the Twin Falls Hispanic Church received a generous donation of two acres in a prime location — with a high market value — from the English-speaking Twin Falls Church. These two acres are ready to begin construction of a future church building on the site.

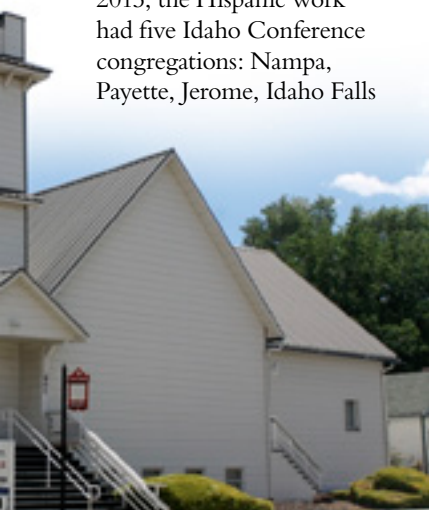
Gerald Margil and Wascar Rodriguez baptize Tereza Godoy at the Idaho Falls Church.

There is no doubt these results required concerted teamwork on the part of administrative leaders, local pastors and laity, all united in their commitment to the mission of our church. However, these statistics don’t merely represent what God’s people have done out of love for their God; rather, they exemplify what our gracious God has done out of love for His people. That is why all the glory belongs to our Father, His Son and the Holy Spirit.

Great challenges may come in the new quadrennial. However recent history testifies we have nothing to fear. With the power of our omnipotent God, our victories and advancement are assured.

Gerald Margil, Idaho Conference district pastor

Pastor Gerald Margil, y Pastor Wascar Rodriguez, bautizando a la hermana Tereza Godoy en la iglesia de Idaho Falls.



More photos online at
glnr.in/115-01-ak_aga

ALASKA GAINS SENIOR ACADEMY

Sept. 10, 2019, was one of the most exciting days in the 60-year history of Amazing Grace Academy (AGA) in Palmer. AGA received the news that the North American Division had provisionally approved AGA's application to become a fully accredited senior academy, joining the ranks of the other 14 senior academies in the North Pacific Union Conference.

This was a day many had looked forward to for years. AGA began as the Palmer School in the basement of the Palmer Church in the late 1950s. The school eventually grew and moved to the other side of Palmer on Maud Road, where it stayed for many years.

About 15 years ago, the school relocated to its present location adjoining the Palmer Church. With divine foresight, the three-story school was built to accommodate more than its small enrollment in grades one through eighth. Over the past 10 years, God has blessed the staff and constituency and built the enrollment from 19 students in 2009 to about

110 students in grades pre-K through 12 at the beginning of 2019–2020 school year. During this period, AGA has remodeled classrooms to accommodate the high school students, built a sizable gymnasium and made plans to finish new classroom space to house the middle school classes.

As the only Adventist senior academy in Alaska, AGA serves the needs of many families throughout the Matanuska–Susitna Valley and beyond. The school still has a few hurdles to overcome to lose the “provisional” status, but with God’s continued guidance the board and administration are confident these can be handled.

The board, staff, students and school family are working together to make this an environment where God is central in all things. They ask you to join them in prayers of thanksgiving and praise to the One who makes it all possible.

Richard Jordan, Amazing Grace Academy teacher

Amazing Grace Academy in Palmer.



Amazing Grace Academy students prepare food boxes for distribution at their Feed the Need event.

AGA FEEDS THE NEED

“**C**an I get some for my friend too?” That kind of question shows appreciation. It was the question asked of Amazing Grace Academy by a grateful recipient of a Thanksgiving meal in Palmer.

For the past several years, Amazing Grace Academy students have organized “Feed the Need” in an effort to share Thanksgiving meals with worthy families. School families join together in a weeklong food drive. Students bring different food items with them to school each day. Then, on the Friday before Thanksgiving, they get to share what they have gathered. The school gym becomes busy as students organize food into boxes for each family. The boxes are then loaded into vehicles and delivered to each home.

This year’s effort was full of generosity, and Amazing Grace Academy was able to share the blessing of a holiday meal with 46 families. Originally, the school was hoping to see 30 turkeys donated, but they watched as

volunteers provided 46 turkeys. The students added 114 cans of yams, 66 bottles of grape juice, 39 bottles of apple juice, 63 pounds of butter, 49 roasting pans, 78 boxes of stuffing, 119 cans of olives and 108 cans of cranberries.



Students ask God to bless each family that receives a meal.

Enjoying a holiday meal is truly a blessing, and the students at Amazing Grace Academy are learning it is an even greater blessing to share a meal with those in need.

Ryan Rogers, Palmer Church pastor



TEAM MEETS NEEDS ON ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND

The Lord's calling can seem challenging, especially when it is a mission trip to fly to a remote island village in the Bering Sea. St. Lawrence Island is the fifth largest island in the United States and home to approximately 1,500 Yupik people. The remote location of the island, along with the many needs of its people, provides a special mission opportunity to win souls for Christ.



Smiling children gather with program leaders Danya Nicketa-Kiljoa, Mariah T. Kiljoa and Brianna Lawrence.

Brianna Lawrence, to join the trip. Through these two gifted young people the Lord affirmed and established His work with the children.

On Oct. 3, 2019, the group set out from Anchorage with a forecast on St. Lawrence

Island of up to 60 mph winds, but they entrusted God to lead them through. The beauty of Savoonga was amazing — the radiant dark-blue Bering Sea, spectacular sunrises and the glorious sunsets — but most of all, the group was impacted by the beauty of the precious people.

Each day about 20 children came through the church door. Some children showed up hours before, seeking to enter the church to learn more about Jesus. On the first night one child asked, “Are you guys going to be here forever?”

To his disappointment the answer was, “No, we are here for only four days.” The leaders explained there would be a possibility of returning the

following year, and suddenly his downcast frame lit right up and his face beamed with joy. Truly, it was most enjoyable to see God at work.

The Lord's calling doesn't seem so challenging when you see the results and experience His guiding hand. God has His hand over the people of St. Lawrence Island. As the Lord leads, please pray for the people of this island home. There is a need of a pastoral presence in both Gambell and Savoonga, and we know God hears the prayers of His people.

Danya Nicketa-Kiljoa, Anchorage Northside Church member



Jim John, Anchorage Northside Church pastor, visits with Albert and Amy Kulowiwi and their daughter Rosemond.

The Anchorage Northside Church decided to provide children's programs, construction assistance and revival series for the St. Lawrence villages of Gambell and Savoonga. In addition to the team of adults, the Lord provided two wonderfully supportive young adults, Mariah T. Kiljoa and

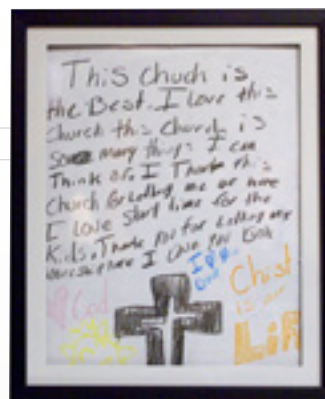


(From left) Matt Weber, Shawn McCrery and Jim John lead music for the evening revival meetings.



(From left) Paul Knobloch and Matt Weber, of the Rivers Edge Church, in McMinnville, Ore., along with Shawn McCrery, University Church in College Place, Wash., help with church construction projects.

Much more online at
gglnr.in/115-01-id_nampa



A framed statement from one of the children in the church reads, "This church is the best. I love this church."

NAMPA CHURCH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Idaho's Nampa Church began its 100th anniversary celebration on Friday, Nov. 22, 2019, with a communion service to bring focus to God, who made it all possible. Recognizing God's hand throughout the years, the church chose the theme

By 1929, the beginning of the Great Depression, membership had dropped to a low of 13. The church clerk recorded this statement in the records for that year: "We face the future with courage, knowing that the Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge." Finally, in 1945, the members completed their first church building and dedicated it in March of the following year.

By 1975, the Nampa Church had outgrown their

daughter, Marjorie Brown, was at the anniversary celebration to sing and share memories of growing up in the Nampa Church.

Construction of the new church began in October 1977 and was completed in six months. The church was dedicated debt-free in 1981, and membership continued to grow.

When Pacific Press Publishing Association moved to Nampa in 1984, many of its employees chose Nampa as their home church. Church membership now stands at 465.

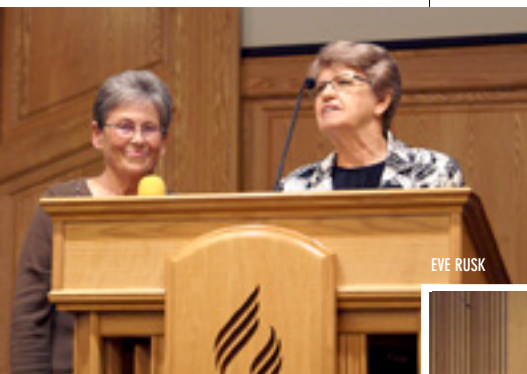
Over the years, various



Debbie Kling, Nampa mayor, spoke to the congregation about the impact the church has on the city of Nampa.

interior in 2003. This included a 7-by-9 stained glass window designed by Nampa Church member Tim Larson and entitled "The Second Coming."

Former pastors Curtis Miller, Jack Sequeira, Charles Ferguson, Stan Hudson and Ervin Furne shared memories with the members, either in person, by letter or by video, for the anniversary celebration. Other full-time pastors also served the church since it was organized: M.E. Hagen, Idaho Conference treasurer, served in addition to his conference responsibilities; A.E. Hemple, the first full-time pastor; Frank Rusche; Gordon Harris; Gordon Grear; R.A. Garner; Ralph Martin; Frank Bidwell; Floyd Smith; Don Kindig; and Ron Allen.



Marjorie Brown (left) was interviewed by Luana Harlan (right) about growing up in the Nampa Church. Brown's parents donated the property the current church is on.

"We've Come This Far by Faith."

After seven years of meeting in homes, a group of Nampa Adventists had grown and, on Nov. 15, 1919, organized as a church in the Idaho Conference with a charter membership of 36. They met in the Odd Fellows Hall with J.A. Norwood, Idaho Conference president, providing direction.



Member Anthony Hibbert (left) asks questions about the Sabbath School lesson of the panel, including (from left) David Prest Jr., Charles Ferguson and John Freedman.

facility. Members Herman and Sylvia Jones donated property at the corner of Iowa Avenue and Checola Street. Their

renovations took place, including modifications on the narthex, aluminum siding and a major renovation of the

The church produced a commemorative booklet for the weekend, which included all the programs for the weekend and letters of congratulations from Ted N.C. Wilson on behalf of the General Conference; John C. Freedman, North Pacific Union Conference president; David Prest Jr., Idaho Conference president; Brad Little, Idaho governor; Debbie Kling, Nampa mayor; and current pastor Chris Evenson. Evenson, Freedman, Prest and Kling all participated in the Sabbath morning program.



EVE RUSK

Nampa Church borrowed a “100” sign from Gem State Adventist Academy, which had its 100th birthday in 2018.

eating their lunch and how God protected them. She chose one of the boys to play the role of the baboon, which he did with much imagination!

Reflecting the diversity of the Nampa Church members, the morning prayer was offered in three languages: Portuguese, Kinyarwandan and English. Church members truly enjoy being together.

The evening ended with a Nampa tradition — a concert. The baptism of two new church members reminded attendees that Nampa doesn’t grow just by transfers. A mix of spoken praise, congregational praise and musical selections provided a wonderful end to the celebration and to the Sabbath. Members of all ages, even 3-year-old Klara Evenson, shared their musical talents.

Nampa Church has again outgrown its facility. Plans are underway to move to a more suitable location. More than 60% of the funds needed to accomplish this next step are in hand. The current church building is up for sale.

Ministry to the community is a high priority for the members, and they need more space. They reconditioned a donated

pickup truck and gave it to a young man in the community who needed it. Members have provided Diabetes Undone workshops, Full Plate Living classes, Fit and Fall Proof Exercise classes for the community, and free Christmas gift wrapping at a local department store.

At the close of the Sabbath evening service, the praise team led the congregation in their theme song, “We’ve

Come This Far by Faith” — a fitting closing and reminder that, without God, none of this would have been possible. He is with us, and He will provide.

Eve Rusk, Idaho Conference communication director



EVE RUSK

Pathfinders from the Nampa Zephyrs club collected the offering as members were dismissed by rows.

The Sabbath School lesson was a panel hosted by member Anthony Hibbert, who asked questions of Freedman, Prest and Charles Ferguson.

Pathfinders from the Nampa Zephyrs club collected the offering and assisted with the children’s offering. Jean Sequeira shared an exciting children’s story about a baboon



EVE RUSK

The Lord’s Prayer was presented in three languages: (from left) Portuguese by Adreia Roses, Kinyarwandan by Gilbert Mbonintwari and English by Ginette Lanto.

‘GETTING TO KNOW YOU’

DISCOVER how churches in Idaho are connecting with their community over lunch. The unique meal-sharing opportunity opens doors for discussion and understanding. Read more about their approach online at glnr.in/115-01-id_knowyou.

More online at
glnr.in/115-01-or_outdoor

OUTDOOR SCHOOL OFFERS OREGON TRAIL EXPERIENCE

The Montana Conference recently hosted the annual Outdoor School for fifth and sixth grade students attending conference schools and home schools, as well as Adventist students enrolled in public school.

The Oregon Trail was the theme for the event, which took place Oct. 21–24, 2019, at the Montana Conference office in Bozeman. As students filed in to get registered, they picked up a journal that would guide their simulated “journey” and posed for a pioneer-styled photo of themselves.

Students used a shopping guide to “purchase” items needed in their covered wagon. Each student was randomly assigned a pioneer-era name, an occupation, money allotment and size of family. Students quickly learned to evaluate each choice, as the consequences for each affected their continued existence.

During a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) challenge, students built



Students used their engineering skills to build a prototype storage trunk.

a prototype storage trunk to meet specific requirements. Other skills learned were making butter, apple butter, biscuits, lentil stew, dehydrating vegetables, making ink, a compass and designing a leather bookmark.

At the end of the week, students visited the “trading post” to buy small items before heading to Bozeman Hot Springs and back to their homes.

Renae Young, Montana Conference education superintendent

Students learned pioneer survival skills during breakout sessions.



The students' first job was building “fire rings” from rocks. Lunch was eaten before unloading the wagons in preparation for the river crossing.

PIONEERS TREK AT FIVE FALLS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

In September, kindergarden through fourth grade at Five Falls Christian School in Great Falls experienced the Oregon Trail in a very hands-on way: their own Pioneer Trek. Staff loaded up the covered wagons the students had built and headed to Sluice Boxes State Park with several parent volunteers.

The three wagon trains set out down the trail pulling their supply-stocked wagons behind them. The parent volunteers presented pretend challenges along the way, and the students had to work together to find solutions. Some challenges caused delays, which gave time for the other wagon trains to pass them on the trail.

The students picked chokecherries along the trail. They eventually arrived at “camp” and circled up their wagons. The first job was building “fire rings” from rocks. Lunch was eaten before unloading the wagons in preparation for the river crossing.

The river crossing promised to be a fun time, and it did not disappoint! The students eagerly rolled up their pant legs and headed across, working

together to get their covered wagons across the flowing water.

After crossing back over the river and returning to “camp,” everyone loaded the wagons and headed back toward the parking lot to play in



The river crossing promised to be a fun time, and it did not disappoint.

shallower waters before finally make the return trip to school.

When the fifth through eighth grade students arrived at school dressed as Native Americans, they had items to barter with the pioneers: balloons, bracelets, candy, pencils and more.

This fun time was thanks largely to the people who volunteered.

Kami Berry, Five Falls Christian School parent

MOUNT ELLIS EMBRACES NEW INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL

As the slower pace of summer wound down, teachers from Montana's Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) spent several days learning first aid, preparing their classrooms and digging into the theory behind mastery-based teaching.

Starting this year, MEA committed to shift to a mastery-based teaching and learning model on campus. This student-centered approach focuses on developing skills and knowledge instead of accumulating points. It requires a shift in the thinking of teachers, students and parents.

Student achievement is measured against learning objectives or "I cans." These learning objectives are clearly and consistently communicated to students. Teachers track student progress through assessments and use these assessments to inform how they teach and support each student. Students are given as many opportunities as they need to demonstrate their learning.

During the presession training, MEA teachers looked closely at the standards and objectives for each class and began designing mastery-based teaching units. After choosing the standards

for their unit, the teachers began "unwrapping" the standards — deconstructing the wording of the standard in order to fully understand its meaning.

After identifying their goal, teachers planned student assessments that would show acceptable evidence of learning. Finally, the teachers planned learning experiences

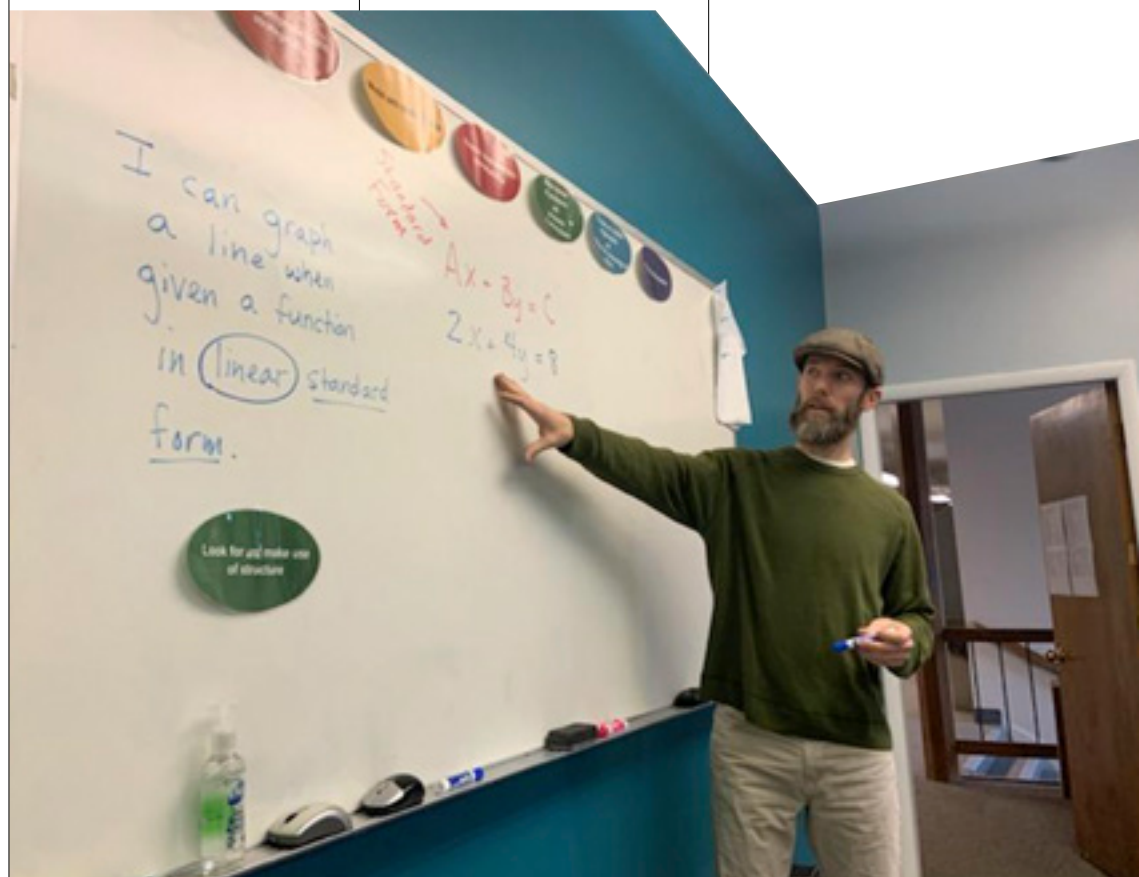
to help students reach mastery in each class.

As MEA teachers continue on this mastery-based teaching journey, it will become evident in many ways. Walk into any classroom, and you may find learning objectives written on a whiteboard or poster, assessments with evidence of mastery and students talking

about what they are learning instead of what grades they are earning.

Ultimately, MEA hopes the new instruction model will engage students to more fully understand coursework and be able make the greater application to life.

Jeni Schmidt, Mount Ellis Academy communication director





RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY ENJOYS APPLES, FUN, FOOD

The air was crisp and clear as more than 30 vendors began pulling their cars, trucks and trailers into the Riverside Christian School (RCS) parking lot on the morning of Oct. 13, 2019, in Washougal, Wash. For weeks, church and school volunteers had been crafting fresh apple pies and dumplings, gathering supplies, creating decorations, hoping for perfect weather, and planning all the important details for their 29th annual Apple Festival.

Just as the crowds began arriving, the sun miraculously appeared for another perfect day of autumn celebration. Every year hundreds of excited

Riverside's biggest fundraiser of the year and is a huge outreach opportunity for the school. This year's funds are going toward technology improvements and programs that enrich student learning in the classroom.

The proceeds will also help to develop new community service learning opportunities for students.

RCS Connections coordinator Lindsey Coyle is enthusiastic to share about an upcoming community service program that is near



and dear to her heart. "We are starting a program where our middle school students will be volunteering at local businesses," she explains. "Not only will this help teach our children the importance of Christian service in our community, but it also will

people from the area stream onto the Riverside Church grounds and school campus to enjoy pony rides, cake walks, face painting, a bouncy house, pie eating contests, a petting zoo and Nerf shooting range. Food booths offer everything from Pronto Pups to fresh, hot apple pie and dumplings.

The Apple Festival is



give them valuable knowledge about a variety of career paths they might not have previously thought about."

The Apple Festival provides a perfect framework for students to be part of a tangible community outreach project from start to finish. Being intentional about their mission of "Together as One," the church and the school are united in their mission to serve families in their community.

Merrill Caviness, Riverside Church pastor, says, "Together as One is all about relationships. First our relation-

ship with Jesus is foundational: knowing Him, loving Him and serving Him. That leads to knowing, loving and serving each other. Now our church and school can work together through the Apple Festival and other community projects to build loving relationships with our community."

Riverside's other large fundraising event is the Auction Fiesta in March. To learn more about Riverside School, visit riversidesch.com.

Tymi Wright, Riverside Christian School principal



More online at
glnr.in/115-01-or_thanksgiving

SWEET HOME INVITES COMMUNITY FOR THANKSGIVING

Last quarter's Sabbath School lessons about "the least of these" motivated the Sweet Home Church to host a pre-Thanksgiving dinner at the church. Invitations

ing. By the end, members were glad they had. One young member, Tyler, 6, wanted to help, so he went to each guest family and told them his name, invited the children to join him in the play area upstairs after they ate and gave each child a candy cane. Everyone enjoyed their meal and the fellowship while Jim Carpenter, from the Albany Church, played relaxing guitar music.

This event involved the entire church in one way or the other, helping with cooking, serving or mingling. The event was fun for church members and community guests alike. As guests began to leave, event organizers kept hearing comments like "this was wonderful!" and "we have never been to anything like this."

Sweet Home Church members plan to make this an annual event.

Joanne Hunger, Sweet Home Church community services staff



were sent and hand-delivered to community service clients and church members for the dinner held on Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

At first, the thought of preparing a Thanksgiving meal for a 100 people seemed a bit intimidating and overwhelm-



Oregon Conference. Simmons is already looking forward to the next one. "It's an easy and fun event, and it'll be fun to do it again, even better," she says.

Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference storycatcher and storyteller



HOOD VIEW PRESENTS CREATION LIFE KIDS EVENT

More online at
glnr.in/115-01-or_creation

Kids learned about healthful living through a CREATION Life Kids event held Nov. 17, 2019, at Hood View Church in Boring. Eight principles of healthful living make up the acronym CREATION: choice, rest, environment, activity, trust in divine power, interpersonal relationships, outlook and nutrition.

"When I first heard about this event, I thought, 'Wow . . . A perfect opportunity to provide health education for kids in a family-friendly environment that will be fun,'" says Chantelle Simmons, Hood View's CREATION Life Kids director.

Families formed small groups to go through eight active learning centers in the Hood View Adventist School gymnasium. "My favorite was where we learned how to plant the cactus," says Hannah, one of the participants.

Jamba Juice gave out cards for free smoothies, physical therapist Mark Christensen gave free physical therapy evaluations, and doctors John Goble and John Griffin answered questions about health.

"One of the goals of this event was to get families connected to resources that would help them thrive — cooking classes, parenting seminar, nutrition counseling, etc.," says Simmons. Event organizers now have a database of families interested in future health events.

Shirley Allen, Oregon Conference children's ministry director, says this is the first of many such events planned in

Read more online at
glnr.in/115-01-or_pacs

PACS ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS) invited Laura Pascoe to serve as its next executive director. She began her duties in November 2019. Her selection comes after a four-month search process led by the PACS governing board. Pascoe comes to PACS from the Oregon Conference outreach department, where she spent the last two years as the coordinator for Adventist Community Services (ACS), disaster relief, refugee and health ministries.

“We are so excited that God led us to Laura,” says Jonathan Russell, PACS board chair. “Laura is a gifted leader and communicator who exhibits the heart of Jesus in the way she interacts with people. She has a proven track record of collaborating with other professionals and organizations to meet the needs of the community.”

Pascoe says, “PACS mission is all about that dignity and Christ-centered service.

I have been so excited as I watched lives changed by PACS. Now I can't wait to join in that mission.”



Laura Pascoe

Pray for Pascoe and her family as she transitions into this leadership role.

Katie Linfoot, Portland Adventist Community Services development associate

LIFE AND HEALTH NETWORK PRESENTS FREE CLINIC IN EUGENE

Adventist-led organizations conducted a two-day free optical, medical and dental clinic in Eugene, Nov. 23 and 24, 2019. The decision to hold the clinic was made only three weeks before it began.

“God provided and gave us a venue, willing partners, and brought us an overwhelming abundance of volunteers,” says Danny Kwon of the Life and Health Network.

People served included 255 dental patients, 159 vision patients and 10 medical-only patients. Dozens of flu vaccines were given, and many patients also received professional photos and massages during the event. Copies of *Desire of Ages* and *Steps to Christ* were also placed into thankful hands.

This Life and Health Network clinic, sponsored by Robert Burnette and put on in conjunction with Caring Hands Worldwide and the Daniel Miguel Foundation, was held at the Lane County

Fairgrounds. Contacts were made with local homeless shelters and nearby Native American tribes. Local TV news programs quickly joined in and encouraged anyone who could not afford dental, optical or medical care to take advantage of this opportunity.

“I loved serving these people,” said one of the dentists. “Most of them had not seen a dentist for years. They were eager to have their teeth cleaned and their cavities filled and were so thankful we were helping them.”

Life and Health Network is hoping to do more free clinics in the future. In the meantime, they continue their church-based group program, Diabetes Undone (Rivirtendo la Diabetes in Spanish), and have many free health resources at lifeandhealth.org and saludesvida.org.

Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference storyteller and storyteller

Hundreds of people received much-needed dental, vision and medical care, plus flu shots.



DICK DUERKSEN



More online at
glnr.in/115-01-or_paa +

PAA STUDENTS GROW BEYOND PAA

For nearly a decade, students at Portland Adventist Academy have been embarking on annual off-campus adventures at the start of the school year.

Uniquely designed for every class, the events build a positive foundation for the school year ahead and focus on character development with PAA's core values in mind.

Courage, leadership, integrity, curiosity and concern are values built on the school's motto: "Christ-Centered, Character-Driven."

THE FRESHMAN ADVENTURE

The freshman class explored downtown Portland while competing to win team scavenger hunts. They grew skills in leadership and teamwork while discovering many

great people and places that make their city unique.

THE SOPHOMORE EXCURSION

Sophomores spent a day in a forest where they ascended giant trees and faced great heights as ropes suspended them through a tree-to-tree obstacle course.

"It was fun for me, but it was kind of scary," says Jairo Anaya. "I learned that you have to get over your fears because they hold you back from the things you really want to do."

By facing their fears, sophomores found courage and confidence. By working as a team, they developed trust and faith.

THE JUNIOR CHALLENGE

In the eastern Oregon wilderness, the junior class is in the hands of PAA teachers,

senior mentors and certified mountaineering guides. For many, the event is the most difficult experience they've ever faced.

They cook with no modern conveniences. They face steep heights as they rock climb and repel to firm ground. They hike long distances without maps and instead depend on newly learned navigation techniques.

When Maddy Healy's group took a shortcut, they ended up lost and added several more miles to their journey before finally arriving to camp. "I thought for sure I would reach my breaking point," says Healy.

"But we did it!" adds her teammate Emree Culver. "We made it back. And even though we walked a lot farther than the other groups, we had a lot of fun."

THE SENIOR RETREAT

Having come to their final year of high school, the senior class retreats for whitewater rafting and camping. The trip fosters meaningful bonds and gives the class time to focus on leaving a legacy, visioning for their future beyond PAA and reflecting on their belonging to each other and to God.

BEYOND PAA

As students experience character development centered on the life and teachings of Jesus, they continue to grow and better know the core values of a Christ-centered and character-driven life. And while curiosity gives them interest in the world around them, concern is what compels them to be intentionally active in the welfare of others.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent

OREGON CONFERENCE REVITALIZES MINISTRY TO SINGLES

For many single adults, finding a niche in their local family-oriented congregations can be difficult. Because of this, the Oregon Conference is making an effort to revitalize its outreach to single adults. This singles' ministry, led by volunteer coordinator Angelica Dull and her team, is working to create opportunities for singles to meet, fellowship and experience life together.

"The emphasis of the ministry is to provide a spiritual community, fellowship and support for single church members," Dull explains. "We aim to build friendships and encourage healthy relationships by working with the conference and local churches to reach singles."

The Oregon Conference hosted a Singles' Convocation in September 2019, which drew nearly 80 people from around the Northwest. James and Risë Rafferty from Light Bearers Ministry in Jasper presented a series of messages titled "This Is Us," stressing the importance of finding one's identity in Christ.

"Jesus never married," stated Risë Rafferty, "but He was never single because He lived in intimacy with His Father and the Holy Spirit." She



Singles enjoy an outing to Fall Creek Falls in Washington.

added that people will either embrace their God-given identity or embrace the identity that others put on them.

"There was far less emphasis on pairing up and more emphasis on being Christ-like," says one attendee. "I loved that there was nothing that made me feel that being single meant I was broken, preventing me from being a growing Christian."

As part of the event, Mindy Thygeson shared the story of Impact Hope, a ministry that supports education for refugee children in Rwanda. More than \$6,000 was raised through donations and student sponsorships.

Not all events are sponsored by the Oregon Confer-

ence. The Beaverton Church hosts a monthly potluck for singles, and a Portland/Vancouver singles group meets the first Sabbath of every month for a day of worship, outdoor activities and an evening social. The Lincoln City Church hosted nearly 40 people for a beach weekend in November.

A long-term goal, according to Dull, is to create regional singles' group in various parts of the conference. The group also networks with the Washington and Upper Columbia conferences for larger gatherings. Events planned for 2020 include:

- » March 13–15: Snow Weekend at Big Lake Youth Campout in Sisters.

- » April 2–5: Weekend Retreat at Rosario Marine Station in Anacortes, Wash.
- » July, dates TBA: Campout near in Naches, Wash.
- » September 11–12: Singles' Ministries Convocation in Gladstone.

To be added to the mailing list, or if you would like assistance in starting a singles' ministry in your area, email ORAdventistSingles@yahoo.com. Information is also available at Oregon Conference Singles Facebook page.

Heidi Axford, Oregon Conference singles' ministries

SEASIDE REMEMBERS PASTOR

More online at glnr.in/115-01-or_seaside +

Seaside Church's William Earl "Pastor Bill" Smith, 84, died peacefully early Thursday morning, Nov. 14, 2019, following a heart attack at home. Bill is survived by his wife, Sue, of Tillamook; son and daughter-in-law, Jordan and Joy, of Mountainview, Hawaii; son, Bill Jr., of Tillamook; daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and Tim Mayne, of Netarts; sister, Marian Rieber, of College Place, Wash.; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The Seaside Church was ready to become a vibrant Christian community, be a beacon of hope and build a new church. But, they didn't realize any of that until Smith arrived as their "interim" pastor in January 2016.

"I retired from official church ministry at 80, after 10 years pastoring in Tillamook," Smith said once. "But for me, retirement was about 'change,' not 'rest.'"

Smith arrived in Seaside with his heart and Bible open and his truck filled with carpentry tools. He had already left a legacy of handmade churches and schools wherever he worked — Alaska, Colorado, Oregon and all over Asia. The Seaside Church needed work, and Smith



Bill Smith arrived in Seaside with his heart and Bible open and his truck filled with carpentry tools.

and his members pitched in together.

"Bill was amazing," Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference

president, remembers. "He could have seen this interim appointment as caring for church boards, a few prayer meetings and the weekly worship service. But not Bill! He would drive up from his home in Tillamook, help shingle the church roof, then visit several members, meet with Seaside leaders and spend time counseling new friends."

Smith's background as a mission aviator, carpenter, outdoorsman and friend drew in Seaside's community leaders and the church's neighbors. Neighbors stopped by to see what was happening at the church. Smith made quick friends with everyone, and some brought their tools and

became crucial members of the construction team.

"The day we turned on the new electric signboard on the road beside the church, I had to smile," Smith recalled. "There's a stoplight at the corner by the church, and everyone sat there reading our sign as they waited for the light to change." Smith's leadership brought the Seaside Church into the community so it, like the sign, could become a gleaming beacon of hope.

Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference storyteller and storyteller



DICK DUERKSEN

COMMUNITY SERVICES MAKE DIFFERENCE IN CENTRAL OREGON

More online at
glnr.in/115-01-or_cascade



Is this too short a timeframe for so many projects? Will there be enough volunteers to provide good programs? There are many reasons to pray for wisdom and God's hand to guide when fear creeps in. But Cascade Church in Bend is a praying church that is seeing many miracles in three successful community programs this year.

VEGAN COOKING CLASSES

A plant-based diet is gaining popularity in more and more restaurants, grocery stores and guests' preferences. The community is ripe for what Adventists are known for in cooking healthy. Cascade

Church put together a team to make samples for a vegan cooking class, including eight tofu-based recipes, eight breakfast items, six world entrees and even sweet treats. The zucchini linguini with alfredo sauce and coconut cream pie were unbelievably delicious.

The Cascade Church's pastor brought his mother-in-law from Missouri to be the class instructor. She has years of experience as a vegan cook and is a talented recipe writer. She partnered with her daughter, Melony Coleman, to instruct the class.

Forty-six people from the community and neighboring churches attended three nights to learn medical reasons for going vegan. The applause said

it all — just what the doctor ordered for a successful community program.

GOD'S CLOSET

In the spring, God's Closet was initiated at Cascade Church, a community ministry of North American Adventist churches (now 42 in number). It is of a donation network through which individuals and businesses donate gently used and new children's clothing at any time of the year. Twice a year, families in need come to "shop" free of charge. A passionate team is working hard to establish this ministry, which brings tangible value to people's lives and knowledge of the love of Jesus.

FREE DENTAL CLINIC FOR VETS

Dr. Nancy, the dental clinic medical director and Cascade Church member reports, "This is now our fourth year holding a free dental clinic for veterans who don't have dental insurance. We're helping meet that need [through] dentists, hygienists, X-ray techs — all from the community — with 30 church volunteers and direction of Caring Hands Worldwide.



The patients come knowing nothing about our church. One lady told me that we're all angels, doing service to the vets."

To host a dental clinic, contact Randy Meyer at Caring Hands Worldwide, caringhandsworldwide.org.

WHAT'S NEXT?

It was a big year for this church with just under 100 attending members, but members aren't done. In January they begin a Revelation evangelism series with 26 meetings in five weeks given by Jeff Coleman, Cascade Church pastor. Members are reading Ellen White and learning and practicing what it means "to go into the cities as laymen with unflagging zeal, in courage, simplicity, unity and meekness."

Julie Ward, Cascade Bend Church communication leader



More online at glhr.in/115-01-or_rvaa

RVAA HAS AMAZING VOLLEYBALL SEASON

Sports ministry is at the heart of Rogue Valley Adventist Academy (RVAA) culture in Medford. RVAA teaches student athletes to “unite your two passions, faith and athletics, to impact the world for Jesus Christ” (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). Team prayer is where RVAA athletes begin every practice, trip and match,



Center court is the center of invitational prayer with players and coaches from Rogue Valley Adventist Academy and Central Christian High School.

average team height of 5 feet, 4 inches, and from one of the smallest high schools in the Oregon Schools Athletic Association (OSAA), with only 42 students in grades nine through 12. Nineteen of RVAA’s students are girls, and 10 of those are members on the varsity volleyball team. When those facts combined with last year’s graduation of two highly skilled seniors and the retirement of RVAA’s beloved athletic director of 13 years, Mike Glasgow, the school had what most coaches would call a “building year” ... and build they did.

The team’s first practice began with the introduction of RVAA’s new athletic director, Natalie Diaz, a recent Southern Adventist University graduate, who quickly inspired the team with her love of sport,

music and Christian education. Coaches Brad Parmenter and Steve Day then initiated the building process: practice, practice, practice.

RVAA started their season with a thrilling “come from behind victory” against Hosanna Christian, which won the last four Mountain Valley League (MVL) championships. The Lady Hawks’ amazing year was off to a strong start, but continued building. The year continued with:

- » Fourth place in Walla Walla Fall Classic Championship bracket, which hosts 20 Adventist 1A–3A high schools from five states and Canada;
- » First place in OSAA MVL at 12–1;
- » OSAA Sportsmanship Nomination by MVL referees;

- » Champions of MVL Conference Tournament;
- » All-Conference awards including First Team (2), Second, Honorable Mention and Coach of the Year;
- » Seventh place finish at Oregon 1A State Volleyball Championships Elite 8 Finals (among Oregon’s 70 1A schools). The RVAA Lady Hawks

want all to know that every season of life can be amazing with Jesus on your team. And remember, for you to impact your world for Jesus Christ, you must practice, practice, practice.

Brad Parmenter, Rogue Valley Adventist Academy head volleyball coach

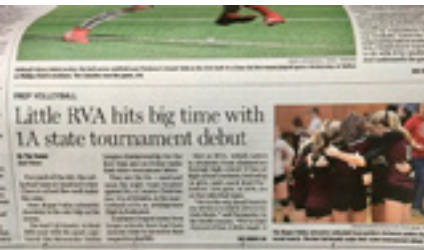
Natalie Diaz, the new RVAA athletic director, hides in the mascot costume while the team thinks she’s away at a wedding and going to miss the championship tournament.



and these kids are encouraged to “win or learn,” for there are no losers with Christ.

“Hey, would you guys like to pray with us at center court?” Paris Quave, RVAA’s spiritual captain shares about what she says to invite other teams for prayer following matches. “If they ask ‘why?’ I tell them it’s in thanks to God for creating our ability to enjoy playing this game together.”

RVAA’s 2019 1A varsity volleyball team included four freshman, four juniors and two seniors, making them one of the youngest teams in their league. They were also one of the shortest squads, with an



FOUNDATIONONE HOSTS DONOR APPRECIATION DINNER

More photos online at glr.in/115-01-uc_dinner

FoundationONE, a group of lay people who are raising an endowment for scholarships for Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) students in Spangle, Wash., recently hosted its first donor appreciation dinner. In addition to thanking donors, the event recognized the foundation's charter board members for their vision, energy and determination in establishing the foundation.

Mindy Weber, FoundationONE president, says, "Today, I feel privileged and honored to acknowledge the accomplishments of FoundationONE. Fifteen years ago our founding fathers planted a seed. It took root and began to grow. Now UCA has a steady stream of financial aid for students who desire a Christian education. To date FoundationONE has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships and, at the same time, we have grown the endowment to \$3.6 million. This is nothing short of a miracle. Our highest praise goes to Jesus, our supreme Provider."

UCA's principal, Eric Johnson, gave the group a brief update on the school, explaining, "UCA would not be the great school it is today without the support of FoundationONE."

Minner Labrador, Upper Columbia Conference president, added, "Our theme for the next four years is 'One More.' We want *one more* visitor, *one more* small group, *one more* Bible study, *one more* baptism, *one more* student. We need FoundationONE's continued partnership to help students afford a Christian education."

Linda Klinger interviewed



Brielle (Bartells) Cortez, '18, shared what it meant to her to have the backing of FoundationONE.

Moises Ramirez, a senior at UCA. When Ramirez was 4, he and his three siblings were taken from their birth parents. For a time the children were passed from one foster home to



FoundationONE's founding board members along with Minner Labrador, Upper Columbia Conference president (left), and Mindy Weber, FoundationONE's president (right).

another. Finally, the Ramirez family took them in and eventually adopted them. One year ago the Ramirez family joined the Adventist Church, and Moises came to UCA. Moises says, "UCA is helping me discover my talents and become grounded."

Brielle (Bartells) Cortez, 2018 UCA graduate, shared what it meant to her to have the backing of FoundationONE. She said, "My parents were self-supporting missionaries. Without financial aid, I

never would have been able to attend UCA." She went on to share how the faculty members had mentored and encouraged her, and she thanked the group profusely for their kindness and generosity in helping her get to UCA.

For more information on FoundationONE, go to foundationoneuca.org.

Linda Klinger, Upper Columbia Academy FoundationONE executive director

FoundationONE hosted its first donor appreciation dinner.





Members of the Pendleton Church vote to accept the newly baptized students.

More online at
glnr.in/115-01-uc_pendleton



LOVE FOR JESUS DECLARED IN PENDLETON

Sabbath, Nov. 2, 2019, was a special day for the Pendleton Church and Harris Junior Academy (HJA) in Pendleton, Ore., as seven people were baptized. Six of the newly baptized members are students from HJA.

One student, Jack Frear, was baptized with his father, Devin Frear. His mother was voted in as a member transferring to the Pendleton Church on the same day, and his sister was baptized this summer at Oshkosh, Wis.

Ava Cook, also a fifth grader, said her favorite part was when she went under the water. Her brother, Kenny Cook, an eighth grader, said the best part “was seeing all my friends and family standing for me.”

Khoda Brown said he wanted “to start a new life with God.” His brother, Kolton, said “God in my heart” helped him choose baptism.

A highlight for Gary Gibson, Pendleton Church pastor,



Gary Gibson, Pendleton Church pastor, lowers Kenny Cook into the water.

who held weekly Bible studies at HJA this fall, was to baptize his son, Jonathan, a sixth grader. The younger Gibson says he’s glad he committed his life to Jesus and hopes to influence others to do so also.

Shannon Whidden, HJA head teacher, says, “Seeing my students make the decision to accept Jesus as their Savior is the greatest reward for me as a teacher.”

Elizabeth Gibson, Pendleton Church member

UCA CELEBRATES INFLUX OF FRESHMEN

Every year when the senior class graduates, there is a hole in enrollment that needs to be filled. Teachers and administration follow up on leads, rely on church members and other schools, contact extended families, and of course pray God will direct students to the school.

This year at Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash., the freshman class is the largest on record — 56 students. These students have come largely from across the Upper Columbia Conference and nearby regions — and from as far away as Alaska, California,

Colorado, Alberta (Canada) and China.

Part of the enrollment increase comes from the new relationship between Lake City Academy in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, and UCA. An extension program has been created to provide distance learning for students in Coeur d’Alene three days per week and on the UCA campus two days per week. There are 16 extension students.

UCA is praising God for His guidance and blessings.

Donivan Andregg, Upper Columbia Academy vice president for admissions and marketing





BEACON STUDENTS PACK FOOD KITS

Service opportunities rarely fall into a school's lap as did the Backpack for Kids program for Beacon Christian School in Lewiston, Idaho. Thanks to local retired dentist Barc Seibyl, who has ties to Beacon, the school was offered a unique, collaborative community service opportunity.

As a result, teachers and volunteers accompany students monthly to the Asotin County (Wash.) Food Bank, where they pack about 225 kits full of easy-to-prepare, nonperishable, nutritious food items that are distributed at the end of every school week to the area's public and private school students who qualify for free or reduced lunch programs. Each food kit

contains four meals to assist in the child's nourishment throughout the weekend.

Teacher chaperones David Gage and Terry McGarvey share in the students' excitement and anticipation of the monthly outing. Once on the scene, a flurry of activity erupts in the food bank storeroom as adults set up an assembly line of students from grades three through nine. Imagine the activity of the children as they grab a kit, pack a food item and pass the kit down the line.

The impact of this program on students underscores the goals of community service. Fourth grader Enzo shares that he loves helping people. "I wish I could do more," he reflects, adding that

Beacon Christian School students lend their time and effort, learning to give back to their community like Jesus.

he likes the teamwork that efficient packing of kits requires.

Fifth grader Hadley shares that going to the food bank is important because they are helping families and kids. "It makes me feel good to help others in need," she says. "We all hope we can keep doing it and keep making a difference."

With a yearly cost of more than \$40,000, Backpacks for Kids is funded totally by donations from various entities — Beacon students (grades three through five have raised \$433 this year alone), local churches, businesses, civic organizations and interested individuals. The actual work is also completely voluntary;

there are no costs associated with salaries, hourly wages or benefits.

From start to finish, it is a sacrificial effort on a valley-wide scale. Beacon students are a vital part of the program. By lending their time and effort, they grow in their Christian walk and learn to give back to their community. Lewiston Church members are proud of Beacon's longtime participation in the Backpacks for Kids program and are eager to support their efforts.

Allison Hays, Lewiston Church communication leader

FIRST SABBATH HELD IN LIVING HOPE'S NEW BUILDING

On Sabbath, Nov. 16, 2019, Living Hope Church members celebrated a long-awaited breakthrough in Plummer, Idaho. They held their first official worship service in their new church building, a project that has been ongoing for eight years.

The Living Hope Church originated as a church plant from the Saint Maries Church, which was under the leadership of John Pierce, pastor. After months of drawing up blue-prints, consulting architects,

laying the foundation and gathering help, the church building started taking shape. About 20 Maranatha volunteers came to help build in 2013 and then again in 2017.

The finishing touches came together in the two months leading up to the big day on Nov. 16 as Ron Bayless and Marvin Rogers, the building committee leaders, supervised the last steps toward occupancy.

On the celebration



Sabbath itself, about 80 people packed the sanctuary for an inspiring service that included an overview of the project's history, a baptism, energetic singing, an inspiring sermon from Monte Church and a delicious fellowship meal.

The next Sabbath, Judi Heicksen, Living Hope

Church treasurer and clerk, summed it up well: "It has taken so many little steps to get here, but looking back shows us how much we have to be grateful for. This place is truly a gift from God."

Andrew Abbott, Living Hope Church pastor



More online at glnr.in/115-01-uc_drone

DRONE PILOT CLASS OFFERED AT LCA

Did you know that Lake City Academy (LCA) in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, has a drone piloting class? Students are learning new skills using miniature drones and virtual reality.

Recently LCA was approached by the North American Division's technology and distance learning

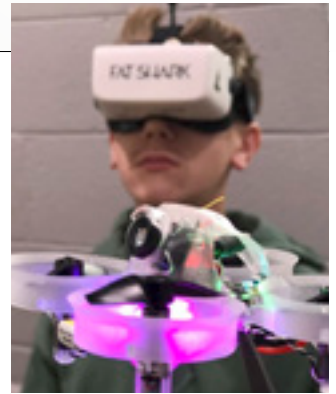
committee to be featured on their blog. The site is designed to share resources and ideas for all sister schools to access. You can read the article by visiting glnr.in/115-01-uc_drone.

If you don't know much about drones, this area of technology is quickly growing each year. It will be interesting to see how they impact daily life in the future.

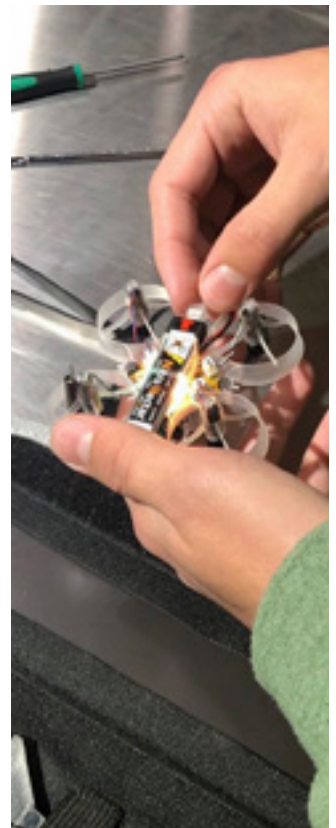
Why is this exciting and important? Think back to when computers were still

inaccessible to most families. Schools were some of the first places to use them and teach others. Now we use computers every day.

LCA views the new possibilities with drones the same way and believes in teaching modern advancements alongside essential core subjects. Curiosity and creativity are priorities for this campus.



Eighth grader Logan Henneberg uses a miniature drone and first-person view goggles.



WORSHIP EXPERIMENT ALTERS FAMILY

Nattie Perez rarely had family worship with her children. She knew it was important but hadn't made it a habit.

Then one Sabbath at the Renton Church, she heard about the Altar Project, a 31-day family worship challenge hosted by Washington Conference prayer ministries in October 2019.

"I thought to myself, 'How can I challenge myself?'" Perez says. "We needed to up our spiritual game." She talked with her children — Jaylon, 11, and Jeneah, 13 — and together they committed to trying out a family worship time. They even wrote their chosen worship time on their

daily schedule boards.

"We chose the mornings for our worship time," Perez shares. "It was too hard to do an extended worship time in the evening when we were all going different directions."

The family developed their own routine with worship prompts that arrived by email. Each morning at 7 a.m., the family would sing two songs, read a passage of Scripture, participate in a short discussion and have a prayer for their day. Most evenings, the family took a few minutes to reflect on how God worked in their day and to play a Bible game.

"My son loved the ABC praise game," Perez says. "He still asks to play the game."

But there was one worship time when Jaylon was frustrated and didn't want to participate midway through the Altar Project. The 11-year-old was giving his mother a hard time, and she was ready to quit their family worship experiment.

"My husband, who joined us three times for worship,

says. "We are understanding our deeper and personal need for Jesus to bring stability and confidence for each day."

A couple days after the Altar Project concluded, Perez proudly reports, "We're still having family worship. We're still wanting to grow. We're still praying to continue altering our altar, and I'm praying

for my children and husband to spiritually be faithful and focused on God."

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



Nattie Perez and her children.

spoke up and reminded us, 'You can't quit. You made a commitment,'" she remembers.

In the audience feedback component of the Altar Project, Perez ended up sharing five family worship selfie photos — more images than any other of the 172 participating families.

"We are slowly understanding that we need God in our lives more," Perez



ADVENTIST ARTIST SCULPTS VISUAL STORY

Why is the ark of the covenant in Auburn?

This is a question craftsman Jesse Ferguson hears frequently as he constructs a full-scale replica of the wilderness tabernacle.

This tabernacle was commissioned by Idaho's Meridian Church as an evangelistic outreach to their interested community. The exhibit is intended to be available for Pacific Northwest tours as well. The artistic project is expected to be completed in June 2020.

The ark of the covenant is the fourth tabernacle piece of furniture to be built after the laver (wash basin), the altar of incense and the table of showbread. "This is where the Shekinah Glory dwelled between the angel wings," Ferguson says. "God wanted to dwell with us, to be known and to know humankind."

All the furnishings are sculpted by hand from wood and are based off a cubit measurement from Ferguson's own arm. For the specific designs for the furnishing, Ferguson read Scripture passages and Jewish writings for a basis for creating original designs for the ark panels that depict Old Testament Bible stories. These artistically represented

stories include the tree of life, creation, the Flood, the ram of Abraham and more.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

From concept to reality, crafting the ark of the covenant is a lifelong dream for craftsman Jesse Ferguson.

"God gave few details other than the size and materials," Ferguson notes. "I prayed and let the Holy Spirit guide my imagination."

The angels on top represent Gabriel and Lucifer. Gabriel's hands are equally placed on the surface while

Lucifer's hands are offset and pulled back to give a visual representation of the Great Controversy.

"There's 100 hours of artistry represented with the ark and three weeks of work alone on the wings," Ferguson says. "This gave me a lot of time for thinking, meditating and listening to the Holy

Spirit. Quite literally, the ark is a hearing aid for listening to God better."

Soon after finishing the embossing and gold leafing process, Ferguson used the ark of the covenant for his own sermon teaching aid. "The ark had two main functions: to

More photos online at
glnr.in/115-01-wa_ark



JESSE FERGUSON

The intricate angel wings took three weeks to carve.

move and to sit,” Ferguson explains. “It proceeded journeys, scared enemies, won battles, parted rivers and had many stationary times.”

Ferguson shares, “We learned something wrong about God in Eden. When we begin to unlearn what Satan taught us, we discover a new and better picture of God, who

is patient, gracious and loving. The lesson for us today is that we are God’s temple. He wants to live in and through us. The ark shows us God is good all the time and is pulling us out of our mess.”

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



Craftsman Jesse Ferguson holds one of the relief art pieces depicting Noah’s ark and the Flood before it is filled with resin and installed on the ark of the covenant.

May each of us choose to follow God fully in our lives and reflect His glory and grace.

RENTON CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Renton Church commemorated a 50th anniversary on Nov. 16, 2019, with a theme of “This Far by Faith.” Though the church was founded in the 1930s, the first worship service held in the current church sanctuary took place on Nov. 15, 1969.

The anniversary planning committee included Randy Maxwell, pastor; Jane Martin, church secretary; Ethel Acosta, treasurer; and Paul Tutyko, church historian. The team worked hard to contact former pastors and members. Four former pastors and more than 300 came to the homecoming services.

Maxwell gave the Friday night message about anticipating the great homecoming when Jesus returns to take us home. Former pastor Tim Madding (2001–2006) sent greetings by video and recalled some great memories during his five-year tenure.

One of the many highlights of the weekend was a discussion panel at Sabbath School facilitated by Sabbath School superintendent, Brian Xavier, and featuring five pastors: Ellsworth Wellman (1968–1972), a 95-year-old World War II veteran; David Glenn (1980–1984); Adrian Petreaca (2005–2015); Maxwell (2016–present); and Mike

Barnett (1981–1997), who was an elder at Renton Church before he was called into pastoral ministry and now pastors the Walla Walla City Church.

During church Wellman shared memories of building the current sanctuary and the challenges that came with building a 40-foot-tall church. Roger Ferris (1985–1995) shared memories about church renovations that took place



SAMUEL MENS AH

The Renton Stars Adventurer Club prepares to sing, including (from left, front) Bupe Saini and Kayla Nimako-Mensah.

under his leadership. Glenn preached about a “Wonderful Jesus” who is at the center of our church and is the “Champion” we are waiting for.

Head deaconess Dee Fritz and her team served food to more than 300 guests. The Renton Warriors Pathfinder club posted the colors to begin a Sabbath afternoon music program. The Renton Stars Adventurer Club stole the

show with two adorable songs. Musicians past and present, including the Orion Chorale, added to the celebratory spirit of the afternoon.

Interspersed with the music were five videos documenting the key players who were the movers and shakers driving the congregation to build such a beautiful church. David Henry helped the church history department make the videos, which will be archived for the future.

Maxwell closed the program by talking about what it means to call Renton home and cast a vision to expand the social hall. “Our membership and ministries are

growing, and we must provide more space to accommodate that growth,” he said.

Paul Tutyko, Renton Church member, and Randy Maxwell, Renton Church pastor



SAMUEL MENS AH

Renton Church pastors, past and present, who attended the Renton Homecoming are (from left) Adrian Patraeca, Ellsworth Wellman, Roger Ferris, Dave Glenn and Randy Maxwell.

AUBURN GAINS NEW WINDOW ON FUTURE

More photos online at glnr.in/115-01-wa_auburn 

Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) has a new window — make that windows — on the future, thanks to Restore Auburn, a fundraising campaign launched at Auburn’s 100th alumni celebration in May 2019 to upgrade the physical plant.

This project had long been on the wish list to help classrooms to be warmer and more efficient. Thanks to the right connections, the right donors and the right timing, the new windows were installed in the fall of 2019.

“We are so blessed by the generosity of those who support the mission of Adventist education,” says Peter Fackenthall, AAA principal. “It matters every day.”

In this first phase of Restore Auburn, all single-paned windows in Scriven Hall administration and classroom building were replaced with smaller, double-paned windows and insulated half walls to give a higher level of energy efficiency and to reduce exterior noise. The next phase will upgrade additional campus features.

In addition, the aging heating and cooling system was also upgraded to a zoned system to provide a more comfortable learning environment for students and staff. The pre-

vious heating system had been installed 50 years ago when the administration building was constructed.

“The energy savings because of this project will benefit the academy for years and make the rooms more comfortable for the students and staff,” says Trevor Wister, AAA vice principal of finance. “This project will benefit many different groups, and we are grateful to those who donated to the campaign.”

Jackson Whitacre, an Adventist and window supplier from Tulsa, Okla., generously supplied the windows to the academy at cost. Donations from the class of 1969, a significant alumnus gift and multiple contributions to the Restore Auburn fundraising campaign made this window remodel possible.

There’s a historical connection with this modern-day

Thanks to the right connections, the right donors and the right timing, Auburn’s window project found successful installation in the fall of 2019.



PETER FACKENTHALL

Auburn alumni and vice principals Trevor Wister and Jay Coon are thankful for donors and friends of Auburn Adventist Academy who are investing in Restore Auburn to improve the physical campus.

renovation: The Jan. 8, 1920, North Pacific Union *Gleaner* reported how the “youngest of our sisterhood of schools” put up with “pioneer conditions” including no heat, windows, light, laundry, dining room service, supply of water or doors on the first days of the new campus. W.C. Flaiz said, “Providentially the weather remained warm, and everybody made the best of the conditions.”

Making the best of condi-

tions can be said for this project too: An installation project during the school year causes a few discomforts, and students and staff showed great levels of patience and endurance as construction happened around them during the learning day. Students came to school dressed in layers, for example, on the days when heaters were being installed and the temperature dropped.

“The generosity of the class of 1969, and their love for Auburn Adventist Academy,” says Jay Coon, vice principal for growth and development, “is making a lasting impact in the lives of current and future students by supporting Restore Auburn through helping the school get these windows in place.”

Amy Eschbach, Auburn Adventist Academy staff, and Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



SURVEY AIDS EDUCATIONAL GROWTH

Nearly 1,000 survey respondents shared their perceptions of Adventist education in western Washington via an education survey conducted at the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019.

The responses gave administrators a solid pulse on areas of growth, including a desire for more STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education and a community openness to faith-based education.

In partnership with the North American Division (NAD), Potomac Conference



In response to parents showing high interest in their children learning more STEM-related educational topics, Washington Conference is piloting a two-year STEAM program.

and Campbell Rinker research company, the survey collected quantitative and qualitative data from 474 parents of current or former students, 272 church members and 193 community residents.

A desire for a STEM program had been a wish list item



Exposure to higher levels of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics in elementary school gives students additional opportunities to enter science-related career fields.

for education administrators, and multiple survey requests for greater STEM presence helped to push this idea forward. STEAM is the STEM program with arts incorporated into the curriculum.

When David Morgan, an experienced STEAM educator for elementary and secondary education, approached Washington Conference education leaders about launching a two-year pilot program, the time was right.

“Dave successfully pioneered STEAM camps marketed to both domestic and international students,” says Craig Mattson, Washington Conference vice president for education. “Now as our director of STEAM education, he will invest his time to fully developing and deploying a system of STEAM camps and STEAM activities that will benefit Adventist students in the Washington Conference.”

This partnership will

be reflected in educational opportunities at local schools, Auburn Adventist Academy and Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson.

Additionally, the insights from community residents reflected an openness to faith-based education.

“While 75% of students in resident households were enrolled in public schools (which one would not expect to offer curricular activities focusing on faith), this did not preclude

the respondents from holding faith activities in some esteem,” reports Dirk Rinker of Campbell Rinker research partners. “Residents gave importance ratings that were significantly higher than neutral to community service, Bible studies, biblical worldview in curriculum and campus ministries.”

Residents, however, have little interest in driving more than 10 miles to take their child to school, whereas Adventist parents are more likely to drive three to four times farther.

“We were surprised in a secular location to discover resident parents were interested in a spiritual learning environment for their children,” Mattson says. “They appreciate our interpersonal relationships, student/teacher ratios and class sizes. This gives us a solid opportunity to expand our school families.”

Plans are coming together for launching a collaborative marketing campaign to advertise a joint registration day at 19 campuses in western Washington and the opening of the enrollment season on Sunday, March 8. The “7 Advantages” campaign will launch in January 2020 after drawing



David Morgan is piloting a two year STEAM education program for Washington Conference to enhance the science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics programs of Adventist schools in western Washington.

inspiration from Idaho Conference’s Adventist Advantage campaign, the NAD’s 10 Reasons for Adventist Education and insights from the survey results.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

Filling the



Missing Something?

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“This podcast is so genuine. It really helps give insight to people’s lives. It’s not always a happy ending that we would expect, and that’s life. We need more stories and outlets for this sort of thing for people to be heard and just take the time to listen to others, especially in the church, especially those who have been hurt by the church. I love this idea and this podcast! Keep it up. Can’t wait for more.” – DAN

“It’s SO GOOD. You’re touching on subjects nobody in the church talks about, from an official venue. I’m really enjoying.” – HEATHER

COMING HOME TO FRIENDS

After spending his entire career serving the Tillamook, Ore., community as an internist and hospitalist, Calvin Hill knows there's no place like home. That reality took on deeper meaning last spring when this retired doctor became a patient.

Last spring, after volunteering for a Big Lake Youth Camp building project in central Oregon, Hill headed down a winding mountain highway on his way home. He didn't realize he was falling asleep.

Suddenly there was a horrendous bang. Bags were hanging all around him, and white powder filled the air. "I looked out of the windshield and saw this very big tree in the hood," Hill recalls. "My chest and my foot hurt terribly."

Miraculously, a Loma Linda University (LLU) School of Medicine graduate had felt impressed to stop for gas and snacks. His delay caused him to arrive on the scene in time to help Hill, start his IV and give him pain relief. Others stabilized Hill's spine.

Rushed to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Ore., Hill was diagnosed with an unstable lumbar spine fracture, 15 fractured ribs, bruised lungs and a foot



Calvin Hill (right) was grateful to be able to finish his recovery near home and his wife, Jaimy (left), thanks to Adventist Health Tillamook's transitional care program.

completely crushed by the car's engine. After two weeks and spine surgery in Bend by another LLU graduate, Hill was moved to Portland, where his son, Timothy Hill, is an Adventist Health doctor. After foot reconstruction surgery at Adventist Health Portland's partner, Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), Hill was finally discharged.

But he wasn't ready to be home. "There was no way I could go home at that point,"

he explains. He couldn't bear weight on his right foot and could only sit up for short periods.

Hill's care coordinators made arrangements with Adventist Health Tillamook for skilled transitional nursing care. Through this special program, patients done with acute hospital care but not ready to be home can get the nursing care they need right on the Oregon coast.

"Getting home to

Tillamook was so nice," Hill says. "I was coming home to my friends." Adventist Health Tillamook's skilled nursing program meant Hill could have his physical and occupational therapy provided in-house by providers who knew him personally.

Even when Hill went home, the Adventist Health team aided his recovery. They instructed Hill and his wife, Jaimy, how to keep him safe and avoid falls by adding ramps and bars to their home.

"I'm now a very experienced patient," Hill says. "When you're flat on your back, too weak to move and can't even move your arms to feed yourself, you realize how important it is to have very kind, gentle and competent people taking care of you."

Though Hill is still recovering from his injuries and subsequent months in bed, he aims to walk at least 10,000 steps each day. He's driving again, and, fitted with BiPAP nighttime breathing support, he won't be falling asleep at the wheel.

"Prayer saved my life. Expert care put me back together again," he says.

Cherie Plaisted, Adventist Health Tillamook marketing and communication manager

STUDENTS LEARN SERVANT LEADERSHIP

The best leaders are servants at heart. High school students in Adventist Health Portland's Student Healthcare Leaders (SHL) program learned this truth firsthand recently.

During one of the group's weekly learning sessions this fall, the students worked with their mentors to pack 100 snack bags to give to families with children hospitalized at Doernbecher Children's Hospital. The hospital is associated



Student Healthcare Leaders participants (from left) Duncan MacArthur, Jocelyn Bravo-Gutierrez, Bre Too and Erika Nielsen bring the snack bags to Doernbecher Children's Hospital.



Student Healthcare Leaders participant Erika Nielsen (right) helps Terry Johnsson, Adventist Health Pacific Northwest Region mission integration executive, unload the snack bags for families of Doernbecher Children's Hospital patients.

with Adventist Health Portland's partner, Oregon Health and Science University.

Intended for families facing extended stays at Doernbecher, the bags contained a variety of snacks, including

trail mix, raisins, granola bars, graham crackers and water bottles. They also contained meal-prep items like soup, peanut butter, and tuna or chicken salad kits. The kids included a card in each bag as well.

Several student leaders joined Adventist Health Portland administrators to deliver the snack bags to Doernbecher on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019. "Many people think being a leader is all about being the person in charge and guiding people," says Jocelyn Bravo-Gutierrez, an SHL participant and sophomore at Springwater Trail High School in Gresham, Ore. "In reality it's about giving back to the community and helping people out and much more."

"In the Gospel of Mark,

Jesus reminds us that 'whoever would be great among you must be your servant,'" says Cheri Hill, one of the SHL mentors. "Helping these students bring their servant hearts to actions that help other kids is an important part of their learning to be leaders."

During other weeks of the SHL program, the students get an insider's view of many areas

Duncan MacArthur unloads some of the snack gifts packed by Student Healthcare Leaders participants.



of the hospital, from operating rooms to food and plant services. The 10-week program gives students a chance to explore health care careers they might otherwise be unaware of. Since 2018, four classes of students from more than 15 local high schools have completed the program.

Students are guided in their journey by Hill plus Terry Johnsson, Adventist Health's Pacific Northwest Region mission integration executive, and Emilie Butler, Walla Walla University assistant professor of nursing. Interested students can learn more and apply to the program at studenthealthcareleaders.com.

C.J. Anderson, Adventist Health Portland marketing manager

Abrams 100th

Paul Abrams celebrated his 100th birthday with a reception in College Place, Wash.

Paul Denver Abrams was born in Cornell, Wis., on Jan. 31, 1920. He was the first child born to Denver and Lunettie Abrams. Three years later his brother, James, was born. Over the years, the family lived in several communities in the Midwest but ended up settling in Bakersfield, Calif. Paul finished high school and junior college in Bakersfield.

Paul was drafted into the United States Army in 1942



Paul Abrams

and spent four years as a medical supply clerk and bookkeeper at many bases across the United States and the Philippines. While being shipped to Manila, he was told that his tour of duty was ending, but he served in the Philippines until a ship could bring him home.

Upon returning home, he attended La Sierra College in California, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. Shortly after graduation he was employed at the Adventist Book Center in Arlington, Calif. Four years later he went to work in Hollywood, Calif.,

in the accounting office for a manufacturing company that made automotive parts. One of his co-workers, Jim McClintock, suggested Paul apply for the accounting job at the local newspaper, where he was hired.

During that time, he met and began dating Sarah Nelson. This went well, and they were married. Sarah was having health problems, so they decided to move to Santa Rosa, Calif., where Sarah passed away a few years later.

About six months later, Paul's brother, Jim mentioned he knew a nice lady who lived in Portland, Ore. She too had lost her spouse. A friendship was formed between Paul and Edna Downing. They were later married and lived in Portland. They wanted to get away from the busy city life, so Paul suggested they look into the Walla Walla area, where Edna's brother lived.

Edna had been a nursing instructor for Walla Walla College at the Portland campus and had been to College Place for meetings. She said that, "nothing happens in Walla Walla." They visited and found a home to purchase. Edna learned to love living in the Walla Walla Valley. Paul and Edna both volunteered at the Walla Walla General Hospital. Sadly, in February 2014, Edna passed away while working at the hospital.

Paul continues to live at his home in College Place, with the help of his neighbors. He enjoys watching the birds, squirrels and bunnies at the feeders in his backyard. He loves the Lord and is a blessing to many.

Carver 70th

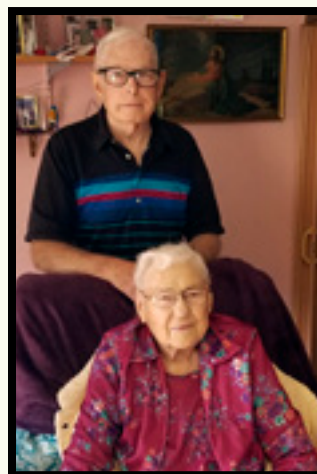
Jack and Doris Carver celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Nov. 18, 2019, in Pacific, Wash.

Doris Ferdig and Jack Carver were married in Port Angeles, Wash., on Sept. 5, 1949. They made their home there and raised five children.

Jack worked at Crown Zellerbach, a paper mill. Doris was a seamstress who worked from home making custom draperies. In 1967 they moved with their three children, who were still at home, to Pacific, a suburb of Auburn, Wash. This move allowed them to be close to Auburn Adventist Academy, where their children would be attending.

The Carvers are members of the Auburn City Church. Both Doris and Jack are awaiting the soon coming of their Savior, when they will live in perfect peace throughout eternity.

The Carvers have been blessed with a wonderful family that includes Ruth Wright



Jack and Doris Carver

of Boden, N.D.; Michael and Cheryl Carver of Oregon; Doreen and Joel Ahlberg, Bonney Lake, Wash.; Velma Johnson

of Sequim, Wash.; Elaine and Bill Varga of Spokane, Wash.; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Greenway 50th

Merle and Ruth (Panasuk) Greenway celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary while enjoying a camping trip at Nertarts Bay on the Oregon coast.

Married Sept. 14, 1969, in Williston, N.D., the couple returned to Walla Walla College for their senior year. In the fall of 1970 began teaching at Laurelwood, Ore. — she at the academy and he at the elementary school.

When Merle retired, he had served the church for more than 40 years as an elementary and secondary teacher, dormitory dean, principal, university professor, and department chair for education and psychology at Walla Walla College (1988–96). He also served as superintendent of schools and treasurer for Alaska Conference (1996–2002), pastor and conference departmental leader. His last full-time position was as treasurer in the Illinois Conference. About two years ago, he relinquished retirement for 13 months to pastor the Cascade Church in Bend, Ore., on an interim basis.

Ruth taught office skills for three years then became a stay-at-home mom when their daughter was born. That decision remained intact until their son was in academy — the only exceptions being part-time work in conference offices and teaching occasional community college night classes when Merle could be at home with the children. In later years, Ruth taught in



Merle and Ruth Greenway

special education at a public high school.

Merle and Ruth have two children and one grandchild. Their daughter and son-in-law, Alanna and Robert De La O, and granddaughter, Annika, live in Battle Ground, Wash. Alanna works as a nurse and billing clerk for a rheumatologist in Portland, Ore. Merle and Ruth's son, Geoffrey, is located in Reseda, Calif., where he provides information technology services to both private individuals and corporations.

The Greenways especially wish to acknowledge the blessing and leading of the Lord these past 50 years and look forward to Jesus' soon return.

Oltman 90th

Jeanne Oltman celebrated her 90th birthday on Oct. 6, 2019, with a brunch at the home of her children, Guy and Paula Oltman, in Hermiston, Ore. A gathering of nearly 70 family members, spanning four generations, came from as far away as Texas and Southern California to honor Jeanne.

Jeanne Friedly was born in Pendleton, Ore., to parents Frank and Myrtle Friedly. A graduate of Payette High School in 1947, Jeanne always called the Northwest home. Her first husband, Chuck

Puntney, although never a practicing Seventh-day Adventist himself, introduced her to the Adventist faith. As a young mother of six children, Jeanne was baptized in Idaho's Payette Church by Harold Warnick. She thanks the Walt Albrecht family for "loving her into the church."

It was following Jeanne's 1970 marriage to Don Oltman that her three decades of working in the construction trade began. The Oltmans worked as a team to build more than 45 homes. It seemed that everywhere they moved, their new church family was in the planning stages of building a much-needed church



Jeanne Oltman

home. Don and Jeanne led the construction of churches in Cheney, Wash.; Weiser, Idaho; and Merlin, Ore. Extended mission experiences in Japan, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Madagascar were especially meaningful to them.

Following Don's death in Hermiston in 2014, Jeanne returned to Grants Pass, Ore., where she again attends the Merlin Church every Sabbath. Her independent life continues to be fulfilling and a blessing to others. Jeanne spends her time in Bible study, walking, water

aerobics, cooking/baking, gardening and just generally being a good neighbor and an active church member. Her large family all rise up to call her blessed.

Jeanne's family includes Chamalene (Puntney) Johnson of Santa Paula, Calif.; Robert and Laurie Puntney of Grants Pass; Gary and Adele Puntney of Veradale, Wash.; Terri (Puntney) and Bill Snapp of Winchester, Va.; Ronya (Puntney) and Dave Petso of Boise, Idaho; Tonya (Puntney) and Willie Johnson of Spokane, Wash.; Leo and Cathi Oltman of Ellensburg, Wash.; Guy and Paula Oltman of Hermiston; Marlin and Tamara Oltman of Ontario, Ore.; Darrell and Tracie Oltman of Meridian, Idaho; 24 grandchildren and 44 great-grandchildren.

FAMILY BIRTHS

FITZGERALD — Martin Walter was born Sept. 21, 2019, to Orrin Walter and Kristi Lou (Steingas) FitzGerald, Springfield, Ore.

LINCOLN — Calvin Addison was born Oct. 22, 2019, to Aaron Todd and Christy (Escalante) Lincoln, Tillamook, Ore.

SEVY — Caleb Eugene was born Oct. 24, 2019, to Challen and Crystalyn (Sherman) Sevy, Nampa, Idaho.

WRIGHT-HUNTINGTON — Bella Rose was born Sept. 20, 2019, to Liam Kekoa and Shyannma (Huntington) Wright, Tillamook, Ore.

AINSWORTH — Phyllis May (Kivett) 87; born Aug. 12, 1931, Mill City, Ore.; died June 30, 2019, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Kent, Kalispell, Mont.; daughter, Liana (Ainsworth) St. Clair, Walla Walla; stepdaughter, Sharon Maness, Pendleton, Ore.; brother, Bob Hodge, Jacksonville, Ore.; sisters, Esther Marple, Thermopolis, Wyo.; Bea Downs; Jacksonville; 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

ARMSTEAD — Constance "Connie" Rae (Roberts), 76; born May 15, 1943, Vancouver, Wash.; died Aug. 2, 2019, Ocoee, Fla. Surviving: husband, Lloyd; son, Rodney, Ocoee; daughter, Jolene De Santos, Jacksonville area, Fla.; sister, Donna Roberts Butler, Vancouver; and 3 grandchildren.

BEAVER — Marion Hazel (Hurd), 88; born Oct. 16, 1928, Stratton, Vt.; died Oct. 11, 2017, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: husband, Daniel; sons, Sidney, Spokane; Robert, Ontario, Ore.; daughters, Renee (Urbry) Beaver, Sequin, Texas; Norma (Butru) Beaver, Orange Grove, Texas; Venna (Linsky) Beaver, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; Delores (Johnson) Beaver, Bonney Lake, Wash.; 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

BECK — Elizabeth "Liz" (Darden), 89; born April 2, 1929, Mobile, Ala.; died Oct. 30, 2018, Mouth of Wilson, Va. Surviving: daughters, Sharon Straw, Berrien Springs, Mich.; Connie Smart, Mouth of Wilson; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

BJELLAND — Dennis Tim, 80; born Sept. 8, 1938, Salem, Ore.; died Aug. 14, 2019, Culver, Ore. Surviving: sons, Dennis, Gresham, Ore.; Greg, Gold Hill, Ore.; daughters, Lisa (Bjelland) Giebel, Walla Walla, Wash.; Julie Bjelland, Tacoma, Wash.; Rita Bjelland, White Salmon, Wash.; stepdaughters, Traci (Powell) Cooper, Redmond, Ore.; Andrea (Powell) Vaughn, Prineville, Ore.; Darcy (Powell) Murphy, Gold Bar, Wash.; and 13 grandchildren.

BLAKE — Erika Maragarete (Dietrick), 90; born Dec. 23, 1928, Kobe, Japan; died June 17, 2019, Portland, Ore. Surviving: sons, Terry, Damascus, Ore.; Tim, Portland; daughters, Linda Qualley, Vancouver, Wash.; Carol Rasmussen, Grants Pass, Ore.; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

BLALOCK — Matthew B., 62; born June 2, 1956, in Kentucky; died Jan. 29, 2019, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: brothers, Joseph, Nampa; Jeremiah Sr., Seguin, Texas; and sister, Deborah Blalock, Nampa.

BRANSON — Bradley Warren, 68; born March 4, 1951, Hemingford, Neb.; died April 26, 2019, Blair, Neb. Surviving: wife, Margaret (Zollbrecht), Duvall, Wash.; sons, Tony, Tacoma, Wash.; Jason, Duvall; and 3 grandchildren.

CATE — Daryl Robert, 90; born Feb. 21, 1928, Aberdeen, S.D.; died Jan. 8, 2019, Gaston, Ore. Surviving: wife, Marjorie (Campbell); son, David, Newberg, Ore.; daughters, Judy Anderson, Gaston; Amy Fletcher, Auburn, Wash.;

brother, Wyman, Gaston; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

EDWARDS — Rosalind Joan (Lisik), 50; born Dec. 22, 1968, Mount Clemens, Mich.; died Aug. 31, 2019, Tillamook, Ore. Surviving: husband, Paul Jason; sons, Jason and Jacob, both of Tillamook; mother, Mary Rose Lisik, Tillamook; and brother, Andrew Walker, Tillamook.

EDWARDS — Ruth Anneke (van der Ende) Giem, 96; born Sept. 24, 1923, Hot Springs, Mont.; died Sept. 26, 2019, Hot Springs. Surviving: sons, Paul Giem, Loma Linda, Calif.; James Giem, Coupeville, Wash.; Ross Giem, Nampa, Idaho; 14 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

FISHMAN — Roger Alan, 69; born March 13, 1950, Brooklyn, N.Y.; died Aug. 15, 2019, Rogue River, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Bhakti Sasya, Portland, Ore.; Bibi Sigal, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada; brothers, Joel, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Jay, Jersey City, N.J.; and 2 grandchildren.

GLASSFORD — Rollyn L., 83; born May 23, 1936, Redding, Calif.; died Aug. 14, 2019, Roseburg, Ore. Surviving: wife, Sarah Jean (Hegney); sons, Alvin R., Berrien Springs, Mich.; Duane A., Laurel, Md.; daughter, Jennice Glassford, Port Charlotte, Fla.; sisters, Carolyn Campbell, Elkhart, Texas; Ardith Schneider; 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

GRAHAM — Juanita “Nita” Lucille (Akers), 95; born Jan. 1, 1924, Palisade, Colo.; died July 1, 2019, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: sons, Vernon, Yakima; Mark, Idaho Falls,

Idaho; daughter, Brenda Mohr, Beaverton, Ore.; 4 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, a great-grandchild and 6 step-great-grandchildren.

GRAY — Janet A. (Bird), 89; born June 29, 1930, Wendling, Ore.; died July 15, 2019, Eugene, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Cheryl Flores, Springfield, Ore.; Laura Magnuson and Anna Gray, both of Eugene; 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

GUTH — Barbara Ann (Hooper), 57; born Sept. 26, 1962, Hermiston, Ore.; died Aug. 24, 2019, College Place, Wash. Surviving: husband, Gerald “Jerry,” son, Ronley, Vancouver, Wash.; daughter, Kayla Guth, Milwaukie, Ore.; and 2 grandchildren.

HARE — Gordon Berton, 88; born Aug. 14, 1930, Santa Barbara, Calif.; died Sept. 16, 2019, College Place, Wash. Surviving: son, Robert, Melbourne, Fla.; daughters, Sherilyn Jones, Spokane, Wash.; Patsy Vazquez, Pasco, Wash.; Nancy Nestler, Walla Walla, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

HAUBRY — James “Jim” B. Jr., 52; born Feb. 9, 1967, Seattle, Wash.; died June 20, 2019, Touchet, Wash. Surviving: wife, Shorna; son, Jeff, Touchet; parents, Judith and Marvin Vietz, Walla Walla, Wash.; sister, Tamara Lafrance, Issaquah, Wash.; half-sister, Rebecca Haubry; half-brother, Joshua Haubry; and step-brother, Jason Haubry.

HEATH — Leora “Lee” Irene (Bates) Robinson, 92; born Feb. 14, 1927, San Francisco, Calif.; died Feb. 19, 2019, Bakersfield, Calif. Surviving: son, David Robinson, Bakersfield; daughter, Karen

Sue Gonzalas, Bakersfield; brother, Gleason Appling, Wymer, Calif.; sisters, Dorothy Pulley, Loma Linda, Calif.; Marlene Thelander, Silver Springs, Md.; Priscilla Davis, Loma Linda; 12 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

HELMER — Jeanne C. Hinshaw, 86; born Aug. 16, 1932, Bismarck, N.D.; died June 14, 2019, Dallas, Ore. Surviving: sons, Randy Hinshaw, Wasilla, Alaska; Robert Hinshaw, Dallas, Ore.; 5 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

HIEB — Archie Harold, 94; born Sept. 25, 1924, Jamestown, N.D.; died July 1, 2019, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Lyndel (Peterson); sons, Bruce, Loveland, Colo.; Randy, Las Vegas, Nev.; Brian, Windsor, N.C.; daughters, Kris Christensen, College Place; Kandyce Hallem, Bethlehem, Ga.; Kenda Cleveland, Vancouver, Wash.; sister, Lila Schlenker, Bismarck, N.D.; 18 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

ISHIKAWA — Helen Katsumi (Eji), 95; born Nov. 11, 1923, Honolulu, Hawaii; died May 18, 2019, Bellevue, Wash. Surviving: son, Tad; daughter, Laural (Ishikawa) Walton; and a grandchild.

JENSEN — Mildred Elaine (Matterand), 102; born Jan. 4, 1917, Stanwood, Wash.; died April 4, 2019, Salem, Ore. Surviving: son, Paul, Orange, Calif.; daughters, Ann Jensen White, Everett, Wash.; Mary K. Campbell, Salem; sister, Eleanor Clayton, Stockton, Calif.; 7 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

LENZ — Winston “Wink,” 89; born April 13, 1930,

Hinsdale, Ill.; died June 24, 2019, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: wife, Gloria (Siegel); sons, Fred H., Phoenix, Ariz.; W. Edward, Palm Springs, Calif.; daughter, Lynnell Madson, Gresham; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

NOGLE — LeRoy E., 83; born Sept. 30, 1935, Harvey, N.D.; died Sept. 8, 2019, Orlando, Fla. Surviving: son, Richard, South Bend, Ind.; daughter, Brenda Small, Orlando; brother, Malcolm Nogle, Gladstone, Ore.; and a grandchild.

PHILLIPS — Alice E. (Morris), 85; born July 31, 1934, Dallas, Ore.; died Aug. 1, 2019, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: husband, Virgil.

PORTENIER — Marilou (Ritter), 88; born Sept. 22, 1930, Caldwell, Idaho; died March 29, 2019, Caldwell. Surviving: husband, John; sons, Gary, Caldwell; Richard, Nampa, Idaho; 3 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

RAWLINS — Helen Laverne (Wertenburger) Parrish, 94; born March 19, 1925, Painesville, Ohio; died Aug. 13, 2019, Moses Lake, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Janie; sisters, Margaret and Dorothy; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

SCOTT — Leslie Gerald, 88; born Sept. 26, 1930, Hemet, Calif.; died Aug. 23, 2019, Medford, Ore. Surviving: wife, Thelma (Akers); son, Jerry, Spokane, Wash.; daughter, Jodi Schall, Sacramento, Calif.; and 2 grandchildren.

SMITH — Ellsworth Preston, 92; born April 23, 1927, Meadow Glade, Wash.; died

Sept. 8, 2019, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Richard, Woodburn, Ore.; daughter, Linda Kinne, College Place, Wash.; 8 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

STITZEL — Fay R. (Bunch), 90; born Jan. 27, 1929, Baudette, Minn.; died Jan. 12, 2019, Lebanon, Ore. Surviving: sons, Gary and John, both of Albany, Ore.; Rick, Lebanon; Eddie, Salem, Ore.; daughter, Mary Crawford, Birkenfeld, Ore.; and 17 grandchildren.

THEOBALDS — Thomas Randolph, 85; born Dec. 21, 1933; died July 11, 2019. Surviving: Joanna Theobalds, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Jennifer Aub, Kingston, Jamaica; and a grandchild.

WAGNER — Alan “Joe” Joel, 71; born May 20, 1947, Spokane, Wash.; died Sept. 6, 2018, Logan, Mont. Surviving: wife, Donna (Meharry), Belgrade, Mont.; sons, Scott, Eugene, Ore.; Matthew, Battle Ground, Wash.; daughter, Carol Wagner Baslo, Apache Junction, Ariz.; and 4 grandchildren.

WEST — Raymond Owen, 96; born Sept. 23, 1922, Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada; died Aug. 19, 2019, Belfair, Wash. Surviving: son, Dan, Belfair; daughters, Raylene West, Sonoma, Calif.; Donna West, Dana Point, Calif.; Julie Carpenter, Bozeman, Mont.; sister, Rose Connors, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada.; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

WHEELER — Charles Lynn, 75; born July 4, 1943, Lebanon, Ore.; died April 11, 2019, Roseville, Calif. Surviving: wife, Charlaine (Ame); daughter, Charlynn Cundy, Fair Oaks, Calif.; sisters, Deanna Russell and Kathy Otis, both of Brownsville, Ore.; Jill Hauptman, Lebanon; Jan Sheets, Newkirk, Okla.; and a grandchild.

WOHLCKE — Larene Mable (Southworth), 85; born Feb. 21, 1934, Pocatello, Idaho; died July 28, 2019, Pendleton, Ore. Surviving: son, Van Wohlcke, Pendleton; daughter, Deborah Wohlcke Mulder, Pendleton; a brother and 3 sisters; 15 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

The *Gleaner* also accepts expanded obituary announcements with short bio and photo. For submission and cost info, contact info@gleanernow.com or call 360-857-7043.

Go to GleanerNow.com/ contribute to submit family announcements.

The North Pacific Union Conference *Gleaner* accepts family listings as a service to members of Adventist churches in the Northwest. While this information is not intended as an endorsement of any facts or relationships represented, the *Gleaner* does not knowingly print content contrary to the biblical beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1928–2019

JEANNE OSS



OSS — Jeanne Marie (Johnson), 91, was born in Colville, Wash., on March 31, 1928, and passed to her rest on April 26, 2019, in Hermiston, Ore. As a freshman at Walla Walla College, she answered an urgent mid-school-year request to teach 16 students in grades one through eight at Beacon Junior Academy in Lewiston, Idaho. Not only did this become one of her favorite work experiences, she met her future husband: Paul Oss, the son of the local pastor.

Jeanne worked as registrar at Loma Linda Academy and later as secretary of the Loma Linda University School of Medicine dean. Paul and Jeanne were married in 1950 and settled in Spokane, Wash. For nearly 40 years she was the bookkeeper and office manager for four family doctors.

A lifelong Adventist, Jeanne often sang in the church choir and served as pianist, organist and clerk. Her gracious hospitality provided temporary housing and scores of home-cooked meals for pastors, evangelists, conference employees and teachers during her retirement years on Hayden Lake in Idaho. She joined three generations of the Oss family for a memorable Maranatha mission to India in 2004 to build two churches in remote villages.

Jeanne is survived by her husband of 68 years, Paul Oss of Hermiston, and four children and their spouses: Paula and Guy Oltman of Hermiston; Patricia Carroll of Hermiston; Karen and Steve Denmark of Salinas, Calif.; and John Oss of Spokane, Wash. She was “Grammy” to 9 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

- Jan. 4** — Local Church Budget;
- Jan. 11** — Local Conference Advance;
- Jan. 18** — Local Church Budget;
- Jan. 25** — Religious Liberty (NAD);
- Feb. 1** — Local Church Budget;
- Feb. 8** — Adventist Television Ministries;
- Feb. 15** — Local Church Budget;
- Feb. 22** — Local Conference Advance;
- Feb. 29** — Evangelism (NAD).

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

Alumni Dinner in Port Orchard

Jan. 10 — Walla Walla University alumni are invited to a complimentary alumni dinner and WWU update at 6:30 p.m. at the Port Orchard Church. RSVP by Jan. 6 at wallawalla.edu/alumni-events or alumni@wallawalla.edu.

Alumni Event in Emerald City

Jan. 11 — Walla Walla University alumni are invited to a potluck with a dessert buffet provided by WWU followed by a university update. We'll start with church at the Emerald City Community Seventh-day Adventist Church at 11 a.m. with WWU president John McVay at the pulpit. No RSVP required.

IDAHO CONFERENCE

Missing Members

The New Plymouth Church is looking for the following missing members: Thomas Barnes, Ronald Bishop, Mary Bolender, Jerry, Jordan and Kathy Boone, James R. Brummel, Frank Coberly, James J. Collins, Mike Conrad, Tracy Cummins, Bruce Davis, Duke Dunagan, John Drake, Shara Eaton, Gerald Edwards, Timothy D. Garrett, Daryl Gilman, Dan Gloyd, Martha Haase, Gerald and Violet Hendrickson, Richard A. Hillard, Sharron Hoag, Russell Hoffman, Richard Johnson, Richard P. Koehrsen, Coleen, Connie and Kendra Knuth. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact Howard Williams, pastor, at 208-740-9555.

OREGON CONFERENCE

The Great Health Controversy

Jan. 17-19 — Join health revivalist and evangelist Rico Hill, author and host of *From Sickness to Health* on 3ABN's Dare to Dream Network, for a weekend of life-changing presentations beginning Friday at 7 p.m. at the Hillsboro Church, 367 NE Grant St., Hillsboro, Ore. More information at glnr.in/2020events-or-hillsboro.

Take Heart Ministry Widows and Women Alone Valentine Luncheon

Feb. 9 — Join us for the seventh-annual Take Heart Ministry Widow's and Women Alone Valentine Luncheon, whether you are widowed, divorced, alone, just hurting or willing to come in support of those who are. Catered lunch, keynote speaker, music, prizes and resources. Sunday, Feb. 9, at 11:30 a.m., at the

Gladstone Church in Gladstone, Ore. Register by Feb. 1 to be entered in a special drawing. For ladies 16 and older; no children please. Invite someone you know with a hurting heart. To register or to learn more, visit takeheartministry.info or contact Tawny Sportsman at 541-367-4913.

The Methuselah Factor With David DeRose

March 12-14 — Join us for a three-part series looking into dramatically restoring your overall health and longevity by understanding and applying lessons from the cutting-edge science of hemorheology, or blood fluidity, and other lifestyle-related research. Presenter David De Rose is a board-certified physician, author of *The Methuselah Factor* and radio host specializing in lifestyle medicine and applying natural therapies. Beginning Thursday, March 12, at 7 p.m. at the Adventist Medical Center Amphitheater, 10123 SE Market St., Portland, Ore. The series continues March 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. at the Sunnyside Church, 10501 SE Market St., Portland. To RSVP, call Sunnyside Church at 503-252-8080 or Adventist Health at 503-251-6201.

Emerald Academy Forming Alumni Association

Emerald Christian (Junior) Academy in Pleasant Hill, Ore., is forming an alumni association. If you are interested in getting news and reconnecting with classmates, please email your name (including maiden name), address, phone number and your eighth grade graduation year to alumni@emeraldchristianacademy.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Dentists and Dental Hygienists Needed

All professional services provided at the upcoming free dental clinic, sponsored by Caring Hands Worldwide and the Moses Lake Church, are on a volunteer basis. Volunteer dentists and dental hygienists are needed for Friday, July 24, and Sunday, July 26. To volunteer, please contact Sandy Larsen at sandymom1962@gmail.com or 509-771-4187 or Linda Morgan at lindamidwife@gmail.com or 509-994-4850.

Pathfinder Teen Retreat

Jan. 24-26 — "How's Your Vision?" Speaker Caleb Foss will explore the clarity of our vision of God and His character at the Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder Teen Retreat at Camp MiVoden. More information at ucc.regfox.com/vision2020.

UCC Pathfinder Bible Experience

Feb. 22 — Walla Walla Valley Academy, 300 SW Academy, College Place, WA 99324.

WORLD CHURCH

Union College Homecoming

April 2-5 — Honor classes are 1950, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2010. For more information, contact the alumni office: 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; 401-486-2503; alumni@ucollege.edu.

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT GLEANERNOW.COM/EVENTS.

Adult Care

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Classes

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS MASTER'S DEGREES in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit southern.edu/graduatestudies.

Employment

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UNION COLLEGE invites applicants for an accounting teaching faculty position. Qualified applicants will be committed members of the Adventist church and have a master's/doctorate degree

or significant experience and willingness to pursue a master's degree. Find more information at ucollege.edu/faculty-openings or contact Lisa Forbes at lisa.l.forbes@ucollege.edu.

THE LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY PROVOST SEARCH COMMITTEE is seeking a distinguished scholar and administrator to guide the university's academic programs, services and activities with vision and vigor. Additional details and application instructions available at lasierracareers.silkroad.com/. Position open until filled.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks faculty – social work. Teaching areas are primarily in graduate-level clinical practice, with particular expertise in treatment of children and families, school social work, trauma-informed care, and treatment of adult mental disorders. Other responsibilities include coordination of the dual degree programs with the

SDA Theological Seminary, coordination of the school social work certification, and academic advising and service to the department, university and the surrounding community. andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_12.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to jobs.wallawalla.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified candidates for the following positions: public services librarian McKee Library, English teaching faculty, physics teaching faculty. For full description and qualifications, please visit southern.edu/jobs.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks faculty – music. Full-time tenure track position. It requires 24 teaching credits per year, and it entails teaching music classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels, being responsible for

the orchestral studies area, and preparing and conducting the concerts of the AU Symphony Orchestra (AUSO). andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_6.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY – MAINTENANCE

The aviation maintenance instructor is responsible for teaching, planning, organizing and operating within an FAA-approved Part 147 program, designed to prepare students for the Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) career and related aerospace and technical fields. He/she will work under the supervision of the department chair, with the other instructors in the program carrying out functions related to the position as described below. andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_1.

BAREFOOT MEDIA MINISTRIES is seeking an events/promotions coordinator to be the bridge

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified candidates for the following positions: teaching faculty – English and teaching faculty – physics and engineering. For full description and qualifications, please visit southern.edu/jobs.

Events

JOIN TOM AND ALANE WATERS and guest speakers Isaac and Emily Schlittenhart and Alexander and Allison Fowler for Restoration International's Northwest Family Retreat, July 8–11, 2020, Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Wash. This year's theme is "God's Word — the Culture That Counts." For information and to pre-register, visit restoration-international.org/nwfr or call NWFR hosts, Vernon and Karina Pettey, 406-890-1185.

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is not something a high school student should miss. If you know a junior or senior*, encourage them to sign up for one of these special events where they'll tour the campus, attend classes, visit with a financial counselor, enjoy fun-filled events, earn scholarships, and more. Plus, their stay is on us—we'll even help with travel costs (up to \$250 per visitor). Space fills fast, so they should sign up now!

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

U-DAYS 2020: March 5–7 and April 5–7

► Sign up for U-Days. wallawalla.edu/udays

North Pacific Union Conference Directory

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

President John Freedman	Information Technology Loren Bordeau
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Secondary Keith Waters	Women's Ministries Sue Patzer
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Local Conference Directory

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6100 O'Malley Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99507-7200
907-346-1004 • alaskaconference.org
Kevin Miller, president; Melvin Santos, v.p. secretariat; James W. Jensen, v.p. finance

IDAHO CONFERENCE

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

MONTANA CONFERENCE

175 Canyon View Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-3101 • montanaconference.org
Elden Ramirez, president; Matthew Kirk, v.p. administration and finance

OREGON CONFERENCE

19800 Oatfield Rd.
Gladstone, OR 97027-2546
503-850-3500 • oregonconference.org
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32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S.
Federal Way, WA 98001
253-681-6008 • washingtonconference.org
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College Place, WA 99324-1198
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OREGON ABC

19700 Oatfield Rd., Gladstone, OR 97027
503-850-3300
M–Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
F 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

UPPER COLUMBIA ABC

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

COLLEGE PLACE ABC

505 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324
509-529-0723
M–Th 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
F 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

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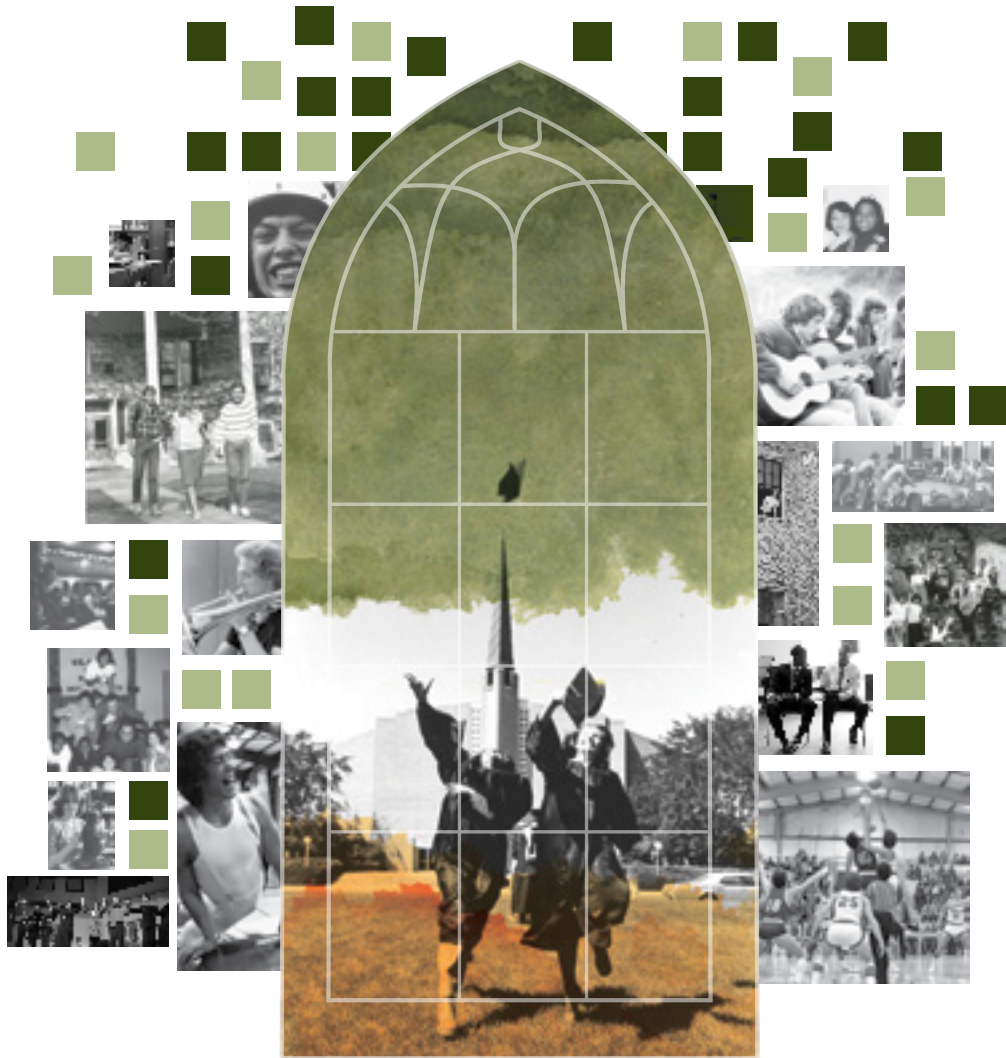
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Honor Years: 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2010

Plan to attend! For more information, go to wallawalla.edu/homecoming or call Alumni and Advancement Services at (800) 377-2586.

BEING ORDINARY FOR JESUS

S

ome years ago while attending university, I was faced with a routine question asked of many theology students. What story do you have? What's your personal testimony? My instant reaction was to tell all the bad and crazy things I had ever done, to share the deep, or not so deep, secrets of my life.

Then it dawned on me: I don't have a story. I don't have an earth-shattering experience where God finally got my attention after laboring to set me straight. There isn't a time in my life where I turned my back on God like that. There isn't some crazy period where I lived a worldly life. This triggered a rather in-depth look at the life I had lived to that point, a point-by-point analysis of what my story might be.

Why do we feel the need to have left God in order to come back? What is it about us humans that makes us want something exciting to share, some horrible thing in our past to report? Is it not enough to be ordinary?

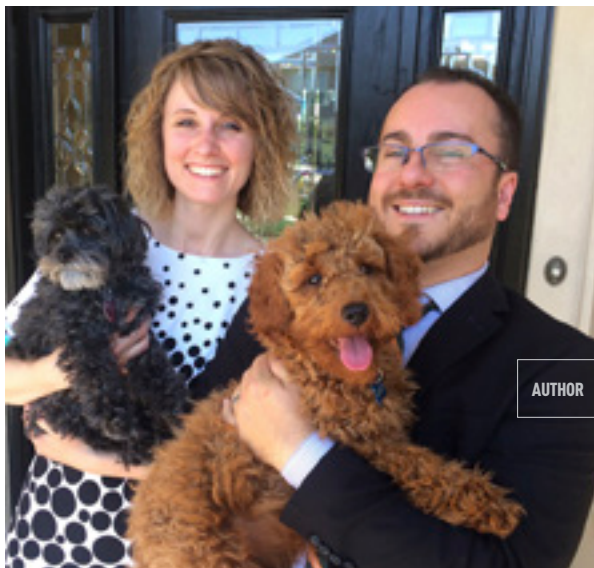
In our world today it isn't enough to just be ordinary. In fact being different is much more praised and glamorized than just being an ordinary person. But is that right?

I would argue no. What society says isn't always going to line up with what Scripture and God say. In fact throughout his-

tory there have been many times when the thoughts and actions of societies haven't matched with God and His ideals for humanity. Fortunately, that has never stopped ordinary, yet amazing, Christians from standing out in their own ways.

Can we be ordinary Christians and still have a story? YES.

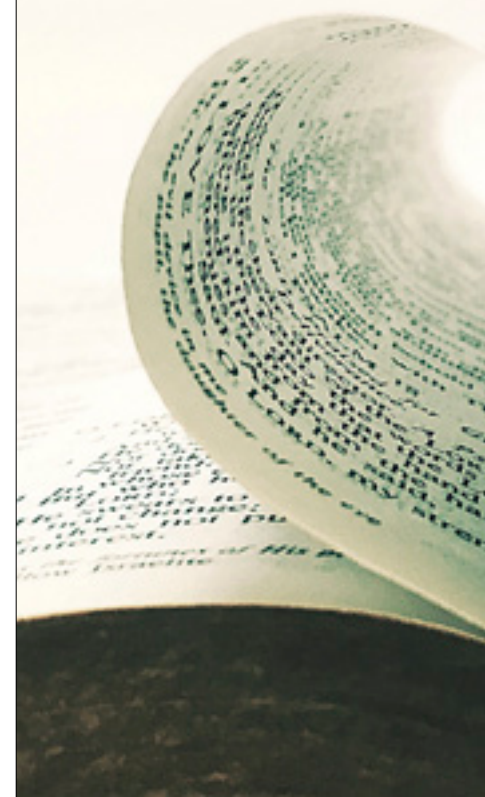
After sitting down and examining my life, I realized I didn't have a glamorous story of leaving God and following the ways of the world. I couldn't think of a time where I hadn't loved Jesus, where I didn't want to follow His leading in my life, and this left me saddened and feeling terribly unneeded.



AUTHOR

Natashia McVay

exciting to share, some horrible thing in our past





Natashia may be a new face for *Gleaner* readers. We're looking forward to her perspective on living for Jesus.

So I spoke with one of my theology professors who I truly appreciate and value. I asked him, "What do I have to share since I don't have a dramatic conversion story?" I told him I felt unneeded and I feared having nothing to share with future parishioners, students, children, etc. I felt tears well in my eyes as I began to think I wouldn't be a good pastor if I didn't have a truly revolutionary story to tell.

My professor looked me square in the eyes and said,

"Natashia, you have a story!" I figured he hadn't heard what I had previously said and began to repeat my very boring life, when he interrupted me: "Natashia, you have a story!" I just looked at him. He told me that my life, my continued dedication to Jesus, was an amazing story. A story of true love for my Savior. A story that would help others, who like me had never left Jesus behind. Not that I was perfect, but that I continued with Jesus. My professor spoke gently to me,

working through my rather ordinary life with Jesus and helped me to see that ordinary was perfectly wonderful to Christ.

There is nothing wrong with a great story. In fact, many of the great evangelists, theologians, professors and preachers of our time have amazing stories of how Jesus saved them. I look up to them for that. However, it isn't necessary to have an extraordinary story in order to be used by God. He wants us no matter where we have been or where we stayed. He wants us whether our story takes two minutes or two years to share. He wants us because He loves us!

I am an ordinary follower of Jesus, and I am proud that Jesus has always been my first love. I no longer feel shame at the fact I don't have a crazy story to share because I do have a story. I have a story of continuing in Jesus since I was a child, of struggling with Him

through the many challenges of growing up and maturing, of walking with Him in dark and bright times, of crying and rejoicing with Him by my side.

It isn't often we praise what's ordinary. I hope all those who, like me, have struggled with feeling they don't have a story to share about Jesus will read this and realize you are so loved by Jesus. In His eyes we are all extraordinary!

Natashia McVay team pastors with her husband, Marshall, helping members reach university students in Moscow, Idaho and Pullman, Wash.



THE APOLOGY I NEVER GAVE

“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.” — John 8:32

M

y first attempt at evangelism came while I was getting my Master of Social Work at Eastern Washington University. I had nearly left the Adventist Church, but now I was back with evangelistic fervor. My social work supervisor, a Christian man himself, was one of my first victims. I tried to convince him of the Sabbath truth, what happens when you die and that people really don't burn in hell forever. My arguments for these Adventist truth claims were not winning him over, so I purchased a book to cover everything at once.¹ And I did all of this the week before I graduated. While he was gone, I placed the book on his desk and left a note inside that said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.”

I never talked to him again. After graduation I left that office mission field, but I remembered him one day and sent him a Dwight Nelson video on hell. I never heard from him about the book or the video, and then I lost all of his contact information. So, Jon, if you are reading this I am sorry for my passive aggressive evangelism. I am sorry for my arrogant projection of the truth. Let me start over and tell you what I believe about truth now.

I am a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. Seventh-day Adventists love biblical truth. But I have heard Adventism referred to

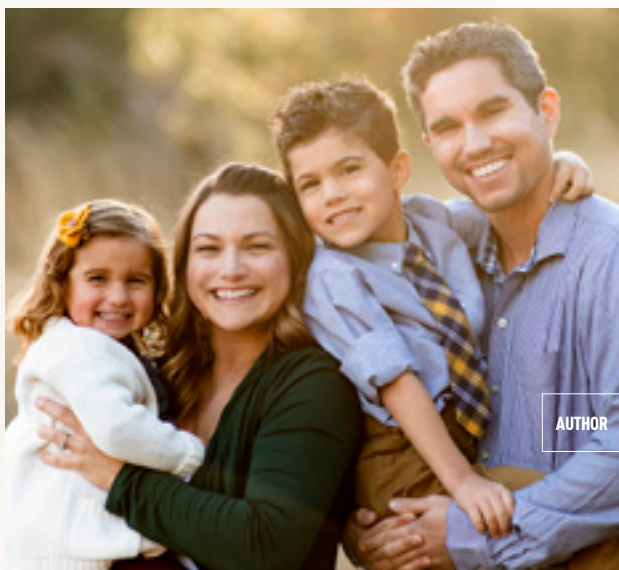
by other Adventists as “The TRUTH!” The question has been asked of me, “How long have you been in The TRUTH?” Hear me carefully. Adventism is not The TRUTH. Adventism seeks to proclaim The TRUTH as it is in Jesus. We can try to proclaim truth; we cannot be truth.

To be truth is to be infallible; it is to never err. The Seventh-day Adventist Church does not make this claim. God alone is infallible.

Any person or institution that thinks they have a copyright on truth is dangerous. Truth that is weaponized actually becomes a curse. The book *Desire of Ages* puts it like this:

“The greatest deception of the human mind in Christ's day was that a mere assent to the truth constitutes righteousness. In all human experience, a theoretical

S o r r



AUTHOR

Kevin McGill



We're pleased Kevin assented to wield the pen for the *Gleaner*. His Christ-centered perspective will encourage and inspire us all.

The Adventist Church now has 28 Fundamental Beliefs. If someone wants to know what Adventists believe, it's helpful to have official beliefs to refer them to. These beliefs are adaptive, subject to reinterpretation and clarification. These are not definitive TRUTH statements. They are progressive beliefs. Sometimes, however, these beliefs have been presented as 28 statements of unchangeable dogma. This results in legalism and in losing sight of the main tenet of truth Jesus wanted us to follow: "They will know you are Christians by your love."⁴

Absolute truth is grounded in the principle of absolute love. This sort of love can be misunderstood. But true love never conflicts with true truth. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said it like this: "Love for a sinner, if misunderstood, is frightfully close to love for the sin. But Christ's love for the sinner is itself the condemnation of sin; it is the sharpest expression of hatred against sin."⁵

True truth is communicated with love, and authentic connection comes before correction. There is a place for evangelistic DVDs, tracts and books. But passive aggressive evangelism by itself is rarely transformative.

If I could speak to my supervisor again, I would apologize for my note and let him know I was the one who needed to be set free. I was wielding "truth" like a weapon and had not yet let the truth, as it is in Jesus, penetrate my own heart. Thankfully, "love covers a multitude of sins."⁶

1. The book I got him was Samuele Bacchicchi's book called *Popular Beliefs: Are They Biblical?*
2. *Desire of Ages*, p. 309–310
3. "Doings of the Battle Creek Conference, Oct. 5 & 6, 1861," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* 18 (8 Oct. 1861): 148.
4. John 13:35
5. *Discipleship*, p. 142
6. 1 Peter 4:8

Kevin McGill writes from Troy, Idaho. He shepherds three churches and loves spending time with his family.

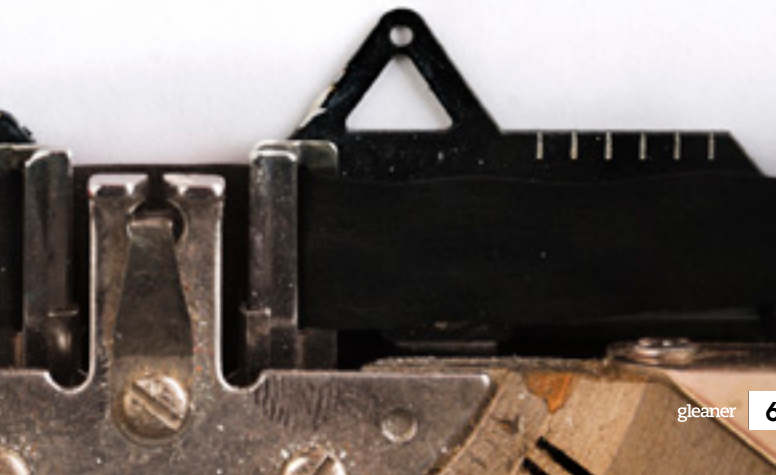
knowledge of the truth has been proved to be insufficient for the saving of the soul. It does not bring forth the fruits of righteousness. A jealous regard for what is termed theological truth often accompanies a hatred of genuine truth as made manifest in life. The darkest chapters of history are burdened with the record of crimes committed by bigoted religionists. ...

"The same danger still exists. Many take it for granted that they are Christians, simply because they subscribe to certain theological tenets. But they have not brought the truth into practical life. They have not believed and loved it, therefore they have not received the power and grace that come through

sanctification of the truth. Men may profess faith in the truth; but if it does not make them sincere, kind, patient, forbearing, heavenly-minded, it is a curse to its possessors, and through their influence, it is a curse to the world."²

Recognizing the potential for truth to become a curse, the Adventist Church was initially wary of making any sort of creed. John Loughborough said in 1861, "The first step of apostasy is to set up a creed, telling us what we shall believe. The second is to make that creed a test of fellowship. The third is to try members by that creed. The fourth to denounce as heretics those who do not believe that creed. And fifth, to commence persecution against such."³

y ...





JUST LIKE JESUS

LISA'S CHURCH

M

y wife and I belong to a social media group called “Next Door Neighbor.”

The posts typically beg for help finding a missing cat or want help identifying the “creep” who stole their daughter’s Jeep. But the other day, a different post caught our hearts.

“I’m looking for a church that has good children’s services, community involvement, and where people are friendly and welcoming. Any recommendations in this area. I grew up in a Christian family but lost faith in my 20s. Now that I’m in my 30s and have children, I would like to start going to church again. Would love to hear your thoughts, recommendations, ideas, anything! Thanks!! Lisa”

Brenda and I immediately began formulating answers but then were sidetracked by the replies to Lisa’s post.

Tim: Hillside Christian Fellowship is very good; small enough to get to know people but well established enough to have a great service and children’s program.

Carol: I would love to meet you and talk about Christ and His abundant love and how He cares for us, our families and communities. Perhaps we could meet over coffee or a bowl of

soup. There are many really good churches around us; I’m so happy for you to be reaching out. I’ll be praying for you and your family.

Katie: I recommend Eastrose Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Welcoming, super friendly, community focused, religious exploration program for kids and a nursery for babies. 10:30 service today! I’m giving the opening. :)

Person after person answered Lisa ... more than 80. They listened to what she said and shared about their churches. They mentioned ministry options for her children. They bragged on their pastors and how their church focused on Bible teaching. They didn’t forget to let Lisa know how welcome and accepted they felt at their church.

All of the responses strongly affirmed Lisa and were openly eager to have her attend their church. Many invited Lisa personally to join them at their church. “You will like it here” was a common thread.

What people said to Lisa about their church is very enlightening about what makes a church relevant today. There are still Christians out there who love their church and who strongly believe in the Bible. Emotional safety is a theme

that appears repeatedly. When people feel at home in a church, they are eager to invite others into that family.

Lisa’s appeal hits home because she’s one of the “children” so many of us pray for every day. She represents the ones we hope will be met with love when they arrive at an Adventist church.

I have been deeply challenged by this to be the kind of person who would make Lisa feel at home. I’m challenged by this to allow God to guide me and my church to be a place where Lisa and her kids would feel at home. I’m asking God to make my church a place where others love it so much, they naturally and eagerly invite others.

*Dick Duerksen, Oregon
Conference storyteller and
storyteller*



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