

EDITORIAL
TWO WORDS FROM A
CHALLENGING YEAR

PERSPECTIVE
HUMBLE SINNERS

JUST FOR KIDS
VALEN-SLIME

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

WALKING WITH GOD ON CAMPUS

JAN/FEB
2021
VOL. 116, No 1

A lush forest scene with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a bright starburst effect in the center. The sun is positioned behind a large tree trunk, casting rays of light across the forest floor and through the canopy. The trees are covered in moss and ferns, and the overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

IMAGES of CREATION

*For you were once darkness, but now you are
light in the Lord. Live as children of light.
Ephesians 5:8*

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This has been an unforgettable year that has only served to highlight injustice and pain. And yet, one thing is certain: Jesus did not leave us alone in this brokenness.

JOHN FREEDMAN

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

WALKING WITH GOD ON CAMPUS

Walla Walla University students share their firsthand stories of the genuine community they've experienced that supersedes the coronavirus pandemic and magnifies the love of Jesus on campus and around the world.

6



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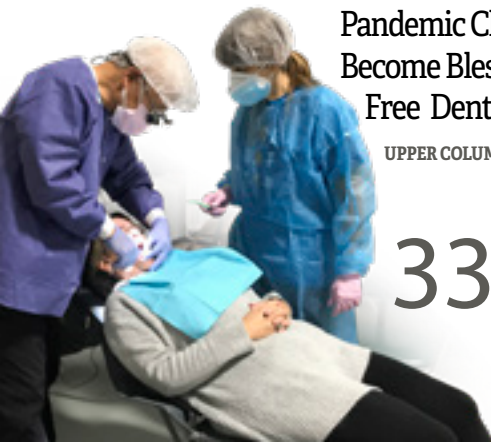
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Two Words From a Challenging Year

JOHN FREEDMAN
*North Pacific Union
Conference president*

AS I LOOK BACK ON 2020, two words leap to mind: liberty and justice. These two words have been undeniably highlighted as we've grappled with the harsh realities of the coronavirus pandemic, financial inequity and racial discord.

I find it interesting that both words are found in the American Pledge of Allegiance ("... with liberty and justice for all"). Even more remarkable and noteworthy is that God's character exhibits both traits. God offers liberty and justice to all His creation.

Justice is a universal longing in the human heart. When we encounter injustice against ourselves or others, our hearts naturally rise up and say, "That is not right. Something needs to be done about that!" The God-given instinct for justice runs deep and calls for a response, not just in words but in actions.

Even with this God-given desire for justice, it's not always easy to make things right. The teacher may not be able to know who hit whom first out on the playground. They may know there was cheating on a test but not be sure who it was or even how to handle it. Parents may not be sure which child started the argument and subsequent retaliation. Arbitrators may not be able to get two companies to agree

to a settlement out of court. Diplomats may fail at getting their respective countries to work things out instead of going to war.

To be honest, at times even our best efforts may cause more harm than good. However, just because it is difficult does not mean we shouldn't try. Our Creator God calls us to reflect His image in the world and to be prayerfully active in making things right wherever possible.

As we seek to uphold justice, it is important to understand this battle is much bigger than we think. The apostle Paul says, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). There are other powers working against justice, with evil intent.

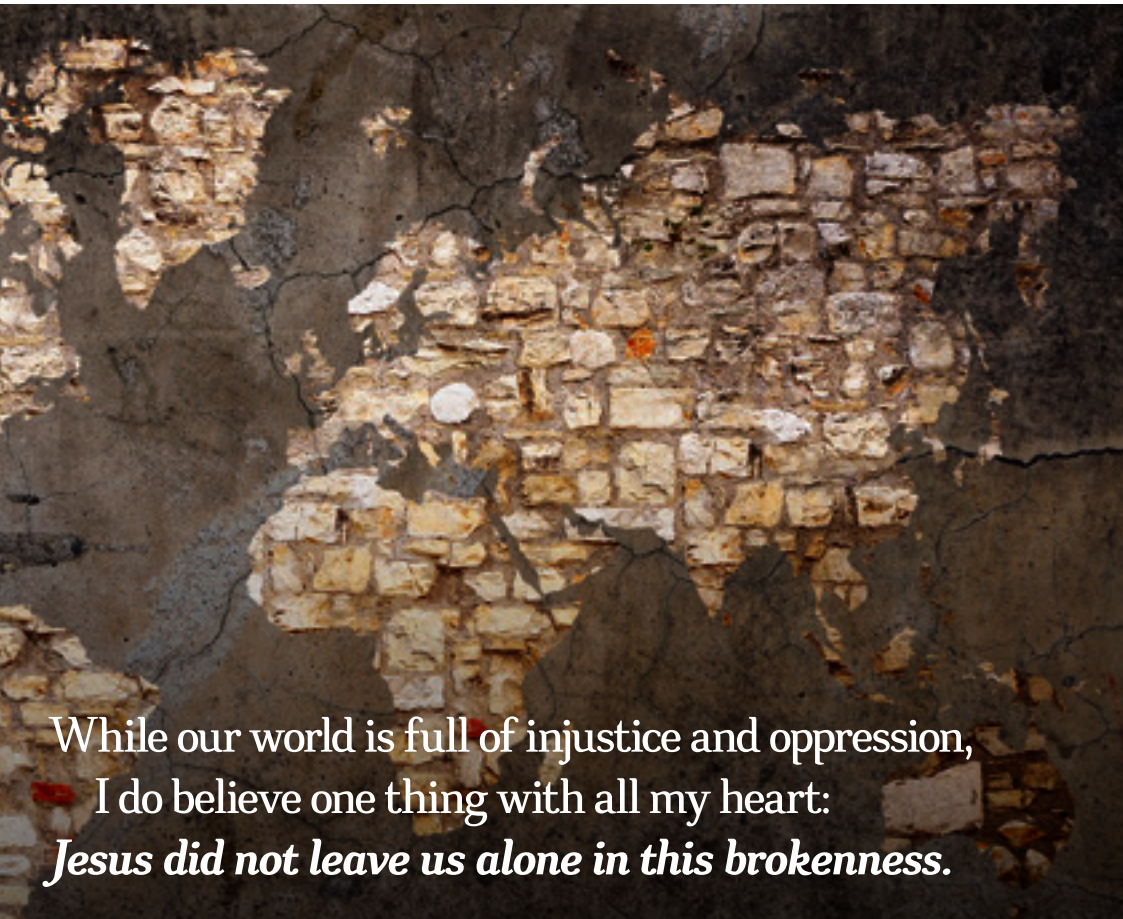
The Bible story also tells us about an incredibly good God, who created a very good world. However, this good world was corrupted by Satan, supported by spiritual hosts of wickedness. Yet a remarkable truth remains. Our flawed world has never been abandoned by our good God.



God pledged to make things right through His Son.

The apostle John wrote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1,14). God's Son was incarnated in human flesh and lived here on earth. And yet, His own creation did not recognize Him as the Son of God or understand His mission.

As we keep reading, we come to the story of the crucifixion. The Son of God was not treated well all throughout the gospel story, but here, especially, we fully recognize our world full of



While our world is full of injustice and oppression,
 I do believe one thing with all my heart:
Jesus did not leave us alone in this brokenness.

injustice. Jesus' world was one where bullies ran over innocent people, where Roman emperors and governors did whatever it took to stay in power. In the middle of the injustice we see Satan, stirring up the people to crucify the Son of Glory.

The powers of darkness did their worst to Jesus. Satan thought he might have won. Then on the third day, according to the Scripture, Christ rose from the grave victorious over Satan! The resurrection of Jesus provides our flawed world with hope that injustice is going to be put right in the end.

Scripture reminds us that God has been working out His plan since before the creation of the world. God's incredible plan is described in John 3:16-17: "For God so loved the world

that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

As a boy I used to watch the reruns of the detective shows *Hawaii Five-o* and *Columbo*. Each week the heroes sought justice for the victims. Though unclear at first, the unjust person was discovered, taken to jail, put on trial and convicted. It felt good to see justice done – and all in one hour. Real life isn't nearly as tidy as we'd like. Justice isn't served as quickly as those old TV shows portrayed.

While our world is full of injustice and oppression, I do believe one thing with all my

heart: Jesus did not leave us alone in this brokenness. He sent us the Holy Spirit to renew us, to empower us and to share the hope of justice now and to come. God promises humanity justice in the end, at the judgment and re-creation of the world. Our ultimate hope is in the world made new. All things will be restored to the way it should have been – even better.

Until then, dear heart, stay focused on Jesus! We cannot fight injustice and oppression on our own. Be open to the Holy Spirit's leading to be part of the answer to make things right. Let God guide us to where our efforts will be most productive in restoring justice and liberty to a dying world.

gleaner

Copyright © 2021
 January/February 2021
 Vol. 116, No. 1

Gleaner (ISSN 0746-5874) is published bimonthly for a total of 6 issues per year by the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®, 5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642. It is printed and mailed at Pacific Press Publishing Association®, 1350 N. Kings Rd., Nampa, ID 83687-3193. Subscription rate: \$13.50 per year. Periodical postage paid at Ridgefield, WA 98642 and additional mailing offices.

OUR MISSION: Connecting Northwest Adventists with news and inspiration.

POSTMASTER: send all address changes to:

North Pacific Union Conference
Gleaner
 5709 N. 20th St.
 Ridgefield, WA 98642
 360-857-7000
 info@nwadventists.com
 nwadventists.com

SUBMISSIONS: Timely announcements, features, news stories and family notices for publication in the *Gleaner* may be submitted directly to the managing editor at the address listed above. Material sent directly to local conference correspondents may be forwarded to the *Gleaner*.

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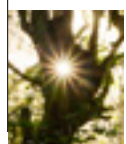
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IMAGES OF CREATION, P. 2



"THE PIERCING LIGHT (NOT PHOTOSHOPPED)," IN CAPE PERPETUA, OREGON, BY ABEL ROJAS, OF HOUSTON, TEXAS.



WALK WITH
GOD CAMP

CONNECTION
at WWU

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**STUDENTS FIND
MEANINGFUL SPIRITUAL
CONNECTION AT WALLA
WALLA UNIVERSITY**

KIM STROBEL
WWU UNIVERSITY
RELATIONS SUPERVISOR

At Walla Walla University we seek to create a campus environment where a growing, personal walk with God is nurtured in each student. This inspires and drives our work, play and study. Moments of corporate worship, service to others and personal communion with God give meaning to our pursuits and set WWU apart as a distinctly Christian, Seventh-day Adventist campus.

Yet during the coronavirus pandemic, we've encountered new challenges. "We've never faced so many obstacles to gathering together to grow in our faith," says Albert Handal, WWU campus chaplain. Handal says students are hungering for God like never before and it would mean the world to our campus to know that Adventists throughout the Pacific Northwest are praying for us. "It's easier to finish a race when you hear the cheers of the crowd," he explains. "Everyone knows somebody from their town or local church who is enrolled here—I'd say that person you know is exactly who God is calling you to adopt with your prayers and cheers of encouragement."

As we begin this new year, we are excited to share a few of the inspiring spiritual activities happening on campus to help our students, faculty and staff grow in their spiritual walks, experience genuine community, and magnify the love of Jesus on campus and around the world.

WARMTH AND RESTFULNESS

OF VESPERS CONTINUES THROUGH COVID-19

EVERY FRIDAY EVENING the University Church lobby sees students streaming into the sanctuary to welcome the Sabbath together. These days every student wears a mask and comes early to snag a seat, since they are limited, but thankfully the powerful atmosphere of warmth and fellowship remains the same. Senior computer science major and vespers coordinator Luke

floor manager Claire Balli, sophomore social work and theology double major, says, "It is such a great time to connect and worship with friends and people I hadn't seen in a while without the stress of schoolwork."

Students also practice taking part in the church community. They are invited to participate in the worship bands that prerecord music to

minimize contact on stage, as well as offer prayer, introduce the speaker and play the opening shofar blast that signals the start of Sabbath. "These short pieces also lend themselves to online students, as students can record themselves ahead of time," says Irvine. Others are able to help as ushers or sound technicians. Part of the power of vespers comes from this intentional emphasis on student leadership and participation.

The new look of vespers has also taught students about resilience. "We have been able to grow in things like flexibility and creativity in order to create a vespers that is as accessible and enjoyable to students as possible," says Balli of their work to continue vespers during the pandemic.

Despite some changes brought on by COVID-19 restrictions, vespers continues to be an important part of spiritual life on campus. "The people who are able to come seem to enjoy themselves, and I've heard good spiritual conversations afterward, which is so encouraging," says Irvine.

Irvine says, "My favorite part is having the entire sanctuary packed full of people worshipping and singing to God and then the loud hum of all those people mingling and having a great time together after vespers."

Vespers provides an important opportunity for the campus family to worship together as a community, with 200 students attending this fall under social-distancing restrictions. Students attending classes from off campus and those unable to attend in person can easily follow the service from the YouTube livestream and foster that important sense of community connection.

The pandemic has impacted the size of the gathering and changed some of its components. However, the fellowship created by a communitywide worship service is still impactful. Students often stay long after the service connecting with one another. Vespers



Claire Balli



Luke Irvine

KELSI NASH
WWU UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
STUDENT WRITER

AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS EACH WEEK

Heubach Worship
MORNING WORSHIP

Small Groups
EXPLORING THE BIBLE IN DEPTH

The Prayer House
OPEN DAILY FOR WORSHIP AND PRAYER

OPS/AGA Worship
WORSHIP IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS

Hispanic Ministries
WORSHIP AND OUTREACH

CommUnity
WEEKLY ALL-CAMPUS GATHERING

Prayer Meeting
TUESDAY NIGHT MEAL, BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER

Residence Hall Worship
ORGANIZED BY EACH HALL RESIDENT ASSISTANT

Fireside Worship
SONGS AND STORIES BY THE FIRE

Vespers
FRIDAY NIGHT CAMPUS GATHERING

Afterglow
SINGING AFTER VESPERS

ReNew
SABBATH SCHOOL CLASS
EXPLORING BIBLICAL THEMES

Defending the Faith
SABBATH SCHOOL CLASS ON CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

Circle Church
CONTEMPORARY CHURCH SERVICE

Berean Fellowship
CHURCH SERVICE ORGANIZED BY BLACK CHRISTIAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

Sabbath Outreach
STUDENTS CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY

University Church
CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL WORSHIP OPTIONS

(SOME OPTIONS ARE ON HIATUS DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.)

RENEW SABBATH SCHOOL

A SAFE PLACE TO GROW

“RENEW IS A STUDENT-LED class on campus that focuses on small group discussions and creating community through music. This is my second year



Kiersten Ekkens

being involved with ReNew as part of the leadership team, and it has been a huge blessing to get to work with a team of dedicated students from a variety of majors and backgrounds. We try to focus on diversity, and most of our leadership team this year is female.

ReNew came into my life at a point where I was struggling a bit spiritually in the aftermath of an abusive situation with a family at my home church. Rather than drawing me away from the semiconservative Adventism I had grown up in, ReNew gave me a place to grow in connection with other young people, many of whom were asking the same questions I was.

To me, ReNew is a safe place to ask those questions about faith and how it fits into our rapidly changing society and post-Christian world. To me, ReNew is more than a community of faith; it's family. ”

KIERSTEN EKKENS
WWU JUNIOR STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION MAJOR

CIRCLE CHURCH

CREATING CONNECTION AND CONVERSATION BY UPLIFTING JESUS

CIRCLE CHURCH is a contemporary worship service held Sabbath mornings and led entirely by students. The current leadership team includes John Aitken, senior theology major, and Joshua Peinado, sophomore strategic communication major. Circle Church focuses on giving students ownership over their religious community.

“You can become a volunteer. You can have input. We want each and every one of the students to feel like they have a church home, and they are an integral part of that home,” says Aitken. Students can be involved in a multitude of ways, including through speaking.

One goal of having students lead in all parts of the service is building a sense of belonging. The Circle Church team works to create a space where everyone is willing to join the community and can help according to their spiritual gifts.

The Circle Church leadership team believes that, when students feel ownership over something, they will want to invest in it more. “We prayed the Holy Spirit would create a culture of ownership in the student body because we didn't feel like an awesome team could do that. We felt like that was only something the Holy Spirit could do,” says Aitken.

Aitken and the team have seen positive results from that investment in the people who help each week. Volunteers also suggest new methods of outreach and form small groups and prayer nights. “Circle Church is not just a program that happens once a week, but it's a community where volunteers see a need and feel the call to do something,” says Aitken.

During the pandemic, those involved in the service have adapted their ministry to changing health regulations, first by distancing and wearing masks, then by meeting outside and now moving entirely online. Services are streamed on Instagram Live and through YouTube so students can attend no matter where they are.

Students are glad to find connections with others despite the changes. “I felt like we were able to worship as a community together, and that's something that I don't feel very much during this time. So for me, that was a real blessing,” says Aitken.

“We've tried to make it a pretty casual, inviting experience,” says Peinado. “You don't have to try to dress a certain way. You know there's a bit of something for everyone. You can just come with your friends and get some food, get some good music and get the good Word and hopefully have something to discuss afterwards.”

No matter what a student comes for, there is always one central focus: Jesus. In fact, that is how Circle Church got its name. “When Jesus is at the center of what you're doing and you're all coming around Jesus, everyone is equal and connected,” says Aitken. Jesus is at the center of their worship circle.



Joshua Peinado



John Aitken

KELSI NASH
WWU UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
STUDENT WRITER

HISPANIC MINISTRIES

STUDENTS CREATE FUN, SAFE PLACE TO SHARE GOD AND CULTURE

THE HISPANIC MINISTRIES TEAM works to share God and Hispanic culture on the Walla Walla University campus under the direction of Sarah Palacios, junior forensic psychology major, and Juan Ruiz, junior business administration major.

“We offer a comfortable, safe place where people can come and enjoy Hispanic culture,” says Palacios. “We are open to everyone, not only Hispanic and Latinx people. To me, having this opportunity shows people that the school cares and wants to pay attention to other cultures. It shows diversity is appreciated and important.”

An important part of the presence of Hispanic ministries on campus is weekly worship services, which provide opportunities for everyone to get involved. Students can lead song service or volunteer to speak, and gatherings often include games and activities that can help people relax and make new friends.

“Our interaction with everyone is fun and real,” says Palacios. “We try to always go out of our way to make everyone feel included and to create a comfortable atmosphere.”

Team leaders have found that worshipping with others provides moments to share joys and struggles. This interaction provides opportunity for people to learn about Hispanic culture. “Worship brings our community together,” says Palacios.

While students from any background can be involved with Hispanic ministries, the pandemic has created challenges. Many WWU students took classes from home through distance learning during fall quarter and some will into winter quarter as well. Strict COVID-19 protocols on campus don’t allow for large group gatherings.

Juan Ruiz

BEREAN FELLOWSHIP

FINDING FAMILY IN FELLOWSHIP

“**ROM. 12:4-5 SAYS,** “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body and each member belongs to all the others.”

This verse exemplifies the presence and the atmosphere the Berean Fellowship provides. From the African American gospel experience to the testimonies and praise, Berean Fellowship has become my second family. Regardless of one’s race, gender or age, the family aspect Berean presents provides a sense of belonging and warmth. ”



NYASHA TARUVINGA
SOPHOMORE SOCIAL WORK MAJOR



CONNECTING AND GROWING

THROUGH SMALL GROUPS



Sarah Palacios

Nevertheless, Palacios and Ruiz are persisting with their vision and finding ways to reach students who are not on campus right now. They hold meetings on Instagram Live and Microsoft Teams and are finding ways to create opportunities for students who are off campus to lead out and share during programs.

Whether meeting online or in person in small groups, the power of what Hispanic ministries is accomplishing on campus comes from the shared experience of a close-knit community. Palacios seems uniquely fitted for her leadership role. "I love reaching out to others and making them feel important and included," she says. "I want everyone to feel like they have a place and are not forgotten."

It is no wonder Hispanic ministries and the number of students with Hispanic heritage are growing at WWU. Palacios says, "We are hoping to make everyone feel comfortable and help make our community strong and united."

KIM STROBEL
WWU UNIVERSITY
RELATIONS SUPERVISOR

WHILE WORSHIP SERVICES have an important place, sophomore theology major Parker Leclerc also chooses to participate in one of several small group Bible studies. Each week, he and five other WWU students dissect a passage of Scripture and discuss the questions it poses.

"I love that it is so Bible-based," says Leclerc. "Worship services are super important because they encourage an abstract relationship, but for me small groups make it more concrete. It forces me to ask questions about my spiritual walk, why I believe, what is my foundation."

For Leclerc, being able to actively participate makes spirituality more tangible. "Our small group lets us actively participate in getting closer to God and to others," he says.



Parker Leclerc

Leclerc adds that his small group also builds personal connections with his friends. He sees his small group as a safe space not only to study the Bible but to share in each other's struggles and experiences. Each week they start their meeting by checking in on one another.

He noticed he has started to see some of his personal shortcomings by articulating his experiences. "Everyone sees who I am, so I see myself too," says Leclerc. The support and encouragement from his friends motivates him to grow stronger in his walk with God.

KELSI NASH
WWU UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
STUDENT WRITER

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Join the thriving community sharing daily inspiration and encouragement, bringing us all closer together.

Discover more today!



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@NWADVENTISTS

Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Yesterday at 8:46 AM

"We love because he first loved us."
1 John 4:19

Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
was live.
November 20 at 7:00 PM

INSPIRING WOMEN INSPIRE WOMEN - Presented by Women's Ministry

Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
November 13 at 3:52 PM

As a child I always loved animals. After begging my parents for a furry friend, my father purchased me a number of rabbits. I even named one after the Bible character Ruth. I remember holding them, caring for them, playing with them, and watching them run around and enjoy life. I loved to care for the little creatures I had come to acquire. Animals were a source of great joy and enchantment to me and continue to be to this day.

Gardening was another of my childhood delights... See More

Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
5h

At your Thanksgiving table this week, ask your family to list attributes of God that they are thankful for - and briefly explain why. Cultivate an attitude of thanksgiving by focusing on the Creator of good things. Let's ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name!

#daysofthanksgiving

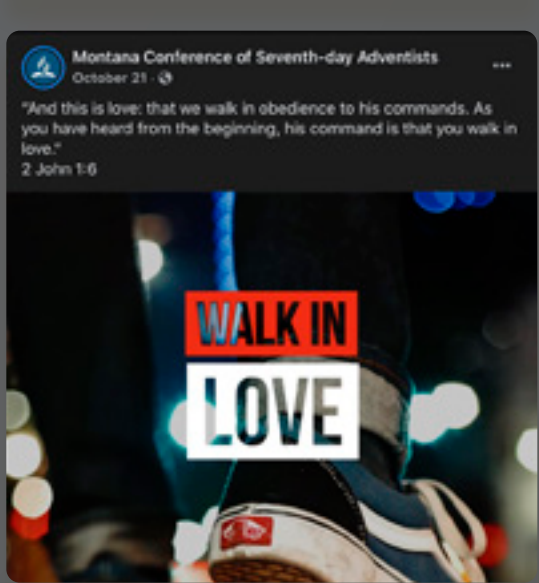
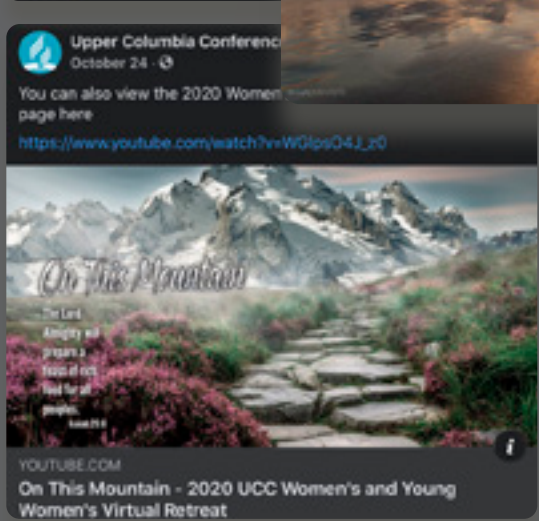
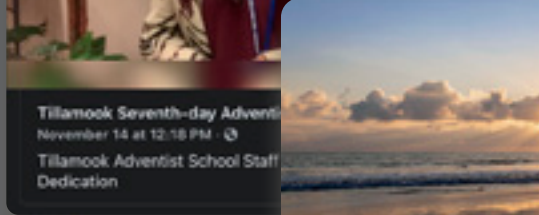
Northwest Adventists
Published by MailChimp - November 19 at 2:00 PM

Free Walla Walla University Online Concert Tonight #NWAdventists

MAILCHIMP
Free WWU Online Concert Tonight
The Walla Walla University will present a free online concert toda...

Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
November 13 at 2:30 PM

Welcome in the Sabbath over a delicious meal!
It is the kind of day for a cozy meal that warms you from the inside out, am I right? This soup just looks delightful and so yummy, ready in just minutes! #FoodieFriday



Sermons, music and more available at
NWADVENTISTS.COM



Thai Veggie Soup

COLD WINTER WEATHER MAKES ONE WANT TO CURL UP IN FRONT OF THE FIRE. AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO GET THAT WARM, COZY FEELING THAN WITH A NICE BOWL OF SOUP?

DESIREE LOCKWOOD
Gleaner managing editor



INGREDIENTS:

- ½ cup quinoa
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ½ pound sliced mushrooms
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- ½ head cauliflower, cut into small pieces
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger, peeled and chopped fine
- 1 stalk fresh lemongrass, cut into 1-inch pieces (optional)
- 4 tablespoons green curry paste
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 red bell pepper, sliced thin
- 1 medium zucchini, julienned
- 1 15-ounce can coconut milk
- 2 cups chopped spinach
- 1 tablespoon kaffir lime leaves (optional)

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- » In a small saucepan combine ½ cup quinoa and 1 cup water and bring to a boil.
- » Reduce heat and simmer until liquid has evaporated (15–20 minutes).
- » Let stand for 5 minutes, then fluff with a fork and salt to taste. See notes.
- » Heat oil at medium in large pot. Sauté mushrooms, stirring often, until they begin to soften and brown slightly (about 5–7 minutes). Remove mushrooms and set aside.
- » Add more oil if needed, then add onion and cauliflower. Stir occasionally until onions are beginning to soften (about 5 minutes).
- » Add garlic, ginger, lemongrass and curry paste and continue to stir for 1–2 minutes — this brings out the flavors.
- » Add broth, soy sauce, red peppers and zucchini. Simmer until vegetables are cooked to perfection.
- » Add coconut milk, spinach, cooked quinoa, sautéed mushrooms and kaffir lime leaves, stirring for 2 minutes.
- » Remove from heat and discard the lemongrass chunks before serving.

NOTES:

I usually make a large batch of quinoa and freeze leftovers for future dishes.

I've been known to alter recipes — varying the veggies and amounts according to what I have on hand.

Four tablespoons of curry paste is perfect for us (we typically order medium heat in a restaurant). Use more or less according to your palate. Also, note that some curry pastes are spicier than others.

Occasionally I replace the zucchini strips with 3 ounces of rice noodles, but be sure you don't add them too soon as they will get mushy. Note the directions on the package of rice noodles.

Let's eat!



Sobreviviendo el 'Invierno Oscuro'

LA VIDA NO SIEMPRE es fácil. La historia de este mundo esta llena de momentos difíciles. La pandemia del 1918 ahora COVID-19 que le ha quitado la vida a mas de un millón de personas y todavía estamos cantando. Ninguno de nosotros vamos a olvidar los últimos meses que hemos vivido. Hemos perdido seres muy amados, amigos de todas las edades, profesiones de todas clases y hemos tenido que hacer un sin numero de ajustes para poder sobrevivir y limitar nuestras perdidas.

Cada uno de nosotros estamos luchando con nuestras propias dificultades, obstáculos y por supuesto temores. El campo de la psicología nos enseña que desde que nacemos pasamos por varias etapas de desarrollo que van siendo demarcadas por momentos de crisis. Pasamos de bebés a niños golpeándonos, tratando de pararnos para poder caminar. Se nos caen los dientes, vienen dolores de músculos y nos salen espinillas en la cara; todo como demarcaciones de cambios de crecimiento. Crisis tras crisis se van acumulando hasta que alcanzamos la edad adulta. ¿Que determina el éxito de estas transiciones mientras que vamos pasando de un ciclo a otro? Nuestro estado mental, nuestro entendimiento de los eventos fisiológicos y mentales y la calidad de recursos personales que nos ofrecen nuestras familias de origen.

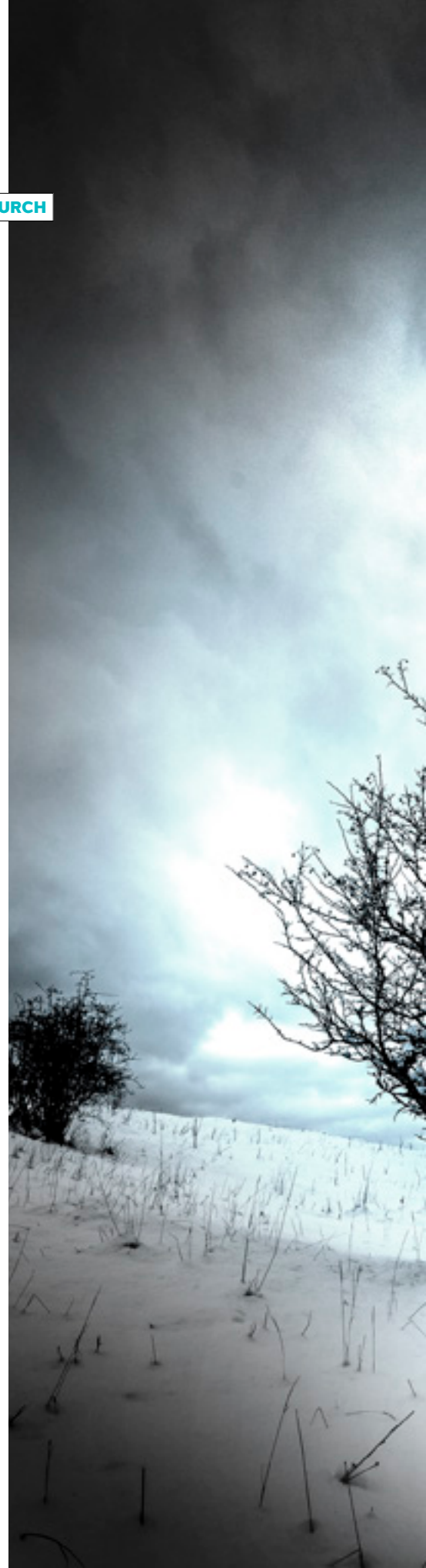
Cada ciclo pasado, cada crisis enfrentada va formando al individuo en la clase de persona que llegará a ser. La jornada presenta las oportunidades para desarrollar amor, paz, abnegación, paciencia, autocontrol, gozo o por lo contrario; amarguras, resentimientos, ira, odio, egoísmo y celos. El factor catalizador que hace la diferencia es la actitud mental

de cada individuo, la filosofía de la vida que el va aprendiendo de los seres que lo rodean – sus padres, amigos, hermanos y las lecciones aprendidas en cada experiencia incluyendo su caminar con Dios por el “camino de Emaús.”

Este camino nos enseña que el hombre no es dejado solo a la deriva de sus emociones de fracaso y perdida. El camino de Emaús nos revela que Dios se las arregla para caminar junto a sus hijos, especialmente en tiempos de crisis. El que sabe y reconoce esto obtiene una habilidad excepcional de sobrevivir y recuperarse de los momentos difíciles. La resiliencia se refiere a la capacidad de sobreponerse a momentos críticos y adaptarse luego de experimentar alguna situación inusual e inesperada. Las personas mas resilientes son capaces de “rodar con los golpes” y *adaptarse* a la adversidad sin dificultades duraderas.

El temor no es innato al ser humano, nace como consecuencia de nuestra caída. “Tuve miedo y me escondí.” (Gen. 3:10). Cuando nos llenamos de temor nos confundimos porque distorsionamos la realidad de quien es Dios, quienes somos nosotros y quien es nuestro prójimo. Así que el Creador y Maestro te invita: “No se turbe vuestro corazón, (mantente habilitado mental y espiritualmente) creéis en Dios, creed también en mí.” “Porque Yo estoy contigo, no desmayes, porque Yo soy tu Dios que te esfuerzo; *siempre* te ayudaré, *siempre* te sustentaré con la diestra de mi justicia” (Juan 14:1 y Isa. 41:10, adiciones al texto son del autor).

CÉSAR DE LEÓN



Surviving the Dark Winter

LIFE ISN'T ALWAYS EASY. History has recorded difficult times, including two world wars followed by two crushing wars that resulted in profound suffering for the populations of Korea and Vietnam; the Holocaust, which resulted in the deaths of millions of innocent men, women and children; the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic; and now COVID-19, which has taken the lives of more than 1 million and counting.

None of us are going to forget the last few months. We have lost loved ones, friends of all ages and jobs of all kinds. We have had to make an array of adjustments in order to survive and limit our losses. Each of us is struggling with our own challenges, obstacles and fears.

The field of psychology teaches us that, after birth, we go through several stages of development marked by moments of crisis. We transition from infancy to childhood hurting ourselves as we prepare to walk independently. We lose our baby teeth. We experience growing pains, and pimples burst out as they announce evolving developmental growth. We survive these early developmental crises until we reach adulthood.

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS REVEALS THAT GOD FINDS A WAY TO WALK CLOSE TO HIS CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

What determines the success of these transitions as we go from one stage to another? Our state of mind, our understanding of physiological and psychological transitions, and the quality

of personal resources offered to us by our families of origin.

Every stage we outgrow, every crisis faced and adapted to, is forming us into the kind of person we will become. Our journeys offer us opportunities to develop love, peace, selflessness, patience, self-control and joy – or bitterness, resentment, anger, hatred, selfishness and envy. The catalytic factor that makes all the difference is our mental attitude, our philosophy of life learned from the humans in our environment like our parents, friends and siblings and the lessons we have learned in each experience including our “road to Emmaus” journey with our Creator.

This journey teaches us humankind is not abandoned to their emotions of failure and loss. The road to Emmaus reveals that God finds a way to walk close to His children, especially in times of crisis. Those who know and recognize this reality gain an exceptional ability to survive and recover from difficult times. Resilience refers to the ability to overcome and adapt after experiencing unexpected and unusual crisis situations. The most resilient people are able to “roll with the blows” and adapt to adversity without lasting difficulties.

Fear was not innate to humans; it was born as a result of our fall: “I was afraid and hid” (Gen. 3:10). When we are filled with fear, we become confused as we distort the reality of who God is, who we are and who our neighbor is. Thus, our Creator and Master invites you: “Let not your heart be troubled (maintain mental and spiritual serenity). You believe in God, believe also in me” and “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand” (John 14:1 and Isaiah 41:10, NKJV, emphasis added).

CÉSAR DE LEÓN

North Pacific Union Conference vice president for Hispanic ministries

AJA Celebrates Fall Quarter

ANCHORAGE JUNIOR ACADEMY students gathered around a campfire to celebrate the end of the first quarter of school. Moments like these are what brings together a school community. The kids love choosing favorite songs to sing around the campfire.

This special campfire worship served as a reflection point on the first units in Bible class. As a teacher, Katie Richmond, AJA principal, is thrilled to be in the third year of implementing the new North American Division's *Encounter Bible* program. Students and families are enjoying it as well.

In this unit, the children explored the question, "How much does God really care about me?" A big question to tackle at any time but especially now, considering all the issues our broken, sin-filled world is dealing with right now. As Adventists, we believe it's vitally important to reassure our children

that God has a plan, a plan to protect and provide for us because He loves us abundantly.

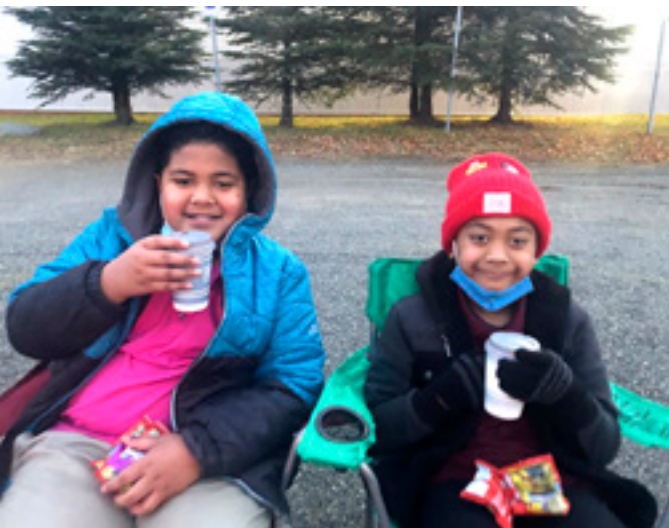
Through Bible study, object lessons and discussions, the students agreed God loves us and has given each of us the opportunity to accept His incredible gift of salvation. One of the memory verses they learned was Eph. 2:8: "God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from

God." The students' favorite part of this unit was opening six gifts that helped them learn the story of salvation.

AJA was pleased to celebrate the baptism of two of its students this fall. "It warms our hearts to see our students choosing Jesus as their own," says Jeanie de la Torre, AJA upper grade teacher.

The school's mission is that each child learns about God and His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. Educators are actively involved in "passing God's love on to the next generation." They hope and pray each student leaves more prepared to make their own choice to trust, love and follow God as leader of their life. AJA staff are truly blessed to be a part of an Adventist school in which students can learn about life and view the future through the lens of God's love for each one of us.

KATIE RICHMOND
Anchorage Junior Academy teaching principal



AJA students enjoy cups of hot chocolate during the end-of-the-quarter campfire celebration.



More online at
[NWADVENT.ST/116-1-AK-1](https://www.nwadventist.org/stories/116-1-AK-1)

Principal Katie Richmond (left) and teacher Jeanie de la Torre (right) greet their students Savasty and Saraelis de la Rosa after the students' baptism.



The celebration included students singing around the campfire.



MISSION AND OUTREACH

EAGLE RIVER ADVENTIST CHURCH members in Anchorage wanted to do a food drive for isolated Arctic Mission Adventure villages, but going door to door was not an option due to COVID-19. A couple of weeks later, out of the blue, a thought came to member Kerry Gallatin: Why not have people deliver food to the church on a designated day?

EAGLE RIVER GIVES AID JUST IN TIME

EDNA ESTRELLA
Selawik Arctic Mission Adventure worker

KERRY GATTALIN
Eagle River Church member

Flyers were distributed to the community. As a new follower of Jesus, Gallatin had not done anything like this before and was anxious no one would come. She took comfort in a thought by Ellen White:

“Those who labor with a sincere desire to fulfill the Word of the Lord, and to glorify His name, will gain increased knowledge; for the Lord will cooperate with them” (*Manuscript 18, 1905*). So, she gave it to the Lord.

Donation day arrived, and it seemed not many people came. But just as Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes, He multiplied the donations. A total of 1,100 pounds of nonperishable food were donated, and \$2,500 was raised for shipping to the villages of Selawik, Togiak and Savoonga. Little did the church know just how timely their gifts would be.

A few days later, Jose and Edna Estrella, AMA Bible workers in Selawik, were awakened by smoke coming from the local store. The Estrellas crossed the river on their snow machine, with Jose quickly joining other community members to help, despite the sound of ammunition exploding in the fire.

Unfortunately, most the store's items — essential for this remote village — were damaged by either smoke or water. One young lady stood with tears in her eyes and asked, “Edna, what do we do now?”

Hugging her, Edna replied, “We are going to trust God.”

Just days before, the Estrellas had received more than 1,000 pounds of food and supplies from the Eagle River Church — nutritious food, infant items and essential hygiene products, as well as comfort items that put a smile on faces.

Continually in awe with God's provision and timing, Selawik believers are grateful to their Eagle River Church friends, who unknowingly met their needs before they even asked.

MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/116-1-AK-2



4 Ways to
Strengthen
Your
Prayer Life

CHURCH

even larger audience than recent in-person prayer conferences, by replying to their comments.

Karen Pearson, Idaho Conference prayer ministries coordinator, moved quickly to let churches know the Sabbath morning session would be available to churches to stream for their worship services. Some churches took advantage and livestreamed it to their own congregations.

A time of prayer was held before each session, with the committee members asking for God's presence and blessing on Maxwell and on each person watching online. After most sessions, a Zoom videoconferencing prayer room

IF 2020 HAS TAUGHT US anything, it's to be flexible. The sixth annual Idaho Conference Prayer Conference was scheduled to be a limited in-person meeting at Camp Ida-Haven. Over the past five years, attendance has rarely gone above 45. With the current COVID-19 pandemic, planners prepared to accommodate up to 50 people, following safety protocols including distancing and face coverings. But a rise in COVID-19 cases in both Idaho and Washington influenced the decision to move the conference to virtual only. This decision was made just two weeks before the conference.

Randy Maxwell, Washington Conference prayer ministries coordinator and Renton Church pastor, spoke on the weekend's theme of "The Time Is Now." With the isolation imposed upon us by COVID-19, how do we keep ourselves connected to God and share Him with others? How do we make an impact on our communities when we're not supposed to interact closely with others?

Using Facebook Live or another social media live venue provides a unique opportunity to connect with viewers, an



was available shortly after the message. Members of the prayer ministries committee gathered in person, physically distanced and masked, to watch Maxwell's sessions together.

Maxwell suggested having a prayer journal. Using one can show you how God has led, how He has answered and how you have grown in your prayer life. Early on, it's often about us and about our family and friends. We are great at asking, but we need to be great at listening for God's voice. It reminds us we are plugged in to God.

When Jesus asked, "Who touched Me?" in Luke 8, what He felt was an uncommon touch, a touch of faith. That's

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-1-ID-1](https://www.nwadventist.org/116-1-ID-1) +



- The videos of the Prayer Conference are archived on [Facebook.com/IdahoAdventist](https://www.facebook.com/IdahoAdventist) or on the Idaho Conference prayer ministries page at [IdahoAdventist.org](https://www.idahoadventist.org).

why He felt it. Our prayer should be uncommon, prayers that cannot be denied.

Maxwell brought the conference to a close with the topic, "The Time Is Now to Pray Differently." One might think the word should have been "differently." Praying "differently" is about having our prayers make a difference because of the difference God has made in our life. "I want to be the difference Jesus wants me to be, help me Lord!" wrote one viewer.

The videos are archived at [Facebook.com/IdahoAdventist](https://www.facebook.com/IdahoAdventist) and are also posted on the Idaho Conference prayer ministries page at [IdahoAdventist.org](https://www.idahoadventist.org). Since the live event, there has been increased engagement and views on each of the four videos. This strange year proves God can use any situation to increase His kingdom.

Eve Rusk
Idaho Conference communication
director

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Thousands Raised for Bozeman Warming Center

FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS Jim Jenkins, pastor, has encouraged his Bozeman Church congregation to join the October Flying Signs for the Warming Center fundraising event. Each year those who participate experience the blessing of serving others and the camaraderie of working towards a common goal.

Jenkins stated during a recent sermon that the Bozeman Church/Mount Ellis Academy group has raised the most funds in this annual event for nine of the last 10 years. The congregation is always thankful for how the Lord works to bring success each year. Four years ago members celebrated when a Bozeman Church member and an MEA student received \$10,000 from a single individual.

This year, despite freezing weather, 25 members including families with children, youth and young adults joined 10 MEA students and staff for the event. The results were nothing short of a miracle as they raised \$3,800 dollars and surpassed last year by \$300.

The Bozeman Church is praising the Lord for generous hearts and brave souls who continue to partake faithfully in this fundraiser each year.

MAYRA LINDBERG
*Montana Conference
communication department editor*



DELAYED APPRECIATION DELIVERED

THE BILLINGS CHURCH had a delayed celebration of Pastor Appreciation Month due to their pastor, Stephen Carlile, being in quarantine from COVID-19. Carlile has recovered, and his family stayed well, so the congregation surprised them on Sabbath, Nov. 7, 2020, with a special plaque and a card signed by members. The card included "date night" gift cards for dinner, a hot stone massage for Carlile and his wife, and money for child care.

The plaque included words of deep appreciation from the church members: "Our Pastor, you lead our congregation by opening God's Word, and then you live your life reflecting all we've heard. You care for others deeply and lift them up in prayer, and when we face misfortune, we know that you'll be there. We really love you, Pastor, for everything you do. And we thank God for giving us a Pastor like you."

Billings Church members feel blessed to have the Carlile family leading their congregation during these tough and challenging times.

KRYSTAL MADDY
Billings Church office manager

MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/116-1-MT-1

PRAYERFUL EFFORT INCREASES LIBBY ENROLLMENT

LIBBY ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL in Libby was facing enrollment for the 2020-21 school year as low as two students. Libby teacher Patsy Iverson and the school board recognized something needed to be done quickly to ensure the school had more students for the upcoming school year.

Everyone began to earnestly pray. Iverson received a phone call from her sister, Darlene Theisen, who felt compelled to help Iverson with the enrollment dilemma. With the help of Theisen, Iverson and school volunteers, the school hallway was transformed into an inviting space that shares the mission of the school through pictures and projects the students had worked on. Facebook ads were placed, and the local newspaper ran a story about the school.

Soon the phone calls started coming in. Enrollment numbers started to climb. The enrollment is now currently at eight students. When you talk to Iverson about the increase in enrollment, she gives all the credit to God for bringing the right people to help the school during a crucial time.

MAURITA CREW
Montana Conference assistant superintendent

MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/116-1-MT-2

EDUCATION

Virtual Learning Enhances Real Outdoor School

MONTANA CONFERENCE'S OUTDOOR SCHOOL IS MUCH-ANTICIPATED EVERY YEAR. BECAUSE OF COVID-19, EDUCATORS WERE MET WITH THE CHALLENGES OF ABIDING BY STATE MANDATES AND ENSURING STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO KEEP A LOVED TRADITION.

During the teacher meetings before school started, the teachers were given a tub filled with necessary items to complete three days of activities at their own school sites. A binder containing specifics on how to implement the program was also included.

When the October dates for outdoor school came around, the schools in the conference met each morning for worship. On Wednesday a special Zoom online assembly featured Stan Hudson from the Creation Study Center at the North Pacific Union Conference. Patterns in nature, the water cycle, DNA, moon phases, tide cycles, the Fibonacci sequence, symmetry



MAURITA CREW

and creek health were just some of the patterns students were able to learn more about over the course of the three days.

Many schools continued the week past the three days and used some of the extra activities. Diane Haulman from Highland View Christian School in Butte said, "My kids are really enjoying this week. It's amazing what they are retaining."

The students' journals were filled with learning and also what the Bible has to say about patterns. The final two summary texts, Gen. 1:31 and Rev. 4:11, remind us God created a wonderful world to point us to Him. The two texts are the bookends for Scripture all throughout the Bible showing God as the perfect Creator.

MAURITA CREW
Montana Conference assistant superintendent and Trout Creek Adventist School head teacher



MAURITA CREW

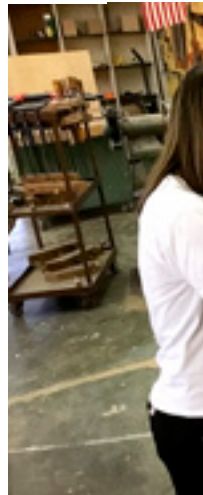
More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-1-MT-3](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/116-1-MT-3) +

EDUCATION

CAA Alum Starts Different Kind of Revival

WHILE AT COLUMBIA ADVENTIST ACADEMY IN BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON, DOUG SCHMIDT, CLASS OF 1980, WAS HEAVILY IMPACTED AND INSPIRED BY A SERIES OF CLASSES HE BEGAN TAKING AS A FRESHMAN: GENERAL SHOP, WELDING, WOODWORKING, AUTO MECHANICS AND CONSTRUCTION. NOT ONLY DID HE LEARN SKILLS THAT HE CONTINUES TO USE TODAY, HE FOUND CREATIVE JOY AND POSITIVE MENTORS.

More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-1-OR-1





Elijah Nelson uses the table saw on one of his projects.

Growing up without a dad, Schmidt found Reavis Belin, Doug Dietrich and Herb Waters to be more than teachers. They were mentors in love with their craft and eager to share.

Fast forward to 2020 and Schmidt's first year back at CAA. After spending the last 15 years as a school administrator, Schmidt has returned to the classroom and shop full time as a math and industrial arts teacher. This semester the sawdust is flying in his woodworking classes and being filtered thanks to the ingenuity of Schmidt's applied mathematics students, who have designed and produced additional air filtration units for the shop.

Over the summer, Schmidt started working on both short-range and long-range goals for the industrial arts program. As other alumni and community members heard about Schmidt's

Miah Fultz works on one of the projects made during shop class.



Ethan Erich and Doug Schmidt work on an air filtration project for the shop.

plans, they immediately got involved. This has helped CAA complete goals like adding new safety equipment and tools to the shop and work on reviving the welding program. With continued help and input from stakeholders, long-range plans for electrical upgrades are being developed and partnerships are being formed with local contractors.

CAA staff pray reviving and reinventing these life-changing programs will bless the lives of many current students and those they touch, as they have the lives of alumni in decades past.

LARRY HIDAY
CAA Gleaner correspondent

EDUCATION

CELEBRATING SCHOOLS, BUILDING SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

THE OREGON CONFERENCE will be hosting a one-hour online celebration of your Oregon Conference schools on Feb.13 at 6 p.m. You'll meet students, teachers and supporters from all 32 schools. Music, science, computers, history, Bible, spelling, sports and more will be featured.

COVID-19 has challenged us in ways we never would have dreamed, but you'll be proud of how teachers have responded and how students are learning in new ways. Invest an hour of your time to hear the good news and meet some of the people who have been making miracles happen in the lives of children. You will experience tears of joy and shout loud praises in concert with others who are watching.

This event is planned as both a celebration and fundraiser to help cover school costs for families who are facing major financial challenges during this time of COVID-19.

Come with your heart and ready to share your financial support. This is for the kids — our future!

Learn more at OregonAdventist.org/education.



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/116-1-OR-2

EDUCATION

PANDEMIC DRIVES UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES

RACHEL JAMES, A PORTLAND ADVENTIST ACADEMY SENIOR, has been playing saxophone since fifth grade. Although quitting music this school year would have saved her time and energy to work on her senior project, she knew she would regret that.

“Playing in band adds meaning to my life,” says James. “It’s like I’m a part of a team. Plus, I’m developing bonds with people I might not otherwise hang out with.”

As PAA students have only been able to do distance-learning, James attends virtual lessons and group rehearsals on Zoom videoconferencing. She tunes her saxophone with an app on her smartphone and practices alone in her room. She even plays her saxophone while wearing a mask for limited in-person instruction (LIPI). Once she feels confident and has worked through some fears, she uses her smartphone to record a video of herself playing her part. Then she sends it off to her teacher, John Carter, PAA music department chairman.

“The Christmas concert is entirely prerecorded and virtual,” says Carter. “I’ll be editing together as many as 50 different videos and audio to create a composite video.” When PAA resumes on-campus learning, Carter hopes to incorporate many pandemic discoveries into new teaching practices.

In the case of PAA’s performing arts groups, these discoveries are timeless.

1) FEAR AND FAITH

A PAA student who can sing alone and confidently into a camera is a student who has worked hard to overcome fear. Getting comfortable with fear builds faith. This is a skill anyone can carry with them beyond the pandemic.

2) FIRSTS AND FOREVERS

Students are making PAA history because these are remarkable times. “I’m thinking of our Christmas concert as a time capsule,” says Carter.

3) FEELINGS AND FRIENDSHIPS

While the pandemic has made scars on this generation’s social and emotional health, people who find and take moments to be together are deepening their connections.

While the coronavirus causes unspeakable pain, it has also forced innovation and self-discovery. And, in the case of art and music, it has forced rediscovery.

“Music and art remind us that we are part of something bigger than our own individual lives,” says Carter. “To *not* try to do that during the pandemic is to give up. It is to take away a critical part of humanity, when so much of our humanity has already been taken. And this is hard. But we are still here. And, as our song reminds us, ‘all is well ... angels and men rejoice, for tonight darkness fell ... all is well.’”

LIESL VISTAUNET
PAA Gleaner correspondent

MORE ONLINE AT NWADVENT.ST/116-1-OR-3



Cyclist Cre Temperate With Cross Success

PERSISTENT PEDALING THROUGH TOWNS, DOWN CANYONS, UP MOUNTAIN PASSES, ALONG RIVERS, AND ACROSS VAST DESERTS AND FARMLANDS – THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO CROSS OUR BEAUTIFUL AND DIVERSE COUNTRY BY BICYCLE.



HEALTH

Radical Lifestyle in the Mountains

For several years Tom Bischoff, a member of the Brookings Church, dreamed of this challenging adventure. Listening to and reading touring cyclists stories and poring over maps, the plan took shape. COVID-19 broke out, but Bischoff and his wife, Misti, agreed it was the “now or never” moment.

A camper on their Dodge pickup would serve as the rolling bed and breakfast, affording self-containment and plenty of social distancing. Retiring from his 42-year anesthesia career, Bischoff celebrated his 69th birthday and embarked on the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail journey.

Bischoff began pedaling at Florence, Oregon, on July 7, 2020. Summer heat demanded early starts. Daily rides often

ended with a nap in the sweltering heat of the day or a splash from the faucet at a town park. The term “radical generosity” was experienced at several churches and city hostels. Only 10 other riders were met on the 72-day journey, and that rarity led to instant friendships and some meaningful conversations.

In the last week of September, Bischoff turned south onto the famed Blue Ridge Parkway and finished his ride at Fletcher, North Carolina, where he had planned to attend his 50-year academy reunion. The event was canceled, but a handful of classmates celebrated at an outdoor pavilion.

Long-distance riding requires endurance usually only found in youth. Bischoff attributes his good health to a temperate vegetarian upbringing, a lifelong love of outdoor exercise and the blessing of good genetics.

MISTI BISCHOFF
Brookings Church member

More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-1-OR-4



MISSION AND OUTREACH



POSTER MINISTRY SHARES CHRIST DURING CRISIS

ALLEN RADKE, a retired colporteur and school teacher from Shelton, Washington, decided on a different ministry approach when faced with the social distancing restrictions.

In the early 1980s, Radke committed to always carrying a pocket full of religious brochures after he came to know Jesus through a little tract he found sitting in his parents' home. He strongly believes in the tract ministry because of how it personally changed his life.

Radke still believes in the Acts 20:20 approach of going door to door, but COVID-19 has complicated and compromised his outreach efforts.

In his devotions early one morning this year, Radke says he was impressed to make a large poster featuring Matt. 24:7. After waterproofing it, he, along with his wife, sit at a major intersection in the greater Portland area holding the sign. Radke hopes drivers will notice the sign and turn to the good news found in the Bible.

BARBARA RADKE
Sunnyside Church member

MORE ONLINE AT NWADVENT.ST/116-1-OR-5

CHURCH

In the Face of Fire, 'I Belong to God'

DICK DUERKSEN
Oregon Conference
storycatcher and
storyteller

ABUNDIO REYES IS A SINGLE, 76-YEAR-OLD FARM LABORER WHO CAME TO THE UNITED STATES MANY YEARS AGO. A HARD WORKER, HE NEVER ATTEND SCHOOL AND DOESN'T SPEAK ENGLISH. THIS FAITHFUL MEMBER OF THE MEDFORD SPANISH CHURCH LEARNED ABOUT GOD FROM AN ADVENTIST FRIEND WHO TAUGHT HIM TO READ BY STUDYING A SPANISH BIBLE.

"It's been hard being a church member this year," Reyes says. "COVID-19 made it so we couldn't have services, and I do not have a way to Zoom the videos. But, I have studied and prayed much."

As difficult as the pandemic was, on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020, life got a whole lot harder for Reyes. A small fire started near his mobile home. With perfect, horrible

timing, a 45 mph wind blew up from the southern mountains, fanning the fire like a blowtorch, its swirling flames consuming everything for 8 miles between Interstate 5 and Highway 99. That blaze, now known as the Alameda Fire, burned through the

communities of Talent and Phoenix in short order.

Reyes' mobile home was in Talent, right by Highway 99. The fire took everything he owned except the clothes he was wearing.

- His mobile home? Gone.
- His clothes? Gone.
- His hat and jacket? Gone.
- His medicines? Gone.

Church members immediately made a temporary home for him in the church, worked out his medications, brought him bags filled with necessities, and made sure he had a new jacket and more than enough to eat.

"Abundio was very sad," they explain.

A couple days later they had found a small apartment where Reyes and a friend could stay. That afternoon Reyes found his pastor, Angel Cuenca, at the church and handed him a fat envelope.

"My tithes," Reyes told Cuenca.

Inside the envelope was \$920.

"I have not been able to come to church this year and so have been keeping my tithe in the bank waiting for when I could bring this money to the church," Reyes said. "Is it OK to give this to you today?"

He continued: "Yes, I have lost everything and have many needs, but I read in the Bible where Jesus says we are to give to God what is His, and my tithe is His holy money. It is not mine."

In the face of complete destruction, Reyes' faith was firm. "Do not worry, pastor," he said. "I belong to God. He will take care of me."



"My tithes," Abundio Reyes told his pastor.

Move online at NWADVENT.ST/116-1-OR-6

Follow [@NWAdventists](#) on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter for daily Bible verses.

BIBLE READINGS

for

January

Follow the daily list and in one year you will have read the entire Bible.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Genesis 1:1–2:25 Matthew 1:1–2:12 Psalm 1:1–6 Proverbs 1:1–6	2 Genesis 3:1–4:26 Matthew 2:13–3:6 Psalm 2:1–12 Proverbs 1:7–9
3 Genesis 5:1–7:24 Matthew 3:7–4:11 Psalm 3:1–8 Proverbs 1:10–19	4 Genesis 8:1–10:32 Matthew 4:12–25 Psalm 4:1–8 Proverbs 1:20–23	5 Genesis 11:1–13:4 Matthew 5:1–26 Psalm 5:1–12 Proverbs 1:24–28	6 Genesis 13:5–15:21 Matthew 5:27–48 Psalm 6:1–10 Proverbs 1:29–33	7 Genesis 16:1–18:15 Matthew 6:1–24 Psalm 7:1–17 Proverbs 2:1–5	8 Genesis 18:16–19:38 Matthew 6:25–7:14 Psalm 8:1–9 Proverbs 2:6–15	9 Genesis 20:1–22:24 Matthew 7:15–29 Psalm 9:1–12 Proverbs 2:16–22
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31 Exodus 12:14–13:16 Matt. 20:29–21:22 Psalm 25:16–22 Proverbs 6:12–15						

UCA Campus Leader Knows God Has a Plan

BEFORE RICHARD WAS BORN, HIS MOTHER HAD TO FLEE FOR HER LIFE. HER PARTNER WAS ON DRUGS AND THREATENING TO KILL HER AND HER BABY.

Richard is now a senior at Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Washington. He has never met his biological father. "It's always been just me and mom," he says.

Schoolwork has always been difficult for Richard. When he failed third grade, his mother began teaching him at home while being a working single parent. Eventually Richard was diagnosed with dyslexia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The diagnoses helped Richard and his mother understand why he couldn't focus or read.

During his early years Richard often went to church on both Saturday and Sunday – on Sabbath with his grandparents and on Sunday with his mom. After becoming Adventists while living in Colorado, Richard and his mom moved to Spokane. Richard enrolled nearby at UCA.

That first summer Richard got a job working in the maintenance department at Camp MiVoden. The next summer he was back working as a counselor, and this past summer Richard was MiVoden's challenge course instructor. All his earnings go toward his school bill, but he doesn't mind. "I'm just very grateful to be at UCA," Richard says.

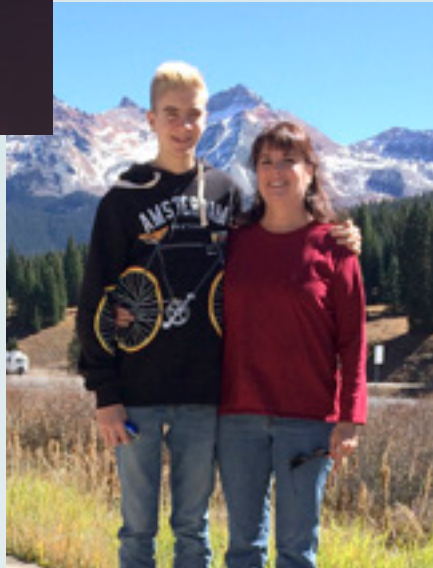
Richard's most impactful moment at UCA was last year when he was chosen to be a week of prayer speaker. He says, "I didn't have a strong devotional life. I wanted it, but I didn't have it. I begged God to come into my heart and change me, to

More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-1-UC-1





Richard's most impactful moment at UCA was last year when he was chosen to be a week of prayer speaker.



Richard with his mom.

give me a strong faith and to help me be consistent in my relationship with Him. God answered my prayer. I now sense His presence. I know that He is working in my life, and I am confident that He has a plan for my life."

Richard is a highly motivated young man. He is the student body vice president, works as the assistant head resident assistant, and is taking advanced placement and two dual-credit classes. "Schoolwork is still hard for me," he says. "I have to strictly limit my extracurricular activities in order to manage all of this."

Despite his very busy schedule, Richard was willing to take the time to interview with FoundationONE, which has supported him with grants and scholarships for the past three years. "The reason I'm making it a priority," he says, "is because I am clear about my purpose. I am on this earth to help others. I know that sharing my story will generate income and make it possible for other kids to enroll at UCA. So, this is something I *really* want to do."

"It is an honor to be a part of Richard's life-transformation process," says Mindy Weber, FoundationONE president.

Richard says, "I'm considering becoming an engineer, but regardless of my future career I'm looking forward to joining the FoundationONE team as a donor. I want to offer hope to others, just like FoundationONE has offered hope to me."

For more information about FoundationONE, the lay-led organization raising an endowment for scholarships for Upper Columbia Academy students, go to foundationoneuca.org.

LINDA KLINGER
Upper Columbia Academy
FoundationONE executive director

EDUCATION

UCA STUDENTS SHARE JESUS WITH PEERS



Read online about how Upper Columbia Academy student week of prayer speakers get real as they share Jesus with their peers.

[MORE ONLINE AT NWADVENT.ST/116-1-UC-2](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-1-UC-2)



Pandemic Challenges Become Blessing for Free Dental Clinic

JULENE COLE

Omak Church communication leader

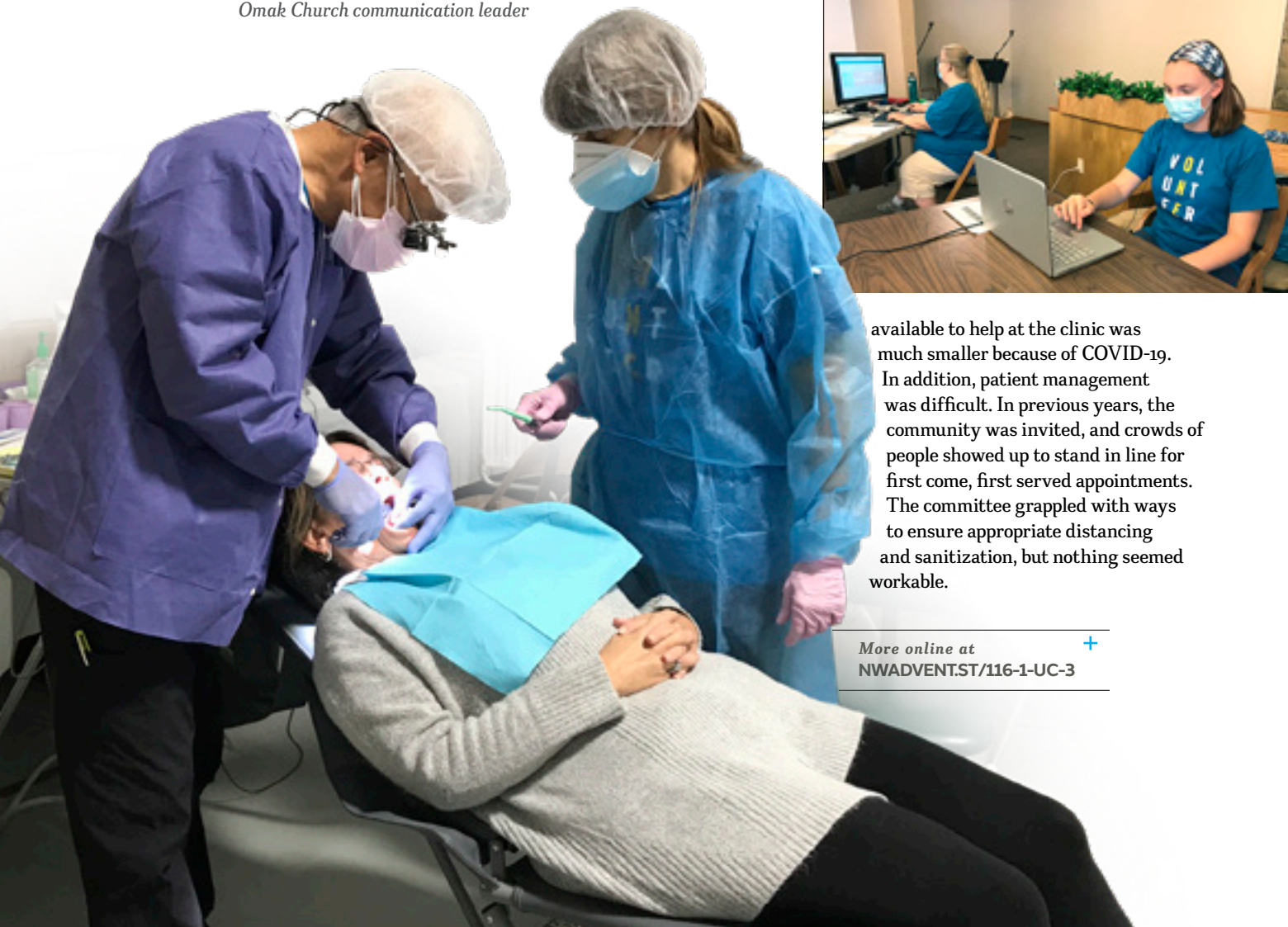
THE PLANNING COMMITTEE for Omak Church's annual free dental clinic realized they had a real challenge on their hands. The church had previously hosted two dental clinics, using the equipment of nonprofit ministry Caring Hands Worldwide to provide free dental care to community members who otherwise could not afford it. However, those events were not during a pandemic. It was evident the September 2020 event was going to be a very different situation.

One challenge was finding enough volunteers, as the number of people



available to help at the clinic was much smaller because of COVID-19. In addition, patient management was difficult. In previous years, the community was invited, and crowds of people showed up to stand in line for first come, first served appointments. The committee grappled with ways to ensure appropriate distancing and sanitization, but nothing seemed workable.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-1-UC-3](https://www.nwadventist.org/stories/116-1-uc-3) +



MISSION AND OUTREACH

HOW TO CREATE AN EDUCATIONAL HAVEN FOR STUDENTS DURING PANDEMIC

SPOKANE CENTRAL CHURCH'S STEAM Ahead at Discovery Junction program — an after-school enrichment program offering activities in science, technology, engineering, arts and math for low-income children — has temporarily closed because of COVID-19. Gayle Haeger, Sharon Ammon and others who have faithfully provided time and resources for Discovery Junction shifted their focus to offering

real-time learning support and a safe place for children to connect to Wi-Fi as they attend online school each morning.

BethAnn Moseanko is heading up this vital five-mornings-a-week support program until the COVID-19 risk lowers and the public school reopens. So far eight children are participating.

Pivoting to this new ministry, an additional need became evident: The children

were hungry. Now Discovery Junction offers breakfast each morning as well as school support.

Any church can provide a service like this. Three simple things are needed:

- A safe place
- Two screened, caring volunteers each day
- Wi-Fi internet

The public school provides students with iPads, earphones and educational programming. The school also communicates with families and works out transportation.

Consider welcoming children in need to your church as you would Jesus, for “whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me ...” (Mark 9:37, NIV).

PATTY MARSH

Upper Columbia Conference children's ministries, community services and women's ministries director

[MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/116-1-UC-4](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/116-1-uc-4)



Not wanting to give up, one committee member urged, “We have this amazing opportunity to serve. We can’t just let that go!”

Together, the planning committee asked God to give them insight to solve their dilemma. As soon as prayer was over, the next words spoken were the answer: “What if we made appointments, like a regular dental office?”

And with that, a completely new patient management plan was launched. Later, the committee learned from Caring Hands Worldwide that the Omak site was the first to go forward with hosting a free dental clinic with their equipment since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The resulting patient management plan worked so well the group says they won’t go back to the old approach. For one thing, the new system took fewer in-person volunteers to manage. In addition, many of those who were unable to volunteer in-person were able to help from home by scheduling appointments and conducting patient screenings by phone. The entire process was a more streamlined and pleasant experience for both volunteers and patients. What at first felt like a roadblock ended up as a lasting blessing.

Though the number of patients who could be served was significantly reduced because of COVID-19 guidelines, the free dental clinic was able to provide badly needed dental extractions and cleanings to 57 community members. Omak Church members look forward to serving their community again for many years to come, with the benefit of what they learned by asking God to help them adapt to challenging times.



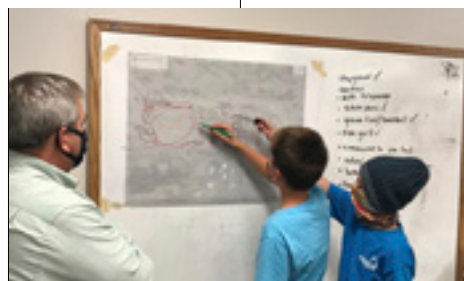
YOUTH

Pathfinders Raise Hopes From Ashes

• Pathfinders work to develop a plan for the new park in Malden, Washington.

FIRES IGNITED ALL ACROSS THE PACIFIC AND INLAND NORTHWEST ON LABOR DAY 2020. FUELED BY HIGH WINDS AND LOW HUMIDITY, THEY DEVoured VAST AREAS WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED. IN UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE, FIRES DESTROYED THE SMALL TOWNS OF BRIDGEPORT AND MALDEN, WASHINGTON.

RICHIE BROWER
Upper Columbia Conference youth and family life associate director



RICHIE BROWER

The staff laughed and replied, “Sure. But when we come, there will be hundreds of us ... think bigger. We really want to make a difference here.”

Later that evening after talking on the drive home from Malden, the staff shared their thoughts. “We really got to wondering what would make people want to move to Malden now,” one shares. That’s when the vision shifted to doing something for the whole community: “Let’s give Malden a new park!”

This is a long and expensive process, but the Wheatland Coyotes are devoting at least part of every club meeting to planning, preparing, building or fundraising to serve the people affected by the fire. Recently, a local landscape engineer volunteered to lead the design process. The Pathfinders will present their proposal to the Malden town council in January.

“My vision is that the Pathfinders will be inspired with a desire to help others,” says Cindy Williams, Wheatland Coyotes Club director. “We are seeking to empower young people with the realization that they can do big things in the world even now.”

What was left in Malden, where 80% of the structures burned to the ground, was ash, scorched trees, burned car hulks and stories of heroism. Driving into the town, you could smell the stench of burned structures and smoldering dreams. Malden looks like a town with a very questionable future.

Enter Pathfinders.

Only days after the fire, staff of the Wheatland Coyotes Pathfinder club in Spangle, Washington, determined to find out what they could do to help, hoping to give the Pathfinders real experience being the hands of Jesus reaching out to their neighbors. The first step was to reach out to Patty Marsh, UCC Adventist Community Services director, and ask for direction.

It didn’t take long to set up an appointment for the club to meet with the Malden mayor and town manager to see the devastation firsthand. Three car loads of Pathfinders and staff unloaded in a blackened scene of charred remains.

Ash puffed up with every step as the club followed the town officials into the park where the town hall and the library had stood before they burned. The Malden town manager paused and, pointing to a small raised bed, asked, “Do you think you guys could replant this?”



RICHIE BROWER

• The Malden town manager suggested parts of the park Pathfinders could help with. Going further, the Pathfinders decided to take on the whole park.

Move online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-1-UC-5](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/116-1-uc-5) **+**

YOUTH

Youth Bring Connection to Hayden

HANNAH EVERT
AYM Northwest registration

AYM began in 2018, when a small group of friends started talking about getting together to go ice skating. As they began making plans, they decided to include outreach as well. The first weekend event was so successful, people asked when they could meet again. This became Adventist Youth on a Mission.

AYM's vision is to help youth see how

God can work in them and through them in a mighty way. AYM seeks to inspire youth to step out in faith for God not just at the retreats but also back in their own homes and communities. The ultimate goal is to light a fire in the hearts of the young people—an unquenchable fire that drives them to work for Him wherever they may be.

A CROWD OF YOUTH SURROUNDED

a long line of tables writing Bible promises on index cards and placing them, with health flyers and copies of *The Great Controversy*, in plastic bags. After two hours, 1,000 bags were ready to go. The next day, on Sabbath afternoon, the young people distributed every bag to homes around Hayden, Idaho.

These kids were participating in a weekend event known as Adventist Youth on a Mission Northwest, a youth-led retreat focused on outreach and strengthening character for eternity. About 80 young people, along with their families, showed up for the retreat and participated in physical recreation, outreach, and youth-led and youth-focused meetings.

AYM Northwest is an organization run by youth and for youth. Two retreats are held each year—one in winter and another in fall. These events are especially for ages 12–20, but all ages are welcome.

An AYM retreat is more than a weekend of meetings. Youth from all over the Northwest come together and participate in physical recreation like hiking and ice skating. They also take part in outreach activities. In fact,



HANNAH EVERT

outreach is a central part of each retreat, and all attendees are highly encouraged to participate. And, of course, there are inspiring sermons preached by youth, along with youth-led group discussions and prayer groups.

Each session has a particular theme. The fall 2020 theme was “Connected.” Each presentation and discussion focused on being connected with Christ—how to be connected, how to stay connected and how to strengthen that vital connection. Youth as young as 14 gave inspiring, motivating messages.



HANNAH EVERT

More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-1-UC-6 +

MISSION AND OUTREACH

LIFEBRIDGE CREATES NEW SMILES DESPITE PANDEMIC

LIFEBRIDGE ADVENTIST GROUP in Tacoma found a way to meet a community need despite the pandemic. After seeing free dental clinics canceled due to the pandemic, Jed de la Paz, dentist and owner at Bright Smile Dental in Tacoma, wanted to help the community through his dental office.

De la Paz contacted the city and county health department, which were as enthusiastic about the idea as the LifeBridge team. They set a date for six weeks later and began moving forward rapidly in planning the project, recruiting volunteers and raising funds.

When the dental office landlord heard the plan was to have people check in outside for social distancing, he offered a vacant space in the building. "God's plans for the clinic were bigger than ours," says Dustin

Serns, LifeBridge pastor. The extra space allowed for opening up two more dental chairs, for a total of seven.

At the free clinic, one patient shared that her mouth had been in extreme discomfort for weeks, and she had been having trouble sleeping. She had applied for a job with dental benefits and was devastated to not

get it. Then a friend sent her the advertisement for the LifeBridge Free Dental Clinic.

"This free clinic came at the perfect time for me. I am so thankful for what you guys are doing," she said. She left the clinic with healing from her dental pain, peace in her heart and a smile on her face.

After their treatment, patients checked out with a "chaplain" from the LifeBridge Church team who offered to pray with them. "We didn't want this to only be an event but the beginning of some meaningful relationships with people in our community," shares Serns. "2020 definitely changed our plans for starting a new church. We thought we would have a building rented and weekly worship gatherings by now. Instead, we dumped all our energy and resources into serving our community. We are so glad we did."

This year has been a huge challenge for many people. But thanks to God's guidance and a handful of highly committed servant leaders, LifeBridge Church was able to bring new smiles to their community even during the pandemic.

ERNESTO HERNANDEZ
*Washington Conference media
production associate*

MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/116-1-WA-1



Maranatha Church Helps Feed Hungry Neighbors

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
*Washington Conference
communication director*

ERNESTO HERNANDEZ
*Washington Conference media
production associate*



MISSION AND OUTREACH

WEEKDAYS ARE PROVING TO BE JUST AS BUSY AS SABBATH MORNINGS FOR MARANATHA CHURCH IN SEATTLE — AND THAT’S JUST THE WAY THE SERVICE-MINDED CONGREGATION LIKES IT.

“We have a rich legacy of community service in our church,” says Derek Lane, Maranatha Church pastor. “Service seems to be our strength.”

Maranatha Church is one of three Washington Conference churches involved in a pilot program for church revitalization. A renewed calling to service in the midst of a pandemic is proving to be effective for this congregation.

While the Othello Park neighborhood is booming with new upscale apartments with easy Sound Transit access, there are many lower-income families in housing east of the church.

With that in mind, the church arranged to serve as an emergency food distributor. Each Wednesday, the routine is

Maranatha Adventist Church continues to find ways to serve their community from the front driveway. The church also works with community partners to provide health care testing, including for COVID-19.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

similar: produce arrives, volunteers pick up dairy donations and assemble food boxes, then 60 to 80 families receive food.

“We see many of the same people from week to week,” says Wendy Bucknor, Maranatha community service coordinator. “We’ve done this for enough weeks that we can quickly identify who is new. Our neighborhood is primarily Asian. Some people are comfortable speaking English, and many others are not.”

When the distribution line opens at 11 a.m., walk-up clients receive their boxes and then repackage the contents into provided backpacks or wheeled bags. The church’s front driveway then accommodates two cars at a time for pickup.

“There are three churches on our block. Neighbors just see buildings. They don’t know us until they see our faces,”

Bucknor notes. “We are the church to them. I am looking at the church right now as me, and I am being revitalized.”

It’s not just two days a week the church family is busy helping their neighbors.

On Fridays, the church serves 100 plates of food to a nearby homeless village. The church also has a free legal clinic and an addictions counseling program. It most recently established a health testing site where community health care partners provide testing for COVID-19, HIV and other issues each Monday.

“Matthew 25 is a snapshot of ministry in the last days: feeding the hungry, providing water to the thirsty, visiting the sick. That’s the kind of ministry we want to be involved in,” Lane says. “Our attendance has increased, our members are feeling fulfilled spiritually, and we’re just excited about what God is doing here.”



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-1-WA-2 

EDUCATION

Auburn Academy Nurtures Whole-Person Growth

More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-1-WA-3

AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY recognizes it has an incredible influence on the intellectual, social, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of students, staff and their families. More than a year ago, the academy started planning a two-year pilot program for student wellness.

To nurture this wellness program, AAA recently invited La-Dana Manhertz-Smith to join the team to promote personal well-being, empower proactive student choices and provide preventive resources.

“We need help in meeting the mental and emotional health needs of our students,” says Peter Fackenthall, AAA principal. “We are grateful for La-Dana Manhertz-Smith joining our team at just the right time.”

Manhertz-Smith is a certified stress and wellness consultant

who is pursuing a Master of Arts in clinical mental health counseling at Liberty University. She recently completed a Master of Arts in interdisciplinary studies around counseling and psychology. She also holds certifications in crisis management, workplace mental health leadership, positive psychology and well-being coaching.

The AAA well-being coordinator is primarily responsible for organizing direct support services to students, staff and families. Services include nonclinical consultation (like coping with stress,

life skills, goals, etc.), short-term crisis management and preventive self-help strategies. Clinical counseling services – diagnosis, treatment, management or therapy for mental health or substance use issues – are referred to a network of providers.

“We want to give students the tools they need to succeed and navigate the ups and downs of life with resiliency,” Manhertz-Smith says.

“COVID-19 is showing us how resilience building skills are critical.”

Manhertz-Smith is already setting up a dedicated wellness space, hosting wellness sessions in the dorm on Tuesdays, establishing a community referral network and offering daily wellness activity prompts.

“La-Dana’s call for us to find balance and well-being is a much-needed message right now,” says Nathan Klingstrand, AAA boys’ dean.

Jackie Langi, AAA girls’ dean, agrees. “La-Dana is bridging the gaps in mental health awareness,” she says. “She has integrated personal development with spiritual growth, and the girls are learning new ways to process and deal with daily stressors.”

- La-Dana Manhertz-Smith seeks to enhance the mental and emotional health of student well-being at Auburn Adventist Academy. Auburn faculty dedicated a classroom as a wellness center where students can come for a quick break to mentally recharge through a variety of activities.



3

Three Ways to Keep a Clear Mind

You don't have to do **everything** on your to-do list. How about just doing the ones that matter today?

It's easy to be tempted to think taking a break slows you down, making you less productive. However, taking a break helps clear the mind, improve focus and helps you make better and more productive decisions.

Here are three simple ways to keep your mind clear when you are completely exhausted:

Go out in nature.

Take a walk outside, bask in the sun or follow a gentle stretching sequence if the weather isn't great. This helps refresh bodies and minds.

Do a technology detox throughout the day.

Leave your phone in another room or in your backpack and only check your texts and emails on the hour, i.e. at 1 p.m. or 2 p.m., instead of mindlessly scrolling.

Get creative.

Draw, bake, knit, crochet, color mindfully, decorate a "corner" in your room, or design something online or on paper.

LA-DANA MANHERTZ-SMITH
Auburn Adventist Academy well-being coordinator

BE GRATEFUL

GINA HUBIN

MISSION AND OUTREACH

CHURCH PROJECT FEEDS POULSBO COMMUNITY RIGHT ON TIME

WHEN 36 FOOD BOXES ARRIVED IN POULSBO ONE AFTERNOON IN SEPTEMBER 2020, IT WAS THE START OF SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER THAN A ONE-TIME DONATION OF EXTRA FOOD FROM THE AUBURN CITY CHURCH'S DISTRIBUTION SITE.

By 5 p.m. that same day, arrangements with Auburn City Church resulted in 84 boxes for the next week. By 6 p.m., the church board voted to get involved in regular food distribution. By 7 p.m., Poulsbo leaders confirmed with Auburn City Church leaders they would receive weekly food boxes to share.

"God's timing is so perfect," says Sandra Facey, Poulsbo Church member, who greets neighbors as they arrive. "These boxes have reached the community during a time of need."

Now every Thursday Poulsbo Church members Henry and Kathleen Aus drive to Auburn to pick up a growing number of food boxes to help those who have been affected by the pandemic and resulting economic crisis.

"It always feels good when we are able to do something for others," says Kevin Erich, Poulsbo Church member. "God uses the food box distribution site to show and share His love."

The pandemic has opened doors to connect with the community. One distribution day, the mayor saw the free food signs and stopped by to thank the volunteers — and chide them a little for not letting her know about their project because she wanted to help too.

Usually conversations are short, yet other times volunteers field longer inquiries about Adventist beliefs, service times and hope from the Word of God.

Working with Ofa Langi, Auburn City Church pastor, and additional community partners, Poulsbo grew in their USDA food box distribution numbers to 224 weekly boxes.

Volunteer Judy Hiner hears local residents share comments like "this means a lot to us" and "this really helps us."

"It feels good that we are reaching out to people," Hiner says. "This ministry was needed."

Volunteer Gemma Mercado, who with her daughter waves colorful signs letting people know about the free food boxes, says, "We are a part of meeting the tangible needs of our community. People are encouraged."

LUKE WATSON, FELICITY WATSON, MAX MERCADO,
MAYA MERCADO AND JOSHUA MCCUE
Poulsbo Church youth



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENTST/116-1-WA-4

CHURCH



Russian Ministry Multiplies

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
Washington Conference
communication director

HOME IS WHERE YOU GO TO CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES. THIS IS ALSO TRUE FOR CHURCHES.

A Russian-speaking ministry began in 1999 in a side room of Auburn City Church. Faithful members kept assembling, and by 2004 the 45-50 members started talking about forming their own church. This gave birth to the Russian-Ukrainian Parousia Church in March 2006.



Vitali Oliinik, pastor and Washington Conference Russian ministry coordinator, prays a prayer of blessing for a new congregation to be faithful to God and His calling.

The congregation continues to grow year by year. They built their own worship and praise center, which was dedicated in April 2016 in Federal Way. About 400 members are associated with this church.

Leaders started dreaming of additional ways to reach their community and started a special ministry to the Slavic community in 2019. On Oct. 17, 2020, the Slavic American Mission Company was officially formed. This new beginning included a time of praise and worship at the location where their ministry outreach first started.

Three special moments from the service included a prayer of dedication by Vitali Oliinick, pastor; words of blessing by Sergey Kuzmin, pastor; and the presentation by Ivan Bokov, pastor, of a beautiful church Bible.

"I believe when we plant new churches and we begin new work in our conference, we do this by developing relationships with people so when we say, 'Come follow Jesus with me,' it is not going to be something out of the blue. It is something people are willing to do because they know us and trust us," says Doug Bing, Washington Conference president. "We are called to go into our communities, workplaces and neighborhoods to form relationships for Jesus. I pray this new congregation will plant another church soon."

More online at NWADVENT.ST/116-1-WA-5

Follow [@NWAdventists](#) on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter for daily Bible verses.

BIBLE READINGS
for

FEBRUARY

Follow the daily list and in one year you will have read the entire Bible.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 Exodus 13:17–15:18 Matthew 21:23–46 Psalm 26:1–12 Proverbs 6:16–19	2 Exodus 15:19–17:7 Matthew 22:1–33 Psalm 27:1–6 Proverbs 6:20–26	3 Exodus 17:8–19:15 Matt. 22:34–23:12 Psalm 27:7–14 Proverbs 6:27–35	4 Exodus 19:16–21:21 Matthew 23:13–39 Psalm 28:1–9 Proverbs 7:1–5	5 Exodus 21:22–23:13 Matthew 24:1–28 Psalm 29:1–11 Proverbs 7:6–23	6 Ex. 23:14–25:40 Matthew 24:29–51 Psalm 30:1–12 Proverbs 7:24–27
7 Exodus 26:1–27:21 Matthew 25:1–30 Psalm 31:1–8 Proverbs 8:1–11	8 Exodus 28:1–43 Matt. 25:31–26:13 Psalm 31:9–18 Proverbs 8:12–13	9 Exodus 29:1–30:10 Matthew 26:14–46 Psalm 31:19–24 Proverbs 8:14–26	10 Exodus 30:11–31:18 Matt. 26:47–68 Psalm 32:1–11 Proverbs 8:27–32	11 Exodus 32:1–33:23 Matt. 26:69–27:14 Psalm 33:1–11 Proverbs 8:33–36	12 Exodus 34:1–35:9 Matthew 27:15–31 Psalm 33:12–22 Proverbs 9:1–6	13 Exodus 35:10–36:38 Matthew 27:32–66 Psalm 34:1–10 Proverbs 9:7–8
14 Exodus 37:1–38:31 Matthew 28:1–20 Psalm 34:11–22 Proverbs 9:9–10	15 Exodus 39:1–40:38 Mark 1:1–28 Psalm 35:1–16 Proverbs 9:11–12	16 Leviticus 11:1–13:17 Mark 1:29–2:12 Psalm 35:17–28 Proverbs 9:13–18	17 Leviticus 4:1–5:19 Mark 2:13–3:6 Psalm 36:1–12 Proverbs 10:1–2	18 Leviticus 6:1–7:27 Mark 3:7–30 Psalm 37:1–11 Proverbs 10:3–4	19 Leviticus 7:28–9:6 Mark 3:31–4:25 Psalm 37:12–29 Proverbs 10:5	20 Leviticus 9:7–10:20 Mark 4:26–5:20 Psalm 37:30–40 Proverbs 10:6–7
21 Leviticus 11:1–12:8 Mark 5:21–43 Psalm 38:1–22 Proverbs 10:8–9	22 Leviticus 13:1–59 Mark 6:1–29 Psalm 39:1–13 Proverbs 10:10	23 Leviticus 14:1–57 Mark 6:30–56 Psalm 40:1–10 Proverbs 10:11–12	24 Leviticus 15:1–16:28 Mark 7:1–23 Psalm 40:11–17 Proverbs 10:13–14	25 Lev. 16:29–18:30 Mark 7:24–8:10 Psalm 41:1–13 Proverbs 10:15–16	26 Leviticus 19:1–20:21 Mark 8:11–38 Psalm 42:1–11 Proverbs 10:17	27 Lev. 20:22–22:16 Mark 9:1–29 Psalm 43:1–5 Proverbs 10:18
28 Lev. 22:17–23:44 Mark 9:30–10:12 Psalm 44:1–8 Proverbs 10:19						

Ramirez Accepts North American Division Call

THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTED OCT. 29, 2020, TO ELECT ELDEN RAMIREZ, MONTANA CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, TO SERVE AS THE NEXT NAD UNDERSECRETARY.

Following his election, Ramirez said in a letter to Montana members, “My family and I have been praying for the Lord to make it clear to us whether or not this was our next assignment. We trusted that God would speak to us through the committee process that He has put in place in our Church.”

John Freedman, North Pacific Union president, says, “Elden’s passion and heart for ministry will be missed here in the Northwest. I will work closely with the Montana Conference board of directors to initiate a careful presidential search process to find the best possible person for this important leadership role.”

Ramirez has served as the Montana Conference president since 2017. Prior to this post, he served as director for the NAD Office of Volunteer Ministries. He was responsible for overseeing missions for the Adventist Church within this territory and focused on connecting Seventh-day Adventist volunteers from throughout North America to mission opportunities around the world.

In addition, Ramirez has served as assistant to the president for the Central California Conference, where he also served as youth ministries director and camp ministries executive director. In the early 1990s, he worked as a young adult civic leader in the criminal justice department at San Francisco City Hall, developing public policies for children and youth. He was part of a citywide leadership program that provided solutions on youth



More online at  NWADVENT.ST/116-1-NW-1



EDUCATION

CREATION ARTWORK DONATED TO NORTHWEST SCHOOLS

NEARLY 30 ADVENTIST SCHOOLS across the North Pacific Union Conference were recently gifted with beautiful artwork depicting creation. Donated by Hart Research Center, this complete set of seven giclée art prints by Nathan Greene illustrates the seven days of creation. Educators across NPUC greatly appreciate the artistic resource for learning.

The NPUC office in Ridgefield, Washington, has also received this gift. Since the establishment of the Creation Study Center in 2016, more visitors, including students, have come into the office. “Since ‘pictures paint a thousand words,’ these wonderful images spark the imagination and take us back to the beginning world, as well as transport us to the future world,” states Stan Hudson, CSC director. “These paintings challenge the narrative and images portrayed in public schools that humankind are accidents of nature, having evolved over eons of time. On the contrary, ours is a royal lineage.”

The very purpose of this gift is to engage student interest and expand their understanding of our Creator. This attractive art adds wonderfully to the sacred ministry of Adventist education. An understanding of creation is foundational to the Adventist worldview and integral to the curriculum and instruction in our schools.

During these challenging times in our communities and throughout the country, the story of redemption that begins with God, the Designer and Creator of the beautiful out of nothing, should build hope in re-creation. This is the hope we offer — the hope not found outside of Christian faith.

DENNIS PLUBELL
NPUC vice president for education

issues and worked with city gangs to stop youth violence.

Ramirez completed a Bachelor of Arts in theology and accepted the call to the gospel ministry in 1996. Later, in 2004, he continued his education and attended the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Michigan, where he also had the privilege of serving as the Andrews University Seminary Student Forum president.

During his ministry he has served in five different states as academy chaplain, youth pastor, senior pastor, church planter and departmental director in the areas of family life, camp ministries, health and temperance, national servicemen organization, and youth ministries.

Ramirez and his wife, Jenny, a registered nurse, have two daughters: Elennie and Jasmine. His favorite Scripture is found in Joshua 1:5: “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.”

JAY WINTERMEYER
Gleaner editor



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/116-1-NW-2

HEALTH

Tomorrow at Adventist Health

This timeline shares a glimpse of the many faces of ministry that happen each and every day at Adventist Health.

12:32 a.m. The glass doors to the emergency department swing open. On the stretcher: John, 19-year-old son, his condition critical, his motorcycle destroyed.* Terrified parents wait in the lobby. Skilled physicians and seasoned nurses execute their training and repeat the parents' prayer, "God save this boy you've given to us."

4:05 a.m. The lobby is packed: coronavirus, influenza, chest pains, bumps, bruises, hangovers, chest pains, a sharp ache in the side, difficulty breathing, a severe beating at the hands of an angry husband, a sore throat, a broken leg, the only warm place on a very cold night.

6:13 a.m. Maggie Johnson is nearly 45 minutes late for her pre-op appointment. But surgery cannot wait. *Stage 4* cannot wait. Nurses and doctors practice patience. The OR is jammed all day. But Maggie is not a case—she's a child. God's child.

7:55 a.m. Chaplain David Marks gathers his team of clergy and volunteers. A word of prayer for renewed compassion and courage. A sanctuary of suffering awaits a pastoral presence. Four floors of dedicated clinicians await a pastoral embrace.

8:00 a.m. The system finance team gathers to review balance sheets, revenue trends, expense trajectories and volume projections. Dominating the agenda: driving efficiency while improving quality.



9:10 a.m. Mark and Marilyn say goodbye to their daddy.

9:15 a.m. Brandon and Kelsey say hello to their son.

11:00 a.m. The public affairs advocacy team lobbies a state legislature to ensure inclusion of the disadvantaged in health care. Jesus healed everybody, and we will too.

1:00 p.m. Senior executives meet to pray and ask, "What are 2022, 2025 and 2030 going to be like, and how can we be ready?"

2:00 p.m. The supply chain team meets to ensure a steady stock of personal protective equipment.

2:06 p.m. The nutritional services team meets to ensure a faithful shipment of bread.

2:14 p.m. The clinical team meets to ensure an ample supply of blood.

2:20 p.m. Community well-being executives meet with a local public school: more vegetables, fewer fries? Less screen time, more exercise? Can we help sponsor an afterschool program?

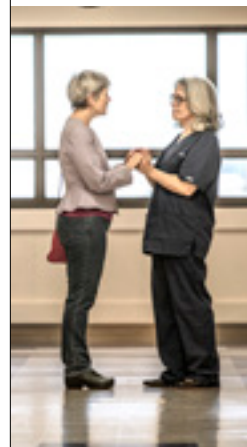


3:55 p.m. Gina Renee Simpson is born. 6 pounds, 7 ounces. Healthy baby. Healthy mama. Dad and grandparents are bursting with joy. This is the best day of their lives, and one they will never forget.

3:56 p.m. Cameron John Wallace is born. Complications. The medical team does all it can. "We're so sorry." A young couple grieves. This is the worst day of their lives, and one they will never forget.

4:55 p.m. Janelle Betz's lab results are in. Negative: What a relief.

4:56 p.m. Janelle Jones' lab results are in. Positive: The cancer journey begins.



6:48 p.m. Pediatrician Samuel Harris goes home late. 37 sick kids in one day.

7:02 p.m. Therapist Nicole Watson turns the lights out. Another day listening to so much loneliness.

7:30 p.m. Physical therapist Richard Hays teaches his community about exercise.

8:06 p.m. Hospital president John Bell packs his suitcase for a medical mission trip.

9:47 p.m. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

10:03 p.m. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

11:59 p.m. Change of status from critical to serious. And the prayers continue: "God save this boy, our boy."

ALEX BRYAN
Adventist Health chief mission officer

*NAMES AND OTHER DETAILS CHANGED THROUGHOUT TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY.

Coleman 95th

Vera Coleman celebrated her 95th birthday on Sept. 4, 2020. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, there was no special celebration.

Vera was born in Selah, Washington, on Sept. 4, 1925, to Harold and Leola Devereaux. She began teaching at age 17 in Lower Naches Adventist School in Gleeed, sometimes walking 10 miles roundtrip from her parents' home in Yakima. She also taught at Granger, Alma, Hermiston and Brookside Junior Academy in Yakima.

She began teaching kindergarten, taking over for Joan Whitehead at Cascade Kindergarten in Yakima. Vera also taught preschool for many years in Terrace Heights. After she retired, she helped first



Vera Coleman

graders with reading at Yakima Adventist Christian Academy. She says she would still be helping if she could drive and get around.

She has always had a positive attitude and loves being part of God's church.

Vera's family includes Gary and Charlene (Coleman) Weber, Pasco, Washington; Sandy (Coleman) Pikse, Tacoma, Washington; Harold and Donna Weber of Yakima; Cheryl (Weber) and Paul Szyplik of Puyallup, Washington; 5 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 4 step-great-grandchildren.



Bill and Nita Hinman

Hinman 50th

Bill and Nita Hinman "celebrated" their 50th anniversary June 11, 2020, with takeout from Olive Garden in a park in Yakima, Washington, near their home.

Bill, a 27-year old junior high music teacher, met Nita (Yeager) Martin, a single mother, when Bill was hired as choir director and Nita was hired as the organist at Thornton Presbyterian Church near Denver, Colorado. Their first date was five days before Nita gave birth to her son from a previous marriage.

Bill had been an intelligence officer in the Air Force (who loved "jumping out of perfectly good airplanes") and planned to make it a career until Type 1 diabetes derailed his plans. He was devastated at the time but knows now it was part of God's plan.

Bill and Nita were married in the same Presbyterian Church where they had been employed. Bill then became an instant father to 7-year-old Michele and 15-month-old Stefan, whom he later adopted. For the next five years, Bill taught band and choir at a junior high and high school in the Denver area.

Nita, an Adventist, knew they were unequally yoked but didn't realize how unequally until they started discussing religion. Bill didn't believe Jesus was divine or that the Bible was inspired. More interested in New Age philosophy, Bill even had his own guru before marriage. He did, however,

support her in keeping the Sabbath and attended church with her and the children when possible.

Thankfully, Bear Creek Presbyterian Church, where Bill was choir director, paid the couple's way to Bill Gothard's Basic Youth Conflicts in Denver. This convinced Bill the Bible was inspired and led to Bible studies in the Chapel Haven (Colorado) Seventh-day Adventist Church. Nita was overjoyed when Bill, along with their daughter, Michele, was baptized in 1975.

Following his baptism, Bill was hired by the Rocky Mountain Conference as band/instrument teacher at Mile High and Campion academies, then as MHA principal. This was followed by service as Maplewood Academy (Minnesota) treasurer, Alaska Conference education superintendent, Union Springs (New York) Academy principal; New York Conference education superintendent and, finally, principal at Yakima Adventist Christian Academy. Bill retired for medical reasons in 2004.

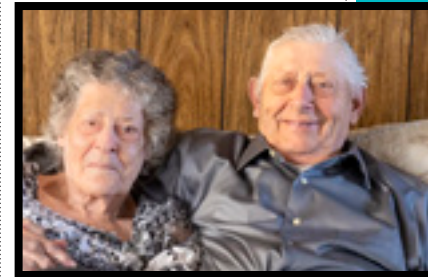
Nita stayed at home with their children, to which they added a third, until the kids were in school. She spent two years as piano/organ teacher at Campion and *Alaska Magazine* receptionist. She also worked as a secretary for Porter Hospital, Denver South Church, 3M, MWA, Alaska and New York conferences, and Yakima Adventist Church, since moving to Yakima in 2001. She has also been an organist for 11 different denominations, though mostly for Lutheran and Seventh-day Adventist – where she still plays.

The Hinman family includes three children, Michele Myers of Yakima;

Stefan Hinman of Wasilla, Alaska; Nicole and Jon Heisler of Enumclaw, Washington; and 7 grandchildren.

Kegley 60th

Earl and Ardyce (Hanson) Kegley celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Oct. 17, 2020, in Oakville, Washington, with an immediate-family luncheon.



Ardyce and Earl Kegley

They were married at the Auburn Church in Auburn, Washington, on Oct. 16, 1960. Earl was drafted into the Army, where he served as a Whitecoat volunteer. After his release from the Army, he and Ardyce made their home on the family dairy farm. Earl managed the farm, and Ardyce worked various part-time jobs. They eventually sold that farm and bought a larger farm in Oakville, where they still reside.

The Kegleys have been faithful church members over the years and have served in several church offices. They are currently members of Transformation Life Center in Olympia, Washington.

Their family includes Marilyn and Tony Varela of Olympia; Earl Jr. and Amanda Kegley of Oakville; Cheri and Patrick McKown of Lacey, Washington; 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

LAWSON-MILLER

Alexis "Lexi" Lawson and Jared Miller were married June 14, 2020, in Meridian, Idaho. They are making their home in Donnelly, Idaho. Lexi is the daughter of Dinn and Melanie Lawson. Jared is the son of Doug and Jodi Miller.

RICHTER-BRADBURN

Jessica Rochelle Richter and Joshua Grant Bradburn were married Aug. 8, 2020, in Portland, Oregon, where they are making their home. Jessica is the daughter of Felix Richter and DeAnn Smit. Joshua is the son of David and Sonja (Sand)

family at REST

ALLEN—Jean Ann Ellsworth, 96; born Nov. 23, 1923, Rochester, New York; died June 29, 2020, Eagle, Idaho. Surviving: 2 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

ANDREGG—Daniel Lynn, 93; born June 14, 1926, Boise, Idaho; died March 18, 2020, Eagle, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Randy, Eagle; Rodney, Middleton, Idaho; daughter, Linda Wagner, Rogue River, Oregon; 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

BARNES—Agnis Louisa (Nichols), 92; born June 26, 1928, Shanghai, China; died Sept. 25, 2020, Anacortes, Washington. Surviving: son, Joseph Dale, College Place, Washington; daughters, Sherlyn Jo Wolford, The Dalles, Oregon; Lorinda Snow, Troutdale, Oregon; 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

BRADFORD MEYER—Connie Colleen (Taylor), 73; born Oct. 29, 1946, Fort Collins, Colorado; died Aug. 28, 2020, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: son, Ryan Bradford, Vale, Oregon; daughter, Robyn (Bradford) Mordeno, Salem,

Oregon; and 4 grandchildren.

CASTANON—Raul, 66; born Aug. 24, 1954, El Paso, Texas; died Aug. 31, 2020, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Charon (Terrell); daughter, Amanda Castanon, Boise; father, Aristeo, of Southern California; brothers, Carlos, Boise; Hugo, of Southern California; sisters, Patty Castanon and Becky Hernandez, both of Southern California.

CLYMER—Renita V., 66; born April 27, 1953, Seoul, Korea; died Feb. 28, 2020, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: sisters, Crystal (Clymer) Wood and Marlita Clymer-Engelhart.

COON—Jay Eldon Sr., 92; born July 25, 1928, Port Townsend, Washington; died Aug. 3, 2020, Selah, Washington. Surviving: sons, Jay Afton, Vancouver, Washington; Douglas Coon, Yakima, Washington; Jay Eldon Coon Jr., Auburn, Washington; Ricci Coon, Puyallup, Washington; Roger Coon, Bellingham, Washington; daughters, Jayne Didario-Conley, Walla Walla, Washington; Susan Hunter, Maui, Hawaii; Debbie Freeman, Loveland, Colorado; Sherilyn Johnson, Yakima; 24 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

DASHER—Richard "Rich" N., 64; born July 29, 1955, Portland, Oregon; died May 17, 2020, McMinnville, Oregon. Surviving: mother, Jean (McKinney) Dasher, Portland; sisters, Renee Stanley and Rhonda J. Dasher, both of Damascus, Oregon; and 7 grandchildren.

DASHER—Robert E. 87; born Jan. 16, 1933, Battle Ground, Washington; died April 23, 2020, Gresham, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Jean (McKinney), Portland, Oregon; son, Richard "Rich" Dasher, McMinnville, Oregon; daughters, Renee Stanley and Rhonda J. Dasher,

both of Damascus, Oregon; 5 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

GIBBS—Norma (Fries) Morton, 95; born Aug. 21, 1925, San Francisco, California; died Sept. 16, 2020, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: daughter, Pam (Morton) McAllister McCoy, Caldwell; 2 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

GOTCH—Roger G., 72; born May 11, 1948, San Diego, California; died June 18, 2020, College Place, Washington. Surviving: wife, Kathleen (O'Conner); son, Travis, Hurlburt Field, Florida; daughter, Elizabeth Maine, Spokane, Washington; and 3 grandchildren.

HIXSON—Gerald Eugene, 95; born Nov. 10, 1924, Longmont, Colorado; died Oct. 21, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

HUTTON—Ilo Deanne (Hendricksen), 89; born May 17, 1930, Charlo, Montana; died Nov. 12, 2019, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Jeff and Greg, both of Florence, Montana; David, Walla Walla; daughter, Deborah Hutton, Polson, Montana; and 4 grandchildren.

JUDEN—Francis William, 101, born Nov. 13, 1918, San Francisco, California; died June 27, 2020, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: daughter, Katherine Knox, Brentwood, Tennessee.

KITES—Frederick Ray, 86; born Aug. 1, 1933, Salem, Oregon; died Jan. 7, 2020, Salem. Surviving: wife, Betty (Thornton); son, Mark, Caldwell, Idaho; daughters, Dorothy Reese, Scappoose, Oregon; Donna Newbeck, Independence, Oregon; Dolores Smith, Amity, Oregon; 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

KOENIG—William Emil, 101; born Feb. 28, 1919, Pettibone,

North Dakota; died Aug. 17, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: daughters, Heidi Koenig Hart, Mosier, Oregon; Sandra Koenig Jacobson, Williams Lake, British Columbia, Canada; Elizabeth Koenig Behrmann, Portland, Oregon; sisters, Ruth Glimsdale, Medford, Oregon; Vanice Kostenko, Orofino, Idaho; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

KRIEGER—Vance Leon, 62; born June 7, 1958, Walla Walla, Washington; died Aug. 6, 2020, Kalama, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Jennifer Mears, Sunnyside, Washington; mother, Vaughn (Hiebert) Krieger, Altamont, Tennessee; brothers, Sidney Krieger and Kent Krieger; sister, Kara McGhee, Battle Ground, Washington; and 2 grandchildren.

LEHMAN—Stanford Martin, 67; born Oct. 16, 1952, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania; died July 7, 2020, Estacada, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Rita Lehman; sons, Jared, Gresham, Oregon; Nathan, Vancouver, Washington; Aaron, Estacada; daughters, Rachel Liebelt, Wenatchee, Washington; brother, Brent, Burbank, Washington; and 3 grandchildren.

LEISKE—Erma Edna (Schultz), 99; born Dec. 24, 1919, Oaksdale, Washington; died Dec. 20, 2019, Kennewick, Washington. Surviving: son, Rodney, Kennewick; brother, David Schultz; sisters, Clara Tall, and Mae Blasdel.

MAURA—Benigno "Ben", 99; born Feb. 13, 1921, Guayama, Puerto Rico; died July 31, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Charlie; daughters, Bernice Maura and Betty Maura Stombaugh; 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

MEHARRY—Steven Allen Neuharth, 68; born June 1, 1952,

Walla Walla, Washington; died Oct. 7, 2020, Walla Walla. Surviving: sons, Jared, Wenatchee, Washington; Josh, Tillamook, Oregon; brother, Mike, Sun City, Arizona; sisters, Jackie Moro, Mesa, Arizona; Trish Nielsen, Cave Creek, Arizona; Debbie Drager, Scottsdale, Arizona; and 4 grandchildren.

MUTCH—Serena Wilma (Hansen) Elder, 91; born Sept. 24, 1927, Fergus Falls, Minnesota; died Feb. 11, 2019, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: husband, Howard Mutch; son, Ronald Elder, Lind, Washington; stepson, Martin Mutch, of Washington; daughters, Carolyn (Elder) Waymire, Billings, Montana; Alice (Elder) Dettwiler, New Carlisle, Ohio; 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

OCHS—Lois M., 92; born Nov. 10, 1927, Lewis, Colorado; died Aug. 29, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, David, Corvallis, Oregon; daughters,

Susan Farrell, Nevada City, California; Elizabeth Bleecker, Walla Walla; and 3 grandchildren.

PALMER—Donald “Don” Sr., 86; born Dec. 17, 1933, Brainard, Minnesota; died Aug. 30, 2020, Salem, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Helen (Thrush); sons, Don Jr., Salem; daughters, Connie Heinrich, Tolstoy, South Dakota; Karen Kiele, Chugiak, Alaska; stepbrothers, John Perrine of Texas; Wayne Perrine of Oregon; stepsisters, Mary Coleman of Texas; Ellen Perrine of Washington; 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

PIERCE—Lyle Glenn, 87; born March 11, 1933, Chehalis, Washington; died May 29, 2020, Woodland, Washington. Surviving: wife, Sharon; son, Jay, Woodland; daughters, Cynthia Hatfield, Sabastian, Florida; Victoria Carruthers, Omaha, Nebraska; Kimberly Remus, of South Dakota; Jill Garcia, Berrien Springs, Michigan; brother,

Michael Pierce, Salem, Oregon; 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

ROBISON—Gladys Carol, 89; born Nov. 17, 1930, Forest Grove, Oregon; died Sept. 3, 2020, Battle Ground, Washington.

ROESEL—Charles “Charlie” Max, 81; born Sept. 22, 1938, Medina, New York; died Aug. 25, 2020, Myrtle Point, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Pat (Navy); son, Chuck, Sitka, Alaska; daughters, Shari Bley, Port Angeles, Washington; Lois Ford, Fredrick, Maryland; brother, Paul, of Tennessee; sister, Carol Berez, Lincoln City, Oregon; 18 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

SANDERS—Darlene Joy Grunke, 76; born Sept. 10, 1943, Norfolk, Nebraska; died July 20, 2020, Nordland, Washington. Surviving: daughters, Julie Sanders Keymer, Walla Walla, Washington; Holly Sanders Roderick, Vancouver, Washington; and 2 grandchildren.

SELLERS—Lola Bernice Heffel, 94; born Feb. 25, 1926, Caldwell, Idaho; died Aug. 11, 2020, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: son, Gregory, Vancouver, Washington; daughter, Brenda Link, Boise; sister, Pearl Ahl, Boise; Verdeen Bowker, Meridian, Idaho; a grandchild and 3 great-grandchildren.

SPROWL—Lewis W., 74; born March 3, 1946, Kansas City, Kansas; died June 11, 2020, Mountain Home, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Bonnie G. Sprowl; sons, Lewis W. Jr. and Shawn.

STAHLNECKER—Ruby Louise (Kahler), 92; born June 23, 1928, Walla Walla, Washington; died Aug. 11, 2020, Somerset, Virginia. Surviving: son, Leslie Stahlnecker; daughters, Carol Wayner and Patti Stahlnecker;

sisters, Miriam Kahler Schroeder and Maralyn Kahler Morgan; 48 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

VORIES—Barbara L., 91; born Aug. 10, 1929, Walla Walla, Washington; died Oct. 6, 2020, Walla Walla. Surviving: sons, Don, College Place, Washington; Dennis, Valley Center, California; daughter, Susan Vories Joice, Silverdale, Washington; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

WARD—Kenneth N., 81; born Dec. 25, 1938, Pasadena, California; died Sept. 26, 2020, Springfield, Oregon. Surviving: son, Michele, Tualatin, Oregon; daughters, Nichole Bryon, College Place, Washington; Stephanie Rushton, Springfield; brother, Richard, Leaburg, Oregon; and 5 grandchildren.

WINTER—Dennis Gordon, 73; born Oct. 25, 1946, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; died July 1, 2020, Pasco, Washington. Surviving: wife, Darlene Winter; son, David W., Walla Walla, Washington; daughter, Kimberly Murdoch, Walla Walla; and 2 grandchildren.

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

To submit family announcements, go to NWAdventists.com/contribute. To publish an expanded obituary with a short bio and photo, contact info@nwadventists.com or call 360-857-7000 for submission and cost information.

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.

1916–2019

NORMA MARIE SCHAFFER

Norma Marie Powell was born March 21, 1916, in Washougal, Washington.

Marie, as she was known by, worked in the cafeteria at the Adventist hospital in Portland for 23 years. She also worked in the cafeteria at Gladstone Camp Meeting several years. In 1996, she began volunteering at Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS), pricing the merchandise two days a week. She continued her volunteer work for 20 years.

She often said her church was her second family and her PACS colleagues were her third family. Her hobbies were making quilts for the local Dorcas ministry and writing poems.

Marie was 103 when she died on April 1, 2019, in Gresham, Oregon. Her husband, Otto, and her sons David and Dennis predeceased her. She is survived by her son Don of Orient, Oregon; her daughters, Nancy Reed and Jean Chard, both of McMinnville, Oregon; Edith Unterseher of Gresham; 13 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

Jan. 2—Local Church Budget;

Jan. 9—Local Conference Advance;

Jan. 16—Local Church Budget;

Jan. 23—Religious Liberty;

Jan. 30—Local Church Budget;

Feb. 6—Local Church Budget;

Feb. 13—Evangelism (NAD);

Feb. 20—Local Conference Budget;

Feb. 27—Local Conference Advance.

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Bible Tours Offered in 2021

We are excited to once again offer Bible Study Tours led by Carl Cosaert, Walla Walla University School of Theology dean and biblical studies professor.

March 29–April 8—The Steps of Paul and John Tour will be an unforgettable tour following the steps of the apostles Paul and John in Greece and Turkey. Towns like Athens, Corinth and Ephesus will no longer be lifeless names on a page. Instead, they will be places full of meaning since you will have visited them yourself.

Aug. 23–Sept. 3—The Steps of Jesus Tour will be an extraordinary journey to Jordan and Israel that will bring the stories of Jesus and the early church to life unlike anything you have experienced before. Walking through the countryside in Galilee where Jesus often taught and seeing the remains of an ancient boat that dates back to Jesus' time bring to life biblical stories in a not-to-be-forgotten way. Visiting the Nazareth Village provides an opportunity to see what life in Galilee would have been like in the time of Jesus.

Dec. 13–23—The Egypt Bible Tour will find you standing in front of the ancient pyramids of Giza experiencing the same awe Joseph felt when he stood before them nearly 4,000 years ago. Visiting the spectacular monuments in ancient Thebes you will be impressed with the courage and faith Moses had to have in God in order to stand up to the mighty pharaoh of Egypt.

Encounter many more experiences than those listed. Cosaert will be both teacher and guide for all three tours. He has carefully chosen the best sites, hotel accommodations and restaurants to ensure an amazing experience. No course on the Bible, no study of geography, no book on history or archaeology can ever give more insight into the world of the Bible than a personal trip that draws on Cosaert's rich background as a professor, published author and

international tour leader who has led more than 1,000 people to the Middle East during the last decade.

For a complete itinerary and tour cost, please email Sharon Searson at sharons@uccsda.org or go to adventtours.org.

WORLD CHURCH

Union Springs Academy Centennial

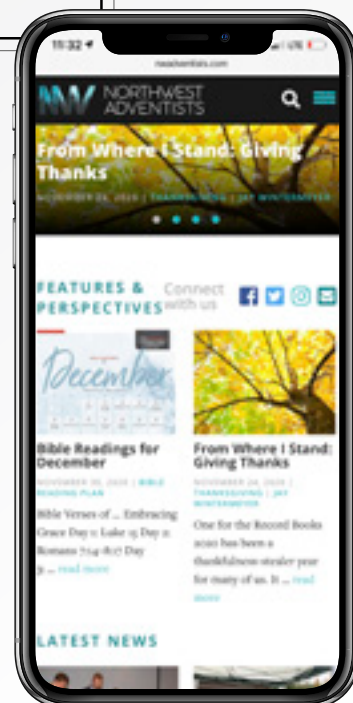
Sept. 17–19—Join Union Springs Academy in celebrating 100 years of ministry and service. All alumni, former faculty and staff are invited to celebrate God's goodness and leading at our centennial weekend. Visit unionspringsacademy.org for details and updates!

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT NWADVENTISTS.COM/EVENTS.



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SAME GREAT
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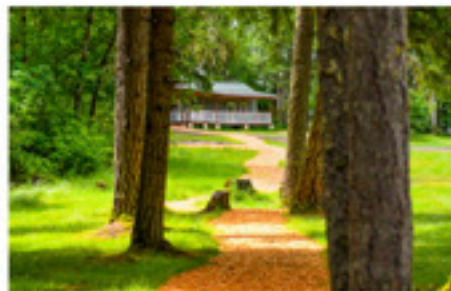
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MARCH 13, 2021



Commander Liam's reputation is that of a hard man who has complete control over his country's military.

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Recently, he received an unexpected text message. It had a link to the **Unlocking Bible Prophecies** series from **Adventist World Radio**. He wasn't sure who'd sent it, but he enjoyed the powerful presentation and the speaker's soothing voice that seemed to calm his soul. New messages began arriving daily, and as he listened, something changed in his heart.

Soon his resident "witch" began to notice the change in him and demanded to know who was sending the messages. She said, "That woman you're listening to has a magic more powerful than mine—I want some of that power! It gives me a strange sense of peace I haven't felt before. How can I receive these messages too?"

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WILL YOU BE MY *Valen-Slime?*



FEBRUARY 14 is Valentine's Day, a day to show people you care ... or maybe love them. Tell them with a heart-shaped note. All you need is paper, pen, scissors and maybe some stickers. Or show you care by ...

- » Cooking dinner.
- » Write a poem or a list of why you like them.
- » Create a scavenger hunt.
- » Would they like a back rub?
- » Tell them.

Or ... what better way to say "I love you" than with slime?

A VALENTINE'S DAY RIDDLES

What type of flowers should never be given on Valentines' Day?

DO THE MATH TO BREAK THE CODE.



INGREDIENTS:

- ½ cup clear Elmer's glue
- ½ teaspoon borax powder
- Water
- Food coloring
- Fine glitter or confetti glitter

INSTRUCTIONS:

In one bowl, add a ½ cup each of water and the glue.

Mix well.

Stir in the food coloring, fine glitter and/or confetti flitter. Add in as much or as little as you like.

In a second bowl, add a ½ cup of water and the borax. Mix together.

Slowly stir the second bowl's mixture into the first bowl. Mix the goop until all the liquid has been absorbed.

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*For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only Son,
that whoever believes in
Him should not perish but
have eternal life.*

(JOHN 3:16)

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7 Ways TO GET YOUR KID TO BREAK BAD HABITS

7

From nose picking to thumb sucking, there are plenty of inappropriate habits your little one might pick up over the course of their growth period. Just like temper tantrums, these can be difficult to handle. So how exactly can you help your kid make positive changes? Here are seven ways to help your child overcome those bad habits.



AUTHOR | LaVonne Long

1

WORK WITH, NOT AGAINST

As a parent, when you're educating or pushing your child to overcome their bad habits, you automatically become "against" your child, which is something you don't want. Work with your child and help them become stronger, more powerful and more self-controlled, helping them overcome bad habits.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." — Rom. 12:18

2

OFFER A SUBSTITUTE

Sometimes, when nothing else works, you can also consider offering your kid a substitute to limit bad behavior. This works because it is less of a punishment and more an outlet for your kid to under-

3

UNDERSTAND THE BEHAVIOR

A lot of us don't actually work on understanding the logic behind our child's behavior. Often children develop unwanted behavioral patterns due to an underlying issue, some source of stress and seeking attention from their parents.

"My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." — James 1:19

4

PRAISE AND REWARD

Praising and rewarding is another excellent strategy. Educate your kid about how this habit is inappropriate and how you would be grateful if they stop doing it. Make sure to praise and even reward them occasionally.

"Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged." — Col. 3:21



5

BE DISCREET

You need to be discreet, especially if you feel your attention and nagging is only making things worse. Take things one step at a time, and don't let your kid feel overwhelmed with working on too many bad habits at once. Never embarrass your child in public.

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."— Col. 3:15

6

DON'T OVERREACT

Shaming doesn't always work and is a surefire way to worsen your relationship and even develop bitter feelings that may pass on to adulthood. Instead, be incredibly patient and supportive.

"Love is patient, love is kind. ... It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."—1 Cor. 13:4-8

7

BOOST MORALE

Last, but definitely not the least, try to boost your child's morale as much as you can. There's a different kind of magic that happens when you start trusting your child, stop judging them and learn to be more patient.

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him."—Ps. 127:3

LAVONNE LONG

LaVonne works at her kids' school, Skagit Adventist Academy. She is also a family lifestyle blogger and social media influencer. You can find her on Instagram@lavonnelong.

Humble Sinners AND SELF-RIGHTEOUS SAINTS

"The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts."

—BERTRAND RUSSELL



Have you noticed how so many people on the internet seem so certain about so many things? Regardless of expertise, these people are willing to share their opinion and let you know it is, indeed, a fact. If you disagree, you may even be called an idiot. When everyone is considered an "expert," no one is. When my "truth" is just as good as your "truth," we have entered an era of post-truth.

Post-truth was the word Oxford Dictionaries chose as their word of the year for 2016. Reflecting on this, Oxford Dictionaries' Casper Grathwohl said post-truth could become "one of the defining words of our time."¹

Oxford Dictionaries says, "Post-truth is thought to have been first used in 1992."² However the frequency of its usage increased by 2,000% in 2016 compared to the previous year. Grathwohl said, "Fueled by the rise of social media as a news source and a growing distrust of facts offered up by the establishment, post-truth as a concept has been finding its

linguistic footing for some time."

Objective facts are now less influential in shaping public opinion than emotional appeals.

Post-truth is a fitting word to define the zeitgeist we find ourselves in. Fake news is rampant and has become a money-making industry. It's powerful enough to impact elections, confirm our biases and add fuel to our worst fears.

Who cares if a story is accurate? It's the message that

counts, right? But what does it say about the message if it relies on sensationalism or false facts to penetrate?

In reaction to this, Google, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are now determined to take on fake news. But this is potentially ominous as well. Do we really want these companies being the arbitrators of truth? Has society become so numb, so dense, that it is unable to "test all things and hold on to what is good" (1 Thess. 5:21)?

How do we determine true truth in the age of post-truth? It has to start with humility—a willingness to admit we may get things wrong and a willingness to be corrected when we are wrong.

A couple of years ago I listened to a conference by the Barna Group that talked about true humility.³ True humility is how you see your knowledge. True humility means you have an accurate perception of your strengths as well as your weaknesses. According to Barna, true humility has four practical behaviors:

- » When you are humble about your knowledge, you will not be overconfident;



AUTHOR

Kevin McGill





- » You won't become defensive when people have different perspectives than you;
- » You will be open to revision;
- » You will truly respect the viewpoints of others.

Allow this truth to set you free: Humility is not the sacrifice of truth but the embodiment of it.

Humility is freedom. Pride is controlling. Humility prioritizes connection. Pride prioritizes being "right."

A person can be theologically right without actually being righteous. If someone develops a need to always be "right," it can become self-righteousness. This sort of arrogance blocks the ability to connect with God and with others. That is why I believe it's better to be a humble sinner than a self-righteous saint.

Accountability is needed for those who cause harm, but there should also be a

path forward for redemption. My friend Tony Jamgochian explains it like this: "If someone makes a mistake and you spend all your time making that person feel stupid for that mistake, don't be surprised if they double down and try to prove to themselves that it wasn't a mistake to begin with."

The comedian Sarah Silverman spoke about this recently on the *Bill Simmons Podcast*.⁴ She said, "If we don't give these people a path to redemption, then they're going to go where they are accepted, which is the dark side. I think there should be some kind of path. Do we want people to be changed? Or do we want them to stay the same, to freeze in a moment we found on the internet from 12 years ago. And so we can point to ourselves as right and them as wrong. It's righteousness porn."

I think this is what Eccl. 7:16 is referring to when it says, "Do not be overly righteous, nor

Righteousness isn't merely about being right. It's about redemption, faith and forgiveness.

If we confuse righteousness for theological correctness, it becomes "righteousness porn."

be overly wise—why should you destroy yourself?" If you have ever encountered a legalistic perfectionist, you know exactly what that text is talking about. It's not a call to relativity; it's a call to empathy. Righteousness isn't merely about being right. It's about redemption, faith and forgiveness. If we confuse righteousness for theological correctness, it becomes "righteousness porn."

So how are Christians to live in an age of post-truth? Reinhold Niebuhr, one of the great theologians from the 20th century, put it all together: "Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the

standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore we must be saved by the final form of love, which is forgiveness."

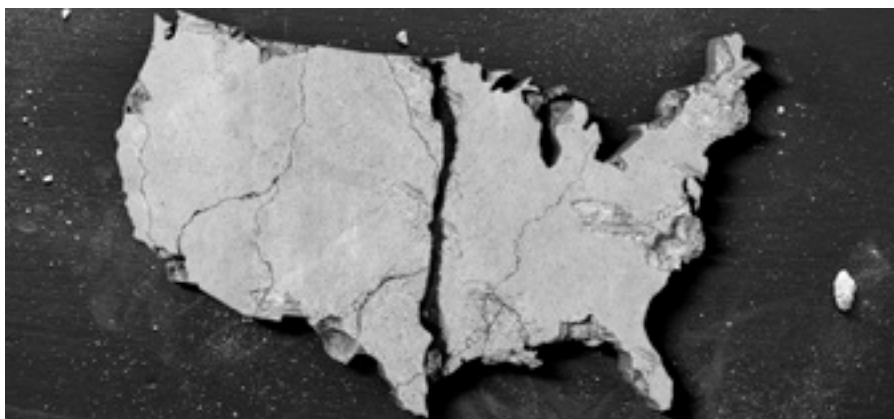
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KEVIN MCGILL
writes from Troy, Idaho. He shepherds three churches and loves spending time with his family.



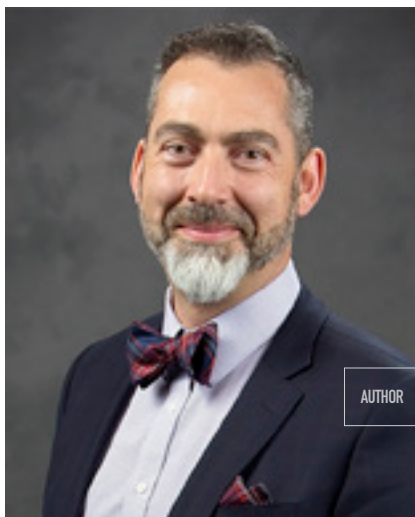


PERSPECTIVE



RESTORATION

FROM WHERE I Stand



ur world feels irreparably broken. My friends talk about it, I hear of it in the news, and I read about it in social media. I believe this breaking apart is predicted by Scripture. At the same time, I find myself longing for encouragement and hope in the face of societal breakdown.

Recently, I found myself turning to Isaiah. The words of this ancient prophet are just as urgent, current and necessary for today as they were millennia ago. Right now, I need both lament and hope, both naming what is and holding out for what will be.

Isaiah 58:11–12 is a passage I enjoy reading in different translations and paraphrases. I am particularly drawn to the way *The Message* paraphrases the passage:

“I will always show you where to go. I’ll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—firm muscles, strong bones. You’ll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You’ll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You’ll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.”

The line “you’ll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew” brings me to

my knees and raises my head at the same time.

In many ways the world and the church feel like old rubble. The old foundations have crumbled. I have been deeply, deeply grieved by the choices, behaviors, language and posture of people who claim the name “Christian.” In particular, I feel as if I am standing in the rubble of the church’s witness.

Other translations of this passage say, “You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.” There is a breach, a gap between what we are called to be and who we are right now.

Today, I sense a renewed invitation to be a repairer, to be a restorer. As 2021 begins, this is a work that’s heavy on my heart. In order to restore something damaged, one must pull out everything that is rotten and damaged. That’s where God’s promise is so powerful and encouraging to me in this moment.

If I let Him, God is willing to fully repair and restore my heart and my life. I can’t change your heart or mind. (My job isn’t that of the Holy Spirit.) What I can do is be open to let God continue rebuilding the brokenness in my heart. Some of the most beautiful things are those once most broken.

AUTHOR

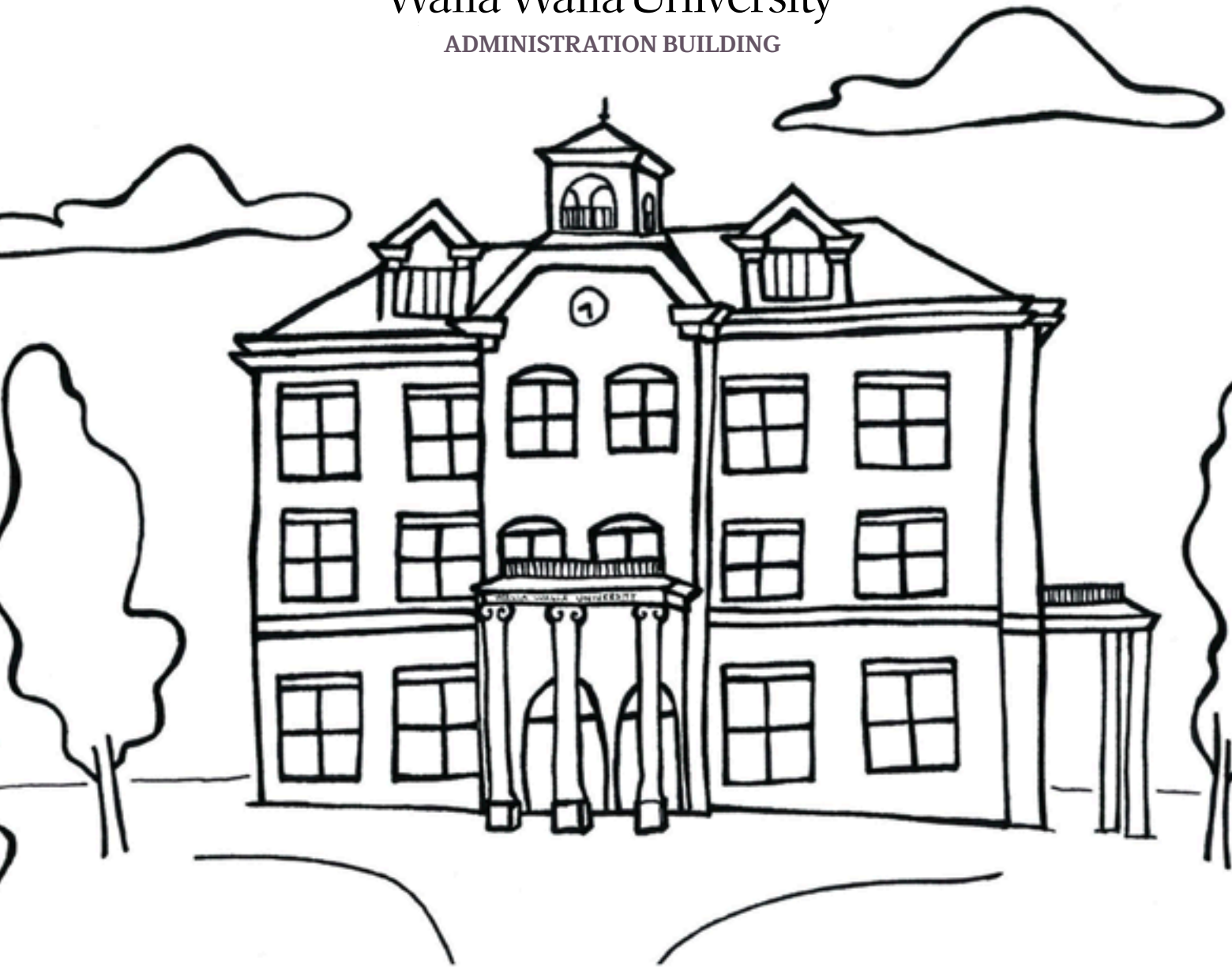
Jay Wintermeyer

JAY WINTERMEYER
Gleaner editor

JUST FOR KIDS



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“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

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JEREMIAH 29:11

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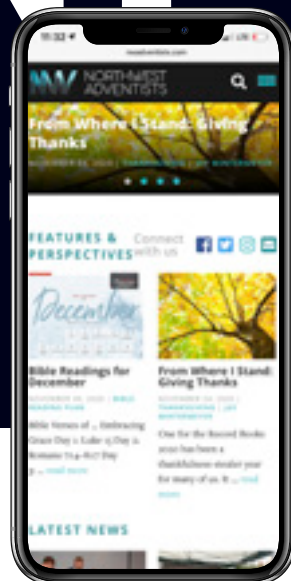
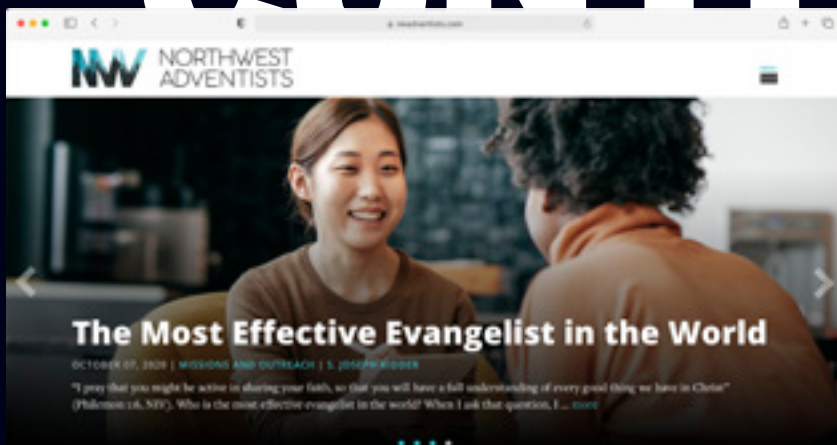
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PERIODICALS



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