

**EDITORIAL**  
TILTING TOWARD THE SON

**PERSPECTIVE**  
SPEAK FREELY

**JUST FOR KIDS**  
DIY PRAYER JARS

# gleaner

**NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION**

# ADVENTISM

THE CHURCH THROUGH YOUNG EYES



**MAR/APR**  
**2021**  
VOL. 116, N°2

IMAGES of CREATION



*The Lord my God lightens my darkness.  
Psalm 18:28*

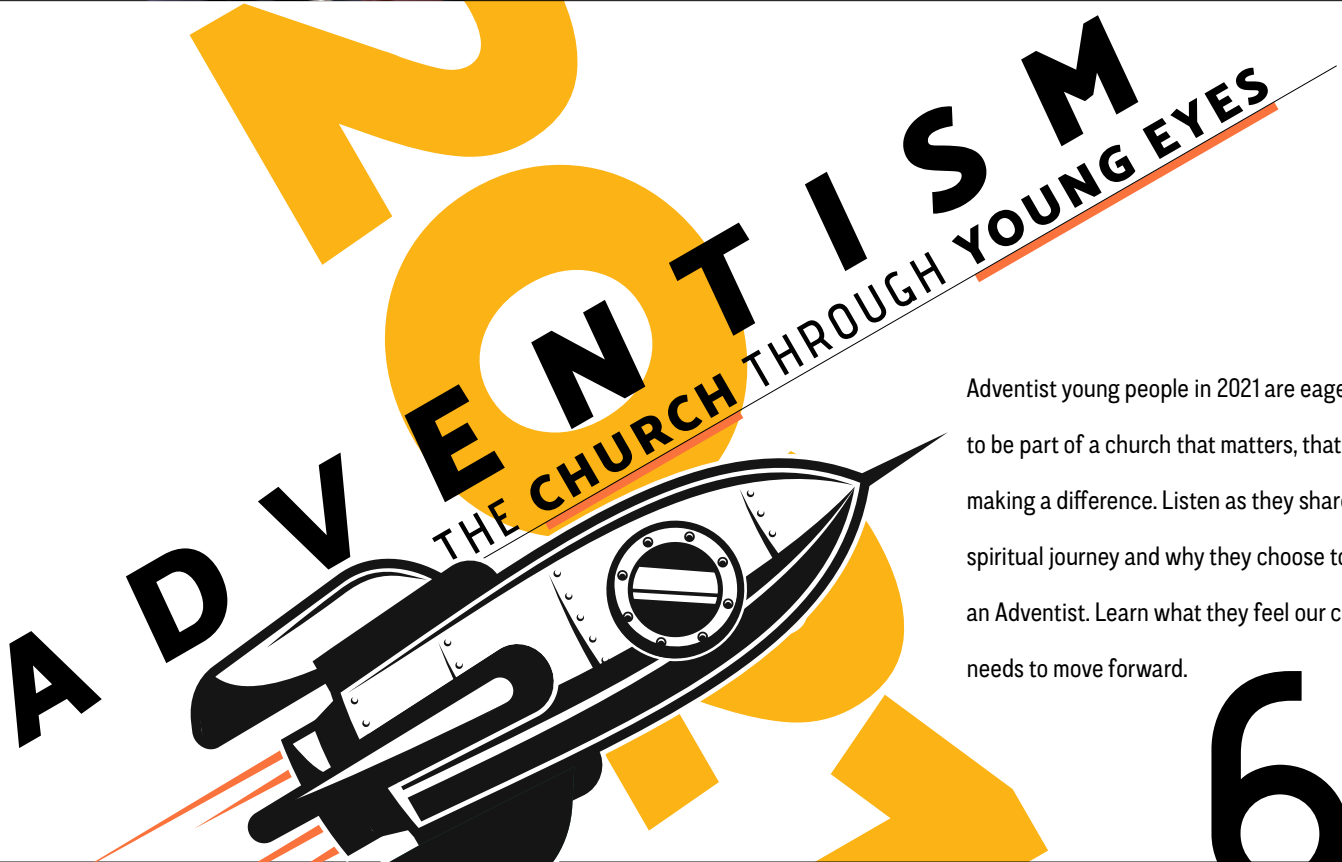
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MARCH/APRIL 2021



*At 5:50 a.m. Pacific time on Jan. 2, 2021, people across the Northwest experienced a special annual phenomenon. What happened at that precise moment lends insight on the human condition.*

JOHN FREEDMAN



Adventist young people in 2021 are eager to be part of a church that matters, that is making a difference. Listen as they share their spiritual journey and why they choose to be an Adventist. Learn what they feel our church needs to move forward.

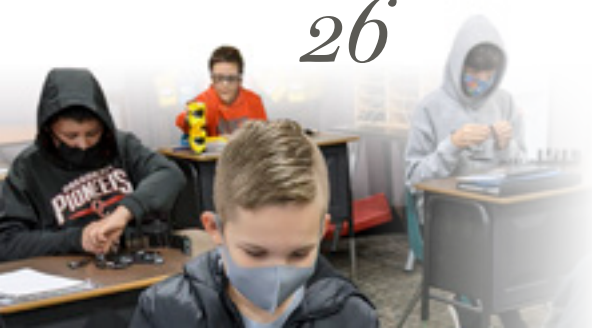
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## TILTING TOWARD THE SON

**AT 5:50 A.M. PACIFIC TIME** on Jan. 2, 2021, people across the Northwest experienced a special annual phenomenon. At that precise moment, we reached our closest approach to the sun for the year. This point in Earth's orbit around the sun is called "perihelion." Interestingly, we're closest to our fiery star in winter and farthest away in summer.

This astrological paradox seems counterintuitive. How is it possible we are closer to the sun yet experience winter at the same time in the Northern Hemisphere? The answer lies in the tilt of the Earth's axis. During the hemispheric winter, the Earth is tilted 23.5 degrees away from the sun. The rays of the sun hit one hemisphere of Earth at a shallow angle, which minimizes the amount of energy that hits any given spot. Our shorter days and longer nights prevent Earth from warming up.

Much like perihelion, the first few months of 2021 started on the chilly side. The coronavirus pandemic has continued to claim thousands of people every day as the virus mutates and spreads. Vaccines are still slow getting to the public. Economic upheaval and social and political divides continue to threaten world stability. Surely, darkness covers the Earth.

Our world is tilting away from the Son of God. Although the world has more knowledge about God and more access to know Him than ever before, it seems to be living in a spiritual winter. The vitriol expressed by those on opposite sides of issues is doing more harm than good. "... Those who at any supposed provocation feel at liberty to indulge anger or resentment are opening the heart to Satan. Bitterness and animosity must be banished from the soul if we would be in

harmony with heaven" (*Desire of Ages*, p. 310).

Even though the world may be leaning away from God, we have the opportunity to lean toward the Son as we invite Jesus Christ to live in our hearts. Jesus came to reveal God's love to humanity. When we are grounded in God's love, we can begin to

understand the width and length and depth and height of

Christ's love, which passes all knowledge, and be filled with all the fullness of God (Eph. 3:17-19).

What the world needs is to tilt toward the Son of God! The light of the gospel of Jesus

Christ shines out into the world and dispels the darkness. John 3:16 says, "This is how much God loved

the world, that He sent His only son, Jesus Christ, so that anyone who believes in Him will not die, but will have life, the life of the age to come."

God's love comes to us exactly where Jesus finds us. All we need to do is accept it. Accepting God's love starts a chain reaction of divine power, by the Spirit. Jesus is not content to leave us the way He finds

us. He comes to abide with us through the Holy Spirit and brings hope and healing to every child of God.

Christ reminds us today of the importance of a godly character. Character matters. Words matter. Truth matters. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of truth, who will lead us into all truth. "The work of the Holy Spirit is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth and thus becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood" (*Desire of Ages*, p. 671).

The best gift Jesus could give His followers was the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus inspired His followers with hope when He talked about the Holy Spirit. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, impresses truth upon the heart and transforms the life. "The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent ... it is

**JOHN FREEDMAN**  
*North Pacific Union  
Conference president*



by the Spirit that the heart is made pure" (*Desire of Ages*, p. 671).

As the Son came to glorify the Father by revealing His love to the world, so the Holy Spirit glorifies the Son by revealing His grace to the world. The image of God is to be reproduced in the followers of Christ. God is honored by His people who develop a Christ-like character through the power of the Holy Spirit and reflect His love toward the world.

In June, Earth's axis tilts the Northern Hemisphere toward the sun, although Earth is farther away from the sun in its orbit. With the sun's rays hitting Earth at a steeper angle, the light does not spread out so much, thus increasing

the amount of energy hitting any given spot. The longer days and shorter nights also allows Earth to warm up, thus we have summer.

Current events may produce discouragement and fear. But we know that "tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Rom. 5:3-4). Tilt in toward the Son. You will experience more light, hope and warmth as you bask in His love. "The Lord will arise over

# gleaner

Copyright © 2021  
March/April 2021  
Vol. 116, No. 2

*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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#### **Gleaner STAFF**

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**Digital Editor:** Anthony White  
**Managing Editor:** Desiree Lockwood  
**Copy Editor:** Laurel Rogers  
**Design:** GUILDHOUSE Group

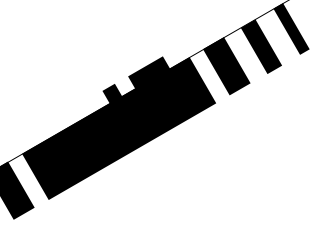
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"LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS,"  
IN WOODLAND,  
WASHINGTON,  
BY RENAE E. SMITH,  
OF BRUSH PRAIRIE,  
WASHINGTON



**ADVENT**

**THE CHURCH**

**JAY WINTERMEYER**  
NORTH PACIFIC UNION  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR COMMUNICATION AND  
GLENER EDITOR

# S M H THROUGH YOUNG EYES

**YOU'VE PROBABLY BEEN THERE, LOOKING  
AROUND A ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE  
WHO ALL SEEM TO KNOW EACH OTHER.  
THEY'RE LAUGHING AND CHATTERING,  
WHILE YOU STAND AWKWARDLY TO THE  
SIDE WONDERING HOW TO FIT IN.**

The host walks by with a tray of snacks, and you immediately offer to take over so you finally have something useful to do. “No, no, I’ve got it,” your host replies. Bereft of any way to connect or contribute, you step back into the shadows and wonder why you ever came in the first place. You just want to leave.

Young adults often find themselves in a similar situation at church. American writer and businessman Alvin Toffler penned these words:

“The secret message communicated to most young people today by the society

around them is that they are not needed, that the society will run itself quite nicely until they – at some distant point in the future – will take over the reins. Yet the fact is that the society is not running itself nicely ... because the rest of us need all the energy, brains, imagination and talent that young people can bring to bear down on our difficulties.

For society to attempt to solve its desperate problems without the full participation of even very young people is imbecile.”

Toffler is known for his works discussing modern technologies, including the digital revolution and the communication revolution. His incisive commentary about our youth is more important in 2021 than ever before. Young people are an indispensable lifeline for society and for our church.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is here today because a group of young people, including James and Ellen White, formed a core part of the leadership in the early days when it was formally organized in May 1863. Their energy and talents helped build up a foundation for the fledgling church.

Ellen White experienced firsthand the power of youth. In later years she would write about their importance in the book *Education*: “With such an army of

workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!” (p. 271).

More than 150 years later, the Adventist Church is facing a twofold crisis. Young people are leaving the church at the same time the Adventist Church is facing the retirement of more than half its current leadership.

More than ever before the Adventist Church needs young people. What will the next decade look like? Who is going to take the torch and lead this faith community while we wait for Christ’s promised return?

# EAGER TO SERVE

**ABBY ALCANTARA, A JUNIOR RELIGION MAJOR AT WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY, KNOWS SHE'S HERE FOR A REASON. LISTENING TO ABBY RECOUNT HER FAITH JOURNEY, IT'S CLEAR TO SEE GOD'S DIVINE HAND AT WORK. CONSIDERING ALL THAT'S HAPPENED IN HER LIFE, SHE COULD HAVE EASILY ENDED UP IN A VERY DIFFERENT PLACE.**



"I shouldn't be here today," says Abby. "I know God has brought me to where I am right now."

Abby is a fourth-generation Adventist. "I've always believed what my parents believed," she says. "What they believed was very foundational for me. It was a good structure for me as a kid growing up. I went to church and sang the songs and read all the stories."

When Abby's parents went through a divorce, life took a dark turn. The Sabbath School stories and songs didn't feel the same. She doesn't talk much about that time in her life, but one thing is clear: She wishes things had gone differently. She wishes her church would have done things differently.

When she started high school, Abby began to discover some important things about herself and God. She realized God was way more than what her parents had told her. He was a personal God. "My Bible

teacher helped us cultivate our spiritual gifts," says Abby. "He helped us understand that each one of us is unique and different and showed us how God can use those differences in special ways."

When Abby graduated from high school, she decided to attend a local community college in her hometown in Medford, Oregon. "When I started college," Abby says, "I fell backward and was out of touch spiritually. I went to church on Saturday, but there wasn't a connection. The only time I felt a spiritual high was during the summer when I would go to Camp MiVoden for work."

When Abby talks about camp, her eyes light up. Camp MiVoden showed her again how God is more than someone you read about in a book. He is someone that can and is working in people's lives. Being able to witness that through camp ministry for the past four years has been a huge boost for Abby's spiritual journey.

"I've noticed a huge spiritual turn these past four years," says Abby. "But during the past two years I've realized where my own faith foundation was with God."

While Abby grew up in the Adventist Church, she didn't exactly know why she was a member. "Honestly, I'm still figuring it out," she says now. "I claim Adventism because it is the closest to what I see as Bible truth."

Over the past four years, Abby's camp experience has challenged her to find a life calling where she can use what

she went through growing up to help others. Her search prompted her to keep reading her Bible and to dig deeper into it.

"One of the ways God showed up for me recently was how he brought me to Walla Walla University," says Abby. "It was going to be my last summer at camp and I had plans in place to move on to other things. One day at the camp director, Jeff Wines, came up to me and asked me if I wanted to work for him as an intern. I was so excited because I had always wanted to work for him. Working as an intern at Upper Columbia Conference I was able to keep a job when many of my classmates weren't able to keep a job because of the pandemic."

The job at the conference was a growing experience for Abby. In addition, the finances from the internship allowed her

# LEAD EXAMPLE



to enroll for religion studies at Walla Walla University.

Over the past two years Abby has grown in her faith journey with God and her church. "Church isn't just a building," she says. "... It's people. When we have a building, we have a hierarchy that comes into play. When we hear the word 'church,' we think of a steeple and bells. For me, church should be a safe place to grow and be open with each other."

Abby describes her view of church as a place without entrance fees or requirements for people to feel welcome. "I'd love to have a place where you don't have to put on a mask to appear perfect. I long for a place to be open and real with each other," she says.

Abby wants to make a difference and serve. When

asked about how she and her peers feel about working for God, she says, "I would like to see us be able to lead without fear. We want to help. We want to take action but we often have to second guess what we're doing. Are our leaders going to despise us for this? There are leaders who are supportive, but you have to look for them. When we don't have that support, we get nervous and fearful of getting involved."



BY  
MPLE



**KALEB JONES IS A FIRST-YEAR COMPUTER ENGINEERING STUDENT AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY IN BOZEMAN. HE TOO WAS RAISED IN AN ADVENTIST HOME. LIKE MANY YOUNG PEOPLE, HE DIDN'T FIND A REAL CONNECTION WITH GOD UNTIL A MOMENT OF CRISIS REARED ITS UGLY HEAD.**

"I was raised an Adventist," says Kaleb. "My grandparents were missionaries. My dad taught us about the Bible, but I never developed a strong devotional life. I went to Adventist schools, I had Bible classes, and I was learning about God. But I never felt like I knew Him personally. I didn't have that big conversion moment that I could point to."

All that changed Kaleb's junior year of high school. That's when he almost lost his brother to suicide.

"My brother was going through a pretty bad depression," he says. "We knew my brother was under the weather and struggling. We were worried about him but didn't know the extent of his depression."

Kaleb's mother received a suspicious notification from her bank one Saturday morning. "My mom never checks her bank account on Sabbath, but that day she

saw that my brother had rented a hotel room in Livingston, a town about 30 miles away," says Kaleb.

"When my folks saw bank charge, they rushed to Livingston," Kaleb remembers. "My dad knocked on the door of his hotel room and found my brother crying his eyes out. He was about to end his life, and my parents got there in the nick of time."

He continues: "That was the moment I can point to and say, 'This is where God showed up.' He definitely had a hand in saving my brother's life. I can't imagine life without him."

It was a pivotal moment for the young man. "I consciously realized God exists," Kaleb explains. "He's a personal God. He's not just out there doing whatever He wants. He cares about us."

Following his brother's intervention, things began to change for Kaleb. He began to take his devotional life more seriously. He started going to Bible studies and becoming more involved in service.

This new walk with God hasn't been free of hardship for Kaleb. "Any relationship isn't easy," he admits. "There's been many bumps along the way but I'm really passionate

about service. I think that's what makes my church really special. There's something about the way we do it that stands out."

Kaleb believes the Adventist Church isn't perfect, and yet he believes there's something that makes it special. When his brother's life was spared, he experienced the struggle for human life between God and Satan.

"The Great Controversy is really interesting to me," says Kaleb. "When you look at life through that lens, what's happening around us makes a lot of sense. That framework really explains a lot that happens in our world."

Kaleb says he is an Adventist today because of how Adventists interpret the Bible. "I feel you should be part of the denomination that you feel best interprets Scripture," he says. "For me, that's the Adventist Church. We don't agree on everything, but our core beliefs are Bible-based."

This past summer Kaleb had opportunity to put his budding faith into practice. While working on a concrete construction crew, he had opportunity to test out something about evangelism his dad taught him growing up. "My dad always told me that people will see you Jesus through your actions," says Kaleb. "I actually experienced that this summer. I didn't have to confront the guys on my crew. They came to me and asked questions when they saw I was different. I don't think it's bad to preach Jesus, but I think what's most important is that we live like Jesus."

He knows people notice. "Most people feel Christians are

hypocritical," he says. "They say we pick what we want from the Bible and use it as a weapon. That's not what we want them to see. When we set an example with our lives, when we treat others like Jesus would treat them, people will come to us and ask questions."

As Kaleb has grown in faith over the past couple of years, one thing troubles him. "Our church lacks members who are my age," he says. "I've always wondered about that. Even in my own family, most of my siblings don't attend church anymore. We need to focus on getting more young people into the church or keeping them in the church. We are the ones who want to make positive change, who are motivated to make change and have the energy to get things done. I

think that should be a pretty big goal."

Kaleb is actively working to do something about missing youth. "My buddy Derek help with Adventurers in our church," he says. "We work with the little kids. Maybe if they see our example and see us involved in church life, they will stick around a little longer when they get to be our age."

# ENCOURAGE US TO TRY

**COLTON VELDBOOM IS THE YOUTH LEADER IN HIS LOCAL CHURCH. HE GRADUATED IN 2020 WITH HIS CIVIL ENGINEERING DEGREE FROM MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY.**



stand out where I know God talked to me. I've felt that more in the last few months than I have ever before. I feel like my faith has grown stronger leading the youth group. It's been very real."

For the first three months Colton had his youth group focus on prayer and personal relationships. Each week the group would set a prayer challenge. One week the challenge was to ask God to teach them something they never knew before.

Usually kids checked in with their experiences on Sabbath. "On Tuesday that week, a kid messaged me," says Colton. "He told me, 'I have an answer. I've been praying that every morning and today I walked into work. My boss walked in and asked me if I wanted him to show me how to use the most expensive piece of machinery in the shop.'"

"I tell you what," says Colton. "There is nothing cooler than seeing people you're working with experience God." Colton has some definite

"Before I started leading out," says Colton, "I had been sitting in the church pew thinking about maybe asking if I could lead. I was sitting there, and the pastor came up to me and asked me if I wanted to lead the youth group. The Lord knows what He's doing!"

He has seen God work many times since he's taken on leadership responsibility. "There's many times where you know He's there," he explains. "There're a few times that

# LOS MILLENNIALS HABLAN EN INSTAGRAM

opinions about how Adventists do church. That's why he wanted to get involved in youth ministry. For him, evangelism isn't about beasts and dragons. "For me, it's about showing, not necessarily preaching," he says. "There's a time a place for everything. My mom has the famous line that says, 'Nobody cares how much you know until they know you care.'"

"If you have a passion for something, someone can tell. I want to show that passion for God before I ever say anything. My generation is tired of evangelism seminars. I've been an Adventist my whole life, and I enjoy prophecy, but I don't think the way we're trying to do evangelism is connecting any more. The best way is to do what Jesus did."

"It's important for our church to feel like it's a family. Let me give you an example," Colton offers. "I've always been super involved with my church. I remember the first time I went up front with a guitar. I couldn't sing or play and yet everybody told me I did an incredible job. That stuck in my head. Let's encourage each other, even when we don't do things perfectly. If we don't encourage people when they try to get involved in church, what is going to motivate them to ever want to try to do something again?"

**E**l año pasado, nuestro hijo mayor, Zac, tuvo la curiosidad de descubrir por qué algunos de sus amigos se han mantenido adventistas, mientras que otros se han apartado. Por lo tanto, publicó la siguiente pregunta en su Instagram, preguntándose si alguien respondería. Preguntó: "Si *aún* eres adventista, ¿por qué? Si fuiste criado adventista, pero ya no te consideras adventista, ¿por qué?"

A continuación, hay sólo una pequeña muestra de las respuestas sinceras (y anónimas) que recibí:

"Siento que si los jóvenes tuvieran una mejor comprensión de los 'porqués' detrás de la iglesia que no fuera simplemente 'porque siempre ha sido así' u otras respuestas poco sabias. También siento que, si las personas fueran más reales acerca de su fe y las luchas que tienen, tal vez los jóvenes no fueran tan rápidos para salirse."

"Crecí en la iglesia y mis padres eran súper conservadores. ... Sigo siendo adventista a pesar de la forma en que me criaron. ... He visto no sólo en mi vida, sino en la vida de los demás cómo tener una relación con Jesús lo es todo."

"Nunca tuve problemas con mi iglesia, pero tampoco soy LGBT así que no sentí el rechazo que ellos experimentan. Todavía estoy en la iglesia porque creo en Dios y en lo que representa, no necesariamente lo que ciertas personas han dicho, pero también me ayudo la influencia de mis padres."

"Sigo siendo parte de la iglesia ... Creo que la gente deja la iglesia debido a malentendidos o comunicación errónea de lo que oyen en la iglesia, lo cual es difícil. Creo que el recibir

aclaraciones en cuanto a los temas 'tabú' como la homosexualidad, el consumo de alcohol, el sexo premarital, las drogas, etc., son temas que deben ser dialogados."

La única respuesta que Zac recibió de un amigo que se alejó de la iglesia adventista, compartió las siguientes realidades dolorosas:

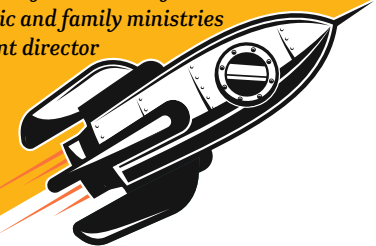
- » No experimenté *amor genuino* de personas que decían ser cristianos.
- » Me pareció que los cristianos eran muy críticos y en su mayoría muy infelices.
- » Enseñaban y predicaban lo que no vivían (muchos hipócritas).
- » Nunca me sentí parte de mi iglesia.

Las respuestas de Instagram de Zac reflejaron algunos temas comunes reportados en los resultados de las investigaciones de Barna ([barna.com/research/5-reasons-millennials-stay-connected-to-church/](http://barna.com/research/5-reasons-millennials-stay-connected-to-church/)). Las respuestas más comunes del crecimiento espiritual, identificados por los propios milenarios, son la oración, la familia y los amigos, la Biblia, el tener hijos y su relación con Jesús.

¿Podría haber un joven adulto en su esfera de influencia que podrá decidir permanecer o tal vez incluso volver a casa al experimentar el amor obstinado de Abba a través de usted?

CÉSAR DE LEÓN  
*North Pacific Union vice  
president for Hispanic ministries*

CAROLANN DE LEÓN  
*North Pacific Union Conference  
Hispanic and family ministries  
assistant director*



# GIVE US YOUR TRUST

**RACHEL COFFIN** IS A JUNIOR STUDYING PSYCHOLOGY AT WEIMAR INSTITUTE IN CALIFORNIA. SHE PLANS TO BECOME A COUNSELOR.



"I'm fascinated with human behavior and understanding the mechanisms of it and how the little things in life influence how we interact with people," she says. "I want to give back and help in the ways that I've been helped in the past."

Rachel's faith journey is something she's seen grow and develop, especially during the pandemic. "It hasn't always been easy," she says. "Growing up in the church, I've taken God for granted and assumed, because I've been around the church my entire life, I know what's going on."

But her perspective has changed. "Lately, I've realized I have no idea what's going on," she admits. "Just because my parents go to church and I consider myself religious doesn't mean I am a Christian. I don't have faith just because I may be doing everything right."

"I choose to belong to the Adventist Church because

I really believe this is the movement that God started," Rachel says. "Because I've had my own personal experiences with God in this church, I believe this is where He's called me to be."

Rachel cares about her church and how others perceive it. "Personally, I think we need to move our church forward into the 21st century," she says. She believes her generation is ready to help move things forward.

"Give us your trust. Give us your confidence. Trust begets trust,"

Rachel says. "When you feel like there are people behind you who believe in you, you are more likely to work harder, to be more creative and to continue doing that job."

Finding an outlet for those talents can be difficult. "It is very frustrating sometimes when you know you could do something, but there's no place for you because all the positions have been filled by people doing those position for 30 or 40 years," she says. "Let us do it. If we mess up, then step in and show us how you would go about it. Give us the guidance. Give us the direction, but let us do it. That will motivate more people to stay if they feel like there is a place for them to be involved instead of just filling the pews on Sabbath."

## ACTION

# MILLENNIALS SPEAK UP ON INSTAGRAM

**M**y oldest son, Zac, was curious to discover why some of his friends have walked away from the Adventist Church. Recently, he posted the following question on Instagram, wondering if anyone would respond. He asked: "If you are *still* Adventist, why? If you were raised Adventist, but don't consider yourself Adventist anymore, why?"

Here are just a few of the candid (and anonymous) responses he received:

"I feel that ... young people (need) a better understanding of the 'whys' behind the church other than just 'because it's been this way' or given a cop-out answer. I also feel like if individuals were more real about their faith and the struggles that do come along than maybe



TO ENCOURAGE THEM AND LET THEM LEAD. JJ

# THROUGH YOUNG EYES



**WHILE THE ADVENTIST CHURCH IS STRUGGLING TO KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED, THERE ARE THOSE LIKE ABBY, KALEB, COLTON AND RACHEL.**

These young eyes see a church they are passionate about. They love their faith community and want to make a difference. It's up to us to encourage them and let them lead.

In Rachel's words, "It's time to hand the reins over to this generation." It is time to work together to grow the Adventist Church to make it

a place where "everyone can be involved no matter whether it is a small position or a large position." It's time for the young and old, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to build vibrant, active and safe place for all whom God sends our way. ■

JAY WINTERMEYER  
*Gleaner editor*

people won't be so quick to leave."

"I grew up in the church and my parents were super-conservative. ... I'm still an Adventist despite the way I was raised. I have learned to take traditions and the other things with a grain of salt. ... I have seen not only in my life but the lives of others how having a relationship with Jesus is everything."

"... I never had a problem with the church, but I'm also not LGBTQ or anything else that the church has a problem with, so I understand how other people feel outcast sometimes. ... I'm still in the church because I believe in God and what He stands for, not necessarily what certain people have said, but that's also my parent's influence, telling me to think for myself and my own person."

"I think people leave the church because of misunderstandings or miscommunication of what they hear in church, which is tough. I

think clarification and rationale for 'taboo' topics such as homosexuality, drinking, sex before marriage, drugs, etc., should be talked about more versus having a bad stigma or hearing, 'If you do any of those things, you are a sinner, therefore God looks down on you.'"

Only one person responded who no longer considers themselves an Adventist. They shared the following painful realities:

- » I didn't experience genuine love from people who claimed to be Christians.
- » I found Christians to be very critical and mostly unhappy.
- » They teach and preach what they don't live out (hypocrites).
- » I never felt I was part of my church.

While Zac's Instagram responses cannot be considered formal research data, they anecdotally reflect some common themes noted in recent

Barna Group research ([barna.com/research/5-reasons-millennials-stay-connected-to-church/](http://barna.com/research/5-reasons-millennials-stay-connected-to-church/)) that the most common factors of spiritual growth, as identified by millennials themselves, are:

- » Prayer;
- » Family and friends;
- » The Bible;
- » Having children;
- » Their relationship with Jesus.

May God help us to be creative and intentional about remaining connected and positively engaged with our millennials in ways that are personal, loving and authentic.

CÉSAR DE LEÓN  
*North Pacific Union vice president for Hispanic ministries*

CAROLANN DE LEÓN  
*North Pacific Union Conference Hispanic and family ministries assistant director*

## GROWING YOUNG

cohorts are delivering biblical training and developing positive culture change through a church's dedicated effort along with caring coach support. The next Growing Young Adventists online cohort begins **OCTOBER 2021**.

# CONNECT WITH NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS ONLINE

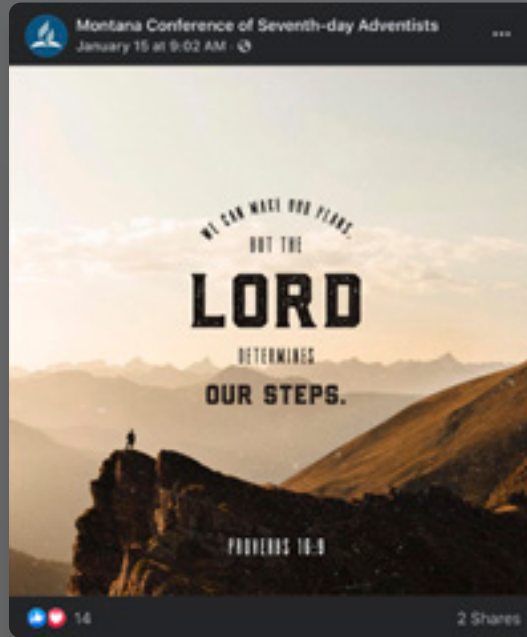
Join the thriving community sharing daily inspiration and encouragement, bringing us all closer together.

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**@NWADVENTISTS**





Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
10h · 🌐

#LoveStrong Day 9 - "Lord, in our marriage, help my spouse and I to put on the "whole armor of God" every day, and to stand our ground in your love. Help us not to fight each other, but to fight for each other. Amen."

Learn to Fight for Each Other in Prayer!  
<https://maichi.mp/wc/lovestrong-day9>

21 DAYS OF MARRIAGE RENAISSANCE | DAY 9 OF 21 #LOVESTRONG: WIFE ROOM-VOICED CHALLENGE

Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
January 7 at 8:59 AM · 🌐

"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty."  
Proverbs 11:24

**ONE PERSON GIVES FREELY, YET GAINS EVEN MORE; ANOTHER WITHHOLDS UNDUPLY, BUT COMES TO POVERTY. PROVERBS 11:24**

Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
32m · 🌐

"A man's son called and told me his dad was going to turn 100 years old tomorrow. He was wondering if I could play a half hour of Bach for his dad, because his dad just felt that Bach was the most wonderful composer there ever was, and that nothing good was written after him! I didn't want to argue with him, so I'm just going to play it as best I can.

I've been here really trying to get the dust off. I've played some of the pieces more recently, but there are a few I haven't... See More

Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
January 6 at 6:03 AM · 🌐

Congratulations Caldwell Looks amazing.

Caldwell Seventh-day Adventist Church  
January 6 at 8:50 AM · 🌐

Northwest Adventists  
Published by Buffer @ · January 30 at 7:05 AM · 🌐

Bald Eagle and Magpie, Okanogan, Washington. 📷 by: Veronica E. Skelton  
#ImagesOfCreation #PhotoOfTheWeek #NWAdventists #HappySabbath  
More: <https://gltr.in/2S9wme0>

**The LORD will fight for you**  
Exodus 14:14

Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
January 27 at 6:24 PM · 🌐

Students and faculty in the Walla Walla University School of Nursing received the first of two Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021. The vaccination clinic was held at Providence St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington, and included nursing students and faculty from Walla Walla Community College.

WWU nursing students and faculty on the university's Portland, Oregon, campus will be vaccinated in Portland in coordination with Adventist Medical Cent... See More

Sermons, music and more available at  
**NWADVENTISTS.COM**





*Herb*  
ARTISAN  
*Bread*



## Bread.

It's kind of a super food, but maybe not in the way you might be thinking of.

A crusty loaf of bread can instantly trigger so many good memories. I know people who have entire flashback moments to earlier times just by biting into a certain kind of bread or simply by smelling the yeasty aroma as it rises in the oven. For me, one bite of fresh bread, full of that wholesome taste of rustic grain, transports me to my grandmother's kitchen—standing beside her, hearing her laugh and seeing her smile.

Perhaps that's why we call such food "hearty"—because it is made with so

much heart. Whether you're a bread baker or someone

who just enjoys a crisp piece of toast, one thing is certain: Bread is often associated with comfort food. A warm piece of toast with melted butter is my perfect comfort food.

### INGREDIENTS:

3 cups flour  
1 3/4 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon yeast  
1 1/2 cup warm water  
1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, sage and thyme  
1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- » Combine flour, salt, yeast, herbs and parmesan cheese. Add water and stir until a shaggy dough forms. Cover bowl with plastic wrap. Let dough rise at room temperature for 10 hours.
- » Preheat oven to 450 degrees and place Dutch oven or bowl in oven as it heats.
- » While the oven heats, turn dough onto a well-floured surface and form into a ball with floured hands. Place in a bowl and cover dough loosely with plastic and let rest by the oven for 30 minutes to one hour.
- » With floured hands, place the dough into heated Dutch oven or bowl. Cover with lid or foil and bake 30 minutes. Then bake uncovered for another 10 minutes to make crust a little crispy.
- » Remove loaf from Dutch oven or bowl and let the bread cool completely before slicing.

### NOTES:

- » You can sprinkle the top of the loaf with large-flake salt if desired.
- » For other flavor options, try raisins and cinnamon or rosemary, roasted garlic and cheese. Go to [nwadvent.st/116-2-recipe](http://nwadvent.st/116-2-recipe) for details.

*Let's eat!*

DESIREE LOCKWOOD  
Gleaner managing editor



# Arctic Church Shares Zoom Communion



• A church family reenacts a painting of parable of the wise and foolish virgins.

**THE NEWLY FOUNDED** Arctic Church (formerly the Arctic Adventist Company) in Utqiagvik had a communion evening to remember. This church has gone through a struggle that many other Adventist churches across the country have faced: not being able to meet in their regular place of worship, much less share communion.

The pandemic is just one of the many challenges the church has faced over the last several years. With the short Arctic summer and nonobliging weather, the group has barely had any chance to meet together. But the church decided, despite these newest challenges, to put a new spin on an old tradition.



In preparation for the agape dinner and communion service, each church family received a basket with prepackaged food and drink for their dinner, along with a program and candles. Additionally, they were given foot-washing supplies. Using Zoom online videoconferencing, the prepared group shared in a short service on Dec. 30, 2020, at 7 p.m. in which each family had a part.

The week before the service, everyone received an email or text with a Bible story and a painting depicting that story. Each family had the adventure of reenacting the picture for the agape service. They also had a short time to share a thought or an object lesson from the story.

The church youth shared a welcome to the challenge, a piece of special music and a Scripture reading. The agape service concluded with foot washing done in each home privately, the sharing of bread and grape juice, and a closing prayer—all experienced together over Zoom.

There was much positive feedback at the end of the evening. There was a general sense of well-being and togetherness as the group shared in this special evening. It was a good reminder that, even amid challenges like the COVID-19 limitations, there are ways to make meaningful memories as a church family.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-AK-1](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/116-2-AK-1)





A church member reenacts the story and picture of the biblical sower.

CELESTA BABB  
*Utqiagvik/Delta Junction/North Pole District pastor*



**EDUCATION**

## FAIRBANKS SCHOOL HELPS POLICE WITH FOOD DRIVE

**GOLDEN HEART CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** students and families collected nonperishable food in October 2020 to help the University of Alaska Fairbanks Police Department with a competition. The Alaska Peace Officers Association Farthest North Chapter have a lively competition every fall between departments to bring in the most food for the Fairbanks Community Food Bank. Golden Heart students decided to help the police department closest to the school.

The food bank, in operation since 1982, distributes nearly 2 million pounds of food to individuals and support agencies each year. Volunteers are crucial to its success in both collecting and distributing surplus food. In addition to food drives, the agency is supported by local donors and gardeners throughout the Tanana Valley while volunteers contribute more 16,500 hours annually distributing items to meet demand.

The collection area in the school's entryway filled slowly but surely through the generosity of the school families and Fairbanks Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each day, students checked to see how much more was in the boxes from the day before as they brought in their contributions.

At the end of the month, donations were organized and packed in boxes for transport. Students invited the UAF PD officers to visit the campus and pick up the boxes. It was exciting to see the officers tour GHCS, and the officers were thrilled to add 150 cans and boxes of food to their competition.

GHCS congratulates the Alaska State Troopers who won this year. A record-breaking total of 66,026 pounds of food was proudly donated by the APOA for the 2020 competition. A parade of many local volunteer drivers transported the huge amount of food to the food bank. Through this fun and important event, students are helping their neighbors every year and making sure no one goes hungry in their community.

MARY RANVILLE AND ABIGAIL BROWN  
*GHCS students*



Thank you for your generous support of the Arctic Mission Adventure ministry during 2020.

You helped us weather the many challenges due to COVID-19 and put us on secure footing for 2021.

Because of your faithful support, our AMA workers can remain in the villages they serve bringing the Good News to Bush Alaska.

From all of us at AMA, thank you and God Bless!

Food Banks    Worship Services    Day Camps    YBS    Kids Ministry

Arctic Mission Adventure, 6100 CMalley Rd, Anchorage, AK 99507 P:907.546.1004  
 web: [www.arcticmissionadventure.org](http://www.arcticmissionadventure.org) email: [info@arcticmissionadventure.org](mailto:info@arcticmissionadventure.org)

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

EDUCATION

**GEM STATE ADVENTIST  
ACADEMY ANNOUNCES  
LAND SALE**

**AT ITS REGULAR MEETING** on Dec. 13, 2020, the Idaho Conference board of directors approved the sale of about 24 acres of Gem State Adventist Academy land in Caldwell to the Vallivue School District. The property is off Montana Avenue, north of the GSAA Campus and east of Vallivue Middle School.

The Vallivue School District approached the conference about purchasing this land for a proposed elementary school. The request was processed by the GSAA land use committee, and the sale recommended to the conference board. The sale price will raise about \$1.1 million (final figures are dependent on a land survey to determine exact acreage). After closing costs and reimbursing the conference for funds advanced to prepare the farmland for sale, net proceeds are expected to exceed \$900,000.

The conference has been discussing transferring the GSAA land asset to an endowment asset for 15 years. The 2015 Constituency Session body voted to change the primary focus to seeking enhanced revenue producing options for the GSAA property, rather than the sale of the property, with the understanding that peripheral property could be sold if it was in the best interest of the organization. The land use committee and the board of directors believe this is an appropriate sale of peripheral land. The conference is in a better position to sell through negotiation rather than risking the school district initiating eminent domain proceedings.

According to David Prest Jr., placing the proceeds of any land sale in the GSAA endowment was authorized by the 2007 Constituency Session and reaffirmed by the 2015 Constituency Session.

The land use policy voted in 2007 states, "The purpose of the General Endowment fund is to provide perpetual support for the benefit of GSA to ensure the financial strength and stability of GSA in perpetuity." To this end, the funds will be placed in the Endowment Fund and used exclusively and permanently for GSAA. According to John Soulé, GSAA principal, the income from the endowment may initially be used to assist students in attending GSAA who otherwise would not have the funds needed to enroll.

School and conference leaders are thankful to God for this blessing, which will provide much-needed funds for GSAA students. Income from the endowment will initially provide approximately \$40,000 per year to GSAA. Additional information is available on the conference website [IdahoAdventist.org](http://IdahoAdventist.org).

For clarification or questions, contact John Rogers, Idaho Conference vice president for finance, at 208-841-1254.

DON KLINGER  
*Idaho Conference assistant to  
the president*

**MORE ONLINE AT  
[NWADVENTIST/116-2-ID-1](http://NWADVENTIST/116-2-ID-1)**

# Idaho Conference Camp Meeting



**CAMP MEETING 2021 IS COMING!** After a year of being quarantined and restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we hope we will have some form of in-person camp meeting on the campus of Gem State Adventist Academy June 8-12. We are also planning to livestream at least the evening meetings and possibly the daytime meetings and seminars too. We plan to make a decision on in-person camp meeting by March 15, 2021. Please check our website, [IdahoAdventist.org](http://IdahoAdventist.org), or visit us on Facebook, @idahocampmeeting, for more information.

This year's theme is "Remember Gethsemane." Our evening and Sabbath morning speaker is Lee Venden, pastor and evangelist. In a world in which many consider only themselves, picture in your mind the scene from Gethsemane as Jesus prays for the strength to follow through with the God's plan to redeem mankind. What a sacrifice! What an act of love!

Venden has never forgotten the joy he experienced when he discovered the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually knowing Jesus. A pastor and educator for nearly 40 years, Venden has authored three books and co-authored the internationally popular website [moreaboutjesus.org](http://moreaboutjesus.org). His sermons can be viewed over the internet and on the various television networks.

Other speakers include Grant Agadjanian, Jim Kilmer, Dale Galusha and Beverly Sedlacek. Sabbath afternoon, the Victory Choir from the Oasis Adventist Church in



CHURCH

# Conference Spring 2021

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-ID-2](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-ID-2) +

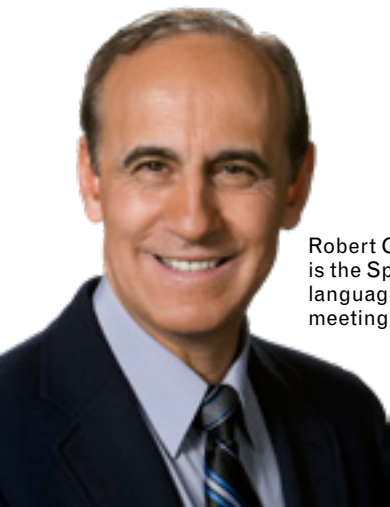


EVE RUSK

- The Victory Choir is an a cappella group of Rwandan refugees from the Oasis Adventist Church. They will present the Sabbath afternoon concert.

Boise will present a concert. The Victory Choir members are Seventh-day Adventist refugees from Rwanda.

Our Spanish-language camp meeting speaker is Robert Costa. A native of Uruguay, Costa is the speaker/director of *Escrito Está*, the Spanish television program of It Is Written. *Escrito Está* is broadcast



Robert Costa is the Spanish-language camp meeting speaker.



Dale Galusha, Pacific Press Publishing Association president, will speak at the 11 a.m. meeting and will also present a seminar.



Seminar speaker Grant Agadjanian is the president of Creative Media Ministries.



Jim Kilmer is the morning devotional speaker and will present a seminar on the Holy Spirit.



Beverly Sedlacek is the health speaker and co-founder of Into His Rest Ministries.



Lee Venden of All About Jesus Seminars is the evening and Sabbath morning speaker.

weekly via satellite, cable and more than 1,000 local channels and radio stations, reaching more than 138 countries.

Whether we meet in person, on livestream or through a combination of the two, we hope you will join us for Idaho Camp Meeting 2021.

EVE RUSK  
*Idaho Conference communication director*

# Mount Ellis Elementary Donates 'Socks of Love'

**MOUNT ELLIS ELEMENTARY HAS ALWAYS TAKEN GREAT PRIDE IN OUTREACH PROGRAMS. BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, MANY USUAL ACTIVITIES HAD TO BE CANCELED OR POSTPONED. THE STAFF AND STUDENTS OF MEE DECIDED TO FIND A SAFE WAY TO MINISTER TO THEIR COMMUNITY DURING THIS UNUSUAL TIME.**



MEE announced Nov. 22, 2020, the school would be participating in the Socks of Love stocking drive for homeless people in the Bozeman community. Teachers felt it was important to encourage their students' natural empathy. Students and their families were asked to collect and donate items to put into Christmas stockings for homeless people. Students brought warm socks, hand warmers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, snacks and more from Nov. 22 until Dec. 14.

Teachers decided to make the collection more fun by encouraging a spirit of friendly competition. Each classroom kept a collection box where the students deposited each item they collected. Every day the piles grew until Dec. 14, when the contest ended and the real fun began.

Each classroom carried giant boxes and bins of collected goods to the gymnasium where the donations were piled onto four tables. Students got to vote for the classroom they thought had the largest pile. Through hard work and determination, the third and

More online at  [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-MT-1](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/116-2-MT-1)





fourth graders won. Their pile was so large, it almost couldn't be contained on a single table.

Students assembled Dec. 15 in the gymnasium to stuff the stockings with the donated items. Each student was able to keep a stocking to carry with them in their cars as they traveled around their community. When they saw a person in need, they handed over a stocking to brighten their day.

The whole experience was a positive one for the school and the community alike. Students learned how great it feels to share Jesus' love with those in need. They also realized how fortunate they were during this holiday season.

KAILA JOHNSON

*Mount Ellis Elementary head teacher*



## CHURCH

### SEEING JESUS IN YOU

**ROUNDUP CHURCH MEMBERS** involve themselves in their Montana community. They may be a small group, but they are mighty in the Lord's work. They are not afraid to interact in their small town.

The Roundup Church recently helped the local Salvation Army service unit with its bell-ringing campaign. Each year the Salvation Army sets up the familiar red kettles at local grocery stores. Even with the pandemic, this year was no exception. This is the main fundraiser for the Salvation Army, besides a local campaign called the Musselshell Unity Drive.

The Salvation Army began in 1865 in London, England. Few realize that it is indeed a church, but the pastors hold titles of captain and lieutenant, similar to those in the military. Now it is a worldwide ministry.

Church members also help with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Meals on Wheels, the local food bank, Northern Treasures Thrift Store, Roundup Community Partners, Southeast Montana Tourism, the Roundup Memorial Hospital's Auxiliary and the biannual highway cleanup. They have sponsored two vision clinics and hope to sponsor another in the near future. They even have a weekly radio show, "Let's Talk About That," on their own radio station, KQLJ at 105.5 FM, which is also broadcast on its own Facebook page. They are advertising to gain more viewers.

There are ways to volunteer in every community. Don't be afraid to get out and help. Sometimes the only Jesus people will see is you.

NORMA TRENT

*Roundup Church communication*



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

# Oregon Conference Executive Committee Affirms Commitment to Diversity

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-OR-1](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-OR-1)

JONATHAN RUSSELL  
*Oregon Conference  
assistant to  
the president  
for multimedia  
communications*

**JESUS SET THE STANDARD BY MINISTERING EQUALLY TO ALL PERSONS DURING HIS MINISTRY ON EARTH. BEFORE HE RETURNED TO HEAVEN, HE GAVE THE INSTRUCTION TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL PEOPLE, TO GO “TO EVERY NATION, TRIBE, TONGUE, AND PEOPLE” (REV. 14:6, NKJV).**

In this inclusive spirit of Jesus’ ministry, the Oregon Conference executive committee marked its commitment to racial diversity through three significant, historic actions during their committee meeting via Zoom videoconferencing on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020.

The Oregon Conference released a statement on racial justice and equity in May 2020. The executive committee’s first strategic actions addressing diversity and inclusion focused on representation for both the Hispanic and black communities. The goal was to establish a recognized pathway by which people of color could share their needs and perspectives with the executive committee.

The committee first approved a motion recognizing the Hispanic ministries advisory as an official advisory committee to the executive committee. This action, for the first time, establishes a formal link between the existing Hispanic advisory and the executive committee, with the Hispanic ministries director formally serving as an invitee on the executive committee.

The second action established a formal link between the Oregon regional affairs

committee and the executive committee. For years, the pastors and lay leaders of black churches have met as the regional affairs committee, envisioning and guiding the Adventist work among black churches and communities in the Oregon Conference. This new action formally establishes the regional affairs committee as an advisory to the Oregon Conference executive committee, with the regional ministries director as an official invitee on the executive committee.

The third action on diversity established that the senior pastor of the Sharon Church in Portland will serve concurrently as the regional ministries director for the Oregon Conference, immediately formalizing the existing functionality. As the formally recognized regional ministries director, this position will be further empowered to advance the Adventist work in our black communities, while providing a critical voice of diversity within the Oregon Conference office team.

Oregon Conference president Dan Linrud shares, “God has abundantly blessed the Oregon Conference with such beautiful diversity of race, ethnicity and culture. These actions by our executive committee are a significant step in formally celebrating this diversity and becoming more intentional in more effectively knowing, loving, serving and sharing Jesus with all people.”







Barry Taylor, Albany Church pastor, invites friends and family to stand in witness to Shaina Heinrich's commitment to Jesus.

# Albany Youth Commit Their Lives to Jesus

**SABBATH, JAN. 2,** was a special day of joy and celebration for the Albany Church. Not only was the year 2020 behind it, four of their younger members had chosen to be baptized. Barry Taylor, Albany Church pastor, had been studying the Bible with Adilyn Cox, Adriel Martinez, Shaina Heinrich and Brady Heinrich during the past few months. All students at Central Valley Christian School, in Tangent, these kids took time from their school day to meet with Taylor and learn from the Bible.

When asked why he wanted to be baptized, Martinez stated firmly, "I want all my sins to be gone."

Shaina Heinrich said, "God gave His life for me, and I want to live for Him."

Her brother, Brady, drawing on a previous communion experience with his friend Adriel, recalled, "When I washed my feet with Adriel, I was reminded of Jesus' sacrifice for me, and it made me happy. I want to give my life to Him."

Cox expressed a similar desire as she confirmed her commitment, saying, "I want to live my life for Jesus forever."

Numerous family members, church family supporters and the Central Valley Christian School principal stood in support of these young people as they were baptized into a new life for Jesus. Applause and resounding amens filled the sanctuary with expressions of joy and praise. Please join the Albany Church family in rejoicing in these committed lives and praying for an outpouring of God's sweet Spirit in the days ahead.

JEANIE HOOPER REED  
*Albany Church secretary*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-OR-3](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-OR-3)

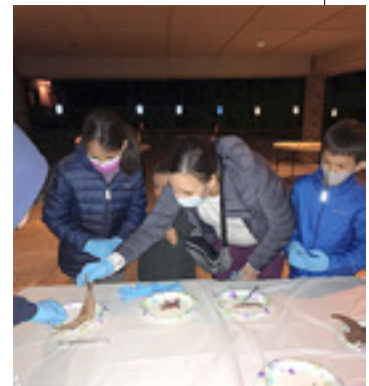
CHURCH

## KIDS 'JAM' IN PLEASANT VALLEY

**PLEASANT VALLEY CHURCH IN HAPPY VALLEY** has started a new program to reach out to its youth and children in these difficult times of coping with ever-changing restrictions and rules for in-person meetings. Thus the Kids JAM (Jesus and Me) vespers and nature activity combination was born.

About 12 children and 14 adults attended Kids JAM on Nov. 14, 2020, and felt blessed to be able to worship in person using COVID-19 safety measures. The theme for the night was marine animals. Emily Ellis, pastoral intern, began with a worship thought. Then Alvin Nakamura, OB-GYN, showed how the salinity of water makes things float.

Outside under a covered awning with a propane heater, Zach Nakamura, a biochemistry major, and Morgan James, a marine biology major, dissected specimens for the children. Alani Nakamura, along with Alvin Nakamura, did additional dissections for the children.



The children were very interested and even made specific requests, like wanting to see the inside of a shark's eye. This allowed the children to see the wonder of God's design in nature. There were multiple stations with different marine animal activities, such as naming parts of an animal.

Meanwhile inside, multiple "no-sew" fleece quilts were knotted to give to foster children. Ben Lundquist, pastor, and church members Donna Lewis and Kimberly Lundquist provided pizza and snack bags for the children.

"The goal was to provide a connection to Jesus through nature, connect back with their local church and outreach to others via a project," says Julie Nakamura, church member. More events are planned as a way to keep the connection between church and family strong as they navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic.

AMY SMITH  
*Pleasant Valley Church  
communication leader*

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



## EDUCATION

# Students Head Back to Class

**ALL 32 OREGON CONFERENCE SCHOOLS RETURNED TO MEETING IN PERSON BY THE END OF JANUARY. "IT'S NOT BEEN EASY," SAYS GALE CROSBY, OREGON CONFERENCE VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION, "BUT GOD'S BEEN LEADING US THROUGH THE CHALLENGES EVERY DAY."**

The conference has four schools in Washington state and 28 in Oregon. Each state has different guidelines for operating schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington has allowed in-person education, but Oregon has chosen much more stringent regulations. Both states require weekly reports confirming that guidelines are being followed and students are healthy.

"We want our students to know that COVID is real and that we care about their health. We also want them to see that we honor our government leaders and that we're cooperating with them fully," says Crosby. "They're trying to guide us the best they can, and we're trying to follow them closely. That means extensive training for our teachers and administrators and lengthy reports every week. But, you know, we're doing well through it all."

Along with educators in the field, the conference education team has worried that, the longer the pandemic continues, the greater the risk to the mental health of students. It's not been easy for students to stay focused and learn on a computer. Children and teachers connect better in person, so being back in a classroom will make a world of difference.

Yet dealing with the hard challenges has brought out the best in our students and school leaders. This appears in what the kids write, in the pictures they draw and in the creative ways they reach out to help each other. Strong leaders are developing this year.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-OR-5](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/116-2-or-5)

CHURCH

# Sweet Home Ministries Thrive Despite Pandemic

“It’ll be good to be back,” says Crosby, “but it’s taken a lot of work to get the schools ready so students and their teachers can return safely.”

There are some pretty strict rules for physical distancing in the school environment – desks moved apart, safety shields installed, schedules adjusted and safety practices clarified. The process requires hours of video conferencing each week – for teacher to connect in meaningful ways with their students and for the conference office education team to facilitate the ongoing learning process at our schools.

“We talk a lot, checking on the government rules and finding better ways to comply. At first that seemed like it would be a lot of hard work,” says Crosby, “but instead it has become like a family worship time that has brought us all together. In fact, we’re passing the responsibilities for worship around each meeting, and now worship is the most important part of our gatherings. It’s where we focus on God’s blessings and claim Him as our leader. These times are developing strong spiritual bonds within our team. It’s been life-changing and fun. Best of all, we’ll now be back together in classrooms in person – a school family in the same place, together once more. God is so good!”

DICK DUERKSEN  
*Oregon Conference storycatcher and storyteller*

MCKENZIE WALLACE  
*Oregon Conference education department writer*

GALE CROSBY  
*Oregon Conference vice president of education*

**THE SWEET HOME CHURCH** has been alive and well during the pandemic. Despite all the social distancing guidelines, God is showing ways to minister to others.

Regular prayer conference calls bring Sweet Home Church members together for an hour of powerful prayers. Pastors from all over led this Hour of Prayer on Jan. 1, and it truly was a sweet hour of prayer.

A mini work bee spiffed up the gym/fellowship hall. The large space benefited from the combined work of members having fun while they made a difference.

For the Pay It Forward Challenge, women of the church were invited to come by the church to pick a gift box. Each woman was asked to do random acts of kindness and pay the gift forward through the end

of the year. The community felt a big impact from this small event.

Thanks to generous donations and delivery by the South Santiam Pathfinders, church members provided a Thanksgiving brown bag lunch for the people at a homeless encampment just down the hill from the church. Each

lunch bag had sandwiches, chips, fresh fruit, pasta salad, pickles, cranberry sauce and cupcakes. Another bag provided daily living essentials like socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand/foot warmers, masks and more.

Merlin and Vonda Beerman of Revelation Publications donated *Steps to Christ* books with study guides for each person. Jan Forrester, who runs a water bottle ministry, donated bottles of water for each person with GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) literature, candy, masks and a tag with Scripture on one side and “Can I pray for you?” on the other. She now has the names of the people in the encampment and will be praying for them by name.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-OR-4](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-OR-4)

For their Christmas Challenge, members brought new gloves, caps, socks, hand and feet

warmers, scarves, and other essentials for Christmas comfort bags and gave generous donations to purchase needed supplies. Forrester again provided bottled water, masks, candy and literature. Les Jones, Sweet Home Church pastor, prayed over the bags during the church service. Then Pathfinders delivered the Christmas comfort to the homeless encampment.

The church and Pathfinders again delivered treats to the encampment for Valentine’s Day. With each visit, friendship and fellowship are furthered.

TAWNY SPORTSMAN  
*Sweet Home women’s and prayer ministries*

BARBARA NEWTON  
*Sweet Home Adventist Community Services*





# Global Virus Can't Stop MGAES Geography Bee

**OWEN FLECK, A SIXTH GRADER AT MEADOW GLADE ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON, WON THE SCHOOL'S GEOGRAPHY BEE COMPETITION ON JAN. 15. WITH PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE, STUDENTS PARTICIPATED VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING THIS YEAR.**



Owen Fleck, winner of the 2021 geography bee, is in sixth grade.

For decades, the school participated in the annual National Geographic Bee. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and community members gathered to cheer on the contestants. This year, the pandemic canceled the national bee.

Not wanting students to miss out on the contest, Malaika Childers, the fifth and sixth grade teacher who formerly coordinated the school portion of the National Geographic Bee, arranged for students in each classroom from grades three through eight to take a written test to determine who would represent their classroom in the school bee.

On the day of the bee, students "Zoomed" from their classroom. Parents and grandparents were able to join on Zoom from the comfort of their own homes.

The bee began with a short video introducing the contestants. Students then took turns answering geography questions. Contestants were eliminated from the competition after their third incorrect answer.

When only two contestants remained, the bee continued to a championship round. The last two students, Ian Dowie and Owen Fleck, were asked the same questions. Each answer they gave was messaged privately in the Zoom chat and read aloud by Childers. After three rounds, Fleck earned first place.

"I'm glad we still got to have a geography bee. I liked Zoom because I was less nervous and I couldn't see the audience," says Fleck, who participated in last year's school bee and was a state participant in the 2019 National Geographic Bee.

Fleck was awarded a \$100 cash prize. The prize, along with a \$50 cash prize for second place, was donated by a friend of MGAES who learned the national competition had been canceled.

The MGAES competitors included third graders Beckham An and Ian Dowie; fourth grader Anaya Johnson; sixth graders Owen Fleck, Mia Patchin and Viena Johnson; seventh grader Logan Strubelt; and eighth graders Logan Pierce and Jaren Garbi.

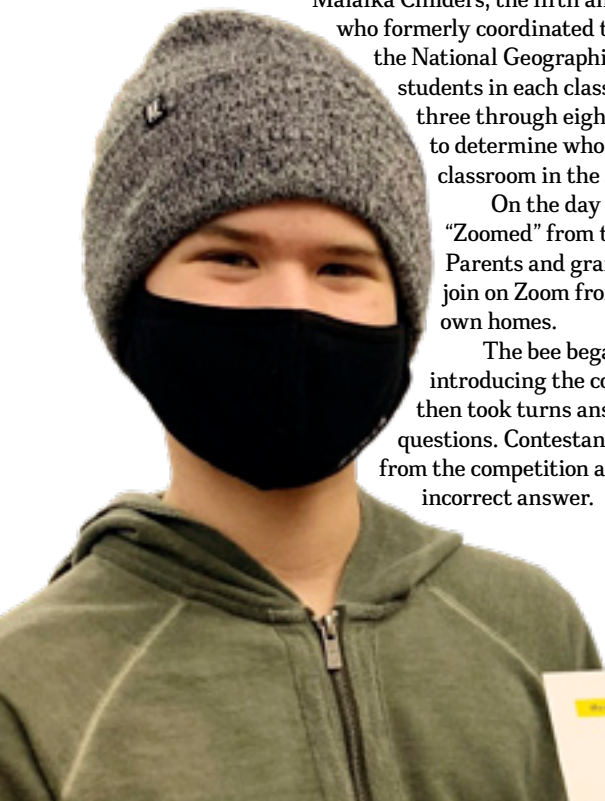
"I liked that it was different on Zoom," says Patchin. "I'm glad that this year it didn't seem like everyone was watching you even though the whole school is watching you still."

"We are so excited to continue the geography bee at MGAES," says Ric Peinado, MGAES principal. "We are proud of all of our students who took part, and I want to congratulate our first place winner, Owen Fleck—a sixth grader—and our runner-up, third grader Ian Dowie."

MALAIKA CHILDERS  
MGAES fifth- and sixth-grade teacher

Ric Peinado, MGAES principal, awards a certificate to contestant Logan Strubelt.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-OR-6](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-OR-6)



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**BIBLE READINGS**  
*for*

# MARCH

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	<b>1</b> Lev.24:1–25:46 Mark 10:13–31 Psalm 44:9–26 Proverbs 10:20–21	<b>2</b> Lev. 25:47–27:13 Mark 10:32–52 Psalm 45:1–17 Proverbs 10:22	<b>3</b> Lev. 27:14–Num. 1:54 Mark 11:1–26 Psalm 46:1–11 Proverbs 10:23	<b>4</b> Num. 2:1–3:51 Mark 11:27–12:17 Psalm 47:1–9 Proverbs 10:24–25	<b>5</b> Num. 4:1–5:31 Mark 12:18–37 Psalm 48:1–14 Proverbs 10:26	<b>6</b> Num. 6:1–7:89 Mark 12:38–13:13 Psalm 49:1–20 Proverbs 10:27–28
<b>7</b> Num. 8:1–9:23 Mark 13:14–37 Psalm 50:1–23 Proverbs 10:29–30	<b>8</b> Num. 10:1–11:23 Mark 14:1–21 Psalm 51:1–19 Proverbs 10:31–32	<b>9</b> Num. 11:24–13:33 Mark 14:22–52 Psalm 52:1–9 Proverbs 11:1–3	<b>10</b> Num. 14:1–15:16 Mark 14:53–72 Psalm 53:1–6 Proverbs 11:4	<b>11</b> Num. 15:17–16:40 Mark 15:1–47 Psalm 54:1–7 Proverbs 11:5–6	<b>12</b> Num.16:41–18:32 Mark 16:1–20 Psalm 55:1–23 Proverbs 11:7	<b>13</b> Num. 19:1–20:29 Luke 1:1–25 Psalm 56:1–13 Proverbs 11:8
<b>14</b> Num. 21:1–22:20 Luke 1:26–56 Psalm 57:1–11 Proverbs 11:9–11	<b>15</b> Num. 22:21–23:30 Luke 1:57–80 Psalm 58:1–11 Proverbs 11:12–13	<b>16</b> Num. 24:1–25:18 Luke 2:1–35 Psalm 59:1–17 Proverbs 11:14	<b>17</b> Num. 26:1–51 Luke 2:36–52 Psalm 60:1–12 Proverbs 11:15	<b>18</b> Num. 26:52–28:15 Luke 3:1–22 Psalm 61:1–8 Proverbs 11:16–17	<b>19</b> Num. 28:16–29:40 Luke 3:23–38 Psalm 62:1–12 Proverbs 11:18–19	<b>20</b> Num. 30:1–31:54 Luke 4:1–30 Psalm 63:1–11 Proverbs 11:20–21
<b>21</b> Num. 32:1–33:39 Luke 4:1–5:11 Psalm 64:1–10 Proverbs 11:22	<b>22</b> Num. 33:40–35:34 Luke 5:12–28 Psalm 65:1–13 Proverbs 11:23	<b>23</b> Num. 36:1–Deut. 1:46 Luke 5:29–6:11 Psalm 66:1–20 Proverbs 11:24–26	<b>24</b> Deut. 2:1–3:29 Luke 6:12–38 Psalm 67:1–7 Proverbs 11:27	<b>25</b> Deut. 4:1–49 Luke 6:39–7:10 Psalm 68:1–18 Proverbs 11:28	<b>26</b> Deut. 5:1–6:25 Luke 7:11–35 Psalm 68:19–35 Proverbs 11:29–31	<b>27</b> Deut. 7:1–8:20 Luke 7:36–8:3 Psalm 69:1–18 Proverbs 12:1
<b>28</b> Deut. 9:1–10:22 Luke 8:4–21 Psalm 69:19–36 Proverbs 12:2–3	<b>29</b> Deut. 11:1–12:32 Luke 8:22–39 Psalm 70:1–5 Proverbs 12:4	<b>30</b> Deut. 13:1–15:23 Luke 8:40–9:6 Psalm 71:1–24 Proverbs 12:5–7	<b>31</b> Deut. 16:1–17:20 Luke 9:7–27 Psalm 72:1–20 Proverbs 12:8–9			

*For previous Bible Reading Plans, go to [nwadvent.st/2021BibleReadingPlan](http://nwadvent.st/2021BibleReadingPlan).*



# Godly Men ‘Forged’ at Retreat

**SUMMIT NORTHWEST MINISTRIES** in Post Falls, Idaho, advertised their “Forged” men’s gathering at Camp MiVoden as “a retreat for men who don’t go to retreats.” That tagline was effective in bringing together close to 60 guys from all across the Northwest. No one was quite sure what to expect over the weekend of Sept. 26, 2020, but by the end there was a strong consensus that the variety of activities and relaxed schedule resulted in an event they would be happy to repeat.

Tyler Wilson and Wyatt Straw learn blacksmithing.



SUMMIT NORTHWEST MINISTRIES

The weekend’s messages focused on how the grace of Christ serves to establish our identity as true men of God. The Friday evening session at a remote bonfire revolved around an illustration of how large sticks and small rocks can

represent seen and unseen challenges in our lives. Typically, men are tempted to work hard to “solve” the seen problems and hide the smaller, less visible ones. As men gain more confidence in accepting the grace God offers, men feel less need to show a persona they think is “expected” and are more able to have honest, quality relationships.

Attendees also enjoyed mountain biking, zip lining, target shooting, canoeing, and just hanging out and talking with friends new and old. As people were leaving, local schoolteacher Geoff Heald commented, “This is the first time that I came to one of these and left refreshed.”

The thought of sitting in meetings all day may not be what most guys are looking for. Forged is about connecting with a group of guys,

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-1-UC-1](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-1-UC-1)



SUMMIT NORTHWEST MINISTRIES

Juan Castaneda uses the forge during a blacksmith demonstration.

participating in some weekend shenanigans and supporting and challenging each other to reach their full potential.

Hopefully the weekend serves as a catalyst for men to begin or continue to forge intentional relationships with other men. Organizers had several conversations with

guys looking for input on building a sustainable and meaningful men’s network when they returned to their home churches.

TERRY MCLEOD  
*Summit Northwest Ministries youth leader*



CHURCH

# UCC Holds Successful Online Women's Retreat

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-UC-2](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-UC-2)



Jeanne Ekvall, a health and nutrition counselor and educator, was joined by her daughters Melissa Gillham and Vanessa Willey for a segment on health.

**IN WHAT IS NOW THE NORM,** the annual Upper Columbia Conference Fall Women's and Young Women's Retreat became a virtual event. However, with more than 600 streams of the event, more individuals were able to be blessed by this event than in

the keynote speaker. Johnsson presented several vignettes describing Moses and his journey after Egypt. Jeanne Ekvall, a health and nutrition counselor and educator, was joined by her daughters Melissa Gillham and Vanessa Willey. The three

ladies presented some easy to make vegetarian dishes that are sure to delight any family. Ekvall also presented foods that can optimize your immunity during a pandemic.

Gretal Cromwell, a musician from Spangle, Washington, shared several musical performances, including "Be Still My Soul."

Three special features filled the afternoon. Sheryl Janke, UCC women's ministries event coordinator, shared how to start a card ministry in your local church. Debbie Nelson, an accountant from Spokane, Washington, provided several

pointers for gardeners, along with a biblical application. BethAnn Moseanko brought several quilts from a veteran ministry she works with.

Though it was in a different format, many women received a blessing. "What a wonderful conference," wrote one viewer. "It was just what I needed to hear. So encouraged after attending this event today. God is faithful! Thanks for what you do for the women in this conference. God is using you in a way you may not truly know."

Another woman said, "I just want to say thank you to you and your team for putting together such a nice video retreat for us. I had four other women come over to watch with me, so we had some much-needed, in-person interaction. We could hardly stop talking so we could take time for lunch. We enjoyed the health talk and really enjoyed the main speaker. We concluded by going on a long walk together."

If you missed the retreat, it can still be viewed at [uccsda.org/womensretreat](http://uccsda.org/womensretreat). The next UCC women's retreat will be held on Sabbath, May 1, 2021, and feature Jean Boonstra.

DUSTIN JONES  
Upper Columbia Conference communication director



Patty Marsh, UCC women's ministries director, and Sheryl Janke, UCC women's ministries events coordinator, preview devotional books.

any "normal" year. "Venturing into unknown territory of a fully virtual women's retreat qualifies as an adventure that required work and creativity wrapped in prayer," says Patty Marsh, UCC women's ministries director. "God was faithful—blessings above and beyond what we could have imagined."

Kara Johnsson, lead pastor of Oasis Christian Center in Vancouver, Washington, was



BethAnn Moseanko displays the quilts she has worked on for veterans.

**EDUCATION**

# 'All Is Well' at CCA



**EACH YEAR AT CASCADE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY** in Wenatchee, Washington, students and staff plan church service programs to share with their six constituent churches. With the various pandemic restrictions that have come to pass over the last eight

months, however, these Education Sabbaths have taken on a different look. Thanks to technology, CCA has continued to “visit” the churches in the Wenatchee Valley.

The usual church service consists of students and staff sharing a Sabbath message based on the school’s annual theme memory verse (Prov.

3:5–6 this year) and musical offerings by various classes and students.

During December the theme shifted to Christmas, so on Sabbath, Dec. 12, CCA presented a hybrid program of music and a “Christmas in July” story, “All Is Well,” about

a single mom and her child who couldn’t seem to keep up with the bills and were losing hope. Their neighbors came together to offer assistance during a very difficult time—the kind of story that reverberates what’s happening in communities today.

Cheryl Gabel, CCA’s music and technology teacher, was able to coordinate the finale song, “All is Well,” by videoing Google Meets, so the congregation could see the students accompanying on handbells and other instruments while students of all ages sang.

Attendees were each given a small dough ornament with “All Is Well” written on one side and “2020” on the other—a small reminder that God is still in control and all really is well because of a Baby born in a manger.

**JULIE SAVINO**  
*Cascade Christian Academy vice principal and chaplain*



• Karen Spinosa and Miah Davis perform “What Child Is This?”



• Science teacher J.D. Rich portrays “Mr. Patrick.”

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-UC-4](https://www.nwadventist.org/stories/116-2-uc-4)

MISSION AND OUTREACH

## GOD'S CLOSET SPREADS WINTER WARMTH

**WHEN OCTOBER ARRIVED**, the God's Closet team in Spokane, Washington, began thinking about their next God's Closet event. Nothing had changed as far as the pandemic was concerned since their summer event. But having seen the need for children's clothes in August, they knew the need was greater as winter approached.

The team began making plans for a free clothing "shopping" day on Nov. 15, 2020. The Monday before, Ruth Lenz, a teacher at Palisades Christian Academy in Spokane, brought her class to haul all the clothes up from the basement of the Spokane Central Church's fellowship hall — an enormous task. Tables were marked by gender and size, and bins were placed under the tables. Sacks of unsorted clothes were piled in a corner. Some prebagged



clothes were left over from August, but many more were needed.

An additional bonus came in the form of local KXLY television and radio stations donating five huge bags of coats they had left over from their Coats for Kids drive, which ended at the end of October.

To meet pandemic restrictions, small groups of volunteers came the week before to prepare more bags for Sunday's "Shop Day." Facebook notices were sent out, but the forecast for rain left organizers wondering if people would come.

Their worries were unfounded. A long line of people appeared on Sunday morning. Volunteers asked only for names, the sizes of the children needing clothes, if they needed coats and if they would like to be prayed for.

Many, including a mom carrying twins, responded they would like prayers for their families. One grandmother needed clothes for eight of her grandchildren, whom she is caring for as a result of dysfunction in her family. The volunteers felt God's blessing as they helped meet their community's needs even during the pandemic.

**GAYLE HAEGER**  
*Upper Columbia Conference urban ministries coordinator*

**MORE ONLINE AT**  
[NWADVENT.ST/116-1-UC-3](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-1-UC-3)

HEALTH

## Upper Columbia Academy Celebrates Opening of the Wellness Center

**UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY'S** philosophy to educate the whole person has expanded to include an on-campus counseling and wellness center. Thanks to a \$130,000 grant from generous donors, the Olin Peach Power House has been remodeled into a mental health wellness center where students can receive mental health screenings, individual and group therapy, college and career guidance counseling, and tools for stress management.

In its first official month of operation, more than 20 students have already established care with a Christian counselor through the wellness center and two group therapies are underway.

"We feel so blessed to have this important service right here on our campus where our students can gain tools and insight toward being mentally healthy as they navigate through these current difficult times and where they can also develop skills they will take with them into adulthood," says Eric Johnson, UCA principal.



**STEPHANIE GLADDING**  
*Upper Columbia Academy Wellness Center program coordinator*

**More online at** [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-UC-5](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-UC-5)



# Two Pastors Ordained in Upper Columbia Conference

**TWO PASTORS WERE ORDAINED TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY IN UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER 2020 AND JANUARY 2021.**



• Family and conference representatives congratulate Hugo Villalobos (center), including (from left) Allee Currier, UCC vice president for finance; Minner Labrador Jr., UCC president; Griselda Lisbeth Villalobos; Rodney Mills, UCC vice president for administration; and Eric Brown, UCC ministerial director.

Andrew Abbott, lead pastor of St. Maries and Osburn churches and the Living Hope Adventist Company, was ordained Jan. 30 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Minner Labrador Jr., Upper Columbia Conference president, presented

the ordination certificate to Abbott, while César De León, North Pacific Union Conference vice president, presented the charge and welcome to ministry.

Abbott was born in Redlands, California. His father's job as a physician took the family – Abbott, his mom and his soon-to-be three siblings – from Loma Linda to North Carolina. Later, they moved to Walla Walla, Washington, where Abbott spent the longest period of his life and made many precious memories enjoying the outdoors with family – mountain biking,

hiking, backpacking and skiing.

Abbott first realized his call to ministry at age 18 while he was finishing his last year of high school as a home-schooler. He began studying for pastoral ministry at Walla Walla University and graduated in June 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology.

Abbott was given an internship at Spokane Valley Adventist Church, where he met Samantha Clark, a Bible worker who was to become his future wife. Abbott earned his Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, over the next three years and returned to the Northwest to begin pastoring in northern Idaho. Samantha joined him in ministry when they married on July 21, 2019. The Abbotts celebrated their first anniversary last summer. They declare that serving in pastoral ministry together is a “rewarding adventure with God.”

Hugo Villalobos, Hermiston and Pendleton Spanish churches lead pastor, was ordained to the gospel ministry on Dec. 5, 2020, in Hermiston, Oregon. Labrador presented Villalobos’ ordination certificate as he did for Abbott. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Villalobos’ ordination was held

at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center in Hermiston to accommodate social distancing and abide by local and state mandates. A small group of friends and family was able to attend.

Villalobos is married to Griselda Lisbeth. They enjoy reading, going outdoors and are passionate about Jesus. Villalobos has a bachelor's degree in theology from Central American Adventist University in Costa Rica, and



• Samantha and Andrew Abbott say serving in pastoral ministry together is a “rewarding adventure with God.”

Lis has a bachelor's degree in nursing from the same university. Their goal is to love God and love people.

**DUSTIN JONES**  
*Upper Columbia Conference communication director*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-UC-6](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/116-2-UC-6) **+**

# BIBLE READINGS for April

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

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				<b>1</b> Deut. 18:1–20:20 Luke 9:28–50 Psalm 73:1–28 Proverbs 12:10	<b>2</b> Deut. 21:1–22:30 Luke 9:51–10:12 Psalm 74:1–23 Proverbs 12:11	<b>3</b> Deut. 23:1–25:19 Luke 10:13–37 Psalm 75:1–10 Proverbs 12:12–14
<b>4</b> Deut. 26:1–27:26 Luke 10:38–11:13 Psalm 76:1–12 Proverbs 12:15–17	<b>5</b> Deut. 28:1–68 Luke 11:14–36 Psalm 77:1–20 Proverbs 12:18	<b>6</b> Deut. 29:1–30:20 Luke 11:37–12:7 Psalm 78:1–31 Proverbs 12:19–20	<b>7</b> Deut. 31:1–32:27 Luke 12:8–34 Psalm 78:32–55 Proverbs 12:21–23	<b>8</b> Deut. 32:28–52 Luke 12:35–59 Psalm 78:56–64 Proverbs 12:24	<b>9</b> Deut. 33:1–29 Luke 13:1–21 Psalm 78:65–72 Proverbs 12:25	<b>10</b> Deut. 34:1–12 Joshua 1:1–2:24 Luke 13:22–14:6 Psalm 79:1–13 Proverbs 12:26
<b>11</b> Joshua 3:1–4:24 Luke 14:7–35 Psalm 80:1–19 Proverbs 12:27–28	<b>12</b> Joshua 5:1–7:15 Luke 15:1–32 Psalm 81:1–16 Proverbs 13:1	<b>13</b> Joshua 7:16–9:2 Luke 16:1–18 Psalm 82:1–8 Proverbs 13:2–3	<b>14</b> Joshua 9:3–10:43 Luke 16:19–17:10 Psalm 83:1–18 Proverbs 13:4	<b>15</b> Joshua 11:1–12:24 Luke 17:11–37 Psalm 84:1–12 Proverbs 13:5–6	<b>16</b> Joshua 13:1–14:15 Luke 18:1–17 Psalm 85:1–13 Proverbs 13:7–8	<b>17</b> Joshua 15:1–63 Luke 18:18–43 Psalm 86:1–17 Proverbs 13:9–10
<b>18</b> Joshua 16:1–18:28 Luke 19:1–27 Psalm 87:1–7 Proverbs 13:11	<b>19</b> Joshua 19:1–20:9 Luke 19:28–48 Psalm 88:1–18 Proverbs 13:12–14	<b>20</b> Joshua 21:1–22:20 Luke 20:1–26 Psalm 89:1–13 Proverbs 13:15–16	<b>21</b> Joshua 22:21–23:16 Luke 20:27–47 Psalm 89:14–37 Proverbs 13:17–19	<b>22</b> Joshua 24:1–33 Luke 21:1–28 Psalm 89:38–52 Proverbs 13:20–23	<b>23</b> Judges 1:1–2:9 Luke 21:29–22:13 Psalm 90:1–91:16 Proverbs 13:24–25	<b>24</b> Judges 2:10–3:31 Luke 22:14–34 Psalm 92:1–93:5 Proverbs 14:1–2
<b>25</b> Judges 4:1–5:31 Luke 22:35–53 Psalm 94:1–23 Proverbs 14:3–4	<b>26</b> Judges 6:1–40 Luke 22:54–23:12 Psalm 95:1–96:13 Proverbs 14:5–6	<b>27</b> Judges 7:1–8:17 Luke 23:13–43 Psalm 97:1–98:9 Proverbs 14:7–8	<b>28</b> Judges 8:18–9:21 Luke 23:44–24:12 Psalm 99:1–9 Proverbs 14:9–10	<b>29</b> Judges 9:22–10:18 Luke 24:13–53 Psalm 100:1–5 Proverbs 14:11–12	<b>30</b> Judges 11:1–12:15 John 1:1–28 Psalm 101:1–8 Proverbs 14:13–14	

For previous Bible Reading Plans, go to [nwadvent.st/2021BibleReadingPlan](http://nwadvent.st/2021BibleReadingPlan).

**CHURCH**

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER  
Washington Conference  
communication director

# 9 Ways Washington Churches Pivoted in 2020

## ONE YEAR LATER: HOW HAVE CHURCHES IN WESTERN WASHINGTON PIVOTED TO CONTINUE THE MISSION IN A PANDEMIC?

Washington Conference pastors answered, and nine themes emerged.

“We see how 2020 gave churches permission to try something new for one time, for a season or still continuing,” says Craig Carr, Washington Conference vice president for administration. “It’s uncomfortable to try new things, to go through suffering and struggles, yet this is how we grow.”



### REVIVING PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer has been an essential part of ministry for each church and took a variety of formats including teleconferences, Zoom videoconferencing calls and drive-by prayer ministry.

Monroe and Greater Seattle Filipino-American churches are drawing double or triple the normal attendance with prayer calls. Renton and Bonney Lake churches offered “Drive-By Prayers” for neighbors and then provided additional drive-up ministry encounters like Bonney Lake’s drive-through soup meals for 80-plus people.

### ENCOURAGING HOLISTIC HEALTH

Churches encouraged healthy living. Bellevue Church emailed “Strength for the Week” health tips, while Lynnwood Church hosted a “Healthy Immunity” webinar with Mark Kinjo, a naturopathic doctor. Additionally, churches like Grays Harbor, responded to the call for emergency blood donation sites. Community clinics were limited, yet LifeBridge Church found ways to host a much-needed dental clinic.



### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Emergency food distribution and health testing with medical providers resulted in thousands of families receiving weekly food from established or emergency food distribution sites, including Auburn City, Kent, Monroe, Poulsbo, Lewis County, Emerald City (Seattle), Maranatha (Seattle), Mount Tahoma (Tacoma), Grays Harbor, Port Angeles, Lynnwood and additional pop-up locations.

Auburn City Church prayed for 140 days for God to open the doors for emergency food distribution and now serves as a multisite distributor.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WA-1](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WA-1)







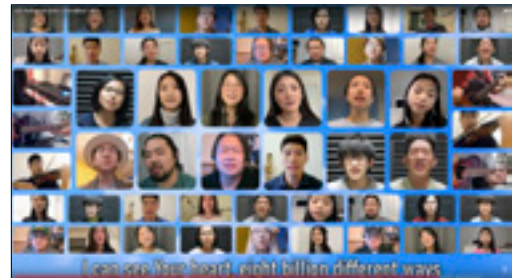
## NURTURING MEDIA MINISTRY

Media ministry was the biggest growth area between Zoom, livestreams, podcasts (five of which started in 2020) and even Bible study phone calls. Yong Bum Park, pastor of the Seattle Korean Church, has the most targeted international reach. His sermons are broadcasted via Adventist World Radio from Guam to China and North Korea.

The Edmonds congregation, like many others, went from zero to full-on media ministry. Forest Park Church in Everett saw an influx of willing media volunteers from teenagers to senior citizens. Poulsbo famously hosts Sabbath afternoon “potlucks” of conversation, and Eastside Fellowship adopted a preach-discuss format for increased interaction.

## SEEKING RACIAL RECONCILIATION

In continuing work for racial reconciliation, Emerald City Church hosted a peaceful 14-block march and rally with 13 area churches to call for racial justice and healing. Pastors and leaders further engaged in racial reconciliation through the Just Us podcast and local efforts. Eastside Fellowship created a Pages to Progress book club as part of their reconciliation journey.



## NURTURING MINISTRY AT HOME

With an increase in home life, churches created virtual connections including family group check-ins, nightly family worships and music video challenges like the 40-person Living Vine Fellowship virtual choir, which now has a dozen YouTube music videos.

Oak Harbor Church started seven small groups and now have several friends of the church, including some from central California, who are preparing for baptism. The Ethiopian Church joined an international Bible study, provided weekly content and celebrated baptisms.



## SUPPORTING SCHOLARS

Schools pivoted just like churches, and enrollment increased especially at small schools with three or fewer teachers. Churches rallied to raise thousands of dollars to support tuition assistance and school finances.

Church support of note includes Bellingham Church, which opened an education camp offering in-person tutoring and school support for nine children and is now looking at reopening its school.

## COLLABORATING

Ministry collaboration took many forms. Mount Tahoma Church participated in a 12-church worship weekend. Refuge church plant is now offering Sabbath afternoon services in Volunteer Park Church. LifeBridge church plant partnered with Sunset Lake Camp, a member’s backyard and Tacoma Central’s gymnasium for monthly in-person services.

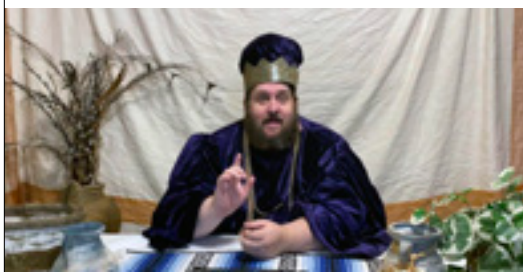
Open Door, Bellingham and Ferndale churches traditionally collaborate for Walk Through Bethlehem for 2,500 guests each December. Their virtual holiday family worship story time drew 4,000 views.



## UPDATING FACILITIES

Several churches used the time of closed physical doors to update their facilities. Emerald City and Lacey churches set up production studios, and Volunteer Park Church in Seattle overhauled its entryway. Federal Way Hispanic Church received their long-awaited building permit, while Puyallup Church is awaiting sanctuary occupancy.

When public playgrounds closed, Sequim Church discovered young mothers were interested in using their newly installed playground—an unexpected ministry!



CHURCH

## Seattle Fil-Am Unites in Prayerful Ministry

**CHURCHES ALL AROUND** the globe experienced sudden shifts in ministry last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges the Asian/Pacific churches experienced, their pastors and members were led by the Holy Spirit to move forward with sharing the good news of Jesus with their communities and beyond. One such story comes from Greater Seattle Filipino American Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Eleven years ago, the Seattle Fil-Am Church started an evening phone prayer time, five days a week. Members

have experienced many answers to prayers, including a member's miraculous healing from stage 4 nasal cancer. The average attendance last year was between six and 10 callers.

As 2020 progressed, the Seattle Fil-Am pastor and prayer ministry team felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to invest more in prayer. The church family joined the 24/7 United Prayer movement using Zoom videoconferencing as a prayer call platform.

During the first few days, about 15 members attended. In about four months, the ministry grew to its current

average of 30 to 35 callers, with the highest count greater than 40. A number of these calls are families of three or four members. These add up to an average total of between 45 to 50 or more people every night of the week.

The prayer facilitators and PowerPoint techs include children as young as 8 years old. The youngest prayer warrior is a 3-year-old. Samuel General, a 10-year-old baptized in November, serves as a PowerPoint tech and prayer facilitator.

Participating church members are experiencing a



spiritual revival and testifying to God's faithfulness and goodness through the blessings of this ministry. A few of these testimonies are posted on [seattleadventists.com](http://seattleadventists.com).

Through its community outreach team, the church has also experienced the Lord's providence by allowing it to serve the needs of the community in West Seattle through food drive on a monthly basis. Outreach leader Julie Espinosa says, "I am so grateful to God for providing us all these thousands of pounds of food through community networks." The community outreach team also provided special meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas and met additional practical needs in their community.

The COVID-19 pandemic may have disrupted the ways churches traditionally minister, but the Holy Spirit will always have and empower a people who will fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, even in the midst of crisis.

ED GENERAL  
Greater Seattle Filipino-American Church pastor



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WA-4](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WA-4)



CHURCH

# Arlington Church Turns COVID Challenges Into Opportunities

**AS LAST YEAR DREW TO A CLOSE, ARLINGTON CHURCH MEMBERS REFLECTED ON THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES GOD HAS ALLOWED THEM TO EXPERIENCE IN 2020. EVEN THROUGH LOCKDOWNS, GOD IS LEADING.**

With their pastor's retirement in November 2019, Arlington Church members stepped up to implement pandemic hygiene precautions. While the sanctuary was closed and most stayed home, the church doors were open each week. Some form of internet Sabbath School was projected on the foyer wall for the curious or anyone who showed up.

This showing started out with only a couple people but grew as the weeks progressed. With seating more than 10 feet apart and mostly 20 feet apart, one could be quite isolated from others. Nonmembers were the predominant attendees. Sometimes this informal class would last until 1:30 in the afternoon.

Members longed for more, so they set up a drive-in church with a pop-up tent and an FM transmitter so attendees could hear the message in their cars and watch the speaker. When restrictions eased in May, the church added a video link for a few people to use the sanctuary. Next the young people asked for a Sabbath School class. A church member sewed a huge tent cover so the class could meet outside. With the colder winter temperatures, they've added heat.

The church board intends to meet the needs of the members in whatever form is necessary. As a result, the overall

adult Sabbath School and worship attendance is at or above prepandemic levels. On any Sabbath there are from 10 to 20 people in their cars watching the service outside the church.

There is a lower-division Sabbath School outside with similar numbers in attendance to what was before the pandemic. Teens have their own socially distanced Sabbath School class, and attendance is only slightly lower than the previous year. Online attendance is growing too.

With the leadership of their new pastor, Cristian Bobocea, and God's guiding hand, Arlington Church members are growing their family with new baptisms. Even during this pandemic, God is producing blessings.

DAVID PATRICK  
*Arlington Church communication leader*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WA-3](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WA-3) +

CHURCH

## ARLINGTON KIDS MAKE DIFFERENCE IN EL SALVADOR

CAN A SMALL GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE REALLY MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD? AFTER WASHINGTON'S ARLINGTON CHURCH RESUMED IN-PERSON CHILDREN'S SABBATH SCHOOL OUTDOORS, SOME CLASS MEMBERS ASKED ABOUT COLLECTING AN OFFERING EACH WEEK THAT WOULD GO TO A SPECIAL PROJECT.



After presenting some options, the class decided they wanted to raise funds to buy chickens for families in need in El Salvador. Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) provides families with chickens so they can become more self-sufficient. The eggs can be sold, and some eggs can be allowed to hatch so flock size increases. Even the chicken manure can be used to help grow better gardens. Since three of the local families raise chickens, this project appealed to these kids.

Sabbath School leaders collected these ADRA offering for six Sabbaths. At the end they had \$95 — enough to buy 19 chickens. The Sabbath School students were so happy to be helping others.

DAWN HAINEY  
*Arlington Church family ministries coordinator*

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



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WA-5](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WA-5) **+**

## ‘Days of Celebration’ Event Goes Online

**THE FIRST SABBATH OF A NEW YEAR IS SIGNIFICANT FOR THE BLACK CHURCH FAMILIES IN THE WESTERN WASHINGTON REGION WHO GATHER TO CELEBRATE UNITY, RECONCILIATION AND NEW BEGINNINGS.**



ERNESTO HERNANDEZ

more people could connect with the program and we could share with a broader audience,” Lewis says. “We wanted more people to connect with the work of unity and reconciliation so badly needed in our country.”

A certified master life coach, chaplain, and marriage and family consultant, Renee Mobley, began with a Friday night presentation to

discuss core feelings about race, Christianity, repentance and revival from the story of Jonah.

“Jonah was called to go to a place where he had a bias,” Mobley notes. “All people have biases. When you seek to find common ground with someone out of your comfort zone you will find it, just like Jonah experienced. By adding value to everyone we come in contact with, we subtract hate.”

Hospital chaplain, pastor and former U.S. Army Ranger Jason O’Rourke continued the

Sabbath morning program by delving into social justice and social righteousness by looking at themes from Ephesians and the early church.

“Christ has a multiethnic church where all have access to God,” O’Rourke shares. “Within the armor of God, we can stand up, lock shields and be part of someone else’s 360-degree coverage to address the four areas Paul says need to be deconstructed: ethnocentricity, sexism, generationalism and classism.”

Mobley and O’Rourke then teamed up for an afternoon panel discussion on race, racism and the church before a concluding concert with alto Rachel Carr.

“Multicultural churches need to co-exist and find common ground with those who look or think differently,” Mobley says. “We need to pray for each other and for healing in our land.”

“The character of Christ should be reflected in how you live within your culture,” O’Rourke adds. “It takes humility to move forward for the kingdom.”

“We had a healthy conversation on reconciliation that needs to continue,” Lewis says. “These are challenging times in ministry. As Christians, we ought to be one in Christ Jesus in every area of our life.”

Watch archived presentations at [youtube.com/washconf](http://youtube.com/washconf).

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER  
*Washington Conference communication director*

• Instead of a live audience, Days of Celebration used Washington Conference’s studio to present a virtual program.

EuGene Lewis, Washington Conference regional ministries director, saw the need for the continued message of unity and reconciliation but was unsure about how to proceed with plans for 2021. The previous Days of Celebration gathering in 2020 was one of a handful of “normal” events before the pandemic shook up traditions. Then, an idea for a virtual program began to germinate.

“By taking Days of Celebration online, this meant



HEALTH

## Celebrating the Life of Frank F. Dupper

JANUARY 20, 1933 – DECEMBER 31, 2020



**HEALTH CARE LOST** A larger-than-life figure when Frank F. Dupper passed away Dec. 31, 2020 – 22 years to the day after he retired as president of Adventist Health.

Dupper left a legacy that inspires Adventist Health still, says Scott Reiner, Adventist Health CEO. “While I never had a chance to work directly with Frank, he affected me deeply,” Reiner explains. “Frank had a profound impact on our organization’s culture, and the private

conversations we shared were always so encouraging and centered on the focus of our work: our mission.”

Born into a farming family, Dupper recalled milking cows by hand and not having electricity. He was served well professionally by that grit and work ethic, as well as by dealing with polio, which he referred to as a “blessing from God.”

Dupper’s career began with teaching accounting and working as a treasurer for church schools. Dupper was recruited to be controller at Glendale Sanitarium and Hospital (now Adventist Health Glendale), where he advanced to vice president of finance. In the early 1970s, Dupper and other administrators helped frame a bold vision to change Adventist hospitals from a loose association to a health care system with a shared mission.

Dupper became the first vice president of what was then Adventist Health Services. Six years later, he became president of Adventist Health System/West, a forerunner of today’s Adventist Health.

Dupper was an embodiment of integrity and servant leadership who also set a high bar. More than one person confessed that no boss ever got as much from them as Dupper did – because nobody wanted to disappoint him. His handwritten notes are treasured still today. His

signature line, “Big Thanks, Frank,” was often penned in the first page of a book sent as a gift. A man of prayer, he more than once knelt in his corner office imploring God to guide him while leading the organization in chaotic times.

Upon Dupper’s retirement, Adventist Health established the Dupper Internship Program. About 200 young professionals have benefited to date from the opportunity to learn and grow while working within the health care system.

While sometimes characterized as a workaholic, Dupper also was a devoted husband to Norma, his wife of 64 years, and father to Debbie (Mark) Ashlock and Brent (Sylvia) Dupper. He was the family pancake-maker and bargain-hunter. He was beloved as “Pops” to four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. His legacy of service continues in his children, their spouses and even his grandchildren who have worked or are working in health care today.

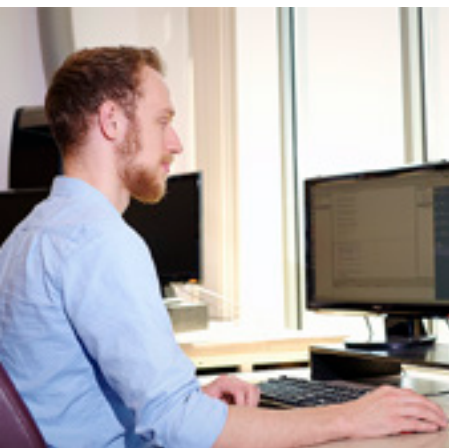
One of Dupper’s most frequently recited quotes was, “They don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.” Dupper’s family, throngs of friends, fellow church members and colleagues indeed knew how much he cared.

**CHRISTINE PICKERING**

*Adventist Health shared service communications system director*

# New Center Enhances 21st-Century Learning

**THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED** Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLT) is stepping into its role on campus at an important time. With many courses currently administered in person, online and in mixed settings due to COVID-19, the center is able to provide necessary support to faculty as they work to preserve class excellence.



Since its formation in the spring of last year, the center has worked not only to provide teachers with educational technology, but also to offer professional resources, continuing education, and support in standardizing online course structure and assessments.

“One of our core values, one we are dedicated to, is ‘excellence in thought,’” says Volker Henning, vice president for academic administration, “and we feel the center will help us accomplish that, especially as we have classes in an online format.”

The center’s team includes a diverse range of skills to accomplish its goals. Dave Reeves, associate director for technology, adds his expertise to the center’s work by helping professors buy, set up and effectively use technology that facilitates dual-modality courses. Support for WWU’s online learning management system, D2L, comes from Sylvia Nosworthy, professor of English. The center’s newest hire, Alix Harris, will provide assistance in online course design. She is currently focused on supporting the Doctor of Social Work program.

“Students learn best in a variety of systems, not just one way,” says Pam Cress, associate vice president for academic administration. Cress has been at the forefront of the TLT’s development and sees the center as a way to better provide for students by serving faculty.

Faculty in need of assistance can reach out to Cress as the center grows. Cress is excited about the opportunities that the TLT provides as a centralized support to faculty as they offer excellent courses in a variety of learning environments.

KELSI NASH  
WWU university relations student writer

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WWU-1](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WWU-1)



## ICantori Goes Virtual

**WITH COVID-19** health regulations in place, Walla Walla University’s ICantori choir has been unable to meet in person. Instead, choir members practice together virtually on Zoom videoconferencing three times a week, under the direction of Kraig Scott, WWU professor of music.

“Practice mostly consists of Dr. Scott leading warmups in his house while all the rest of us have our mics muted but warm up along with him. We then spend the rest of our time working on our parts for a piece of music we hope to record in isolation and then mix together,” says Jared Sexton, senior physics major.

The choir has discovered just how difficult it is to create music together while respecting COVID-19 boundaries. When they practice in person, Scott can quickly give feedback on how different sections sound. That feedback process is more complicated and less efficient when Scott can only hear one vocalist at a time.

To replace in-person concerts and performances, ICantori has produced three virtual choir recordings over the past two quarters. The complicated process begins with Scott recording a solo piano accompaniment. Recordings of



EDUCATION

## WWU NURSING STUDENTS AND FACULTY RECEIVE COVID-19 VACCINE

**STUDENTS AND FACULTY** in the Walla Walla University School of Nursing received the first of two Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines in January with the second dose administered in early February.

“As our faculty and students participate in front-line care as part of their clinical learning, they are at an increased risk for exposure and COVID infection. Vaccinating our nursing students helps protect those they care for, those they interact with on campus and, of course, themselves. They are the future of nursing,” says Kari Firestone, WWU professor of nursing, associate dean of the School of Nursing and WWU COVID-19 response director.

KIM STROBEL  
WWU university relations  
supervisor

MORE ONLINE AT  
[NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WWU-5](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WWU-5)

EDUCATION

## EDUCATION MAJORS ADAPT TO UNIQUE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

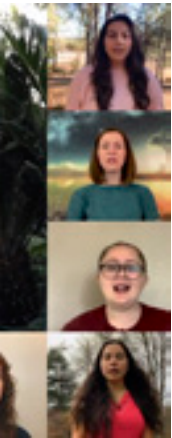
**SCHOOLS OF ALL LEVELS** have had to make changes to their teaching practices due to COVID-19. Students and teachers aren't the only ones affected by these changes. Education majors working as student teachers in classrooms have also faced challenges as they've adapted their teaching standards in order to complete their student teaching requirements before graduation.

Senior elementary education majors Alexandra Peebles and Jennifer Bosler are two students who have been facing the challenges of student teaching during COVID-19 alongside the difficulty of navigating online and in-person college classes.

With COVID-19 limiting the number of schools open for in-person instruction and changing the methods of teaching within the classroom, student teachers are coming up with new and creative ways to engage their students while still complying with COVID-19 protocols.

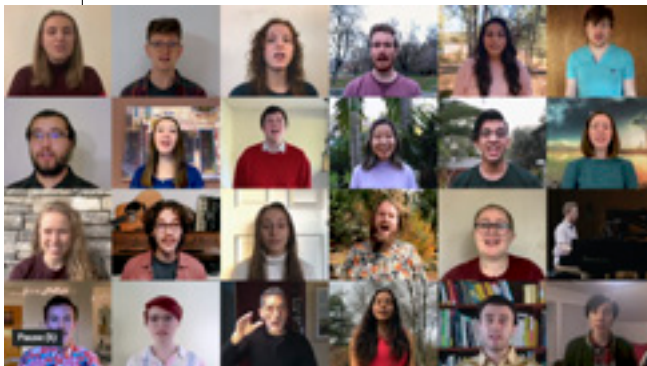
MAKENA HORTON  
WWU university relations  
student writer

MORE ONLINE AT  
[NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WWU-3](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WWU-3)



individual students singing are then synced to the accompaniment. The process is further complicated by having to upload audio and visuals separately.

During fall quarter, ICantori produced a virtual recording of “How Can I Keep From Singing?” arranged by Gwyneth Walker. “I chose this piece because of its message: that even during this time of COVID quarantine, especially during this time, our choir still needs to sing and in fact cannot keep from



singing,” says Scott. “The wonderful student singers of ICantori must sing, COVID or not. There are many reasons for this including the fact that singing makes us feel better, it makes us happier, it exercises our lungs and makes us healthier. It makes us feel less lonely, and singing with others in harmony is one of the greatest musical experiences possible.”

ICantori has also joined the Chamber Choir of Montana State University in a professional virtual choir project with American composer Jocelyn Hagen.

Watch “How Can I Keep From Singing?” and “The Greatest Good” at [wallawalla.edu/icantori](http://wallawalla.edu/icantori).

BROOKE SAMPLE  
WWU university relations student writer

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WWU-2](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WWU-2) +

# Help Is on the Way

**NESTLED IN THE HEART** of the Olympic Peninsula's rugged coastline lies a community so remote the U.S. Postal Service hasn't delivered mail here since 1934.

Despite its secluded location, Queets, Washington, is home to roughly 300 Native Americans who are members of the Quinault Indian Nation. Every Sabbath, a lone Native elder, Conrad Williams, makes his way to the heart of the little community. He walks up a wooden ramp to the front of the small community church and unlocks door.

"I come here every Sabbath, hoping others will join me" says Williams.

The Adventist work among the Quinault people has dwindled in recent years. Many factors contribute to this, including the passing of older leadership, the relocation of members and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Another significant factor is lack of funding for a full-time pastor to live and work in the coastal villages.

"Natives don't trust the white man," says Williams. "It takes a consistent involved presence for our people to begin to trust enough to engage with a church."

This level of engaged involvement is difficult for nearby Adventist pastors on the Olympic Peninsula, who have multiple congregations to shepherd.

The significant cultural needs and

challenges have pushed the Adventist Church in the Pacific Northwest to look for creative ways to advance Native ministry in coastal villages like Queets. In late 2020, the North Pacific Union Conference Native ministry department approached Adventist Frontier Missions with a special appeal.

"We asked AFM to consider working in North America among our Northwest Native populations," says Steve Huey, NPUC Native ministry director. "For some time, we've been knocking on AFM's door asking for help in this specific area."

Like many of the unreached communities of the 10/40 Mission Window where AFM primarily serves, we have similar missiological opportunities among many Native American communities in



The visit to Queets, Washington, and discussion about a new outreach partnership included Adventist Frontier Missions and Adventist Native ministries leaders like (from left) Steve Huey, NPUC Native ministries director; Conrad Williams, local Queets Adventist member; Conrad Vine, Adventist Frontier Missions president; and Monte Church, NPUC Native ministries leader.

WATCH THE VIDEO REPORT ON THIS NEW NATIVE MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP.



[NWADVENT.ST/116-2-NW-1](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-NW-1)

the Pacific Northwest. After extended discussions, AFM and the Adventist Church have agreed to work collaboratively to bring the gospel to unreached tribal groups in the Native American coastal villages.

"We are dipping our toe in the water with this new partnership," says Conrad Vine, AFM president. AFM has altered some of their policies to include placing missionary workers in North America as well as within the 10/40 Window.

"This partnership is an answer to prayer for the help we need in serving the needs of Native ministries in the Pacific Northwest," says Huey.

Ellen White wrote about the importance of partnering for kingdom growth: "As we approach the last crisis, it is of vital moment that harmony and unity exist among the Lord's instrumentalities" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 7, p. 182).

More information about this new partnership and how to get involved is available online.

MONTE CHURCH  
NPUC Native American ministries  
associate director

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-NW-1](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-NW-1)





## CHURCH

# GC Session Postponed Again

**FOR THE SECOND TIME IN 10 MONTHS, MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAVE VOTED TO POSTPONE THE QUINQUENNIAL SESSION OF THE DENOMINATION, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR LATE JUNE 2020, DUE TO CHALLENGES ARISING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**



ROHANN WELLINGTON

- Delegates from around the world vote at the 2015 GC Session in San Antonio, Texas.

The executive committee, whose members hail from around the world, attended the Jan. 12 session by Zoom videoconferencing. The members listened to reports from world church administration, health officers of the church, logistics coordinators and legal counsel. Leaders discussed the feasibility of continuing the planned business session May 20–25, 2021, in Indianapolis, Indiana, as previously approved by the same body.

The persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic and its enduring impacts on public health, travel and the availability of international visas persuaded the international body to postpone the session until June 6–11, 2022, again in Indianapolis. The new plan voted by church leaders and laypeople postpones the date for the denomination's quinquennial business session for nearly two years from its originally scheduled dates, as allowed by the Adventist Church's constitution.

Peter Landless, GC health ministries director, shared current COVID-19 statistics and concerns of moving forward with such a large gathering. Given the rising infection numbers, along with new, more infectious and aggressive strains, Landless said the health ministries

department had to recommend delaying the GC Session.

"We've been consulting with international experts and taking into account the needs and concerns. The GC health ministries department believes it is prudent and practical stewardship to postpone the GC Session to 2022, given this difficult time," Landless said.

GC meeting planner Sheri Clemmer outlined some of the current challenges to a large meeting of delegates from around the world. She mentioned visitor visa difficulties and quarantine requirements, especially for those who use public transportation and transportation hubs. She also explained standard COVID protocols surrounding mass gatherings in Indianapolis.

G.T. Ng, GC executive secretary, reported data collected from the division leadership about the likelihood of delegates being able to attend the GC Session if held this coming May. Major challenges include travel bans, quarantine restrictions and problems obtaining visas to the United States. The GC constitution does not allow for electronic participation in a GC Session.

Following the presentations and discussion, the recommendation to move the dates of the GC Session to June 2022 was put to a vote by electronic polling. The motion passed 185 votes to 9.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WC-1](http://NWADVENT.ST/116-2-WC-1)

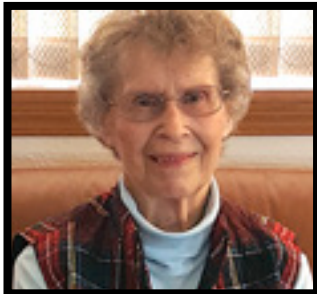


### Barrett 95th

Lois Ruth Barrett celebrated her 95th birthday on Dec. 25, 2020.

Lois was born in Wray, Colorado, on Dec. 25, 1925, to Louis and Hazel Nielsen. She grew up on a farm with her older sister, Maryane, and younger brother, Merle.

During her high school years, she enjoyed playing the guitar. She was married on Jan. 1, 1945, to Floyd Barrett. Lois became an Adventist after marrying Floyd. She worked throughout her life at various jobs.



Lois Ruth Barrett

Lois' family includes two daughters, Donna (Barrett) Runyan of Happy Valley, Oregon; Patti (Barrett) and Dwayne Kluchesky of Twin Falls, Idaho; 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

### Downs 50th

Wendell and Linda Downs of Palmer, Alaska, were married at Pioneer Park in Walla Walla, Washington, on June 7, 1970. Unlike many other locations they might have chosen, such as churches which grow old, burn down, get repurposed or are sold, the same Garden Clubhouse and exact location where they spoke their vows still exists. They more than once have driven by that exact location, and they still feel the same thrills they



Wendell and Linda Downs felt so many years ago.

This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, those of the Downs family residing in Alaska decided to help Linda and Wendell celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary by spending it in Denali Park with them. Son-in-law and daughter Aaron and Jen Woehler, who were married many years later on June 6, rented a 15-passenger van and helped them celebrate the weekend.

The part of the family in Alaska all rode together up toward Denali on Friday and camped at a family member's cabin Friday night. On Sabbath afternoon, the group moved up the line. They were unable to get an official campsite in the park due to social distancing restrictions but were able to find a wide spot off the highway about 15 miles away, where everybody set up camp. On Sunday, June 7, 2020, the group loaded into the van and drove into Teklanika, inside the park. Everybody really enjoyed seeing a mother moose with two newborn babies who came prancing right down the middle of the park road. Aaron, the van driver, willingly gave way, while everybody else took some awesome pictures.

When the excursionists got back to their campsite, they discovered a thunderstorm had taken down one tent and gotten things wet. Everybody decided to pack up and drive home that night. It was a wonderful weekend, topped off by those still awake on the ride home taking part in the most beautiful sunset and awesome

views of the many angles of Denali.

Wendell and Linda spent a total of 32 years carrying on the mission of the Adventist Church in Alaska, first as student missionaries back in 1972 and later in pastoral ministry from 1986 to 2015. They spent an additional two-year stint in Papua New Guinea working with Adventist Aviation Services immediately following retirement.

The Downs family includes Warren and Verity Downs of Dillingham, Alaska; Dan and Ferne Downs of Palmer, Alaska; Jennifer and Aaron Woehler of Wasilla, Alaska; Jeff and Alisha Downs of Medford, Oregon; and eleven wonderful grandchildren.

### Duerksen 70th

Merlyn and Rosemary Duerksen celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on July 2, 2020 with a virtual party.

Merlyn Duerksen met Rosemary Halburg at Pacific Union College in Angwin, California, and they were married at the Hill Church in Loma Linda, California, in 1950. They settled in Covina, California, where Merlyn practiced medicine and Rosemary worked as a nurse and raised their five children.

They have traveled extensively all over the world. Fifteen years ago, they moved to north Idaho, where they still live at home and maintain a beautiful and diverse flower and vegetable



Merlyn and Rosemary Duerksen

garden by a lake.

Merlyn also celebrated his 95th birthday and Rosemary her 90th this year.

### Fenton 95th

Jean Fenton celebrated her 95th birthday on Aug. 13, 2020. Due to COVID-19, just the local family celebrated with a meal together in her backyard at her home in Nampa, Idaho.

Jean June Johnston was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on Aug. 13, 1925. She married Fred Fenton on June 18, 1950. They had two daughters, Jodi and Pam.

They lived in St. Louis most their lives until moving to Idaho in 2009 to be near their daughter. Jean was familiar with the Adventist Church from her grandparents and aunts who regularly took her to church. She was baptized when she was 13. She was able to attend Enterprise Academy for her senior year.



Jean Fenton

She worked as a commercial artist for many years. In 2009, shortly after moving to Idaho, Fred passed away at the age of 88.

Jean attends the Eagle Church in Eagle, Idaho, where she has an active card/literature ministry to members of the Eagle Church and her neighborhood. She is active and healthy and continues to live in her own home and drive.

Jean's family include Jodi and Ross Giem of Nampa, Idaho; Pam Fenton of Bismarck, North Dakota; 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.



Andrew Haynal

## Haynal 100th

Andrew Haynal celebrated his 100th birthday on Jan. 29, 2021, in Gresham, Oregon. Due to COVID-19, immediate family held only a small celebration.

Andrew Paul Haynal was born Jan. 29, 1921, in Cleveland, Ohio. After graduating from Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in 1943, Andrew was drafted and sent to medical school at the College of Medical Evangelists, now Loma Linda University. He served as a physician, working for the U.S. government in Liberia, Thailand and Guyana.

He served the Adventist Church as a missionary in India and the Philippines and as dean of Loma Linda University's School of Public Health. For many years after he retired, he taught classes as a volunteer for the Master of Public Health program at Adventist University of the Philippines.

He attributes his longevity to God's blessing, regular exercise (Andrew stills walks at least a mile each day) and eating durian as often as possible.

Andrew's family includes his wife of 74 years, Helen Babienko of Gresham, Oregon; Andrew and Robin Haynal of Yucaipa, California; Peter and Sheila Haynal of Spring Valley, Ohio; Mark and Kris Haynal of Lewiston, Idaho; John and Susan (Haynal) Jenson of El Segundo, California; Greg and Lois (Haynal) Robinson of Gresham; Steve and Heidi Haynal of Wilsonville, Oregon; 12 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**ALLEN** – Edna June (Dewey), 83; born June 10, 1937, Barksdale Field, Louisiana; died Nov. 14, 2020, Hemet, California. Surviving: son, Walter Allen (now Gray Allen), Eureka, California; daughters, Jackie (Allen) Robinson, Calimesa, California; Debbie Allen (now D.J. Dewey), Bonners Ferry, Idaho; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**ATKINS** – Marissa Susan (McElvain), 34; born April 22, 1986, La Mesa, California; died Oct. 2, 2020, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: husband, Jim, Polson, Montana; sons, Andrew, Levi and Brayden, all of Polson; parents, Donald and Laurie (McKay) McElvain, Polson; sisters, Rebecca Maso, Polson; Dawn McElvain, Austin, Texas; and grandparents, Roger and Elva McKay, Boise, Idaho.

**BAILEY** – Karen Paulene, 76; born May 22, 1943, Hillsboro, Oregon; died Nov. 10, 2020, Tillamook, Oregon. Surviving: brother, John Wesley Bailey, Peoria, Arizona.

**BENTON** – Margaret Irene (Martin), 80; born Nov. 29, 1939, San Diego, California; died Nov. 26, 2020, Hood River, Oregon. Surviving: husband, Dave; son, Daniel, Hood River; daughters, Dava White, Gerradstown, West Virginia; Darla Milam, College Place, Washington; Amanda Alvarez, Hood River; foster son, Gary Braden, Huntsville, Alabama; brother, David Martin, Patagonia, Arizona; sister, Gwen Poole, Escondido, California; and 9 grandchildren.

**BISBY** – Shirley Jean (Barker), 88; born Jan. 23, 1932, Denver, Colorado; died Nov. 11, 2020, Gresham, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Glenn, Renton,

Washington; Paul, Damascus, Oregon; daughter, Roxanne Lenz, Richland, Washington; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**BLACKERBY** – Marvin Owen, 86; born Aug. 31, 1934, Pontiac, Michigan; died Oct. 1, 2020, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Connie (Meyer Smith) Blackerby, Eagle Point, Oregon; son, Craig, Eagle Point; daughters, Laura Johnson, Zellwood, Florida; Jodi Blackerby, Eagle Point; Shelli Yanna, Mabank, Texas; brother, John, of Michigan; 9 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**BOWKER** – Verdeen (Heffel), 97; born March 13, 1923, Rexburg, Idaho; died Nov. 2, 2020, Beaumont, California. Surviving: son, Doug Turek, Bellingham, Washington; stepson, Dwight Bowker, Nampa, Idaho; daughters, Janet Goltz, Beaumont, California; Judi Mitchel, Gresham, Oregon; sister, Pearl Ahl, Boise, Idaho; 8 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, 5 great-great grandchildren.

**BURRILL** – Gladys Ottelia (Johnson), 100; born Nov. 23, 1918, La Center, Washington; died Nov. 7, 2019, Prospect, Oregon. Surviving: son, Michael Sr., Central

1959–2020

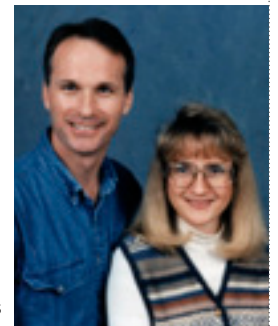
## BROOKS KIMBERLY POTTER

Brooks Kimberly Potter of College Place, Washington, died Nov. 12, 2020. He was born Feb. 13, 1959, in Berkeley, California, to Robert A. Potter and Sally Ann Shiman Potter. Following his 1980 baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, he became a representative for Pacific Press Publishing Association. He enjoyed people, and this, coupled with his love of Jesus, combined well with his gifts of winsomeness, enthusiasm and physical fitness. Brooks was used as a model for Jesus when artist John Steel painted a cover for *Colporteur Ministry* in the 1980s.

Brooks married Sunnie Bea Dietrich, a fellow literature evangelist, on April 17, 1983, in Ukiah, California. Sunnie played piano and organ and taught music, while Brooks sold books and later became a representative for Christian Services for the Blind. Brooks retired in 2016 due to early-onset dementia.

Brooks is survived by wife, Sunnie; brother, Cameron; half-brother, Noah Barton (Michelle); two brothers-in-law, Terry Dietrich (Jeannie) and Albert Randolph (Tamara); several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, plus the many friends he made through his work.

Consider viewing the memorial service at [youtu.be/qS9qMDPcH4E](https://youtu.be/qS9qMDPcH4E), sharing memories at [mountainview-colonialdewitt.com](https://mountainview-colonialdewitt.com) or sending memorial contributions to Gospel Outreach, 712 NE C St., College Place, WA 99324.



OUR FAMILY

Point, Oregon; daughters, Celeste Sweat, Prospect; Sandra Knudson, Medford, Oregon; Gina Burrill, Coupeville, Washington; 18 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

**CAREY**—Denise E. (Carnevali), 53; born Sept. 2, 1967, Yakima, Washington; died Oct. 17, 2020, Wapato, Washington. Surviving: husband, Douglas; sons, Nathan, Wapato; Ryan, Loma Linda, California; parents, Thomas and Sharron Carnevali, Wapato; sisters, Laural Klein, Kristen Carnevali and Diane Varnevali, all of Yakima.

**CARVER**—Doris Elaine (Ferdig), 96; born Aug. 10, 1923, Belvidere, South Dakota; died Dec. 16, 2019, Pacific, Washington. Surviving: husband, Jack Carver; son, Michael Carver, Damascus, Oregon; daughters, Velma Johnson, Sequim, Washington; Ruth Wright, Bowdon, North Dakota; Elaine Varga, Spokane, Washington; Doreen Ahlberg, Bonney Lake, Washington; 13 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

**DAHL**—Arthur Daniel, 102; born Feb. 21, 1918, Loyalist, Alberta, Canada; died Oct. 18, 2020, Clinton, Washington. Surviving: son, Cy, Jacksonville, Florida; daughters, Alena Jordan and Connie Streifling, both of Clinton; brother, Alfred, Winston, Oregon; sister, Dee White, Winston; 9 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 9 great-great-grandchildren.

**DASHER**—Bertha Ann (Wood), 88; born March 9, 1932, Trout Lake, Washington; died Nov. 13, 2020, Palm Springs,

California. Surviving: husband, Wilmer H.; sons, William “Tex,” of Texas; David, Federal Way, Washington; daughters, Maryann Liu Huffman, Desert Hot Springs, California; Nancy Dasher Garcilazo, Glendale, California; 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**DAVY**—Nancy Fay (Merrill), 79; born April 1, 1941, Portland, Oregon; died Nov. 27, 2020, Troy, Montana. Surviving: husband, Roger W.; son, Larry, Enterprise, Oregon; daughters, Merrilyn Davey, Costa Mesa, California; Cynthia A. Calcagno, Joseph, Oregon; 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**DAWES**—Marlow Wellington, 77; born Oct. 6, 1943, Omak, Washington; died Nov. 19, 2020, College Place, Washington. Surviving: son, Kevin, Spokane, Washington; daughter, Karen Dawes Cote, Gray, Tennessee; brothers, Jerry, Wenatchee, Washington; John, Grandview, Washington; and 4 grandchildren.

**ENGSTROM**—John W., 83; born Nov. 3, 1936, Stockholm, Sweden; died Sept. 21, 2020, Kennewick, Washington. Surviving: wife, Ardelle (Johnson), Pasco, Washington; son, Brent, Las Vegas, Nevada; daughters, Celeste Graves, Pasco; Heather Reed, Phoenix, Arizona; brother, Robert, Apopka, Florida; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**FRIMML**—Steven James, 67; born Nov. 10, 1952, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; died Oct. 8, 2020, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Jaymee (Dale); son, Richard, Nampa; brother, Dennis, South Amana, Iowa; sister, Cynthia

Schmidt, South Amana; and 3 grandchildren.

**HAFFENER**—Edith C. (Vaughn) Skelton, 98; born May 15, 1922, Caddo Gap, Arkansas; died Dec. 1, 2020, Gold Hill, Oregon. Surviving: son, Brian Haffener, Gold Hill; daughters, Carolyn (Skelton) Webb, Gold Hill; Denise (Haffener) Shumate, Fullerton, California; 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**HANSEN**—William E., 90; born July 9, 1930, Blair, Nebraska; died Aug. 14, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Terry Lynn Hansen, St. Helena, California; daughter, Debbie

Ann Bullock; 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**HARCHENKO**—Theodore “Ted” Eugene, 87; born March 31, 1933, Minot, North Dakota; died Oct. 7, 2020, Everett, Washington. Surviving: wife, Shirley D. (Hilde) Leslie Harchenko, Marysville, Washington; son, Randy Harchenko, Salem, Oregon; daughter, Bonnie Andal, Puyallup, Washington; stepdaughter, Michele (Leslie) Massey, Okahumpka, Florida; brother, Jerry Harchenko, Keizer, Oregon; sisters, Videll Tremaine, Salem; Ruby Adsitt, Dallas, Oregon; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

1933–2020

## ROBERT “GENE” PIFER

Robert Eugene Pifer was born June 3, 1933, in Wheatridge, Colorado. Gene was always a builder. Along with his father and brother, Gene built the Meadow Glade Church on the campus of Columbia Academy in Battle Ground, Washington, which was his alma mater. While attending Walla Walla College, he was on the crew that built the Clara Rogers Elementary School across from the College Church. He came back to the Meadow Glade area to build homes in the community before moving to Laurelwood Academy near Gaston, Oregon, where he helped build the gymnasium, music building and faculty housing. For the rest of his career, he built or repaired agricultural-chemical plants across the United States.

Gene died Dec. 24, 2020, in Battle Ground, Washington, at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife, Judy; daughters, Nancy Myers of College Place, Washington; Jan King of Caldwell, Idaho; Teri Richardson of College Place; stepdaughters, Teresa Benjamin of Sedro-Woolley, Washington; Cori Jones of Yacolt, Washington; son, Ron Pifer of Forest Grove, Oregon; stepson, Nick Ward of Sequim, Washington; sister, Juanita Byrd of Canby, Oregon; brother, George Pifer of Fall River, California; 14 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, George and Evelyn Pifer, and his sisters Roberta Pifer, Edith Dietrich and Brenda Olson.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JICKA**— Agnes (Comm), 89; born Sept. 13, 1930, Leduc, Alberta, Canada; died Aug. 12, 2020, Sedro-Woolley, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Jennifer Walton, Mount Vernon, Washington; and 4 grandchildren.

**KALEBAUGH**— James Curtiss, 93; born Feb. 4, 1927, Santa Maria, Texas; died Nov. 4, 2020, Sweet Home, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Karen (Morehead); son, Mike, of Thailand; and a grandchild.

### MIRELES

**GONZALES**— Santiago, 89; born July 25, 1931, Praxedis G. Guerrero, Chihuahua, Mexico; died Oct. 19, 2020, Cornelius, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Patricia (Heegle) Mireles; daughters, Maria Isela Escobedo, El Paso, Texas; Olga Alicia Salazar, Clint, Texas; sister, Ernestina Aranda, Forest Grove, Oregon; brothers, Manual, Baudelio and Antonio, all of Mexico; 10 grandchildren, 8 step-grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, 9 step-great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

**MOORE**— Wayne, 100; born March 8, 1920, Blue Earth, Minnesota; died Aug. 21, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Carlton and Clayton; and 3 grandchildren.

**PROHASKA**— Elsie Lou (Sande) Albertsen, 96; born Feb. 11, 1924, Dakota City, Iowa; died April 11, 2020, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: son, Kenneth Albertsen, Loveland, Colorado; daughters, Mary Jane (Albertsen) Zollbrecht, Oregon City, Oregon; Carol Ann (Albertsen) St. Clair, LaGrande, Oregon; Linda (Albertsen) Easley, Eagle, Idaho; 14 grandchildren, 2 step-

grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

**SCHAFFER**— Carol Janet (Huether), 80; born March 27, 1940, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; died Nov. 30, 2020, College Place, Washington. Surviving: son, Scott, College Place; brother, Robert Huether, Vernon, British Columbia, Canada; sister, Joyce Huether Koronko, Portland, Oregon; and 2 grandchildren.

**STEWART**— Alice Clara (Eroh), 100; born Dec. 7, 1919, Hudsonale, Pennsylvania; died Nov. 26, 2020, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: son, Merwin, Nampa; daughter, Ruth Larrison, Norlina, North Carolina; and 12 grandchildren.

**TUPPER**— Joyce Marie, 64; born Aug. 9, 1956, Auburn, Washington; died Nov. 5, 2020, Lacey, Washington. Surviving: parents, Merlin and Juanita Tupper, Rochester, Washington; brother, Dean Tupper, Spokane, Washington; and sister, Janice Richardson, Monroe, Washington.

**ALL FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE PUBLISHED ONLINE AT [NWADVENTISTS.COM/FAMILY](http://NWADVENTISTS.COM/FAMILY).**

To submit family announcements, go to [NWAdventists.com/contribute](http://NWAdventists.com/contribute). To publish an expanded obituary with a short bio and photo, contact [info@nwadventists.com](mailto: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.

### NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

#### Offering

**March 6**—Local Church Budget;  
**March 13**—Adventist World Radio;  
**March 20**—Local Church Budget;  
**March 27**—Local Conference Advance;  
**April 3**—Local Church Budget;  
**April 10**—Hope Channel International;  
**April 17**—Local Church Budget;  
**April 24**—Local Conference Advance.

### UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

#### UCA Academy Day

**April 9**—Spend the day with us and experience UCA. Spend the day with us and check out all that our campus has to offer! Visit classes, eat in our cafeteria and tour the dorms. You will get to watch short performances by our Choraliars, concert band and orchestra and see our gymnastics team, AcroSoul, perform. This is a great opportunity to meet teachers and students and see why everyone loves UCA so much! Visit [nwadvent.st/116-2-uca](http://nwadvent.st/116-2-uca) for the most current information about this event. Questions? Email [krista.phillips@uca.org](mailto:krista.phillips@uca.org). Register today at [uca.org](http://uca.org).

### WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

#### Missing Members

Auburn City Church needs assistance in locating the following church members: Ronald Ammon, Pepsi Cherry, Laurie Cowles, Tony Creelman, Kelsi Gaines, Jesse Gardner, Kevin Gates, Beverly Graves, Amber Grooms, Lane Harris, Paul Haynes, Charlotte Heckendorn, Jay Heckendorn, Phil Heffernan, Renee Heffernan, Sharon Kuhn, Scheryl Lambeth, Billy Orock Jr., Helen Powell, Brian Roberts, Grace St. Domingo, Julie Wilkerson, Thelma Wilkerson, Nina Wilson and Erin Yung. If you know any information these missing members, please contact the church at [auburncity7@hotmail.com](mailto:auburncity7@hotmail.com) or call at 253-833-2560.

### WORLD CHURCH

#### Cruise With a Mission

**Dec. 12-19**—Take a cruise with a mission to the Mexico Riviera. More information can be found at [cye.org/cwm](http://cye.org/cwm).

**MORE EVENTS LISTED AT [NWADVENTISTS.COM/EVENTS](http://NWADVENTISTS.COM/EVENTS).**

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**Employment**

**STALLANT HEALTH**, a rural health clinic in Weimar, California, is accepting applications for a family practice physician, as well as a NP or PA, to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email [marva@stallanthealth.com](mailto:marva@stallanthealth.com).

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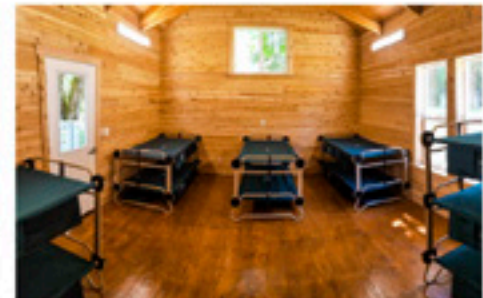
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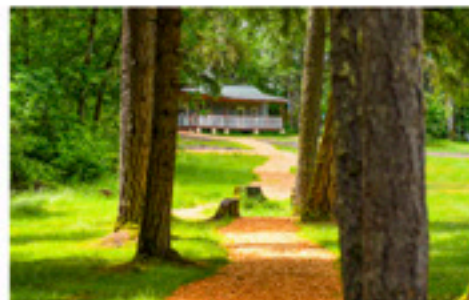
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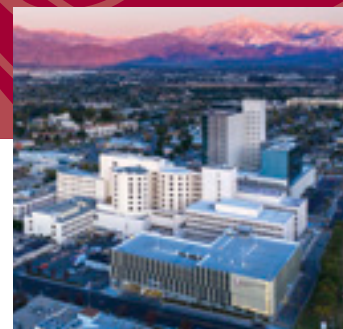
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DIY

# Prayer Jars

**DO YOU ENJOY** talking with your friends at school or at church? The more you talk with them, the more your friendship grows and the easier it is to think of things to talk about.

Talking to God is the same. The more you talk to Him, the easier it is and the more you'll have to talk to Him about.

Prayer takes practice, and that's okay. Here's a fun craft you can make that can help strengthen your friendship with God. Try making one of these prayer jars filled with little prompts to kickstart your daily prayer visits with God. Make one for:

- » Someone who needs help;
- » Your family;
- » Something you are thankful for;
- » Someone you don't get along with;
- » Giving God all your worries.

There are lots of ways to make a prayer jar. Here is just one way to do it.

1. Get a jar, such as a mason jar, and make it personal. Decorate it with paint, glitter, stickers, ribbon or anything else you want to add.
2. Write your prayer on jumbo popsicle sticks or pieces of paper.
3. Add your prayers to your prayer jar.
4. Put the prayer jar someplace you will see so it reminds you who or what to pray for each day.

DESIREE LOCKWOOD  
Gleaner managing editor



## Books of the Bible Word Search

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

For the answer key, go to [nwadvent.st/116-2-kids](http://nwadvent.st/116-2-kids).

ACTS  
 AMOS  
 CHRONICLES  
 COLOSSIANS  
 CORINTHIANS  
 DANIEL  
 DEUTERONOMY  
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 EPHESIANS  
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LAMENTATIONS  
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# FAMILY Worship



I grew up in a home on the Swinomish Reservation, where my mother made family worship a priority. We always bought the latest devotional book for kids from the Adventist Book Center, took turns reading the day's devotional and prayed together. I realize now, as an adult, how blessed I was to have a stay-at-home mom who made that a priority.

Now, as a mother myself, I realize carving out that time for family worship isn't as easy as my mom made it look. I have to be intentional and committed. My husband and I value personal devotion time and want our kids to see us putting God first in all we do. Family worship is essential in the growth of their own personal devotion time and the spiritual growth of us as a family: "You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deut. 6:7).

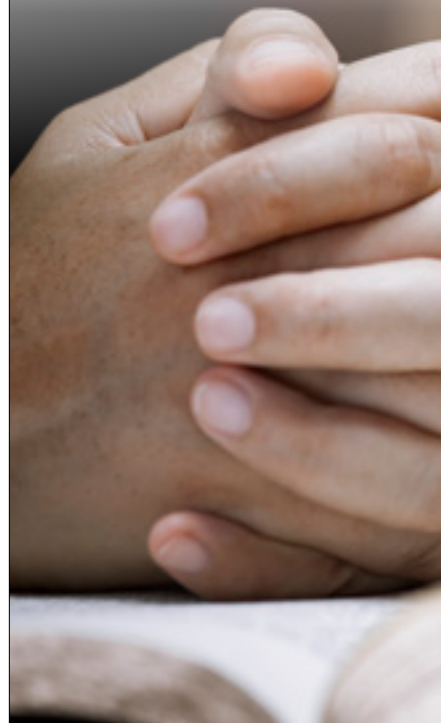
Here are family worship ideas that will have a positive effect on your family:



AUTHOR | LaVonne Long

## BIBLE READING TOGETHER

I encourage using an easy-to-read version so the kids can easily understand what's being read. We own many children's Bibles, including a storybook-style Bible, graphic-novel style Bible and even a Lego minifigure Bible. Both of my children love being chosen to read the Bible. When they get to be an active participant, family worship is much more exciting for them. Mix it up too—you can act out Bible stories, look at Bible maps to see where the story is taking place and give the kids incentives for learning Scripture.





## DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Try devotional books especially made for kids. When I was a child, there were not as many options for devotional books for kids. Now, we have an overabundance of books that can be chosen based on your child's interests. My son loves devotionals about science, and my daughter likes true-life stories. Let them read the devotional each day and really discuss what they've read. Kids love to share what they've learned and give their opinions. Let them feel valuable and heard.

## SONGS

Though we aren't the most musically inclined family, we all do love to sing together and dance to praise music too! We enjoy upbeat Scripture songs that help us memorize great Bible passages. You can find so much great Christian music to fit your family's tastes and preferences. Praising God through songs really does make family worship come alive.

## PRAYER

My kids take turns starting the day with a family prayer. There are days they'll even fight over whose turn it is. Praying together, asking each other for prayer requests and then hearing Mom ask God "to give me extra love and patience" is good for my kids. You can also turn prayer into an activity. Prayer chains, prayer boxes, candy prayers, prayer jars and prayer journals are all great activities kids love to do.

Extend family worship to other things too: nature walks, Bible games, community outreach and faith-based movies can all be relevant and current forms of worship. Do you see how with a bit of planning you can have an exciting fun family worship? The kids will love it, and they'll remember loving it when they are adults. Pay attention to the kids: If they are getting bored, change it up. Don't be afraid to ask for their input—they are part of the family too.

Remember these wise words: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

---

### 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.*

# Speak Freely

*"If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all."*

—NOAM CHOMSKY



T

he pillar of any great society is freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Not all religion is good, and not all speech is praiseworthy. But the moment we decide to censure religious or political views that are different than our own, we go down a dangerous path. Freedom of speech protects all speech. That we may not share someone else's perspective is beside the point. As American legal scholar Laurence Tribe points out, "The great virtue of the First Amendment is that it protects speech we hate just as vigorously as it protects speech we support."<sup>1</sup>

Now hear me clearly: If someone chooses to use their freedom of speech to say racist, bigoted and harmful things, they need to understand there may be consequences. Their employer may choose to fire them. They may be flagged by Twitter or Facebook and not be able to continue to post hateful things. That is how the marketplace of ideas work. Private companies have every right to

moderate their platform. That is not arbitrary censure; that's consequence.

There are important limits to free speech. People who lie about others can be taken to court for either libel (if published) or slander (if spoken). If it can be demonstrated that speech has a direct correlation to violence it can and should be prosecuted. Freedom of speech does not mean freedom from consequence.

Kids should be taught from

the earliest age they cannot use their words to bully others. If they do not learn this lesson in home or in school, then they will learn that their employer has every right to fire them for abusive speech. However, it is impossible and perhaps even unwise to try to search out and stop every bully. The best antidote for bad speech is good speech. In the words of Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis, the constitutional remedy for false speech is "more speech, not enforced silence."

In the age of social media, good speech is often drowned out by hate speech and conspiracy theories. But we must not give up on the First Amendment and the belief that the best speech and ideas will win out. This freedom continues to be the path to a more perfect union. By protecting the speech we hate, we protect the speech we love.

Social media has opened a Pandora's box of conspiracy theories and extremism. In general, social media is not full of nuanced conversations. It is vitriolic tribalism, with the extreme comments getting the most





*By protecting the speech we hate,  
we protect the speech we love.*

views. When we amplify this extremism in partisan ways, the polarization increases. We should remember to tweet onto others, the way that we want to be tweeted to. It is best to moderate ourselves and to be committed to treating each other with respect within our differences.

Two things would be immediately helpful in this regard. First, we could intentionally engage the humanity of others and treat people online as if they are friends, not trolls. Secondly, we could be curious about opinions different from our own. We would do well to try to understand differing views in the best light possible. We could

make space to allow people to hold different views. This is a confident and healthy pluralism. Author John Inazu makes this point: “The challenges arising out of our deep differences are not going away. But as we move toward an unknown future, we can retain some basic level of agreement about how to live with these differences. Confident pluralism offers that possibility. It will not convince everyone. It may not reshape entrenched intolerance, shallow certainty, or short sighted impatience. But it might persuade enough of us who are confident in our own beliefs and focused on preserving our modest unity amidst our pluralism.”<sup>2</sup>

In his commentary on Revelation, Sigve Tonstad says, “The Bible begins with a case of ‘false speech’ (Gen. 3:1). It ends with a sustained showdown with the ancient serpent, also described as the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9).”<sup>3</sup> God could have silenced Satan immediately, but He chose not to. He does not silence false speech by force; instead He reveals His character. God’s remedy for “false speech” is “more speech.” God counteracts falsehood with revelation. God speaks the truth in love, and He does not even need to use words.

And yet, when the Bible does speak about the power of words and our speech, it

gives sound advice. In this age of polarization, consider the wisdom of the apostle Paul: “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (Eph. 4:31–32).

The best speech is redemptive. Instead of trying to silence people, it includes as many as possible under the banner of love. It reminds me of the poem “Outwitted” by Edwin Markham:

*He drew a circle that  
shut me out –*

*Heretic, rebel, a thing  
to flout.*

*But love and I had the  
wit to win:*

*We drew a circle and  
took him in!*

1. Laurence H. Tribe, “The Supreme Court Was Right to Allow Anti-Abortion Protests,” *The New York Times*, June 26, 2014, [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com).
2. John Inazu, *Confident Pluralism* (The University of Chicago, 2016), p. 132.
3. Sigve Tonstad, *Revelation* (Baker Academic, 2019).

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



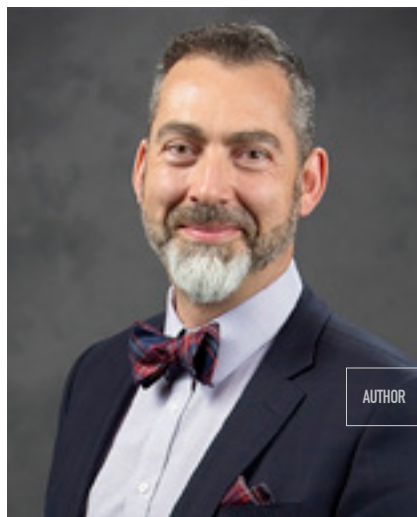


# PERSPECTIVE



## ANGRY ME

## FROM WHERE I Stand



L

ast week I was heading to pick up a camera I had taken in for servicing. I found myself lost in thought as I drove south on Interstate 5. My inner musings were rudely interrupted as a white sedan cut in front of me and proceeded to swerve back and forth, straddling two lanes of the freeway.

I held my breath and tried to give the driver the benefit of the doubt, thinking perhaps they couldn't decide whether or not they were going to exit. When the erratic driving continued, I lost it and angrily hammered my horn.

Ever been there? I admit I find myself in this state of mind more than I'd like. It's an easy leap to make from frustration to outright hatred. I find my uncharitable flareups are not only triggered by dangerous drivers.

With the U.S. election in the rearview mirror and President Biden's first 100 days drawing to a close, I still find myself getting worked up by things

AUTHOR

Jay Wintermeyer

I hear on the news or conversations I have with others. I find it hard to be kind when faced with those who don't see the world the same way I do.

This week, my gracious Father directed my attention to a passage in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Like He often does, God used the Holy Spirit and Scripture to soften my angry heart.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt. 5:43-48, ESV).

What a timely message. Just as I was struggling with my attitude toward others, God brought this passage to mind. My commission is to love those who see things differently than me. Yes, I'm even supposed to love that crazy driver. When I pray for my enemies, God mysteriously works to move them out of my enemy category.

Lord, help me lean into You when I feel the pull to demean your creation—even when they are my enemies, even when I don't agree. Give me Your capacity to love, which is immeasurably greater than mine.

JAY WINTERMEYER  
Gleaner editor

A man wearing a brown cap and a dark shirt is shown in profile, looking down at a professional video camera. He is holding a monitor that displays a video feed. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a studio or production environment. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the man's face and the camera.

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