

**EDITORIAL**  
RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND  
MERE WORDS

**PERSPECTIVE**  
SPEAKING TRUTH IN LOVE

**JUST LIKE JESUS**  
THE EGYPTIAN PLATE

glee

# YOU ARE CHOSEN



SEPT/OCT  
2019  
VOL. 114, N° 5





But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.



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JOHN FREEDMAN

**gleaner**

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## RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND MERE WORDS

**I**'ve seen it on social media and heard it via concerned phone calls — a growing urgency among those seeking a church that makes a tangible difference in this increasingly polarized culture. This urgency is not only shared by many of our members, but it echoes a direct call from our Lord who describes His followers as light and salt in this world.

Our young people are especially interested in how the Good News relates to the bad news we see every day. We can issue statements about immigration or hate speech, gun violence or racism. But they want to be part of a church that goes beyond mere words to build lasting relationships within and without, that intentionally seeks to be a channel of blessings to align practical answers with real needs.

This is why I'm increasingly excited about the trends I see within our Growing Young movement throughout the North Pacific Union Conference. This was initiated as an intentional decision by

AUTHOR

John Freedman

our executive committee just two

years ago. More than a knee-jerk reaction to a momentary need, this was a thoughtful strategy with hopes for long-term results. With the Spirit's guidance, they unleashed this ongoing investment in collaboration with your conference in the present and

future engagement of young people with our church's unique mission for Jesus.

It includes a realization that our young people are ready to take on God's call in powerful ways unique to them, not just the way things have always been done. The evidence is coming clear. The Growing Young pilot program began less than two years ago with 10 cohort churches. Now this project has expanded to more than 40 new churches, greatly expanding the impact and potential. Several churches in our cohorts have more than doubled the number of young adults attending — in one church, the number has quadrupled. Some are being baptized or rebaptized. A special weekend gathering in the Washington Conference recently inspired and challenged more than 200 young adults toward active, Christ-centered ministry.

Growing Young cohorts throughout our Northwest churches have created a supportive environment where groups of church members learn how to 1) create a warm welcoming environment in which to love young people, 2) build relationships with them and 3) work alongside each other to reach the felt needs of their communities. None of this is about music style, church facilities or entertainment. It's an intentional willingness to give young adults "the keys" to the church by involving them in responsible and challenging ministry opportunities for Jesus.

To be successful in the long run means being intentional about ministry to every generation of our church's membership. Many growing churches already have a critical component in place for this. Their Pathfinders/Adventurers ministry groups meet weekly to spiritually nurture, care for and grow children and youth. By the time you read this, I'll be back from the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis., where more than 50,000 Pathfinders were inspired and challenged to surrender their life to Jesus and serve others.

Years of dedicated service by many have made Pathfinder ministry the success it is today. The same will be true of ministry for and with young adults. When we learn to love our young people not as projects but as partners, when all our members — young and old — live out the gospel of Christ as they are impressed by the Spirit, our church will grow to be more like the light and salt Jesus intended.

We owe an eternal debt of gratitude already to those lay members, pastors and conference young adult leaders who invested with us early for ministry with young adults. They are paving the way and inspiring all of us to believe it is possible for young people to become the powerful leading edge of our church's mission — not just someday, but now.

This is not an optional exercise. It is part of God's call. In moving forward together on this mission, we are responding to Jesus. We are learning to be about our Father's business.

*John Freedman, North Pacific Union Conference president*

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## WINTERMEYER TO STEP IN AS VISTAUNET RETIRES

**S**teve Vistaunet, North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) assistant to the president for communication and *Gleaner* editor, has announced he will retire Dec. 1, 2019. By vote of the NPUC executive committee, Jay Wintermeyer will transition into Vistaunet's role in October. Wintermeyer comes from Upper Columbia Conference, where he has been communication director since 2008.

"We are so happy that Jay has sensed the call of God to take this important step," says John Freedman, NPUC president. "Steve's efforts over the years have blessed us all greatly, but I know Jay will also bring unique gifts of tremendous support to our Northwest mission and of aid to each of our local conferences. I invite our members to keep Jay and his wife, Jennifer, in prayer as they prepare for this important transition."

Vistaunet has headed the NPUC communication department since 1997, adding the specialized role of *Gleaner* editor in 2008. Under his direction, the NPUC communication team has garnered multiple awards from the Society of Adventist Communicators. The team was also presented with the North American Division Excellence in Ministry Award in 2017.

With deep experience in a wide array of communication skills, Wintermeyer brings a rare combination of gifts to the new role. Following

his graduation from Walla Walla University with a degree in mass communication and broadcast journalism, he managed the creation of a new Christian radio station in Wenatchee, Wash., building KPLW-FM into the No. 1 station in its demographic within four years.

Following that experience, Wintermeyer took on the role of communication director for Adventist Frontier Missions, based in Berrien Springs, Mich. There, from 2000 to 2007, he managed a team of creative professionals with internal and external communication for the organization including publishing, broadcast production, internet development, marketing and public relations.

Wintermeyer began his role at the Upper Columbia Conference with a literal trial by fire, as the conference office burned to ashes in December 2008. He was integral in maintaining



Jay Wintermeyer

internal and external communication connections through long months of temporary office housing and throughout construction of the new headquarters. During his decade of service with UCC, he has served as chief spokesperson and effectively managed a team of communication professionals. He has been responsible for television and radio media ministries, web development, public relations, print production and event planning

for more than 135 churches and 25 schools in three states.

Beyond his basic roles, Wintermeyer has exhibited extraordinary abilities in the areas of crisis communication, major event planning and video production. For two decades he has also shared his personal passion for creative web and print design, visual branding, and videography as a design studio owner and creative director. He has an enthusiastic following online for his adventures in photography.

"I cannot imagine anyone more gifted to serve the communication needs of our Northwest conferences and members," says Vistaunet. "I have known Jay and Jennifer for more than 20 years as friends and colleagues. I am excited they will be joining the NPUC family."

Steve Vistaunet





# + PICTURE THIS



Camporee kickoff.

SEE PAGE

8

Reaching for the stars at Gladstone.

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A wood pile and cookies.

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ANTHONY WHITE

A dog's life at Sunset Lake.

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A joyful new birth.

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**30**



CALEB RISTON



# YO AR CHOS

**INTERNATIONAL PATH**







# YOU RE SEN FINDER CAMPOREE

**E**XPLAINING THE **INTERNATIONAL PATHFINDER CAMPOREE** TO SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER ATTENDED CAN BE A CHALLENGE. IMAGINE COMBINING SUMMER CAMP, VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND CAMP MEETING INTO ONE EVENT. THEN THROW IN MORE THAN **50,000 YOUTH AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS** CAMPING ALL TOGETHER WITHIN HALF OF A SQUARE MILE. IT MAY SOUND LIKE A NIGHTMARE – AND FOR SOME IT MIGHT BE. BUT FOR MANY YOUNG PEOPLE, **THE CAMPOREE IS A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN THEIR LIFE**, WHERE THEY GIVE THEIR HEARTS TO JESUS, A PLACE AND TIME THEY WILL REMEMBER FOREVER.

Pathfinders lead one of the daily parades by marching with a large American flag.



# INTERNATIONAL PATHFINDER CAMPOREE



NPUC youth leaders created a unique on-site community service project, the NPUC Trash Brigade. Each Northwest Pathfinder was handed two bags prominently labeled with the words "NPUC Trash Brigade." The young people carried these bags on their journeys throughout the campground, collecting trash on their way to and from activities. This turned out to be a huge success well-noted around the camporee.

ANTHONY WHITE



ANTHONY WHITE

Northwest youth leaders stand outside the NPUC on-site headquarters: (from left) Tobin Dodge, Alaska Conference youth director; Dan Gilbert, Idaho Conference Pathfinder director; Josh Holloway, Montana Conference Pathfinder representative; Rob Lang, NPUC youth and young adult director; Randy Hill, Oregon Conference associate youth director; Richie Bower, Upper Columbia Conference associate youth director; and David Salazar, Washington Conference youth director.

This unique camporee is produced every five years by the Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE). The 2019 camporee was the fifth event CYE has conducted. This year's event also marked the fifth time the camporee has been held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on the grounds of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). This year was CYE's biggest camporee event yet, with more than 56,000 Pathfinders, staff and volunteers, including more than 2,500 who made the long trek from the Pacific Northwest.

The "Chosen" theme for the Aug. 12-17 event centered on the thought that each person is divinely chosen by God. Nightly productions on the main stage became a highlight for many Pathfinders, recounting through drama and song the story of David, a boy chosen by God to lead His people. The evening programs also included devotionals from featured speaker Damian Chandler, senior pastor of California's Sacramento Capitol City Church.

During the day, Pathfinders from around the world participated in activities, earned honors and traded pins. More than 6,000 of them participated in over 40 community services projects of compassion in the local area.

Pin trading was by far one of the most popular activities. In recent years it has become so popular there is now a Pin Trading Pathfinder honor. Clustered groups of Pathfinders could often be found throughout the grounds eagerly exchanging pins and, in the process, learning interpersonal skills and making new friends from around the world.

Many Pathfinders took advantage of great opportunities at the camporee to earn honors.

More than 50,000 registered attendees gather to join in praise, a devotional and the story of David, all presented from the main stage.



SONJAHULTSPHOTOGRAPHY





ANTHONY WHITE

David is chosen by God and anointed by the prophet Samuel during the first night of the play.



NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Chad Angasan, Nome (Alaska) Church pastor, leads the worship and praise team at the beginning of the evening program on the main stage.



ANTHONY WHITE

Pathfinders from the Rockwood Explorers, in Gresham, Oregon, participate in the Braille honor.

Pathfinders gather together in prayer after the nightly play and devotional.

Some unique options included the Aviators honor, through which Pathfinders could take a ride in volunteers' private planes over the campground site and city of Oshkosh. Other distinctive and popular honors were the Braille honor taught by Christian Record Services; the Meteorites and the Rocks and Minerals honors taught by Stan Hudson, North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) Creation Study Center director; and the Geology honor taught by John Kurlinski, Bremerton (Washington) Church pastor.

Several Northwest booths were present at the camporee. These included a geology and creation booth by the NPUC Creation Study Center and Geoscience Research Institute and a booth by Milo Adventist Academy. The Oregon Conference featured a special activity called the "cave/tunnel trailer." It allowed adventurous Pathfinders to navigate through four tunnels of various difficulties built into a semitrailer container.

Beyond the record attendance at this camporee, the event also broke two world records, verified by Guinness Book of World Records personnel. The "largest human image of a cross" was created on Sabbath, Aug. 17, after church, when 13,309 Pathfinders and staff formed the cross outside the mainstage area. The other world record broken was for the largest "neckerchief and woggle" (scarf and slide). Displayed just to the side of the main stage, this gigantic Pathfinder scarf measured 300 feet from tip to tip and weighed



BEN DALUSONG

# WHAT WILL BE FOREVER REMEMBERED ARE THOSE DECISIONS THAT MIRRORED THE CAMPOREE THEME OF "CHOSEN."



ANTHONY WHITE

**+**  
MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS ONLINE AT  
[GleanerNow.com/2019camporee](http://GleanerNow.com/2019camporee).



# INTERNATIONAL PATHFINDER CAMPOREE

## NPUC TEAMS WIN OSHKOSH DRILL COMPETITION



David Salazar, Washington Conference youth director, encourages his conference club directors to get their Pathfinders to don blue ponchos in order to participate in the largest human cross world record attempt on Sabbath after church.

**WO TEAMS FROM THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE** received first-place trophies in the freestyle drill team competition at the Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. One team was from the Greater Seattle Filipino-American (Fil-Am) Church in Washington Conference. The second (pictured here) was a combined drill team, dubbed "Fort Pleasant Valley View," representing the Fort Vancouver (Washington), Pleasant Valley (Happy Valley, Oregon) and Valley View (Medford, Oregon) Pathfinder clubs of Oregon Conference.

That team's idea to partner began in May, when the Pleasant Valley and Valley View teams took top drill honors at the Oregon Conference Pathfinder Fair. The Fort Vancouver drill team had grown too small to compete effectively. "I was really missing being able to drill," explains team member Rachel Swanston, a Fort Vancouver Pathfinder.

Her fellow Pathfinders rallied to create the combined team, despite living as much as six hours away from each other. They held their first practice when they landed in Wisconsin and still managed to execute an elaborate routine for the competition. "Winning is fun and all, but doing it with friends from all over the conference makes this really special," says Caeden Rogers, a team member from the Pleasant Valley Pathfinder Club.

Valley View Pathfinder Shamar Sanker agrees. "I loved the experience of working with other clubs and just getting out there to show what we came here to do," he says, "not just for us but for the Lord."

Laurel Rogers, *Gleaner* copy editor

One of the two winning NPUC drill teams was a collaboration of Pathfinders from around Oregon Conference.



13,309 Pathfinders and staff form the Guinness Book of World Records' "largest human image of a cross" on Sabbath, Aug. 17.

Rob Lang, NPUC youth and young adult director, leads the NPUC in Tuesday's parade.



RYLIE ROGERS

**+**  
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ANTHONY WHITE

about 800 pounds. The slide itself was about 10 feet tall and weighed about 500 pounds.

While the city of Oshkosh may not have been overtly aware of those accomplishments, it certainly felt the positive presence of the crowd, which for a few short days nearly doubled the population of the town. The local Walmart did a bustling business supplying clubs and sponsors with needed supplies. Even the mayor felt a strangely familiar connection, having been raised by a mother who had once been a Pathfinder.

But what will be forever remembered are those decisions that mirrored the camporee theme of "Chosen." Event organizers announced on the final evening that 1,310 Pathfinders and staff had publicly professed their commitment to follow Jesus through baptism. We invite Northwest members to pray for each one of these new births, that they will be surrounded by caring Christians in their onward journey with Jesus.

*Anthony White, North Pacific Union digital media coordinator*

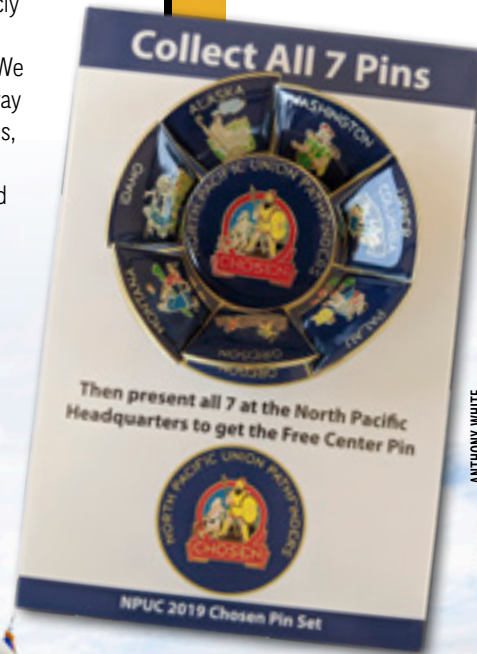


ANTHONY WHITE



NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Pin trading and collecting are a highlight of camporee.



The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) created a set of pins that featured a unique pin for each of the six local conferences along with one for the NPUC's partner island in the Guam Micronesia Mission, Palau. Pathfinders who collected all seven outer pins could then get the center pin from the NPUC on-site headquarters.

ANTHONY WHITE



ANTHONY WHITE



## WORLD LEADERS GET FIRSTHAND LOOK AT NPUC

**F**or the first time in recent memory, representatives from the leadership teams of the Seventh-day Adventist world church divisions have toured the territory of the North American Division (NAD). They came as tourists with a purpose, seeking to understand how the Adventist mission is being carried forward throughout the NAD.

Executive secretaries (think vice presidents for administration) from 12 of the world church's 13 divisions were accompanied by spouses

Trans-European Division was unable to send a representative to join the experience.

### NPUC, THE FIRST STOP

The Pacific Northwest provided the first stop, over the extended weekend of June 27–30. After beginning in British Columbia, the group traveled to the Walla Walla University Rosario Beach Marine Laboratory on Friday, June 28, where they received a thorough overview of this unique part of higher education. Several mentioned shared how impressed they



BILL MCCLENDON

Joe Galusha, representing Walla Walla University, shares more details with the group at the Rosario Beach Marine Biology Laboratory.



NINA VALLADO

The entire world church contingent pauses for a group portrait.

as well as a small contingent of General Conference (GC) personnel led by world church executive secretary G.T. Ng on this whirlwind tour — nearly 40 individuals in all. The

were of the critical blending of scientific and spiritual dimensions. “Studying science within the framework of Scripture centered in the Creator is so needed within our world,”

said one. “It’s wonderful to see how scientific research can be effectively done within the environment of faith through the efforts of Walla Walla University.”

North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) officers John Freedman, president, and Bill McClendon, vice president for administration, accompanied the group for the weekend. “This was a great opportunity for all of us to learn from each other,” says Freedman. “We wanted our brothers and sisters from around the world church to witness firsthand that we are partners with them in the Adventist message and mission. Even

with the unique challenges of each world region, we must be aligned in moving forward together on God’s call.”

### A HIGH DAY OF WORSHIP

Sabbath, June 29, brought the entire contingent together for a high day of worship and sharing, beginning on the campus of Auburn Adventist Academy in Auburn, Wash., for the NAD-wide Samoan Camp Meeting. Not only did the worldwide representatives enjoy the unique cultural experience, they were introduced to the entire group and presented with special leis for the occasion. They witnessed a



More photos online at  
[glnr.in/114-05-npuc](http://glnr.in/114-05-npuc)



panel discussion of pastors from around the NAD discussing the unique challenges of reaching the extended Samoan population in North American communities.

This unique cultural experience also illustrated the broad differences of each world division. “The wide variety of challenges throughout our world field was starkly evident when our division leaders were brought up front at that event,” says McClendon. “One leader represented a division of more than 4 million members, while standing right next to him was

## AFFIRMATION OF EVANGELISTIC MISSION

Sabbath afternoon wrapped up with a collective meeting of NPUC ministry leaders at the Washington Conference office in Federal Way, Wash. The NAD and GC groups heard welcoming messages and reports from conference leaders: Doug Bing, Washington Conference president; Elden Ramirez, Montana Conference president; and Da-



throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

The Growing Young project was also highlighted. Several of the worldwide group responded affirmatively to these reports of evangelistic progress and reflected on the common challenge around the world to reach younger generations. “Irrespective to cultural backgrounds, the main reasons for our young people leaving are the same in every single part of the world,” says Barna Magyarosi, Inter-European Division executive secretary.

Kingsley Anonaba, West Central Africa Division executive secretary, noted the positive nature of the Growing Young movement in integrating a variety of generations. “This illustrates how important it is to involve all of our membership, especially the youth, so they can stay in the church,” he says.

Representing the General Conference office of the secretariat, Fylvia Fowler Kline was enthusiastic about the energy of innovation. “To see

a church that’s willing to take risks, to be led by the Spirit in an attitude of service, was just so inspiring.”

## TOGETHER ON A COMMON MISSION

“I come away from our NPUC portion of this NAD tour with a hope that our brothers and sisters from around the world divisions will see firsthand that we together share the same passion to be about our Father’s business,” says McClendon. “Some of them have been here to attend the seminary or committee meetings, but few have had the opportunity to really immerse themselves in the challenges unique to North America. I hope this can help bring us closer together on our common mission.”

*Steve Vistauet, Gleaner editor*



NINA VALLADO

Samoan members prepare to present world church leaders with welcoming leis.

a leader from a world division that has barely 4,000 members — less even than each of our local conferences within the NPUC.”

vid Schwinghammer, Oregon Conference vice president for administration. Monte Church shared the unique outreach efforts for First Nation people



## NPUC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION LEADERS GATHER FOR WORKSHOP

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) hosted a two-day workshop for more than 50 early childhood education (ECE) directors, lead teachers and school principals June 24–25 in Ridgefield, Wash. They came from every local conference of the NPUC except Alaska and Montana.

Golda Pflugrad, NPUC ECE coordinator, planned the



GOLDA PFLUGRAD

Workshop activities led participants in various aspects of the theme of “Explore, Create, Discover, Inspire.”

tries director; Heidi Krueger, Oregon Conference associate superintendent; Jennifer Lopez, Small World Learning Center director; Tracey Williams, counselor; Julie Yamada, Pacific Union Conference associate director of ECE; and Rob Lang, NPUC director of children’s, youth and young adult ministries.

Within the NPUC territory, 46 ECE programs serve nearly 1,000 prekindergarten children from 6 months up to about 4 or 5 years of age. The program sites range from small centers to the Small World Learning Center in Tri-Cities,



ANTHONY WHITE

Wash., that has a daily attendance of about 120 children.

“This is where our church’s ministry starts,” says Pflugrad. “For some children, what they receive in our ECE centers is their first experience in learning about Jesus and His love for them.”

That spiritual emphasis is what sets Adventist ECE centers apart from many others. It’s why Lang shared his daily

last day, encouraging them in their quest to inspire young minds for eternity. His focus was capped off by a special dedicatory prayer presented by Dennis Plubell, NPUC vice president for education.

This union-level workshop has traditionally been hosted every two years, but the interest level of those who came is providing an impetus for some to consider whether



GOLDA PFLUGRAD

Rob Lang leads out in one of the workshop devotionals.

event with the overarching theme of “Explore, Create, Discover, Inspire.” Special presenters included, among others, Shirley Allen, Oregon Conference children’s minis-



GOLDA PFLUGRAD

Workshop attendees lean in to a stimulating presentation with Tracey Williams, licensed counselor and therapist, on the topic of “Preventing Teacher Burnout and Promoting Self-Care.”

devotional thoughts, “Real Life, Real Time, Real Faith.” It’s also why he spent the final hour with the group on the

an annual event might be in the works.

*Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor*



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## RELACIONÁNDOSE CON OTROS

### ¿Puedes Relacionarte?

Estamos en el medio del tercer trimestre (Relaciónate) de las cinco etapas de nuestra iniciativa NPUC: Visión 2020. Durante el primer trimestre, muchos se unieron a la etapa relacionate, a través de oraciones por un reavivamiento espiritual personal y colectivo y uniéndose a una cadena de oración y lectura telefónica del libro: "Pasos a Reavivamiento Personal: Como Llenarnos Del Espíritu Santo." Muchos a través de nuestra unión experimentaron un llamado del Espíritu para reconocer nuestro autoengaño y enfoque en nosotros que nos llevó a la confesión de la naturaleza carnal. Oramos por más sed y hambre por un reavivamiento espiritual genuino que nos llevaría a vivir vidas diarias que demostraran que estábamos injertados al corazón de Jesús ... del cual fluye amor profundo, compasión incomprensible y misericordia extravagante por personas dolientes y quebrantadas.

### ¿Cómo Me Puedo Relacionar a Gente Quebrantada?

El capítulo oscuro de nuestro planeta comienza con una mentira parcial susurrada por una serpiente que hablaba. Como todos sabemos, Adán y Eva no cayeron a su muerte en ese mismo instante. Sin embargo, si experimentaron

la muerte instantánea de sus relaciones armoniosas con Dios y uno con el otro. También fueron testigos del nacimiento de la vergüenza tóxica, la tendencia de culpar al otro, la desarmonía y la desconexión relacional.

Seis mil años después, la declinación progresiva en la cantidad, calidad, y profundidad emocional de nuestras relaciones verticales y horizontales es innegable. A pesar de nuestras "conexiones" múltiples en nuestras redes sociales, un número creciente de personas están experimentando vidas de soledad, gravedad, y dolor; y vidas sin propósito y llenas de agonía.

¿Sabías que el suicidio es la segunda razón por las muertes entre personas de 10 a 34 años de edad, cuarta causa de muerte para gente de 35 a 54 años de edad y número ocho para muertes de personas de 55 a 64 años de edad? Muchas personas que atentan suicidarse lo hacen porque perciben que sus vidas no van a cambiar para bien, que sus situaciones se empeoraran y que sus problemas solo se van a complicar aún más. Personas de todas edades están siendo engañados en creer que cometer suicidio es la única manera de escapar el dolor y agonía física o emocional que ellos temen nunca terminará.

A pesar de que todos nuestros estados han reportado un incremento en el suicidio

entre todas las edades, el estado de Oregón se gana el primer lugar en suicidios. La tasa de aumento en el estado de Oregon es una de las más altas, en comparación con el aumento al nivel nacional.

### ¿Como puedo Conectarme?

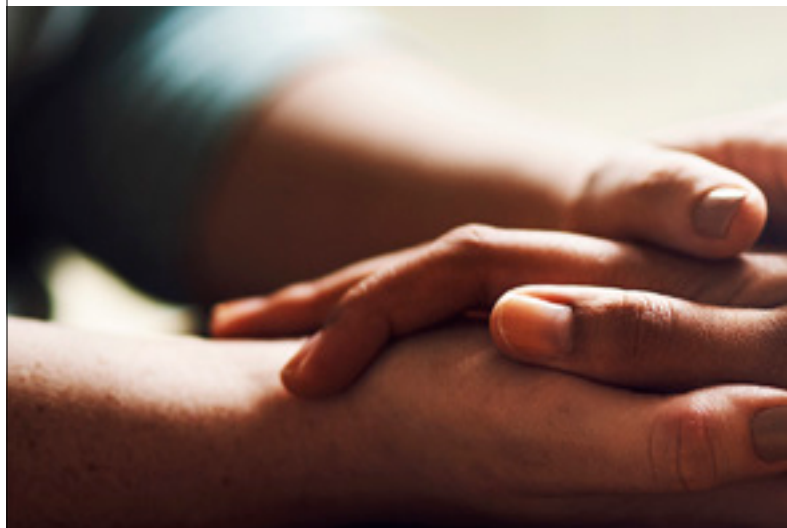
El quebrantamiento emocional, espiritual y relacional que como humanos estamos experimentando es complicado, desconcertante y profundamente trágico. Gracias a Dios que nosotros conocemos a un Salvador cuya compasión no tiene límites y que desea amar, sanar y salvar a gente que brantada.

"Muchas veces se encontraba con los que habían caído bajo la influencia de Satanás y no tenían fuerza para desasirse de sus lazos. A cualquiera de ellos,

desanimado, enfermo, tentado, caído, Jesús le dirigía palabras de la más tierna compasión, las palabras que necesitaba y que podía entender. A otros, que sostenían combate a brazo partido con el enemigo de las almas, los animaba a que perseveraran, asegurándoles que vencerían, pues los ángeles de Dios estaban de su parte y les darían la victoria" (Ellen White, *El Ministerio de Curación*, p. 26). ¡Estas si son buenas nuevas!

¡Te invitamos a orar para que puedas ser los ojos, el corazón y las manos de Cristo! Probablemente hay alguien en tu círculo de influencia que necesita saber desesperadamente que existe un Padre Celestial que realmente se interesa tanto en el/ella que te ha desplegado a *ti* para ministrarles a ellos a través de *tu* amor, cuidado, preocupación y amistad genuina.

*Carolann De León, Conferencia de la Unión del Pacífico Norte Ministerios hispanos y familiares asitan director*





# RELATING TO PEOPLE

## Can You Relate?

We are in the middle of the third quarter (Relate) of the five stages of our NPUC Mission Initiative: Vision 2020. During the first quarter, many aligned with the Renew stage by praying for personal and collective spiritual renewal and joining the NPUC's phone reading and rereading of Helmut Haubeil's book, *Steps to Personal Revival: Being Filled With the Holy Spirit*. Many individuals around our union experienced a Holy Spirit call to acknowledge our self-deception and self-focus, which led to the confession of the insidious nature of our carnal nature. We were led to pray for a growing yearning for an authentic personal spiritual revival that would lead to our living out our everyday lives in a manner that would reflect we were grafted into

the heart of Jesus ... who experiences profound love, incomprehensible compassion and extravagant mercy for broken, hurting people.

## How Can I Relate to Broken People?

Our dark chapter on Planet Earth opens with a devious partial lie hissed by a talking serpent. As we all know, Adam and Eve did not drop dead that day. However, they did experience the instant death of harmonious, intimately connected relationships with their Creator and with each other, along with the accompanying birth of soul-destroying shame, blame, relational disharmony and disconnection. Six thousand years later, the undeniable, progressive decline in the quality, quantity and emotional depth of our vertical

and horizontal relationships is clear. Despite our numerous social media "connections," a growing number of people are experiencing life as increasingly lonely, burdensome, painful, meaningless and even agonizing.

Did you know suicide is the second-leading cause of death for people 10 to 34 years of age, the fourth-leading cause among people 35 to 54 years of age and the eighth-leading cause among people 55 to 64 years of age? Many people who attempt suicide do so because they perceive life is not going to change, things are going to get worse and their problems will only get more complicated. Individuals of all ages are being deceived into believing death through suicide is the only way to escape the physical and/or emotional agony they fear will never come to an end.

Though all states are reporting an increasing rate of suicide in all ages, Oregon's rate of increase is one of the highest, compared to the increase nationwide.

## How Can I Connect?

The emotional and spiritual and relational brokenness people are experiencing today is complicated, perplexing and deeply tragic. Praise God we serve a Savior whose compassion knows no limits, who deeply longs to love, heal and save broken people.

"Often He met those who had drafted under Satan's control, and who had no

power to break from his snare. To such a one, discouraged, sick, tempted, fallen, Jesus would speak words of tenderest pity, words that were needed and could be understood. Others He met who were fighting a hand-to-hand battle with the adversary of souls. These He encouraged to persevere, assuring them that they would win; for angels of God were on their side, and would give them the victory." (Ellen White, *Ministry of Healing*, p. 26). Now this is good news!

We invite you to pray for Jesus' eyes, heart and hands. There is probably someone who is lonely and hurting in your circle of influence who desperately needs to know there is a loving, caring, involved heavenly Father who really cares about them so much that He is deploying *you* to minister to them through *your* love, care, concern and genuine friendship.

*Carolann De León, North Pacific Union Conference Hispanic and family ministries assistant director*





## WRANGELL CHURCH RECEIVES COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT

**W**rangell Adventist Community Services (ACS) has been participating in a federal program that has been established for feeding low-income seniors who live in the area. First Bank of Alaska gifted the Wrangell Church a grant of \$3,000, which has provided much-needed funds to facilitate this program.

These funds will be used to pay for shipping the cost of boxes to Wrangell by barge. Each box is filled with food weighing 30 pounds in preparation for distribution to those in need. Some recipients are able to come to the church to pick up their boxes, while those who are physically unable can have them delivered by ACS members as part of the church's outreach ministry.

Wrangell ACS leader April Eilertsen states, "It is a pleasure to assist our seniors with providing food for their physical needs."

Grant writer Stephanie Eilertsen says, "The folks at First Bank of Alaska have helped our community by providing the funds needed to pay for shipping the food boxes to seniors who cannot pick them up."

Several recipients have commented about the food distribution program that is in place: "If it wasn't for this I wouldn't have food to last the whole month" and "There are so many people helped by this program."

Local churches and private donors continue to help and assist in providing funds in addition to the grant. The food distribution program designed for seniors helps ACS to represent Christ as members follow His admonishment to be servants to their community in a tangible way.

*Charlie Meigs, Wrangell Church pastor*

The Wrangell ACS team accepts a \$3,000 grant for their food-distribution program.



## REACHING OUT WITH COOKIES AND A WOOD PILE

**T**he Delta Junction Church, with the leadership of pastors Celesta and Zack Babb, have begun "Ministry Sabbaths" as an outreach to the community. In June, church members baked more than 700 cookies to be handed out as a "get to know you" outreach. The goal was to meet people in their homes, spend a minute to get acquainted and offer help for any needs we might be made aware of. Many contacts were made. During the sharing time afterwards, several needs were presented. It was really a rewarding activity for a small church with about 40 to 50 people in attendance on any given Sabbath.

One visit was to an 80-year-old lady who lives alone. The members who stopped by that day saw a big pile of wood that needed to be split and stacked. They asked her if she was going to split it. She said she always does. They told her the church had a group of people that would

be glad to come back another day and split it for her. About a dozen people, armed with four log-splitters, returned to split and stack the wood for her. She was so grateful.

Three weeks later the woman called, saying how much she appreciated the help and saying she had received another load of wood. She very much hated to ask but wondered if it would be possible to help her once again. The response was positive and immediate. Thirteen members showed up with three wood-splitters. In two hours they split and stacked the load of wood and even cleaned up the mess of bark they had created.

What a witness to the community! The Delta Junction Church members have made a real response to Christ's commission to "love your neighbor as you love yourself."

*Debbie Ueek, Delta Junction Church communication leader*



More photos online at  
[glnr.in/114-05-ak\\_theplace](http://glnr.in/114-05-ak_theplace)



## ALASKA IS 'THE PLACE'



Every year, The Place Adventist Fellowship Church in Southern California holds a mission trip outside the conference to make a difference for Christ. Under the leadership of Simon Liversidge, pastor, the team selected Alaska as their target to help with the various building projects at the Pioneer Campground where South Central Camp meeting is held.

The 56-member mission team consisting of adults,



Volunteers from The Place Adventist Fellowship Church in Southern California enjoy well-earned time off.

adventure by encountering a moose and bear at camp, viewing glaciers, enjoying the surrounding scenic mountains, and experiencing the beauty of Alaska. One team member, exclaimed, “I love it here! I want to keep coming back every year to help with this project and donate funds to help this conference.” An 18-year-old shared how he wants to come and live here so he can help with the mission of this conference.

*Melvin Santos, Alaska Conference vice president of administration*



children, teens and young adults arrived on July 30 and started clearing the auditorium so the cracked cement flooring could be removed. This allowed a local flooring company to take over with the demolition. Next, the team focused on replacing and reinforcing the wood flooring for the Adventist Book Center so no one would “fall through the floor.” Then the team installed insulation, drywall and windows and painted 16 cabins. This allows the cabins

to be useable during winter months.

Not only did the team give of their time and energy and pay their own airfare, but members also donated all the materials needed for this project, with the exception of 20 windows donated by a Northside Church (Anchorage) member. They also brought their own power tools. When Ron Hatcher, the construction project manager and retired veteran, was ordering the building materials for this project, Home Depot staff gave a military discount and an additional discount when they heard this was a church mission project.

But it wasn't all work with no play. The team had a taste of the Alaskan

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## ONTARIO CHURCH BURNS MORTGAGE

**C**losed once and moved twice — God continues to work to reach the citizens of Ontario, Ore., through the local Adventist church. God has truly blessed this congregation.

On April 27, the Ontario Church conducted a mortgage-burning ceremony after paying off its note owed to the North Pacific Union Conference. “This has been the second time that God has blessed this congregation with paying off its note,” David Brown, Ontario Church pastor, told the congregation. During a ceremony on Sabbath afternoon, the congregation rejoiced as the satisfied note went up in flames after being lit by treasurers Betty Bolton and Marinell Stott during the note-burning, conducted by John Rogers, Idaho Confer-

ence vice president of administration.

The Ontario Church was formed in 1906 in a 24-by-30-foot small white church located on SW Fifth Street. They had a wooden outhouse and no running water. Despite its humble beginnings, this little group of committed believers has now developed into a devoted group of Adventist Christian believers, working in their community to spread the Three Angels’ Messages.

The group opened a school in 1918 in a 14-by-14 one-room addition on the side of the church. In 1924 church membership was 10, but the “membership grew after a series of meetings conducted by Elder Mac Johnson,” reads a single notation in the



Bulletin from the 1995 dedication of the old Ontario Church.

Ontario Church historical records. In 1941, William Butler and his wife, Maude, was the treasurer. During this same time a note in the church historical records states, “Seldom do we see a preacher — sometimes the conference president comes to speak.”

In 1940 “we see growth again after Elder Appigian holds a series of fiery meetings — several new families join.” Shortly after this, the







The Ontario Church celebrates a satisfied note with a mortgage-burning ceremony on April 27.

conference appoints a pastor to serve the Ontario congregation along with five others in Idaho: New Meadows, Riggins, Payette, Weiser and New Plymouth.

Due to Adventist growth in several other communities and several families moving for financial reasons, the church school was forced to close. Shortly thereafter the church closed its doors in the late 1940s.

God is good, and in 1995 a group of Adventist believers once again formed another Ontario Church. Members are grateful for the spiritual guidance of Fred Ellis (retired) and Brian Yarbrough (former pastor), now a pastor in the Upper Columbia Conference.

Once again God's hand moved, and Raymond Trees (former member and head elder) bequeathed a large sum of money to the church. What a blessing to see a member leaving a continued legacy of financially supporting God's cause. Now the Ontario congregation has planned and is conducting a remodel of many areas of the church building to help promote growth. With an

evangelistic effort planned in early 2020, spirits are high and members are engaged to spread the good news.

On Sabbath, April 27, David Prest Jr., Idaho Conference president, gave the sermon, asking, "What is your dream for your life and this church?"

David Brown said, "My dream is that we fill this place with people who will see Jesus come very soon." This sentiment was echoed by those in attendance. He went on to say, "My last dream would be that we no longer need this place, for we will worship Him in heaven."

After this moving message and heartfelt dedicatory prayer, there was a sense of renewed purpose and commitment within the congregation.

### HISTORICAL MOMENTS

- » **First milestone:** Ontario Church founded in 1906. Became a charter member of the Idaho Conference in 1907. Located on SW Fifth Street, one block south of Idaho Ave. Sold in 1965.
- » **Second milestone:** Ontario Church dedicated

1995. Located at 261 SW Third Street. Dedicated by Stephen McPherson, pastor. Fred Ellis, pastor, retired from here.

- » **Third milestone:** Ontario Church purchased current building from the Presbyterian Church.

Members moved to 322 SW Second Street on Sept 17, 2005.

- » **Fourth milestone:** February 2019, church board makes decisions to remodel many areas of the church property, including a new projector, chairs, speaker system, bell tower and parsonage.
- » **Fifth milestone:** Mortgage-burning ceremony conducted by David Prest Jr., Idaho Conference president; John Rogers, Idaho Conference vice president of administration; and David Brown, pastor, on April 27, 2019. Promissory note satisfied on March 13, 2019, for \$8,965.14.



David Prest Jr., Idaho Conference president, asks Ontario Church, "What is your dream for your life and this church?"

David Brown, Ontario/Burns/Vale District pastor

gnt<sup>+</sup> [gleanernow.com](http://gleanernow.com)

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## KIDS ENJOY 'MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD' MONTANA PATHFINDER FAIR 2019

The Montana Conference held its annual Pathfinder Fair during the rainy/snowy weekend of May 17–19 in Butte. Pathfinders from around the conference gathered and camped at the Vigilante Rodeo grounds for fun and fellowship.

Bill Whitney, Hamilton Church pastor, was the featured speaker for the weekend. The theme for the weekend was “More Precious Than Gold.” He assigned a challenging straw-building contest on Friday night, complementing his presentation.

Pathfinders in full dress uniform made their way to Sabbath worship to enjoy additional spiritual insight from Whitney. The Pathfinders were also given opportunity to work on a problem-solving Pathfinder honor for church, demonstrating their knowledge through skits.

Ringin' Rocks was the hiking destination on Sabbath afternoon. True to form, the Pathfinders and their leaders made their way through muddy and slippery roads to arrive at the destination. With hammers in hand, everyone



RENAE YOUNG

climbed over and around the rock pile to strike various boulders and hear different metallic tones.

Sabbath evening provided a time for table games and an opportunity to work on the Duct Tape honor.

Though snow and rain

were a constant companion at the event, everyone had a great time meeting with the other Pathfinder clubs.

*Renae Young, Montana Conference education superintendent*



RENAE YOUNG

## FORT BELKNAP HOSTS NATIVE GATHERING

In the center of Montana and only 50 miles south of the Canadian border lies the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. It is the home of the Assiniboine-Sioux and Gros Ventre people. A Seventh-day Adventist church is located on the reservation. This is where the 2019 Montana Conference Native Gathering was hosted on April 26 and 27.

Guests were inspired by the preaching of Matthew

Kirk, Montana Conference vice president for administration and finance, as he led them into a study of Luke 15. Worship-stirring music stir was led by Norm Johnson, pastor; George Walker; and Bruce Twing. Steve Huey gave a report of the Lord's movements in Native country throughout the Northwest.

Adding to the group's praises, contractor Leigh Van Asperen showed pictures and

gave two different reports. The first was a report on many of the repairs done to the church building in Fort Belknap. The Fort Belknap group praises the Lord for the mini-Maranatha project conducted by Montana members last year, during which major structural repairs were completed.

The second report was on the building project at the reservation next door in Poplar. One of the leaders of the Pop-

lar group, Kris Simons, shared how one of the medicine men she has been in contact with is now interested in Bible study. Native children from the community enjoyed peering into spiritual things led by Sioux member Michelle Sears.

Join this group in Big Sky country for next year's Native Gathering and lift up in prayer the work God continues to do.

*Steve Huey, North Pacific Union Conference Native ministries director*



## SMALL-CHURCH VISION BRINGS BIG HOPE TO BIG TIMBER

**T**hey said it would be impossible, but sometimes big things come in small places. Sandra Smith, a member of the Big Timber Church, had heard there was a group doing a large vision clinic/medical outreach in Bozeman, so she went to see what it was all about.

That day was the catalyst that started something amazing in the little church in Big Timber. Smith came back from that outreach and began talking about hosting a vision clinic in Big Timber. Dreams turned into reality when the church reached out to Better Vision Better Hope. This organization helps churches and communities bring much needed services to communities in Montana and Oklahoma.

The Big Timber Church has 20 active members, who have a heart to share Jesus with their community. They initially questioned whether the church would actually be big enough to host the vision clinic, but after utilizing every space available and removing the worship pews they saw that possibilities were endless.

On May 19, the front entrance of the Big Timber

Church was transformed into the waiting area, the Sabbath School classroom was the precheck station, the sanctuary became the doctor's office, and the kitchen was transformed into the checkout area where folks could pick their frames and pray with church members.

The clinic hosted 67 members from the community that day. Oswald Rondon, an optometrist, came from Billings, along with several technicians. The Better Vision Better Hope director, Andrea Shellenberg, was on hand to train the church members on how to run the clinic.

This experience was unbelievable. People were so grateful for the love and care they received from every person at the clinic. Numerous folks have asked for Bible studies and prayer. The church was blessed to be a part of this and will continue to host the outreach yearly. Rob Liss, Bible worker/worship coordinator, had an opportunity to interact with every person as they left the clinic.

Every person no matter their age was able to help in some way. Sequoia Smith, 6, helped check in folks as they entered the church. No matter the size of church, all we need is a heart for service and Jesus can do great things.

*Stacey Smith, Big Timber Church head elder*

More photos online at [glnr.in/114-05-mt\\_vision](http://glnr.in/114-05-mt_vision)



## CHURCH GROWTH PROVES THRILLING

**T**roust Creek is a small community of about 500 people. The local Adventist church members wanted to evangelize but wondered if people would come.

The church brought in Donovan Kack from North Dakota to preach an evangelistic series. Flyers were sent out to all the homes in Trout Creek and the Thompson Falls area inviting the people to come to the meetings.

The results were most gratifying. More than 50 people came out to hear the message and, along with members, filled the church. They contin-

ued to come for the full month of April. Twelve people were added to the church through the series. Members are thrilled with the result of the meetings and plan to continue to evangelize in their area.

*Martha Petty, Trout Creek Church member*



## GLADSTONE CAMP MEETING FOCUSES ON 'LOVING WELL'

**A** *Gladstone Today* celebrated its second year sharing the goings-on of Gladstone Camp Meeting each day before the evening service in the Plaza Pavilion. It was both livestreamed and archived so you can watch each day's episode, along with all of the programs that happened in the Plaza Pavilion (big tent), on the Oregon Conference website at [oregonadventist.org/videos](http://oregonadventist.org/videos).

**J**uly found the Gladstone Park campground abuzz with activity as thousands gathered for Gladstone Camp Meeting. This year's theme of "Loving Well" had young and old learning how to love better, whether by lending a helping hand, a listening ear, a smile or an encouraging word.

You can relive camp meeting again, or experience it for the first time, by seeing photos, videos, audio recordings and more at the Oregon Conference website: [OregonAdventist.org](http://OregonAdventist.org).

Gladstone Camp Meeting 2020 will happen July 16–18 (Spanish) and July 21–25 (English). See you there!

Charles White was one of more than 40 speakers who presented at Gladstone this year. White, great-grandson of James and Ellen White, shared stories of the White family from the perspective of a family member, dispelling myths and sharing unique insights and memories. You can hear all of this year's seminars and workshop on the Oregon Conference website at [oregonadventist.org/podcasts](http://oregonadventist.org/podcasts).



GARY MCLAIN



BEN DALUSONG



GARY MCLAIN



**B** Last December, Oregon Conference staff started collecting items for Embrace Oregon welcome boxes. As the months went on, area churches, members and many others joined in bringing crayons, stuffed animals and night lights for boxes that help make a new foster child's life just a tiny bit better. On Sabbath afternoon at camp meeting, it all came together as kids in the Children's Amphitheater worked to put the boxes together while learning more about how they can love those around them a little better. Visit [embraceoregon.org](http://embraceoregon.org) to learn more about this very special project.

**C** In the Holden Center, young adults worshipped together with praise, music and words as Alina and Martin van Rensburg, Shantel Smith, and Kaleb Eisele hosted conversations that led to a deeper understanding of what it means to love others as we love ourselves. Extra chairs were needed as seating filled and standing room along the walls became hard to find.

**E** On Sabbath, U.S. military veterans made their way to the conference office for a special afternoon gathering just for them. The space filled well beyond capacity as connections were made and recognition was given to those who have shown their love for others in extraordinary ways.

**F** "We all come to camp meeting every year like the children of Israel in the desert," Carlene says. "We park our trailers or pitch our tents and go to the meetings, often without even talking to the people in the space next door. I decided to change that, to get people together where tea and cookies make for friendship." Carlene shared 400 invitations to her Friendship Tea at camp meeting, and people streamed in after the evening meeting on Thursday to share in a cup of tea, a cookie (or two) and meet someone they hadn't had the pleasure of talking to before.

**D** In the kids' divisions, youngsters found themselves in a space-themed wonderland as they learned about God's plan for them. From songs and crafts to the much-loved water slide and obstacle course, kids learned just how much Jesus loves them and how they can share His love with others.



**A**



**C**

GARY MCLAIN



**E**

GARY MCLAIN



**B**



**D**



**F**

GARY MCLAIN

## OREGON ADVENTIST STORIES: BEHIND THE SCENES

**T**his spring Oregon Conference started a series on its Facebook page called Oregon Adventist Stories (OAS) to help connect members on a more personal level. Conference leaders asked the founder of Humans of Adventism, Kaleb Eisele, to help with it. He's been happy to help tell the stories that many times don't come up in casual conversation. Eisele helps answer some of the questions readers have asked in the last few weeks.

### Why don't you publish names?

You may have noticed that Oregon Adventist Stories intentionally leave the speaker's name out of the story. If you're unfamiliar with this particular journalistic style, it can make things feel incomplete. Modeled after the popular "Humans of" movement (Humans of New York, Humans of Dublin, Humans of Adventism, etc.) OAS is structured to focus the reader's attention on the story itself rather than a name. Each story is intended to walk the reader through the speaker's perspective, giving them a chance to see the world through another person's eyes.

### It seems like this is only part of the story. Why not tell the rest?

Oregon Adventist Stories,



when done well, often leave the reader with many more questions. What happened next? What happened earlier? Where is this person now? That's a good thing! These stories are intended to be a snapshot into someone's life. Sometimes readers won't see things the way the speaker does — that's OK. They aren't intended to prove theological points, political arguments or personal opinions, but rather to show some of the experiences that led to who that person is today. We hope the feeling of unanswered questions will inspire readers to want to learn more about the people in their own lives, even those who seem very different from them.

### What's the point of this?

There are several reasons

this type of content is important for us as Adventists. First, these stories create new opportunities for discussion and community. Second, stories about people's experiences are far more accessible to those who do not yet share our be-

liefs. No matter your spiritual beliefs, human beings share many experiences — loss of loved ones, the joys of succeeding at work or dealing with the aftermath of a personal disaster. By telling these experiences through the eyes of Oregon Adventists, we believe we can invite our neighbors to come alongside us in a way they may not have been interested in otherwise.

### How do you find stories/subjects?

Finding stories is incredibly easy. Thousands of Adventists live, serve and work in the Oregon Conference. Rather than following interesting leads on new stories, OAS takes the approach that everyone has countless experiences to share. It's as easy as reaching out and





## OREGON ADVENTIST STORIES: PASTOR SAM



asking. Generally we sit down with someone over a meal or spend an hour or so on the phone with them and just listen to them talk about their lives. Our job, then, is to narrow down that conversation into one particular story that the person shared, put it together in a way that fits into a social media post and share it online.

### Will you ever tell the stories of people other than pastors?

Yes! Although we launched OAS with a series on pastors, our stories have begun to include all areas of the Oregon Conference, from pastors and educators to our local church membership. The perspectives of the people making up each local community are just as important as those of our leadership.

### I'm not on Facebook or Instagram. How can I read the stories?

OAS releases two new stories every week on Face-

book and Instagram, but they can be accessed in other ways too. One Good Samaritan has even been printing physical copies to share with her co-workers! Keep an eye on the conference website and our weekly e-newsletter for a selection of these stories if you aren't a frequent social media user.

*Kaleb Eisele, Oregon Conference contributor, and Jonathan Russell, Oregon Conference assistant to the president for multimedia communications*

Subscribe to the Oregon Conference [Facebook](#) page or [Instagram](#) to read two new Oregon Adventist Stories each week.

We're at:

 [facebook.com/OregonAdventists/](https://www.facebook.com/OregonAdventists/)

 [@oregonadventist](https://www.instagram.com/oregonadventist)

I pastor two churches. One church has an open weekly breakfast for the community where we have connected with people who walk in for the free breakfast provided, but then stay back to have conversations and study the Bible together. At the end of the day we want to foster relationships with no strings attached.

"Every third Sabbath we close the other church I pastor. . . . We said that we were going to spend every third Sabbath doing acts of practical kindness. Last month we went and bought a bunch of donuts and took them to our local fire station, then to the different areas that probably get forgotten about. We dropped off donuts, we went out into the local park and started handing them out. We went to where all the buses come in, the metro. Some of the drivers came out, and we had prayer with them. It was a really unexpected, unplanned type of thing.

"That's something we're doing intentionally — not regular church. We closed it and said, 'We have to go beyond these walls.' We've done it now for about six months, and we've really started seeing the benefits of this. We're trying to experiment with some different things.

"When we first started, we asked, 'Do we want to hand out, like, flyers with what we give out?' Like, 'Here's a donut, here's a flyer about the church.' The more we thought about it, the more sure we were that

we wanted to do this with no strings attached. If people ask who we are, we tell them. We have cards in our pocket; if they want to know more then we can talk about it. One time we got an ice cream truck. We just pulled up to a park. People started lining up with money, and we said, 'This is free. It's on us.' Some people said, 'Thank you,' and left. Other people were like, 'Who are you? What are you



Sam Moreno leads and pastors the Gather and Scatter and ReMix congregations.

all about?' So that was cool. But that's the first thing — we don't want to do this with the intention of, 'Hey, if I give you this will you show up to church?'"

Subscribe to the Oregon Conference Facebook page or Instagram to read two new Oregon Adventist Stories each week: [facebook.com/OregonAdventists/](https://www.facebook.com/OregonAdventists/) or [@oregonadventist](https://www.instagram.com/oregonadventist).

*Kaleb Eisele, Oregon Conference contributor*

## TAKE ME TO THE WATER



**S**haron Church in Portland experienced a high day on Sabbath, June 15, due to baptisms — not baptism but baptisms in the plural.



Garth Dottin, Sharon Church pastor, was waist deep in a baptism pool with what started as a couple, Silvia and Russell Fay, preparing for baptism after months of study.

Sudden three more people standing on the platform with them — supporting them in their decision — had all decided to take their stand as well. The Fays' family members Isaiah Cortez, Marisa Cortez and Lydia Caballero-Dominiguez had also been studying with Dottin and decided to be baptized with their loved ones, unbeknownst to the Fays.

It was such a blessing and a beautiful sight. To add to the beauty of it all, after hearing testimonies from both Sylvia and Russ about their journey, the Holy Spirit was not through.

Dottin opened the doors of the church, saying, "The pool is still warm!" The church family went into immediate prayer. And the Holy Spirit did what it does best: touched two more souls, letting them know that it was their time to join the incredible family of Christ.

Two more people responded to the call of the Spirit and raised their hands to also be baptized. LaShonti Turner and Tetteh Kofi both went into the pool that day. Kofi, new to the Portland area, immediately called his mother, who lives in Houston, Texas, and she listened in while her son made his election sure. Turner, who grew up in Sharon Church, rejoiced with her family as well.

A few weeks earlier, on May 25, Dottin baptized three other individuals: Tim Hill (also new to the Portland area), Lavelle Harris and Nicole Bowles. To sweeten the pot, Harris and Bowles were married at the Sharon Church in July.

God has great things in store for Sharon Church in this part of the vineyard. Their

summer events include the Fun Day/Backpack Giveaway (a back-to-school event) in July, the church cookout at Portland Adventist Elementary School in August and the Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School. The Sharon Church family is up to the task to make sure events keep going for their church and community.

Like the Sharon Seventh-Day Adventist Church on Facebook and visit the Sharon Church's website at [sharonsda.net](http://sharonsda.net) to stay abreast of the various activities happening at Sharon Church and join this congregation on any given Sabbath, where the arms of Christ are always open.

*Denise Williams, Sharon Church communication leader*

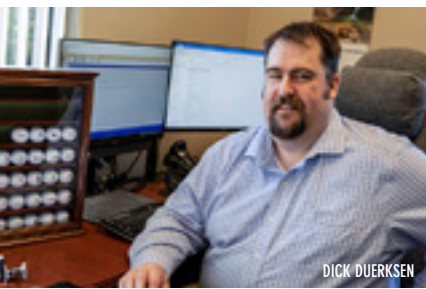




## PLUBELL ELECTED OREGON CONFERENCE VP FOR FINANCE

**B**rent Plubell has accepted the invitation of the Oregon Conference executive and nominating committees to become vice president for finance. He will serve the remainder of the current term, which ends in 2022, stepping into the position left vacant when Brian Gosney left to join the General Conference Auditing Service. Plubell comes to the role having served the past five years in various functions in the Oregon Conference treasury department, most recently as conference under-treasurer.

“It’s humbling to be called to this position,” Plubell says.



DICK DUERKSEN

“My goal has always been to serve where God calls. While this was unexpected to me, God has made it clear that this is where He wants me.”

“It is always a great blessing to witness the Lord’s clear leading in identifying whom He has in mind for a position,” notes Dan Linrud, president. “Brent has been a highly competent and valued member of our treasury team, providing exceptional service

in his varied roles, including filling the interim duties of the VP finance position. Brent brings his experience as an accounting, academy business management, auditing, payroll and conference treasury. He is a spiritual, thoughtful leader. He is a great team player, who already has a strong positive relationship with the Oregon Conference team and is well-acquainted with the unique protocols of this conference.”

As for his goals in his new role, Plubell is characteristically direct: “I want us to be responsible stewards of the funds that God’s people have entrusted to His church. As we look toward the future of the church, we must continually be looking for ways to be better stewards of resources.”

Plubell is excited to continue Oregon’s tradition of creating opportunities for treasury employees to gain needed experience. “There isn’t a clear denominational track toward financial leadership,” he says. “It’s my goal to create chances for younger people to serve in church leadership through internships and other opportunities. We have an opportunity here in Oregon to develop the next generation of potential treasury leaders.”

*Jonathan Russell, Oregon Conference assistant to the president for multimedia communications*



Marty and Connie Jackson (middle) stand with the graduates.

## WOODLAND CHURCH CELEBRATES GRADUATES

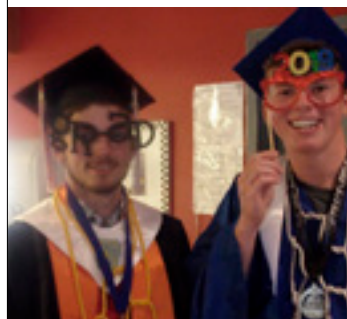
**O**n June 23 the Woodland (Wash.) Church family celebrated seven graduates.

Six of the seven graduates were born, dedicated and raised in the church. Some were even baptized in the church. Members have enjoyed watching these young people grow into

the sweet loving Christian young adults they are today.

All these students graduated on the same weekend and in five different locations. Since it was impossible to make it to all the graduations, the Woodland Church decided to have one big party for them all. Read more about the graduates online at [glnr.in/114-05-or\\_woodland](http://glnr.in/114-05-or_woodland).

*Cora Risley, Woodland Church member*



Colby Tucker and Brayden White, proud 2019 graduates.

Graduates including Colby Tucker decorated a table with memorabilia from high school and photos of graduation.



An Encounter With

# JESUS

Wide awake, I  
lay in the dark  
paralyzed with  
fear.

Read about the full divine encounter from Elder  
Minervino Labrador, Jr., Upper Columbia Conference  
president, online at [gleanernow.com](http://gleanernow.com).

## Anchored

*"We have this hope as an anchor for the  
soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19 NIV*

Upper Columbia Conference Women's &  
Young Women's Fall Retreat

October 25-27, 2019

Camp MiVoden  
17415 E Hayden Lake Rd  
Hayden, ID 83835





## HIS TRAVELERS CONNECT KIDS TO JESUS

More photos online at [glnr.in/114-05-uc\\_kids](http://glnr.in/114-05-uc_kids)



**I**t is the 11th annual Creation Daycamp in Idaho's Rathdrum Park. The count is more than 90 kids in attendance. His Travelers, a team of four youth and one adult, are helping with this popular event.

Later in the afternoon, His Travelers Eliana Srikurega, Emmalyn Logan, Amber Engle and Amy VanArsdell hold a Vacation Bible School in a north Spokane, Wash., park where 30-plus community kids attend, many are Nepalese immigrants. They lead games,



Kids enjoy fun games at VBS in the park.

of them were able to go to summer camp at Idaho's Camp MiVoden because of scholarships and one plans to join Pathfinders this coming year.

Each afternoon of that busy week, His Travelers assist with community service projects for the Ronald McDonald House and the Better Living Center and help with the Christmas in July food drive for Shine 104.9 FM.

From camp meeting to the end of their weeks in ministry, His Travelers are the connection to Jesus for many children, something that will have eternal rewards.

*Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant*

His Travelers team with Wendy Urbin (on the right) help with the Christmas in July food drive.



Crafts at the VBS in the Park in north Spokane.

direct crafts and perform Bible stories through scripts they wrote. Their theme is about how God provides. Stories of Esther, Joseph, the flood and Jesus feeding the 5,000 come alive with puppets, much to the delight of the children,

who enjoyed stories, games and crafts so much that many chose to come to Vacation Bible School subsequent days over other community activities.

His Travelers is a program birthed by the Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) children's ministry department and is now 10 years old. Wendy Urbin, administrative assistant in children's ministries, heads it up. Each summer young people are selected to travel throughout UCC for several weeks to assist and support churches with their VBS programs. In rare cases they hold the entire event themselves.

Another week finds His Travelers in Athol, Idaho, then a week at Moses Lake (Wash.)

Church and one at Spokane's Northview Church. Then during one extremely busy week they teach 12 community children at Discovery Junction (DJ) in the morning and assist all afternoon with community service projects.

The children at DJ are part of a community program through Adventist Community Services. These children have been at DJ in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Ahead program during the school year two days a week. During summer they held a week of Bible stories and food creation. This VBS is an important step in the spiritual development of these community kids as some

## MEMBER MAKES POTHOLDERS FOR CUBA

The lesson that Lisa Albee taught may have originated more than a year ago, but it's one that continues to inspire many. You see, it would have been difficult for Albee, who attends the Coeur d'Alene Church in north Idaho, to go on an international mission trip because she is blind. But when she heard her church was organizing another mission trip to Cuba, she wanted to be involved.



Albee is also actively involved in her church's community services program and thrift store, Gathered for Good. Her active ministry for God is a lesson and gift that keeps on giving.

*Tye Davis, Coeur d'Alene Church associate pastor*

Lisa Albee knew traveling with the Cuba mission group would be difficult because she's blind, so she made dozens of potholders to give to the people of Cuba

to make as many of these little gifts as she could.

Knowing that people in the Caribbean like lots of color, she asked friends to help her pick out 40 skeins of several different vibrant colors of yarn to make them especially attractive. By the time the group was ready to head to Cuba in October 2018, Albee had spent 465 hours making 163 beautiful potholders to share with the people in the community where fellow members were serving.

Albee knew she couldn't go to Cuba, but she was willing to let God use her talents to bring smiles to the faces of many people she looks forward to meeting someday in heaven.



Community service volunteers include Tye Davis (second from left), pastor, and Lisa Albee (right), knitter.

For several months leading up to the trip, Albee used her talent of knitting to make potholders to share in the community in Cuba where other people from her church would be renovating a house to be a new place of worship. Each Sabbath, as Albee listened to the music and message during the worship service, her fingers would be flying as she hurried

SEASON 2

### Filling the



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More photos online at  
[glnr.in/114-05-uc\\_llu](http://glnr.in/114-05-uc_llu)



## BALANCING THE LAW AND LOVE IN COEUR D'ALENE

The Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) Church had the pleasure of hosting a Loma Linda University (LLU) event on their campus on June 1. The church welcomed former LLU alumni, students, and university and hospital staff. The attendees were checked in by LLU staff and given lanyards with their date of attendance/involvement. The worship service was led by LLU alumni who shared beautiful talents of music and stories.

Richard Hart, Loma Linda University president, delivered the worship message, "Balancing the Law and Love." He was amazed at the number of people who came out for this event and was pleased to hear the area is often referred to as "Coeur d'Linda" due to the many number of people associated with the school who live in the area. Alumni from the various schools including medicine, dentistry, allied health, nursing, pharmacy and public health were all recognized.

One of the highlights of the service was the recognition of the oldest alumni present: LLU School of Medicine graduates Carl (1952) and Grace (1958) Ekstrom and Walter Ordelheide (1954).

After the worship service, photos were taken and attendees were invited to a baked potato potluck hosted by the

Coeur d'Alene Loma Linda University School Alumni. Hart spoke in the afternoon to share the vision and goals for LLU's future. He answered questions and overall shared the continued goal of the university to spread God's loving and healing hand to the world. It was a day filled with fellowship, memories and hope for the future.

The Coeur d'Alene Church is grateful for its LLU alumni and for the opportunity to host such an enjoyable event.

*Giselle Schultz, Coeur d'Alene Church member*



Richard Hart (top left) is pictured with LLU alumni Carl (1952) and Grace (1958) Ekstrom and Walter Ordelheide (1954).



The Pendleton and Pilot Rock churches welcome new pastor Gary Jon Gibson and his family.

## PENDLETON, PILOT ROCK CHURCHES WELCOME NEW PASTOR

Gary Jon Gibson and his wife, Elizabeth, have moved to Pendleton, Ore., with their four children — Johnathan, Jared, Josiah and Jocelyn — to accept God's call to pastor the Pendleton and Pilot Rock churches.

Gibson worked 12 years as a systems engineer for Rockwell Collins Inc. in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, before accepting God's challenge to go back to college (2012–2015) to become a full-time pastor. Even though he is fairly new to the ministry, his five-generation Adventist background has helped him develop a strong, diversified look at all aspects of leading a church.

Using Christ's method as heaven's way of reaching those who are searching, he encourages church leaders and members to mingle with members and community alike, showing sympathy, ministering to their needs

and winning their confidence before inviting them to follow Jesus. At the forefront of Gibson's message to lead people to follow Jesus are love and prayers initiating the formation of prayer groups to include prayer training.

According to Elizabeth Gibson, "The boys love outdoor things like camping, hiking, skiing. The family enjoys road trips, especially if they involve stops at national parks. We are DIYers who can often be found fixing up and decorating our home."

The Pendleton and Pilot Rock churches are looking forward to embracing this family as members of their churches.

*Doris Olson, Pendleton Church communication leader*

More photos online at  
[glnr.in/114-05-uc\\_newpastor](http://glnr.in/114-05-uc_newpastor)

## PRAYER CREATES MEMORABLE CAMP MEETING MOMENTS

**P**rayers years in the making found answers at three back-to-back camp meeting experiences in western Washington.

With each faith-sharing sermon and challenge she heard through the years, Francisca Domínguez knew she needed to pray first for her mother, already a strong woman of faith, and then for the rest of her family to join the Adventist Church.

Those prayers started to become a reality when the entire family, in their various faith walks, attended Campes- tre Hispano this year to witness as Paulina Meza joined the church by profession of faith. She had already influenced five other people to join the Adventist movement before she did — something her family gently teases her about.

Domínguez continues

to involve her family in small group Bible studies, family meals and church activities. When it comes to sharing faith, Domínguez says, “Start with your family.”

### OVERFLOWING FAITH

The Earliteen leaders for ages 13 and 14 at Washington Adventist Camp Meeting prefaced their planning and programs sessions with prayer.

“Every day — morning, afternoon and evening — our team would pray for God to work in the lives of teenagers,” says Angel Ogando, Earliteen division leader and pastor. “We wanted the Earliteen tent to be a space where God is honored.”

Rome Ulia, a pastor in Australia, initially planned to invite the teenagers to follow Jesus in his final presentation and felt a last-minute impression to switch the invitation to the first night.



KATIE HENDERSON

The Holy Spirit moves in the lives of teenagers during a camp meeting revival that initially resulted in six baptisms with additional baptisms at summer camp and home churches.

“We ended up having a full week for follow up,” Ogando says. “Teens told their parents to come. We requested more chairs, and still people were sitting on the ground. We saw the power of the Holy Spirit working.”

The overflowing tent was empty on Sabbath morning as peers and parents joined together on the main stage in Rainier Auditorium to celebrate six baptisms and commemorate the Holy Spirit’s work of revival in more teen lives.

### GENERATIONAL FAITH

The elder generation gave the larger meeting space to the younger generation at the North American Samoan camp meeting held this year in Auburn. The two generations had their respective “Show Me” faith-building programs and collective cultural-sharing programs including games, career day, fashion and storytelling.

Guest speaker Meshach Soli, a pastor in San Diego,

Calif., challenged young people to ask God to show them love, faith and truth.

“Pacific Islanders represent 2% of the North American Division membership population,” shares Soli. “Be the two percent to speak up for whatever is holding you back. Get out of your comfort zone to be an innovator for God.”

Parents and grandparents watched as their children responded to the messages they had heard all week. An afternoon “Growing Young” program was scrapped as arrangements were quickly made for a baptism service for 44 primarily young people to be held in the campus swimming pool.

“I started crying when I saw my daughter and nephew go forward. This decision for Jesus is their own,” says Crystal Toleafoa from Alaska. “It’s every Christian parent’s prayer for their child to choose Jesus.”

*Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director*



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

The baptism of 44 young (and a few young at heart) people at Samoan Camp Meeting brings answers to prayer for parents and grandparents.





Much more online at  
[glnr.in/114-05-wa\\_portorchard](http://glnr.in/114-05-wa_portorchard)

## JESUS CHANGES LIVES IN PORT ORCHARD

# W

hen people experience the love of

Christ for the first time or the second, it is amazing to see their newfound joy and hope — especially for eight Andrews University seminary students who came from Jamaica, Cambodia, India and the United States to participate in a three-week evangelism field school in Port Orchard in May and June.

Mitch, a severe alcoholic,



Dustin Serns, pastor, his family (left), and a Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary evangelism field school group watch Jesus change lives in Port Orchard.

was giving me straight answers from the Bible, but the Adventists did!” Steffany says. “God has filled the hole in my heart. He has given us a new family here.”

Dennis became sober after checking himself into a local drug and rehabilitation center four years ago. He later ended up working at that facility where he met an Adventist co-worker. Over time, they began studying the Bible together. Dennis found new life in Jesus — and found victory over a smoking habit he had been trying to break for years.

As Dennis was coming out of the baptistery, he said with a big smile to the pastor, “It feels so good to take a deep breath — a breath of new life!”

“I watched God transform lives in a way that could never happen without every piece of this experience,” says Justin Walker, a seminarian. “It caused me to do a 180-degree turn with my opinion of public evangelism. Jesus was lifted up, and Jesus changes lives just like John 12:32 says: ‘And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’”

*Jeffrey Harper, Andrews University Seminary field evangelism team member*



had intentions for self-harm. With some intervention, he ended up in an alcoholic rehabilitation program where a broken drunk driver victim looked him in the eye and said, “Whatever you do, please don’t drink and drive.”

Mitch said he would do better than that, promised to never drink again and came home sober five days later. He was already reading his

Bible and praying when two seminarians showed up at his door with an invitation to an upcoming Bible prophecy seminar. The messages resonated with his heart, and he surrendered everything to Christ.

Jenny’s children thoroughly loved their week of prayer experience at Kitsap Adventist Christian School with the seminarians and begged her to go to the Revelation of Divine Love meetings. Jenny found herself enjoying the messages, filling out the accompanying Bible lessons and discovering how she could encourage her children in their own Bible study.

Brandon and Celeste are a newly married couple in their early 20s who had recently moved to the area. Brandon is a new Adventist, and Celeste was interested in learning more. Celeste had never learned how to pray, and the seminary students encouraged her to try writing out a prayer to God that night and then reading it out loud. She did! That night was her first personal prayer in her life!

Scott and Steffany, another young couple, first became acquainted with Adventists at the AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network) free health clinic in Port Orchard. “No church

More photos online at  
[glnr.in/114-05-wa\\_support](http://glnr.in/114-05-wa_support)



## SUMMER CAMP ADDS EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ROLE

**I**t's a Monday morning at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson, and campers are lined up bright and early for line call. It's the same routine for any age group.

"I'd like you to meet Kaylee and Gibbs," David Yeagley, known as Pastor Dave at camp, announces to campers. "Kaylee and Gibbs are here to listen to you this week if you need someone to talk with."

Kaylee and Gibbs then greet each cabin. Kaylee Sewell is a recent social work graduate from Walla Walla University. Gibbs is a well-behaved, 2-year-old russet-toned golden retriever.

Gibbs, with his feathery wagging tail, absorbs the attention. He has a specific mission: to break down barriers.

"Gibbs is a good opener," Sewell says. "Anywhere I go, Gibbs goes with me. He helps campers calm down and open up to talk. Campers will often call out, 'Hi, Gibbs and Goose!'" (Goose is a stuffed toy Gibbs carries around.)

Sewell is piloting a social worker role at Sunset Lake Camp as part of her practicum requirements. She was initially worried about having enough hours to complete the 400-hour requirement. After the first week of camp, that worry ceased.

In previous times, campers primarily dealt with feelings of homesickness when



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

God opens doors of conversation for Kaylee Sewell and her furry partner, Gibbs, to minister to varying emotional needs of summer campers.

they came to camp. Now, the issues are bigger. Camp staff regularly encountering mental health challenges in campers who are processing anxiety, depression, panic attacks, bullying, life stressors, perfectionism and self-harm.

Sewell's biggest surprise in her work is the number of

suicide assessments. "Theories in the classroom become a reality when you are talking to a 9-year-old about why they should live," she says. "This experience is growing me as a person and as a professional. It is strengthening my walk with God as I help people learn how to self-manage."

Sewell and Gibbs show up at meal times, break times and social times to greet campers and provide an opening conversation from Monday to Friday. Weekends are self-care time. Sewell is often the quiet presence, with her furry sidekick nearby, to help de-escalate a situation.

"I learned the power of animals this summer," Sewell says. A dam of emotions breaks as a distraught young person pets Gibbs' soft fur and then engages in a side-by-side conversation during which Sewell uses active and reflective listening.

There is never a "normal" day because there are new situations each day. Sewell documents her work, cooperates with camp nurses, and connects campers to follow-up counseling services and other resources. "It feels like a battle all week," she says.

"Kids need a good, solid emotional foundation," Sewell explains, "and camp is only a week long. But the memories and lessons learned at camp will impact them for longer than a week. I pray that things will go well at home and that campers will know they can turn to God to find peace and happiness."

*Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director*



## RETIRED COUPLE NAMED COMMUNITY HEROES

**F**red and Mary Lou Haskell were sitting in the audience of a community awards banquet when Mary Lou realized something: “Fred, they are talking about us.”

Earlier this summer, the Haskells, who are in their mid-80s, were two of four White River Community Champion Award honorees for 2019.

The additional honorees included Rose Clark, a retired teacher with 30-plus years of extensive community service, and Sandra Smith, who rallied community generations to create an annual holiday community building event called Merry on Main in Buckley each December.

The White River Communities Families First Coalition — with about 200 community service representatives — started the award in 2011 to recognize people, businesses, organizations and churches that start something and see it through on behalf of the community.

The Haskells are part of a long-running church outreach in Bonney Lake that has been serving local families for more than 30 years and currently helps nearly 90 families a month with clothing, hygiene items and household commodities. They started leading their community service project six years ago.

“When you serve God, you help in any way you can,”

says Fred. “We build rapport. They become our friends. One client is now drug-free, making life changes and recently asked me for a suit.”

Bonney Lake Church has traditionally opened their ministry on two Mondays a month to serve clients. Recently, the Prairie Ridge Community Coalition challenged the church to open on two Sunday nights as well as Monday mornings. The response keeps growing, and the effort wasn’t much more.

Volunteers met a segment of their community that is employed but barely covering the essentials of life and in need of a little extra assistance for household cleaning supplies.

“We discovered that just because you are working a job, it still may not be enough,” says Mary Lou. “People can pick up 10 commodities once a month. We find that people don’t take more than they need because they want to help others too.”

In the award profile, the Haskells and Bonney Lake Church are noted for serving the greater community including the homeless, wayward teens, those who are isolated and lonely, and whoever comes through their door. The church is respected for being inclusive, nonjudgmental and cheerful in embracing their community.

“Being a church, you

reach out to people in different ways,” Fred says. “We ask people if they need a prayer. Prayers are cheap. Sometimes we give Bibles or literature if requested.”

“We love what we do,” adds Mary Lou. “You cannot simply sit in a pew and expect to serve the community. You must get out of the pew. We’re here to take care of the community and love them. We’ll continue as long as we can, and we have our daughter to back us up.”

*Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director*

Fred and Mary Lou Haskell, their daughter Shirley Anne Hurley and ACS Washington Federation president Sharon Covington find great joy in serving their community. The Haskells were recently honored as community heroes for their joyful giving.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

## CHILDREN'S LEADERS TAKE DIGITAL TOUR



More photos online at [glnr.in/114-05-wa\\_vbs](http://glnr.in/114-05-wa_vbs)

# W

ashington Conference children's ministries coordinator Nitza Salazar wanted to showcase the different summertime programs in western Washington to help children's leaders learn from each other. So she set up a digital tour of 10 churches.

With each visit, Salazar shared short Facebook Live features or photos for the Washington Conference children's ministry group.

Centralia took an interesting approach: The English program was held in the mornings and the Spanish program was held in the evenings in the same location. This allowed the sister churches (Centralia and Chehalis Spanish) to efficiently use the same program and decorations.

"It's pretty amazing that two churches worked together to do a Vacation Bible School impact," Salazar says. "This is the first time for Chehalis Spanish Church to have a Vacation Bible School."

The Vacation Bible School team, whether in Renton or other locations, knows that prayer provides the core for every creative children's ministry program.



NITZA SALAZAR

Tacoma Russian Church encourages children to have kind hearts through service to others. They invited VBS participants to donate funds for clean water in Africa.

Renton Church extends their VBS beyond an annual summer gathering to offer quarterly birthday parties. "This allows us to keep building family associations all year long," says Randy Maxwell, pastor, who describes the quarterly parties as quite popular with neighborhood children.

Renton Church also crafted a colorful roadside banner (with a solar light for nighttime viewing) to advertise their program. The banner showcases the program time with space to change out the dates each year.

"Banners can be expensive, so this is a creative way to reuse a banner each year," Salazar notes.

"White Center Church had a great idea to offering information for their Adventurer Club," Salazar adds. "Why not invite the community to participate year-round in children's programming? This is an awesome idea!"

VBS programs gave children a chance to engage in service projects. Tacoma Russian Church children collected donations for clean water in Africa. Kent Church children collected 5,000 newborn or size 1 diapers for a local pediatric care center.

It wasn't just established churches who offered VBS programs. The newest church plant — called Triumph — was started in January near downtown Auburn by Hispanic young adults to reach their English-speaking peers.

They offered their first VBS program this summer. Each Sabbath afternoon for two months, the team worked on an amazing display of decorations.

One of the churches Salazar visited has a primary language of Swahili. The All Nations congregation in Federal Way, was so excited about the Jamii Kingdom curriculum because it was in their own language.

All Nations had a prize table for children who brought five, seven or 10 friends. "It's a nice way to encourage children to bring their friends," she says.

Salazar wasn't the only one touring VBS programs. She arranged for young missionaries to support three congregations who had their first or first in a long time VBS program, and seven congregations engaged in first-time VBS ministry.

"With the 10 programs I visited in English, Spanish, Russian and Swahili, I saw lots of guests, creativity and energy," Salazar says. "I am very happy and blessed to visit the different Vacation Bible Schools in our conference and bring people along through social media."

*Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director*



DAVID HENRY



## ER NAVIGATORS BRING GOD'S LOVE TO SLAVIC COMMUNITY

**T**he Portland, Ore., metropolitan area is home to one of the largest Slavic communities in the country, yet this community has been underserved by health care in the area. Thanks to Adventist Health Portland, that's changing.

Russian-speaking staff are available in several Adventist Health clinics. Recently, the emergency room added Russian-speaking navigators to ensure Slavic patients get understandable and culturally sensitive care and information. This program recently saved the life and limb of two Russian-speaking patients who were initially very reluctant to accept treatment.

These two patients arrived in the ER only minutes apart. One had a severe headache and needed a blood transfusion. He refused treatment because he did not want "another person's blood" in his system, which he did not believe would help. As the patient was fading away, he shared about his life with the Russian navigator, Irina Klimenko.

Sara Larry, a doctor on duty at the time, gave Klimenko a quick primer on blood transfusions. Then Klimenko got on the phone with the pa-



Irina Klimenko helps Russian speaking patients and English speaking healthcare providers understand each others' words, and cultures, to achieve the best possible experience and health outcomes at Adventist Health Portland.

tient's wife, explained the critical need for a blood transfusion and gave the couple privacy to discuss their options.

When the patient and his wife finished talking, there was no more resistance. The man accepted the needed treatment and was able to be transferred to Oregon Health and Science University hospital for advanced care.

Meanwhile another Russian-speaking patient was refusing treatment for a seriously infected leg wound. She hadn't taken the antibiotics her doctor had prescribed, and her infection had gotten

much worse. Now in the ER, the patient was refusing a needed X-ray and rejecting IV pain-relieving medication because she believed they were bad for her health.

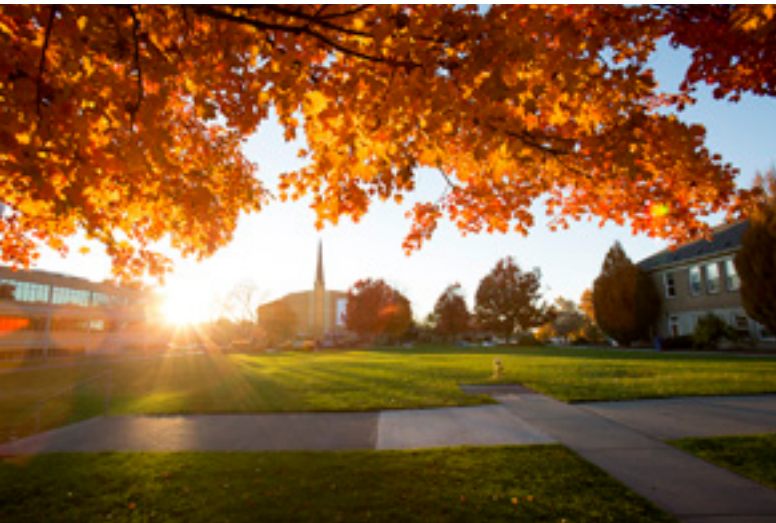
Phlebotomist Emmanuel Giamani, who speaks Russian, prayed with the patient and listened about how the patient didn't trust hospitals. Giamani used the opportunity to help the patient trust Klimenko by explaining how the navigator's key role was to advocate what's best for the patient — not the doctor or the hospital.

By the time Klimenko was free to speak with the woman,

the patient was ready to engage and agreed to both the X-ray and hospital admission. She still wanted to avoid the pain-relief medication, and her medical team respected her wishes.

The combined efforts of the ER team to provide care that uniquely met the needs of these Russian-speaking patients is just another example of how committed Adventist Health Portland is to living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope throughout a diverse community.

*Laurel Rogers, Adventist Health contract writer*



## WASHBURN PAPER ADDRESSES ANALYSIS OF ANCIENT INSCRIPTIONS

A paper by Jody Washburn, Walla Walla University assistant professor of biblical studies, titled “The Family Tomb as an Inscribed Artifact: Toward an Integrative Analysis of the Beit Lei Inscriptions,” will be published this year in *MAARAV: A Journal for the Study of the Northwest Semitic Languages and Literatures*.

In her master’s and doctoral work at the University of California, Los Angeles, Washburn studied a variety of Aramaic and Hebrew inscriptions. Her interest in this area led to studies of an inscription from Khirbet Beit Lei that was in storage at the Israel Museum. Her subsequent work involved taking new photographs of 12 inscriptions that had been removed from a tomb at Beit Lei, in modern Israel, and creating a schematic of how the inscriptions would have appeared in the tomb prior to removal. This became the basis for her dissertation research.

Washburn’s article in *MAARAV* notes a tendency in academic studies of ancient inscriptions to get so wrapped up in translating an inscription that the context of the inscription is minimized or overlooked. “Bringing together the content and the setting,” explains Washburn, “helps to add nuance to the various

suggestions that have been made regarding who might have inscribed the images and texts found on the tomb walls at Beit Lei and what they may have been seeking to accomplish by writing and drawing in the family tomb.”

Reflecting on the connection between her research and her teaching, Washburn says her research on integrative approaches to ancient inscriptions has pushed her to widen her lens and wrestle with how different kinds of data might be related. This informs her teaching in the sense that one of her goals in every class is to challenge students to consider specific texts, archaeological artifacts and even theological arguments in their wider contexts.

*Makena Horton, WWU university relations student writer*



Jody Washburn

## CBFM EXPLORES WAYS TO INTEGRATE BIBLICAL STUDIES WITH CONCERNS FACING THE CHURCH

How can Adventists engage with the questions of today with humility and confidence? Through the Center for Bible, Faith, and Mission (CBFM) at Walla Walla University, the faculty in the School of Theology seek to provide a framework for addressing difficult questions within the context of committed Bible study and application of Scripture.

In their work through the CBFM, each year WWU theology faculty present seminars, lectures and conferences on a variety of topics throughout the Pacific Northwest.

During the 2018–19 academic year, Dave Thomas, professor of practical theology

and apologetics, and Alden Thompson, professor of biblical studies, spoke in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; Spokane, Wash.; and Portland, Ore., on topics that included the history of Adventism and the doctrine of the Trinity. Brant Berglin, associate professor of biblical studies, spoke in Moscow, Idaho, and Coos Bay, Ore., about the book of Revelation.

Church leaders can request a speaker through the CBFM by contacting the WWU School of Theology at 509-527-2194 or by sending an email to [goodword@wallawalla.edu](mailto:goodword@wallawalla.edu).

*Kim Strobel, WWU university relations supervisor*



## KEEPING STUDENT DEBT LOW: WHAT WWU IS DOING, WHAT YOU CAN DO

# W

alla Walla University has

launched a Smart Debt Student initiative to give families more resources to help them reduce student debt.

While the average educational debt for WWU students who have taken out loans has been 16% below the national average — and the number of WWU students who graduate debt-free is on the rise — WWU is intensifying its focus on helping students avoid or minimize student debt.

### HOW WWU IS HELPING STUDENTS REDUCE DEBT

While student loans are necessary for some, educational debt is something to be considered only after students have gotten the most out of grants, scholarships and work programs. With that in mind, WWU has a number of programs to help students avoid debt.

1. WWU offers substantial scholarships that don't have to be paid back, like:



- » Academic achievement — up to \$48,000 over four years.
- » Out-of-area grant — up to \$8,000 over four years.
- » Church match — WWU matches dollar-for-dollar up to \$2,000 each year.

2. WWU also has generous need-based aid programs to help students fund their college education.

3. A robust work program helps WWU students get jobs on and off campus.

4. The university has increased efforts to counsel our students about debt — including regular review of their loans, monitoring debt levels, helping them identify debt-reduction strategies and encouraging students to index their debt levels to future earnings based on their field of study.

5. For the last 10 years, WWU has held tuition increases around 2% — less than half of the national average of 5% per year.

### FOUR WAYS TO REDUCE STUDENT DEBT

Many families would be surprised to see what is possible when parents, students and WWU work together to reduce debt. There are steps families can take to pay more educational expenses while students get their degrees.

1. Work full-time in the summer and part-time during the school year. This can reduce debt by as much as \$32,000 over four years.

2. Graduate in four years. Graduating in five years can increase your costs by 26% and graduating in six years can

increase your costs by 53%. That's why WWU offers student success and retention programs to help students graduate in four years — and why it's important for students to take steps early to decide on a major.

3. Consider public service loan-forgiveness programs that repay student loans.

4. Prioritize making the recommended family contribution. These numbers are determined by the government when you apply for aid, not by WWU, and are based on what parents in similar financial situations are contributing to their child's college education.

*Cassie Ragenovich, WWU student financial services director*

For more tips on keeping costs down, visit [payforwwu.com](http://payforwwu.com) or call a WWU financial counselor at 800-656-2815 or 509-527-2815. Learn more at [sfs.wallawalla.edu](http://sfs.wallawalla.edu). Financial counselors are always happy to help you create a smart plan for financing your education.

### Brunson 70th

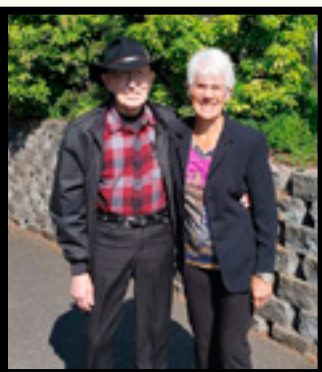
Bruce and Norma Brunson celebrated 70 years of married on June 16, 2019, in Woodland, Wash., with a reception.

Norma Gene Garrett was born in Missouri on April 3, 1931, and Bruce Marvin Brunson was born in Los Angeles on July 9, 1929. Norma went to Columbia Adventist Academy in Battle Ground, Wash., her junior year. She went home with a friend from Albany, Ore., for spring break and met Bruce on a blind date. Two months later, on June 17, 1969, they got married in Albany.

Together they've lived in three states and 12 different homes. Their family includes Scott and Karla (Kunz) Brunson of Woodland; Timothy and Ann Brunson of Oregon; 9 step-grandchildren and 9 step-great-grandchildren.

### Gearhart 70th

Bud and Betty Gearhart celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on July 7, 2019, in Coos Bay, Ore., with a family dinner.



Bud and Betty Gearhart

Clarence "Bud" Gearhart and Betty Hilligoss grew up in the cascade mountains, near Willamina, Ore., in the little mountain community of Gil-

bert Creek. Their fathers were both loggers, and their families knew each other. Bud and Betty attended the little country school there, then Laurelwood Academy where they both graduated. Following their graduations, they began to date and were married on July 7, 1949, in the Gilbert Creek Church.

In 1951-52 they moved to Bandon, Ore., where they lived for the next 50 years. It was there that they raised their three children: Rick, Randy and Sandi. They both worked in the timber industry for Rogge Lumber Company for many years — Bud as the head millwright and Betty as the bookkeeper for the company.

Following their retirements, they moved to Coos Bay in 2002, where they now live in a beautiful and serene country setting in the coastal range. They are active in the Coos Bay Church and stay busy with family, working on their many and various home projects, caring for their yard and garden, and walking. Until very recently, both still worked part-time. They consider themselves to be very blessed, and they celebrated their 70th anniversary morning by going for a 5K walk.

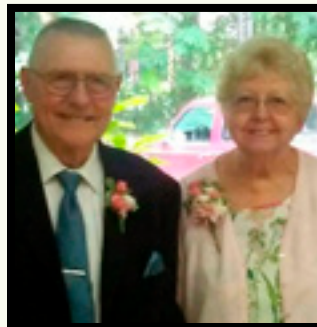
The Gearhart family includes G. Richard "Rick" Gearhart of Coos Bay; Randall and Janell (Speak) Gearhart of Burlington, Iowa; Sandi M. Merrit of Coos Bay; 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

### Kegley 60th

Surrounded by family and friends Albert and Marjorie Kegley recently celebrated

their 60th wedding anniversary on July 6, 2019, at the Shelton Church located in Shelton, Wash.

Albert Kegley and Marjorie Wortman were married on April 5, 1959, at the Chehalis



Albert and Marjorie Kegley

(Wash.) Church. In 1961, Albert started his own log trucking business, retiring in 2003. Marjorie was a stay-at-home mom until after her three daughters had graduated from Auburn Adventist Academy and were attending college. In 1984 she began working for the Washington Department of Health and retired in 2004.

The Kegleys lived in Olympia, Wash., until their retirement, when they moved to Shelton, Wash. During their time in Olympia, they were active members of the Olympia Church, with Albert serving as an elder, Marjorie as a Pathfinder counselor and both helping out in the children's Sabbath School classes. They were leaders in the Olympia RV club and spent more than 25 happy years camping in their motor home with the club.

Now living in Shelton, they are very involved with the Shelton Church. Albert serves as head deacon, and Marjorie supplies her delicious pies at church potlucks and auctions.

In their retirement, Albert

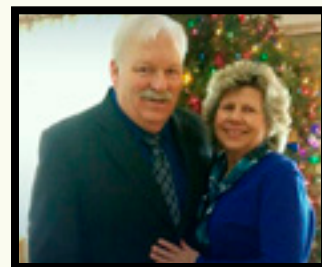
keeps busy as a volunteer driver transporting people to medical appointments and Marjorie spends time crocheting infant blankets for the homeless shelter.

The Kegleys especially enjoy spending time with their family, which includes Laura and Scott Worf, Pam and J.P. Wegmuller, Karen and James McKown, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

### Miller 50th

Bud and Tina Miller celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 31, 2019, at the Newberg Church fellowship hall.

Leverett Bruster "Bud" Miller and Tina Saltee met in high school while attending Andrews Academy in 1968. They fell in love and married in Berrien Springs, Mich., in the fall of 1969 after Tina



Bud and Tina Miller

graduated high school.

Soon thereafter Bud was drafted to the Army, which first took them to Texas then on to Alaska. They moved to Sequim, Wash., where they had their first child, Leverett "Troy," in 1973. Their second child, Jodie, followed in 1975. Work took them back to Alaska, where Jennie was born in 1981. A few more moves and with God's leading they landed in Oregon in 1984.

Bud was blessed with a job from Robert Pamplin



Jr., where he currently is still working. Tina stayed home to raise their children until they went to school full time. Then she started working at Columbia Empire Farms and does to this day. Bud's expertise in construction played a pivotal role in building the Newberg Church in 1992–1998.

Bud and Tina feel blessed and enjoy hosting and spending time with their children and grandchildren. They also enjoy going on scenic drives and taking trips in their RV. They thank God every day for their blessings.

Bud and Tina have three children, Leverett “Troy” and Evelyn Miller of Sherwood, Ore.; Jodie Mahurin of College Place, Wash.; Jennie Coppernoll of Sherwood; and 7 grandchildren.

### Oakes, Rogers 60th

On Aug. 24, 1958, in Battle Ground, Wash., Gloria D. Cox and her sister, Judy L. Cox, married A.W. “Bill” Oakes and Von Rogers, respectively, in a double wedding.

The internet tells us, according to Bill's brother, that only 6% of marriages reach a 50th anniversary. So those that reach 60 years are an even smaller percentage.

Judy and Von Rogers had a quiet family gathering at Deka Lake in British Columbia, Canada, to mark the occasion. She said she was “just happy to have her children with her.” Their children are Kelly and Gayla Rogers of Bend, Ore.; and April and Ken Rogers of Ramona, Calif. Their grandchildren are Kami and Landon Rogers and Trenton and Nicole Rogers.

Judy and Von live in Battle Ground, Wash., after living

in Portland, Ore., a few years in their early married life. Von worked several different jobs, then ran a new and used furniture store in Vancouver, Wash., for most of his working life. Judy worked at a physical therapy clinic until a month before her first child was born.



Bill and Gloria Oakes (left) and Judy and Von Rogers

Von fished salmon commercially in Bristol Bay, Alaska, for a number of years. He was also a private pilot and had his own airplanes.

Bill and Gloria Oakes lived the first three years in Seattle, Wash., then moved to Anchorage, Alaska, where Bill was a design civil engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers for 33 years. Thereafter he worked for an architectural firm for three years, a few weeks for an engineering firm, and three and a half years as a contract technical writer for the Corps of Engineers. Gloria worked a few years for insurance companies. Gloria has been a volunteer school librarian at Anchorage Junior Academy for 42 years. She and Bill graduated together from Walla Walla College in 1958.

Bill and Gloria celebrated their anniversary at their

Northside Church in Anchorage with cake and fruit punch for those who stayed after church service on Aug. 18, 2018. It was held a week early so their oldest daughter, Susan, could be back in Ohio to start her school year of college teaching. Their daughter, Elizabeth of San Diego, also assisted in the celebration. Their son, Stephen, lives in Kansas City, Mo.

### FAMILY BIRTHS

**CAFFERKY** — Meredith Adele was born July 1, 2019, to Nathan and Andrea “Dea” (Botimer) Cafferky, Frisco, Colo.

**RAE** — Aiden Mark was born March 26, 2019, to David and Melissa (Tessier) Rae, Richland, Wash.

### FAMILY WEDDINGS

#### HEAGY-KHUT

Emily Heagy and Ney Khut were married July 14, 2019, in Walla Walla, Wash. They are making their home in Berrien Springs, Mich. Emily is the daughter of Gary and Teresa “Terri” (Shafer) Heagy. Ney Khut is the son of Sakhoen Sou (deceased) and Sarouen Khut.

**AVILA** — Sara Marie (Escamilla), 91; born June 22, 1927, Gering, Neb.; died March 20, 2019, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: sons, Soloman, College Place, Wash.; Gabriel, Yakima, Wash.; daughters, Carol Elder, Richland, Wash.; Diana Ghaffari, Fredrick, Md.; Nina Carter, Walla Walla; brothers, Samuel Escamilla, Lincoln, Neb.; Daniel Escamilla, Fresno, Calif.; sisters, Victoria Serrano, Walla Walla; Bernice Herrera and Rebecca Herrera, both of Denver, Colo.; 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

**BATES** — Patricia L. (Parmenter) White Warner, 87; born Aug. 14, 1931, Des Moines, Iowa; died April 7, 2019, Eugene, Ore. Surviving: son, Terry White, Ontario, Ore.; daughter, Ronica (White) Fails, Springfield, Ore.; brother, Butch Sager, Eugene, Ore.; sisters, Joanne (Parmenter) Toebe, Springfield; Gail (Feltner) Krehbiel, Creswell, Ore.; 5 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**BRYSON** — Arlene (Pesh), 78; born June 25, 1940, National City, Calif.; died April 24, 2019, Roseburg, Ore. Surviving: husband, Dale; son, D. Lynn, Twin Falls, Idaho; daughter, Robyn Mitchell, Eugene, Ore.; brother, Lyle Pesh, Murrieta, Calif.; and 5 grandchildren.

**DICKERSON** — Larry W., 68; born Jan. 19, 1951, Enumclaw, Wash.; died Feb. 9, 2019, College Place, Wash. Surviving: sisters, Carleen Jones, Mossyrock, Wash.; and Rosalie Dickerson, College Place.

**HANLEY** — Joan Audrey (Peake), 90; born June 29, 1928, Menomonie, Wis.; died Feb. 16, 2019, Portland, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Sharon Aaltonen, Portland; Karla Bale, Nampa, Idaho; Linda Johnson, Portland; sisters, Nancy Echelbarger, Walla Walla, Wash.; Patricia Clark, Tigard, Ore.; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**KANG** — Leanna (McCorkle) Hoffer, 88; born Dec. 9, 1930, Meridian, Idaho; died March 9, 2019, College Place, Wash. Surviving: sons, Brad Hoffer, Gainesville, Fla.; Robert Mark Hoffer, Walla Walla, Wash.; stepdaughter, Shawna Bay, Bellevue, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 8 grandchildren.

**KINZER** — Mary Frances (Nelson), 89; born Sept. 9, 1929, Portland, Ore.; died April 6, 2019, College Place, Wash. Surviving: son, Steve, Gresham, Ore.; daughters, Kathryn Grosse, Walla Walla, Wash.; Sylvia Lou Blanchfield, Churdan, Iowa; Joan Kinzer, Vancouver, Wash.; 4 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**KOLKMANN** — Joyce Elaine, 77; born Oct. 9, 1940, Berkeley, Calif.; died April 26, 2018, Canby, Ore. Surviving: brothers, Oliver J. Kolkman, Willits, Calif.; and Harry A. Kolkman, Livingston, Mont.

**MCCLURE** — Warner M., 79; born Feb. 19, 1940, Malawi; died March 19, 2019, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Hilda (Flemmer); son, Warner H. McClure, Cabot, Vt.; daughter, Caroline McClure, Angelus Oaks, Calif.; stepson, Elton D. Smith, Oconto Falls, Wis.; sisters, Marjorie McClure Eggers, Cleveland, Tenn.; Marilyn Plata, Loma

Linda, Calif.; stepbrother, Arden Nelson, Sebring, Fla.; a grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren.

**NETHERTON** — Rheta Faye (Rhoades), 98; born Sept. 26, 1920, Falls City, Ore.; died Nov. 16, 2018, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Lois Plunkett, Portland, Ore.; Sheila Rhoades, Eugene, Ore.; 5 grandchildren, a step-grandchild and 7 great-grandchildren.

**RAY** — Don Allan, 73; born March 10, 1945, San Francisco, Calif.; died Feb. 5, 2019, Medford, Ore. Surviving: wife, Beryl; sons, Don II “DJ,” Kevin, Brandon; daughters, Michelle, Tammy; sister, Sharma Ray; and numerous grandchildren.

**REYNOLDS** — Betty Evelyn (Whitaker), 93; born Dec. 5, 1925, Loma Linda, Calif.; died April 7, 2019, Canby, Ore. Surviving: sons, Gerald R., Fresno Calif.; Edwin E., Ooltewah, Tenn.; David L., Canby; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**ROSE** — Carl Wendle, 85; born Nov. 8, 1933, Okanogan, Wash.; died March 28, 2019, Hillsboro, Ore. Surviving: son, Howard, Pointe Verde Beach, Fla.; daughter, Sherrill Rose Hawley, Mount Angel, Ore.; sister, Myrtle Age, Colville, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**ROTH** — Norman Bryan, 92; born Dec. 12, 1926, Beiseker, Alberta, Canada; died March 10, 2019, McMinnville, Ore. Surviving: sons, Ron, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Allen, Hillsboro, Ore.; daughter, Sheila Moreno, McMinnville; 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**SCHNIBBE** — William George, 90; born Jan. 31, 1929, Brooklyn, N.Y.; died April 12, 2019, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: wife, Marjorie (Ward) Baker; son, Warren, Troutdale, Ore.; daughters, Lajean Ford, Chubbuck, Idaho; Jo Marocco, Manassas Park, Va.; Kathy Cox, Portland, Ore.; brothers, Fred, College Place, Wash.; Richard, Damascus, Ore.; 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

**SEIBERT** — Gerald D., 96; born April 12, 1922, Ellendale, N.D.; died April 3, 2019, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: sons, James, Moxee, Wash.; David, Salem, Ore.; William, Zillah, Wash.; 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**ULLOA** — George, 81; born Feb. 22, 1937, District of Dededo, Guam; died Jan. 25, 2019, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Renate (Zaft); son, Robert “Bob,” Portland; daughters, Joanne Thomas, Moses Lake, Wash.; Julie Ulloa-Michaelis, Spokane, Wash.; and 6 grandchildren.

**WAY** — Gary Leslie, 66; born Nov. 2, 1951, Seattle, Wash.; died Nov. 16, 2017, Troutdale, Ore. Surviving: wife, Susan (Williams), Bay City, Ore.; son, Anthony, Springdale, Wash.; daughter, Laura

Graham, Vancouver, Wash.; sisters, Connie Mills, Langley, British Columbia, Canada; Jo Park, Portland, Ore.; and 5 grandchildren.

**WHEELER** — Charles Lester Jr., 84; born June 11, 1934, Cloverdale, Calif.; died March 3, 2019, Bend, Ore. Surviving: wife, Grace (Jennings), Clements, Calif.; sons, Andy, Carson City, Nev.; Rollie, Madras, Ore.; daughter, Connie Marxmiller, Clements; and 3 grandchildren.

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

**Go to [GleanerNow.com/](http://GleanerNow.com/) contribute to submit family announcements.**

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

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## NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

### Offering

- Sept. 7** — Local Church Budget;  
**Sept. 14** — Local Church Budget;  
**Sept. 21** — Local Church Budget;  
**Sept. 28** — Local Conference Advance;  
**Oct. 5** — Local Church Budget;  
**Oct. 12** — World Budget: Voice of Prophecy/La Voz de Esperanza;  
**Oct. 19** — Local Church Budget;  
**Oct. 26** — Local Conference Advance.

### North Pacific Union Conference Association

Official notice is hereby given that a Regular Membership Meeting of the North Pacific Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists is called for 2 p.m., on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019, at Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash. The membership is comprised of the members of the North Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee. The purpose of the Regular Membership Meeting is to hear reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

*John C. Freedman, president*

*James D. Graham, assistant treasurer*

## WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

**Oct. 25-27** — Families of Walla Walla University students are invited to the WWU main campus in College Place, Wash., for Family Weekend. Events will include class visits, ice cream in historic downtown Walla Walla, Student Missions vespers, Sabbath services, and a talent program. Families are also invited to join WWU administrators for a complimentary Sabbath lunch with John McVay, WWU president. Parent Sabbath on the School of Nursing campus in Portland, Ore., is scheduled for Sabbath, Nov. 9. For complete details, visit [wallawalla.edu/family-weekend](http://wallawalla.edu/family-weekend) or call 800-377-2586.

## IDAHO CONFERENCE

### Regular Quadrennial Session of the Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the 54th Regular Session of the Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, at Gem State Adventist Academy, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Mountain Time. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the Board of Directors members, Articles and Bylaws Committee members, Board of Education members, officers, departmental directors, review bylaws changes, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session. Delegates for this session will be appointed one for each church and one additional delegate for each twenty (20) members or major fraction thereof.

*David Prest Jr., president*

*John Rogers, vice president*

## OREGON CONFERENCE

### 'Columbia Classics' Annual Fall Reunion

**Sept. 7** — The "Columbia Classics" Annual Fall Reunion will be held on the Columbia Adventist Academy campus (in the cafeteria building) at 11100 NE 189th St., Battle Ground, Wash. Sabbath 9 a.m.: registration and continental breakfast followed by Sabbath program, group photo and potluck dinner. Luncheon will be served in the evening. Come renew friendships and share memories and the latest happenings in your lives. RV parking is available on the campus, with prior reservation, and motels are available locally. For more lodging or additional information, contact Larry Hiday, CAA alumni and development director, at 360-687-3161.

### Diabetes Undone

**Sept. 10-Oct. 29** — Diabetes Undone, a proven lifestyle program for diabetes control, will be presented by the Castle Rock Church from Sept. 10 to Oct. 29, each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., at the church's Abundant Living Center, 7531 Old Pacific Hwy N. Castle Rock, Wash., I-5 Exit 49. There is a fee for books. Reserve your place by calling Wanda at 360-967-2165.

### Adventist Health Tillamook Second Annual Golf Benefit

**Sept. 19** — Adventist Health Tillamook will hold the second annual Tee It Up for Tillamook golf benefit at 1 p.m. at Salishan Spa and Golf Resort. Proceeds from the event will benefit ambulance services operated by Adventist Health throughout Tillamook County. For more information about the golf benefit and sponsorship opportunities, visit [AdventistHealthTillamook.org/golf](http://AdventistHealthTillamook.org/golf) or contact tournament director Sam Vigil Jr. at 503-956-4487 or [sam@brasstacks.net](mailto:sam@brasstacks.net).

### Natural Remedies Seminar

**Sept. 22** — Natural Remedies Seminar with Karen Hamilton as presenter. Hydrotherapy, charcoal, herbs and more. Learn about gentle yet powerful remedies. Lunch will be provided. Donations are appreciated. Held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Castle Rock Church Abundant Living Center, 7531 Old Pacific Hwy N., Castle Rock, Wash., I-5 Exit 49. Questions? Call Wanda at 360-967-2165.

### Jamie Jorge Concert

**Sept. 28** — You're invited to a free Jamie Jorge concert at the Hood View Church, 26775 SE Kelso Rd., Boring, Ore., at 6 p.m. Born in Cuba, Jorge began violin studies at age 5. While in medical school, he felt the Lord's call to a life of service dedicated to music ministry.

### 2019 Oregon Christian Women's Convention

**Oct. 4-5** — You're invited to the Oregon Christian Women's Convention at Holden Center, Gladstone, Ore., with keynote speaker Hyveth Williams. Theme: "Rise Up, Daughter of the King." Breakout session topics, special music and guest artists. Registration is open and space is limited. For more information and to register, go to [glnr.in/2019oregonwomensretreat](http://glnr.in/2019oregonwomensretreat) or email Terrie Griebel at [terrie.griebel@oc.npuc.org](mailto:terrie.griebel@oc.npuc.org).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Christ at the Center of Adventist Today**

**Oct. 4–6** — AT1 is a brand-new kind of gathering for the Adventist community organized by the *Adventist Today* publication. AT1 (pronounced “At One”) will take place in Portland, Ore. Our theme is “Christ Challenges Culture.” AT1 will encourage everyone to reimagine the Adventist narrative by fully embracing the reassuring, present truth of God’s love and grace. This fresh kind of fellowship seeks to refresh us with the knowledge there is reconciliation and unity in Jesus. For a complete speaker list, FAQs and registration, go to [atoday.org/at1](http://atoday.org/at1).

## **Seaside Church Grand Opening**

**Oct. 20** — The Seaside Church has a new sanctuary and totally renovated campus. The public and especially all those involved with this project are warmly invited to join us at a Grand Opening and Open House, Sunday at 2 p.m. A reception and concert will follow the service. For more information, contact William Smith at 503-409-6908.

## **Missing Members**

The Hockinson Heights Church in Brush Prairie, Wash., is trying to locate the following missing members: David Ailshie, Betty L. Anderson, Jill Bartel, Dean Cairns, Gail Couron, Randy Couron, Chandra Detmar, Shawn Gould, Shelyn Granger, Terry Hanafin, Kristine Hiller, Richard Jordan, Ronald Jordan, Phoebe Elaine Kinler, Chantha Kuch, Kelsey Lawson, Ryan Lehto, Earl Merz, Uriah Nougaisse, Brandon Picone, Larry Selivanow, Linda Selivanow, Trudy Singletary, Ian Tompkins and Tanya Whitted. If you have some way to contact these missing members, please contact Marty Jackson at [mc2b28@gmail.com](mailto:mc2b28@gmail.com) or 360-263-1844.

## **Missing Members**

The Ashland Church is looking for the following missing members: Ann Birch, Kathy Britt, Sandra Carman, Gerald Hartwick, Sharon James, Betty Morbeto, Athena Ridge, Tasha Stone and Renae Summers. If you have any information about these missing members, please email [kim.neufeld@gmail.com](mailto:kim.neufeld@gmail.com).

## **UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE**

### **Missing Members**

The Colville (Wash.) Church is looking for the following missing members: Eric Arnold, Melissa Walser, Jessica Zastera, Joshua Zastera and Jerry Zastera. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact the church clerk, JudyAnn Hoerler, at 509-684-8345 or [jjhoerler@usa.net](mailto:jjhoerler@usa.net).

### **Missing Members**

The Linwood Church is looking for the following missing members: Gail Meyers, Amanda Miller, Jolynn Morse, Steven Morse, Chris Nelson, Bernadine Oatney, Lorrie Olson, Dana Osburn, Stephen Osburn, Freida Owens, Aaron Patenaude, Michael Payton, Lisa Penick, William Penick, Lance Perkins, Baetty Peters, Joan Pflugrad, Kevin Pichette, Sandra Piper, Donald Poston, Peggy Priest, Don Priest, Connie Rathbun,

Donald Rathbun Jr., Mary Reinders, Sarah Rich, Andy Ripplinger, Marianne Rouse, Kathy Russell, Steven Sager, Debbie Shuman, Steve Shuman, Lynette Smilden, Nancy Sonduck, Candy Spitzer, Bernard Stacy, Polli Thoreson, Betty Tiffée, Betty Torkelson, Jeanne Via, T. Ward and Iona Winona. If you have any information about these missing members, contact the Linwood Church at 509-327-4400, email [atlinwoodsda.org](mailto:atlinwoodsda.org) or [linwoodsda.org](http://linwoodsda.org).

## **WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**

### **Male Singers Wanted**

**Oct. 12** — The Washington Adventist Singing Men (WASM) is desiring more men to sing with us at our annual Festival concert at 4 p.m. at Auburn Academy Church. WASM is an open group of 40–50 singers requiring no audition. This is our 11th year but just our second Festival. Rehearsals are held starting after Labor Day, but attendance is not mandatory. Learning the music is! Rehearsal recordings are provided to aid in this. Men from ages 12 to 92 may apply and need not be Adventists. We have singers from Vancouver, Walla Walla and elsewhere as well as locally. Please email [dougndonnawoods@gmail.com](mailto:dougndonnawoods@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Washington Adventist Singing Men Concert in Auburn**

**Oct. 12** — If you’re familiar with the annual Spring Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus Festival, this is the Washington Conference equivalent — only in the fall! The all-male chorus will perform a sacred concert at 4 p.m. at the Auburn Academy Church. The concert will feature brass, orchestra, guitar and piano accompaniment as well as a cappella pieces of various styles. All are invited. Admission is free. Good event to invite nonmember friends/family to. Email [dougndonnawoods@gmail.com](mailto:dougndonnawoods@gmail.com) for more information.

### **OAMC Concert in Chehalis**

**Oct. 26** — The Chehalis Church will host the internationally acclaimed Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus as part of the Concerts on the Hill series at 7 p.m. The chorus presents familiar hymns, classical choral music and American spirituals. Audiences in Portland, Seattle, Atlanta, Toronto, Bucharest, Kiev, Johannesburg, Cape Town and many other major cities around the world have been enriched by their music. The Chehalis Church is located at 120 Chilvers Road, Chehalis, Wash.

### **Mission to Peru**

**Feb. 3–21, 2020** — Build a Maranatha Church in Peru with SAGE (Seniors in Action for God with Excellence) seniors, plus see the sights! Travel to Peru and the Galapagos Islands for one fee or travel to Peru and Guayaquil, Ecuador, for a lower fee. Call 253-681-6052 for details and to make arrangements.

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



A hand holding a camera against a bright, sunlit background. The camera is a DSLR with a lens cap on. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with a bright light source, possibly the sun, creating a warm, golden glow.

# Images of Creation

## Photo Contest

The *Gleaner* needs your images of creation for the inside front cover of the magazine, as well as an online Photo of the Week at [GleanerNow.com](http://GleanerNow.com) and the *Gleaner's* social media.

The **2020 Images of Creation** nature photo contest updated and specific rules are online at [GleanerNow.com/photocontest](http://GleanerNow.com/photocontest).

- **Vertical** photos submitted (up to 15 digital entries) will be considered for the print edition of the *Gleaner* magazine. Winning entries will receive \$250 per photo.
- **Horizontal** photos submitted (up to 15 digital entries) will be considered for Photo of the Week on [GleanerNow.com](http://GleanerNow.com). Horizontal photos may also be included in a preliminary Web-based gallery to allow individuals to go online Nov. 20–Dec. 11, 2019, to vote for favorite images. Winning entries will receive \$25 per photo.
- Only images of nature taken within the state of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.
- Photo dimensions and file requirements available online.
- Final selection of both vertical and horizontal image winners will be at the discretion of the *Gleaner* staff.
- **BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR PHOTOS, BE SURE TO READ THE COMPLETE PHOTO CONTEST RULES AT [GLEANERNOW.COM/PHOTOCONTEST](http://GLEANERNOW.COM/PHOTOCONTEST).**

Submit your entries online at  
**[GleanerNow.com/photocontest](http://GleanerNow.com/photocontest)**

Deadline: Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019, by 5 p.m.

**Adult Care**

**NEWSTART ADULT FAMILY HOME** in Puyallup, Wash., is RN/LPN-operated 24/7. We cater to your physical, social, psychological, emotional and spiritual well-being. Contact Teresia at 253-314-3206 or trizkin@yahoo.com for more information.

**Classes**

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

**HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED** a career/ministry in Massage Therapy? Black Hills School of Massage offers a 600-hour scriptural and evidence-based program. Upon completion students are eligible to take the MBLEx examination to qualify for state licensure. Check us out on our Facebook page or at [bhhec.org](http://bhhec.org). Next program begins April 2020. Call 423-710-4873 today!

**Employment**

**ARE YOU A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL** desiring a career rich with mission and passion? Providing a unique opportunity in the breathtaking Palouse region of Washington state and Idaho, Total Health Physician Group is seeking a progressive, conscientious, and lifestyle-focused physician, physician's

assistant or nurse practitioner. Prioritizing the optimal health of our patients and providers, Total Health Physician Group is innovatively developing a digital health platform and insurance system to focus on value-based outcomes. To learn more about this exciting mission and opportunity, go to [totalhealthphysicians.com/jobs](http://totalhealthphysicians.com/jobs) or email Jayne Peterson at [jayne@healthmotivate.org](mailto:jayne@healthmotivate.org).

**STALLANT HEALTH RURAL HEALTH CLINIC** in Weimar, Calif., is accepting applications for a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant, as well as a licensed clinical social worker. Please contact Marva at [marva@stallanthealth.com](mailto:marva@stallanthealth.com) for further information.

**WANTED: Experienced, adventurous radio broadcaster!** This mission field is not overseas. Details at [radioofhope.org/production](http://radioofhope.org/production).

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks clinical director for master's in physician assistant studies program. Responsibilities include organizing, monitoring and evaluating clinical experiences plus limited classroom teaching. Master's, NCCPA certification, and 3 years clinical practice required; teaching experience desirable. Contact Megan Heidtbrink [megan.heidtbrink@ucollege.edu](mailto:megan.heidtbrink@ucollege.edu).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** is seeking a candidate for certification officer and teaching materials center director. For a complete job description and list of



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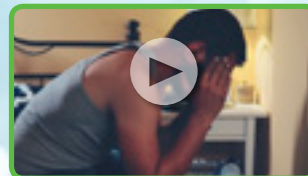
**Trading Guns for God**

[awr.org/rebels](http://awr.org/rebels)  
Why have rebels in the Philippines been laying down their machine guns and picking up Bibles? Watch to find out!



**Taking a Bold Stand**

[awr.org/wisam](http://awr.org/wisam)  
Wisam's own family tried to stone him for his belief in God, but today he is an Adventist pastor in the Middle East.



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required qualifications, visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

**PACIFIC PRESS SEEKS PRESS CREW MEMBER:** Pacific Press is accepting applications for press crew member. Must have a mechanical aptitude, and good color vision/perception as well as the ability to get along with other employees. Be able to work in a standing position for up to 12 hours daily and lift up to 50 pounds. This is a full-time (38 hour/week) position. If you are interested in applying, please contact Michelle Sinigaglio, director of human resources, at [michelle.sinigaglio@pacificpress.com](mailto:michelle.sinigaglio@pacificpress.com) or 208-465-2568.

**PACIFIC PRESS SEEKS MAINTENANCE WORKER:** Pacific Press is accepting applications

for maintenance employee with at least two years maintenance experience. Must have a mechanical aptitude and good hearing as well as the ability to get along with other employees. Be able to work in a standing position for up to 12 hours daily and lift up to 100 pounds as well as the ability to climb and work on ladders or elevated platforms. This is a full-time (38 hour/week) position. If you are interested in applying, please contact Michelle Sinigaglio, director of human resources, at [michelle.sinigaglio@pacificpress.com](mailto:michelle.sinigaglio@pacificpress.com) or 208-465-2568.

**CHILD IMPACT INTERNATIONAL IS SEEKING** a general manager. Applicants must have management skills including experience in marketing, fundraising, planning, effective

communication and church events; a passion for education and orphans/underprivileged children; the ability to lead a small but growing ministry based in Collegedale, Tenn. Applicant works closely with CEO in strategic planning and operations. Domestic and international travel required. Application deadline is Jan. 31, 2020. For more details, email [support@childimpact.org](mailto:support@childimpact.org).

**ELMSHAVEN** Part-time live-in docent/caretaker team: give guided tours and lightly maintain and care for the former home of Ellen G. White in St. Helena, Calif. Requires strong knowledge and understanding of the life and writings of Mrs. White and the history of the SDA church; excellent communication and interpersonal skills; teamwork, detail oriented, physically active. On-site housing and utilities provided. Contact Stephen Mayer at [stephen.mayer@adventistfaith.com](mailto:stephen.mayer@adventistfaith.com) or 805-413-7218.

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to [jobs.wallawalla.edu](http://jobs.wallawalla.edu).

**Events**

**CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF MISSIONS** with Maranatha Volunteers International, Sept. 20-21 in Sacramento, Calif. Hear inspiring stories of Maranatha's work since 1969. Free admission. Register at [maranatha.org/missionmaranatha](http://maranatha.org/missionmaranatha).

**FARMERS AND GARDENERS** (AdAgrA's) sixth annual Adventist Agriculture Association conference, Jan. 14-18, 2020, High Springs, Fla. Since 2013 AdAgrA encourages, supports and mentors those who wish to follow

**2019 Oregon Christian Women's Convention**

Holden Center  
Gladstone, Oregon  
October 4-5, 2019



For cost, information and to register, [glnr.in/2019oregonwomensretreat](http://glnr.in/2019oregonwomensretreat) or email Terrie Griebel at [terrie.griebel@oc.npcuc.org](mailto:terrie.griebel@oc.npcuc.org)

*Keynote speaker*

**Dr. Hyveth Williams**

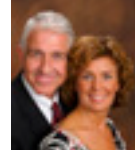


*Breakout speakers*

**Carrie White**  
"A Closer Look"  
teenage suicide



**Gary & Shelly Parks**  
"Connecting In Relationships"  
meaningful relationships



**Pam Strachan-Proudfit**  
"Facing The Giant"  
domestic violence



**Rachel Griebel**  
"Mothering Wholeheartedly"  
emotionally available parent



and  
**PAA Gospel Choir**



God's agriculture plan. Great information and inspiration for how and why Adventists need to be in the garden. Registration and information at [adventistag.org](http://adventistag.org).

**JOIN TIMOTHY R. JENNINGS** M.D., Jan. 17–19, 2020, in Texas for the life-changing Power of Love seminar. Revitalize your heart, faith and witness for these last days! Learn more and secure your spot now at [events.comeandreason.com](http://events.comeandreason.com).

**For Sale**

**WORTHINGTON, LOMA LINDA, CEDAR LAKE, AZURE PRODUCT, ETC.** Low prices. Auburn Enterprises, Bill and Judy Hoard, 4192 Auburn Rd NE; PO Box 13757, Salem, OR 97309-1757; 503-585-9311; fax 503-585-1805; [auburnent@hotmail.com](mailto:auburnent@hotmail.com).

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long term. The park brought in \$210,000 in 2018. Asking price \$1.6 million. Call 208-455-1545 or 208-989-5200 or 208-250-4484.


**Miscellaneous**

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- What is financial aid and who gets it?
- How do I apply for financial aid?

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

President . . . . . John Freedman	Information Technology . . . . . Loren Bordeaux
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Elementary . . . . . Becky Meharry	Regional, Multicultural and Outreach Ministries . . . . . Byron Dulan
Secondary . . . . . Keith Waters	Trust (WAF) . . . . . James Brown
Certification Registrar . . . . . Deborah Hendrickson	Women's Ministries . . . . . Sue Patzer
Early Childhood Coordinator . . . . . Golda Pflugrad	Youth and Young Adult . . . . . Rob Lang
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**Local Conference Directory**

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 Anchorage, AK 99507-7200  
 907-346-1004 • alaskaconference.org  
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**IDAHO CONFERENCE**

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 Boise, ID 83704-8418  
 208-375-7524 • idahoadventist.org  
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175 Canyon View Rd.  
 Bozeman, MT 59715  
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**OREGON CONFERENCE**

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 Gladstone, OR 97027-2546  
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 Federal Way, WA 98001  
 253-681-6008 • washingtonconference.org  
 Doug Bing, president; Craig Carr, v.p. administration; Jerry S. Russell, v.p. finance

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY**

204 S. College Ave.  
 College Place, WA 99324-1198  
 509-527-2656 • wallawalla.edu  
 John McVay, president; Volker R. Henning, v.p. for academic administration; Steven G. Rose, v.p. for financial administration; Doug Tilstra, v.p. for student life; Jodeene Wagner, v.p. for university relations and advancement

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 503-850-3300  
 M–Th . . . . . 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
 F . . . . . 10 a.m.–2 p.m.  
 Sun . . . . . 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

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 509-838-3168  
 M–Th . . . . . 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
 Sun . . . . . 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

**COLLEGE PLACE ABC**

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

**AUBURN ABC**

5100 32nd St., Auburn, WA 98092-7024  
 253-833-6707  
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CSSN, Windermere Real Estate: 360-202-4735; [KathyWest@Windermere.com](mailto:KathyWest@Windermere.com); [KathyWest.withWRE.com](http://KathyWest.withWRE.com).

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## Sunset Schedule // 2019

DST	SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER			
	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25
<b>ALASKA CONFERENCE</b>								
Anchorage	8:54	8:32	8:10	7:47	7:25	7:03	6:42	6:21
Fairbanks	8:55	8:29	8:03	7:38	7:12	6:47	6:22	5:57
Juneau	7:46	7:26	7:06	6:46	6:26	6:06	5:47	5:29
Ketchikan	7:30	7:12	6:54	6:35	6:17	6:00	5:42	5:26
<b>IDAHO CONFERENCE</b>								
Boise	8:14	8:01	7:48	7:35	7:23	7:10	6:59	6:47
La Grande	7:23	7:09	6:56	6:43	6:29	6:16	6:04	5:52
Pocatello	7:58	7:45	7:33	7:20	7:08	6:56	6:44	6:34
<b>MONTANA CONFERENCE</b>								
Billings	7:45	7:32	7:18	7:04	6:51	6:38	6:25	6:13
Havre	7:53	7:38	7:23	7:08	6:54	6:40	6:26	6:13
Helena	8:00	7:46	7:32	7:18	7:04	6:51	6:38	6:26
Miles City	7:35	7:21	7:07	6:53	6:40	6:26	6:13	6:01
Missoula	8:08	7:54	7:40	7:26	7:12	6:59	6:45	6:33
<b>OREGON CONFERENCE</b>								
Coos Bay	7:45	7:33	7:20	7:07	6:55	6:43	6:31	6:20
Medford	7:39	7:27	7:14	7:02	6:50	6:38	6:27	6:16
Portland	7:41	7:28	7:14	7:01	6:47	6:34	6:22	6:10
<b>UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE</b>								
Pendleton	7:26	7:13	6:59	6:45	6:32	6:19	6:06	5:54
Spokane	7:23	7:08	6:54	6:40	6:25	6:11	5:58	5:45
Walla Walla	7:25	7:11	6:57	6:43	6:30	6:17	6:04	5:52
Wenatchee	7:34	7:20	7:06	6:51	6:37	6:23	6:10	5:57
Yakima	7:34	7:20	7:06	6:52	6:38	6:25	6:12	6:00
<b>WASHINGTON CONFERENCE</b>								
Bellingham	7:44	7:29	7:14	7:00	6:45	6:31	6:17	6:04
Seattle	7:42	7:28	7:14	6:59	6:45	6:31	6:18	6:05

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# SPEAKING TRUTH IN LOVE

T

he art of thoughtful dialogue is fast becoming a lost commodity among us. Considering opposing viewpoints is increasingly distasteful to many.

In an effort to silence other people who disagree with us, or who point out realities that unsettle us, we sometimes accuse them of getting “too political.” Christians do this to each other in church, especially to those who have speaking roles, like pastors. I have been questioned sometimes as to why I shared a certain story or a certain reflection, which is then followed up by a suggestion I should focus on the gospel and avoid politics.

What’s ironic about many in the “don’t be political” camp is they are apparently unaware of the political logs in their own eyes. This salient fact leads me to believe that their issue isn’t with politics, but with those who have the audacity to disturb their political presuppositions. It’s a problem common to the human race. We all tend to seek affirmation for our beliefs and action and to avoid anything that creates cognitive dissonance with status quo. “Don’t be political” becomes the code phrase for “don’t speak.”

In doing so, we become that crowd around the apostle Stephen following his impassioned speech. Acts 7:57–58 records that they “cried out with a loud voice,

stopped their ears and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him.”

To be fair, some of us use “politics” to mean anything “unnecessarily divisive,” and we should avoid that which simply foments turmoil. However, when it becomes a catchall phrase to sidestep real issues, we are failing our mission. In backing away from discussions on sexuality, racism, abuse, power and money, the church begins to resemble the meme of a smiling cartoon dog saying, “Everything is fine,” while the office around him is on fire.

In Psalm 137, we find the Israelites brought in captivity to Babylon. Some of the Babylonian leaders say, “Hey, I know, why don’t you all sing us a song, something from your homeland we just destroyed?” What comes forth is not what the captors wanted to hear.

Sense what’s being shared in the Israelites’ song: “By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our lyres. For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, ‘Sing us one of the songs of Zion!’ How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?” These cheery lyrics are followed by the happy chorus, “O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed, blessed shall he be who repays you with what you



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce





## We are failing our mission in backing away from discussions on sexuality, racism, abuse, power and money.

have done to us!” The message between captives and their captors is clear. The captors were hoping for something like “Shall We Go for a Walk Today” not “God’s Gonna Pay You Back Someday.”

God’s people could have sung a song full of promises and politically correct platitudes. Or, they could have remained silent, which in itself would have made a statement. Instead they wrote an “imprecatory” Psalm, a cursing Psalm, directed at a political

power seeking to strip their spiritual identity. This type of Psalm reminds us that worship is always political in that it defines the nature and values of God’s kingdom.

Political themes appear in places like Rev. 2:18–21, where the image of Jezebel, an ancient queen known for hunting down God’s prophets, is used to describe what Thyatira tolerated. In order to do business in the Roman Empire you had to belong to a trade guild. Part of being in a guild

was attending guild festivals that included immoral temple rituals as part of state worship. Refusing to party meant expulsion from the guilds as well as economic sanctions. Jesus chastises this church because it tolerated these things.

When Moses is directed to approach Pharaoh on God’s behalf and ask him to release the Israelite slaves building the Egyptian empire, is it spiritual or political? When Queen Esther is asked to approach the king to speak on behalf of her people about a genocidal maniac named Haman, is it spiritual or political? What about the three men in the fiery furnace? What about all the instruction to speak up on behalf of the poor and needy (see Prov. 31:8–9).

Sometimes it feels like we have confused separation of church and state with separation of our voice from the public space. We have separated faith and works by allowing theological fear mongers to demonize the concept of “social justice,” as though it were only a government concern.

We have abdicated our voice to politicians and sold our will to act to government agencies. What we are left with is a group of people who possess a form of godliness but no power to say or do anything. Jesus tells us we will be judged by our words (Matt. 12:37). I believe that includes the words of truth and justice we don’t speak because we are too afraid of what someone might think.

Saul, one who had been in that crowd around Stephen, was confronted with the truth about God on the road to Damascus. Much later, as Apostle Paul, he wrote to the Ephesians, exhorting “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ” (Eph. 4:14,15 NKJV).

*Seth Pierce, associate professor of communication at Union College in Lincoln, Neb.*



# SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY, PART 2



AUTHOR

Martin Weber

**T**he world doesn't need the Bible Answerman as much as it needs the good Samaritan.

Yes, people have questions they want answered, usually along the lines of "where are some real live Christians around here?" — even more than they want to be taught about the "state of the dead." They crave a living touch from God and wonder why churches seem more fascinated with their own petty rules than Christ's golden rule.

Once in my law enforcement chaplaincy, I saw the body of Christ come alive in the hour of death through a church of good Samaritans. Dispatch paged me to a house where a man unexpectedly died. Welcomed into the living room, I glanced about to see if this was a religious household. (We were trained to do this so as never

to impose the mention of God upon an irreligious family.) I saw several Bibles around, so they weren't atheists. A church bulletin told me they were active Christians.

Such was the testimony of the written word. Then came the living word.

The doorbell chimed as I was praying with the widow. People flocked inside, members of her church. They knew where

to hang their coats, having been there many times for Bible study and fellowship. Soon the place was swarming with brothers and sisters in Christ, hugging the widow and weeping with her.

For once, in the hour of death I found myself with nothing to do. Their pastor arrived, and he didn't have anything to do either. So we sat together on the coach and witnessed a living love letter. Something the apostle Paul said came to mind: "You show that you are a letter from Christ" (2 Cor. 3:3). Organized religion at its best — organized for ministry.

## A CHURCH FULL OF PRIESTS

When those church members showed up to minister, they served under the "captain of their salvation" (Heb. 2:10), our high priest in heaven's sanctuary. Just before leaving this world, Jesus prayed to His Father, "As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world" (John 17:18). This word "sent" is the same from which we get "apostle." The church community is the apostle of Jesus, dispatched into the world to represent Him — in the same way He had come to show us His Father.

Jesus is our high priest, a term that implies lesser priests here on Earth. Protestants have known this







## The heavenly sanctuary is our celestial human resource center and Christ's great employment agency for His people.

They *do* something. Priesthood involves Christ's living, loving body — all of us together.

Millions of Christians suffer their own misunderstanding of this core doctrine. They pray to see the old Jewish temple rebuilt in Jerusalem, complete with a restored priesthood. God's vision for final events is different. His priesthood is not headquartered in old Jerusalem's temple but in New Jerusalem's celestial sanctuary, with representatives serving as a living temple all over this planet: "You are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God" (1 Peter 2:5, NLT).

So the heavenly sanctuary is our celestial human resource center and Christ's great employment agency for His people — all of us. Our vacation from damnation and death is a vocation of vivified ministry.

### WE ARE FOREIGN AMBASSADORS

To summarize: Priests are not just passive Protestants. We are ambassadors for God, embodying His grace-based truth in a world lost in lies about Him. Priests are connectors. Just as Jesus connected us with the Father, so we now connect people to Him.

Here is the long-awaited answer to the question of Earth's first murderer: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen. 4:9). This does not make us his mini-messiah. We can't take responsibility for what other people do to hurt him or what he does to hurt himself. But we can help hurting souls experience the healing love of God, through the body of Christ, as end-time servants of His sanctuary.

*Martin Weber, retired from denominational service, is a hospice chaplain.*

as theological theory for 500 years. Martin Luther discovered you don't have to kneel in the Catholic confessional to get your sins forgiven through a human priest. The whole church is Christ's priesthood, Luther thundered in sound waves that rocked Rome.

But somehow the church, then and since, has been silent on the full meaning of this truth. Sure, we've talked about

being a priesthood, but only halfway. We've mostly seen it as a defensive, passive doctrine — basically a way to escape the blasphemy of kneeling before a fellow sinner to get God's free gift in Christ.

But there's another blasphemy committed when we make the priesthood an unemployed noun. It's more like an active verb. Priests don't just sit in Sabbatarian pews.



# JUST LIKE JESUS

## THE EGYPTIAN PLATE

**M**

y father, Victor Duerksen, turns 101 years old this September. Overall, he's in good health and has a positive outlook. He lives in his own place, and the home-care worker who comes in several hours a day has become a good friend. Yet, when I was visiting with him recently, he was wondering why God continues to wake him up each morning.

"The ceramic Nativity set Mom painted, that's the only thing in the house that has any real meaning for me anymore. Whenever I look at it, I feel her warmth. But, that's about the only thing that has any 'family' connected with it," he said.

"Take anything you like when you go home today," Dad told me. "There's nothing here I want anymore."

I pointed to an old copper-looking plate hanging above a bookcase. "I'll bet you bought this when you were on the Army base in Egypt during World War II."

I handed him the plate and then listened to this story.

"One of the Army guards came back to the base one day and told me he had found the

Seventh-day Adventist church in

Cairo and offered to take me there on Sabbath," Dad related. "He had also found the address of the church pastor and was willing to take me there the next day. I agreed immediately."

I had never heard this story. Dad described going downtown, locating the correct apartment building, climbing the stairs and knocking on the door. No one answered, but Dad kept knocking.

"Finally, the door flew open, and an American woman grabbed me and the guard and pulled us inside. She was so surprised and happy to see Americans!"

The pastor and his wife took Dad under their wings while he was in Egypt. Since Dad was responsible for the sanitation services in the base cafeterias, he was sometimes able to provide the pastor with genuine American food that was not available elsewhere in Cairo.

"We had a big pingpong tournament on the base, and I invited the pastor to come play. He came and played well. While he was playing, I asked the cooks to fill the back seat of the pastor's car with American food. They loaded it with ketchup, corn, cheese, spaghetti and anything else American they could find. On top of the pile they nestled a whole pig. Then, the cooks and about 50 of the pingpong players lined up at the cafeteria windows to see what the vegetarian Seventh-day Adventist pastor would do with the pig."

The pastor came out to the car, thanked Dad and the guard for the food, and then picked

up the pig and handed him to the guard.

"I believe," the pastor said, "that this pig will be much happier with you than with us!"

The watchers applauded, laughed heartily and went back to work.

Before he left Egypt, the pastor and his wife gave Dad the small Egyptian plate as a way to remember their friendship. Now, in Dad's hand, the plate was one more item in his house that made him feel warm, valuable, glad to be alive.

And by the way, that pastoral couple were Neal and Elinor Wilson in their first year of mission service. Neal later served as General Conference president from 1979 until 1990.

*Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference storycatcher and storyteller*



AUTHOR

Dick Duerksen

Seventh-day Adventist church in



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PERIODICALS

# Images of Creation

## Photo Contest



Top, from left: Mary Jane Anderson, Dennis G. Wahlman  
Bottom: Kathleen Martin

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