

EDITORIAL
THE HARDEST CLIMB

FEATURE
7 INGREDIENTS FOR CHANGE

PERSPECTIVE
FROM WHERE I STAND

glacier

ARTISTS IN ACTION

Not too long ago and not too far away, a 20-something man walked hesitantly into a small Adventist church. His ripped jeans and T-shirt stood out in stark contrast with the typical Sabbath attire. The tattoos and piercings on his body also set him apart...

LOVING *like* JESUS

CONTINUED ON PAGE

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SEPT/OCT
2020
VOL. 115, N° 5



The Lord watches over you — the Lord
is your shade at your right hand;
Psalm 121:5

Beautiful Red Fox Posing on a Fallen Tree



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JOHN FREEDMAN

gleaner

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“Beautiful Red Fox Posing on a Fallen Tree,”
 in Anchorage, Alaska,
 by Gary Lee Lackie,
 of Anchorage, Alaska.

The Hardest Climb

WHAT IS THE MOST difficult mountain to climb — Everest or Calvary? For me, I'd have to say Mount Calvary stands out as the most difficult mountain to climb, not just in the world but in the universe. Only one person ever conquered that mountain: Jesus Christ.

Like many of you, my personal world has been very challenging this year. COVID-19 has affected our family, causing intense emotional pain. The pain has driven me to my knees. The pandemic and the shift away from face-to-face

ministry have given me pause to consider the ways I love and relate to other people. I've realized that, when it comes to reaching others, I have so much to learn. God's

love for humans is so much greater than my own. This painful truth has driven me to Calvary, to reflect again on the victory of Jesus over death, pain, sickness, suffering and heartache.

Jesus' path to Calvary required Him to humble Himself. The Son of God became a lowly human in order to help you and me begin to understand God's true character. The pure Lamb of God, the One who never sinned, became sin for us. It cost Him His life. The

selfless love, determination, commitment, humility, strength and courage needed to climb Calvary's mountain was so great, we will be talking about it for all eternity.

What was it about God's character that Jesus came to reveal? There's a



AUTHOR

John Freedman





story in the Old Testament that illuminates the answer. Moses asks God, “Show me your glory.” God then reveals His character, saying, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin . . .” (Ex. 34:6,7).

As I think about this in the light of our Great Commission, Jesus gives us a road map for effective evangelism during the pandemic. He was selfless,

compassionate, kind, loving, truthful and always seeking to glorify His Father.

This small reflection on Jesus always blesses my soul. It shows the attitude I am called to have toward God’s children, regardless of whether someone is a fellow member or not. In this issue, we’re looking at ways we can more effectively foster a culture of sharing God’s love.

As a church we’re facing challenging times in light of COVID-19. Many churches across the Northwest are closed today, and members are asking, “How do we find the way forward?”

When asked, “How can we know the way?” Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6).

The way forward is to follow Jesus. Love like He loves. Serve as He serves.

Reflect on His life. Talk about His accomplishments and what He has done for us. Ask for the Holy Spirit, who guides us to the truth about Jesus. Read the living Word of God and gaze on the One who is full of grace and truth. Make Jesus the focus of life.

During the Last Supper, Jesus said, “Love another as I have loved you . . . love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34–35). A life worth living is one where we love Him who first loved us and have love for one another. The only life worth living is a life centered in and surrendered to Jesus.

Ironically, the climb up Calvary begins with us falling down. When we fall on our knees as beggars, confessing our sin and great need of a Savior, God will go

to work. We can confidently hold tightly to the only One who can save us: Jesus. His victory becomes our victory. When our heart is emptied of self-reliance, the Holy Spirit fills the void with Christ’s divinity. The Holy Spirit imparts the life of Christ in us, empowering us to love with a God-sized love. When the world sees that, they will know we are His followers by our love.

John Freedman
NORTH PACIFIC UNION
CONFERENCE PRESIDENT





... For several minutes
in the corner of the l
A few people nodded
approached. Finally, a
approached with pur

LOVING *like* JESUS

CREATING A CULTURE OF EVANGELISM

s, he stood awkwardly
obby looking nervous.
d to him, but no one
a gray-haired saint
rpose.

by S. JOSEPH KIDDER

“Young man,” she said. “We don’t come to God’s house looking like that. You should show some respect and rethink how you look.”

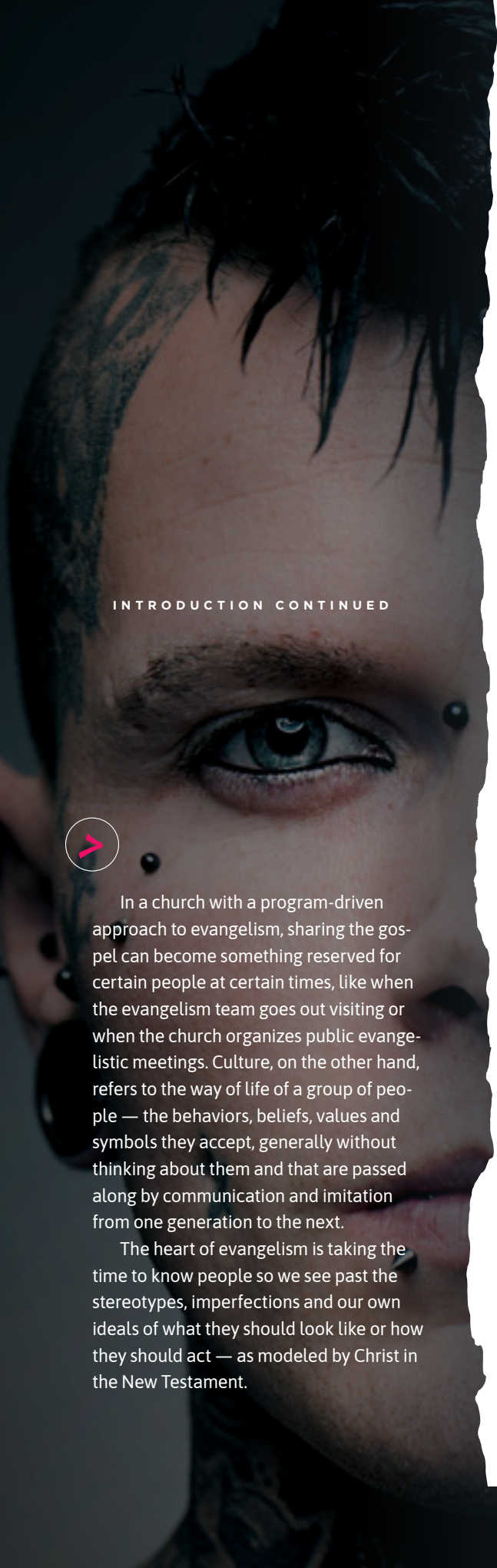
Wordlessly, the boy spun on his heels and walked out the front door. He hasn’t been back.

This tragic true story forces us to ask some critical questions. What is the culture of our church? Are we a “come and get clean” kind of church or a place only for the “already clean”? Does the culture of our weekly worship services and small groups invite people to “come as they are” and seek love, help and healing? Do we know how to receive broken sinners in the midst of their pain, or does the culture of our church work against people admitting their hurts and faults until they are all better?

Leaders often ask me what programs can churches use to produce fully devoted disciples who are engaged in evangelism, ministry, worship and hospitality. Specifically, they want to know how a church can have a successful evangelism program.

My answer surprises some. I’m convinced it’s better for our church to have an evangelistic culture than just a series of evangelistic programs. While there are many great programs that do reach some people, there is a sense of dissatisfaction among church members, pastors and the community regarding evangelistic programming and the fact they often have very little effect on increasing local church membership.¹





INTRODUCTION CONTINUED



In a church with a program-driven approach to evangelism, sharing the gospel can become something reserved for certain people at certain times, like when the evangelism team goes out visiting or when the church organizes public evangelistic meetings. Culture, on the other hand, refers to the way of life of a group of people — the behaviors, beliefs, values and symbols they accept, generally without thinking about them and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next.

The heart of evangelism is taking the time to know people so we see past the stereotypes, imperfections and our own ideals of what they should look like or how they should act — as modeled by Christ in the New Testament.

7

INGREDIENTS *for* CHANGE

HERE ARE SEVEN SPECIFIC THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP CREATE AN EVANGELISTIC CULTURE IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH.

1

The Gospel: The Fuel for an Evangelistic Culture

WE GET EXCITED ABOUT SPORTS, food and politics. In the same way, if we want to create a culture in our churches where it's natural for members to talk about the gospel message with non-Christians, then we need to help our members fall deeply in love with Christ. The gospel message is the fuel that feeds an evangelistic culture.

It is imperative that we understand and display the beauty of the gospel message. When we truly grasp the depth of our sin, the wonderful holiness of God, the perfection of Christ and the depth of His suffering for us, the power of His resurrection, and the gift of eternal life for all who repent and believe, our affections, love and commitment for Christ will grow (Col.3:1-17).

The gospel says that we don't have to evangelize in order to earn God's love. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to convict and save. Remember that when someone rejects the gospel they are rejecting God, not you — His messenger.

2

Love and Acceptance: The Atmosphere of an Evangelistic Culture

A FEW YEARS AGO, I was in the middle of a sermon. I was pressing the point that God, in Jesus, was inviting us home. I was talking about how it felt to be far away from home and desperate to get back. Suddenly, in the middle of my sermon, a woman stood straight up and said loudly, "I want to come home!"

She was weeping. I stopped preaching, walked over to where she was and put my arm around her. Right then and there, I asked everyone to join us in prayer as she spoke directly to God about where she was in life and what she needed from Him.

The following week, a longtime church member brought up the incident from the previous weekend. "Things like that have no place in church," she said. "That was awkward and embarrassing and out of order for church worship service. Besides, I have more religion in my little finger than what she has in her whole body."

I was shocked and didn't know how to respond. But I was impressed to share with her how Jesus longs to embrace us rather than condemn us (John 8:1-11) as we anoint Him with overflowing worship and bathe His loving presence with our tears of repentance (John 12:1-3).

Many will leave a church that is judgmental and unloving, but few will leave a church home in which they feel accepted. Acceptance of the gospel will lead us to love and accept others regardless of who they are.

3

Prayer: The Power of an Evangelistic Culture

EVANGELISM SEEMS a hopeless task. How are we going to equip and encourage people to call spiritually dead people to embrace life? A church sharing the gospel must be committed to prayer.

"The Saviour knew that no argument, however logical, would melt hard hearts or break through the crust of worldliness and selfishness. He knew that His disciples must receive the heavenly endowment (the Holy Spirit); that the gospel would be effective only as it was proclaimed by hearts made warm and lips made eloquent by a living knowledge of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. The work committed to the disciples would require great efficiency; for the tide of evil ran deep and strong against them. A vigilant, determined leader was in command of the forces of darkness, and the followers of Christ could battle for the right only through the help that God, by His Spirit, would give them."²

In prayer, we go to the Lord with a confession of our insufficiency for evangelism and His sufficient strength. God alone can make the seeds we sow spring up to eternal life in their hearts.

Prayer for each other and our loved ones should happen every day of the week, not only on Sabbath. When we do gather as a congregation to pray, *make certain corporate prayers include praying for the lost*. Be sure these prayers are done with an attitude of concern and not condescension. The culture of the church becomes decidedly more evangelistic as the prayers are infused with a burden for those who are not followers of Jesus Christ.

One gentleman who tried for years to reach his daughter for Christ through reason and arguments was convicted of his need to pray instead. Through prayer and opening his heart to the internal workings of God, his daughter noticed changes in him. This led her to want to know more about the God who could transform her father and brought her back into relationship with them both.

4

Training: The Blueprint for an Evangelistic Culture

A FOURTH INGREDIENT is training, the blueprint for an evangelistic culture. We want our churches to have an evangelistic culture rather than merely evangelistic programs. That doesn't mean there is no place for church leaders to organize and equip people to share the gospel. In fact, a love for the gospel and prayer will motivate Christians to want to be trained in ways of witnessing and for a lifestyle of evangelism.

While evangelism will come naturally to some people in your congregation, there will be many people who love the gospel and pray faithfully but still need to be equipped to share the gospel.

Paul gave us a formula that has endured the test of time: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Tim. 2:2). Paul is training Timothy, Timothy is training his leaders, and those leaders are training the next generation.

Devote time and resources to help your members find their own evangelistic voices. Once the process and principles are clear, people can use the context and circumstances to best witness to each individual.

5

Lifestyle: The Heart of an Evangelistic Culture

PAUL REMINDS US to live a lifestyle conducive to evangelism: "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:1-3).

So how do Christ-centered churches develop a culture of discipleship, evangelism and mutual care? Paul admonishes that we are to "share with God's people who are in need. Practice love and hospitality." These are what Christians do by virtue of being citizens of Christ's kingdom. We "live as citizens worthy of the gospel," which means "striving side by side for the faith of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27, my translation; cf. 3:20).

Lifestyle is not programs; it is building uplifting and supportive relationships on the basis of love and hospitality. Canceling some programs and encouraging members to take the time to prioritize their schedules based on what it would look like if Jesus was in charge of their time might give the members more opportunity for discipling and evangelism. Challenge members to devote three to four hours every week in community ministry. Additionally, make sure there are social activities on the calendar that are welcoming to the unchurched.

6

Friendship: The Glue of an Evangelistic Culture

FRIENDSHIP IS FORMING relationships that lead to a better understanding of each other. Friendship is breaking bread together, being a shoulder to cry on, a listening ear and a cheerleader. It is about rejoicing in personal victories and holding each other up when things fall apart. It is bringing cookies and casseroles to your neighbors. It's building awareness of other people and seeing them with the love of God's eyes.

Learn how to pursue and share the gospel with friends, family, co-workers, classmates, roommates, etc. Christians are usually less fearful of sharing the gospel with people they know than with people they don't. Seventy-five percent of those who come to the Lord and the church come as a result of friendship evangelism.³

Commit to the people you are ministering to. It can take up to three years after the first contact with someone before they are ready to commit to Christ.⁴

Because unbelievers are exposed to the gospel through the everyday relationships and interactions they have with Christians, we are instructed to make the best use of our time around seekers, acting wisely, speaking graciously and giving informed answers about the gospel (Col. 4:5-6; see also 1 Peter 3:15-16).

"The example of Christ in linking Himself with the interests of humanity should be followed by all who preach His Word and by all who have received the gospel of His grace. We are not to renounce social communion. We should not seclude ourselves from others. In order to reach all classes, we must meet them where they are. They will seldom seek us of their own accord. Not alone from the pulpit are the hearts of men touched by divine truth. There is another field of labor, humbler, it may be, but fully as promising. It is found in the home of the lowly, and in the mansion of the great; at the hospitable board, and in gatherings for innocent social enjoyment."⁵

Do not be satisfied with confining the gospel proclamation to the church building, which places the burden upon the seeker to come to us for the gospel message. Rather we are to go to them.

Testimonies: The Model and Inspiration of an Evangelistic Culture

CREATE A CULTURE RIPE for evangelism through the regular use of testimonies. Even in a church with a regular attendance of 25 adult worshippers, there are enough stories to fill every Sabbath service for an entire year! Start listening for stories you know would be appropriate to share and would increase the culture of evangelism. Every one of us has a story of redemption and God's work in our lives.

Testimonies don't have to be reserved for church services to inspire others to live out an evangelistic culture.

Tim was married to a Christian woman but not interested in Christianity for himself. His wife, Michelle, spent much time throughout their marriage praying for his heart to be softened and sharing new understandings about Jesus. One Sabbath, after several years of trying to influence her husband for God, Michelle was shocked to see Tim standing in the baptismal tank ready to make a commitment for Jesus.

A church member who had befriended Tim years before had recently been studying with him because Tim wanted to know more about the Jesus his wife was talking about. Tim is one of many for whom conversion has been more of a slow process than a quick 180-degree turn.

We are often the most passionate about things at the point of discovery, so people just coming to faith are often in the best position to speak. They still have a wide circle of un-churched and de-churched friends and are filled with the awe and excitement that comes from newly meeting Jesus. Their passion and witness could lead to revival!

CONCLUSION

A **CULTURE OF EVANGELISM** involves both spiritual renewal and intentionality in all areas of life. There is no program that creates an evangelistic culture. Instead, it requires teaching, modeling and praying until we realize that sharing the gospel is our privilege and responsibility.

A church with such a culture will be far more fruitful than a church with even the most effective programs and strategies. We want evangelism to become the normative experience of every believer in our churches and for them to share the gospel in the context of their everyday relationships.

**The next time a weary soul walks
across your path or into your
church lobby, even if they don't look
like you, I pray they will find the
heart of Jesus. I pray they will find
welcoming balm for their aching
heart. I pray they will find a home.**

by S. Joseph Kidder



1. Even with a renewed focus and push for evangelistic programs over the past few years, the Adventist Church only had membership growth of 1.5% in the North American Division from 2012 to 2013 per the *2014 Annual Statistical Report* as found at <http://www.adventiststatistics.org/> (accessed Aug 21, 2014).
2. Ellen G. White, *Acts of the Apostles*, (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1911), p. 31.
3. S. Joseph Kidder, *The Big Four: Secrets to a Thriving Church Family*, (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2011), p. 116.
4. Jesus' Methods: Befriending and Relationships, retrieved on 05/6/2014 from <http://www.internetevangelismday.com/relationships.php>.
5. Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1898), p. 152.

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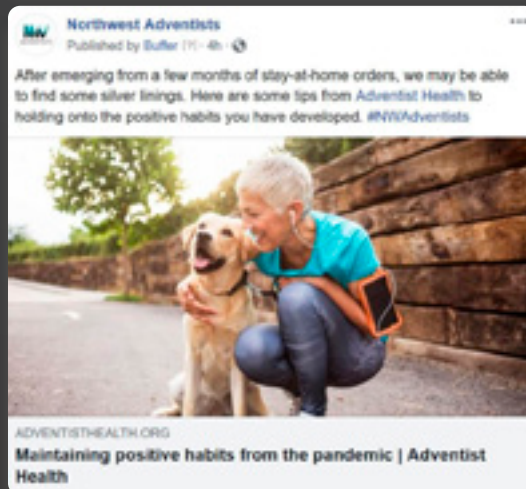
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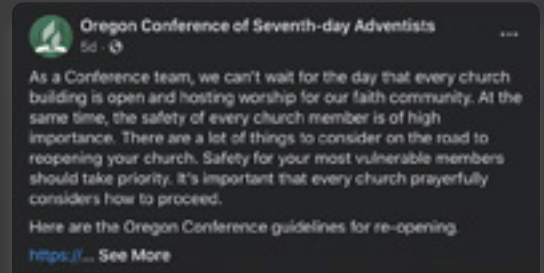
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4 Spiritual practices for the journey towards anti-racism
Wherever we are in the journey, it's important that we center our...



Boise Valley Adventist School
July 30 at 10:00 AM
BVAS was happy to recently sponsor Idaho State Police training. They were thankful to use an actual school for their drills and re-enactments. ISP officers and ... See More



UCCSDA.ORG
Unite 4 Kids on August 22
Our mission is to equip and empower ministries that reach our co...
Minner Labrador and 4 others 1 Share



Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Ad · 100%

#GrowingLeaders Vlog from Doug Bing - Did you grow up scared of the boogieman? I sure did! Fear can be something that it affects our daily life. Sometimes that fear keeps growing. Jesus gives us a victorious solution! As we focus on Him, the fears diminish. Take some time to think about Jesus and His love for you.




Ron Jacoban and 47 others · 3 Comments 9 Shares

Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
August 4 at 9:51 AM · 100%

Fifty-eight years ago, Hirma Habelkost had a vision to build a lodge at Big Lake Youth Camp. She shared her passion with the conference and becoming the major donor and catalyst that allowed Big Lake Youth Camp to build the lodge and become the refuge it has been for 100,000s of people over the years.

On Monday, July 12, the old lodge was dismantled. It was an emotional experience filled with memories and optimism.

Visit the Big Lake Lodge Update page for photos, videos, ev... See More



LODGE UPDATE

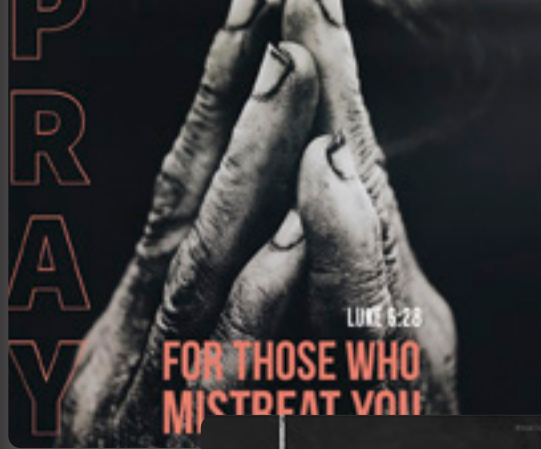
Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
1d · 100%

"I think I was 11 or 12 when I was ordained as an elder in my church in Bolivia. I was always eager to help, but during my teen years my ego started to grow a lot. I was this teen preacher, well loved in my country. I started studying Theology there for a year, and then moved to Puerto Rico to finish my Bachelor's Degree.

Puerto Rico was interesting. Back home I was this teen star that was always preaching everywhere. But in Puerto Rico I was nobody. Nobody knew who I was... See More



Laura Pascoe and 141 others · 15 Comments 18 Shares



Seventh-day Adventists · Follow

Seventh-day Bible verses of the day
Leviticus 1:9

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13 likes · 200 views




Seventh-day Adventists · Follow

Seventh-day Adventists Church

Seventh-day Adventists Church is open again for in-person worship after 17 weeks of online services. Navigate over to Seventh-day Adventists Church's Facebook page for a timely message from Pastor Henry Maxwell on continuing prayer.

Is your church responding? Tag @SeventhDayAdventists and share a photo!



44 likes · 200 views



Seventh-day Adventists Church

The only way to not be discouraged is to have people to help you.

Add the only way to have people to help you is to become the love of God.

(Continue to tag #S7A)

Seventh-day Adventists Church

Add to engagement and 17 others

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Sticky BBQ Glazed Meatballs

A **S SUMMER TURNS INTO FALL**, comfort foods turn more hearty. As the seasons change, it's easy to get caught in a food rut. All the hearty, creamy soups and pasta dishes can be so delicious, but the point is it's nice to switch things up. That's where these meatballs come in.

These sticky meatballs are different. They're saucy, flavorful and oh so versatile. You can make a big batch of these in advance and freeze them. They're great for potlucks, family get-togethers and sharing with friends.

They're quick and easy to make, and the sauce is so addicting. I usually make these after having made a pot of lentils for another meal, making sure to set aside enough lentils for this recipe.

Makes about 30 meatballs.
Serves 6–8 people.

INGREDIENTS:**MEATBALLS**

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cooked lentils
4 eggs
1 medium onion, chopped fine
1 cup soda crackers or bread crumbs, finely ground
1 cup grated cheddar cheese
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup walnuts or pecans, chopped fine
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon sage
 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt

SAUCE

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup barbecue sauce
1 12-ounce jar of pineapple-apricot marmalade

DIRECTIONS:

- » Measure and mash or purée the lentils.
- » In a large bowl combine the lentils, chopped onion, crackers or bread crumbs, nuts, sage, and salt. Mix together and taste for salt. When satisfied, mix in the eggs and let the mixture rest.
- » In a separate bowl, stir together the barbecue sauce and marmalade and set aside.
- » Roll or scoop the mixture into balls and pan-fry. Depending on the size of ball there should be around 30 meatballs.
- » After frying, arrange the meatballs as a single layer in a baking dish and cover with the sauce.
- » Bake at 350 F for 40–45 minutes.

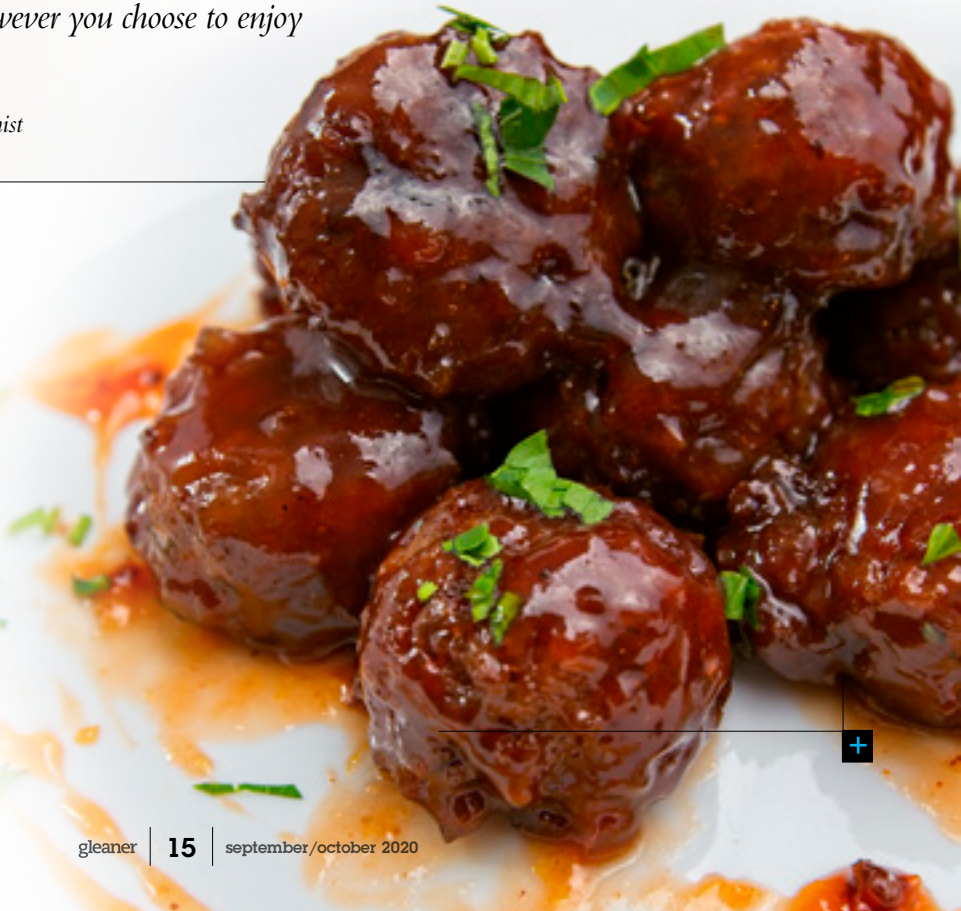
Let's eat!

These are great to serve at a party. Take them out of the oven, cool for 20 minutes or so, and serve with toothpicks. My family loves them with roasted or smashed potatoes and green beans. However you choose to enjoy them, just know they won't last long!

Jennifer Wintermeyer, NPUC food editor and columnist

RECIPE NOTES

- » If you are refrigerating these to serve soon, cover the meatballs with sauce, cover the dish and tuck in the refrigerator.
- » If you are freezing this dish for later, do not cover the meatballs with the sauce. Wait until the meatballs are completely cool in the dish, cover the dish and freeze. To bake, remove from the freezer 25–30 minutes to let them thaw before pouring the sauce over them. Then bake as directed.
- » Want to serve them with a different sauce? These little guys will take what ever sauciness you throw at them. These are delicious with marinara sauce, a mushroom cream sauce or a spicy ginger-sesame glaze.



HISPANOSUCC – IGLESIA ONLINE

(Y ALGUNOS POR CONFERENCIA TELEFÓNICA)



El grupo de oradores para la Semana de Reavivamiento Espiritual en línea.

The group of speakers for the online spiritual emphasis week.

Legó la plaga y nos recomendaron dejar de congregarnos en los edificios ...

Pronto supimos que esto sería largo y tedioso. Los pastores Hispanos, junto con los Administradores de UCC y el vice presidente Hispano de la North Pacific Union Conference comenzaron a reunirse en Zoom cada mañana para orar por el bienestar integral del pueblo (su salud, trabajo, familias, hijos, educación, finanzas, viviendas, etc.). Luego de orar por la seguridad holística del pueblo cada mañana, se analizaba el desafío en cada área de la región con los colegas, se adaptaban las ideas y se desarrolló la nueva forma de hacer iglesia. En pocos días cada colega iba encontrando formas diferentes de ministrar sus distrito junto con sus líderes de iglesia local, poco a poco “cada uno comenzó a hacer lo suyo en lo que terminó siendo lo nuestro.”

En poco tiempo se organizaron dos semanas de énfasis espiritual en la que predicaron ocho pastores locales, nuestro vice presidente y Ministerial de Union, Dr. César De León y nuestro Presidente Minnervino Labrador Jr. Durante la semana sentimos el apoyo, la motivación del pueblo y la alegría de poder congregarse en el éter. Esa experiencia determinó la

necesidad de desarrollar dos ministerios relevantes para la época: HispanosUCC y Haz de tu Casa Una Iglesia. Ambos fueron posibles por la Gracia de Dios y el tremendo apoyo del Departamento Hispano de la Unión y la Administración de UCC.

Hoy día, la mayoría de las iglesias adoran online, los predicadores se muestran experimentados en la predicación en vivo en línea y los líderes de grupos pequeños aprecian la bendición de haber hecho de “su casa una iglesia.”

Los dos ministerios que están transformando nuestra forma de Hacer Iglesia son:

HispanosUCC

El ministerio de media, coordinado por el Pr. Cristian Barrera junto a un equipo de pastores que se destacan en diversas áreas de media y diseño gráfico. Así como otros que cooperan en predicación, evangelismo y programas diversos.

HispanosUCC transmite diariamente desde la misma ciudad donde en 1970 naciera la obra Hispana de UCC, Granger, Washington. HispanosUCC al momento cuenta con más de mil suscriptores en Facebook y cerca de dos centenas en YouTube; mueve un audiencia promedio de 500 a 1000 pantallas por programa. Transmite por múltiples

medios simultáneamente, con el objetivo de ministrar al pueblo Hispano en el contexto diverso de la región de Upper Columbia. Transmite a diario diferentes programas 7 a.m. y 7 p.m. y sábados 9 a.m. y 7 p.m. (Ministerio familiar, de hombres, de jóvenes (NextGen), de mujeres, de escuela sabática, seminario de predicación y estudio de la Biblia, así como evangelismo público y énfasis espiritual).

Ministerio de Grupos Pequeños

El templo esta cerrado pero un buen número de congregaciones se reúnen en grupos pequeños. El Ministerio de Grupos Pequeños lo coordina el Pastor Yonisbel Osoria. Lleva dos años en proceso y tiene un buen número de líderes y congregaciones participando de este ministerio enfocado en “hacer de cada casa una iglesia.”

Las iglesias que comenzaron con este ministerio antes de la cuarentena se han visto muy beneficiadas. Algunos líderes comentan que no extrañan

la congregación madre ya que los grupos han llenado la vida de sus miembros en una forma efectiva que llena el corazón y alimenta el alma con protagonismo espiritual. Los grupos pequeños han servido como medio de adoración y congregación así también para cumplir la misión en el contexto de “UNO MAS.”

Walter Pintos-Schmidt, Upper Columbia Conference multicultural director

Pastor de la iglesia hispana de Hermiston, Hugo Villalobos, bautiza a una joven adulta, Paola Hernandez, en el Río Columbia en Umatilla, Oregon.



UCC LOVES PEOPLE THROUGH ONLINE HISPANIC MINISTRIES



More online at glnr.in/115-05-accion



The COVID-19 plague arrived, and it was recommended we cease congregating in our church buildings. We quickly figured out this was going to be long and tedious experience, so our Hispanic pastors, along with their Upper Columbia Conference administrators and the North Pacific Union Conference vice president for Hispanic ministry began to meet every morning on Zoom to pray for the integrated well-being of our people (health, jobs, families, children, education, finances, homes, etc.).

After praying for the safety of our communities every morning, we analyzed the logistical challenges in each of our ministry regions, brainstormed ideas

Hugo Villalobos, Hermiston Spanish church pastor (right) baptizes Paola Hernandez in the Columbia River in Umatilla, Oregon.



and developed new ways to continue doing church. In just a few days, each pastor, along with their leaders, had developed creative ideas to serve his district. Slowly, every pastor who started out doing “their own thing” became part of an “our thing” collective ministry project.

Two spiritual emphasis weeks were quickly organized. Eight local pastors, NPUC vice president César De León and UCC president Minner Labrador Jr. preached. During those two weeklong series, our Hispanic communities experienced the support, and motivation and the joy of congregating online. This collective experience spearheaded the development of two very relevant ministries for this season: HispanosUCC and Make Your Home a Church. Both of these ministries were developed by the grace of God and the support of the NPUC Hispanic department and the UCC administration.

Today, the majority of our churches are worshipping online. Our pastors have become experienced online preachers, and our small group leaders continue to experience the blessings of having made their “home a church.”

Two ministries in particular are transforming our way of doing church during the coronavirus pandemic.

HispanosUCC

This a media ministry coordinated by Christian Barrera, pastor, and his pastoral team, who have excelled in the areas of graphic and media design. Other team members have contributed with preaching, evangelism and diverse programming. HispanosUCC transmits daily programming from the same city — Granger, Washington — where the Hispanic work in UCC began in 1970. They currently have more than 1,000 Facebook subscribers and about 200 YouTube listeners, for a daily average audience of 500 to 1,000 connections per program. We are transmitting simultaneously via several platforms with the objective of ministering to our Hispanic community throughout our diverse Upper Columbia region. Our current broadcast schedule is 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily and Sabbaths, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Our 7 p.m. programming includes a diversity of topics including family ministries, men’s ministries, NextGen, women’s ministries, Sabbath School, seminars on preaching and public evangelism, spiritual emphasis, and Bible studies.

Small Group Ministry

Our sanctuaries may be closed but a good number of our congregations are meeting in small group settings. Yonisbel Osoria is our small group ministries

coordinator and has been training our group leaders and their small congregations for the past two years in the skills of “making each home a church.”

Those churches that joined this new ministry before the COVID-19 restrictions have felt very blessed indeed. Some group leaders have shared they don’t miss the mother congregation since their home-based groups have filled the life of their members in an effective way that fills their hearts and feeds their



Christian Barrera coordinates the new media ministry, HispanosUCC.

Pastor Christian Barrera, el Coordinador del nuevo ministerio, HispanosUCC.

souls with spiritual leadership. Our small groups continue to provide a venue for worship and fellowship as well as a community to collectively fulfill Christ’s commission in the context of our UCC “One More” initiative.

Walter Pintos-Schmidt, Upper Columbia Conference multicultural director



Aiden Blair (left), Melanie Seater (back center), Eli Seater (center), Joleen Seater (front center), Matthew Loop (back right) and Jonathan Loop (front right) prepare to be baptized.

BAPTISMS GO ON DESPITE PANDEMIC

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit with full force and mandates for church closures were announced, churches across the nation closed their doors. The impact the pandemic made on evangelistic meetings that were in progress, baptisms that were scheduled, prayer meetings and many other events was devastating to so many lives as family, friends and acquaintances struggled to stay safe.

In several Alaska churches, the local church pastors and leaders forged ahead and came up with ways to continue reaching their congregation through Zoom, Facebook Live and personal phone calls. For those anxiously awaiting at home to be baptized without violating any mandates that were in place, Don Barnt, pastor, made the decision to forge ahead with several youth baptisms.

On Friday evening, July

10, six young people who had been attending the Midnight Son Church in Kenai were baptized after making their commitments in February, shortly before all churches were shut down.

Three siblings from one family, two from another and one young man from a third family all gave their lives over to Jesus at the church. Keeping in mind mandates for masks, social distancing and numbers that could congregate, family members and a few friends were able to attend the service. They praise God for these young people who have accepted Jesus as their Savior and committed their lives to Him.

These new, energetic members are happily welcomed into the fellowship of the Midnight Son Church.

Denise Tank, Midnight Son Church head elder

ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND ADDS TO CHRIST'S KINGDOM

In mid-March, Arctic Mission Adventure volunteer Petu “Chris” Koonooka, elder of the Gambell Adventist Church, started Bible studies with Ina Koonooka, 19, and Ila James, 17. Fear of the COVID-19 pandemic inspired them to study in preparation to be ready for Christ’s return.

Each evening, the four would review two *Native New Day* lessons in addition to regular Tuesday and Saturday evening meetings. The small group continued to meet during the pandemic. Some Sabbath services would be just have three in attendance because folks were remaining indoors.

Solomon Koonooka, 23, joined in the studies and also used the *Native New Day* lessons. As they neared the end of the series, Ina and Ila were convicted by the Holy Spirit and chose to be baptized. Chris reviewed the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with Ina and Ila, who were anxious for baptism, and a request was made for the pastor to come to Gambell. However, due to regional travel restrictions

resulting from the coronavirus, it was not possible.

Tobin Dodge, Arctic Mission director, spoke with the conference, and approval was granted for Chris to conduct the baptisms. Meanwhile, Solomon made the decision to be baptized as well. The date was set for May 16, which coincided with the birthday of the person both Ina and Ila were named after, which made the day even more special.

Using pots of heated water, the church prepared a small swimming pool that former Gambell Church pastor Leon Ringerling left behind for baptisms. During the service, a Yupik folklore story was shared and verses from Matt. 2:11–17 and 28:18–20 and Rev. 14: 6–7 were read.

The water wasn’t as warm as hoped, but that didn’t stop them. Tears of joy were shed from grandmas, and a happy atmosphere was felt by all. The three newest members of the Gambell Church found peace in God.

Chris Koonooka, Gambell Church elder



(From left) Ina Koonooka, Ila James, Solomon Koonooka and Chris Koonooka studied the Bible together to find peace during the pandemic.

DRIVE-IN CHURCH GETS WELCOME VISIT

The dark, unfamiliar SUV pulled into the line of cars getting positioned for the start of Anchorage Northside's drive-in church at the Anchorage Junior Academy parking area. This vehicle



Greeters Pollar Cheng and Nofoaiga Nofoiilo welcome attendees to Anchorage Northside's drive-in church.

had never seen before. Being able to quickly recognize a variety of different vehicles has become a new and developing skill set for many church leaders ministering at drive-in church services around the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Each week at the conclusion of the worship service, the pastor, Jim John, and his wife, Darla, quickly head to the exit to greet and encourage their church family as they leave. The unfamiliar SUV slowly pulled up to where the pair stood waiting. After introductions, the young

couple were asked how they heard about the drive-in church. Their response will forever stay with Jim: "Our church has been closed since COVID-19, and so we started just reading our Bibles at home on Sunday mornings. We had never actually read our Bibles before, and we started wondering why we don't keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy anymore. We did some research and found out about your drive-in church. So, here we are!"

Their short testimony was so unexpected. They definitely noticed the smiles and excitement. The line of cars was growing behind this special couple and their two small children in the SUV.



(From left) Nofoaiga Nofoiilo assists Anchorage Northside pastor Jim John as he baptizes new member Pollar Cheng.

The Johns motioned for them to pull to the side to visit longer with them. The next 30 minutes of sharing, laughing and praying together was a gift from God and helped all realize the extra work of organizing drive-in church paleo in light of the eternal results inside the (now familiar) SUV in front of them.

The frail efforts of providing a COVID-compliant venue outside during the beautiful Alaska summer has seen Holy Spirit-filled gatherings of graduations, baptisms, worship services

and three weddings — all quietly broadcasted on 99.9 FM through a tiny, 7-watt radio transmitter from atop a small wooden platform on a grassy hill, ringed by trees behind the school. It serves as a reminder of what the Lord said to Zerubbabel: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4:6, NKJV).

Jim John, Anchorage Northside Church pastor



How Indigenous Alaskans Await the Resurrection



Read the article online at gnr.in/115-05-ak_resurrection



Ryan Radio



Read the article online at gnr.in/115-05-ak_radio

BANANA BOX BARGAINS



T

HE SAYING MOST OF US HAVE HEARD — “NO MONEY, NO MISSION” — IS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN BY IDAHO’S PAYETTE ADVENTIST CHURCH. THEY HAVE A WAY TO MAKE MONEY FOR MISSION. THE BANANA BOX BARGAIN STORE IS A SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR MINISTRY WHILE BEING A MINISTRY ITSELF.

Charleen Williams, wife of the Payette Church pastor, is the one who brought the concept to Idaho. She had done the same thing in Alaska and is excited to have an even bigger store to work with now.

The store provides food items Williams buys at a discount from suppliers because they are “less than perfect.” The items are sold to the Banana Box store at a bargain price. The community meets store staff and sees the church

Howard Williams, Payette Church pastor, is one of the many volunteers. His wife, Charleen, started Banana Box Bargains.

More online at
glnr.in/115-05-id_banana



Charleen Williams (left) and another volunteer organize the stockroom.

in a positive way while saving money.

Banana Box Bargains also includes a thrift store with donated clothing items. These are sold in the store but also



Volunteer Sandy cleans the benches outside the store.

available to help those in need of clothing.

The funds from the sales and donated clothing go to help the community. Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Ontario, Oregon, has been utilizing their services on a regular basis. Glenn Blankenship, a Saint Alphonsus social

worker, says he has used it about once a month since he learned of the services. He tells a story of a woman in her 20s who desperately needed a place to stay for one night, allowing time to set up services through the Community in Action program. She had been exposed to coronavirus. Through the Banana Box funds, the Payette Church provided a stay for one night in a motel before other agencies were able to help her with housing and a job. Later Blankenship heard from Community in Action that this woman had become a success story.

The Banana Box ministry also provided food to a Saint Alphonsus patient who was moving and had no food. Because she couldn't go shopping after she was discharged from the hospital, area churches and volunteers made sure to deliver food to this patient and her family in a town more than 20 miles away.

The Payette Church and the ministry they are providing through Banana Box Bargains is a blessing to the communities along the border between Idaho and Oregon.

Danette Reitz, Vale Church member

Volunteers run the cash register.



Ernie is one of many volunteers who keep Banana Box Bargains running and providing funds to help the local and neighboring community.



BOZEMAN HONORS FAITHFUL LEADER

More photos online at glnr.in/115-05-mt_bozeman

Richard “Dick” Westerberg has been an active member in the Bozeman Church for more than 50 years, holding positions such as elder, deacon, treasurer for the elementary school and Pathfinder assistant when his wife was the leader. He now serves as head deacon and adult Sabbath School teacher. He also joins a group of members who sing once a month at a nursing home and provides a devotional thought for the residents there.

church caring for various things that needed to be done, Westerberg collapsed due to a heart failure. However, God cared for His faithful servant. Immediately the church member Westerberg had been talking to was at his side providing CPR. This church member happened to be trained as a first responder, and, as God would have it, an ambulance was near the church at that time.

The paramedics shocked Westerberg’s heart several times before it started to beat again. He was taken to the hospital in Bozeman, and the prognosis was grim initially. Many prayers were offered for Westerberg, and it wasn’t long before the doctor had a much better prognosis. Westerberg recovered miraculously, regaining consciousness within a couple of days.

Jason and Michelle Rosen came to celebrate Dick Westerberg’s 80th birthday.

True to his character, one of Westerberg’s first questions when able to talk again was regarding church maintenance. After a short period of time with his son and daughter, he was able to return to his home in Bozeman and to his church family.

When asked why he has accepted so many church positions, Westerberg replied, “Because it needs to be done.” When asked what he loves about Bozeman, he said, “The people and the church family.”

Westerberg’s message to the Gallatin Rest Home residents each month, and to anyone he encounters, is, “Jesus loves you.” His message can be identified in one of his favorite memory verses: “For God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have

everlasting life” (John 3:16). If you live in Bozeman and have heard Westerberg’s testimony, you know your heart is touched by God’s goodness, compassion and love.

Because of Dick’s life miracle experienced last December and his 80th birthday this May, a drive-through birthday parade was held at the Bozeman Church



MAYRA LINDBERG



RUSSELL LINDBERG

Cupcakes were enjoyed in celebration of Dick Westerberg.

Westerberg taught at Loma Linda University prior to moving to Bozeman. After his move, he worked as a physical therapist in a private practice for about 12 years, at the hospital in Livingston for 30 years, and at the hospital in Townsend for eight years prior to retiring in 2008.

Recently, while at the



MAYRA LINDBERG

You can count on seeing Dick Westerberg’s welcoming smile as he greets you faithfully each Sabbath.

where people could drive by or stop for a bit to greet him and show him how much his life of ministry is appreciated.

Michelle Rosen, Bozeman Church member, and Mayra Lindberg, Montana Conference communication department editor

Three congregations band together to surprise their pastor.



ABCs OF MONTANA MINISTRY

More online at
glnr.in/115-05-mt_ministry



M

ontana church members are finding new ways to share Jesus' love during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A GREAT POTATO GIVEAWAY

A farming family had plenty of potatoes to share so they reached out to friends, a local organization and their church, to donate over 7,200 pounds of potatoes.

BAKING AND COOKING LESSONS

Two churches created communion bread tutorials, a pastor shared a doughnut tutorial with an elementary school, and one church offers weekly healthy-cooking lessons on Facebook.

COVID-19 BOOKLET SHARING

The Miles City, Forsyth, Belgrade and Roundup churches are covering their communities with more than 18,000 pieces of 3ABN's new booklet titled "COVID 19: What's Next?"

DELIVERY TO THE RESCUE

Another church is sharing a

Deb Hanen, with her husband, Pat, joined Montana Masks for Heroes and continues to make masks for her local hospital and other organizations.



weekly Sabbath School kids' package including a magazine, mission stories, lesson themed puzzles, coloring pages and a letter from the teacher.

FIXER UPPER, MOTHER'S ROOM EDITION

One member decided this was the best time to go in and remodel her church's mother's room.

GOWNS AND MASKS GALORE

A member recently joined a local group to assist their hospital and local EMS personnel with personal protective equipment.

HANDY POSTCARDS

A church printed postcards to offer help to self-isolating community members.

INTERVIEWS WITH CHURCH MEMBERS

A pastor interviews different members prior to the scheduled service to learn how God is leading in their lives, miraculous answers to prayer and about recent missionary experiences.

LITTLE LIGHTS SHINE

Two siblings sent a special music video for their pastor to share with his churches. The last stanza was not the traditional one: "Even in the quarantine, I'm gonna let it shine."

MASKS FOR HEALTH WORKERS

A member volunteered to sew masks for Montana Masks for Heroes, and another member is helping press the mask straps.

'ON THE EDGE OF TIME' MAILER

One church wanted to make



Kyson helped his mom bake communion bread and deliver it to members self-isolating.

sure outreach happened in the midst of the stay at home directive and voted to send a mailer to their community.

PATHFINDER PACKAGES

The Eastern Montana Explorers Pathfinder Club worked very hard to provide emergency packs for individuals who can't make it to the store.

QUILTS OF LOVE (AND MASKS TOO)

A self-isolating member is making and giving away masks and quilts locally and in other states.

RESURRECTION SKIT BRINGS HOPE

Four siblings sent in a video narrative and performance of the resurrection story for their church's children story.

SURPRISE PHOTOS IN CHURCH PEWS

Three congregations taped member portraits to the pews of the church where the services are recorded to let their pastor know they are watching each week.

TOUCHING MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE

A church created a thoughtful video celebrating, encouraging and acknowledging motherhood experiences.

VIRTUAL SABBATH GREETINGS

A church shares Sabbath greetings video from different families each Sabbath to keep everyone connected and encouraged.

WEB DESIGN AND FACEBOOK MARKETING

A church created the website ImmunityEnhanced.com with information on coronavirus treatments as well as a link to Bible studies.

ZOOM AROUND THE ROOM AND MORE

Video platforms are being used for children's and adults Sabbath School classes as well as for Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs.

Mayra Lindberg, Montana Conference communication department editor

GLADSTONE HOSTS VERY DIFFERENT CAMP MEETING



More more online at
glnr.in/115-05-or_gladstone

The words “camp meeting” have brought folks from Oregon, Washington and beyond to Gladstone for more than 90 years. They come for spiritual refreshment, for inspiration and for Pronto Pups. They come to pitch their tents beside the same families they’ve camped beside “since we were kids.” They come to buy cases of Loma Linda and Worthington foods at the Adventist Book Center’s yearly sales. They bring their lawn chairs and sit on the front row to be sure and catch every word of the evening speaker’s message.

Some come for the music — and are never disappointed. Others come to be with friends — and discover a new walk with Jesus during an afternoon meeting. Many come to be sure their children will have happy camp meeting memories.

Camp meeting, and especially Gladstone Camp Meeting, is part of our Northwestern Adventist DNA.

Then came COVID-19 — and some very long planning meetings.

“What can we do online?”

“Can Elder Rojas still be our main speaker?”



TYLOR WATTS

Young adults headed to Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS) on Sabbath to hand out food boxes (and maybe a some goodies too).

Those, and several thousand other questions, made for eloquent prayers and intense conversations as conference leaders tackled the challenge of putting on both Spanish and English camp meetings in the midst of the government’s “stay at home” restrictions.

The result is more than 140 separate online events that were viewed by thousands of participants. Most of our viewers watched from Oregon and Washington, but many checked in from Pakistan, Brazil, Panama, New Zealand, Australia, France and half of the United States.

Children from preschool through juniors did crafts, played games, sang along and shared stories during the Rocky Railroad programs

for kids. Youth “binged Jesus” with Jarod Frost and an incredibly talented group of teenage musicians. Young adults led their own series of meetings and outreach activities, culminating in a “drive-in” worship at Gladstone. The adults? Seminars, morning devotionals, afternoon adventures and evening worship from the Holden Center.

José Rojas spoke six times for the 2020 Gladstone Digital Camp Meeting, each time with words that came like bugle calls to action. “We must not do church like we have



DICK DUERKSEN

“Look higher,” Rojas challenged. “Look so high that all you can see is Jesus. Then He will show you how to serve.”



TYLOR WATTS



TYLOR WATTS

I **LOVED THE TABLETALK** AFTER! WE'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED THIS WITH **LIVE CAMP MEETING**. I LOVED GETTING MORE OF PASTOR ROJAS, "UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL." — MARY LOU WESCOTT

been," he challenged us. "God did not call us to debate and argue, He called us to act. He



Each evening's meeting ended with TableTalk, a roundtable discussion during which online viewers could submit their questions and influence the discussion. It was a big hit.

comes challenging us to serve as He served."

It wouldn't be camp meeting without Pronto Pups, so it was decided to hold a one-day drive through Snack Shack

event. Food was purchased ahead online and picked up in Salem on Wednesday and from Gladstone on Thursday. The lines were long, as they always are for the Snack Shack, but Pronto Pups, shamburgers and kettle corn were as tasty as ever.

While many are honestly mourning the loss of in-person camp meeting interactions, others are celebrating the chance to actually experience Gladstone Camp Meeting — introverts, people with mobility issues, people from around the world.

Whether you found yourself missing the crowds or loving the quiet control of watching on-demand, we hope you were blessed by this year's Gladstone Camp Meeting.

If you'd like to watch Matthew Lucio's seminar, "Communicating Christ in a World Who Doesn't Know Him," or if you haven't yet been able to watch Rojas' sermons at the evening meetings, it's definitely not too late. It's

Each morning began with a devotional by an Oregon Conference pastor or principal. Each had amazing insights of faith to share.

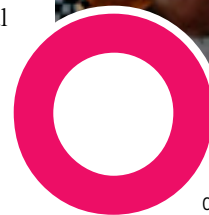
still online, ready for you to watch and share with friends. In many ways, the 2020 Gladstone Digital Camp Meeting isn't over — it's just beginning!

You can find more information and learn about the speakers on our website at OregonAdventist.org. And you'll find playlists of all the camp meeting programs for kids and adults on our YouTube page. Just search for "Oregon Adventist."

Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference storycatcher and storyteller, and Krissy Barber, Oregon Conference communication assistant

Search for "Oregon Adventist" on YouTube to find the camp meeting playlists.

EVEN KIDS GET TO ENJOY VIRTUAL CAMP MEETING



Our family really enjoyed Rocky Railway! Each day we looked forward to seeing familiar faces teach us about trains, animals and how to "Trust Jesus." We are still singing the songs and talking about the things we learned. We really liked the animal drawing tutorials, Zoom videos with Party Animals NW, games and chew-chew snacks. The program kit we received in the mail from children's ministries really added to the fun. Though we couldn't be at our campsite in Gladstone, we were grateful to have a way to participate virtually from home. Thanks to everyone who made it possible!

Kristin Brooks, Gladstone Camp Meeting attendee and mom



More online at
glnr.in/115-05-or_paa

PAA STUDENTS PRACTICE IN-PERSON LEARNING

P

ortland Adventist Academy students made PAA history as the first to attend in-person class during the coronavirus pandemic.

Oregon health authorities began to lift some stay-home orders in June, allowing small groups to begin meeting. PAA chose the opportunity to offer its annual summer world history course to practice and improve in-person learning as the school prepared to bring students back to campus at some point.

To follow protocol for social distancing in the classroom, the class was capped at 10 students. Students and staff wore masks and took frequent breaks for fresh air, hand washing and surface cleaning.

“It was a bit hard to remember all the COVID rules at the beginning,” says freshman Elizabeth Struntz. “It’s hard to breathe, and your ears start to hurt because the elastic pulls. Staying at least 6 feet apart was hard [at first], but it’s not as hard as I thought. Over the weeks, it’s gotten easier.”

“The safety of our entire PAA family, as well as the greater community is our top priority,” says Mechelle

Peinado, PAA principal. “We have and always will follow state and health department guidelines. As we move forward, so many things will look different this school year. And we have to stay flexible.”

Flexibility is essential. A day after the world history class concluded, Oregon state requirements for in-person school were announced and the potential for meeting in-person in the fall was in question.

Tim Erich (right) taught world history to 10 students this summer. Freshman Elizabeth Struntz (left) was one of them. She understands how important masks are but admits it was hard to get used to wearing it in class all the time. “Over the weeks, it has gotten easier,” she says.



One student joined class by webcam and even presented his personal history to his classmates.

But there was good news. Flexibility is not only essential, but it is an advantage. While much larger schools

made the tough decision to meet entirely online given the uncertainty, PAA’s small size allows teachers and students to move from in-person to distance learning seamlessly. As Multnomah County’s coronavirus cases decrease or increase, students and parents can count on high-quality education whether in the classroom or online.

“As Christians, we should keep our eyes on Jesus and recognize that this is the sign that He is coming soon,” says Struntz. “As Christians, we should check in on our church family, whether it’s in driving by their house and waving at them, calling them on the phone, or praying for them. We should work together while we travel through this uncharted territory.”

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent



Much more online at
glnr.in/115-05-or_baptisms

RIVER BAPTISMS BRING JORDAN EXPERIENCE

Sharon Church and Your Bible Speaks Community Church came together on Sabbath, July 11, at Lewisville Regional Park in Battle Ground, Washington, to baptize several individuals in the river, since churches were closed for the pandemic.

Garth Dottin, Sharon Church pastor, and Reginald Richardson Jr., Your Bible Speaks Community Church pastor, along with members from both churches, gathered at the park to celebrate with the families whose who made the most important decision of their lives — to follow Jesus Christ.

Sharon Church baptized



four members from the Lopez and Madrigal families, and Your Bible Speaks baptized Alexa High — who first met pastors Dottin and Richardson during a Black Lives Matter social justice march in downtown Portland, Oregon, on June 3.

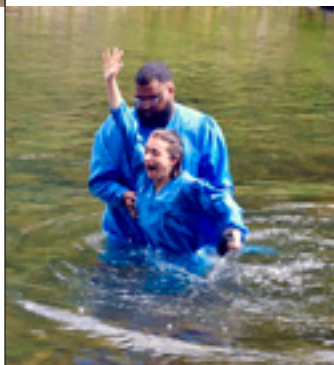
The first member to make their decision from the Lopez/

Madrigal family was Julia. After meeting Dottin and the members of Sharon Church, she was convinced that she wanted to make Sharon her church home.

Julia took to social media, posting how she was not a religious person and did not trust churches because, in her experience pastors, would preach the Word but not live it. When she found Sharon Church, her view of the church changed. She continued her testimony before she went into the water.

Although the water was cold, the baptism candidates were excited to become a part of God's global family. This special location brought to mind Mark 1:3–9, where John the Baptist was baptizing the people in the Jordan River when Jesus came to be baptized too. This was the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Denise Williams, Sharon Church communication leader



TUALATIN VALLEY ACADEMY HOLDS CREATIVE BALLOON DAYS

Kimberly Clifton, fifth grade teacher at Tualatin Valley Academy in Hillsboro, created Zoom activities for her class to “end the year with a bang.” Usually, the end of the school year is marked by special parties, picnics and swimming outings. Though Clifton could not plan the typical celebratory activities thanks to the pandemic, she wanted to make the end of the year as exciting as possible for her 19 students. She decided to surprise them with a series of activities over Zoom involving balloons.

Since distance learning began, Clifton has had daily Zoom video meetings with her students so they could chat and she could spend time reading to them. A few weeks before the end of the year, the students were surprised to see several balloons behind Clifton in the video call. Over the days leading up to the last day of school, students took turns selecting a balloon to pop. Each balloon had a slip of paper listing an activity. The activity selected by popping a

balloon would be the plan for the next day's Zoom call. The activities included virtual field trips to Disney World, Pictionary and Cozy Day, for which students came to the meeting in pajamas and slippers.

Another game they played was a gratitude scavenger hunt. Clifton gave the students prompts like “find something that brings you joy.” Then the students would bring that item to the Zoom meeting the next day to share. And, of course, the fifth grade class played an adaptation of the game show *Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?*

Clifton's goal in hosting balloon Zoom days for her students was to bring joy to their lives amidst the boredom they might feel doing school from home. She says, “I've always tried to make our Zoom meetings minimal work, mostly fun.” And especially with the end of the year, she “didn't feel like they should be stripped of all their fun.”

McKenzie Wallace, Oregon Conference education department writer

Much more online at
glnr.in/115-05-or_tva

OREGON CONFERENCE PLANS FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS

While the beginning of a new school year always brings a measure of excitement and uncertainty for students and staff, the start of the 2020–21 school year is like no other. The 32 schools across Oregon and southwest Washington in the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are having to focus their attention, just like public schools, on how to safely start school in the fall. All Oregon Conference schools will be following

of instruction style, providing excellent Christian education remains the priority for the conference.

Oregon Conference schools demonstrated their commitment to supporting parents and students and pointing them to Jesus during distance learning last spring. Elizabeth Fish, teacher and principal at McMinnville Adventist Christian School, called each of her school parents over the three months of distance learning to do a health and wellness check with the families and offer to pray with them. She found that even her community parents appreciated the prayer.

At Sutherlin Adventist Christian School, teacher and principal Karie MacPhee supported each of her students and families through daily morning worships over Zoom, during which students also had an opportunity to pray together. Teachers like Leanne Gainer continually checked in with her Portland Adventist Elementary School families to make sure the packets she provided to her kindergartners were meeting their learning needs.

As one Oregon Conference school parent testified, the “love



Students everywhere are having to adapt to learning in a very different environment. For Adventist school students, that even includes morning worship.

and attention” the Adventist school put into distance learning for their children was exceptional. These examples illustrate the depth of dedication Oregon Conference teachers have to students that will continue this fall.

Oregon Conference schools have also crafted plans for in-person instruction to implement when they have met the criteria from their state to reopen the school building. The safety plans include requirements for physical distancing and hygiene. Classrooms will be configured differently, with certain square foot minimums established per person to encourage physical distancing to the maximum extent possible.

In addition to physical distancing, students in grades kindergarten and above, as well as staff, will be wearing face coverings or face shields.

Furthermore, the schools are increasing cleaning and disinfection of their campuses. Schools will also be screening students each day upon arrival for symptoms of COVID-19 and closely monitoring student and staff health throughout the school day.

Although many aspects of the 2020–21 school year will change as state guidelines are updated, one element remains constant: Oregon Conference schools’ commitment to providing quality, Christ-centered education. Gale Crosby, Oregon Conference vice president of education, stresses, “The reason for reopening our schools in whatever fashion is so we can teach our precious children about Jesus.”

McKenzie Wallace, Oregon Conference education department writer



If you have to wear a mask or face shield, at least you can make them fun-looking.

guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, local health officials and their respective state governments. Some schools will operate under a hybrid model, others in-person and others via distance learning. Regardless

MADRONE RECOGNIZES COVID-19 MIRACLES

More online at
glnr.in/115-05-or_madrone

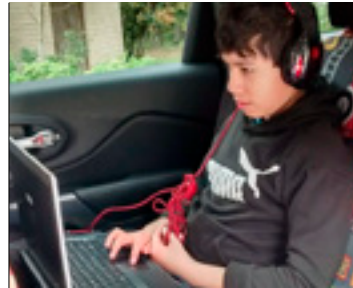
When Oregon Conference schools had to close their doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Laura Bowlby, Madrone Adventist Elementary School principal, was barely able to sleep. Madrone, located in Cave Junction, is a small school of 19 students and had struggled financially even before the stay-at-home mandate. Finding donors in this southern Oregon community that is already in poverty seemed impossible. Then a series of miracles began for the school that demonstrated God will provide even in the most unlikely times.

At the beginning of the shelter-in-place order, the board members discussed the viability of keeping the school open. School parents were losing jobs and not able to pay tuition. Still, the board members all felt convicted that the school needed to exist. Several board members personally donated scholarship money.

Then a former student of Bowlby's came with a check for \$2,000. A current seventh



Laura Bowlby, principal at Madrone Adventist Elementary, has seen astonishing miracles provide support for the school and its students during the coronavirus pandemic.



A Madrone Adventist Elementary student doing school work from the back seat of a car in the church parking lot since he didn't have wifi at home.

grader gifted \$500 for scholarships, giving "all he had."

One board member, a retired missionary, reached out to his friends overseas and in the U.S. to share the school's need. One of his friends, a Buddhist from Hong Kong, gifted \$6,000 — enough to cover the cost of tuition for every student for a month. When asked how he gets people to donate, the board member replied, "It's basically relationships." Those relationships led to his raising about \$14,000 from four or five people.

The local church increased its financial aid to the school. Despite the church being closed to in-person meetings, church members have also faithfully dropped off their "Lamb's offering" for school support each Sabbath afternoon.

The outpouring of support from Bowlby's school, church and local community brought her from anxiety at the beginning of the pandemic to rejoicing. "I just feel like all these miracles are God telling us that our school is here for a purpose and He is not ready for it to be done," she says.

McKenzie Wallace

MILO PRINCIPAL TAKES FUNDRAISING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Milo Adventist Academy principal Randy Thornton went over the top in his fundraising efforts for the senior class of 2020. He slept on the roof of the Milo Church the night of May 20 to fulfill a promise made at an auction for the graduating class.

The scheme began in January when seniors asked Thornton if, at their senior recognition benefit dinner, they could auction the principal spending a night on a roof. He responded, "Sure, but let's make this more fun. If the bid goes to 100 bucks, I'll sleep on the administration building roof." Since that roof is just one-story high, Thornton proposed sleeping on the roof of the three-story dorm if the bid went to \$300. If it went as high as \$500, he would sleep on top of the tallest roof on campus — the church.

When auction night came, the "principal's night on the roof" item did not sell quickly. So the students went table to table, collecting enough funds to buy the principal's challenge for \$500.

Thornton prepared for his night on the church roof by building a platform that

would allow him to sleep safely. During the final week of school, he ascended to the rooftop in a manlift.

Initially, Thornton recalls he was a bit unsettled by the height, but he settled in and even worked on his laptop. He was picked up by a staff member in the manlift at 6:15 a.m., having spent around 10 hours on the rooftop.

The night led to more fundraising when an alumnus purchased Thornton's platform for \$500. The money was dedicated to student aid. Since the school had a matching funds grant, that \$500 became \$1,000.



Randy Thornton, Milo's principal, spent the night on the roof of the Milo Church.

Thornton says people are already "signing up to sleep on the roof next year."

McKenzie Wallace, Oregon Conference education department writer

More online at
glnr.in/115-05-or_milo

UCC 'SEARCH AND RESCUE' REACHES THOUSANDS

Much more online at
glnr.in/115-05-uc_campmeeting

This year's Upper Columbia Conference Camp Meeting was unusual but powerful. "Search and Rescue," held virtually at the Spokane Valley Church in eastern Washington, was attended by thousands every night. The YouTube views of the Sabbath program surpassed 7,000 and will increase as attendees share camp meeting with their friends.

Hook was on the guitar. Together they shared the love of Jesus through song. Their talents were phenomenal as they performed many songs by request at the afterglow each evening.

Speaking of the afterglow, Minner Labrador, Upper Columbia Conference president, virtually gathered the attendees around the piano like a typical

afterglow to ask questions and make song requests. The audience felt like they were there because of YouTube and Facebook chat. Venden was able to answer questions, and Houghtaling and team fulfilled musical requests.

Every night a story was shared from a different church in Upper Columbia Conference. The messages focused on



Lee Venden shared his new series about the Garden of Gethsemane. The most powerful message was that Jesus conquered the devil in the garden and He saved mankind for eternity on the cross.

Meeting Jesus is the single most important event of every person's life. Because of this, members have been invited to share this series far and wide. Many viewers found hope in Venden's poetical expression, "Jesus is music to a concert, He is air to a deep breath, He is life to the living, He is strength in weakness, and He is your friend."

Buddy Houghtaling and his group also ministered each evening through music. His backup singers were Natalie Patzer and Donna Hook. Paul Jenks played bass, and Eugene





how the church was continuing to do the work, even during the time of COVID-19. To cap off this message, Garrick Odenberg was baptized on Sabbath.

The seminars were well-received and well-attended. The technical crew did an outstanding job. The Valley Adventist Church staff hosted this year's camp meeting with grace. All in all, the staff



Watch all seminars and main meetings at, uccsda.org/campmeeting



Minner Labrador, Upper Columbia Conference president, with Lee Venden, that main speaker for the "Search and Rescue" virtual camp meeting.



and crew felt this year was a success.

Next year's camp meeting is scheduled to resume at Upper Columbia Academy. Joe Kidder, Lowell Cooper, and Carl Cosaert will speak. While 2020 was a unique year, it provided a respite from the busyness of the normal camp meeting while focusing on the spiritual messages and retaining a virtual feeling of togetherness.

As these messages are shared far and wide, the timeliness and importance will be felt by others. Watch all seminars and main meetings at UCC website, uccsda.org/campmeeting.

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant



PASCO CHURCH SHARES GOD'S LOVE DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

The Riverview Church in Pasco, Washington, continues to be a light to the community despite having to modify some of the ministries carried on by the church due to the coronavirus pandemic.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Stan and Connie Arlt run the Adventist Community Services center adjacent to the Riverview Church, which provides food to hungry families. They distribute food boxes each Wednesday morning to roughly 400 families in Pasco. This important service to the community is the second-largest food pantry in Franklin County. When the pandemic hit, they put in place social distancing protocols, including wearing masks and moving the food bank outdoors.

The pandemic has affected this ministry. With many members sheltering in place, other members of the community have stepped up to help. In addition, the National Guard has been helping unload trucks and carry food. God has provided each week what is needed.

MASK DISTRIBUTION

Betty Cummings, a Riverview Church member and retired nurse for the county, has found a creative way to share Jesus with her neighbors in this difficult time. She made a

number of cloth masks and put each one in a Ziploc bag with a note: *"Hi neighbor! Here is a small gift from me to you, to let you know you're in my thoughts. ... We are in this together — I care about you! 1 Thessalonians 1:2. We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers."*

She delivered these Ziploc bags to her neighbors. But it did not stop there. Cummings put some masks in her car and drove to the downtown Pasco area, where she began offering masks to homeless people.

Meanwhile Diane Berry, one of the GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) team members, dropped off greeting cards (with GLOW tracts inside) to the Tri-Cities Retirement Inn, to cheer lonely elderly people there.

Other members are bringing cheer to fellow church members with phone calls, cards and "drive-by" greetings, uplifting each other through illness, deaths of church members and recent graduations. The church also continues the adult Sabbath School class online using Zoom. The church service is livestreamed at 10:45 a.m. Pacific Time on Saturday mornings at pascosda.com. Just click on the "Livestream" tab to join the online service.

Kathy Forbis, Riverview Church GLOW director

More online at glnr.in/115-05-uc_pasco

CORONAVIRUS LEADS TO 'ACTIVITY OUTPOST'

Like millions of parents, I remember the day the governor of our state closed all the schools in an effort to slow the COVID-19 virus. Suddenly spring break got really long.

Our family is fortunate to live in a location where we have a lot of outdoor space for our boys to roam, but the days were still getting long. So we did what millions of parents have done: We went searching online for activities we could do with our kids. We found some great ideas and resources, but they were spread all over the web.

As more and more parents found themselves in similar situations to ours, it became clear to many of us that there was a need we might be able to help fill. Very quickly, the vision for ActivityOutpost.com took shape. I hope this will be a great resource for you and your family as you work to make the most of the time you have with your kids at home.

Activity Outpost is a gift

from a team of volunteers who love kids and their families. Most of our contributors are volunteer staff in clubs for kids — either Adventurers or Pathfinders. Others are young adults who have grown up in these same clubs, while still more are young people who just want to do something for kids.

We are united by this one common thread: We are loved by a gracious God, and His love given freely to us, prompts us to respond by loving and serving those around us. We live with hope in the darkest of times, and we'd like to pass a little of that confidence on to kids who can't help but feel the stress all of us adults are experiencing during this difficult season.

Check it out for yourself at ActivityOutpost.com or follow @activityoutpost on Instagram and Facebook.

Richie Brower, Upper Columbia Conference youth and family life associate director



ALAREECE COLLIE COMMISSIONED IN WALLA WALLA

More online at
glnr.in/115-05-uc_wwuc

A

Alareece Collie, executive pastor of Walla Walla University

Church, was commissioned to the gospel ministry on July 18 in Walla Walla, Washington. Minner Labrador Jr., Upper Columbia Conference president, presented the commissioning certificate.

“Pastor Alareece has a heart for people along with



JOSE SEGOVIA

Alareece Collie is commissioned into ministry with Upper Columbia Conference and Walla Walla University leadership.

the Grace Place, a multiethnic community-focused church in Indiana. She graduated in 2015 with a Master of Divinity degree.

Prayerfully, she accepted the call to serve as executive pastor of Walla Walla University Church. She became the first black female pastor in the North Pacific Union Conference and the first person of color on the pastoral staff at the Walla Walla University Church.

She appreciates God’s leading in her service to the University Church community. Collie is grateful for her supportive parents, siblings, friends and mentors. A text that has inspired her for many years is Jer. 1:4–9, part of which reads, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Dustin Jones, Upper Columbia Conference communication director



JOSE SEGOVIA

spiritual gifts in administrative excellence,” says Labrador. “I count it an honor to commission her to the ministry. I know God will continue to bless her in her work.”

Collie grew up on Andros, one of 700 islands and cays in the Bahamas. After completing high school, she attended the College of the Bahamas while working at the Nassau branch of Credit Suisse, an international bank and trust company.

Collie tributes her years at Credit Suisse as a crucial part of her story, which helped to nurture her growth as a person

and professional and to develop skills God would use when she entered full-time pastoral ministry.

She transferred to Andrews University in Michigan and completed a Bachelor of Arts in economics and Spanish. While at Andrews, she volunteered for outreach activities, preached a two-week evangelistic series in Kenya and spent a year in Argentina learning Spanish. Meanwhile Collie had a growing sense that God was calling her to full-time ministry.

Upon graduation, Collie served as a missionary in Costa Rica teaching English as a second language. These experiences fueled her love of traveling and of serving.

After serving as a missionary, she returned to the Bahamas, where Credit Suisse

rehired her and she resumed active service as a volunteer in her local church and conference. Eventually, she enrolled at Andrews University Theological Seminary, having surrendered all to the promptings of the Holy Spirit for full-time ministry.

While in seminary, Collie served in several capacities, including as president of the Women’s Clergy Network and as the administrative pastor of



JOSE SEGOVIA



TAKE A VACATION FOR YOUR HEALTH

Did you know that only 25% of Americans use all their paid vacation days each year? One survey says that 42% of us don't take any of our paid leave. In addition, 61% of people surveyed worked while on vacation.

As I write this, we are finalizing plans and packing for vacation. It won't be the vacation we have planned and saved for over the past year. The COVID-19 pandemic

put a stop to plans to visit our family in Hong Kong. Nonetheless it will be a much-needed break from work and the routine at home.

There are significant benefits from taking a vacation — for you and for your employer. Research shows employers benefit from increased productivity, better workplace morale, increased employee retention and better employee health. The benefits for the employee include reduced stress, decreased risk

of death from heart disease, improved mental health and improved relationships.

One study found men who took frequent annual vacations were 32% less likely to die from heart disease than their counterparts who chose not to vacation. The Framingham Study found women who took vacations once every six years or less were almost eight times as likely to develop heart disease or have a heart attack than women who took at least two vacations a year.

A study conducted by Purdue University found vacationing with your family

contributes positively to the relationships and to the feeling of well-being. I won't be taking any work with me on our vacation this year. It's too heavy to carry in my backpack, and my brain and body need a break! I hope you are making plans to make some memories with your family this summer.

For more articles in this health series, visit uccsda.org.

Cindy Williams, UCC health ministries director



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

BIBLE READINGS
for

SEPTEMBER

Bible Verses of ... Being a Servant

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		<u>1</u> 1Peter 4:10	<u>2</u> 1Peter 5:5	<u>3</u> 1Timothy 4:12	<u>4</u> 2 Corinthians 4:5	<u>5</u> 2 Timothy 2:15
<u>6</u> Colossians 3:12	<u>7</u> Ephesians 2:10	<u>8</u> Galatians 1:10	<u>9</u> Galatians 2:20	<u>10</u> Galatians 5:13	<u>11</u> John 12:26	<u>12</u> John 13:16
<u>13</u> John 15:15	<u>14</u> John 3:30	<u>15</u> John 4:34	<u>16</u> Luke 14:23	<u>17</u> Luke 22:27	<u>18</u> Mark 10:45	<u>19</u> Mark 9:35
<u>20</u> Matthew 20:26	<u>21</u> Matthew 20:28	<u>22</u> Matthew 23:11	<u>23</u> Matthew 25:21	<u>24</u> Matthew 6:24	<u>25</u> Philippians 2:5	<u>26</u> Philippians 2:7
<u>27</u> Philippians 4:13	<u>28</u> Proverbs 11:25	<u>29</u> Psalm 119:125	<u>30</u> Romans 13:4			

How can you serve?

SEATTLE ADVENTISTS BREATHE FRESH AIR FOR EQUALITY

Much more online at glnr.in/115-05-wa_breathe

How do you minister to a large group of hurting people during coronavirus and racial tensions? You hold a peaceful protest and rally ... complete with a police escort along the route.

And what better day to do it than on a Sabbath morning, thought Eugene Lewis, who serves as Washington Conference regional ministries director and Emerald City Community Seventh-day Adventist



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Tyler Long and his daughter, Bella, walk along the peaceful protest march route.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Church senior pastor.

“As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we believe in the totality and fulfillment of God’s true Sabbath rest,” Lewis says. “We gathered to show our displeasure, disappointment and dissatisfaction with those who have turned a blind eye to racism and black equal-

ity. We need a peaceful pause to seek God’s healing for our community and our church.”

Lewis, accompanied by young adults of the church, led a 14-block march down 23rd Street, across Union Street and finally along Martin Luther King Jr. Way to Barnett Park in Seattle. Following along

were more than 300 Adventists from Emerald City, Breath of Life, Maranatha, True Vine, Lighthouse, Ghanaian, Eastside, 24-Seven, Volunteer Park, Auburn Academy, Poulsbo, North Cascade and Washington Conference churches.

“We see this as hugely important for us to be here,”

“The black community right now needs allyship. To be an ally is to stand in the way of oppressive white supremacy that has been demoralizing black people for hundreds of years. To be an ally means that you may need to be ready to be treated just like black people are treated to stand against racial injustice while others passively kneel to worship it. Allies will take the lashes for someone else. **WE AS CHRISTIANS HAVE MORE THAN GOOD REASON TO STAND IN THE BREACH FOR THE OPPRESSED.** For we believe in a God who left His privilege and incarnated Himself into humanity through His Son Jesus Christ and took the physical and systemic lashes, thus freeing us from the enslavement that sin harbors over humanity. **JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE ALLY!**” — SAM GUNGALOO, EASTSIDE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST FELLOWSHIP PASTOR

“I’ve lived, ministered and worked in Seattle for 30 years. It **WARMS MY HEART** and it **GIVES MY HEART HOPE** to see all of you standing for the dignity and rights of fellow citizens, some who may perhaps be tired and can no longer stand for themselves.”

—BYRON DULAN, NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE VICE PRESIDENT

says T.J. McCue, who drove 90 miles with his family to participate in the march and rally. “We believe the church should be more unified in supporting black lives. We couldn’t see not coming.”

Neighbors waved from sidewalks and porches, shopkeepers emerged to take pictures and videos, and drivers in passing cars honked and cheered.

“We are here to show our community that we stand with them in the fight against police brutality, bigotry and injustice,” says Lewis. “We are here to educate our community and church and those who live outside of the diaspora of black life and culture what it means to be black and live in America.”

local church leaders and conference leaders.

“Being here today means living out the definition of love,” says marcher Anabelle Quintero from 24–Seven Ministry Center, “and to make sure that we as children of God truly stand up for justice for our black brothers and sisters, and to try



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

With a prayer and with the singing of “This Is the Air I Breathe,” the True Sabbath Rest rally begins an outdoor worship and prayer service.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

to embody what Jesus did for us in protecting us from all sin. We need to do the same for our black brothers and sisters.”

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

Once at Barnett Park, a 90-minute outdoor church service began with masked singing of “This Is the Air I Breathe” followed by a series of short speeches from young adults, community leaders,

Doug Bing, Washington Conference president, shares remarks at the beginning of the True Sabbath Rest rally: “We can move forward with reconciled hearts. The same challenges of Numbers 12 are happening today. We need to stop, reflect, pray and then move forward because we know black lives matter.”



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



VIRTUAL CAMP MEETING SEES REAL ANSWERS TO PRAYER

W

ashington Conference's camp meeting planning team

had two main choices early this spring: cancel camp meeting altogether or plan a virtual camp meeting.

transition to a virtual week of prayer featuring local pastors, musicians and prayer partners.

Prior to virtual camp meeting, the conference communication department tested the virtual worship experience by producing 13



new Bible for her graduation from nursing school. She even asked God for a specific version of the Bible. "This is on my daughter's wish list, and now I can give it to her," Mann says about her name being drawn for the Bible.

Weeks before virtual camp meeting, Cindy Miller was delivering Sabbath School quarterlies in Everett. "One of the members had moved and I didn't realize it, so I rang the bell and left the quarterly on a bench [as COVID-19 distancing had already begun]," Miller says. "Before I got to the car, a lady came out, explained she was the new owner and asked if she could keep the quarterly. I said yes and have visited a time or two since. She told me later she had gone online and found out about the week of prayer online. All I can say is 'praise the Lord.' May His Spirit continue to work."

The week of prayer programming for adults and children, in full or in part, is available to watch and rewatch at [youtube.com/washconf](https://www.youtube.com/washconf). You can also read "Answers to Prayer" stories at bit.ly/waanswers.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



Paul Smith prepares in the studio to go live for a "Praying Continually" message during Washington Conference's virtual week of prayer camp meeting experience.

reached hundreds.

One of the highlights was nightly giveaway drawings for books on prayer or spiritual growth, food gift cards, and cases of vegetarian food. To

enter the drawings, viewers shared the livestream or participated in a social media challenge.

Viewers

also had an opportunity to pitch an idea about how they would spend \$1,000 in ministry. The audience voted for four finalists. The winner received a \$1,000 grant and the runners-up received \$500, answering prayers for much-needed ministries.

One of the giveaways was an Andrews Study Bible. Pam Mann from Port Townsend, had been praying about getting her daughter Sarah a

Virtual week of prayer features local pastors, musicians, children's leaders and prayer partners including pastors Eugene Lewis, Dustin Serns and Randy Maxwell. The programs for children and adults are available on YouTube for on-demand viewing.

weeks of "#SabbathStream." The audience responded best to 45–60 minute programs featuring hosts, music and a 20–25 minute sermon. For camp meeting, a 15-minute prayer time was added, during which people could text in prayer requests and praises.

On average, virtual week of prayer nightly reached hundreds of people. A separate on-demand kids' program in English and Spanish also

"We found ourselves looking forward to trying something new for camp meeting, even if it was out of necessity," says Craig Carr, Washington Conference vice president for administration. "We're grateful for each person who joined us on this journey."

The theme for the year, "Praying Continually: A Call to Prayer for the Family of God," had been chosen two years ago. It was a natural fit to

PACIFIC ISLANDERS RENEGOTIATE ETERNAL CONTRACTS

Nine Pacific Islanders renegotiated their eternal contracts during a Sabbath afternoon baptism in July.

“Had it not been for this pandemic, we wouldn’t be gathered today for these baptisms,” says Meshach Soli, guest pastor from Southern California. “As ministers of the gospel, we want to help people to get their contract with Jesus signed, sealed and delivered. This covenant contract is eternal, not temporary, and offers life, truth, forgiveness and freedom.”

Family members gathered around Auburn Adventist Academy’s gazebo and under a large open-air tent in physically distanced clusters or in nearby cars (with horns ready to honk) to celebrate how God is transforming the lives of a newly married couple, three

young ladies, a family of three and one additional person.

Jennifer Ativalu Ly made some lifestyle choices very early in life. “Somewhere in my sins, there was a voice reminding me that what I was doing was wrong,” she says. “I flaunted my lifestyle in front of my nieces. I’m giving my life to the Lord now to be a better example for my nieces.”

The day before their baptisms, Ativalu Ly married Channa Ly. At their wedding, evangelist Nemaia Faletogo included an appeal to follow Jesus. Two of Ativalu Ly’s nieces, Jazmalani Ativalu, 16, and Sarina Leomiti, 13, asked for baptism. This pandemic is transforming the family tree with multiple family members accepting Jesus this year.

Before Lu Misa lost his father earlier this year, he made



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Benjamin Fidow accepts a new identity in Jesus through baptism.

a commitment to come back to God. He previously had an opportunity to be baptized. “I rejected the opportunity then, and today I am accepting God’s redirection,” he says. He desires to do more in his community for Jesus. His wife, Guinevere, and teenage son, Hailan, also joined in baptism, a commitment that they wouldn’t have dreamed about a year ago.

“I love it when a family gets baptized,” says Rome Ulia, AAA Church associate pastor. “It reminds me of Joshua’s words: Choose you this day.”

It was a family day of celebration for Ulia too.

His daughter Christina followed through on a decision for baptism she

had made when her dad was a guest speaker for the United Prayer Convocation in Auburn in September 2019. Little did the family know then that they would be moving from New Zealand to Auburn in the coming year and how much Christina would see God working in her life.

In a search for identity, Benjamin Fidow was an activist for close to 30 years. Then two key things happened: a family member gave an invitation to visit South Side Samoan Church (invitation accepted) and a troubling dream. Without knowing about the dream, the person featured in the dream texted a message in real life that confirmed God’s calling to a transformed life. “Baptism washes away everything from the past,” says Fidow. “Today we are washing away [the old me] and welcoming back [the new me] into the family of God.”

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



CHURCH IS A VERB

FIGHTING FOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR US

Retired Navy Commander Mike Judd is on a mission: to help and encourage veterans in need to get the benefits they were promised by Uncle Sam.

Like many in the military, Judd worked his way up the ranks over his 31-year career in the Navy by being the go-to guy when things were not going well. After retiring, Judd discovered veterans were pretty much left to fend for themselves when trying to find out what benefits they had earned for their years of service and how to start receiving them. He once again became the go-to guy.

Over the past seven years, Judd has personally counseled dozens of veterans in Washington's Sequim Adventist Church and the surrounding community, helping them navigate their way to significant benefits they earned through selfless service to their country. Some feel that applying for benefits is selfish or worry about adding to the national debt and actually refuse to apply for benefits. To this Judd says, "These veterans have earned the right to ask for these benefits. They put their lives on the line and should receive everything they are eligible for."

Some, including Judd, suffered from exposure to Agent Orange, a defoliant

used widely during the Vietnam War to clear the jungle. Others suffer from hearing issues, post-traumatic stress disorder, back and joint problems, various types of cancer, and more. In one case, Judd helped a fellow parishioner obtain \$80,000 in back

pay and monthly disability compensation of \$3,000 the serviceman did not know he was eligible for. Others have received more modest monthly amounts, medical care and medications from the VA they



Retired Navy Commander Mike Judd is using his gifts, skills and experience for ministering to veterans.

did not know they could get at no cost or greatly reduced cost.

Vets have spread the word around Sequim that Judd will listen and he will help them. Just starting the application process and being encouraged, valued and listened to has given many aging vets in financial difficulties hope.

Judd's willingness to minister to others in this way is now featured on the Sequim Adventist Church website. He advises anyone who has served for any length of time to contact a Veterans Service agent at their local Veterans of Foreign Wars or American Legion.

If you can visit or call a VA clinic or hospital, they have benefits experts on staff who can help as well. Vets will need to have their DD-214 discharge papers to get the ball rolling. If you have a question you'd like to run by Judd, you can reach him by email at mrjudd@aol.com.

Michael Smith, Sequim Church communication leader



Ann and Mike Judd



FOOD RELIEF SITES

At 13-plus food relief sites in western Washington, Adventist volunteers are meeting neighbors' needs. Auburn City pastors Ofa Langi and Tommy Tamalea started promoting their first food sharing date by faith. Each Tuesday God still supplies what they need to share with 2,000 families in two months' time. Auburn City is also a free COVID-19 host site for 1,105-plus patients.



68 DAILY VODCASTS

Kirkland associate pastor Jordan Stephan hosted 68 daily video podcasts on the church's YouTube channel (one for each book of the Bible plus two special episodes) over 16 weeks. Auburn Academy Church also is hosting RAWTalk, a weekly Facebook podcast with community leader interviews.



CONTINUING TO WORSHIP

Even in a pandemic, weekly worship continues with virtual or in-person services (depending on reopening phase) in 18 languages. As of the end of July, 70 churches offer online services (livestream or video call), 49 churches reopened with safety plans, 25 offer dual services, and four churches host outdoor drive-in services.

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

BIBLE READINGS
for

OCTOBER

Bible Verses of ... Trust in God's Timing

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 Psalm 46:10	2 1 Peter 5:8–11	3 1 Thessalonians 5:1–4
4 Philippians 4:19	5 2 Peter 3:8–10	6 John 10:10	7 Psalm 40	8 Genesis 18:14	9 Matthew 24:36–39	10 Jeremiah 17:7–8
11 Ecclesiastes 3:1–13	12 Ecclesiastes 3:13–17	13 Acts 1:7	14 Romans 8:32	15 Proverbs 3:5–6	16 1 John 5:14	17 John 13:7
18 Lamentations 3:24–26	19 Psalm 9:10	20 Romans 8:26–30	21 Isaiah 25:1	22 Psalm 112:7	23 James 5:7–9	24 James 5:10–11
25 1 Timothy 6:6	26 Psalm 27:14	27 Romans 8:18–21	28 Nahum 1:7	29 Psalm 37:23–28	30 Hebrews 11:6	31 Micah 7:7

Bonus: Exodus 2:23–25, Psalm 13, Psalm 37:5–9

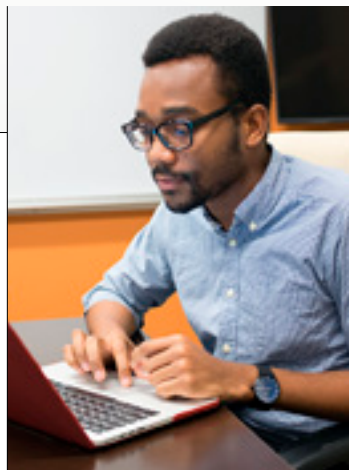
WWU AFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

As Walla Walla University begins the 2020–21 school year, the university affirms its commitment to diversity. This commitment informs life on campus from policies and procedures to activities inside and outside the classroom and is in keeping with the WWU mission statement, which states that “every person is created in the image of God as a being of inestimable value and worth.”

More than a decade ago the university established the role of chief diversity officer called the assistant to the president for diversity. This position is held by Pedrito Maynard-Reid, who leads the WWU Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the important work of the university to support equality. This work is outlined in the WWU Our Commitment to Diversity plan, which notes eight areas of diversity focus that include support for diversity education and training for students, faculty and staff; enhancements to recruiting to attract diverse students, faculty and staff; regular diversity conversations and engagement with stakeholders; and assessment and annual reporting through a diversity scorecard.

At the beginning of the 2020–21 school year, Maynard-Reid outlined several areas of focus on diversity that will lead the university into fall quarter. These include:

- » Working with local civic groups, government officials and law enforcement agencies to discuss safety concerns related to race;
- » Working closely with the other two colleges in the Walla Walla Valley to address diversity concerns on campuses;
- » Conducting research about race in the Walla Walla Valley that can inform future conversations;
- » Working closely with organizers of Black Lives Matter Walla Walla on projects and events in the community that address the relationship of the community to indigenous groups and people of color.
- » Providing resources in the region on issues related to diversity through the WWU Donald Blake Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Culture and the WWU Center for Educational Equity and Diversity;
- » Facilitating positive relationships on campus through affinity groups, such as the WWU Black Faculty and Staff Fellowship, the WWU Latinx Faculty and Staff Association and the WWU First Nations Club;
- » Facilitating opportunities for diverse groups to worship together on the WWU campus through ministries such as the Berean Fellowship, Spanish Church and the Black Student Christian Forum;
- » Providing cultural intelligence training for all WWU employees and requiring routine training for employees that covers topics such as collaboration skills for diversity, building a supportive workplace community, accommodating employees with disabilities, and recognizing and addressing workplace bullying;
- » Enhancing the curriculum to address issues of race, diversity and inclusion;
- » Working with other Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities on joint efforts to combat racism.



“Walla Walla University seeks to provide a home away from home for our students that allows them to feel safe and supported in every pursuit during their time here,” says Maynard-Reid. “We are proud of what we have accomplished in recent years and continue to expand our efforts to ensure that diversity remains a top priority at Walla Walla University. We will continue to listen; we will act; we will change and be change-agents.”

To learn more about the WWU commitment to diversity, visit wallawalla.edu/diversity.

*Kim Strobel,
WWU university relations
supervisor*

**Pedrito
Maynard-Reid**



HIGH-TECH CLASSROOMS SUPPORT TEACHING AND LEARNING

New high-tech features were installed in several classrooms on the Walla Walla University campus this summer thanks to generous donations to the WWU Fund from alumni and other friends of the university. These new classroom features create spaces that are more convenient for instruction during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.

“When WWU shifted to a spring quarter held entirely online, our advancement team began to connect with donors interested in helping WWU weather this particular disruption and, more importantly, interested in investing in our students during an incredibly challenging time,” says Jodi Wagner, vice president for university relations and advancement. “President John McVay, our advancement officers and three hardworking student callers reached out to encourage our donors to give to our Walla Walla University Fund, which helps with projects that are considered the university’s most immediate needs.”



One immediate need was for enhancements to classroom technologies. Money raised since March through the WWU Fund has been designated to help the university provide the equipment and technology that students need to continue with their academic programming in this new COVID-19 environment.

Technology upgrades installed this summer include the addition of mounted cameras that can tilt, zoom or pan to show a panoramic view of the classroom or to follow an individual, such as the instructor, as they move around the classroom.

Additional monitors allow students and faculty to see class participants who are connecting from outside the classroom, while specialized microphones with noise and echo cancellation automatically pick up speech from the entire room.

These high-tech features will make it possible for students and faculty to interact during distance learning and dual-modality classes in more meaningful ways.

“COVID-19 has made the logistics of teaching more difficult. Some students and faculty will not be able to attend classes in the normal way, and we wish to provide

opportunities for them to continue the educational process as effectively as possible. These systems give us options for more effective learning environments,” says Scott Ligman, associate vice president for academic administration.

“As we begin the fall quarter and implement all that is needed to keep our campus, students, faculty and staff safe and fully engaged in strong academic, spiritual and social programming, generous donors continue to step forward to help,” says Wagner. “This is a worthy investment. Our students, faculty and staff very much want to be back together on our campuses, and we will be. But until then our important ministry must continue.”

Wagner and the WWU advancement team continue to encourage unrestricted gifts through the WWU Fund as a way to help the university weather this storm and keep students focused on completing their degrees.

Find news about WWU’s response to COVID-19 at wallawalla.edu/coronavirus.

Kim Strobel, WWU university relations supervisor

ADVENTIST HEALTH RELEASES MISSION-FOCUSED APP

Adventist Health's more than 37,000 associates are on a mission to live God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope in both the Pacific Union and North Pacific Union territories. They do this as they serve in 22 acute care hospitals and make nearly a quarter-million home health visits a year. In outpatient clinics, they minister with love and healing. In rural health clinics, they are on the frontline, often as the only health care available. Every day the associates of Adventist Health are actively owning this mission.

It is not a shift. It is not Monday to Friday. It is not a weekend. It is every day. Owning the mission means every action, every conversation, every moment, every line of data, every story, every encounter keeps the patient at the center. The mission does not end when a patient leaves the facility. The Adventist Health mission calls each associate to stay connected and to help transform the whole community.

The Bible is filled with great examples that teach us we are stronger when we have others in our lives. When Moses needed to keep his arms raised high to win the battle, Aaron and Hur aided him, one

on each side (Ex. 17:11–12). We all need support in our lives. That is one of the most wonderful gifts of the local church. We connect each week to support each other. We meet through small groups, prayer meetings and acts of service. Church members and Adventist Health associates together can own the mission, support each other and lift each other up.

To increase this connectedness, Adventist Health released the Simply Mission app earlier this year. The app offers features to lift, inspire and raise the hope each day to both Adventist Health associates and church members across the North American Division.

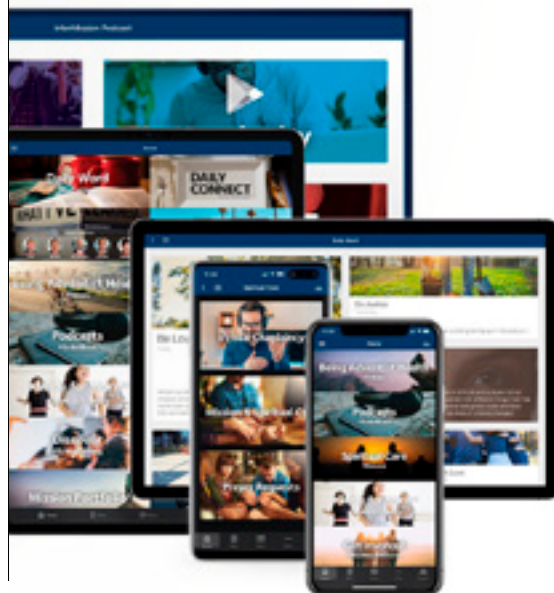
Every day, seven days a week, anyone can enjoy a passage from the Bible. There's a Bible reading plan to join. The Daily Word offers a 300-word reflection sharing life insights. The Daily Connect's two-minute inspirational video starts the day in the best space possible.

Through the app, Adventist Health streams life events and Digital interMission services. Every week there is a fresh 12-minute message to watch or listen to. These are just some of the resources being developed and offered through the Simply Mission app. The app is available on every type of mobile device (Android, Google, iPhone) and even Roku and Apple TV.

To find the Simply Mission app, open your phone or tablet and search within your app store for two words: Simply Mission. If you have any difficulty, you can reach out to Adventist Health's office of mission by email at mission@ah.org. One final note: Register for notifications as well because those gentle reminders are a great feature to help you stay connected with this valuable, mission-focused content.

Together, let us continue to lift each other up every day.

Japhet De Oliveira, Adventist Health Office of Mission resources and experience design administrative director



Simply Mission

Download the Simply Mission app to access

- The Daily Word blog
- Daily Connect videos
- Spiritual care support
- Digital interMission

And so much more!



BRYANT NAMED NAD PRESIDENT

The General Conference executive committee met virtually on July 9 to receive the name of

G. Alexander Bryant, the recommendation for division president, from both the North American Division’s nominating committee and executive committee. Bryant was confirmed in a vote of 153 to 5.

Ted N.C. Wilson, GC president, said, “[Bryant] is someone who is a careful listener to people ... I believe that God can use him in a very, very special way.”

“I am first indebted to God for His call to ministry and secondly to those who have poured into my life over the years,” said Bryant in response to the vote. “I am deeply humbled by the confidence Elder Wilson, our chair, and the NAD and GC executive committees have placed in me with this assignment. This task is too big for one individual or office. It is abundantly clear to me that it takes all of us working together to advance God’s kingdom, and I just deeply covet your prayers.”

All world division executive officers serve as elected officers of the GC, and their nomination and election by the region they represent must be approved by the GC executive committee. Bryant replaces Daniel R. Jackson, who served at the NAD headquarters since his election in June 2010 at the GC Session in Atlanta, Georgia.

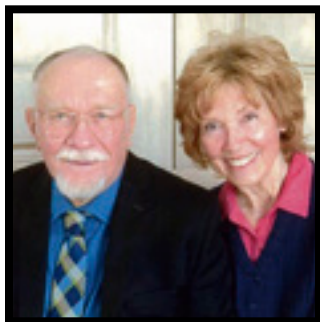
Kimberly Luste Maran, North American Division Office of Communication associate director



DAN WEBER

Miller 60th

Harley Miller and Sharon Wakefield were married Dec. 17, 1959, at the Colton Adventist Church in California. Harley, from Eureka, South Dakota, and Sharon, from Takoma Park, Maryland, met as students at Loma Linda University. After Sharon's graduation in 1959 she began



Harley and Sharon Miller

teaching nursing on the White Memorial Campus of LLU.

The two were student missionaries at Monument Valley, Arizona, between Harley's medical school years. He graduated in 1962. After internship at the Washington Adventist Hospital and Sanitarium in Maryland, he worked for two years for the Public Health Service in Tanana and Point Barrow, Alaska.

For the past 52 years Harley and Sharon have lived in Chehalis, Washington, where Harley continues to practice family medicine with the Steck Memorial Medical Group. He now works three days a week. Together the pair has enjoyed opportunities working with Maranatha and other mission projects, sometimes taking children and grandchildren with them. They have also visited villages in Germany and Russia where Harley's ancestors lived.

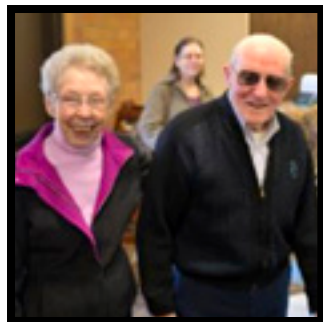
They have six daughters: Marti Hall of Puyallup,

Washington; Kellie Hall of St. Augustine, Florida; Carrie Bixel of Kirkland, Washington; Jennifer Sarthou of Seattle; Tara Vranes of Eagle River, Alaska; and Rachel Crudele of Portland, Oregon. They also have wonderful sons-in-law and nine precious grandchildren.

Ringering 50th

Arnold and Margaret Ringering celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception on May 8, 2020, at the Hood View Church in Boring, Oregon.

Arnold and Margaret met while they were both working at United Medical Laboratory in Portland, Oregon. They married in a private home on May 8, 1970, in Estacada, Oregon. Arnold was 50, and Margaret was 36. It was a sec-



Margaret and Arnold Ringering

ond marriage for both. Arnold had three grown daughters, and Margaret had two girls in high school and two boys in grade school. Arnold adopted the boys a few years later.

A year after marrying they moved to Montana, where they lived much of their life. Arnold worked much of that time for Christian Record Braille Foundation, traveling all over the state. They spent his last year with Christian Record in Hawaii.

Upon returning to Montana, Arnold retired. Then Margaret decided to go to school to become a nurse. She graduated from Northern Montana College in 1986. She worked most of her nursing career as a traveling nurse, working in Idaho, Arizona and Alaska. Arnold always traveled with her and took care of the house and sometimes also worked, as an orderly.

The couple participated in a couple short mission trips, one to American Samoa and one to Peru. Margaret also did a mission trip to Honduras with one of her friends. They moved to Alaska in 1995, where Margaret worked in home health. They loved Alaska, but they moved back to Oregon in 1999 for health reasons and to be closer to some of their children. They lived at the Village Retirement Center for several years, before volunteering at Weimar in California for a year. They now reside in Boring and are still members of the Village Church.

Their family includes Arnold's daughters and sons-in-law, Noreen (Ringering) and Jim Carey of Selah, Washington; Phyllis (Ringering) and Walt Mow of Yakima, Washington; Jane (Ringering) Briggs of Walla Walla, Washington; Margaret's children, Twyla (Young) McIntyre of Boring, Oregon; Paula (Young) McIntyre of Albany, Oregon; Richard Ringering of Troutdale, Oregon; and Gene Ringering of Aurora, Oregon. Together they have 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Shaver 50th

David "Ray" and Colleen Shaver celebrated their

50th wedding anniversary on March 15 with a family dinner in Medford, Oregon.

Ray and Colleen met in Wenatchee, Washington, when he started attending the Wenatchee Church upon the invitation of a neighbor, who was Colleen's classmate at Wenatchee Junior Academy. Ray had Bible studies and was baptized by Philip Welklin.



Colleen and David "Ray" Shaver

Ray was a student at Wenatchee Junior College but was soon drafted into the Army. He received basic training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, followed by truck driver training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, before being shipped to Vietnam where he served a year as a medic. During this time, Colleen attended Milo Academy, where she graduated in 1968. Her family moved to the San Gabriel Valley of Southern California the next year. Ray followed them, and he and Colleen were married March 15, 1970, at Monrovia Adventist Church in California.

Ray became a real estate broker before joining Loma Linda Health Plan in insurance sales. Colleen was a homemaker until Kimberly and James started school. She worked as an administrative assistant at Loma Linda University Medical Center. After 26

years in Southern California, Ray and Colleen made the decision to return to the Pacific Northwest and retired in Medford, Oregon. Colleen is the church secretary at Valley View Church in Medford. A 50th wedding reception was planned for Sunday, March 15, at Valley View Church but had to be postponed because of the coronavirus.

The Shaver family includes Kimberly (Shaver) and Charlie Little of Medford; James and Verenize (Rayos) Shaver of Austin, Texas; and 3 grandchildren.

Wood 90th

Clarence Wood enjoyed his 90th birthday with his beautiful wife of 65 years, Crystal. Because of the coronavirus they were sequestered in their very comfortable apartment in Boise, Idaho, across the patio from the home of their youngest daughter, Janelle, and her husband, Robert Schmidt.

Clarence Archibald Wood was born on April 16, 1930. He would become the eldest of 10 siblings. He was born in the famous gold mining town of Lead, South Dakota, in the beautiful Black Hills. During his teenage years he attended Plainview Academy in Redfield, South Dakota, where he made many friends of both students and teachers.

After several years working on various construction projects in Rapid City, South Dakota, he was invited by Uncle Sam to be trained as a dental lab technician and was privileged to spend a year in Korea, where he met and made friends of other conscripts in Uncle Sam's employ as well as friendly local Koreans. While there, under the influence of the Army Adventist Chaplain

Moore, Clarence, along with some fellow soldiers, pooled their meager funds and hard work to help build an Adventist church in Chunchon, Korea. He also took advantage of college courses being taught by a visiting university of California professor. This began Clarence's college experience in Korea.

Shortly after his release from the service, Clarence and his longtime sweetheart, Crystal Columbyne Clymer, were married in Portland, Oregon, on June 26, 1955. Two years later and after their first daughter, Camille, was born, they moved to Arlington, California. Clarence earned a Bachelor of Arts in speech pathology and audiology at La Sierra College where their first son, Kevin, was born. Then he and family moved to Fallon, Nevada, where Clarence spent one year teaching in a one-



Clarence Wood

room Adventist elementary school.

A move to Denver followed, where Clarence earned a master's degree in speech pathology and audiology from Denver University and their second son, Darrin, was born. Sadly, in 1973, Darrin was taken by a brain tumor when he was 10 years old.

Following graduation in 1963, Clarence accepted

the position of head speech pathologist and soon became the director of the Easter Seal Treatment Center in Waukegan, Illinois. Their fourth child, and second daughter, Janelle, was born while there.

In 1966 his name was suggested by Loren Dickinson to be invited to head up the fledgling program in speech pathology and audiology at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University). Soon he accepted a call from Roy Hartbauer, the college's communication department chairman. With input from Roy, Clarence designed Walla Walla's very successful speech pathology and audiology bachelor's program. After 22 years, in 1988, the program was closed. Clarence joined the local public school system as a speech pathologist and audiologist.

During the summer of 1977, Clarence and Crystal embarked upon their first adventure by motorhome over the often primitive roads of Mexico and into Central America to volunteer for mission work at Instituto de Capacitación Adventista del Petén (ICAP), an Adventist college and nearby orphanage near Poptun, Guatemala, which had been established by longtime friends Jim and Vonnie Bechtel.

Clarence retired in 1996, but the ever-adventurer continued to find new ways to be involved. That summer he and Crystal volunteered for missionary work in Central America by transporting donations of equipment and supplies, such as computers, washing machines, farm equipment and clothes and anything useful

in trucks and retired serviceable school buses, packed full of those "treasures." They navigated the mostly primitive roads through Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Later they made similar journeys several times. Upon arrival they assisted where needed — teaching classes, doing maintenance work and teaching English. Crystal often found opportunities for her nursing skills and also served as interim director when Elmer and Dorothy Duncan, who managed the Adventist facility in San Juan de Opico, near El Salvador, took a much-needed vacation.

In 1999 the couple began the full-time, "snowbird" motorhome lifestyle that lasted for 16 years, spending winters in the sunny southern states and summers parked on RV pads at their three children's homes. After reluctantly selling their last motorhome in 2018, they moved into their present apartment in Boise. Even though the "carreteras" are now mostly all paved, it is still an arduous and perilous journey. So Clarence and Crystal have again, reluctantly, retired, this time from travel to Central America. They now enjoy a bit more of the "good life," visiting family and treasured friends here and even far away in Central America by the miracle of FaceTime video calls.

Clarence's family includes his children, Jerry and Camille Wood of Powell Butte, Oregon; Kevin and Rae (Rebel) Wood of Bismarck, North Dakota; Janelle and Robert Schmidt of Boise; 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

McMILLEN-KELLEY

Terri (Clark) McMillen and Les Kelley were married June 21, 2020, in Corvallis, Oregon. They are making their home in Halsey, Oregon. Terri is the daughter of Wayne and Darlene (Morrow) Clark. Les is the son of James and Anna Margaret (Torkelson) Kelley (both deceased).

FAMILY AT REST

ASHKER — Albert, 81; born Aug. 28, 1938, Niagara Falls, New York; died Feb. 23, 2020, Central Point, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Sharon (Wayland); sons, Kenneth, Klamath Falls, Oregon; Keith and Albert Jr., both of White City, Oregon; daughters, Shelly Stewart, White City; Sheila Kell, Central Point; 19 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren.

BADGER — Carol Y. (Hanson) Lewis, 82; born March 28, 1937, Medford, Oregon; died Jan. 26, 2020, Newberg, Oregon. Surviving: son, C. Roger Lewis, Napa, California; daughters, Rhonda Y. Lewis, Rio Dell, California; Judith A. Lewis and Jacklyn R. Lewis, both of Angwin, California; sister, Delores MacDonald, Dundee, Oregon; 4 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

BARNETT — Betty Mary (Hassing), 90; born Nov. 4, 1929, Seattle, Washington; died Jan. 27, 2020, Kirkland, Washington. Surviving: son, Gerald, Lynnwood, Washington; daughter, Jeanie Barnett, Issaquah, Washington; brother, Paul Hassing, Oro Valley, Arizona; sister, Erna Nielsen, Oxnard, California; 3 grandchildren and 3 great-

FAMILY AT REST

grandchildren.

CLARK — Hazel Doreen (Kitto), 90; born Aug. 7, 1929; died Jan. 19, 2020, Port Angeles, Washington. Surviving: son, Kevin; daughter, Rachel Sizemore; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

CLYMER — Renita, 66; born in Seoul, South Korea; died Feb. 28, 2020, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: sisters, Crystal Wood, Boise, Idaho; and Marlita Clymer-Engelhart, Sacramento, California.

COLE — Coralie Ann (Emmons), 77; born June 24, 1942, Chehalis, Washington; died Dec. 21, 2019, Brush Prairie, Washington. Surviving: husband, Paul; sons, Paul Jr., Aurora, Oregon; Kevin, Clear Lake, California; Dan, Riverside, Washington; daughter, Annette Cole, Portland Oregon; 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

COLLIER — Ada Marie (Feaster), 83; born July 20, 1935, Akron, Ohio; died July 16, 2019, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: husband, Everett, Portland, Oregon; son, Dean, Lacombe, Alberta Canada; daughters, Bonnie MacDougal, Canby, Oregon; Cindee Horsch and Gail (Collier) Corn, both of Yacolt, Washington; sister, Anita Colver, McMinnville, Oregon; 12 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

DAVIDSON — David Alden, 92; born Nov. 29, 1927, Eugene, Oregon; died Jan. 3, 2020, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Ivadell (Davis); sons, Henry, of Arizona; Max, of Nebraska; Marlin, Portland; daughter, Maridell Moore, Portland; 10

grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

DUNCAN — Dorothy May (Drake), 81; born Aug. 27, 1938, Sequim, Washington; died Jan. 6, 2020, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Elmer; son, John, Phoenix, Arizona; daughter, Diane Aguirre, Nampa; brothers, Fred Drake, Ten Sleep, Wyoming; David Drake, Salem, Oregon; Jim Drake, College Place, Washington; sisters, Joan Drake, Caldwell, Idaho; Betty Cromwell, College Place, Washington; Linda Dixon, Salem, Oregon; and 3 grandchildren.

DUNHAM — Evelyn Lee (Dugan), 91; born July 27, 1928, Duncan, Arizona; died Jan.

4, 2020, Gladstone, Oregon. Surviving: husband, Philip; son, Dennis, Sutherlin, Oregon; daughter, Diane Eysenbeck, Salem, Oregon; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

FREITAS — Beth Lorraine (Evans), 95; born March 2, 1924, Fort Jones, California; died Dec. 24, 2019, Auburn, Washington. Surviving: son, Robert, Lake Tapps, Washington; daughter, Karen Hackett, Auburn; 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

FREITAS — Robert John, 93; born Dec. 3, 1925, Fort Jones, California; died Nov. 19, 2019, Auburn, Washington. Surviving: wife, Beth (Evans);

1926–2020

HAROLD T. OCHS



Harold Ochs was born in 1926 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He passed away in Walla Walla, Washington, on April 18 at the age of 93.

Harold was raised in Idaho and Washington. He graduated from Yakima Valley Academy in 1945, was drafted into the U.S. Army and served until late 1946. After discharge he married Lois, whom he met while attending YVA.

Harold studied education and graduated from Walla Walla College, received a master's degree from Eastern Washington University, and took additional course work at Gonzaga University, University of Washington and Portland State University. Harold taught history, biology and other classes, beginning at Upper Columbia Academy. He continued as principal and teacher at Columbia Academy and UCA.

After receiving a doctoral degree at the University of Idaho, Harold began a 20-year term as professor and administrator in the Department of Education and Psychology at Walla Walla College. His teaching and work as supervisor of student teaching kept him in contact with many former students, teachers and administrators throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Harold is survived by his wife of 73 years, Lois Ochs; daughters, Susan Farrell and Elizabeth Bleecker; son, David Ochs; and grandchildren, Matthew Hieb, Andrew Seely and Paige Seely.

son, Robert, Lake Tapps, Washington; daughter, Karen Hackett, Auburn; 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

GEFFORD — John Wesley, 89; born Sept. 5, 1929, Indianahoma, Oklahoma; died Sept. 30, 2018, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Marilyn (Anderson), Estacada, Oregon; sons, Daniel, Happy Valley, Oregon; Charles, West Linn, Oregon; brother, Waldo, Harrah, Oklahoma; sister, Mary Johnson, Clarksville, Missouri; 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

GILL — Claudette Louise (Bassett) Warner, 84; born Jan. 8, 1935, Seattle, Washington; died Dec. 6, 2019, Tacoma, Washington. Surviving: son, Geoffrey Warner, Hilo, Hawaii; daughters, Sheila (Warner) Maynor, Battle Ground, Washington; Shari Warner, Ocean Shores, Washington; Anna (Warner) Johnson and Marlaine (Warner) Watson, both of Cle Elum, Washington; half-brothers, William Guest, Seattle, Washington; Gregory Guest, Auburn, Washington; Rodney Guest, Renton, Washington; 8 grandchildren, a step-grandchild, 6 great-grandchildren and 4 step-great-grandchildren.

HALLESON — Patricia June (Reiswig), 79; born June 19, 1940, Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada; died Nov. 5, 2019, Campbell River, British Columbia, Canada. Surviving: sister, Jeanne Norton.

HANSON — Jan (Aen), 76; born March 1, 1943, Portland, Oregon; died Dec. 30, 2019, Portland. Surviving: husband, Herb, Gresham, Oregon; son, Trevor, Gresham; and daughter, Kim Hanson, West Linn, Oregon.

HARTMAN — Neta Joyce, 57; born March 25, 1962, Salem, Oregon; died Jan. 27, 2020, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: mother, Bertha Hartman, Ridgefield, Washington; brother, John Hartman, Ridgefield; and stepbrother, Andy Parson, Ridgefield.

JONES — Stephen J., 69; born Dec. 9, 1950, Fall Creek, Oregon; died March 10, 2020, Eugene, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Miriam (Judd) Jones, Springfield, Oregon; son, Jay Jones, Dixie, Washington; daughter, Rachael Jones, Walla Walla, Washington; stepsons, Joel Judd and Isaac Judd, both of Springfield; sisters, Nancy (Jones) Price and Julie (Jones) Crumroy, both of Springfield; 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

KING — Wildon Kent, 58; born Aug. 6, 1961, Walla Walla, Washington; died Feb. 9, 2020, Tigard, Oregon. Surviving: son, Joshua, Anchorage, Alaska; parents, Leslie and Geri (Van Tassel) King, Milton-Freewater, Oregon; brothers, Brent, Tigard; and Benjamin, Milton-Freewater.

MCDANIEL — David, 72; born March 5, 1947, Okemah, Oklahoma; died Jan. 25, 2020, Eugene, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Dean and Darren, both of Weizer, Idaho; sisters, Betty Sazino, Anaheim, California; Patricia Kiess, of Washington; and 5 grandchildren.

MOHR — Glibert Edward, 87; born Dec. 17, 1931, Spokane, Washington; died March 17, 2019, Sunnyside, Washington. Surviving: wife, Jean C. (Fry); sons, Gary, Lodi, California; Jere, Sunnyside; daughter, Sherri (Mohr) Hamamjy, San Jose, California; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

MOHR — Jean C. (Fry), 84;

born Jan. 21, 1936, Hinsdale, Illinois; died Feb. 10, 2020, Sunnyside, Washington. Surviving: sons, Gary, Lodi, California; Jere, Sunnyside, Washington; daughter, Sherri (Mohr) Hamamjy, San Jose, California; sisters, Joyce Lang, Gold Canyon, Arizona; Pat Mundt, Zillah, Washington; Sharron Morrow, Las Vegas, Nevada; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

NICKELL — Betty Jean (Waters), 85; born Sept. 19, 1934, Portland, Oregon; died Feb. 23, 2020, Payette, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Robert; son, Jerry, Baker City, Oregon; daughter, Terri Nickell, Rocklin, California; 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

REESE — Roger Wallace, 91; born March 5, 1928, National City, California; died Jan. 25, 2020, Keymar, Maryland. Surviving: wife, Lenore Barbara (Duncan); son, Michael Roger Reese, Scappoose, Oregon; daughters, Christine Marie Greene, Keymar; Pamela Ann Allen, Snohomish, Washington; 4 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 7 step-great-grandchildren.

SCHAFFER — Herbert Lawrence, 81; born June 14, 1938, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; died Nov. 24, 2019, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: wife, Carol (Huether), College Place, Washington; son, Scott, College Place; brothers, Dave, Lacombe, Alberta, Canada; Elmer, Vernon, British Columbia, Canada; Robert, Lacombe; Leon, Vernon; sisters, Ruth Krenzler and Carol Smith, both of Lacombe; and 2 grandchildren.

SELTMANN — Carolyn Charlene (Bliss), 76; born July 16, 1943, Walla Walla, Washington; died Feb. 22, 2020, Temecula, California. Surviving: sons, Laughn, LaCrosse, Kansas; Larry “Max” Jr., Temecula; daughter, Lauren Seltsmann, Fairfield, California; 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

STRESE — Ivan Junior, 90; born June 9, 1929, Condon, Oregon; died June 9, 2019, Hermiston, Oregon. Surviving: step-daughter, Sharon Coffey, Hermiston; 3 grandchildren, 5 step-great-grandchildren and 5 step-great-great-grandchildren.

STUIVENGA — Timothy “Tim” Daniel, 61; born Nov. 22, 1958, McMinnville, Oregon; died Feb. 21, 2020, Clear Lake, Wisconsin. Surviving: wife, Susan (Pavick); sons, Ben, Clayton, Wisconsin; Jonathan, Manhattan, Kansas; daughter, RaeAnn Stuiivenga, Barron, Wisconsin; mother, Joy Colver, Hood River, Oregon; brothers, Will Stuiivenga, Tumwater, Washington; Doug Stuiivenga, Amity, Oregon; sisters, Kathy Davis, Hood River, Oregon; Wanda Stuiivenga, McMinnville, Oregon; and 2 grandchildren.

TILLAY — Michael Dale, 64; born July 18, 1955, Walla Walla, Washington; died Jan. 23, 2020, Walla Walla. Surviving: wife, Colleen (Walde); son, Jon, Modesto, California; daughter, Jenny Tillay, Yucaipa, California; mother, Mary Lou (Saxby) Tillay, Walla Walla; sisters, Debbi Short, Montrose, Colorado; Tammy Tillay Seidel, Richland, Washington; and a grandchild.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY AT REST

TWEDELL — Harold Sr., 96; born Aug. 15, 1923, Williamfield, Illinois; died Feb. 20, 2020, Eagle Point, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Harold Jr., Eagle Point; Donald, Central Point, Oregon; David, Scarlington, North Carolina; Terry, Central Point; 17 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren.

VAN ARSDALE — Sharon (Laubhan), 62; born April 13, 1957, Okeene, Oklahoma; died Jan. 18, 2020, Shady Cove, Oregon. Surviving: husband, Robert “Bob”; sons, Robert William, Shady Cove; Phillip Andrew, Colton, California; daughter, Katharine Faith Van Arsdale, Angwin, California; and 2 grandchildren.

WHITE — Judy Ann (Pope) Hamby Kinney Hanson, 77; born Jan. 21, 1943, Stockton, California; March 14, 2020, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: son, John Hamby, Nikiski, Alaska; daughter, Rhonda (Hamby), Aloha, Oregon; brother, Jim Pope, Milton-Freewater, Oregon; sister, Betty (Pope) Davis, Rainer, Oregon; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

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

Go to [GleanerNow.com](https://www.gleanernow.com)/contribute to submit family announcements.

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NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

Sept. 5 — Local Church Budget;
Sept. 12 — Fall Mission Appeal;
Sept. 19 — Local Church Budget;
Sept. 26 — Local Conference Advance;
Oct. 3 — Local Church Budget;
Oct. 10 — Voice of Prophecy/La Voz de Esperanza;
Oct. 17 — Local Church Budget;
Oct. 24 — Local Conference Advance;
Oct. 31 — Walla Walla University.

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Missing Members

The Clarkston Church is looking for the following missing members: Wanda Austin, Leah Baker, Rebecca Bennett, Cynthia M. Bertleson, Ronald W. Bertleson, Violet Clausing, Devlin Arlan Daniel, Kevin Daniel, Anthony J. Davis, Kimberly Hill, Brittany

Horne, Courtney M. Jacobs, Joann Johnston, Heidi Juhl Buck, Patrick G. Kane, Kelvin Klein, George Koller, Juanita S. Lindstrum, Robert E. Littlejohn, Erica N. Manley, Milton D. Martin, Maria McGuire, Rusty Monroe, Karin Moore, Katie Moran, Dale R. Myers, Yuka Nakamura, David Nichols Jr., Mary Nichols, Viva Nickell, Scott Onthank, Candy H. Peck, Virgilynn Peterson, Gordon Russell Radke, Pat A. Richardson, Debbie Riley, David L. Rudd, Wesley Smith, Beverly Smyth, Larry Smyth, Jeanette Stahl, Theresa E. Topp, Margarita Villasenor, Montie Wiencke, Aimee Wilkerson, Isaac P. Wilkerson and Chuck Wittington. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact Matthew Vixie at 509-780-8358.

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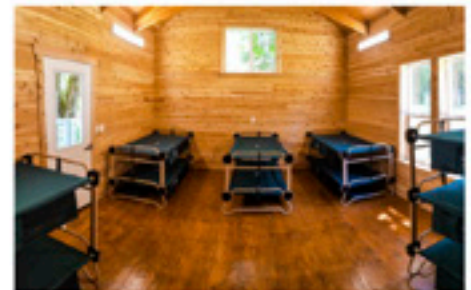
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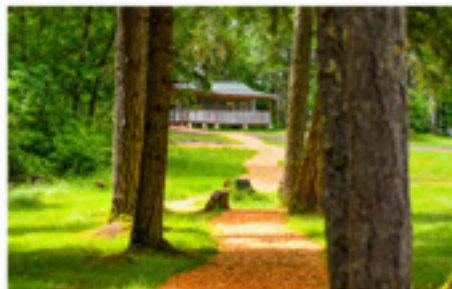
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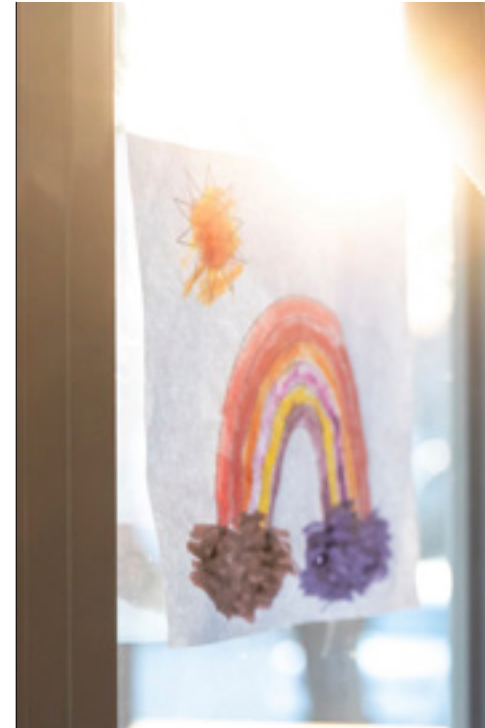
LIVE WITH JESUS TO LOVE LIKE JESUS

T

HE CHURCH I CO-PASTOR IN MOSCOW, IDAHO, HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN MANY DIFFERENT OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. OUR CONGREGATION HAS BEEN WILLING TO TRY THINGS AND SEE IF THOSE IDEAS WORK FOR OUR AREA AND DEMOGRAPHIC. WE HAVE MADE THE CONSCIOUS DECISION TO NOT FOCUS ON FAILURES BUT SEEK OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE AND GROWTH.

The COVID-19 pandemic has stifled a few of our well-set plans and prayerfully organized ideas. It has made it much more challenging to come up with ways to effectively and safely reach out to those in our area. New and continually changing regulations, conflicting information relating to risk for infection, a changed local demographic (we normally have a large college student population, but with in-person courses stopped or greatly limited, that has changed), and the ever-present general concern for both people in the community and our own members have forced us to think outside the church building.

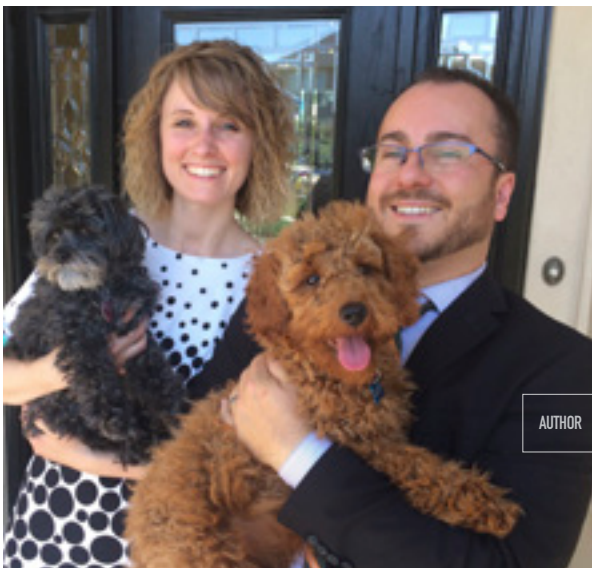
Just this last week, I walked around the neighborhood by our local Adventist elementary school,



Palouse Hills Christian School. We were putting door hanger ads on people's doors for the Vacation Bible School. Traditionally VBS has been held in the Moscow Church building, which is a wonderful way to show off our church. Because of COVID-19 concerns, we wanted a bigger and outdoor space to attempt a VBS program.

A conversation I had with our lower-grade teacher led to the idea of doing VBS at our school — to give ample outdoor space for the program and to showcase our school. Had it not been for COVID-19 I don't know that I would have found this to be a great suggestion, but in light of the current climate I jumped on the idea.

How do you advertise and conduct a VBS where health and safety are exceptionally important? You just start crafting the outreach



AUTHOR

Natashia McVay



People just need to feel seen. They need to know people care and, even more, that Jesus loves and cares for them.

ministry, step by step. You pray a lot, you wash a lot, you smell continually of hand sanitizer, and you work hard. Instead of handing out flyers and meeting people, you hang a door hanger with information, you provide details of how you will keep kids and adults safe, and you learn to have conversations through masks.

In walking to homes and apartments to put up door hangers for VBS, my husband and I met more people than we would have in that particular area of Moscow without the change of location due to COVID-19. People were amazed we would even let them know about an event. People were happy we cared enough to stop by. We became aware of a bunch of people

who need the love of Jesus. If it hadn't been for COVID-19, we wouldn't have gone there.

How do we love like Jesus? We go places we wouldn't normally go. Not because we naturally want to and not because the people are just like us. Rather, we go because there is a need there for Jesus. I'm not saying we should put ourselves in danger or a compromising situation. But sometimes caring for people requires we get outside our comfort zone.

People just need to feel seen. They need an opportunity to share their needs. All people are looking for love. They need to know people care and, even more, that Jesus loves and cares for them.

True love comes only

through Jesus! We attempt to love as human beings, but we fail. Love, true love, comes through Jesus Christ: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us" (1 John 4:7-12).

The reality is that for many people, the love of Jesus is shown through our lives and actions. The truth found in Scripture must be lived out! What we do, what we say, what we don't do shape how people relate to Jesus. We say we are Christians, but do we act like we walk with Jesus? Do we become exasperated, shouting and creating chaos?

Or do we stay calm, be peaceful and work to create places of refuge?

The things going on in our part of the world have created a lot of anger, fear and stress. If we have truly been with Jesus, if we are ourselves are truly changed by Jesus' love in our lives, we will stand out. Not because we created havoc, not because we shouted the loudest, not because we made the best signs for our cause or argued the best. Rather we will stand out because people see that, even in the midst of chaos and struggles, we continue to love like Jesus. We walk around new neighborhoods seeking to reach people for Jesus. We host events, though abridged and more regulated, where we share who Jesus is and what He wants to do in people's lives.

We actually live the love of Jesus, not just profess it with our mouths.

We seek to love like Jesus by living lives dedicated to Him.

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

LEARNING HOW TO PARTY LIKE JESUS

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.” — Matt. 11:19



AUTHOR

Kevin McGill

I F THERE WAS ONE PIECE OF EVANGELISTIC ADVICE I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE TO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IT IS THIS: ADVENTISTS NEED TO LEARN HOW TO PARTY!

I came to this realization while I was a Bible worker. Bible workers knock on doors inviting people to have Bible studies. To be honest, I don't like that part. But one night I was out knocking on doors with my wife, Danelle, and we weren't having any success. It was lightly raining. I was tired and ready to go home ... but Danelle said, "Let's try one more house."

We knocked on Joe's door rather hesitantly. He was blaring rock music, and I was convinced this would be a waste of time. Joe opened the door and invited us in. He turned down his music and opened up to us. He was high on life (and other things), and he was the most friendly person we met that night. In fact, he was the only person who invited us in that day. Joe told us he was a carpenter, and he understood that Jesus was a carpenter. He figured maybe Jesus would have some work for him to do in heaven. He said he was open to Bible studies, and we told him

we would come back.

When we came back the next week, Joe was blaring his music again. This time it was obvious he was having a party. I thought we should come back another time, but Danelle convinced me we should go in anyway.

It was a full house. We definitely weren't going to be doing any Bible studies that night, but we talked with and listened to Joe and his friends. They said they



wouldn't tell anyone if we had a few beers. We filled our cups with soda, ate some chips and "partied with Joe and his friends."

At the end of the night just before we were about to leave, Joe asked us to pray. Some of his friends thought that was weird (especially a guy named Dave), but we prayed with them anyway and told Joe we would be back. Following the prayer we met another of Joe's friends, a lady named Danielle. She was spiritually moved and appreciative of our prayer. She gave us her number. We became friends and did Bible studies with her in the subsequent weeks.

With our third visit to Joe, we were determined to study the Bible with him, but as we

pulled up to his place we could see there were even more cars than before. Joe was having a practice session with his band. We went inside and heard some amazing music. They were practicing for a weekend gig at a pub.

Joe was the drummer, Danielle was the singer, and Dave was the lead guitarist. We were offered food and were told to make ourselves comfortable. One of the songs they played was a Harry Chapin song called "Cat's in the Cradle." They sang it with such authenticity and power, I always think of that moment whenever the song comes on the radio to this day.

After a while, people started to leave. Soon there were only about six of us left

Jesus didn't come to call the "righteous." He hung out with "drunkards." He partied with people the religious people to His day wouldn't be caught dead with.

in the home. As we were talking, I had the impression maybe we should sing a song. I mentioned to Joe that Danelle played the guitar. She gave me a look that said, "What are you doing?" We had not planned to do this. Danelle plays the guitar but definitely not at a near-professional level like Joe and his band.

Dave handed Danelle his guitar, and I suggested we play a song called "You Said." With a silent prayer and a moment of awkward nervousness, we started the song. I felt the Holy Spirit move, and I observed the effect on Joe, Danielle and Dave.

This was a breakthrough! After the song even Dave — the man who didn't want us to pray during our first visit — said, with tears in his eyes, "That was REALLY good. You guys have a gift!"

They told us we should play that music in more places, so more people could hear. Dave even said he heard four-part harmony. We weren't singing any harmony, but I think God can use our feeble attempts and translate it into a glorious symphony. I think angels can party and sing with us, when it is for the right cause.

We hugged them. We prayed with them. We didn't study the Bible that night, but in that moment I felt we loved them like Jesus.

None of it would have happened if we weren't willing to party. Joe was right: Jesus was a carpenter. What he didn't know was Jesus also knew how to party.

Jesus didn't come to call the "righteous." He hung out with "drunkards." He partied with people the religious people of His day wouldn't be caught dead with. The biggest critique the religious crowd had against Him was that He was "a friend of sinners." Maybe that is what we are called to be as well.

Maybe before criticizing "sinners," the church as an institution ... and religious people in particular ... need to take the "plank out of our own eyes."

We need to connect with others before we attempt to correct others. We need to learn how to party like Jesus.

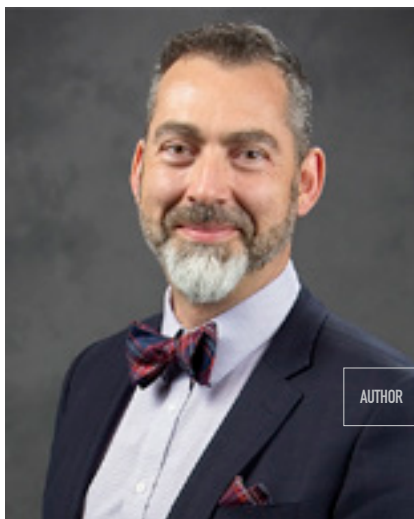
Kevin McGill writes from Troy, Idaho. He shepherds three churches and loves spending time with his family.





PERSPECTIVE

FROM WHERE I STAND



AUTHOR

Since assuming the role of editor a year ago, I have received many encouraging letters and notes. Your heartfelt words are much appreciated.

Recently, I've received several letters to the editor of an entirely different slant. Honestly, the emails stopped me in my tracks. The authors angrily spewed racist words and sentiments over the recent protests in support of black Americans. The hateful tone of the emails has been seared into my memory.

My first reaction was one of shock. How is it that, even in our church, members cut people down and subjugate with words of hatred and judgment?

One thing stands out from these disturbing missives. The Adventist Church in America is no different than the rest of the country when it comes to racial attitudes. We too struggle with prejudice, subjugation and indifference.

I want to be clear. These hateful attitudes are not universal. Many of our members are actively

seeking ways to heal and bring reconciliation within their sphere of influence. I am so grateful for those who truly understand our role as Christ-followers.

At the same time, I find myself asking, "How do we move forward when this cancer is so deeply ingrained in the hearts of

many who call themselves Adventist Christians?"

It is past time for racism, like slavery before it, to be defeated. It is time for action.

I am certain I don't have all the answers, but I do know where to begin. Change can only happen when I actively look for ways to make a difference in my sphere of influence. What are the ways I can contribute to racial healing? What are the words I can speak that will bring hope instead of fear, unity instead of division?

Racism is a plague centuries in the making. It won't be healed overnight, and yet we can make a difference today when we choose to act and speak on behalf of others without a voice.

As we act with love, I invite you to join me in praying for divine wisdom. Let's pray for a new sensitivity to the plague of racism. Let's pray for healing and compassion for the victims. Let's pray for forgiveness for perpetrating bigotry. Let's pray for repentance in our hearts over how we view equality. And yes, let us pray for hearts to be changed in our church and in our nation. Let us be the instruments of peace.

"He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you, But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).

Jay Wintermeyer, Gleaner editor

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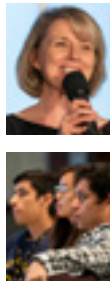
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