

EDITORIAL
Enabling Learners

JUST FOR KIDS
Precious Like Pearls

PERSPECTIVE
Mastering Divinity

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

EMPOWERING CHANGE-MAKERS

at Walla Walla University



MAR/APR
2024
VOL. 119, N° 2



IMAGES of CREATION

*For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting,
and His truth endures to all generations.
Psalm 100:5*

CONTENT

MARCH/APRIL 2024

ENABLING LEARNERS

EMPOWERING AND ENABLING means we are helping someone — our students — to be stronger, more confident and ready to take initiative and make a positive mission impact in our world.

4

EMPOWERING CHANGE-MAKERS

at Walla Walla University



6 FROM BIOENGINEERING breakthroughs to pastoral mentorship, hands-on learning at Walla Walla University provides a holistic education. In a world marked by constant change, preparation for our future leaders transcends beyond a simple retention of facts. Through increased hands-on opportunities, WWU presents a comprehensive educational experience with both knowledge acquisition and practical training. This dual focus prepares students to enter the job market and make a profound Christian difference in our world.

NORTHWEST ADVENTIST NEWS

12
NPUC

14
ACCIÓN

16
ALASKA

18
IDAHO

20
MONTANA

22
OREGON

28
UPPER
COLUMBIA

34
WASHINGTON

40
WALLA WALLA
UNIVERSITY

42
ADVENTIST
HEALTH

58

Gotta Start Somewhere

HOW DO WE get a church to grow? Not just sprout then wither, but really grow. The longer I have been an Adventist and a pastor the more I am convinced we often start at the wrong spot when trying to enact growth within our churches.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 43 : ADVERTISEMENTS
- 46 : FAMILY
- 54 : JUST FOR KIDS
- 56 : PERSPECTIVES
- 62 : TABLE TALK

ENABLING LEARNERS

I REMEMBER THE DAY THAT PARTICULARLY SHAPED ME DURING THE SUMMER OF MY 10TH-GRADE YEAR WHEN I WAS WORKING ON AN ACADEMY CAMPUS CARING FOR THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

CHRIS DRAKE



KEITH HALLAM
North Pacific Union vice
president for education

The principal and maintenance director came and asked me to lead the work crew for two weeks while the director went on vacation. There was still the grounds director, from whom I would receive guidance as needed, but they gave me the keys to the buildings and the outline of the routine tasks that needed to be done by the student crew. I was empowered!

The theme of this education-focused *Gleaner* is empowering change-makers. Empowering and enabling means we are helping someone – our students – to be stronger, more confident and ready to take initiative and make a positive mission impact in our world.

Scripture is repetitive with stories of God empowering men and women with the opportunity to be His change agents. Stories of Moses, Joseph, Esther and the disciples are just a few examples.

Our church was birthed by God empowering William Miller to “go tell it to the world,” and there were so many others who were empowered and took on the cause of sharing the Three Angels’ Messages. Those empowered individuals created a movement that is still active in changing the hearts of men, women, boys and girls.

I can speak from experience that when someone is enabled and empowered, their engagement, self-worth and purpose increase. Relationships benefit. Change occurs in the individual who was empowered, as well as in others impacted by the change.

It’s exciting for me to share that our Pacific Northwest classrooms have teachers who are practicing the most effective growth strategy we have in the development of students – that is, empowerment.

Our schools, from early childhood through our university, are instructing, mentoring and engaging students – from the very young to young adults – to be change-makers. We need our young people, and they need to know we trust them, we affirm them and that they belong with us in being change-makers.

Our K-12 education mission in North America is “to enable learners to develop a life of faith in God, and to use their knowledge, skills and understandings to serve God and humanity.”

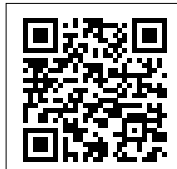


Empowering and enabling means we are helping someone – our students – to be stronger, more confident and ready to take initiative and make a positive mission impact in our world.

As you read school stories and view their pictures, I trust you will be encouraged by the work of our teachers and the growth that is happening in our students.

Please offer a prayer of thanksgiving for what is happening and a prayer for the Holy Spirit to continue growing each of us in our belief that we are empowered by God to also be change-makers on this earth.

KEITH HALLAM
North Pacific Union vice president for education



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-EDT-99



gleaner

Copyright © 2024
March/April 2024
Vol. 119, No. 2

Gleaner (ISSN 0746-5874) is published bimonthly for a total of 6 issues per year by the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642. It is printed and mailed at Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Rd., Nampa, ID 83687-3193. Subscription rate: \$15.50 per year. Periodical postage paid at Ridgefield, WA 98642 and additional mailing offices.

OUR MISSION: Connecting Northwest Adventists with news and inspiration.

POSTMASTER: send all address changes to:

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

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

PLEASE NOTE: Every reasonable effort is made to screen all editorial material to avoid error in this publication. The *Gleaner* does not accept responsibility for advertisers' claims.

ADVENTIST® and SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® are the registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists'.

LITHO U.S.A.

Gleaner STAFF

Editor: Heidi Baumgartner
Digital Editor: Anthony White
Managing Editor: Makena Horton
Copy Editor: Sienna Hubin
Advertising: Sandra Osorio
Design: TM Design, Inc.

IMAGE CREDITS:

Cover, pages 3, 6-11: Getty Images/tomertu, svetolk, bortonia, Turac Novruzova
Pages 3 and 59: Getty Images/Patricio Nahuelhual
Page 5: Getty Images/skyneshner
Pages 54-55: Getty Images/digitalskillet
Page 57: Getty Images/Silverback

IMAGES OF CREATION, P. 2



"Eyes of Fire and Embers," in Kennewick, Washington, by Paul Pantorilla, of Pasco, Washington.



EMPOWERING CHANGE-MAKERS

at Walla Walla University

From bioengineering breakthroughs to pastoral mentorship, hands-on learning at Walla Walla University provides a holistic education.

In a world marked by constant change, seemingly more turbulent than ever before, preparation for our future leaders transcends beyond a simple retention of facts. As Ellen White said, "Let students be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation."¹

WWU recognizes the importance of career preparedness combined with critical thinking and soft skills earned through a liberal arts education. Through increased hands-on opportunities like projects, labs and clinicals, WWU presents a comprehensive educational experience with both knowledge acquisition and practical training. This dual focus prepares students to enter the job market and make a profound Christian difference in our world.

DANAE GRISBY
WWU 2023 graduate





“Women are a major part of our population, and their health is continually underfunded.”

Anilce Castillo Osejo

BIOENGINEERING GRADUATE, 2023



IMPROVING WOMEN'S HEALTH is a life goal for Anilce Castillo Osejo, WWU 2023 bioengineering graduate currently in her first year of medical school at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. “Women are a major part of our population, and their health is continually underfunded,” said Castillo Osejo.

While Castillo Osejo is very passionate about women's healthcare and reproductive health, determining a focus for her capstone research project at WWU was challenging. After many discussions with Janice McKenzie, WWU bioengineering professor, Castillo Osejo recognized a gap in the field of female tissue engineering she felt she could explore. She is grateful the Edward F. Cross School of Engineering was able to fund her project and allow her to contribute to a cause she feels so strongly about.

Castillo Osejo dove into current literature about tissue engineering and

its use in women's healthcare. She was fascinated to find an idea presented about how tissue engineering could be used to support ovarian tissue and potentially restore fertility. One application for the technique would be to replace damaged ovarian tissue in women who have undergone cancer treatment.

Completing her project gave Castillo Osejo a renewed respect for researchers and an appreciation for building good connections in the scientific community. With the help of a few classmates and professors, she believes the project taught her many skills she wouldn't have been able to gain otherwise. “I had a wonderful experience during my project and was also able to build a great connection with McKenzie,” said Castillo Osejo.

Using her talents to aid others was a theme that stretched beyond Castillo Osejo's research work. During her time as

a WWU student, she worked as a project specialist for the Center for Humanitarian Engagement, leading a program focused on practicing kindness and community-building. She also served as co-leader of Hispanic ministries, a campus ministry with the goal of creating a welcoming worship space for Hispanic and non-Hispanic students. An outspoken advocate for diversity and inclusion, Castillo worked directly with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at WWU as a champion for various initiatives.

While Castillo Osejo's academic and research work taught her invaluable skills for her future, it's perhaps her clear commitment to Jesus and helping others that best equip her for an impactful career in medicine.

EMMALANI DODDS

WWU university relations student writer

1. White, Ellen G. *True Education* (Nampa: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2000), 8.

“Listening to the wisdom and insight of the older members has given me a whole new perspective.”

CHRIS DRAKE



Isaac Peterson

SENIOR THEOLOGY MAJOR

ISAAC PETERSON, WWU senior, didn't follow a straightforward path to WWU, working a variety of jobs in several states. Being trained as an EMT with intentions to join the military, he decided to study theology to find a practical way to share the gospel. "I wanted a further understanding of biblical knowledge to implement it well in the service of my community," he explained.

As a theology student, thanks in part to generous support from NPUC's NextGen scholarship, Peterson is jumping into that call to serve his community. Last year, he participated in the Pastoral Mentorship Program, a graduation requirement for theology majors that matches students with seasoned pastoral staff and immerses them in ministry experiences.

Peterson was assigned to Eastgate Church. The internship requires a commitment of at least eight hours a week, but he quickly found a love for the work and would often spend significantly more time at the church. The most impactful hours were the weekly meetings with his mentor, Eric Saylar, Eastgate Church pastor, who provided immediate feedback on Peterson's own experiences in ministry.

Much of his work with the multigenerational church was new to Peterson. Before the internship, his ministry expertise was limited to working with youth. So, while the internship did initially challenge him, Peterson appreciated the opportunity to expand his ability to minister to all age groups.

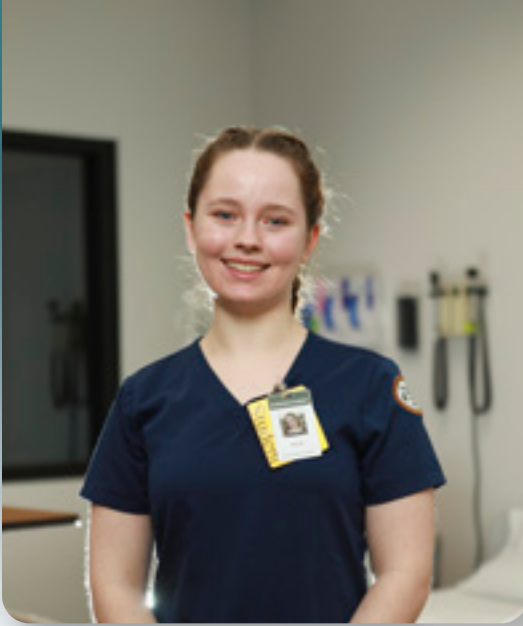
"Listening to the wisdom and insight of the older members has given me a

whole new perspective," he said. "The connections I was able to make during my time were the greatest things to come out of the experience."

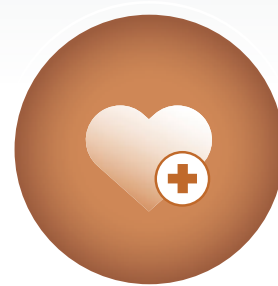
Recently, Peterson interviewed with Upper Columbia Conference and has been offered a full-time pastor position at Eastgate Church. He said being a student pastor, seeing the many components of pastoral ministry and having that hour every week with an experienced mentor like Saylar solidified his decision to work in pastoral ministry. "Soon, without the restriction of school and homework, I am looking forward to seeing what I will be able to accomplish," said Peterson.

HAILEY WERNER

WWU university relations student writer



“When I am able to physically practice and then have my procedures checked off by an instructor, I know that I did it correctly.”



Nicole Price

SOPHOMORE NURSING MAJOR

THE MEDICAL FIELD holds a special place in the heart of Nicole Price, WWU sophomore. “I always knew I wanted to go into the field early on, and being a nurse seemed like a better option than becoming a doctor,” she explained.

With a mother who is a nurse practitioner and a father and brother who are both firefighters, Price’s curative calling stemmed from watching her family make a palpable difference in people’s well-being.

Nursing is a unique opportunity to care for those who are vulnerable, but the learning process can be challenging. WWU’s School of Nursing is transitioning to competency-based programs and continues to focus on hands-on learning opportunities.

Price noted, “The new sim labs from grants are set up like real hospital rooms with mannequins that talk to you.” In these

labs, students spend around four hours a week learning skills, which are followed up on the next week.

Additionally, students complete around 20 independent practice hours outside of lab hours. This repeated practice has helped Price retain the skills she learns more so than learning about them in a classroom setting, especially when “the instructor explains the reasoning besides just showing them.”

Because of this comprehensive program, Price feels confident in dealing with real-life medical situations. She said, “When I am able to physically practice and then have my procedures checked off by an instructor, I know I did it correctly ... I can safely say I am more prepared for real life when I am able to perform hands-on practice under the supervision of our instructors.”

Her confidence extends to her ability to connect with her patients. She said, “[I have learned to] understand other cultures, how to interact with people with fewer privileges than we have and how important it is to reach out to other people as teachers and educators.”

While Price will get the opportunity to try different disciplines of nursing during her rotations in her junior and senior years, pediatric oncology is one of the specialties she would like to explore. However, it is evident that no matter what discipline she pursues, her experiences at WWU have provided her with the tools needed to help heal her community.

DANAE GRISBY
WWU 2023 graduate

“I learned to not become discouraged when problems come up, but to put in the work to find solutions.”

CHRIS DRAKE



Garret Thorn

SENIOR BUSINESS MAJOR

GARRET THORN, WWU senior, affirms that combining an internship with a liberal arts education is extremely valuable. “You get to see the tangible results of the skills you learned in the classroom come to life and apply to real-world situations,” he explained.

This past summer, the business administration student applied his skills to team projects through an internship with Whitman Group, a small asset management firm focused primarily on real estate. Thorn’s work there allowed him to do what fills his cup most – take initiative to support others.

Thorn’s internship, under the chief operating officer of AXCS Investments LLC, included extensive use of Power BI, a business analytics software. Mastering the logistics of Power BI offered him a

chance to put his skills to work in a new, meaningful way and to contribute to larger ventures. Using Power BI, Thorn was able to pull large amounts of data from different sources and format it coherently.

Navigating Power BI wasn’t always smooth sailing. “My internship taught me how to adapt and persevere,” Thorn said. “I learned to not become discouraged when problems come up, but to put in the work to find solutions.” Thorn developed a strong tenacity that helped him excel in solving problems as they arose. This perseverance will serve him well as he adapts to future changes in business technology.

Thorn’s desire to be a dependable contributor, no matter the challenges, began in part during his military service. Merging his passion for problem-solving with his commitment to serving his

country, Thorn is passionate about cybersecurity and hopes to enter the field of defense contracting.

He believes his internship laid the technology groundwork he needs to pursue his goals in cybersecurity, where he hopes to protect organizations from attacks on privacy and security.

Thorn’s advice for students pursuing an internship is to choose a position that truly interests them rather than just the first option to come along. An internship can be so much more than checking off a box. “You are definitely there to learn, but really push to make yourself an asset,” said Thorn. “Challenge yourself to contribute as much as you can.”

EMMALANI DODDS

WWU university relations student writer



“My uncle would make short films with us. It’s universal. You can communicate a lot of emotions through film.”



Ryan Smith

JUNIOR FILM AND MARKETING
DOUBLE MAJOR

THE WORLD OF FILM is a way to connect with people by communicating messages and emotions beyond language for Ryan Smith, WWU junior. Beginning as a marketing major, Smith added film as his second major last winter. He expressed why he chose to go into film and take on the task of a double major, and said, “My uncle would make short films with us. It’s universal. You can communicate a lot of emotions through film.”

Since joining the film program, Smith has already begun helping with student productions, but Smith’s first serious round of practical training came in the form of a summer project in 2023, which involved two weeks of around-the-clock dedication as a production assistant with a close-knit team.

“Walkies were one of my things,” Smith said, describing how he aided crew communication and collaboration. “It was

a bonding experience. We’d go to work, go home, sleep. My family didn’t see me that much.” With this type of experience, Smith said, “I learned more than I thought I would. I think I had a different view of production. It was really good to see what it is in real life.”

Smith believes classroom learning and practical training should go hand-in-hand. Because Smith joined the major a little later in his academic career, he thinks people who started in the film major most likely got even more out of the summer project because they were better able to put their knowledge into practice.

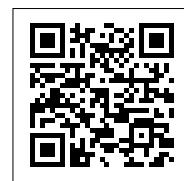
“For a career like film, it’s very important to have hands-on experience, a lot more than any other majors,” Smith shared. Smith gained confidence in himself from his time on set. He said, “If something challenging comes up, it’s like, oh, I can do

this because I remember how we did it in the project.”

During the past year in the film department, Smith believes he has gained the knowledge and skills to use film in tandem with his marketing major. His film project has provided a distinct perspective on the planning and project management behind the art, which Smith believes is useful as film has become more prevalent in marketing and promotional projects.

As Smith moves forward in the program, more hands-on projects will continue to help him learn to communicate emotions through the visual language of film.

DANAE GRISBY
WWU 2023 graduate



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-2-FT-40](https://www.nwadvent.com/st/119-2-ft-40)

Northwest Adventist Schools

NORTH PACIFIC UNION OPERATES MORE THAN 100 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE NORTHWEST, WITH APPROXIMATELY 6,400 STUDENTS ATTENDING EACH YEAR. ADDITIONALLY, WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY FEATURES A FULL COLLEGIATE LIBERAL ARTS CURRICULUM. ADVENTIST SCHOOLS ARE OPEN TO ALL QUALIFIED STUDENTS, REGARDLESS OF GENDER, RACE, COLOR, ETHNIC BACKGROUND OR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

Alaska Conference

- Amazing Grace Academy
- Anchorage Junior Academy
- Dillingham Adventist School
- Golden Heart Christian School
- Juneau Adventist Christian School
- Sitka Adventist School

Idaho Conference

- Gem State Adventist Academy
- Baker Adventist Christian School
- Boise Valley Adventist School
- Caldwell Adventist Elementary School
- Desert View Christian School
- Eagle Adventist Christian School
- Enterprise SDA Christian School
- Hilltop Adventist School
- La Grande Adventist Christian School
- Salmon Seventh-day Adventist School
- Treasure Valley Seventh-day Adventist School

Montana Conference

- Mount Ellis Academy
- Blodgett View Christian School
- Five Falls Christian School
- Glacier View School
- Highland View Christian School
- Libby Adventist Christian School
- Mount Ellis Elementary
- Mountain View Christian School
- Teton Adventist Christian School
- Trailhead Christian School
- Trout Creek Adventist School
- Valley View Adventist Christian School

Oregon Conference

- Columbia Adventist Academy
- Livingstone Adventist Academy
- Milo Adventist Academy
- Portland Adventist Academy

- Rogue Valley Adventist Academy
- Canyonville Adventist Elementary School
- Central Valley Christian School
- Cottage Grove Christian School
- Countryside Christian School
- Emerald Christian Academy
- Gold Coast Christian School
- Grants Pass Adventist School
- Hood View Adventist School
- Journey Christian School
- Klamath Falls Adventist Christian School
- Lincoln City Christian School
- Madras Christian School
- Madrone Adventist School
- McMinnville Adventist Christian School
- Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School
- Mid-Columbia Adventist Christian School
- Portland Adventist Elementary School
- Rivergate Adventist Elementary School
- Riverside Adventist Christian School
- Roseburg Christian Academy
- Scappoose Adventist School
- Shady Point Adventist School
- Shoreline Christian School
- Three Sisters Adventist Christian School
- Tillamook Adventist School
- Tualatin Valley Academy

Upper Columbia Conference

- Cascade Christian Academy
- Upper Columbia Academy
- Beacon Christian School
- Brewster Adventist Christian School
- Colville Valley Junior Academy
- Cornerstone Christian School
- Crestview Christian School
- Goldendale Adventist Christian School
- Hermiston Junior Academy
- Lake City Academy
- Milton-Stateline Adventist School
- Omak Adventist Christian School
- Orofino Adventist Christian School

- Palisades Christian Academy
- Palouse Hills Christian School
- Peaceful Valley Christian School
- Pend Oreille Valley Adventist School
- Pendleton Christian School
- Sandpoint Junior Academy
- Spokane Valley Adventist School
- Tri-City Adventist School
- Upper Columbia Academy Elementary School
- Walla Walla Valley Adventist Schools
- Yakima Adventist Christian School

Washington Conference

- Auburn Adventist Academy
- Orcas Christian School
- Puget Sound Adventist Academy
- Skagit Adventist Academy
- Baker View Christian School
- Buena Vista Seventh-day Adventist School
- Cedarbrook Adventist Christian School
- Cypress Adventist School
- Enumclaw Adventist Christian School
- Forest Park Adventist Christian School
- Grays Harbor Adventist Christian School
- Kirkland Adventist School
- Kitsap Adventist Christian School
- Lewis County Adventist School
- Northwest Christian School
- Olympia Christian School
- Peninsula Adventist Elementary School
- Poulsbo Adventist School
- Shelton Valley Christian School
- Sky Valley Adventist School
- Whidbey Christian Elementary School

Adventist Schools across the Northwest create active opportunities for Christian growth. Find a Northwest Adventist school near you at npuc.org/schools.



NEXTGEN
PASTOR AND TEACHER
— SCHOLARSHIP —

To address a pipeline shortage of future spiritual leaders, North Pacific Union and Walla Walla University partnered two years ago to offer full tuition for theology and education majors. The response was phenomenal!

This funding partnership with Walla Walla University is still in need of additional donors to assist 45 students who are currently enrolled and have a clear calling from God for ministry.

Will you help invest in NextGen leaders?



Pray & Donate Today!
npuc.org/nextgen



North Pacific Union
of Seventh-day Adventists®

Walla Walla University
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HIGHER EDUCATION

Idaho Conference Hosts Hispanic Women's Retreat

HISPANIC WOMEN EAGERLY ANTICIPATE THE ANNUAL IDAHO CONFERENCE HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT. THIS SPECIAL EVENT TOOK PLACE OCT. 20-22, 2023 AND WAS COORDINATED BY ALMA MARGIL, IDAHO CONFERENCE HISPANIC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES COORDINATOR.

More than 100 ladies—including 10 non-Adventist guests—gathered in Heyburn, Idaho, and were led by the Spirit to reconnect, reconcile and accept God as the conductor of their lives in love, strength, hope and forgiveness.

Patricia Vasquez, from Oregon Conference, presented and Victoria Balabarca, Washington Conference volunteer Hispanic family ministries coordinator, was the keynote speaker. Together, their presentations enriched the unforgettable weekend.

Some ladies traveled up to seven hours by car to get there, and the excitement of non-Adventist friends was especially palpable. Seminars on women's health and the role of hormones provided essential

tools for understanding and managing the natural changes that occur in women's lives.

The theme was centered on the "precious crown" the Lord will give us when He returns as depicted in Rev. 3:11: "Behold, I am coming quickly; hold fast to what you have, so that no one will take your crown." The keynote speaker, inspired by the Holy Spirit, invited each woman to embrace this reality with determination, surrender and love.

The retreat culminated in a renewed commitment to faith and a beautiful sense of liberation and peace as the women profoundly experienced God, both personally and collectively as a group. The Lord manifested Himself at the Hispanic Women's Retreat.

ALMA MARGIL

Idaho Conference Hispanic women's ministries coordinator

VICTORIA BALABARCA

Washington Conference volunteer Hispanic family ministries coordinator



MISIÓN Y ALCANCE

Conferencia de Idaho Organiza el Retiro de Mujeres Hispanas

LAS MUJERES HISPANAS ESPERAN ANSIOSAMENTE EL RETIRO DE MUJERES HISPANAS DE LA CONFERENCIA DE IDAHO. ESTE EVENTO ESPECIAL SE LLEVÓ A CABO DEL 20 AL 22 DE OCTUBRE DE 2023, Y FUE COORDINADO POR ALMA MARGIL, COORDINADORA DE MINISTERIOS DE MUJERES HISPANAS DE LA CONFERENCIA DE IDAHO.

Más de 100 damas – incluyendo 10 invitadas no Adventistas – se reunieron en Heyburn, Idaho, y fueron guiadas por el Espíritu a reconectarse, reconciliarse y aceptar a Dios como el conductor de sus vidas en amor, fortaleza, esperanza y perdón.

Patricia Vásquez, de la Conferencia de Oregon, presentó y Victoria Balabarca, coordinadora voluntaria de ministerios familiares Hispanos de la Conferencia de Washington, fue la oradora principal. Juntas, sus presentaciones enriquecieron el inolvidable fin de semana.

Algunas señoras viajaron hasta siete horas por carretera para llegar, y la emoción de amigas no Adventistas fue

especialmente palpable. Los seminarios sobre salud femenina y el rol de las hormonas proporcionaron herramientas esenciales para comprender y manejar los cambios naturales de la mujer.

El tema se centró en la “preciosa corona” que el Señor nos entregará en el día final, simbolizada en Apocalipsis 3:11: “He aquí, yo vengo pronto; retén lo que tienes, para que ninguno tome tu corona.” La oradora principal, inspirada por el Espíritu Santo, invitó a cada mujer a abrazar esta realidad con determinación, entrega y amor.

El retiro culminó en un renovado compromiso con la fe y una hermosa sensación de liberación y paz a medida que las mujeres experimentaban profundamente

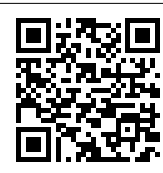
a Dios, tanto personal como colectivamente como grupo. El Señor se manifestó en el Retiro de Mujeres Hispanas.

ALMA MARGIL

Coordinadora de ministerios de mujeres Hispanas de Conferencia de Idaho

VICTORIA BALABARCA

Coordinadora voluntaria de ministerios familiares Hispanos de Conferencia de Washington



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-2-HSP-83](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/119-2-hsp-83)

Alma Margil's team worked to provide a wonderful Idaho Conference Hispanic Women's Retreat.

El equipo de Alma Margil trabajó para proporcionar un maravilloso Retiro de Mujeres Hispanas de la Conferencia de Idaho.



AGA Students Support Soldiers

WHAT STARTED AS A HEARTFELT PRAYER FOR TWO DADS SERVING IN THE MILITARY IN THE MIDDLE EAST TRANSFORMED INTO A SCHOOL-WIDE SERVICE PROJECT FOR THE STUDENTS OF AMAZING GRACE ACADEMY ON VETERANS DAY.

During the first week of November 2023, families, students and the church community contributed non-perishable food, hygiene items, games and snacks to pack into boxes for the two dads. As donations continued to pour in, the project grew in scale.

Since there were many donated items, the project was expanded to provide boxes for other soldiers stationed with one of the dads, who was in a remote location without easy access to grocery items and supplies.

On Nov. 10, 2023, the entire AGA student body gathered to begin the process of sorting and packing the items into boxes. Students worked in family groups to ensure that each box was filled with a variety of items.

They wrote cards of encouragement to the recipients and included them in each package. Before closing the boxes, each

group of students prayed specifically for God's blessing for each recipient.

Many individuals from the school and church community provided funds to cover the postage expense, while other volunteers helped package the boxes correctly and track the items for international shipment. As a result of the generous donations, the students packed 26 boxes of goodies, cards and prayers for soldiers serving in the Middle East.

KAREN CARLTON

Amazing Grace Academy principal



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-2-AK-31](https://www.nwadvent.st/119-2-AK-31)



• An AGA student prays over a gift box being sent to encourage a soldier protecting our country.



• AGA student body poses with boxes ready to ship to overseas soldiers.

DAS Nurtures Kids in Bristol Bay

NESTLED IN THE TOWN OF DILLINGHAM, ALASKA, LIES DILLINGHAM ADVENTIST SCHOOL, A SMALL SCHOOL THAT IS MAKING A BIG IMPACT.

In this town with a population of only 2,200 residents, DAS serves as a beacon of hope to the local community. Located on the coast of Bristol Bay, it's a quick 45-minute flight from Anchorage on a good day.

DAS is one of only two pre-K/ kindergarten programs in the community. The school has undergone significant changes to stay open and cater to the needs of the community – all while waiting for a new teacher.

When the last teacher left more than two years ago, the school was transformed from a K-8 program to pre-K/ kindergarten under the guidance of Eugina Parker and Josephine Gusuk, missional teachers. Despite Satan's efforts to hinder this education ministry, the school is thriving with nine wonderful students, all from non-Adventist homes.

The transition was not without challenges. The change in school size, an environmental spill making most of the building unusable and the continued search for a long-term teacher would cause other schools to close – but not DAS.

Some students began attending with less than desirable behavior, but continued attendance coupled with a lot of prayer has helped the children flourish behaviorally, educationally and spiritually.

Parent and volunteer involvement is a key component to the school's success. Through this volunteer network, students are learning skills such as archery, enjoying field trips and receiving donations such as books for the library.

Todd Parker, Dillingham/Togiak district pastor, has started an Adventurer club – the Eager Beavers – which meets each Wednesday with the goal of expanding to an active community Pathfinder club. Students live up to the name, loving the activities and earning honors.

Every morning before the school day starts, the teachers join in prayer and thank God for blessing and honoring them to make a life-changing impact on their students.

Meanwhile, the church family continues to pray for a mission-minded elementary teacher for first through eighth grade.

When God sends His chosen disciple, they will serve alongside a loving church family, an inviting community and a waiting group of eager students willing to learn.

EUGINA PARKER
*Dillingham Adventist
School teacher*

JOSEPHINE GUSUK
*Dillingham Adventist
School teacher's aide*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-2-AK-34](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/119-2-AK-34)



DAS students perform in the Christmas program.



ALASKA
ADVENTIST EDUCATION
- SINCE 1934 -
EDUCATING FOR TODAY AND ETERNITY

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN ALASKA

Come for an amazing mission adventure in Education!

Open positions for 2024-2025
include Anchorage, Dillingham and Palmer

 info@alaskaconference.org  907.346.1004 x1018

EDUCATION

Student Follows God's Lead to GSAA

LUCAS DRAKE, GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY SENIOR, ARRIVED ON CAMPUS A WEEK AFTER SCHOOL STARTED HIS FRESHMAN YEAR — THE DAY BEFORE THE WHOLE SCHOOL LEFT FOR THE ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT CAMP IDA-HAVEN.

He had never been to GSAA and did not want to be there. However, after a negative experience with public school the previous year, it seemed God had plans for Drake to come to GSAA.

Family roots run deep at GSAA for Drake. His great-grandparents, Harold and Nelma Drake, graduated in the early 1940s. They went on to found the assisted living industry and, with the blessings that

God bestowed, they were very supportive of both GSAA and Walla Walla University. They helped many students attain an Adventist education and were spiritually influential in many lives. Drake's grandfather, Richard, and his wife, Melody, also graduated from GSAA.

Despite his initial hesitation, Drake knew God had a plan for him. He credits Matthew Fitting, head dean at the time, for helping him decide to attend and for being one of the most positive influences in his life.

"He was a great encourager and mentor," said Drake. He has also been impacted by many other staff members and believes John Soulé to be the best principal ever.

"GSAA has amazing teachers who have relationships with God and care about the

students. They do what they do not for money but as a mission," Drake said.

Drake has grown in his relationship with God while at GSAA. One experience that stands out to him is when Mike Lowe, pastor and guest speaker, came for Week of Prayer Drake's junior year. The messages got Drake thinking and he decided to challenge God to see if God really cared about him personally.

As a janitor in the dorm, Drake had never been asked to clean the chapel, so he told God, "If You are real, ask me to clean the chapel."

Just as he finished up some of his other work duties, the dean asked him to go clean the chapel. Drake thought, "Wow! I guess God is real and He is here." Other students have been good examples to him as well, and their faith has helped his grow.

Drake knows how blessed he has been to attend GSAA. He is grateful he doesn't have to be afraid to talk about God

and isn't bullied for being a Christian. He has made very good friends and believes they will continue to impact his life even after he graduates.

When asked if he would recommend GSAA, he declared, "I would recommend GSAA to anyone. My negative opinion was crushed because of how amazing it was for me."

Currently, Drake is praying about the future but believes he will go to college or trade school. He is awaiting God's leading. As the saying goes, "The safest place in all the world is in the will of God." What a blessing it is that for the past four years that place has been at GSAA.

MARTA STONE
Gem State Adventist Academy teacher and campus



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/119-2-ID-47



Family roots at GSAA run deep for Lucas Drake.



• Lucas Drake has grown in his relationship with God while at GSAA.

EDUCATION

Pastor Inspires Student-Led Worship

PRAISE MUSIC IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF WEEKLY CHAPELS AT BOISE VALLEY ADVENTIST SCHOOL. EACH WEEK, THE MUSIC DRAWS ATTENTION TO GOD AND HIS GLORY.

Through praise music, students are introduced to a specific genre of music where they can connect with God, express their love for Him and learn about the Bible.

Tomm Lemon, Mountain Home Church and Oasis International Church pastor, has led the BVAS praise band for the past five years. He said leading praise music and spending time with the students every Friday is the highlight of his week.

When Lemon learned of the new theme for the school year, he searched for an appropriate song to highlight. When his search came up short, he joined forces with

Sabrina Seigal, third- and fourth-grade teacher, to write an original theme song.

"I appreciate how the music sets the mood for chapel and I love seeing our students participate by singing and playing instruments up front," Seigal said.

"Chapel music is so much bigger than just Friday praise songs. It's about parents, staff, students and community knowing that the God of this universe defends and walks with us daily!" added Jamie Miller, seventh- and eighth-grade teacher.

What once started as a one-man band, has now expanded to

include backup singers, a guitar player and a drummer.

"Chapel has become a student-driven worship time," noted Courteney Mace, pre-K and kindergarten teacher. "It's inspiring to see students participate in creating songs and sharing motions with other students. I look forward to watching our worship team sing on Fridays because it encourages our students to worship God together!"

The praise group name has since been changed by Stephen Stokes, fifth- and sixth-grade teacher, from BVAS Praise Band to Pastor Tomm and the Lemon-aides – with emphasis

on the *Lemon*. "Note the play on words," he laughed.

"As principal and teacher for first and second grade, I like seeing students taking the initiative to lead out," said Ken Utt, BVAS principal. "We have many talented students at BVAS, and I hope the praise team will grow and other students will be inspired to join."



MELANIE LAWSON
Boise Valley Adventist School teacher

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-2-ID-12](https://www.nwadventist.org/news/119-2-ID-12) 



BVAS students come together every Friday to worship God through music.



EDUCATION

Education Across the State of Montana

THOUGH SCHOOLS IN MONTANA ARE SMALL, THEIR LEARNING HAS A BIG IMPACT. FOLLOWING ARE SOME SAMPLES OF UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES, TWO OF WHICH ARE WRITTEN BY STUDENTS.



TCAS students learn how to perform CPR and work towards certification.



TCAS students pose outside Cabinet Gorge Kokanee Hatchery.



TCAS students look at the fish being bred at the hatchery.

TCAS Keeps Water Clean

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, my class from Trout Creek Adventist School went to the Cabinet Gorge Kokanee Hatchery. Some students in my class read a book called *Come Back Salmon* by Molly Cone. The field trip was a way for our class to learn about our local fish and what we can do to keep the fish in our rivers and lakes.

Jeff Dillon taught us many things about the life cycle of the fish and its anatomy. My whole class enjoyed watching the fish leap and flop for the food. There are 6.1 million eggs at the hatchery, plus all the fish in different stages. To keep the fish population healthy, it's important to keep garbage, chemicals and invasive species out of our water.

Dillon emphasized that fertilizers used for lawns, especially those next to the rivers, can be very harmful to the fish population. Fertilizer puts out way too much nitrogen in the river and causes dangerous algae blooms. Everyone learned so many things, and we will pay more attention now to keeping the waters clean.

SERENA OVERBECK
Trout Creek Adventist School student



TCAS Prepares for Emergencies

In a proactive move towards ensuring the safety and well-being of its community, TCAS is pleased to share that seven learners and two teachers have successfully become certified in CPR and first aid.

The initiative, part of a practical health and safety class, took place at the Ambulance Barn in Thompson Falls. The instructor, Cara Eberly, has worked as an EMT for seven years. She shared many interesting stories and emphasized the need to learn first aid and CPR.

The participants engaged in hands-on learning, acquiring essential skills to respond effectively to emergencies. The comprehensive training covered a range of critical techniques, including applying tourniquets, proper wound stuffing and operating Automated External Defibrillators. Moreover, the participants were trained in the life-saving technique of CPR.

The certification program not only equips individuals with the knowledge and skills to act swiftly in emergencies but also fosters a sense of preparedness within the school community. The Ambulance Barn in Thompson Falls provided an ideal setting for the practical training, ensuring a realistic and immersive learning experience.

They were reminded that in an emergency, it would take responders at least 25 minutes to get to the student's home

or the school. This is what makes taking a class like this so crucial in their rural area.

TCAS remains dedicated to holistic education, recognizing that preparing students and educators for unexpected situations is an integral part of their overall development. The certification not only enhances the safety net within the school but also contributes to building a community that values and prioritizes the well-being of its members.

NEVAEH CLAWSON

Trout Creek Adventist School student

MAURITA CREW

Trout Creek Adventist School teaching principal



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-MT-21

Christmas Store at FFCS

Dec. 12, 2023 was an exciting day at Five Falls Christian School. Students brought their money, eager to shop at the Christmas store. This year, Raylene Franklin, home and school leader, proposed having a Christmas store where students could buy gifts for their families at inexpensive prices.

Most of the items were donated, and parent volunteers staffed the store. When the store opened, students eagerly and carefully shopped for gifts. After they purchased their gifts, they proudly wrapped them, ready to take home for Christmas. The students loved the store so much that it looks like it will become a yearly tradition at FFCS.

ARLENE LAMBERT

Five Falls Christian School teaching principal

FFCS students wrap their purchased gifts for family members.

Jacaban Announced as Vice President for Education

ON SUNDAY, JAN. 7, THE JOINT OREGON CONFERENCE NOMINATING AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES APPROVED THE NOMINATION OF RON JACABAN TO SERVE AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION. HE JOINS THE CONFERENCE FROM HIS MOST RECENT ROLE IN WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AS ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT FOR EDUCATION.

Jacaban is a familiar face in Oregon Conference, having served seven years at Tillamook Adventist School as a teacher and principal from 2003 to 2010 before leading as principal at Lake City Academy, Puget Sound Adventist Academy and Kirkland Adventist School.

Jacaban, a teacher at heart and an administrator by training, believes that Adventist schools should educate the whole student – spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally and physically – and that our schools should be safe places for students to learn and grow.

“In our significant search for a new vice president for education, God’s timing and leading is perfect,” said Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president.

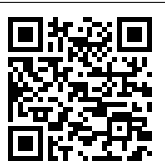
“I’m thrilled Ron Jacaban has accepted the election of the nominating and executive committees to serve as vice president for education,” Lindrud continued. “It’s a great joy to welcome Ron and d’Ann Jacaban to our team. I look forward to the great things God will do as we go forward in mission together!”

After a prayerful search, God has brought the right leader at the right time

to Oregon Conference’s education ministry, where teachers and staff have been hard at work serving students.

“Moving back to Oregon Conference is a little bit of a dream for us,” said Jacaban as he was introduced at this year’s Together as One conference. “I am so excited to get to work with my colleagues, my friends and all my new friends! I look forward to visiting your schools and hearing each of your stories.”

KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference digital content specialist



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-OR-23

Ron Jacaban was announced as the new Oregon Conference vice president for education in January.



ERNESTO HERNANDEZ

EDUCATION

Educators and Pastors Gather for Together as One Convention

MORE THAN 350 PASTORS, TEACHERS AND STAFF FROM ACROSS OREGON CONFERENCE MET AT COLUMBIA RIVERFRONT HOLIDAY INN AT JANTZEN BEACH, JAN. 8-9 FOR THE FIRST IN-PERSON TOGETHER AS ONE CONVENTION SINCE 2020.

Beginning in 2015, Together as One is an annual event focused on building collaborations between Adventist schools and churches in Oregon Conference. Recognizing the need for rest and rejuvenation after several challenging years, the theme this year was “Replenish.”

Oregon Conference leadership kicked off the event with exciting news – the introduction of Ron Jacaban as Oregon Conference’s new vice president for education.

Speakers throughout Together as One included David Ferguson, lead pastor of Crosswalk Chattanooga in Tennessee; K’dee Crews, a clinical psychologist who shared the importance of emotional intelligence in spiritual leadership; Ben Lundquist, who led a plenary session focused on Mike Foster’s book, *The 7 Primal Questions*, and explored how childhood trauma informs our adult behaviors; and Dustin Young from Andrews University’s International Center for Trauma and Care.

Breakout sessions included a church growth strategy workshop for pastors with Oregon Conference and North Pacific Union leaders, a teen mental health workshop and other workshops that explored topics like literacy, math and professional learning communities. Worship music was led by Josh Withers and a group of local pastors each day.

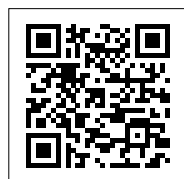
For many pastors and educators who have joined the Oregon Conference team over the past few years, this year’s Together as One convention was the first time they’ve had the opportunity to attend.

“This is my first time attending Together as One,” shared Shéila Marday, Milo Adventist Academy vice president for finance. “What I like about this is getting the chance to know other people who work in different areas of Oregon Conference. The breakout session that focused on teen mental health and thoughts of suicide really helped. I want to bring this knowledge back to our school and be able to better help our students.”

Michael White, Woodburn and Molalla pastor, was also attending for the first time. “I am really enjoying Together as One,” he said. “It’s a great location and a great chance to get everybody together, but I’m enjoying the content as well. The framework presented during our morning session was something I’m really looking forward to discussing with more people. I already sent it to my wife!”

“I just really appreciate the honest look at where we are and where we can go,” White continued. “Yes, there are some challenges, but there’s a lot of hope and a lot of opportunities, too. I’m glad I was able to come.”

KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference digital content specialist



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-OR-22



Oregon Conference expressed appreciation to Denise Dunzweiler for her time served as interim superintendent.



Pastors greet each other on the first day of Together As One.



Ron Jacaban, vice president for education, took advantage of the opportunity to connect with the educators and pastors.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BLACKBURN



EDUCATION

CCS joined their local community's annual light parade in Veneta, Oregon, and found lots of special connections through their nativity-themed float.

School Float Raises Awareness

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL JOINED A COMMUNITY PARADE AT CHRISTMASTIME FOR THE FIRST TIME TO RAISE LOCAL AWARENESS OF THE SCHOOL IN VENETA, OREGON.

The school entered the Veneta Annual Light Parade with a float built by Archie and Wayne Walter, school supporters and father-son team.

With much of the school sick during the float building time, Nathaniel Boursiquot was the only student who was able to help with the float. He helped with zip ties to hold the canvas down and keep lights in place.

Additionally, Boursiquot helped pick out the theme and related costumes, and he dressed up the school's big bear as one of the wise men. Later, both he and his mother dressed up as wise people for the float.

The small school community rallied together to staff the float. Angela Walter,

teaching principal, and her husband, Wayne, were Mary and Joseph. Archie and Penny Walter, student grandparents, drove the truck for the float. Iona and Melissa Hernandez, school board members, along with Tim Stone, Veneta Church member, walked beside the float to hand out candy with the school's name and website.

The most amazing experience was some people's reaction. Little girls, for example, cried out "There is a baby Jesus." Former students shouted out their greetings to school representatives. People enthusiastically applauded as the school's float passed by. Some bowed reverently with a soft clap as they saw the nativity scene go by.

The next day, the school family realized they had been the only Christ-centered float out of about 40 floats. Everyone had more fun than they could have imagined. CCS is already planning for more candy to distribute and more lights for next year, now that they know what to expect.



ANGELA WALTER
Countryside Christian
School teaching principal

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-OR-14

GPAS Receives License for Early Childhood Care

GRANTS PASS ADVENTIST SCHOOL IS NOW LICENSED BY OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING AND CARE TO OPERATE A CHILDCARE FACILITY FOR AGES 4 AND 5.

"This is such a blessing," said Jasmine Rodriguez, pre-K/kindergarten teacher, "because the young ones can feel included in a full day of learning."

"They can now be on campus for the full school day instead of only a half-day program," she continued. "They are able to explore new ideas, interact with each other and develop relationships. Relationships are being developed with Jesus, above all."

Rodriguez is proud of her students this year. She says they are improving and learning every day, both in their educational and spiritual journeys. While doing independent crafts, students can be heard singing about Jesus.

Rodriguez says they are starting to understand that if they have an issue, they can pray about it. They know God will help them. "It is such a reward to see this happen," she said.

What kinds of crafts do the young children enjoy? They enjoy all types of crafts, of course. Right now, they are working on alphabet books where they turn the different letters into an animal of that letter.

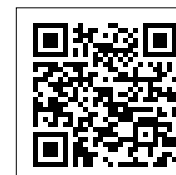
The class will enjoy many exciting new projects in 2024. When warm weather arrives, there will be outside activities. The children will continue their educational and spiritual journeys, with Jesus at the center of it all.



GPAS pre-K/kindergarten students love learning about Jesus.

Registration is open for grades pre-K through eight. Learn more at grantspassschool.com.

JENNIFER BURKES
Grants Pass Church communication leader



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-OR-15

EDUCATION

Ring of Fire Alum Leads Student Handbell Program

TUALATIN VALLEY ACADEMY'S HANDBELL CHOIR IS PROVING TO BE AN IMPACTFUL PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS.

While the school was once renowned for its handbell ensemble, Ring of Fire, the instruments had fallen into disuse until 2016 when Michael Blackburn, Ring of Fire alumnus, stepped up to direct.

The program started small with nine students but has since expanded to 46 students in the ensemble as of this 2023–2024 school year. Blackburn directs three groups of students from third to 10th grade.

Students enjoy the collaborative nature of playing handbells. Emily, who plays in the advanced bell choir, shared, "It's fun because we get to work together as a team to make a nice song." With many other instruments, you can play a song all on your own, but handbells differ in that they require coordination from an entire group to complete a piece.

Blackburn said, "I continue to think of bell choir more akin to a team sport than a music group. Between the physical

exertion, hand-eye coordination and the weird musical rhythms you have to perform, it's a truly unique musical instrument and experience."

TVA students also enjoy handbells because of their dedicated teacher. Matthew, a high school student in the bell choir, appreciates Blackburn's response to mistakes: "He treats mistakes more as growth opportunities instead of getting upset."

Another student, Isabella, who is in her second year of playing bells and doesn't have much prior musical experience, relays that she also enjoys Blackburn's approachable attitude. She commented, "He is very good about helping you and not making you feel bad for asking for help."

Blackburn's passion for sharing the joy of handbells with students is clear whenever one talks with him about the handbell choir. He shared, "My favorite part of teaching handbells is witnessing



TERRY BLACKBURN

TVA's bell choir performs for their Christmas program.

students who didn't think they were musical and/or didn't know how to read music go from an attitude of 'whatever' to 'wow, this is really fun' in a very short period of time."

The students and their director are both excited to be able to share their music with a wider audience this spring. They plan to play at a few churches in the Seattle area, TVA's constituent churches, their spring recital and TVA's spring concert.



MCKENZIE WALLACE
Tualatin Valley Academy
English teacher

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-OR-18

- Michael Blackburn, Ring of Fire alumnus, now directs three groups of handbell players from third to 10th grade.



MARK BECK

EDUCATION

PAES Teacher Affirmed by Stranger

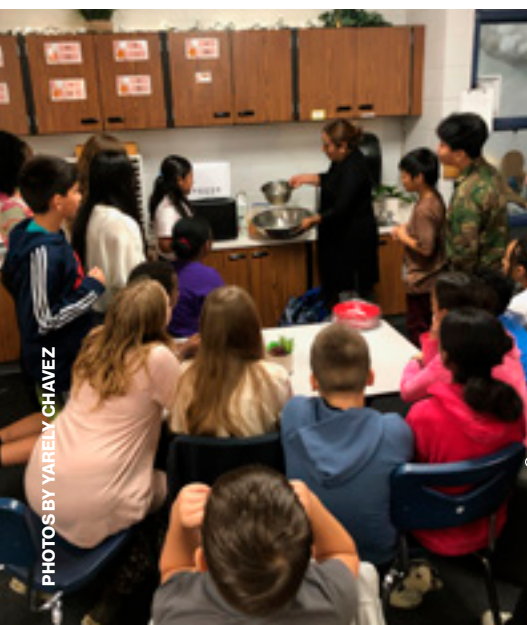
IT WAS NEARING THE END OF A LONG DAY AT PORTLAND ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WITH MORE LONG DAYS LOOMING AHEAD. THE WEEKS LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS BREAK ALWAYS SEEM THE LONGEST OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.



Yarely Chavez, PAES fifth-grade teacher, creatively invests in her students.



Fifth-graders build spaghetti and marshmallow towers at PAES.



PHOTOS BY YARELY CHAVEZ

Yarely Chavez, PAES fifth-grade teacher, stood in the checkout line with her 11-year-old daughter discussing where they still needed to stop before finally heading home. Her cart was full of supplies for her class's Christmas craft and other activities, but there was still more to buy.

As they moved forward in line, the two older women ahead of them began to ask her questions. They wondered where Chavez taught and what activities all the supplies were for.

As the line scooted forward once again, it was time for the ladies to gather their things and go. One of them stepped closer and thanked Chavez profusely for her service as a teacher and for everything she does for the students.

As she spoke, she reached out and took Chavez's hand; Chavez was suddenly distinctly aware that now she was holding something—\$100! Chavez assured the woman she couldn't take the money, but the woman wouldn't hear of it.

Her next words caused Chavez to choke back tears. "You look like someone who is always helping other people out.

Now it's your turn to be blessed," she said before she turned and walked away.

What a gift it is to be seen by a stranger—to be blessed with not just monetary gifts, but to be acknowledged for the hard work and emotional investment that teachers pour into their students day after day. Isn't this what we want to provide for our students as well?

We want to acknowledge their ability to show up and affirm their efforts. We want to show them we see them for who they are and not only for what they do. We want to assure them that not only does Jesus love and care about them, but we do too.

What a blessing to be able to do this daily. Teaching may be exhausting at times, but the rewards cannot be measured.

ELIZABETH FRESSE
Portland Adventist Elementary School vice principal



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-OR-17

Students learn how to make tortillas from scratch.

BIBLE READINGS
for
March
2024

Follow the daily reading plan and you will read the entire Bible in a year.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Acts 18:19–28	2
3 1 Cor. 1–4	4 1 Cor. 5–8	5 1 Cor. 9–11	6 Cor. 12–16	7 Philemon	8 2 Corinthians	9
10 Rom. 1–7	11 Rom. 8–16	12 Acts 19–28	13 Jude	14 Colossians	15 Ephesians	16
17 Philippians	18 1 Timothy	19 Titus	20 1 Peter	21 Hebrews	22 2 Peter	23
24 2 Timothy	25 1 John	26 2 John	27 3 John	28 Rev. 1–7	29 Rev. 8–13	30
31 Rev. 14–22						

Our Bible reading plan leaves Sabbath as a time to share and reflect on your readings for the week. Find creative ways each Sabbath to share your reflections with others on what God is teaching you from your Bible reading time!

Follow us @NWAdventists on Instagram and Facebook.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-2-BLE-89](https://www.nwadventists.org)





New Adventist School System Opens in College Place

LAST YEAR, THE COMBINED CONSTITUENCIES OF ROGERS ADVENTIST SCHOOL AND WALLA WALLA VALLEY ACADEMY VOTED TO MERGE INTO THE K-12 SCHOOL SYSTEM OF WALLA WALLA VALLEY ADVENTIST SCHOOLS.

“After many years of conversation around the benefits of a K-12 collaboration, both the RAS and WWVA boards voted separately in May 2022 to give study to the details, benefits and logistics of a combined school system,” shared Holley Bryant, head of schools.

The boards assigned a task force made up of individuals from both boards, Upper Columbia Conference, Walla Walla University, RAS and WWVA faculty. This task force was assigned one year to research and present a recommendation back to the boards.

“The task force evaluated church subsidy and approval, school subsidy from UCC, board governance and branding and naming,” explained Bryant. “The task force met with seven different focus groups; these focus groups helped inform the future direction of the task force.”

The task force then presented their findings separately to both school boards, along with their recommendation to pursue the K-12 collaboration, named Walla Walla Valley Adventist Schools. Both boards unanimously accepted that recommendation and voted to send the final decision to the joint constituencies of both schools.

In April 2023, members of the joint constituency met and heard the report and recommendation from the boards. All constituent churches were represented including College Place Spanish Church, City Church, Eastgate Church, Milton Church,

Stateline Church, Touchet/Umapine Church, University Church, Village Church and Walla Walla Spanish Church.

The constituency voted with a 90% positive rate to formally merge RAS and WWVA into the K-12 system named Walla Walla Valley Adventist Schools, effective July 1, 2023.

The doors opened on Aug. 21, 2023 to 474 students in this new, shared school system, quickly shortened to Valley Adventist Schools.

Students maintain their current strong academic programs but with options for collaborations in music, athletics, math, drama and more.

One combined spiritual plan strategically engages all students in age-appropriate worship, service, study and connection.

“From one consistent application and registration process to joint calendars and schedules, officially working together with one shared goal is a better experience for the student, parent and teacher,” said Bryant.

“The new logo is a nod to both campuses with an emphasis on our Adventist heritage,” she added. “The shield also represents strength and truth as we put on the full armor of God, teaching Christian courage and bravery.”



SCOTT RAE
Walla Walla Valley Academy campus principal

More online at **+**
NWADVENT.ST/119-2-UC-43

• (From left to right) Scott Rae, WWVA campus principal, Holley Bryant, head of schools, and D’Marae Banks, RAS campus principal, celebrate the grand opening of Walla Walla Valley Adventist Schools.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Grief Ministry Started for Those in Need

WHEN HEIDI JONES STARTED WORKING PART-TIME FOR ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES AT UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE, SHE DIDN'T QUITE KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT.



The *Peace, Be Still* eDevotional provides grief support for anyone who needs it.

“As I looked around at my friends, other church members and our community, I was struck by how many of them were working to process grief and loss,” said Jones.

Jones is very familiar with the topic of grief and how to journey with others who are facing it. In addition to her work at the conference, Jones also serves part-time as a hospice chaplain with Logan Health Hospice in Kalispell, Montana. Her work there includes providing emotional and spiritual support to husbands, wives, siblings, mothers, fathers and children who have lost loved ones.

“When I tell others what kind of work that I do, I usually get a response of ‘Wow, that’s difficult work. I could never do what you do.’ In reality, though, I find it so fulfilling,” said Jones. “It’s an honor to step into such a significant moment with others and hopefully help them feel seen, cared for and even reassured of God’s presence with them amid the painful realities they are experiencing.”

With years of experience and training in this area, Jones approached her supervisor, Patty Marsh, UCC Adventist Community Services director, with an

idea of one way to help address grief in the conference. The idea was to develop an eDevotional, *Peace, Be Still*.

This complimentary, weekly eDevotional provides support and comfort to those journeying through the shadows of grief and loss. Each week’s issue includes a primary message, a scripture promise, a prayer and a link to a song or two which relates to the theme of the particular eDevotional.

“I wanted to create something that someone facing grief could expect to receive in their email each week – something they could read in the comfort of their home, or wherever they are, in the moment they need it most,” said Jones. “I wanted the eDevotional to address a variety of experiences and challenges that the grieving face – all through a hopeful lens of faith.”

Jones set out to locate a broad range of authors to assist in this outreach. Chaplains, pastors, grief coaches, healthcare workers and several individuals who have experienced various forms of loss share their hearts and expertise in these weekly messages. This

intentional diversity was chosen in hopes of connecting effectively with a variety of readers.

“We have received a lot of positive feedback as recipients share that it feels good to know that their church acknowledges and cares about these painful realities of life in a fallen world,” added Jones.

“As we continue to await the return of our precious Savior, it’s helpful to be reminded we are not alone amid our grief and losses. It’s God’s plan for us to come alongside one another however we can, reminding them of our care and ultimately pointing them to the Comforter Himself. This eDevotional is another way of doing just that.”

If you are interested in receiving the *Peace, Be Still* eDevotional, all are welcome. You can subscribe to this service at uccsda.org/peacebestill.

DUSTIN JONES
Upper Columbia Conference
communications director

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-UC-72 



EDUCATION



GACS students serve their community weekly through projects like stacking wood.



GACS created a parade float for Candy Cane Lane.

GACS Students Live Out School Motto

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS OFTEN FIND FIFTH- THROUGH EIGHTH-GRADERS OF GOLDENDALE ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIVING OUT THEIR SCHOOL MOTTO — LOVE, PREPARE, SERVE — BY SHARING JESUS' LOVE IN WORKS OF SERVICE WITHIN THE LITTLE COMMUNITY AND SURROUNDING AREA OF GOLDENDALE, WASHINGTON.

As a small three-room school, GACS equips and challenges each student to reach his or her potential spiritually, academically, socially and physically.

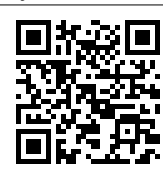
Students spend Wednesday afternoons serving the community in a variety of ways, including stacking wood, weeding the yard of Great Goldendale Chamber of Commerce, assembling cabinets for an elderly person, washing chairs at Goldendale Grange Hall for upcoming mission fundraisers, singing and doing crafts with the residents of New Hope Farms — a place where intellectually or developmentally disabled adults can call home.

Occasionally, students will hand out little packets of encouragement including Bible

verses, Glow tracts and school information to local businesses. In addition to Wednesday afternoon service, GACS built a Candy Cane Lane parade float. During the parade, hundreds of little packets of encouragement were placed in the hands of onlookers.

Learning to love, prepare and serve others is the motto to live by, and students at GACS do that every day.

BRENDA SUTHERLAND
*Goldendale Adventist
Christian School head
teacher/principal*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-2-UC-45](https://nwadvent.st/119-2-uc-45)



We are pleased to announce
2024 UCC Camp Meeting

June 19–22

uccsda.org/campmeeting

CHURCH

UCC Challenges All Members to Spend 2024 In the Word

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE? MANY SET THIS GOAL TO READ THROUGH THE BIBLE AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIFE; OTHERS SET OUT TO DO IT AS A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.

During the 2022 Vision Summit, Upper Columbia Conference added an initiative to its Serve One More strategic plan for UCC In the Word – inviting the entire conference to read through the Bible in 2024.

“The idea is simple, yet life-changing,” shared David Jamieson, UCC president. “We have invited our pastors in UCC to preach through the entire Bible in 2024. Constituents are invited to read each week and then hear a sermon related to that week’s reading.”

Beginning in January and ending Saturday, Dec. 14, UCC In the Word is a journey through the 66 books of the Bible, surveying God’s gracious work from creation to the cross to the consummation of time.

“We look forward to reaching a goal in this conference of reading the Bible from cover to cover,” shared Jamieson. “Like a roadmap, UCC In the Word will provide you with a big picture view of ‘the greatest story ever told.’”

Reading through the Bible in one year can be an ambitious goal for many and requires daily dedication. According to the 2022–2023 Global Church Member Survey conducted by the world church’s



Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, almost half of Adventists – 48.8% – read the Bible at least once a day, while 26% read two or more times a week and 2% never read the Bible.

UCC prayer ministries department also hopes to help encourage members who are taking on the In the Word challenge. They began the year with 10 Days of Prayer, Vertical Conversations With God. During this time, prayer warriors across the conference prayed that the Bible would spark conversation in the conference and the Word of God would speak to each person as they read the Bible.

After much prayer, prayer ministries created a Zoom room, uccsda.org/prayer, to read the Bible as a group, Sunday through Friday at 8:30 p.m. each week adding an additional resource to keep readers accountable.

“The one-year Bible reading plan takes about 15 minutes each day to read

through,” said Kathy Marson, UCC prayer ministries coordinator. “We are so excited because we have partnered with local church prayer leaders to read and pray through the Bible this year. During our Zooms, the scripture will be read followed by an opportunity to pray together.”

If you are interested in participating or reading through the Bible has been something you’ve wanted to do, join UCC In the Word. For more information, visit uccsda.org/intheword.

AUTUMN DUNZWEILER

*Upper Columbia Conference
communications coordinator*



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-UC-78 

'Each One Reach One' Chosen as UCA School Year Theme

HOW DO YOU CHOOSE A THEME THAT WILL GUIDE A WHOLE SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR? AT UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY, THE STUDENTS ARE ASKED.

John Spano, UCA history teacher and head sponsor of the associated student body team, has gained considerable experience mentoring student leaders throughout his teaching career. "Each year, I encourage the incoming officers to pray about a theme," said Spano. "I don't want them to just think of something catchy—I want it to be God-led because that's what will make all the difference."

"The ASB team came into the year with excitement to decide the new theme," said Torin Smith, ASB president. "We brainstormed and prayed about each idea, but the one that rose to the top was 'Each One Reach One.' We wanted to encourage an environment on campus where students interact with one another with kind and thoughtful words."

The other officers echoed Smith's sentiment. Eric Olson, ASB vice president, mentioned he has noticed his conversations with his peers seem to turn more often to how to positively influence others for Christ. "It has definitely been an emphasis in everything we do as a leadership team," he said.

The theme was introduced on the first night of the school year at the Handshake, a kick-off event for students to get acquainted with each other. Several of the ASB officers

spoke for worship, talking about the difference one person can make. The idea was reiterated at Agape Feast, also planned by ASB.

During the fall Week of Prayer, the theme was reinforced by the speaker, Dale Goodson, a missionary who returned from Papua New Guinea.

"Hearing 'Each One Reach One' multiple times throughout the school year helps me think more about how I relate to others," said Joseph Lee, UCA senior. "It is a great reminder that I can affect those around me."

Halfway through the year, the ASB leadership team paused to reflect on what they've done and what they still want to accomplish. "Most of our meeting time was taken up by a discussion of how we will continue to incorporate our theme into each activity we plan," Spano relayed. "We want it to stick with people."

"Honestly, I don't believe the theme has changed our campus, but the change God has been working out in us is what inspired the theme," said Fred Riffel, pastor and UCA Bible teacher. "These words beautifully express who we are as a school family."

Riffel went on to point out that observing kind acts and hearing encouraging words are not rare occurrences at UCA. "We have been praying for God to become part of our DNA, and this is yet another evidence of His answer — seeing His character reflected in our students and colleagues."

Reaching others doesn't end at the edge of school property, according to Smith. "UCA needs to be a center of hope for the community, as well, and that is what we want to encourage for the rest of this year. My fellow officers

and I want to lend a helping hand wherever we are to touch people like Jesus did."

In addition to the activities planned on campus, the team has initiated several outreach activities, including a visit to a nearby nursing home.

KRISTA MIKKELSON
*Upper Columbia Academy
director of alumni and
enrollment services*



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/119-2-UC-41



• The 2023–2024 ASB team is creating a kind and friendly environment at UCA.

BIBLE READINGS
for
April
2024

Follow the daily reading plan and you will read the entire Bible in a year.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 James	2 Acts 17	3 Galatians	4 Acts 18:1–18	5 1 Thessalonians	6
7 Mark 10–11	8 Luke 19	9 Matt. 22–23	10 Mark 12–13	11 Matt. 20–21	12 Luke 18	13
14 Luke 20–24	15 John 14–17	16 Matt. 27–28	17 2 Thessalonians	18 Matt. 24–26	19 Mark 14–16	20
21 Acts 5–8	22 Acts 9–10	23 Acts 11–14	24 Acts 15–16	25 John 18–21	26 Acts 1–4	27
28 John 11–13	29 Luke 17:11–37	30 Matt. 19				

Our Bible reading plan leaves Sabbath as a time to share and reflect on your readings for the week. Find creative ways each Sabbath to share your reflections with others on what God is teaching you from your Bible reading time!

Follow us @NWAdventists on Instagram and Facebook.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-2-BLE-90](https://www.nwadventist.org/resources/119-2-ble-90)



Greater Things: 2024 Washington Conference Constituency Session

**EVERY FIVE YEARS, WASHINGTON CONFERENCE
HOLDS A CONSTITUENCY SESSION. THE NEXT
SESSION WILL BE HELD ON MAY 5.**

ERNESTO HERNANDEZ



Doug Bing, Washington
Conference president

ERNESTO HERNANDEZ



Michelle Wachter,
Washington Conference vice
president for education

LACEY STECKER



Jerry Russell, Washington
Conference vice president for
finance

ERNESTO HERNANDEZ



Randy Maxwell, Washington
Conference vice president
for administration

Some may ask, “What is a constituency session?” It’s similar to a shareholder meeting of a publicly held company. The official announcement of this session specifies that it’s convened to share reports of the most recent quinquennium, elect officers and departmental directors for the next five years and share the vision for continued ministry in Washington Conference. The reports this year will cover the 2019–2023 period.

Each church and school is invited to elect delegates based on their size. They are also invited to submit suggested agenda items for the session and the constitution and bylaws committee. Local churches are invited to suggest people to serve on the executive committee and board of education. Additionally, local churches elect people to serve on a committee that will meet on March 24 – the nominating committee.

The nominating committee collaborates with North Pacific Union officers in nominating officers and departmental directors. The committee reviews the resumes of those they are nominating. This meeting will take place on April 14.

The nominating committee also nominates new executive committee and board of education members, selecting from lists submitted by local churches. They are then tasked with ensuring a representative group from each region of the conference serves on those committees, considering diversity in ethnicity and gender.

Each step of the process is delegate-based. Prior to the main session on May 5, there are delegate information meetings held in different regions of the conference, explaining the process and sharing some of the reports being prepared. This allows questions to be asked and ideas to be gleaned from the local delegates.

This session’s theme is “Greater Things.” The past five years have experienced both amazing and troubling things happen in our world. We have experienced a pandemic, political upheaval, social unrest and many shifts in how life is lived in this new reality. Yet, God has led each step of the way.

Churches have learned new methods of ministry and worship. Many now have online audiences every weekend in addition to in-person attendance. During the pandemic, churches learned

to conduct Bible studies, communion services and baptisms virtually. Community service efforts were renewed in many places and increased in others.

Over the last five years, 18 churches in eight different language groups were planted. Coaching for revitalization was made available to churches, resulting in proven church growth. Church revitalization also included new focus on youth and club ministry. Health ministries focused on both physical and mental health, with resources provided in various of ways.

Our school system also learned to pivot due to the pandemic, with an increase of 300 students system-wide, resulting in reopening schools that had been shut down. Much of this increase came from non-members who want a Christian-based education for their children in this turbulent world. Our schools continued to provide above-average education, with the most important benefit being that students learn about Jesus.

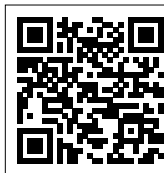
Most importantly, there was a renewed focus on prayer initiatives at the conference level, adopted by many churches locally. Many church prayer ministries take place daily on Zoom or other

virtual platforms. The renewed spiritual focus included focusing on family worship, strengthening marriages and individual spiritual growth.

As we look to the future, we see the great things God has done in this conference territory over the last five years. However, we seek even greater things. When Jesus was calling His first disciples to follow Him, He said to Nathanael, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these" (John 1:50).

Each of us is called to be a disciple of Jesus, to follow faithfully wherever He leads. There is no doubt that as we follow Jesus, we will continue to witness even greater things. Moving into the next quinquennium, let us keep praying for and seeking those greater things God has promised.

DOUG BING
*Washington Conference
president*



More online at  NWADVENT.ST/119-2-WA-03

Washington Conference administrative team praises God for His greater vision in this ministry territory.



YOUTH

Camp 4 Deaf Youth Grows at Sunset Lake

EACH SUMMER, MANY YOUNG LIVES ARE TOUCHED AND CHANGED FOR ETERNITY AT SUMMER CAMPS. SUMMER 2023 WAS NO EXCEPTION.



Camp 4 Deaf Youth at Sunset Lake had a fantastic staff comprised of both Deaf and hearing members.



Jeff Jordan, Deaf Adventist pastor, shares a morning worship thought with Deaf campers.



Donald practices his archery skills.

Sunset Lake Camp hosted Camp 4 Deaf Youth in 2022 and 2023. In 2022, only one Deaf girl, Shakira, came to camp. Counselors were thrilled to see her give her heart to Jesus and be baptized six weeks later.

The number of Deaf campers for the July 2-9, 2023 camp swelled to four: two boys and two girls, including Shakira. In addition to the regular camp staff, an additional hand-picked team of hearing interpreters and Deaf counselors were hired. The Camp 4 Deaf Youth pastor was Jeff Jordan, the only Deaf Adventist pastor in North America.

Shakira spent the week pointing her cabin mate and new friend, Makayla, to Jesus. Shakira eagerly, yet gently, shared her love for God and the joy of the Christian walk. Makayla gave her heart to Jesus during an appeal on Friday evening.

Campers and counselors alike watched Shakira walk Makayla over to the freedom bell and encourage her to ring it loud, proclaiming to all her decision – and Makayla did.

Meanwhile, Darby had zero interest in anything spiritual. Anytime Jesus was mentioned, he instantly tuned

out. During worship, he sat far away, looking in the opposite direction to keep his attention diverted. By the end of the week, however, he was sitting with the group and actively participating.

The Sabbath morning worship program was held in a small amphitheater. Darby sat in the far back row while others clustered together at the front. As Jordan spoke, Darby began to take interest, moving up one row at a time until he sat with the group. Though he did not make a confession for Christ, God was working and seeds of faith were planted in his heart.

Donald had a rough start to the week. He showed some aggression and refused to participate in any of the activities. He sat by the lake the entire first day in his own world. Several counselors tried to convince him to join the fun, but nothing worked. They began praying for Donald.

Each day, Donald started to cave. He began taking part in gaga ball, water activities, archery, biking and the giant swing. By the end of the week, he didn't want to miss a thing.

Halfway through the week, Donald joined in the singing at evening worship, signing with meaning as tears

trickled down his face. No one was surprised when he, too, decided to give his heart to Jesus at the end of the week.

Saying farewell to Donald was difficult. He was not ready to go home. He kept repeating that he wished he could stay for two weeks. Tears streamed down his face as he hugged his counselors frequently and told them he loved them and would miss them.

This is why Camp 4 Deaf Youth exists. Deaf kids haven't had access to traditional summer camp programs, simply because of communication. Camp 4 Deaf Youth staff

burst open the communication barriers in the Pacific Northwest.

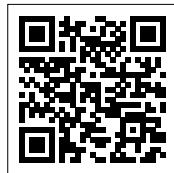
It's not just about interpreting activities, but the warm guidance of the counselors, friendship with Christian staff and the Word of God shared by a Deaf pastor through American Sign Language, the Deaf's heart language and native "tongue."

Washington Conference, North Pacific Union, North American Division Deaf ministries, Washington Conference evangelism ministry and private donors partnered

to make this happen. We deeply appreciate Sunset Lake and each one of its staff for this joint endeavor to reach out to these precious souls.

The next Camp 4 Deaf Youth will be June 30 through July 7, 2024 at Sunset Lake Camp. For more information, visit camp4Deafyouth.com or our Facebook page for Camp 4 Deaf Youth. You may also email us at camp4Deafyouth@gmail.com.

ESTHER DOSS
North American Division Deaf ministries coordinator



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-WA-20 

Deaf campers, like Makayla and Shakira, form a close spiritual and relational bond with their counselors through specialized summer camp experiences.



AAA Fosters a Sense of Belonging

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I WALKED ONTO AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY'S CAMPUS. I WAS 7 YEARS OLD, AND WE WERE ATTENDING CAMP MEETING. I CLEARLY REMEMBER MY FIRST PRIMARY TENT MEETING AND THE THEME WAS "GOING ON A SAFARI."

I loved everything about it – the constant playmates, being surrounded by tons of kids my age, the daily snow cones, swimming in the giant pool and – oh yes – the pronto pups. That amazing Big Frank center surrounded by crispy corn batter – I'll never forget how good those tasted.

My AAA journey actually began earlier than that. My mother and several other family members attended AAA. Their pictures line the walls like sentinels guarding the future generations. I remember hearing stories of the "glory days" when AAA had more than 500 students, and some of the girls actually lived in the infamous and foreboding Gibson Hall at the back of campus.

I had been on AAA's campus so many times before I was ever actually a student. When I finally walked the halls as a nervous freshman, there

was a sense of belonging. Like many of our students, I wanted to be involved in everything.

I immediately became part of the gymnastics team, joined choir, took piano lessons, became a class officer and tried out for volleyball. These activities and more continued through my senior year.

Like all seniors, I was ready to leave and find new adventures. Some call it "senioritis," but I think it's part of the beautiful process of growing up. AAA gave me the wings I needed to fly the nest and soar into the unknown.

However, the greatest surprise was when I accepted a position to work at my alma mater six years ago. Honestly, I never thought God would bring me back around to my old stomping grounds. In many ways, God's greatest blessings are the ones we don't ask for.

Now I walk these hallways with a few more laugh lines on my face and a little gray in my hair, but it is still home; I still feel like I belong. My hope is that all students who attend here feel that as well. Now I experience AAA in the most fulfilling way ever: seeing students grow in Jesus.

Every year I cry at graduation, and when their pictures are added to the wall, I look up knowing I had the privilege of being part of their journey. Although saying goodbye is always a little bittersweet because these kids have a way of embedding themselves in our hearts, I know that they go on to amazing things because they have been given wings.

KILIKINA VEGA RICHARDS
*Auburn Adventist Academy
faculty member*



KELLI NUNLEY

AAA students are prepared for life after graduation.

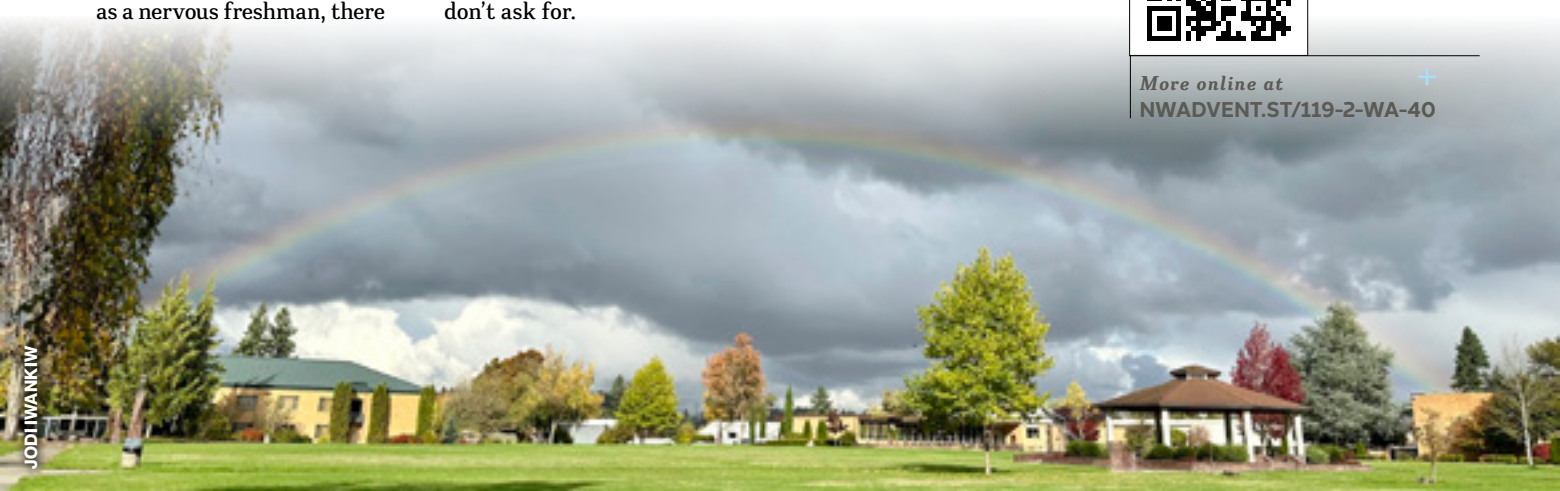


JACKIE LANGI

AAA provides a place of belonging for its students.



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-WA-40



EDUCATION

PAES Grows Student Leaders

AT PENINSULA ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WE ARE LIKE FAMILY. TOGETHER WE DEVELOP NEW IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE SCHOOL, AND WE'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR SPECIAL TEAMS.



PAES's leadership team helps create a positive environment for the school.

publications. The older students mentor the younger students.

When asked if they think these teams help improve the school, Silas Ellison said, "We each help improve certain parts of the school."

Isabella Salazar added, "Because everyone has different ideas."

Skyler Adair commented, "We help the teachers with things they can't do alone."

Aimee Powless shared, "We can work together and make our school stronger."

Elsie McClure's comment sums it up, "We help improve our school and make it better."

The first team is leadership. The students on this team created a school mascot with a scripture. They are currently working on a school improvement plan to ensure we have a Christian atmosphere at PAES.

They served at the Sequim Food Bank during Christmas break, and they will continue to plan other events. They have proposed creating a ninth-grade class, and it is being considered by the board.

The next team is graduation. This group of three eighth-graders and one seventh-grader started the year by choosing a school scripture, theme and song. Together they make and sell cookies and slime to raise money for their class trip and gift for the school. They will also help create the yearbook.

The library committee is a group of six students who are a very ambitious group.

They just completed stamping 360 books. There is a plan in place to purge old books and catalog the library electronically. This team has worked very hard to help other readers find new books they enjoy.

The technology team is made up of six members. They help the teacher with computers and the smart board. The team leaders are setting up new Chromebooks. They will learn the new software and help other students with them.

A small group of four students created the very first prayer group. The team comes together to pray about school issues and student problems. Praying for the school has helped change the atmosphere.

Finally, third- through eighth-graders run a school newspaper. They write a two-page newsletter for Sequim and Port Angeles Adventist churches. They also write for the *Sequim Gazette* and other

ELSIE MCCLURE
Peninsula Adventist Elementary School student

ISABELLA SALAZAR
Peninsula Adventist Elementary School student

ALLISON YOUNG
Peninsula Adventist Elementary School student



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-WA-26 

WWU President To Retire, Search Underway

JOHN MCVAY, WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, ANNOUNCED HE WILL RETIRE AT THE END OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR. THE WWU BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS ESTABLISHED A 13-MEMBER PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE TO HELP IDENTIFY THE UNIVERSITY'S NEXT PRESIDENT.

Upon his retirement, McVay will complete 44 years of service to the Adventist Church – 18 of which have been spent at WWU – making him the longest-serving president of the university.

When McVay became the university's 23rd president in 2006, his first task was supervising the institution's name change from Walla Walla College to Walla Walla University. He led the university's strategic planning efforts – earning a commendation from accrediting organizations – and instituted a long-range budget planning process that improved the university's overall Composite Financial Index.

He established a robust spiritual master planning process and implemented strategies to nurture faith and discipleship. McVay also supported major campus improvements, including renovations of

the Winter Educational Complex and the transformation of Bowers Hall.

"As McVay looks toward retirement, we celebrate his spiritually impactful tenure with us," said John Freedman, North Pacific Union president. "His dedication to fostering a collaborative spirit and camaraderie has left an enduring mark on the WWU community."

Led by Freedman, the presidential search committee is supported by work from FaithSearch Partners, a nationally-known executive search firm that has years of experience working with Adventist colleges and universities.

FaithSearch Partners is helping identify candidates, gather and synthesize information, and work with committee members to match the best candidate with the university.

The search committee's members represent the university's key stakeholder groups, including faculty, staff, students, board of trustees members, alumni and NPUC administrators.

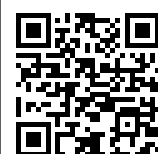
Six of the members are alumni of WWU, five are currently employed at the university, seven are members of the university's board of trustees and one attends as a student.

"I expect that the involvement of the presidential search committee, the WWU board of trustees, the board's governance committee and various university leaders will ensure a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to identifying the best candidates for this pivotal role," said Freedman.

He added he expects the process to be completed by May. Updates in the search process are available at wallawalla.edu/president.

"Your prayers are not only welcomed, but cherished, as we seek divine guidance in making decisions that will shape the future of our university," Freedman said. "Together, let us uplift this process, asking for wisdom, discernment and the alignment of God's will with our actions."

WWU UNIVERSITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-WWU-91



EDUCATION

New Lab Grant Supports Nursing Excellence

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING RECEIVED A \$105,231 GRANT FROM WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL TO UPGRADE NURSING SIMULATION LABS ON THE PORTLAND CAMPUS. THIS IS THE THIRD SIGNIFICANT GRANT AWARDED TO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING IN THE PAST YEAR.

The funds will modernize nursing simulation labs on the Portland campus. Simulators provide a solidly realistic, safe environment for nursing students to practice their skills, building confidence for clinical rotations and allowing students to learn in ways they may not be able to in clinicals.

Similar simulation labs on the College Place campus were revamped fall 2023 and have helped students master skills more efficiently. The funds will also support the completion of an electronic medication delivery system to be available on both campuses.

The ongoing investment in equipment is only a part of the School of Nursing's continuous success. Ranked in 2023 as the second-best school in Washington for a bachelor's degree in nursing by RNCareers, WWU provides excellent preparation for a successful nursing career.

WWU distinguished itself with high National Council Licensure Examination passing rates and a curriculum that's both academically rigorous and practically relevant, according to an RNCareers press release on the ranking.

NCLEX is taken by all nursing students after graduation, and all must pass the NCLEX before becoming registered nurses. According to the Washington State Board of Nursing and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, 95% of WWU nursing graduates in 2023 passed the NCLEX on their first try. This is notably higher than the national average pass rate of 90%.

Michaelynn Paul, dean and professor of nursing, said, "Our robust simulation labs with brand-new equipment enhance the 900 hours of clinical hours we provide to students. We are committed to creating a vision of nursing that is inclusive and equitable, and to preparing nurses to excel in the ever-changing healthcare environment. We're grateful to Washington Student Achievement Council for supporting our work with this grant."

Learn about how WWU is preparing students to be the hands and feet of Jesus through successful and fulfilling nursing careers at wallawalla.edu/nursing.



Simulators provide a solidly realistic, safe environment for nursing students to practice their skills, building their confidence and skill set for clinical rotations.



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-WWU-41



Tillamook Celebrates 50 Years

A SPECIAL SABBATH SERVICE AT TILLAMOOK CHURCH ON NOV. 11, 2023 CAPPED A YEAR-LONG 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE IN TILLAMOOK, OREGON.

The word “community” reverberated among the current and previous hospital employees who gathered to reminisce and celebrate. “What has happened at this hospital has taken everyone pulling together,” said one employee.

“When I lost my son, this place became my family,” said another.

On Aug. 15, 1973, Adventist Health Tillamook began management of Tillamook County General Hospital. Since then, Adventist Health Tillamook has grown to provide care for more than 100,000 patients each year. The 25-bed critical access facility has Level 4 Trauma Center designation and employs more than 550 associates and healthcare providers.

Adventist Health Tillamook operates a rural health medical office system with locations in Manzanita, Tillamook, Pacific City, Lincoln City, Vernonia, Sheridan, Welches and Estacada. In 2023, Adventist Health Tillamook was recognized by Healthgrades with five-star ratings for critical care and labor and delivery.

“For 50 years, we have been dedicated to providing mission-driven, compassionate

care to our community and visitors. This is an amazing accomplishment that would have been hard to envision back then, and I’m excited to see what our community health partnership looks like in the coming half-century,” said Eric Swanson, Adventist Health Tillamook president.

For Swanson, leading Adventist Health Tillamook has been a calling. He and his brother grew up riding along in the car and sometimes sleeping in the hospital lobby when their mom – a CRNA at the hospital – was called in for emergency surgeries. He worked two summers at the hospital during academy, three years during college and later was a paramedic and ambulance supervisor in Tillamook for seven years.

In 2009, when Adventist Health asked him to leave his job as a government CEO and come back to lead Adventist Health Tillamook, he didn’t hesitate for a moment.

“I absolutely love Adventist Health and our mission,” said Swanson. “Our mission – living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope – makes all the difference.”

The 50th anniversary Sabbath celebration included presentations by current and past employees and featured guest speaker, Alex Bryan, Adventist Health chief mission officer, and special music by Joyce Newmyer, Adventist Health chief people officer and Adventist Health Oregon State Network president.

“To be part of the jubilee celebration at Adventist Health Tillamook is a really special thing,” said Bryan. “The hands of God are on this place. The idea of God’s hands in our midst is powerful.”

“The quality of the healthcare we provide is clear,” continued Bryan, “but more importantly is the quality of our hands – the way we hold little ones when they are born and the hands of those who are dying, those who are grieving, those who are celebrating, those who hear good news and those who hear bad news – it’s the way God’s hands guide our hands that matters most of all.”



KIM STROBEL
Adventist Health program manager for religion, faith and mission

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-2-AH-92](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/119-2-AH-92)

The 50th anniversary celebration included a year-long series of events at the hospital and in the community.



LOVE Without Limits

Auburn Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend
May 3-4, 2024



For more information, including a tentative schedule and registration, scan the QR code or visit: auburn.org/alumni-weekend

IN A WORLD ASKING US TO FIT IN,
WALLA WALLA VALLEY ADVENTIST SCHOOLS
CREATES STUDENTS THAT **STAND OUT.**



COME JOIN US.
LEARN MORE AT VALLEYADVENTISTSCHOOLS.ORG.



ADVERTISEMENTS

EMPLOYMENT

ALASKA LODGE SEEKS SUMMER HELP.

Beautiful setting with restored historic log cabins. Room and board provided, RT airfare, wages 30 hours/week+ guaranteed. Couples welcome. Sabbaths off. Richard and Judy Dennis, 907-822-5299, RedEagleLodge.com.

ENROLLMENT COUNSELOR to work specifically with Hispanic/Latino prospects and their families to recruit students to Union College. Provide translation support for parents, visit and speak for church services, attend camp meetings and youth rallies and help organize and participate in college recruitment tours. Bachelor's degree required and must be fluent in Spanish. See full job descriptions and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment.

FINANCIAL AID ADVISOR/LOAN PROCESSOR to provide operational and customer support. Process federal aid and loans, provide financial counseling to students and families and assist with development, documentation and implementation of workflow process in addition to other duties. Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience required. See full job descriptions and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY School of Nursing seeks a full-time faculty member to join a mission-focused team. Teaching responsibilities will be primarily at the undergraduate level. An earned doctorate is preferred. Requisite qualities include current RN adult health or ICU clinical experience, successful teaching experience, interest in research, flexibility and commitment to Adventist nursing

education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the Adventist Church. To apply, visit our job board at sau.catsone.com/careers.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY School of Religion seeks full-time faculty member to begin fall 2024. Must be active member of Adventist Church in regular standing and have Ph.D. (or near completion) in New Testament. Positive experience in pastoral ministry and teaching is helpful. Must demonstrate contagious love for Jesus, strong commitment to authority of scripture and deep passion for Adventist message and mission. Good people skills and ability to engage students in a positive, faith-building manner in the classroom are essential. To apply, visit our job board at sau.catsone.com/careers.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time engineer teaching faculty member for School of Engineering and Physics in the areas of mechanical, electrical and computer engineering. The ideal candidate will be proficient in developing and teaching undergraduate engineering courses, including both lecture and laboratory components. Master's degree in mechanical, electrical or computer engineering or related area required. Doctorate preferred. Prior higher education teaching experience and/or relevant industry experience preferred. For a full job description and desired qualifications, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time program director to launch a new Doctor of Physical Therapy degree

program. The ideal candidate will be proficient in managing the CAPTE accreditation process, new program development and teaching graduate physical therapy courses as well as clinical practice. In addition, the successful candidate will be committed to mentoring advisees, nurturing student learning both in and out of the classroom and disciplining students in Jesus Christ. For a full job description and desired qualifications, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time faculty in the area of counseling for School of Education/Psychology. A doctoral degree in counselor education from a CACREP-accredited program is required. Doctoral degrees in clinical or counseling psychology from APA-accredited program could be considered if applicant has been employed as a full-time faculty member in a counselor education program for a minimum of one full academic year before July 1, 2013. For a full job description and desired qualifications, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time teaching faculty in the School of Business. Candidates should have a graduate degree (minimum). Doctorate in business-related field preferred. Ideal candidates will have successful, professional experience in for-profit companies/organizations. Candidates will bring relevancy to courses through connecting theories, current events and real-world experience. Candidates will facilitate learning in alignment with a Christian biblical worldview and Adventist beliefs and values. Ideal candidates will be committed to student learning, engagement

and spiritual well-being. For more information, visit our job board at sau.catsone.com/careers.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time associate vice president for academic administration and dean of graduate and professional studies. Candidate should have a Ph.D. with a minimum of five years of successful full-time graduate teaching experience at the higher education level. Applicant will assume a leadership role in all aspects of graduate education and provide academic, administrative and strategic direction to graduate studies, online campus and the Adult Degree Completion Program. For more details, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time teaching faculty member for the Department of Biology/Allied Health beginning fall 2024. Ph.D. in biology who will teach upper and lower division courses and labs. Candidate should be committed to involvement with undergraduate students in the classroom as well as guiding independent student research projects. Additionally, candidate should be a practicing Adventist believing the biblical record of the creation of life on earth in six literal days. For more details, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff salaried positions: DHSI community outreach coordinator (reopened); customer service and print project manager. For more information, visit sau.catsone.com/careers.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff hourly positions: closing shift supervisor – Village Market; office manager – School of Engineering and Physics; network technician – Information Technology (Digital Networking); carpentry technician; S.A.L.T. outreach coordinator for School of Religion; alarm technician; landscape supervisor; part-time cashier – Village Market. For more information, visit sau.catsone.com/careers.

UNION COLLEGE IS SEARCHING FOR A SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM DIRECTOR
This faculty role is fully dedicated to the social work program and is responsible for administrative oversight of all program options, including leading efforts to maintain accreditation. Faculty responsibilities are expected. Master of Social Work degree required, doctorate or ABD preferred. Excellent benefits and warm and friendly campus culture included. Please see the full job description and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment.

EVENTS
ENTERPRISE/GREAT PLAINS ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND April 12–13 at Enterprise Church, Enterprise, Kansas. Honor classes: graduating years ending with 4s and 9s. For more information, email ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com or visit ea-gpa-alumni.com.

FOR SALE
LANDSCAPE BUSINESS FOR SALE located in the Columbia Gorge, Oregon. We are a ministry-minded couple planning for retirement. We want to grant you the opportunity to step into an established, successful business of 13 years. There is an unlimited opportunity to continue growing

the landscape maintenance business, or to expand into the landscape construction and irrigation industry. For more information, call 541-980-2813 or email wdwalks@gmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS
BUYING U.S. GOLD/SILVER COINS, proof and mint sets, silver dollars, rolls and bags. PCGS/NGC certified coins, estates, accumulations, large collections, bullion, platinum. Will travel. All transactions confidential. Please call 208-859-7168.

LOOKING FOR MOTORCYCLISTS with a desire to minister. Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry is an opportunity to join an outreach ministry that spreads the Word through fellowship rides and other activities. For more information call 425-239-4545 for Seattle to Bellingham, or 360-798-6861 for other Northwest areas. Send email to motorcycles@edmondsadventist.org.

REAL ESTATE
ADVENTIST REALTOR® WITH GREAT EXPERIENCE serves the Puget Sound area in Washington. Option to direct a portion of the transaction commission to your church ministry. Contact 360-271-7439 or visit isabeljoneshomes.com for more information.

EXPERIENCED ADVENTIST REAL ESTATE BROKER serving the greater Seattle-Tacoma area. Megan Bonifant with John L. Scott Real Estate. Call 253-737-7804 or email meganb@johnlscott.com.

FOR SALE Lovely 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 1519 square-foot home, marble fireplace, dishwasher, W/D, refrigerator, select furniture included. Conveniently located near Walla Walla University. Beautifully landscaped with

private backyard. Covered patio/deck, security lights, garage and much more. Please contact 951-232-9814 for more information.

SERVICES
7TH ELEMENT HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING Servicing the Treasure Valley, for all your installation, service and maintenance needs. We offer free estimates on major repairs and installation. Licensed, bonded and insured. Visit our website 7thelementhvac.com. Call 208-724-0111 or email 7thelementhvac@gmail.com.

FREE SHARING CARDS LifeTalk Radio has beautiful FREE sharing cards for all occasions with encouraging messages like “God Loves You” and “You Matter to God” plus scripture cards. Share hope and love with others. Order cards at LifeTalk.net/sharing-cards.

MOVING? RELAX! Your move with Apex Moving & Storage will be great! As the single point of accountability, we offer peace of mind for the relocating family or individual. Give us a call and take advantage of a volume-rated discount for Adventists. Call Marcy Danté at 800-766-1902 or visit us at apexmoving.com/adventist.

PARTNER WITH ASAP MINISTRIES in serving the marginalized and reaching the unreached in Southeast Asia with the gospel. What you do today can change a life for eternity! Visit asapministries.org

TEACH SERVICES HELPING AUTHORS: Publish your book, including editing, design, marketing and worldwide distribution. Visit TEACHServices.com to submit your manuscript for a free evaluation or call 800-

367-1844. Shop for NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS at TEACHServices.com or at your local ABC.

VACATIONS
FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL IN GREECE July 3–15 Begin your biblical journey in the north where Paul landed and travel south to Athens visiting countless spots throughout. Cruise to four Greek islands and Ephesus. Info at biblicaltouring.com, George Dialektakis at 860-402-2247.

SUNRIVER, CENTRAL OREGON 4-bedroom vacation home on the North Woodlands golf course. Two master king suites, two queens, one bunk set, hot tub, A/C, loft, Jacuzzi bath, gas log fireplace, BBQ, W/D, bikes, all “lodge amenities,” sleeps 10, no smoking, no pets. For rates, photos and reservations: 541-279-9553 or schultz@crestviewcable.com.

SUNRIVER Take a spring break in beautiful Sunriver, Oregon. Sunny days and abundant wildlife make our Quelah condo the place to lose those winter blues. Visit sunriverunlimited.com or call 503-253-3936.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

MAY/JUNE MARCH 18
JULY/AUG. MAY 20

family WEDDINGS

GALL-TRUJILLO—Taylor M. Gall and Martin Trujillo were married on Aug. 5, 2023 in Eagle Creek, Oregon. They are making their home in Sandy, Oregon. Taylor is the daughter of Martin (deceased) and Debbie Gall (stepmother); and Kim (Tremaine) and Michael Osteen (stepfather). Martin is the son of Blas and Martina (Ortiz) Trijillo.

REED-POWERS—Lindsey Ruth Reed and Mitchell Lance Powers were married on June 25, 2023 in Puyallup, Washington. They are making their home in Lake Oswego, Oregon. Lindsey is the daughter of Ken and Christine Reed. Mitchell is the son of Brent and Vicki Powers.

family MILESTONES



CHILDS 60th

Duane and Emily Childs celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 20, 2023 at Bellevue Church.

Duane and Emily were married on Aug. 16, 1963 at St. John's Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas. They moved to Seattle, Washington, towing a small trailer on their honeymoon. While Duane was earning his Washington teacher's certificate at Walla Walla College, they were baptized into the Adventist Church.

They settled in the Northwest and had three children: Lynelle, Janine and

Denise. Duane taught at multiple Adventist schools and later became a self-employed caregiver. Emily was a homemaker and stay-at-home mom and later worked at Washington Conference ABC until she retired in 2007. They both were active in their churches and led out in Sabbath School in four congregations.



OAKES 65th

Albert "Bill" and Gloria Oakes celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a dinner on Aug. 11, 2023 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. They spent their anniversary trip with their family touring the Maritime Provinces.

Albert "Bill" William Oakes and Gloria Dell Cox met at Walla Walla College. They were married at Meadow Glade Church on Aug. 24, 1958.

After spending time in Seattle, Washington, they moved to Anchorage, Alaska, where Bill served in the Army Corps of Engineers and Gloria worked for insurance companies. They raised three children: Susan, Elizabeth and Stephen.

Later in life, Bill worked at an architectural firm and Gloria volunteered as a librarian at Anchorage Junior Academy. They are charter members of Anchorage Northside Church, where Gloria served as clerk and Bill served as treasurer. They are enjoying retired life in Anchorage, Alaska.

family AT REST

ALLEN—Larence Tiberius, 71; born July 19, 1952, Tecumseh, Michigan; died July 22, 2023, Kuna, Idaho. Surviving: stepson, Travis James Walker; stepdaughter, Christina Michelle Walker Label; sister, Brenda Reynolds; 5 grandchildren.

BEDNAR—Eleanor, 86; born April 28, 1937, Los Angeles, California; died Oct. 18, 2023, Meridian, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, David; sons, Michael and Greg.

BLACKWOOD—Glenn C., 93; born Dec. 9, 1929, Hope, Arkansas; died Nov. 12, 2023, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Dolores Blackwood; son, Tim; daughter, Beth Blackwood; 2 grandchildren.

BREGAR—Marjorie Jean (Lanning), 96; born Dec. 27, 1926, Syracuse, New York; died Nov. 21, 2023, College Place, Washington. Surviving: son, John; daughters, Diana (Bregar) Reale and Leigh (Bregar) Payne; 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

1943–2022

JIMMY DALE BOICOURT

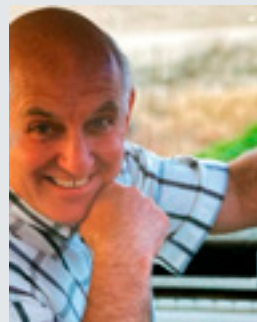
Jimmy grew up in Palmer, Alaska, and after high school was deployed to Germany in the army. There, he met the love of his life, Heidi. They married and settled in Milton-Freewater, Oregon, on 12 acres, where they created magical childhood memories for their two sons.

After Milton-Freewater, Jimmy and Heidi lived in Toledo, Chehalis and Kent, Washington; Pecos, Texas and finally Port Angeles, Washington.

Jimmy spent his career as a talented and adept jack-of-all-trades—building, finishing and outfitting boats, dairy farming, carpentry, owning and managing a gravel plant, rebuilding cars, renovating homes and building tree houses for his sons. His fine craftsmanship lives on in homes, boats and public spaces in the Pacific Northwest.

Jimmy was a dreamer, creator, builder, idea man, maker, fixer, craftsman, tinkerer, problem solver, engineer, designer, helper, whistler, silly storyteller, jokester and excellent napper. On top of it all was his care and love for his family, generous and gentle spirit, kind heart, commitment to his faith, humility, and joyful and grateful nature.

Jimmy succumbed to Lewy body dementia and is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Heidi; son, Andy; son, Ronnie, and his wife, Lili; brother, Ernie, and his wife, Ann; grandchildren, Eliza and Ari; and many extended family members and dear friends.



1944–2024

NADINE DOWER

Nadine Dower, former *Gleaner* managing editor, passed away on Jan. 5, 2024 in Seattle, Washington, a day short of her 80th birthday. Born on Jan. 6, 1944 in Spokane, Washington, Nadine had a significant impact on Adventist communication outreach efforts throughout her career.

Nadine, along with her husband Richard (Dick), who served as the editor during the same time frame, formed an indispensable *Gleaner* team. The couple retired in 2008 after dedicating five years to frequently traveling to collect stories and images to provide Northwest Adventist members with a consistently stellar *Gleaner*.

Nadine played a vital role in developing and maintaining communication partnerships and mentorships throughout North America. Her work promoted the mission of various Adventist ministries while strengthening the potential of every union paper.

Her professional journey also included time spent at the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Andrews University and Lake Union in addition to various acts of ministry volunteerism.

Nadine's laugh, love for making apple pies and collaborative spirit with Dick are just a few examples of the warmth and dedication she brought to her work and personal life.

Nadine is survived by her husband, Richard (Dick); daughter, Mona Dower Sarcona and her spouse, Joe; son, James, and his spouse, Noel Chavez; and three grandchildren.

Nadine Dower's memorial service will be held on March 16 at Walla Walla University Church in College Place, Washington.



DOWER—Nadine Adele (Platner), 79; born Jan. 6, 1944, Spokane, Washington; died Jan. 5, 2024, Seattle, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Richard; son, James; daughter, Mona Dower Sarcona; 3 grandchildren.

FINKBINER—Arline May (Rigby), 96; born May 29, 1927, Glendive, Montana; died Nov. 15, 2023, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Bob and Gary; daughter, Marianne Finkbiner; 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

HANSON—Calvin James, 92; born Jan. 30, 1931, Keene, Texas; died Nov. 6, 2023, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Carol Derry Hanson; sons, James, John and Jerald; 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

ITSCHNER—Irene Alice (Warner), 93; born Dec. 5, 1930, Fruitland, Idaho; died Jan. 2, 2024, Pendleton, Oregon. Surviving: daughters, Beryl (Portenier) Wagner, Rebecca (Portenier) Van Hee, Cynthia (Itchner) White and Pamela (Itchner) Brown; brother, Cyril "Bud" Warner; 7 grandchildren.

1935–2023

DONNA KOEHN

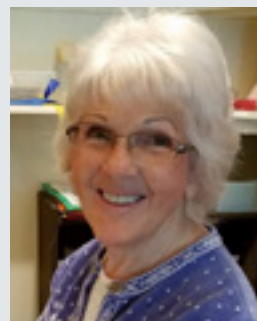
Donna Louise Chadwick, born on March 9, 1935 in Des Moines, Iowa, was the sixth child of nine born to Everett and Viola Chadwick. The family moved to eastern Washington and then to Pendleton, Oregon, during her teen years where she worked at Harris Pine Mills. At Pendleton Church, she met Walter Koehn. They married on June 6, 1954.

Walter, Donna and their two children—Barbara and Allen—moved to Thunderbird Academy in 1962 where Donna worked as dean of girls. She also served as dean of girls at Pacific Union College, Laurelwood Academy, Columbia Union College and Auburn Adventist Academy.

Retiring in 1999, Donna and Walter moved to Cottage Grove, Oregon, where they lived for 22 years. There, Donna started a prayer retreat which grew very large. In 2021, they moved into the addition on their daughter's house in Puyallup, Washington, because Donna had dementia.

Donna loved to sing and remembered the words of old hymns sung for her the Sabbath before she passed. Donna passed peacefully on Oct. 14, 2023.

She is remembered by her "girls" from her years as dean; friends; family; husband, Walter; two children; five grandchildren and soon-to-be six great-grandchildren, many of whom were with her during the last weeks of her life. She is also survived by three sisters and many nieces and nephews.



BROWN—Marilyn Lorraine (Schlehuber), 93; born Aug. 26, 1930, Farmington, Washington; died Nov. 13, 2023, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: brother, Clifford Schlehuber; 2 grandchildren.

CADWALLADER—Joyce Arlene (Coleman), previously Joyce Dixon, Joyce Eickman, 83; born Dec. 24, 1939, Lincoln, Nebraska; died Aug. 1, 2023, Manhattan, Kansas. Surviving: son, Mike Dixon;

daughter, Mary Anne Brown; brother, Keith Coleman; sister, Shirley Williams.

CATE—Marjorie Jean (Campbell), 95; born Jan. 15, 1928, Chicago, Illinois; died Nov. 23, 2023, Forest Grove, Oregon. Surviving: son, David; daughters, Judy (Cate) Anderson and Amy (Cate) Fletcher; 8 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

KOEHN – Donna Louise (Chadwick), 88; born March 9, 1935, Des Moines, Iowa; died Oct. 14, 2023, Puyallup, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Walter; son, Allen; daughter, Barbara (Koehn) Riske; sisters, Pat Carrell, Rita Chadwick and Bonnie Duckworth; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

MACPHEE – Owen Wallace, 91; born Aug. 2, 1932, Berkeley, California; died Nov. 6, 2023, Grants Pass, Oregon. Surviving: son, Mel; daughter, Cindy (MacPhee) Poirier; sisters, Violet (MacPhee) Findell and Vivian (MacPhee) Dobbin; 6 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

MAHANAY – Jeanie (Abbott), previously Jeanie Swanberg, 76; born Dec. 1, 1946, Kellog, Idaho; died Oct. 11, 2023, Oakdale, California. Surviving: spouse, Steve; daughter, Jodi (Swanberg) Sceville; stepdaughters, Christine Higgenbothan and Sherrie Deberry; brother, Alan Abbott; 2 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren and 4 step-great-grandchildren.

MATHES – Sarah Elizabeth (Lyon), 96; born Aug. 29, 1923, Little Fork, Kentucky; died Dec. 8, 2019, Salem, Oregon. Surviving: daughter, Georgia (Mathes) Dovich; 3 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

MOSEBAR – Carolyn Marie (Rennings), 89; born April 15, 1934, Salem, Oregon; died Nov. 11, 2023, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: daughters, Julie Mosebar-Johnson and Jeanette Hendrix;

1942–2023

SHARON KATHLEEN “KATHY” SMITH

Sharon Kathleen “Kathy” (Detamore) Smith passed away Nov. 26, 2023 after a brief illness.

Born Aug. 16, 1942, Kathy was one of three daughters of missionary parents Aletha and Fordyce Detamore. She spent five years with them in Asia before attending Takoma Academy, where she met Ron Smith. They married just before their last year at Southern Missionary College—now Southern Adventist University—where Kathy graduated with a degree in nursing.

The couple followed Ron’s work as a minister to Michigan, Florida, Oregon, Maryland and, finally, back to Oregon. In addition to raising four children, Kathy worked as a nurse in hospitals, offices and residential facilities. She finished her career in the North Pacific Union treasury department and devoted her retirement to gardening, reading and enjoying her family.

Kathy’s children remember her as a wonderful cook. She gifted her keen wit, humor and love of the beach to her kids. She had a gentle and compassionate heart for babies, children and pets.

Kathy is survived by her husband, Ronald “Ron” Smith; children, Daryl Smith, Darlene “Dharma” Wease, Laurel Rogers and Lauren Smith; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; plus her treasured in-laws, cousins, nieces, nephews and other extended family.

brother, Peter Rennings; sisters, Kathleen Jones and Sonja Gourley; 2 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

PHILLIPS – Mary Ellen (Aldred), 84; born June 16, 1939, Hood River, Oregon; died Jan. 1, 2024, Battle Ground, Washington. Surviving: son, Jeff; daughter, Vicki (Phillips) Powers; sister, Leota (Aldred) Cuppy; 2 grandchildren.

PUCCINELLI – Vivian J., 87; born July 8, 1936, Johannesburg, South Africa;



died Oct. 27, 2023, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Marilyn Puccinelli; son, Ron; 1 grandchild and 2 step-grandchildren.

SAUNDERS – Mary Jane (Jolly), 83; born April 4, 1940, LaPorte, Indiana; died Nov. 17, 2023, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, William; son, William Jr.; daughters, Sheiron Christensen and Debbie Saunders; 5 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

SCHROEDER – Gene L., 87; born Jan. 14, 1936, Marshfield, Wisconsin; died Nov. 25, 2023, Anacortes, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Miriam Schroeder; son, Tim; daughters, Terri (Schroeder) Eggers and Tami (Schroeder) Rowe; 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

SHIDELER – Larry, 79; born July 25, 1944, Boise, Idaho; died Aug. 31, 2023, Meridian, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Sharon McAdams Shideler; sons, Steven and Michael; daughter, Jennifer Shideler; 3 grandchildren.

SPAULDING – David Richard, 89; born Nov. 26, 1933, York, North Dakota; died Oct. 14, 2023, Pasco, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Judith (Winslow); sons, Dennis, David II and Drew Spaulding; daughter, Dannette (Spaulding) Peterson; stepson, Chad Winslow; stepdaughter, Rachelle (Winslow) Roberts; brothers, Clair and Roger; sisters, Joanne (Spaulding) Peterson and Marilyn (Spaulding) Beecher; 5 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 1 step-great-grandchild.

UTT – Theodore Paul, 98; born Nov. 3, 1925, Stoneham, Massachusetts; died Nov. 28, 2023, Simi Valley, California. Surviving: spouse, Shirley Christian; sons, Rick, Terry and Tom; daughters, Kathy Morgan and Peni Cockrel; 11 grandchildren, 1 step-grandchild, 14 great-grandchildren and 1 step-great-grandchild.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

WILSON—Everett E., 96; born Feb. 2, 1927, Nunn, Colorado; died Nov. 21, 2023, Longview, Washington. Surviving: sons, Duane and David; daughter, Diane (Wilson) Weseman; 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

WISBEY—Roy Allen, 65; born May 25, 1958, Centralia, Washington; died Dec. 29, 2023, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: brothers, Donald and Daniel; sister, Sharon Wisbey Helms.

All family announcements are published online at NWAdventists.com/family. To submit family announcements, go to NWAdventists.com/contribute. To publish an expanded obituary with a short bio and photo, contact info@nwadventists.com or call 360-857-7200 for submission and cost information.

The North Pacific Union Gleaner accepts family listings as a service to members of Adventist churches in the Northwest. This information is not intended as an endorsement of any facts or relationships represented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION

Offering

- March 2—Local Church Budget
- March 9—World Budget (GC)
- March 16—Local Church Budget
- March 23—Local Conference Advance
- March 30—Local Church Budget
- April 6—Local Church Budget
- April 13—Hope Channel International, Inc. (GC)
- April 20—Local Church Budget
- April 27—Local Conference Advance

OREGON CONFERENCE

Homecoming in Pendleton, Oregon

Pendleton Christian School, previously called Harris Junior Academy and Pendleton Junior Academy, is holding a special homecoming Sabbath on April 20 beginning at 10 a.m.

Al Reimche will be the main speaker. Everyone who ever attended, taught and/or supported our Adventist school in Pendleton during the last 75 years is invited. Please come and share your time with us. There will be worship, music, memories and meals. Lunch of spaghetti, salad and bread will be served at 1 p.m. and a dinner of veggie burgers with all the fixings will be served at 6 p.m. Please share the invitation.

Molalla Anniversary

All friends and former members of Molalla Church are cordially invited to come celebrate with us more than 100 years since the founding of our church in Molalla and 50 years in our present sanctuary on April 20.

Our centennial Sabbath service will begin at 11 a.m. followed by a fellowship dinner. At 2 p.m. we will share stories, photos, memories and more. God has blessed our church and you are a part of that blessing. We hope you can come join us for a day of memories. 835 N. Molalla Avenue, Molalla, Oregon, 97038.

Portland Adventist Academy Alumni Reunion Weekend

Attention Portland Adventist Academy alumni: PAA/PUA Alumni Reunion Weekend is May 3–5 at PAA. Honor classes include: '49 (75-year class); '54; '64; '74 (50-year class); '84; '94; '99 (25-year class); '04; '14; '19 (5-year class). More details of Friday evening and Sabbath events at paasda.org/alumni or call 971-351-9028. Golden Agers Dinner, Friday evening, Sabbath worship at 10:30 a.m.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Washington Conference Constituency Session

Notice is hereby given that the 61st Regular Session of Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at Auburn Adventist Academy Church, Auburn, Washington, on Sunday, May 5 at 9:30 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports of conference activities since the last Regular Conference Session; to elect officers, departmental directors, Washington Conference Executive Committee and the Board of Education for the ensuing quinquennium; for strategic planning and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

The Large Committee will meet on March 24 to elect the Nominating Committee for the Session, and the Nominating Committee will begin meeting on April 14.

Instructions have been sent to pastors, clerks and head elders of each organized church concerning delegate selection and other preparations for the Conference Session.

Douglas L. Bing, president

Randyle K. Maxwell, vice president for administration

ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO ANNUAL OFFERING MARCH 9, 2024



AWR IS HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

From Europe to Rwanda to Papua New Guinea, you can't miss the thrilling updates of what God is doing around the world!

Share these inspiring stories with your church during the **Adventist World Radio Annual Offering** on **March 9**.



ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO

📞 1-800-337-4297

🌐 awr.org

📘 [/awr360](https://www.facebook.com/awr360)

📷 [@awr.360](https://www.instagram.com/awr.360)

📺 [@awr360](https://www.tiktok.com/@awr360)

▶ [awr.org/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/awr.org)

12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA

Download the
AWR Offering Packet
for **March 9** at
awr.org/offering



**Did you attend
Journey Christian School or
Kelso Longview Adventist School?
We need to hear from you!**



Help us prepare for the fall 2024 centennial and ensure you're included in our celebrations!

Share your photos, stories, favorite teachers, and more! Be included in our centennial book by sharing your memories online today!



journeychristianschool.org/centennial

Save the Date
The Centennial Gala
Sunday, October 6, 2024



× × × × × × × ×

UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Customized instruction, strong academics
Small class sizes
Committed, qualified Christian teachers
Fully accredited
Academy classes & programs available
Financial aid

○ ○ ○ ○

GSAA
Gem State Adventist Academy

208.459.1627
www.GemState.org

**Join the GSAA family!
Call for a tour
or to ask about
financial information**

*Engaging in Service ... Training in Leadership...
Preparing for Eternity*



God commissions us to go unto all the world...teaching them...Matthew 28:19-20

Seek Divine Wisdom. **Inspire** Innovative Minds. **Build** Eternal Relationships.

It's not just an important mission. It's an eternal one.

We have an exciting new program at AAA:

\$10 for Them!

For a recurring donation of just \$10 a month, you can make a lasting impact on the day-to-day lives of our students!



Will you give \$10 for them?

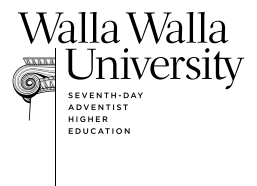
To give, scan the QR Code or visit www.auburn.org/give. For more information, contact Kellie Nunley at (253) 285-4521 or at kellie.nunley@auburn.org.



Earn your graduate degree at Walla Walla University.

- Master of education (M.Ed.)
- Master of engineering (M.Eng.)
- Master of initial teaching (M.I.T.)
- Master of science in biology (M.S.)
- Master of social work (M.S.W.)
- Doctor of social work (D.S.W.)

► Learn more and apply by scanning the QR code or by visiting wallawalla.edu/gradstudies.



Auburn Adventist Academy

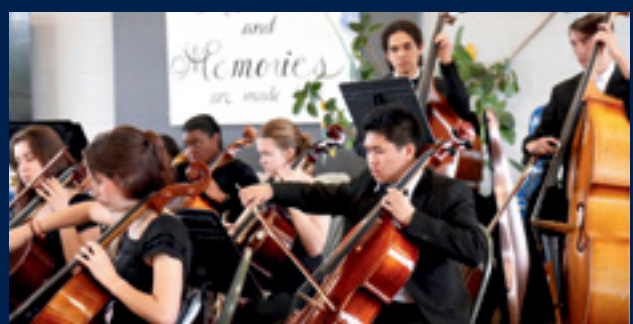


AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY
5000 AUBURN WAY S | AUBURN, WA 98092
AUBURN.ORG

Gina Hubin, Director of Recruiting
For campus tours or questions
253-939-5000 ext. 229



SEEKING -
Divine Wisdom
INSPIRING -
Innovative Minds
BUILDING -
Eternal Relationships



WIN A FREE BOOK



Signup for the Northwest Adventists email newsletter and be entered to win a free book.

NWADVENT.ST/CONNECT

North Pacific Union Directory

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

President John Freedman	Hispanic Ministries Associate
Executive Secretary, Evangelism Bill McClendon	Information Technology Loren Bordeaux Associate Daniel Cates
Treasurer Mark Remboldt	Legal Counsel André Wang
Undertreasurer Brent Plubell	Ministerial, Global Mission, Men's and Family Ministries Associate
Associate Anne Vu	Native Ministries Northwest Steve Huey
Communication Heidi Baumgartner	Public Affairs, Religious Liberty André Wang
Associate Anthony White	Regional, Multicultural and Outreach Ministries Byron Dulan
Assistant Makena Horton	Trust (WAF) James Brown
Creation Study Center Stan Hudson	Women's Ministries Sue Patzer
Education Keith Hallam	Youth and Young Adult Rob Lang
Elementary Becky Meharry	Assistant Velvet Lang
Secondary Keith Waters	
Certification Registrar Deborah Hendrickson	
Early Childhood Coordinator	

Local Conference Directory

ALASKA CONFERENCE

6100 O'Malley Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99507-7200
907-346-1004 • alaskaconference.org
Kevin Miller, president; Ashwin Somasundram, v.p. administration; _____, v.p. finance

IDAHO CONFERENCE

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

MONTANA CONFERENCE

175 Canyon View Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-3101 • mtcsda.org
Ken Norton, president; Jim Jenkins, v.p. administration; Solomon Agdon, v.p. finance

OREGON CONFERENCE

19800 Oatfield Rd.
Gladstone, OR 97027-2546
503-850-3500 • oregonadventist.org
Dan Linrud, president; Kara Johnson, v.p. administration; Eric Davis, v.p. finance; Ron Jacaban, v.p. education

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

3715 S. Grove Rd.
Spokane, WA 99224
509-838-2761 • uccsda.org
David Jamieson, president; Rodney Mills, v.p. administration; Allee Currier, v.p. finance; Brian Harris, v.p. education

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S.
Federal Way, WA 98001
253-681-6008 • washingtonconference.org
Doug Bing, president; Randy Maxwell, v.p. administration; Jerry S. Russell, v.p. finance; Michelle Wachter, v.p. education

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

204 S. College Ave.
College Place, WA 99324-1198
509-527-2656 • wallawalla.edu
John McVay, president; Pamela Cress, v.p. for academic administration; Prakash Ramoutar, v.p. for financial administration; Darren Wilkens, v.p. for student life; Jodi Wagner, v.p. for university relations and advancement

Adventist Book Centers

800-765-6955 • adventistbookcenter.com

NAMPA ABC

1350 N. Kings Rd., Nampa, ID 83687-3193
208-465-2532
M–Th 8:30 a.m.–5:45 p.m.

OREGON ABC

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

UPPER COLUMBIA ABC

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

COLLEGE PLACE ABC

505 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324
509-529-0723
T–Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

AUBURN ABC

5100 32nd St., Auburn, WA 98092-7024
253-833-6707
M, Tu, Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
W, F 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.–3 p.m.



Sunset times:
nwadventists.com/sunset



PRECIOUS LIKE PEARLS

Have you ever found treasure or something valuable? How did you feel when you discovered it? I bet you were excited and wanted to tell someone about what you found.

Jesus liked to tell parables — stories with lessons — so everyone could understand and relate to what he was saying. Sometimes He shared the same lesson in more than one story.

In Matt. 13:44, Jesus told a parable about heaven. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

Jesus told another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went

away and sold everything he had and bought it” (Matt. 13:45–46).

Both the man and the merchant gave up everything they owned for the special thing they found — and it was worth it. Heaven is valuable and precious, just like the treasure and the pearl. Sometimes we have to make sacrifices to follow Jesus — but getting to spend eternity with Him is worth it.

Do you want to know something even more awesome? In Jesus’ eyes, YOU are the precious treasure. He sees how unique and special you

are. Jesus gave up everything — His home, His throne and even His life — because He wants you to be a part of His kingdom. Aren’t you excited to see what Jesus’ kingdom is like?



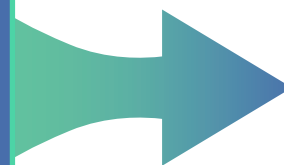
SIENNA HUBIN
Gleaner copy editor

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-KIDS-30



Treasure Hunt

Find the hidden pearls.
Hint: there are 15 and they look like this:





Mastering Divinity

“Take My yoke upon you. Let Me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matt. 11:29).



W

hen a pastor graduates from school, they receive a Master of Divinity degree.

Recently I was reflecting on how arrogant that sounds. Sure, you may have a master’s in accounting, arts or science, but have you mastered the study of God?

This is especially startling when I think back on all my opinions about religion and God that are different now than a decade ago while I was getting my degree. The only thing I know now for sure is I still have a lot to learn.

Are we confident enough to admit we don’t have all the answers? Have you ever changed your mind about a political or religious belief?

As you take a minute to reflect on that, I will share a belief that changed for me while I was getting my master’s.

Before attending seminary, I read books and listened to hours of presentations about the danger of something called the emergent church and spiritual formation.

I was convinced these things were deadly and divisive. I even signed a statement against the teaching of spiritual formation

at Andrews University and talked to a conference president about my concerns. When I got to Andrews, I was highly skeptical of a class called Biblical Formation.

I had read an article in the *Adventist Review* explaining how the class changed its name from Spiritual Formation to Biblical Formation¹ and thought the name change was a conspiracy to trick

more people into being sucked into the dangerous deception.

I was on high alert and my antenna was tuned for any spiritualism the teachers were trying to “sneak through.”

However, in my Biblical Formation class, I learned that what was being taught was literally how to have a devotional life.

We read the Bible, *Desire of Ages* and we were encouraged to pray and record our devotional time in a prayer journal. My teacher was loving, patient and kind. He answered all my questions and even invited my wife and me over to his home for Thanksgiving.

The combination of kindness and thoughtful answers helped change my mind. I began to see that all the books and hours of presentations I consumed attacking spiritual formation contained mostly slanderous information. I was misinformed, but my teachers at Andrews University didn’t shame me for the way I thought – they were patient with me.

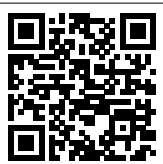
The journey continues. I realize I have many opinions about the world and religion that may still be wrong. I am convinced the path forward is pursuing answers with curiosity, honesty and intellectual humility.

Irrational faith is not a virtue. Pretending that we have it all figured out and that we have nothing to learn ultimately does damage to genuine faith.

A couple of years ago, I listened to a conference by the Barna group that talked about the difference

AUTHOR

Kevin McGill



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/119-2-POV-14





Irrational faith is not a virtue. Pretending that we have it all figured out and that we have nothing to learn ultimately does damage to genuine faith.

between intellectual humility and general humility. General humility is how you see yourself. Intellectual humility is how you see your knowledge.

Intellectual humility relates to everyone. It means you have an accurate perception of your strengths and weaknesses. This kind of humility has four practical behaviors.

1. When you are humble about your knowledge, you will not be overconfident.

- 2. You won't become defensive when people have different perspectives than you.
- 3. You will be open to revision when necessary.
- 4. You will respect the viewpoint of others.

A Litmus test for Christians is how we relate to those who disagree with us. Throughout church history, millions of martyrs have been burned at the stake because of their "heretical" beliefs.

I find it telling that in all of church history no one has been punished as a heretic for being unloving. But Jesus put the litmus test this way, "By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35).

According to this test, some atheists end up looking more "Christian" than Christians. We should reflect on this, and it should lead to a humility that confronts the

arrogance so prevalent in parts of Christianity today. I believe the closer we become to "mastering divinity" the humbler and more loving we will become.

- 1. Knott, Bill. "Formed in Christ." *Adventist Review*, August 10, 2011. <https://adventistreview.org/2011-1522/2011-1522-18/>.

KEVIN MCGILL
Green Lake Church
 senior pastor



Gotta Start Somewhere



How do we get a church to grow? Not just sprout then wither, but really grow.

The longer I have been an Adventist and a pastor the more I am convinced we often start at the wrong spot when trying to enact growth within our churches.

We are good at forming committees, writing books and making vision statements, and we know all the right strategies for creating growth. But honestly, we are less successful than we would like or ought to be. So what's the problem?

I would argue that creating growth within our churches shouldn't be the main focus. If we are focused on growth, we are focusing on the end result we want, not the actual steps to accomplishing that goal. There really are two things we need to focus on if we want to enact lasting growth.

First, read the Bible. It isn't enough to hear a sermon each Sabbath; it isn't enough to once a week think about God. We need to actually dive into the Word of God for ourselves regularly. When we study the Bible, we are learning about God, His desires for our lives and the great plan of salvation.

It's through regular biblical study that we will begin to be transformed by God's words living in us. The story of salvation, the great love of Christ for us and the truth

that we can be saved when we accept His great sacrifice on our behalf is learned through reading scripture.

If we desire to become a triathlete, we practice and train. Not just once in a while, not just the day before a race – regularly. There is no hope of being ready for the race without the proper pre-work. So it is with growth within the church. We can't show up one day and expect that suddenly the church will grow without putting in the pre-work that is needed.

Reading scripture regularly, daily, is vital for forming a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. If we have a personal relationship with Jesus, now we have something to share with others. Now our relationship with Jesus is alive enough to be visible to others.

When a whole church dedicates themselves to studying the Bible – really reading it themselves – a true transformation takes place. Suddenly there is something to share when someone walks in the door; suddenly there is a spirit of Godliness that is present in the church that is appealing to people as they come in. We can only truly share what we already have.

The second thing we need to do to enact true church growth is partake in regular



AUTHOR

Natashia McVay



When a whole church dedicates themselves to studying the Bible – really reading it themselves – a true transformation takes place.

PERSPECTIVE 

prayer time with God. It is through Bible reading and prayer that we commune with God and it is how we bring our characters into submission to God.

By beholding we become changed. What we take in is what we give out. Growth is not possible if we aren't dedicated to God first and foremost. And we can't know God

personally, be truly transformed by Him or be able to share about Him if we don't first have a personal relationship with Him.

My challenge for you is to stop looking for church growth, revival and reformation. Instead, focus on God first. Get to know Him in a meaningful way through regular scripture reading and prayer.

Then your personal relationship with Jesus will be something you can share with others. When a church devotes itself to this sole purpose – a thriving relationship with Jesus Christ – that church will grow!

NATASHIA MCVAY
*Moscow and Pullman Church
associate pastor*



More online at 
NWADVENT.ST/119-2-POV-71



In-The-Field Experience

M

y ancestors have lived on the Salish Sea for centuries. My Coast Salish people have maintained a strong, resilient, beautiful culture centered around the incomparable Salish Sea.

I was excited when our local Adventist school, Skagit Adventist Academy, developed a partnership with The Salish Sea School – based in Anacortes, Washington – Students Training as Research Scientists program and the sophomore biology class. One, my daughter, Isabella, is in the sophomore biology class, and two, I am always up for a hands-on, in-the-field education experience.

The Salish Sea School is a boat- and shore-based marine conservation adventure and research program to create action-oriented student leaders for the Salish Sea and beyond.

When The Salish Sea School reached out to Zach Mason, SAA science program director, he was very interested. “My entire philosophy of science education is centered around students doing science and not just reading about it or watching it happen on a screen,” Mason said.

The students are taking part in a long-term project by sampling and counting forage fish eggs that have been laid along the high tide line and collecting environmental data at a single location over several months. What great exposure to marine biology field research for our sophomore biology students!



SAA students analyze samples and data on the seashore.



Students are being coached by field scientists on standard sampling and surveying techniques, providing them with a unique insight into how science is done professionally, as well as giving them useful skills should they choose to pursue an internship in marine science.

Isabella told me that two helpful and knowledgeable ladies teach this marine research program. They separate the large sand samples and look at them under a microscope. With excitement, Isabella told me they saw smelt eggs* under the microscope, and last week they even saw a smelt egg hatch.

These programs with The Salish Sea School are generally not free, so we are very blessed at SAA to be partnering in marine education and conservation with this local school. For our students, this experience shows them what marine biology fieldwork is like.

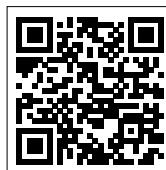
I am grateful for this great experience for our students at SAA. Our students need to learn the impact that marine life and the ocean have on us and the importance of conservation.

Gen. 2:15 says, “The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it.”

**Author's note: As a child growing up in the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, I participated in the annual smelt derby each year in February in La Conner. Our family would catch these tiny fish with poles as they swam down the Swinomish Channel. It was an exciting family activity and provided an affordable dinner for the whole family.*

The smelt were so abundant when I was a child. Now, their numbers aren't as strong. So to have my daughter “studying” the smelt habitat and eggs is pretty awesome. I am thankful she is a small part of this marine research.

LAVONNE LONG
Northwest
Adventists
family
columnist



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/119-2-POV-74



AUTHOR | LaVonne Long



See a little more
of what WWU
is all about at
wallawalla.edu/purpose.

There's still time.

Know someone that should be at Walla Walla University?
There's still time for them to transfer.

At WWU, students are equipped with the vital skills needed to succeed in life.

Students here can:

- Stay close to home and earn their degree in the Pacific Northwest.
- Choose from more than 100 areas of study.
- Enjoy small classes and faculty who are invested in their success.
- Learn at a university known for hands-on research and top scores on tests of student learning outcomes.
- Connect with a culture of community and make lifelong friends.

► **Tell them that they can see for themselves.**

They can schedule a personalized visit to see our campus at wallawalla.edu/visit.
Have questions? Call us at (800) 541-8900 or email info@wallawalla.edu.

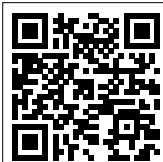


Reciprocal Growth

“DR. NKANA, IS THAT YOU?” I ASKED AS WE PASSED IN A HOTEL CONVENTION CENTER.



AUTHOR Heidi Baumgartner



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-2-TT-32

21 years had passed since I was in Sam Nkana’s college classroom. He was a first-year college professor, and I was a sophomore encountering my first major-specific class.

During the semester, tensions arose between Nkana and his class. We had multiple clashes of ideas, and we couldn’t find an easy way to resolve our frustrations.

One day, while discussing theories of public relations, I boldly interrupted Nkana with pointed questions: “So what? Now what? How does this apply to real life?”

The whole class held its breath. The undercurrent of dissatisfaction had pervaded the semester.

Nkana stopped his lecture and stood in silence.

A moment later, he gave a considered response. His response must have been somewhat acceptable to calm me and the rest of the class. The semester did become slightly better, but the relationships within the class were still tenuous.

Years have blurred the specifics, yet one detail remains vivid: my disrespectful attitude. I dismissed the potential for learning from this new professor.

I’ve regretted my attitude ever since and even told God if our paths ever crossed again I would apologize.

Unexpectedly, that moment arrived recently at a convention center. Nkana, now a faculty sponsor, was surveying the venue with colleagues while I talked with a former classmate-turned-colleague.

As I called out his name, a flicker of recognition registered on

Heidi Baumgartner and Sam Nkana experience reciprocal growth through engaging and learning from each other.

his face. Reintroducing myself, I shared a summary of my memories and the subsequent regret.

He was surprised, yet open, to the conversation and the apology I offered. He then shared how he remembered where I sat in his classroom, the specific question that I had asked and how my “so what?” question spurred him to make sure the theories he taught had practical application.

To this day, in whatever type of academic or spiritual topic he is teaching, he makes sure to include a solid point of application. Little did we know from those first tension-filled classroom interactions how much we would influence one another in different ways.

My initial apology turned into a sacred space for a lengthy, nearly two-hour conversation between a professor and two of his former students.

The weight of regret transformed into a sense of closure and peace, fostering new bridges of connection built upon understanding, forgiveness and common ground.

Reflecting on this unexpected encounter, I recognized the profound potential of reciprocal growth, both

within the confines of the classroom and in life’s diverse landscape.

Life presents us with invaluable opportunities to engage, listen and glean wisdom from each other’s journeys. It’s within these moments that mutual learning, understanding, goodwill and personal development flourish, fueled by an open heart, genuine curiosity and a steadfast grounding in our identity as followers of Christ.

Encountering Nkana after all those years was more than a significant reunion and reconciliation; it was a meaningful revelation of the impact that genuine dialogue, generosity of thought and openness to learning can impart.

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union communication director and Gleaner editor

TABLE TALK PROMPT

What conflicts and tensions in your life have provided you with valuable life lessons? Who is a person from your past or present with whom you need to reconcile?

Let’s keep the conversation going. Share highlights of your table talk stories and reflections by emailing talk@nwadventists.com.



Columbia Adventist Academy

Alumni Homecoming Weekend



April 5 & 6, 2024

Class of 2014 - Vespers

Class of 2004 - Sabbath School

Class of 1999 - Church Service

Class of 1974 - Afternoon Program

Games Saturday Night

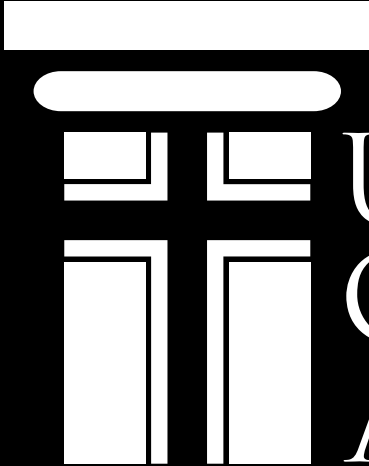


caaschool.org/alumni | 360-687-3161

gleaner

North Pacific Union Conference
5709 N. 20th St.
Ridgefield, WA 98642

NWAdventists.com



UNITY
THROUGH GOD'S LOVE

CHARACTER
THROUGH SERVICE

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
THROUGH CRITICAL THINKING



UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY

3025 E SPANGLE WAVERLY RD | SPANGLE, WA 99031

UCAA.ORG | 509-245-3600 | INFO@UCAA.ORG