

EDITORIAL
Exceptionally Good News

PERSPECTIVE
The Best Boss

TABLE TALK
Change of View

og cleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

I CAN
SPEAK
TO THAT



A Conversation With
Women in Pastoral Ministry
Across Generations

SEPT/OCT
2024
VOL. 119, N° 5



IMAGES of CREATION

*Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is
God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and
mercy for a thousand generations with those who
love Him and keep His commandments.*

Deut. 7:9

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THE MISSION OF THE ADVENTIST CHURCH is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels’ Messages in preparation for His soon return.”

During a time when the roles and rights of women in pastoral ministry within the Adventist Church are being debated, God continues to call women from every generation to serve as pastors and carry out the mission of His church.

We need to support our women pastors by listening to them, celebrating them and allowing their voices to be heard. Join us in a conversation with five women in pastoral ministry throughout North Pacific Union.

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IN THE ADVENTIST CHURCH, we believe in the priesthood of all believers — all have been called to proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

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EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD NEWS

**RECENT STUDIES BY
BARNA RESEARCH
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INDICATE THAT MANY
PEOPLE WHO HAVE
LEFT MAINSTREAM,
EVANGELICAL AND
CATHOLIC CHURCHES
OVER THE PAST 25
YEARS ARE OPEN TO
RETURNING.**



JOHN FREEDMAN
North Pacific Union president

Approximately 40 million people have left churches in the past 25 years, a number greater than the total who joined during the last Great Awakening.

Not all churches are revitalized and ready to receive these returning children of God, but those that are Christ-centered and outward-focused provide a welcoming environment for them to thrive.

NO CONDEMNATION

We are living in a polarized American culture of condemnation – condemnation of those who don't look, talk or believe the same as ourselves. This has added to the widespread loneliness and the lack of safe communities for people to thrive in – even in religious gatherings and churches.

The good news is that God wants the local church to be a safe place for His children – a place unlike what the world offers.

People need safe spiritual communities where they can thrive and learn about a loving God who deeply cares for them. The Bible gives us counsel on what a Christ-centered church looks like. Notice the theme here:

Rom. 8:1 – Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

John 3:17 – For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Rom. 8:34 – Who is He who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Rom. 8:35, 38–39 – Who shall separate us from the love of God ... neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 4:18 – There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.

If nothing shall ever be able to remove God's love from His children, then we should not remove our love from His children. 1 John 4:21 says, "This commandment we have from Him; he who loves God must love his brother [and sister] also."

Condemnation, hatred and fear is the work of the evil one. God does not condemn. True, He does not approve of



People need safe spiritual communities where they can thrive and learn about a loving God who deeply cares for them.

evil actions, behaviors and motivations, but He loves the person. God hates the self-centered selfishness that condemns and hurts others, but He loves the sinner.

Yes, He will hold people who commit evil accountable in this life – there are consequences for doing wrong. In the final judgment, if there’s no response to God’s love and grace, He will let us go in love.

In love, He will correct us. In love, He sends His Holy Spirit to convict us. In love, He will empower us to change our selfish behavior and motivations – all while free from condemnation.

Morris Venden wrote in *Faith That Works*, “It is the peace with God that gives you the power for your life to be changed. Peace does not come from trying hard to get your life fixed to claim victory – victory comes from peace. It’s the feeling that you are rejected that keeps you in your sins and failures. Loving acceptance paves the way for growth.”

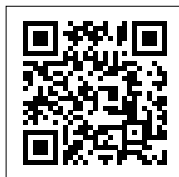
ALL HANDS ON DECK

The theme of this month’s *Gleaner* is women in pastoral ministry. The early and latter rain of the Holy Spirit is preparing people to return to church. We need all hands on deck to get ready for an in-gathering.

I’m grateful for the abundant evidence of faithful Adventist women working under the leadership of the Holy Spirit in pastoral ministry, offering not only their gifts of compassion, empathy and community building but also their profound spiritual and theological leadership.

These gifts are just what the church needs now, more than ever. These women in pastoral ministry need the support of their local church family. As we work together to create loving, accepting, Christ-centered communities, the Spirit will lead those searching for safe spiritual spaces to our doors. The time for acceptance and love for others is now.

The return of Christ is nearer than when we first believed. For those who are in Christ, there is no condemnation. This is exceptionally good news, offering hope and assurance to all who believe now and all who will believe in the future!



JOHN FREEDMAN
North Pacific Union president

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-EDT-75

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“Mountain Frame,” in North Cascades National Park, Washington, by Nathanael Martin, of McMinnville, Oregon.



I CAN SPEAK TO THAT

A Conversation With Women in Pastoral Ministry Across Generations

The mission of the Adventist Church is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels’ Messages in preparation for His soon return.”¹ Due to each person’s uniqueness and individuality in Christ, we need a variety of people – men and women of all generations and walks of life – to carry out that mission.

In the Bible, God’s intent is clear: He created both man and woman in His image. One is not superior to the other. Eve was not formed from the ground like Adam but was instead formed from Adam’s rib. This difference does not promote inequality between the genders but rather introduces the idea from the very beginning that man and woman are to stand side by side as equals.²

Jesus reaffirms this in the gospels by directing people back to God’s original plan “from the beginning” (Matt. 19:8). While Jesus didn’t alter the Jewish cultural practices of the time by selecting women to be His immediate disciples, His kindness and respect for women revolutionized the way they were treated and set an example for future generations.

Fundamental Belief 14 of the Adventist Church, Unity in the Body of Christ, says, “In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in

Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation.”³

According to this fundamental belief, *all* are equal in the eyes of Christ, and *all* are called to serve Him – in hospitals, in community service, in pastoral ministry and in third spaces. We need all people, united in the body of Christ, to work together to “Reach One More.”

During a time when the roles and rights of women in pastoral ministry within the Adventist Church are being debated, God continues to call women from each generation to serve as pastors. They answer His call and serve Him, focusing on the mission and preparing for His soon return.

How do we provide our women pastors with the support they need to reach one more for Christ? Join us in a conversation with five women in pastoral ministry throughout North Pacific Union as they share their stories, feedback and insights.



MELODY FISHER

Generation Z

Walla Walla University
Sophomore theology student

Melody Fisher saw a critical need for intentional ministry to youth and young adults—the generations at the highest risk of leaving the Adventist Church. Feeling called to bridge this gap herself, Fisher decided to start down the path of pastoral ministry at WWU. She enjoys leading out in small group ministries on campus and looks forward to continuing to learn and grow in the Holy Spirit.



EMILY ELLIS

Generation Z

Oregon Conference
Andrews University Theological Seminary sponsored seminarian

Emily Ellis originally set out to become a Bible teacher or chaplain. Her vision changed after discovering a passion for pastoral work while interning at Volunteer Park Church in Seattle, Washington, and found the church to be a transformative third space in the current culture of extreme loneliness. After serving three years at Pleasant Valley Church, Oregon Conference sponsored her education at Andrews University Theological Seminary.



NATALIE DARISME

Generation Y (Millennial)

Washington Conference
Auburn Adventist Academy Church associate pastor

Natalie Darisme's involvement in ministry began early on in her life, and she later accepted the call to pursue it full-time with the support of her family and the guidance of her mentors. She completed undergraduate and graduate studies and is now in her ninth year of full-time pastoral ministry. While she feels blessed to have served as a solo and associate pastor, Darisme finds mentoring young people who are interested in pastoral ministry the most rewarding part of her role.



BELINDA RODRIGUEZ

Generation X

Oregon Conference
Hillsboro Spanish Church lead pastor

Belinda Rodriguez was raised in a missionary family and was exposed to ministry early in life by her physician father and Bible worker mother. Her life was filled with diverse experiences that shaped her spiritual journey and led her to discern God's calling in her life as a pastor. Rodriguez has now been pastoring for nine years in Hispanic churches across Oregon Conference.



SHIRLEY ALLEN

Baby Boomer

Oregon Conference
Recently retired pastor

After moving from England to South Africa at age 4, Shirley Allen found herself attending an Adventist school. Despite not being raised in an Adventist family, Allen felt convicted to follow Jesus at age 12, which later led her to accept the call to pastoral ministry. Throughout her years in ministry, she felt convicted to minister to children and advocated for their voices to be heard.



How has your faith evolved since accepting the call of pastoral ministry?



FISHER: I feel my faith has grown greatly. Although I was still excited to minister and share the gospel before, it's different now. Being in positions of service brings me far more joy now than it did before.



DARISME: My personal faith has evolved exponentially since becoming a pastor. I sometimes laugh when I look back on my previous self and see a young woman who was spiritually judgmental and thought she had it all together in her relationship with God. I am so much more compassionate, empathetic, understanding and non-judgmental than before I went down the road of pastoral training. I see people in a way I never would have otherwise.



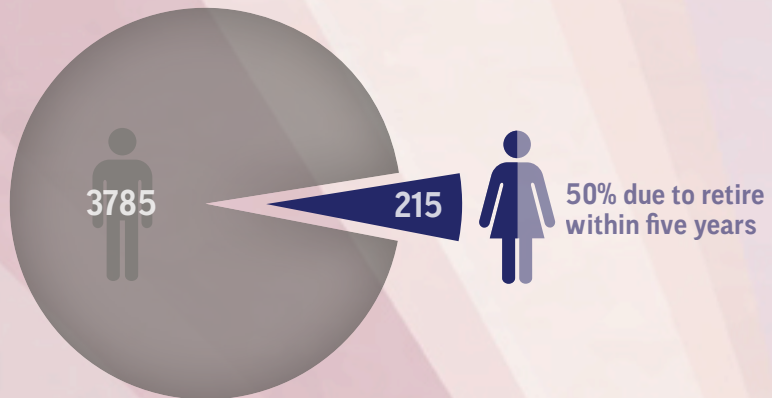
ALLEN: Now that I have hindsight, I can see how God led me in difficult times. There were times when my faith wavered. Being in a place where God wants you to be doesn't always make sense at the time, but I have a better perspective now.



ELLIS: Faith is something I've held closely since I was a young girl. Something that I try to hold in tension is having a private faith walk and also realizing that as a pastor I have a public role that requires me to constantly share my faith.

Private and public faith are going to inevitably be intertwined, but in my mind they should be separated. Part of pastoring is leaning into that tension. You can have the fruit of the secret place spill out to the public place without having to declare it.

North American Division Ministerial Association reported in 2023⁴ that of their 4,000 pastors, 215 were women, and 50% of them were due to retire within the following five years. Their goal was to double the number of women serving in pastoral roles within those same five years.





What are some of the most rewarding aspects of pastoral ministry for you?



ALLEN: When I walk a journey with people, through the birth of children, their joys and sorrows, baptism and the death of loved ones, I form a lifelong bond and connection with them. Those connections are the most rewarding parts of ministry for me.



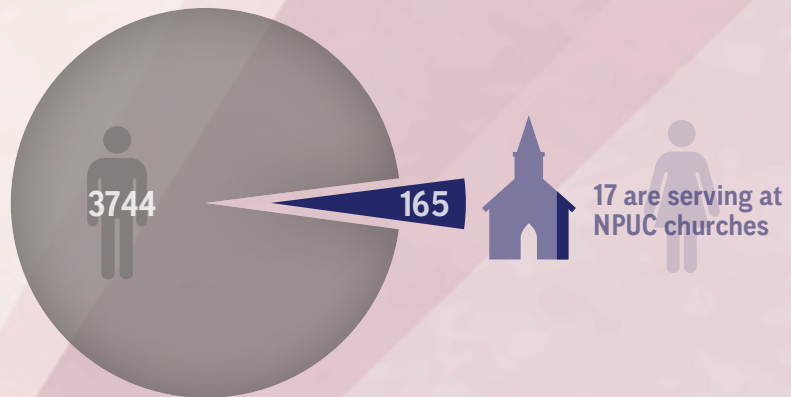
RODRIGUEZ: I think what's most rewarding is seeing my community grow, witnessing lives be transformed by God's love and being able to serve and support my congregation. Having a church and members committed to Christ, seeing how the young grow and witnessing how they can love being involved in the church has an unmeasurable value.



DARISME: My favorite moments in ministry tend to be one-on-one moments with people – children, teens, young adults and adults – that most church members will never see or know about. It's rewarding to sit with a crying church member, shed tears with them and watch them go on a healing journey with Jesus.

These are often the quietest moments of ministry when only a few people are present. They don't take place on a stage, they aren't included in a sermon and they aren't live-streamed or part of the Sabbath morning program, yet they are some of the biggest moments where I see Jesus move. They are another huge reason I stick with this job. Seeing lives touched and changed by Jesus is beautiful!

As of August 2024, NAD has 3,909 pastors, 165 of whom are women. Of those 165, 17 are serving at NPUC churches.





How does your family support your ministry, and how do you balance family life with pastoral responsibilities?



ALLEN: My husband, Dave, has always been my biggest supporter and encourager. I am retired now, and my adult children and grandchildren live far away, but we communicate regularly. We are currently in South Africa visiting with them.



RODRIGUEZ: My husband is also a pastor; he has been incredibly supportive of everything I do. My two kids, Ashley and Abdiel, are also very supportive. I feel very lucky. My oldest, Ashley, is in her fourth year of college to pursue ministry. At home, there have been some adjustments with schedules, food and home duties that we all share, and each person does their part at home so meals and chores still happen with their help.



ELLIS: I come from such a wonderful family. When I first decided to be a pastor, I think there was some hesitation—and understandably so. However, they have shown up for me in so many wonderful ways in the years that have since passed, such as driving across the state to hear me preach or bonding with my church congregation. I also think that the beauty of church is that family is expanded beyond blood. Who I am today has been shaped by my biological family and my church family.



DARISME: I could not do what I do without the support of my family. I am lucky to have a spouse who is also a trained pastor who understands the nuances, difficulties and unique pressures of this job and who serves as an invaluable support at home. His love and prayers have been a direct reflection of Jesus for me and have held me up in very dark moments in ministry.

My family is my first church, and my relationships with them are not something I will sacrifice. Jesus has deeply convicted me of the importance of maintaining a healthy marriage and family, and I think that is the first and most beautiful reflection of Him that I can have.

Approximately 1 in every 23 NAD pastors is a woman.





What advice would you give to women aspiring to become pastors?



ALLEN: Be open to the voice of the Holy Spirit in small decisions and the bigger decisions will follow.



ELLIS: Strive to seek the beauty in ministry while, at the same time, knowing and understanding the cost of ministry. I also think it's important to understand that pastoral ministry is an honor and a privilege, not a right. None of us deserve to be able to serve in the capacity of the pastor, least of all me.



FISHER: I would advise any woman who feels called to pastoral ministry to rely very heavily on their faith. People may doubt or disagree with you, but your calling is between you and God.



DARISME: Develop grit and walk into ministry with eyes wide open. Pastoring requires a great deal of empathy, skills in conflict management, good communication, letting go of any judgments you may have and willingness to work with and minister to all types of people seeing them with the eyes of Jesus.

Take the time to read, ask for advice and humble yourself before God. Reach out to a current female pastor for mentorship and unashamedly follow whatever God has put on your heart. Remember ministry isn't all about you, it's all about Jesus.



RODRIGUEZ: I would emphasize and recognize that God has a calling for all of us in our lives. When that calling comes to you, don't doubt it. He is the one who will guide you. Accepting means there will be challenges, but it is also a great privilege.

The road may seem difficult and some may try to shut you out, but please don't be afraid to reach out to someone and trust the Lord, for He calls and provides. God always provides.

Approximately 1 in every 17 NPUC pastors is a woman.





Who are the mentors that have been instrumental in your journey?



ALLEN: My greatest mentor and closest friend is my husband, Dave. He always included me in ministry opportunities whenever appropriate. My teachers were instrumental to my journey; I still keep in touch with those remaining. Working with Sherri Uhrig in children's ministry was a great joy and blessing; I learned so much from her. I have also been very blessed to have special friends and mentors in South Africa and the U.S.



FISHER: I had a couple of really good youth pastors and religion teachers in middle school and academy who really played a crucial role in my journey. They were role models for me and I aspire to be that inspiration for other young people.



RODRIGUEZ: Having the support and mentorship of Samuel Castro, David Paczka, Dan Linrud and Kara Johnsson has been significant in my pastoral journey. They have provided support during hard times, led by example, encouraged me and shown personal care for myself, my family and my ministry, which have been invaluable.



How has your theological education influenced your approach to ministry?



ELLIS: I am forever grateful for the theological education I received at WWU. The professors there all deeply shaped me both inside and outside of the classroom. They were all extremely present and deeply cared about us as students and made a point to invest in us outside of the classroom.

Now that I'm in seminary, the importance of education for pastoral ministry has only been solidified. The education I've received here has been enriching as I've interacted with students from around the world, people who think differently than me and professors who have high value for theology.



FISHER: I feel that the small portion of my education that I've completed so far has given me more confidence in my calling. It's taught me that although I don't know everything, I'm growing and learning and I can still be a light and a minister in that process.



DARISME: My theological training has helped me see a bird's-eye view of the Adventist Church and even the deep longing and search for a religion that has meaning in one's life that we find evident across cultures worldwide. This helps me when I narrow down into a specific ministry situation that may be challenging because I can see how it fits into the overall puzzle of what Jesus is trying to accomplish on this earth. Each of the classes I took has in some way shaped a part of my ministry. I have been blessed to have some great professors at both WWU and in seminary.



How can the broader Adventist community better support female pastors and their ministries?



FISHER: The broader Adventist community can better support women in ministry through greater prayer. Any pastor, minister or leader needs prayer as they are spreading the gospel.



ELLIS: The church that I had the opportunity to pastor at for three years knew how to support pastors well. They were such joy-filled people and they wanted me to be part of their lives. That was such a gift; I could just feel their love and support. It oozed out of them! If you want to support your female pastors, follow their example.



ALLEN: The broader Adventist community can support female pastors by being open to hiring them to pastor their church.



DARISME: Supporting pastors starts with the attitude of your heart. Begin by humbling yourself before God and giving over to Him any preconceived ideas you have about women in ministry. Honestly face up to your own biases, prejudices and foundational presuppositions, and examine them with Jesus.

Allow the voices of women in pastoral ministry to be heard, allow us the freedom to operate in all ministry spheres, respect our professional advice and advocate on behalf of your female pastors to local church, conference and union leadership.



RODRIGUEZ: Uplift your female pastors and leaders, celebrate and encourage their achievements to show your support.

Join the conversation — we want to hear from you!

How did these perspectives inspire you to evaluate your viewpoint on the role of gender and how it relates to pastoral ministry within the church?

What steps can you take to foster an environment in your church where women feel valued and empowered to serve as pastors?

Email us at talk@nwadventists.com.

Every person was created uniquely by Christ and has a point of view shaped by their own individual experiences. Through listening and respectfully dialoging with others, we can learn perspectives that differ from our own that can enrich our understanding.

In this conversation with five women in different phases of pastoral ministry throughout NPUC, we see a range of generations, experiences and feedback. Just as they add unique perspectives to the conversations they are part of, they also add value to each ministry sphere they are serving in.

The Adventist Church echoes this sentiment in Fundamental Belief 14. We are *all* parts of the body of Christ; we each have a unique purpose, perspective and spiritual gift to bring to the table (1 Cor. 12:12–27). To have a complete body in Christ, we need *all* people to be united for His purpose. We cannot cast off parts we don't think we need and still complete the mission of the Adventist Church. We are *all* needed to reach one more for Christ.

God continues to call women to serve Him as pastors in the Adventist Church. He knows that each one is an integral part of enacting the mission – to make disciples of all people and prepare the world for His soon return. Who are we to question whom He is calling?

“You are only human, and human beings have no right to question God. An object should not ask the person who made it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’ The potter can make anything he wants to make. He can use the

same clay to make one thing for special use and another thing for daily use” (Rom. 9:20–21).

Just as God speaks to your heart, asking you to follow Him, He also speaks to the hearts of women around the world to minister for Him. Who are we to challenge Him on that?

As the authority and responsibilities of women in pastoral positions continue to be divisive topics within the Adventist Church, take a moment to acknowledge your own biases and beliefs. Reexamine what you believe.

Pray for God's guidance as you deconstruct and rebuild your perspective, taking into account these new, diverse generational perspectives from women in various phases of pastoral ministry.

Respectfully dialogue with others. Refrain from being combative and closed off. Instead, be kind and curious as you listen with an open heart.

Ask yourself what God is putting on your heart. Reflect on the new information you have gathered. Consider these new perspectives and start reconstructing your thoughts on this important topic.

It is through these moments with God, respectful dialogues with others and times of self-reflection that our faith and connection to Christ grow.

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God Transforms Lives During Mission Possible Campaign

MISSION POSSIBLE IS AN EFFORT IN WESTERN WASHINGTON THAT LED TO A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE POWER OF GOD.

In the final days of December 2023, Hispanic Adventist churches in Auburn, Kent and Seattle were touched by a powerful movement driven by the Holy Spirit. Gonzalo Reyes and Epitacyo Martins, two students from Peruvian Union University – the Adventist university in Peru – arrived as volunteers with a strong missionary spirit that quickly spread to the three congregations.

Encouraged by the words in 1 John 5:4, “For everyone born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith,” Reyes and Martins poured their hearts and souls into impacting the lives of many families. Their dedication and collaboration with local leaders, church members and Yván Balabarca, Auburn, Kent and Seattle Hispanic district pastor, in this missionary experience was truly inspiring.

God used preachers Martins, Oscar Moreno and Luis Carrasco. The weeks of evangelism not only rejuvenated the faith of church members but also resulted in the blessing of welcoming 30 new souls to Jesus.

Among the touching stories of this campaign, Apolonio’s transformation stands out as a testament to God’s merciful love. Before his baptism, Apolonio regularly attended Wednesday prayer meetings and Saturday worship services. He was actively involved in small groups and participated in weekly mission visits, always reflecting his encounter with the Lord through his smile and attitude.

Inspired by Acts 2:38, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,” Apolonio joyfully embraced

baptism on Saturday, April 27, at Kent Spanish Church. His baptism not only showed his personal faith in Jesus but also that God works in local communities.

Apolonio’s steadfast faith and enthusiastic participation in every church activity serve as a clear example of how divine grace transforms individuals and strengthens the entire community. The story of Apolonio and the success of Mission Possible served as a call for all of us to actively participate in God’s mission.

The Hispanic churches of Auburn, Kent and Seattle remain beacons of hope and gathering places for those in search of God’s truth and love. May this story inspire many more to join in missionary work. “With God all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26).

PETER SIMPSON

North Pacific Union vice president for Hispanic ministries and ministerial director

Apolonio was touched by one of the Mission Possible messages, leading to his baptism.

Apolonio fue conmovido por uno de los mensajes de Misión Posible, lo que motivó su bautismo.



MISIÓN Y ALCANCE

Dios Transforma Vidas Durante la Campaña Misión Posible

MISSION POSSIBLE ES UN ESFUERZO EN EL OESTE DE WASHINGTON QUE CONDUJO A UNA EXPERIENCIA TRANSFORMADORA A TRAVÉS DEL PODER DE DIOS.

En los últimos días de diciembre 2023, las iglesias Adventistas Hispánicas de Auburn, Kent y Seattle fueron tocadas por un poderoso movimiento motivado por el Espíritu Santo. Gonzalo Reyes y Epitacyo Martins, dos estudiantes de la Universidad Unión Peruana – la universidad Adventista en Perú – llegaron como voluntarios con un fuerte espíritu misionero que pronto contagió a las tres congregaciones.

Movidos por las palabras de 1 Juan 5:4, “Porque todo lo que es nacido de Dios vence al mundo; y esta es la victoria que ha vencido al mundo, nuestra fe,” Reyes y Martins pusieron sus corazones y almas en impactar las vidas de muchas familias. Su dedicación y colaboración con los líderes locales, los miembros de la iglesia e Yván Balabarca, pastor del distrito Hispano de Auburn, Kent y Seattle, en esta experiencia misionera fue inspiradora.

Dios usó a los predicadores Martins, Oscar Moreno y Luis Carrasco. Las semanas de evangelismo no solo revigorizaron la fe de los miembros de las iglesias, sino que también resultaron en la bendición de recibir a 30 nuevas almas a los brazos de Jesús.

Entre las historias conmovedoras de esta campaña, la transformación de Apolonio se destaca como un testimonio del amor misericordioso de Dios. Antes de su bautismo, Apolonio asistía regularmente a las reuniones de oración de los miércoles y a los servicios de adoración de los sábados. Participó activamente en los grupos pequeños y se involucró en las visitas misioneras semanales, siempre reflexionando sobre su encuentro con el Señor a través de su sonrisa y actitud.

Inspirado en Hechos 2:38, “Arrepentíos y bautícese cada uno de vosotros en el nombre de Jesucristo para perdón de los pecados, y recibiréis el don del Espíritu Santo,” Apolonio se sumergió en las aguas bautismales el sábado 27 de abril en la Iglesia Española de Kent. Su bautismo no solo mostró su fe personal en Jesús, sino también que Dios obra en las comunidades locales.

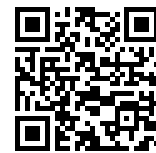
La perseverancia de Apolonio en la fe y su participación entusiasta en todas las actividades de la iglesia sirven como un claro ejemplo de cómo la gracia divina transforma a las personas y fortalece a toda la comunidad. La historia de Apolonio y

el éxito de Misión Posible sirvieron como un llamado para que todos participemos activamente en la misión de Dios.

Las iglesias Hispánicas de Auburn, Kent y Seattle continúan siendo faros de esperanza y lugares de reunión para aquellos que buscan la verdad y el amor de Dios. Que esta historia inspire a muchos más a unirse a la obra misional. “Con Dios todo es posible” (Mateo 19:26).

PETER SIMPSON

Vicepresidente de ministerios Hispánicos y director ministerial de la Unión del Pacífico Norte



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-HSP-57 +

Apolonio poses for a photo with the small group he joined when he first attended Kent Spanish Church.

Apolonio posa para una foto con el pequeño grupo al que se unió cuando asistió por primera vez a la Iglesia Española de Kent.



VBS Impacts Youth in Bethel

IN 2014, WRANGELL CHURCH, SITUATED ON A SMALL ISLAND IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA, FORMED A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TEAM TO REACH THE CHILDREN OF BETHEL. THE MISSION INITIATIVE HAS NOW BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT, MARKING 10 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF OUTREACH TO ALASKAN YOUTH.

The town of Wrangell is home to a little more than 2,100 residents. Within this community stands Wrangell Church, established in June 1966, with a current membership of 41. Despite its small size and remote location, this church has made a significant impact in Alaska.

Over the years, the VBS group has held programs in Bethel, Craig, Ketchikan and Wrangell. This year the team, led by Brooke Reynolds, VBS coordinator, returned to Bethel.

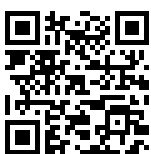
The theme of this year's VBS was, "The Good Shepherd," drawing inspiration from the parables of Jesus and *Christ's Object Lessons*. Although it was one of the smallest VBS teams, with a group of volunteers they successfully reached out to numerous children.

Due to the team's size, they involved the children in the storytelling process by using puppets. Each child received a puppet character and the story was acted out by the children participating.

In addition to daily stories, games, crafts and snacks, the Wrangell team added unique elements to their VBS, such as providing a giveaway book and a prayer tree. This year, they selected *God Said It: The Stories Of Jesus* – book 12 by Bradley Booth. Children received this book upon registration and had the opportunity to contribute to the prayer tree by writing down their prayer requests or praises, which were then prayed for each day.

With each VBS experience, the team gains insights on how to enhance future outreach efforts. Nevertheless, three fundamental principles hold true: VBS doesn't need to be elaborate, it's not as challenging as it may seem and, most importantly, it can be incredibly enjoyable!

If you feel inspired to create your own VBS, Wrangell offers a blog with free materials and themes for your use. Explore more at wrangellsda.org/diy-vacation-bible-school.



BRENDA CAMPBELL-JOHNSON
*Alaska Conference
communication director*

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-AK-43



Jackie Eilertsen sets up crafts for the children.



Kids and leaders act out the theme song at VBS.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

GYC Northwest Blesses Alaska

TOGIAK, ALASKA, WAS SELECTED BY GENERATION OF YOUTH FOR CHRIST NORTHWEST AS THIS YEAR'S MISSION TRIP DESTINATION. LOCATED 78 MILES WEST OF DILLINGHAM AND ABOUT 400 MILES WEST OF ANCHORAGE, ADVENTISTS HAVE MINISTERED TO THE AREA FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS.

Although the work waned throughout the years, in 2009 a group of dedicated workers and Arctic Mission Adventure volunteers built a new church and parsonage, established the local radio and television stations, and developed youth and community ministries. Today, the community is served by Todd Parker, Dillingham and Togiak district pastor, and Aaron Dasher, AMA worker.

In June, the GYC Northwest team, led by Hannah Everett of Spokane, Washington, traveled to the village of about 800 residents to paint and renovate the church and parsonage, as well as conduct Vacation Bible School for the village children.

As part of their trip, the young adult group engaged in intentional prayer for the people of Togiak, hoping to have a positive impact on the village while deepening their own relationship with Jesus. Parker appreciated the group's respectful and hardworking nature.

VBS attracted many children throughout the week. Thanks to a repaired van funded generously by North Pacific Union Native ministries, transportation was provided for the children to attend. The community was blessed by those supporting AMA and the groups that generously dedicate their time, skills and resources to reach Alaska.




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TOBIN DODGE
*Alaska Conference
Arctic Mission
Adventure, youth, young
adults and radio director*

More online at 
NWADVENT.ST/119-5-AK-67

Elementary Choir Festival Held at GSAA

GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY LOVES TO OPEN ITS DOORS TO GUESTS, WHETHER THAT BE POTENTIAL STUDENTS WHO COME TO TOUR, SPORTS TEAMS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS WHO COME FOR A GOOD MATCH OR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS WHO COME FOR EVENTS SUCH AS PATHFINDER EVENTS OR MUSIC FESTIVALS.



GSAA choir students join the choir festival attendees during the Sabbath afternoon concert.

In January, fifth- through eighth-grade students were invited to learn and sing with the GSAA choir under the direction of Stephen Zork, Andrews University professor. This annual event starts on a Friday morning and continues throughout the day with students learning several songs as well as a variety of musical techniques interspersed with break times and meals.

Local students go home in the evening, while those who traveled for the event stay on campus. Sabbath morning, the festival continues with time to worship together. After lunch, parents and community members are invited to enjoy a culminating concert.

Ronnie Anderson, GSAA music director, met Zork at the North American Division Educators' Convention in Phoenix in August 2023. They enjoyed getting acquainted and laid plans for Zork to come to GSAA to direct in the choral festival.

Everything was set for the weekend and when the time came, Zork arrived in Idaho from Michigan.

An arctic storm moved in with extreme winter weather forecasted for the weekend, making plans uncertain. After many prayers, Friday morning found a large group of elementary students joining the GSAA singing groups and working hard under Zork's talent and instruction. Seventy-five students had signed up for the festival and all but 18 were able to make it, including two of the three groups who had to travel from outside the valley.

On Sabbath morning, many of the elementary students joined the academy for the church service where a GSAA junior preached and students from the senior class led in music. "The younger students were able to see our GSAA students passionate about being involved in church and setting the example for the future, which is very exciting to me," said Anderson.

By Sabbath afternoon, the young musicians were ready and eager to perform for their audience. While snow fell steadily outside, all were warmed inside with the gorgeous sounds of approximately 100 voices raised in song. All who were able to attend were blessed.

The choral festival benefits all who participate. Some of the elementary students do not have music programs at their schools, and this allows them to sing with others their age. A number of the students used the festival songs in their schools and when they participated in their home churches. Parents have reported they hear their kids humming the tunes at home or school. The GSAA musicians had the opportunity to mentor, as well as benefit from the instruction.

Anderson concluded, "I praise God that we were able to have this event even through the weather and that everyone arrived and returned home safely."



MARTA STONE
Gem State Adventist Academy teacher and campus communication assistant

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-5-ID-46](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/119-5-ID-46)

EDUCATION

BVAS Reinstates Sports Program

BOISE VALLEY ADVENTIST SCHOOL IS PLEASED TO REVIVE ITS SPORTS PROGRAM TO SUPPORT A LIFETIME OF HABITUAL EXERCISE, TO TEACH SPORTS SKILLS AND TO GLORIFY GOD THROUGH SPORTING ACTIVITIES.

The revived program includes girls' volleyball and girls' and boys' basketball, which are organized and facilitated by Jamie Miller, athletic director and seventh- and eighth-grade teacher.

Here's a Q&A interview with Miller to share more about this revived sports program.

Q: Why did you want to revive the middle school sports program?

MILLER: Students thrive when given opportunities to choose in learning. It's important for our students to have experiences that are rich in academics, creative in the arts and music, and active in sports.

Q: What was your goal for implementing the sports program?

MILLER: My goal was for middle schoolers—sixth through eighth grade—to have the opportunity to glorify God through exercising their bodies, to make new friends, to implement a lifetime of habitual exercise, to develop volleyball and basketball skills, and to develop healthy competition with other schools.

Q: Sports also help with academic performance, social skills, teamwork, leadership skills, discipline and health. What benefits did you see through the implementation of the sports program?

MILLER: I believe these goals drive students to be successful in relationships with God and others, in academics, in arts and music, and in navigating daily life.

Q: Students were able to scrimmage with area Christian middle school and homeschool leagues. Which schools participated in the program?

MILLER: This school year, students from BVAS and Caldwell Adventist Elementary School practiced and played

volleyball and basketball games against other middle schools in the valley.

Q: Who coached the teams?

MILLER: Girls' volleyball was coached by Courteney Mace, BVAS Pre-K/Kindergarten teacher, and Ariel Fuentealba, a church friend. Girls' and boys' basketball were coached by Peter Smith, a church friend.

Q: I heard the girls were so excited about the startup of the new sports program that 16 showed up to volleyball practice on the first day. Did you receive parent support, as well?

MILLER: Yes! Parents and family members volunteered to carpool students to the games, run the money table and provide new uniforms for the girls' volleyball team. Teachers and students volunteered to run the scoreboard for basketball and volleyball games. In addition, church members volunteered to help coach the various teams.

Q: The implementation of this sports program has been a great opportunity for students to become familiar with the game and build skills for future sports. What is your hope for the future of this program?

MILLER: My hope for the future is to join Gem State Adventist Academy as their middle school team in the Western Idaho Conference League.



MELANIE LAWSON
Boise Valley Adventist
School teacher

Move online at
[NWADVENT.ST/119-5-ID-15](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/119-5-ID-15)



BVAS students learn new skills playing on their revived basketball and volleyball teams.

Come, Rest Awhile at Camp Meeting

CAMP MEETING IS A TIME TO UNITE AS ONE BIG FAMILY TO WORSHIP GOD.

On Wednesday, July 10, Mount Ellis Academy's campus came to life as church family members arrived for Montana Conference Camp Meeting. This year's theme was "Come, Rest Awhile," based on the story in the book of Mark when Jesus told His followers to rest from their busy ministries.

John Bradshaw, It Is Written president, shared relevant messages for Adventists to be sure of their salvation and to be filled with the Holy Spirit daily as they walk in the newness of life.

Terry Johnsson, Adventist Health Portland mission integration executive,

shared his unreal testimony of how God placed him in the honor guard to serve under three different U.S. presidents. The audience was captivated by miracle after miracle God performed to intervene in someone's life. Johnsson ended his session by praying for anyone who wanted to surrender their big obstacle to God and for God to do something miraculous in their situation.

One thing that makes Montana Conference Camp Meeting unique is the wholistic living workshops. The number of offered workshops was doubled compared to last year.



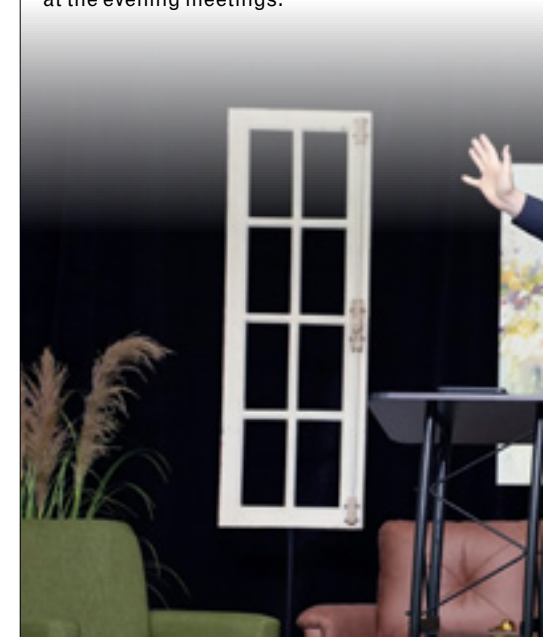
Yes, people could sit in an auditorium all day listening to various speakers, but the desire is to enhance the quality of life. Some of this year's workshops included learning how to study the Bible, digital evangelism, marriage and family, metal detecting, watercolors and plant-based cooking. 450 people attended more than 30 workshops in just two days.

The Chow Court was a new addition this year. It was created to help Pathfinder clubs and schools raise money for the International Pathfinder Camporee, building projects or class trips. It gave the

Jim Jenkins, Montana Conference vice president of administration (left), and Ken Norton, Montana Conference president (right), interview Alex Bryan, Walla Walla University president (middle), on Sabbath during camp meeting.



John Bradshaw, It Is Written president, speaks at the evening meetings.





cafeteria a break, allowing people to choose various foods. Falafel bowls, burgers, chimichangas, acai bowls and poutine were just a few of the items to choose from. Everything was delicious! The most challenging part of mealtime was deciding what to eat.

The children's division focused on the "Armor of God," while the earliteen division discovered "God's Great Adventure." The youth division was led by the Here I Am Send Me 360 team again this year, and their theme was "The Greatest Love." The youth also

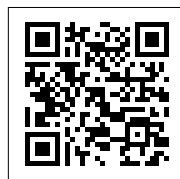
spent time doing street evangelism in downtown Bozeman.

Saturday evening closed out the weekend with another unique addition, Montana's Got Praise. This program featured musical talent from church members across the state. It was such a rich program of praise and worship that it could be an ongoing tradition.

Camp meeting is such a joy. It's a time to come together as one big family to worship God, to be reminded of our mission, to learn something new and to make lifelong connections.

Save the date for Montana Conference Camp Meeting 2025 – July 16–19!

STEPHEN CARLILE
Billings Church pastor and Montana Conference communications coordinator



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-5-MT-45](https://www.nwadvent.org/119-5-MT-45)

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CARLILE



- The Youth Choir sings a special music for church on Sabbath morning.



Gladstone Pavilion Project Breaks Ground

CHANGES ARE HAPPENING ON THE GLADSTONE PARK CONFERENCE CENTER GROUNDS. IN JULY, CREWS BEGAN PREPARATIONS FOR THE GLADSTONE PAVILION.

SHEARER CONSTRUCTION



In addition to providing shelter for camp meeting goers, the pavilion will create opportunities for larger-scale ministry events throughout good weather seasons.

In February 2023, Oregon Conference executive committee voted to move forward with the Gladstone Pavilion, a project to provide a permanent roof over the main seating area for Gladstone Camp Meeting. This action represents a significant commitment and investment in the future of camp meeting in Oregon Conference.

While the financial picture has changed in Oregon Conference over the past number of months, the project is continuing for good reasons:

- » The cost of the project will be completely funded by income from Oregon Conference's ownership stake in Somerset Lodge. Years ago, the conference invested land at the north end of Gladstone Campgrounds in a retirement community that became Somerset. This income is separate from tithe and does not impact the conference operating budget. It has been designated to maintain and enhance the Gladstone

Park grounds. The income will be more than sufficient to pay back the building loan ahead of schedule.

- » Once completed, the project will save \$75,000 or more in camp meeting operating costs each year. These savings reduce the tithe funding required to operate camp meeting and allow administration to allocate that funding to pastoral ministry in churches.
- » The new pavilion will create opportunities for larger-scale ministry events.

The ministry team is looking forward to July 2025 when everyone can worship together under a new roof.



JONATHAN RUSSELL
*Oregon Conference
assistant to the president*

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-OR-34

MISSION AND OUTREACH



VOLUNTEER-LED GARDEN WITNESSES TO ITS COMMUNITY

IN 2018, Eleanor Hetke, Clark County Adventist Community Services Center director, invited Marilyn Puccinelli to develop a garden on the center's property. The freshly grown organic produce supplements other food given to clients who come for special assistance.

Volunteers from Adventist Community Church of Vancouver and other Adventist and non-Adventist churches in the area care for the 3,000-square-foot garden. Their efforts have significantly impacted the local community by providing organic produce to those in need.

The garden is grown through an organic approach. The harvest of the large variety of plants is bountiful. The center teaches classes for the community that explain how and why each gardening step is done. A teacher at a nearby school brought students to see why the center's garden was doing well when theirs was not. Vancouver's mayor has strongly supported the center's influence in the community.

This year, Clark County Green Neighbors invited the center to participate in its annual Natural Garden Tour. The self-guided tour included nine gardens, and more than 130 people visited the center's garden. The tour brought excited affirmation for the service it provides for the community.

LARRY R. EVANS
*Clark County Adventist
Community Services
Center chaplain*



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/119-5-OR-31

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Pastor Commissioned as Navy Chaplain

ALMOST 30 YEARS AGO, JOSÉ GALVEZ, STAYTON, SILVERTON AND MOLALLA DISTRICT PASTOR, WALKED INTO A HOTEL NEAR LAX INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO JOIN THE MARINES.

“I had done pretty much all I needed to do; I just needed to get through the physical and sign on the dotted line. I was only a few days away, but my mom was really upset about it. She had gone through civil war in El Salvador and didn’t want to see her son go to war. I didn’t want to break my mom’s heart, so I asked God for direction and ended up pulling out at the last minute,” said Galvez.

Instead of joining the military all those years ago, Galvez followed the call to pastoral ministry. He has served as a pastor since 2000 and has served local churches in Oregon Conference for the past 18 years.

On a trip to Israel in 2017, Galvez grappled once again with the impact the war in El Salvador had on him. “At one of the travel checkpoints, we were asked for our passports,” Galvez remembered. “For some reason, I could not find mine. I panicked.” He eventually found it and everything was alright.

“At the hotel that night, I couldn’t get my mind off what had happened,” Galvez continued. “It reminded me of the times we had been pulled over in El Salvador and asked for papers. Back then, if you didn’t have your papers your life was on the line. You might never be seen again. So it was this experience of PTSD.”

When he woke up the next morning, Galvez realized he had a unique story, set of skills and experiences that could be used to help empathize and work with individuals in the armed forces.

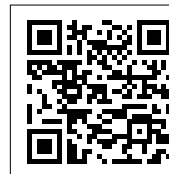
“I waited about a year before I approached my wife. We prayed about it and around three years ago I made the call to contact a recruiter. It’s been a long process, but we feel that God has opened the doors the whole way,” shared Galvez.

In June, Galvez was commissioned as a Navy chaplain—a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy working with the Navy Reserves. “I’ve been blessed to have veterans in the churches I serve, and they’ve been so encouraging in their belief that this work would help give me more ministry tools to apply to both the military and the local church,” he said.

“I want people to know I’m not leaving local church ministry, I’m simply expanding my ministry. I’m allowing God to use my skill set and experiences to be able to touch others who I wouldn’t normally have access to,” said Galvez.

“Ministry happens on a one-to-one basis,” said Galvez. “It’s when you show up for the birthday parties, weddings and funerals. Whatever it might be that you’re doing with people, it’s those connections that lead to deeper relationships where people can feel comfortable talking about their wounds and traumas.”

Please pray for Galvez and his family as he continues to grow his ministry in Oregon Conference.



KALEB EISELE
*Oregon Conference
digital content specialist*

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-OR-33



PROVIDED BY JOSÉ GALVEZ

José Galvez was commissioned as a Navy lieutenant chaplain at a special ceremony in June.

Gladstone Park Hosts Weekend Family Events

IT WAS A BUSY WEEKEND IN JULY AT GLADSTONE PARK AS FAMILIES BEGAN TO ARRIVE FOR THE FIRST LIFT JESUS HIGHER EVENT.

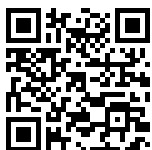
Parents and grandparents found shady spots for their blankets and camp chairs, watched as kids made enormous bubbles and joined them on a nature-themed scavenger hunt and at a kite-making station. Many cooled off with a popsicle before gathering in the amphitheater for an inspirational word from Rose Andrykanus, Sunnyside Church associate pastor.

The weekend continued to lean into interconnected community culture as Pathfinders hosted a car wash and fired up the Snack Shack kitchen for one final fundraiser for the upcoming trip to Gillette, Wyoming.

Pathfinders were able to raise more than \$19,000 in two days between the Snack Shack, Sunday car wash and donations, with the largest single tip being a \$100 bill for a single bag of kettle corn!

Customers perused rows of tables hosting this year's ABC used book sale in Zull Hall, while others headed to the ABC to catch the "summer sale at camp meeting prices."

"We just want to say thank you to everyone who came to contribute," said Sandi Carpenter, Snack Shack coordinator and Willamette district associate Pathfinder coordinator. "We hope everyone had at least a little taste of camp meeting to last until next year!"



KALEB EISELE
Oregon Conference digital content specialist

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-OR-46

Families enjoy an afternoon of music, bubbles, kite making and scavenger hunts at Lift Jesus Higher.



KALEBEISELE

YOUTH



HISPANIC YOUTH LEADERS LEARN TO DISCIPLE THE NEXT GENERATION

IN MAY, Oregon Conference Hispanic ministries sponsored RED Jovenes at Holden Convention Center in Gladstone – an event designed to empower youth leaders to connect better with young people.

RED is an acronym for redimir, entrenar y discipular – redeem, train and disciple. RED Jovenes was one of three annual events put together by the Hispanic ministries team to equip youth leaders. This year, more than 100 youth ministry leaders attended.

Leaders play a crucial role in creating safe spaces that foster community and growth for young people. This year's theme, "Discipleship," was broken down into three phases for the event: rooted, planted and fruitful. Jason Calvert, Oregon Conference youth ministries associate director, was the keynote speaker and seminar presenter, sharing insights on discipling Gen Z.

RED Jovenes encouraged leaders to continue to grow and lead through great keynotes and seminars sharing practical tools to engage their youth.

Youth leaders are on the frontline of spiritual transformation. These events equip them with the tools, inspiration and community they need to impact young lives. They're not just organizing events, they're influencing lives for eternity.



HAROLD ALTAMIRANO
Hillsboro Church youth pastor

MORE ONLINE AT NWADVENT.ST/119-5-OR-35

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Journey Church Grows Through Community Connection

IN KELSO, WASHINGTON, JIM JOHN, JOURNEY CHURCH PASTOR, HAS SPENT THE PAST FEW YEARS WORKING TO RETURN TO THE ACTS 2 EXAMPLE OF EVANGELISM.

John found Jesus in his 20s after leaving the military but did not take the call to pastoral ministry until around 10 years ago.

"I'm no great preacher, but I do know this," John shared, "I want to make sure that what I share is affecting people's lives on Monday morning. When I think about ending a message, I think, 'What's the big idea? How does it work in daily life?'"

It was from this line of thinking that Journey Church began to change the way they did things a few years ago. It started with a group of dedicated leaders and some training.

The group studied, grew and prepared to lead community groups of their own. Creating a space of safety and vulnerability was a top priority for Journey Church. Facilitators were trained in how to engage and create room for voices who may be talked over or missed otherwise, as well as how to work with those who would attempt to dominate the conversations.

"Small groups have been done forever – and they're good – but they haven't been done like this. No one is teaching in these groups," John explained. "There's a facilitator that ensures the group stays on task and that you don't have group killers overwhelming the conversations."

Now, there's a community group led by Journey Church members every day of the week other than Sabbath. "Nine groups are meeting right now. Every day of the week except Saturday night there is a community group happening anywhere

from Castle Rock down to Ridgefield!" enthused John.

A consistent group cycle is another key element for Journey Church groups. At church on Sabbath, John shares a message that will be discussed at the community groups throughout the week, and the groups meet for eight to nine weeks before taking a break.

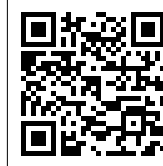
"We take a two-month break for Thanksgiving and Christmas, as well as a month off for spring break," John said. "That allows people to say, 'I can do just about anything for eight or nine weeks.'"

"We work all year long toward an open baptism," said John. "These are people who are being disciplined. They've been in groups together. They're relationally connected to other people in the church. When we see someone new at church now, we don't just say 'Hey, nice to see you! Come back next week!' We say, 'Would you come to my house this week for some food and to meet some new people?'"

John continued, "When they come over, they hear someone share a story about their lives because these are vulnerable groups. We let them know that what they share will stay there because it needs to be a safe place. So, when they do come to church, they're connected. They recognize someone and go sit with them."

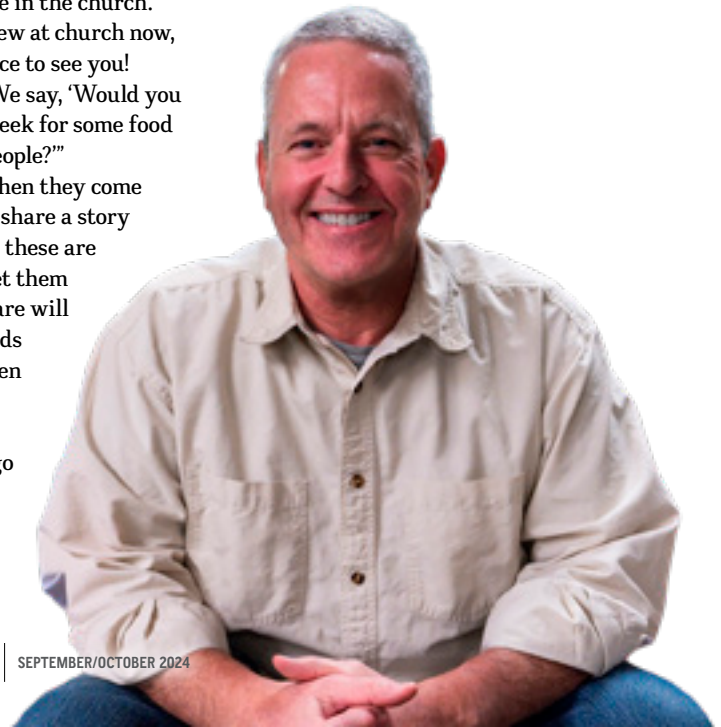
"In the past 18 months we've had

44 people come to Christ without an evangelistic series," said John, "This is a direct result of sermon-based community groups allowing the Holy Spirit to do this – and being willing to do something different."



KALEB EISELE
*Oregon Conference
digital content specialist*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-5-OR-38](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/119-5-or-38) 



CHURCH

Christ Our Living Hope Camp Meeting Brings Out 1,400

MORE THAN 1,400 PEOPLE ATTENDED UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING, HELD JUNE 19-22 ON THE CAMPUS OF UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY. THE THEME WAS “CHRIST OUR LIVING HOPE,” AND TY GIBSON, LIGHT BEARERS CO-DIRECTOR AND STORYLINE CHURCH PASTOR IN EUGENE, OREGON, WAS THE MAIN SPEAKER.



DUSTIN JONES

- David Jamieson, UCC president, closed out camp meeting on Sabbath evening with his message, “Go With God.”



AUTUMN DUNZWEILER

- Several bouncy castles and other structures allowed for kids to play and enjoy the Palouse sunshine.



PHOTOS BY AUTUMN DUNZWEILER

- The kindergarten division spent time outside playing games and making new friends.

“Gibson kicked off our camp meeting on Wednesday night, threw it into high gear and kept the momentum going the whole weekend,” said Dustin Jones, UCC communications director and camp meeting event coordinator. “He challenged all of us with our preconceived notions of Adventism, made our sides hurt with laughter and, through it all, kept pointing us to Christ, our living hope.”

Ben Orian, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference media director, presented the mid-morning programs in the big tent and presented seminars on Thursday and Friday. Orian’s focus was on church revitalization and engagement.

There were programs for kids throughout the weekend. When the kids weren’t learning more about God and making new friends, they had plenty of



On Friday, several groups went into nearby communities as part of the Serve One More project. The projects involved landscaping, mowing and building garden boxes.



One group removed overgrowth from the front of a home in a nearby community.

time to enjoy the bouncy castles and games on the lawn.

On Friday, several groups left campus to engage in service projects in the communities around UCA.

Richie Brower, Serve One More initiative associate director, arranged the projects, including a major removal of overgrowth on one individual's property.

Brower presented before and after photos of the project during the Sabbath program, along with a video featuring all the work that went into the project the day before.

"The before and after photos of the property were amazing," reported Jones. "As the teams worked in each community, you felt a real sense of fellowship and mission."

The Sabbath afternoon concert was presented by Selah, a musical group that

has won 11 Gospel Music Association Dove Awards and has more than 900 million streams across all digital music platforms.

Among the highlights of the concert was the final song. As Selah led the crowd in singing "Amazing Grace," the group quietly left the stage and let the audience finish the song a cappella.

"It was truly a meaningful moment," said Jones. "We all stood there with our eyes closed, singing 'Amazing Grace' and praising God. What a blessing!"

The final program for camp meeting was presented by David Jamieson, UCC president. Jamieson presented "Go With God," based on the story of the prodigal son.

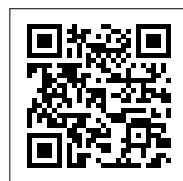
Jamieson challenged the audience to reach out to others in humility and love. As he closed, he shared a few lines from Selah's song, "Benediction," ending with

the phrase, "As you go, go with God. Go in peace!"

With those final words, Selah came onto the stage and sang the song.

"I spoke with Selah earlier in the day, and they related to me how meaningful it was to sing that song for camp meeting," said Jones. "It was a beautiful way to end our time together."

To watch the big tent programs and the concert, go to uccsda.org/campmeeting.



AUTUMN DUNZWEILER
Upper Columbia
Conference
communications
coordinator

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-UC-68 

PCA Serves One More in Peru

IN MARCH, A GROUP OF 25 VOLUNTEERS FROM PALISADES CHRISTIAN ACADEMY DID CONSTRUCTION WORK ON A PROJECT IN PERU WITH MARANATHA VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL, A SUPPORTING MINISTRY OF THE ADVENTIST CHURCH. THE VOLUNTEER TEAM LAID THE BLOCK WALLS OF A CHURCH BUILDING FOR THE VILLA JESUS CONGREGATION IN THE CITY OF PUCALLPA.

Having formed in 2011, this church family endured years of worshipping in cramped homes and nearly dissolved during the COVID-19 pandemic. The congregation's current 85 members now have a brand new, spacious church building, thanks to Maranatha and its volunteers.

The team from PCA, located in Spokane, Washington, included 13 students and 12 adults. Their passion for service bridged the age gap, blending members into a cohesive and efficient unit. The group worked so well together that they finished the church building's walls a couple of days early—just in time to meet another important need.

For the duration of the trip, several team members led a Vacation Bible School program, which proved very popular among local children. "On the very day the building team finished the church, the VBS team returned, wondering how they could properly provide for more children, as 100 had joined

by day six," recalled Ruth Lenz, PCA teacher and Peru project coordinator.

The construction team provided the extra hands necessary to accommodate more than 120 kids on the second to last VBS day and more than 140 on the final day.

"The children responded exceptionally well to our VBS team," said Lenz. "They loved our students and adults so much that many children and parents arrived an hour early so they could spend more time socializing."

The VBS program also made a special impact on Audrey Staben, Palisades Academy freshman. "While I was working on the VBS site, I was pretty shy at first because I'm not super good with new people, and there was also a huge language barrier," recalled Staben.

Staben was able to step out of her comfort zone and form strong connections with the local children. "As we started to become closer and closer to the end of the trip, I

definitely grew a lot. I wasn't feeling as shy with them," Staben said. "On the last day, it was sad because I was going to miss the kids a lot. I wish we could visit them again."

Maranatha mobilizes volunteers to build churches, schools, water wells and other urgently needed structures around the world. In addition to projects open to the public, Maranatha helps church and school groups organize their own mission trips at no additional cost. Since 1969, Maranatha volunteers and crews have constructed more than 14,000 structures and more than 3,000 water wells in nearly 90 countries.

SIDNEY NEEDLES
Maranatha communication specialist



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-UC-70

PHOTOS BY RICHARD DAVIS



PCA students help Maranatha build a church for a congregation in Pucallpa, Peru.



PCA students celebrate with their new friends in Peru.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

CHE Hosts CARE Weekend in Spokane

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR HUMANITARIAN ENGAGEMENT PAIRED WITH SPOKANE CENTRAL CHURCH FOR A FULL DAY OF SERVICE.

After a haystack lunch, WWU volunteers and Spokane Central Church members struck out for Spokane House of Charity, a homeless shelter for men. There, they washed feet, passed out socks and listened to residents' stories.

"It was kind of a boost to get us up and moving," said Wenda Livingston, Spokane Central member.

The volunteers rejoined with those who stayed behind to sort Bible felts at the church before ending the day with a hymn fest and game night complete with nachos.

This service day exemplifies what WWU's CHE wants to do through its Community Action Relief Experience project. CARE weekends push the idea of service and Sabbath by helping people use their free time to give back to their communities.

One WWU volunteer said, "It was by far the most impactful and tangible Sabbath I've ever had."

Spokane Central Church has been coordinating with CHE to bring the CARE project to their congregation. They hope it will expand the work they have been doing for the homeless population in Spokane.

WWU is a private Christian liberal arts university that offers rigorous academic programs achievable in a supportive atmosphere from dedicated professors. CHE promotes a campus-wide lifestyle of service by connecting the WWU campus with service-oriented tools, resources and opportunities.

For more information, visit wallawalla.edu.

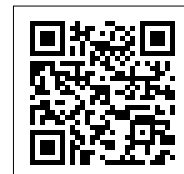
EMILY FRY
CHE CARE project manager



CHE eats a haystack lunch with Spokane Central Church.



Service day volunteers wash feet at Spokane House of Charity.



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-UC-86



Marcus Lupse, CHE staff, smiles with a volunteer.

CHURCH

Churches Collaborate in Local Mission Project



SOME MISSION TRIPS ARE FAR AWAY FROM HOME, AND OTHERS ARE CLOSER TO HOME.

After months of planning and preparation, members from Abundant Life Church in Wenatchee, Washington, went to “Serve One More” by helping a fellow church in Grand Coulee with facility renovations.

Grand Coulee Company had a previous location with multiple sets of stairs to access any level of the facility. They found a new single-level location to meet for worship services, but it required some big renovations.

The pandemic halted much of the renovation process. When Abundant Life members approached Grand Coulee members about a potential partnership, Grand Coulee welcomed the help.

Volunteers arrived to serve from March 31 to April 5, with a few key

volunteers arriving a few days earlier to help with project preparation. They helped install new siding on the sanctuary and connecting areas, as well as painting the entire building.

Next, Abundant Life members helped dry wall, mud, sand, prime and paint the sanctuary. Additional tasks included landscaping and building a new platform.

Grand Coulee members reported feeling grateful for all the help provided by Abundant Life members, friends and extended family members who joined in the week of volunteering.

Marlene Oddie, Grand Coulee treasurer, shared a gallery of images from Abundant Life’s week of mission service.

“There is still a lot more work to do, but we were grateful for the opportunity to have such an angelic experience,” Oddie said.

Grand Coulee members work side by side with Abundant Life Church volunteers to progress their facility renovations.



GRAND COULEE
ADVENTIST
COMPANY
MEMBERS

More online at
NWADVENT.ST/119-5-UC-69

BIBLE READINGS

for

September

2024

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Jonah	2 2 Kings 1-7	3 2 Kings 8-11	4 2 Kings 12-13	5 2 Chron. 24-28	6 2 Kings 14-19	7
8 Micah	9 Isa. 1-7	10 Isa. 8-12	11 Amos 1-5	12 Amos 6-9	13 Psalm 48	14
15 Isa. 28-30	16 Isa. 13-17	17 Isa. 18-22	18 Isa. 23-27	19 2 Chron. 29-31	20 Hosea	21
22 Psalm 46, 135	23 Isa. 31-36	24 Isa. 37-39	25 Psalm 76, 80	26 Isa. 40-43	27 Isa. 44-48	28
29 Isa. 49-58	30 Isa. 59-63					

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/119-5-BLE-95](https://www.nwadvent.org/resources/119-5-ble-95)



Camp Meeting Celebrates Fellowship and Divine Potential

FROM JUNE 17–22, CHURCH MEMBERS ACROSS WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AND BEYOND GATHERED FOR A HIGHLY ANTICIPATED ANNUAL CAMP MEETING. THIS YEAR'S THEME, "GREATER THINGS: THY KINGDOM COME," SET THE TONE FOR A WEEK FILLED WITH SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT, INSPIRING TALKS, UPLIFTING MUSIC AND A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES.

The six-day event began with a warm and welcoming barbecue hosted by Sugs Food Truck, run by the friendly faces of Ofa Langi, Auburn City Church pastor, and his wife, Jackie, Auburn City Church associate pastor. Their delicious food was the perfect start to the week, bringing everyone together in a spirit of fellowship and joy.

Lee Venden, keynote speaker, delivered powerful messages that resonated deeply with attendees, encouraging them to embrace the greater things God has in store for us. His teachings were complemented by the inspiring music of Buddy Houghtaling, whose performances brought a heartfelt connection to each worship.

Throughout the week, numerous seminars and workshops offered something for everyone. Topics ranged from learning to live sustainably and living self-sufficiently, to hands-on cooking classes that allowed participants to explore new recipes and cooking techniques.

For parents navigating the challenges of the modern world, a seminar on parenting post-pandemic was a valuable resource. Additionally, photography workshops offered a unique perspective on capturing the beauty of God's creation through the lens. These were just a few of the many sessions that highlighted various aspects of life and catered to all interests and age groups.

Camp meeting truly had something for everyone, from

toddlers to adults of all ages. Afternoon programs were fun for all. Activities included the vibrant Health Fair that offered free health screenings and wellness tips, a toy stuffing community service project for children in crisis and a 5K that encouraged fitness and camaraderie.

Pathfinders and Adventurers earned honors in various skills, including Gift Wrapping and Pizza Maker. Church members were invited to Empower the Church trainings where attendees gained valuable insights and tools to strengthen the ministries close to their hearts.

The return of Jonah's Bait Shop, a toy shop run by Kaitlyn Herman, Washington Conference executive assistant, was a hit with the little ones. The new treat stop, Joseph's Cone of Many Colors, offered ice cream and snow cones, providing a sweet treat to help everyone cool off in the summer heat.

One of the highlights of the week was the numerous baptisms that took place. The Sabbath service was attended by more than 2,500 people in Rainier Auditorium alone—

3,000 on the AAA campus at large—and featured the long-awaited return of the conference-wide Camp Meeting Choir, accompanied by an orchestra and conducted by Deneil Clarke, Renton Church pastor. Their harmonious melodies and uplifting hymns added to the spiritual lessons of the day.

The Gospel Sing-Along led by Maylan Schurch, Bellevue Church pastor, brought the community together in a beautiful chorus of praise and worship, creating a sense of unity and shared faith.

Camp meeting was a spiritually nourishing experience, filled with fellowship, food, friends and family. Each workshop and worship service truly showcased the presence of God's love, making the theme, "Greater Things: Thy Kingdom Come," come alive in participants' hearts and minds. The lessons and blessings from this week will be carried into everyone's daily lives.

KHLOE BUCKNOR
*Washington Conference
executive assistant for
administration*



LACEY STECKER
*Washington
Conference
communication
intern*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-5-WA-95](https://www.nwadvent.org)

2,500 people came to Rainier Auditorium's Sabbath worship service at camp meeting.

CHURCH

Langi Joins Auburn City Church

JACKIE LANGI, AUBURN CITY CHURCH ASSOCIATE PASTOR, JOINED THE MINISTRY TEAM IN AUGUST. WASHINGTON CONFERENCE HAD A Q&A WITH HER TO HEAR WHAT SHE PLANS TO DO IN HER NEW ROLE.

Q: What brought you to join the pastoral team at Auburn City Church?

LANGI: Pastoral ministry to me is like a door that God has opened for me that I did not foresee as being part of my walk with Him. Through much thought and prayer, I decided to accept the invitation to join the pastoral team. I'm truly excited to work alongside Kyle Barrow and my husband, Ofa Langi, to continue reaching families in our community.

Q: What pastoral role are you taking on?

LANGI: My role at Auburn City Church will be as an associate pastor, specifically working with children and families. I hope to bring a fresh perspective and new energy to the programs and work together to continue growing our church family and the kingdom of God.

Q: Have you always wanted to be in the ministry?

LANGI: I can't say that I have "always" wanted to be in the ministry. I can say, however, that I've "always"

loved people and service. As an elementary school counselor, I helped kids navigate big issues and then connected it all with how much God loves them – that was ministry.

I later transitioned to serve as dean of Grace Hall at Auburn Adventist Academy. To some, this may have seemed like a regular job, but it was a lifestyle. We were a family full of ups and downs, questions and lessons, safety and boundaries, and trial and error. I walked alongside the girls as they traversed through their high school years – that was ministry.

My most important work is mothering my own four kids. So much goes into raising kids for the kingdom. It's a daily surrender to the One who loves them most and prayers that what we give will be enough – this, too, is ministry!

The heart of service God has placed within me has naturally pushed me into pastoral ministry and I'm thankful He has considered and given a way for me to co-labor with Him.

Q: You are also going to be leading a conference-wide ministry. What is Mates in Ministry?

LANGI: Mates in Ministry is a place to find connection and friendship for pastoral spouses. I want to help facilitate a support system of community with opportunities for pastoral spouses across the conference to connect and build trusted friendships with each other. If you know me, coming together for meals, fellowship and laughter are vital to a happy life!

Q: What are your biggest goals with your new role?

LANGI: My biggest goal is to point people to our Father in heaven who loves them more than they could ever imagine.

Every transition of life brings bittersweet feelings. During this transition, I pray for guidance and hope for God's will to work in my life and bring continued blessings to those around me. I am beyond humbled for the opportunity to serve in this new role.

LACEY STECKER
Washington Conference communication intern

HAROLD RICHARDS



Jackie Langi joins her husband, Ofa, on the Auburn City Church pastoral team.

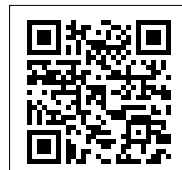
STEPHANIE BRITO



Before joining Auburn City Church's pastoral team, Langi ministered to girls in Grace Hall.



While working in Grace Hall, Langi saw many of her girls get baptized. She describes it as the highlight of the year.



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-WA-28 +

YOUTH

Northwest Public Campus Ministry Launches Inaugural Event

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST IS WITNESSING A BOOST IN PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY WITH THE LAUNCH OF ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION.

This initiative connects local and regional efforts to a robust network of more than 100 ACF chapters across North America, enhancing networking opportunities for campus ministries.

Traditionally gathering annually for the ACF Institute, this year each union hosted its own training gatherings.

Themed, “The Launch,” this year’s institute marked a historic first in the Pacific Northwest, drawing more than 25 public campus university students, pastors, leaders and church members.

Represented campuses included Montana State University, University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Washington State University, University of Idaho, Green River College and

University of Washington’s Seattle and Tacoma campuses.

“ACFi is pivotal in fostering a sense of community and spiritual growth among Adventist students on non-Adventist campuses,” said Rob Lang, North Pacific Union youth and young adult ministries director.

The NPUC ACFi convened in June at University of Washington’s Seattle campus. Activities included a bowling night and networking, followed by intensive learning sessions and a visit to Pike Place Market.

Guest speakers Ron Pickell, Pacific Union campus ministries director; Joshua Guerrero, Wisconsin Conference ACF coordinator; and John and Sarah Leis, Northwest ACFi hosts, shared their expertise in campus ministries.

Topics included how to mingle with, minister to and reach students with the gospel. Evangelism on campus was also presented in practical, easy-to-use terms.

“One of my favorite aspects of this weekend was having deep conversations with mentors and leaders,” said Ashok Willmott, Springfield/Storyline intern associate pastor whose church is near University of Oregon. “I have little experience in public campus ministries and hearing their challenges prepped me for whatever challenges are ahead of me.”

To provide follow-up support, an ACF Cohort is now established to offer monthly meetings for supporting and training each new ACF club. This cohort is designed to launch, grow and sustain ACF clubs on non-Adventist campuses across NPUC.

“As our students are spiritually nurtured and connected, they become even more capable of sharing Jesus on their campus,” said Lang. “By building strong ACF chapters, we can reach the campus and change the world, one student at a time.”

“This ACFi has encouraged me because it showed me there are others out there with the same heart for college campuses

as me,” reflected Daniel Gorton, a participant from Oregon Conference. “I sense God is raising up more leaders on public college campuses to lead students to God and to live influential, impactful lives.”

Next year is the 20th anniversary of ACF within North American Division. Washington Conference and NPUC will be co-hosting a division-wide event on University of Washington’s Seattle campus July 22–26, 2025.

Are you a student, pastor or church member who is interested in learning more about this mostly untouched mission field? Email john.leis@wc.npuc.org for more information and how you can become involved.

JOHN LEIS
Washington Conference public campus ministry director

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union communication director and Gleaner editor



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-WA-20



BENJAMIN LUNDQUIST

CHURCH

Five Pastors Ordained

IN A SERIES OF SPRING SERVICES, FIVE PEOPLE WERE ORDAINED INTO PASTORAL MINISTRY, EACH BRINGING UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES TO THEIR ROLES.

Pastors Daniel Bennett, Jordan Stephan, Ruslan Spitsyn, Vidal Mendoza and Abner Campos have answered God's call to serve their communities and congregations with faith and devotion. Each pastor has followed a unique path guided by their commitment to God and a desire to make a positive impact.

Bennett felt the call to preach in his teens. He joined the military after high school and served overseas. While stationed in Germany, Bennett committed his life to Jesus and began preaching. Bennett earned his Master of Divinity in 2015 and was called to be a pastor in 2019.

Through opportunities and experiences, God clarified the pastoral path in Stephan's life. He served as Kirkland Church associate pastor. Stephan

earned his Master of Divinity in 2022 and became North Cascade Church associate pastor. Now Stephan serves as senior pastor.

At 19 years old, Spitsyn accepted Jesus. He was an intern pastor of the Dnipro churches in Ukraine in 2010. He earned his master's degree in religious studies in 2018. Spitsyn accepted the call to serve in the Center for Spiritual Enrichment in 2023.

After feeling the call to pastoral ministry, Mendoza was hired as a Bible worker for Lakewood Spanish Church and White Center Spanish Church. In 2018, Mendoza served as Federal Way Hispanic Church pastor. He now serves as Enumclaw Church pastor.

A high school week of worship guided Campos to

study the Bible and fall in love with Jesus. He followed his pastoral call and studied theology. Campos completed his Master of Divinity in 2021 and moved to Seattle to begin his ministry at Volunteer Park Church.

The recent ordinations of these pastors are powerful reminders of the diverse ways individuals are called to ministry.

As these five pastors step into their roles as ordained pastors, they bring a wealth of life experiences and deep commitment to their congregations. Their ordinations are a celebration of their faith journeys and a promise of continued spiritual growth and leadership.

LACEY STECKER
*Washington Conference
communication intern*



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-WA-93



Daniel Bennett was ordained on April 27.



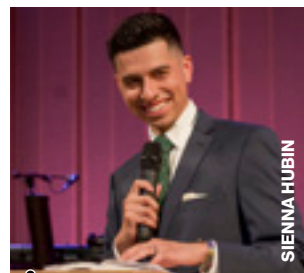
Jordan Stephan was ordained on May 25.



Ruslan Spitsyn was ordained on June 1.



Vidal Mendoza was ordained on June 8.



Abner Campos was ordained on June 15.



LACEY STECKER

LACEY STECKER

LACEY STECKER

LACEY STECKER

ERNESTO HERNANDEZ

SIENNA HUBIN

MISSION AND OUTREACH

EDUCATION

Churches Connect With Communities Over Mental Health

SEEKING TO REACH PEOPLE OUTSIDE THEIR WALLS, MORE THAN 200 ADVENTIST CHURCHES ACROSS NORTH AMERICA, INCLUDING SEVERAL IN WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, HOSTED THE SHORT MENTAL HEALTH SERIES, MINDFIT, THIS PAST SPRING.

Voice of Prophecy produced the event to empower churches to be practical and spiritual resources for their communities in battling a continent-wide mental health crisis.

Each session of MindFit, a four-part event, commences with audiences watching a 30-minute episode of a docuseries hosted by Alex Rodriguez, VOP



MindFit attendees eat together and discuss what they learned at the event.



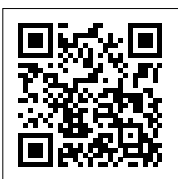
Bellevue Church leaders pray over MindFit.

associate speaker, who traveled across North America to speak with mental health professionals and patients.

The series sheds light on the history and prevalence of mental health challenges. It emphasizes that effective treatments are available and amplified by biblical principles. After each episode, a local church leader guides the audience through a provided study and discussion.

For churches interested in hosting the event and receiving an advertising boost to draw in more community members, VOP will conduct a continent-wide MindFit campaign on Sept. 19–21 and again on Jan. 2–4, 2025. In the weeks leading up to these dates, host churches will benefit from a mass social media campaign promoting the series.

AMANDA BLAKE
Voice of Prophecy writer



More online at
NWADVENT.ST/119-5-WA-27



Grays Harbor students Madelynn Strickland, Micah Ordelheide, Emmerich Ordelheide, Carissa Reeves and Tyler Colt were recently baptized.

FIVE YOUTH BAPTIZED AT GRAYS HARBOR

“DO YOU HAVE ANY OPENINGS AT YOUR SCHOOL?”

It was fall 2020 and the school year was already underway. Coming back to school post-pandemic had me feeling maxed out. Yet the more this grandmother spoke, the more I knew this child belonged at Grays Harbor Adventist Christian School. Little did I know we were beginning a relationship that would see this non-Adventist student, Tyler Colt, remain at our school for four years and graduate from eighth grade in May 2024.

In April, Carissa Reeves, a vibrant red-headed high-school-aged girl, found the Holy Spirit calling her to baptism through her Adventist roots. A series of Bible studies were planned, and the Grays Harbor Church wondered if any other young people wanted to join the studies and be baptized.

Madelynn Strickland, Micah Ordelheide and Emmerich Ordelheide — all young people — responded to the Lord’s calling. When Colt was asked if he would join the class, he said yes.

It was with great joy that five precious youth were baptized on June 29. Weeks before the baptism, Colt’s grandmother, Kathy, said they would begin attending Elma Church, and they have been true to their word.

ADRIA HAY
Grays Harbor Adventist Christian School principal



MORE ONLINE AT
NWADVENT.ST/119-5-WA-21

BIBLE READINGS

for

October

2024

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Isa. 64–66	2 2 Kings 20–21	3 2 Chron. 32–36	4 Nahum	5
6 Zephaniah	7 Jer. 1–3	8 Jer. 4–6	9 Jer. 7–9	10 Jer. 10–13	11 Jer. 14–22	12
13 Jer. 23–25	14 Jer. 26–29	15 Jer. 30–33	16 Jer. 34–37	17 Jer. 38–40	18 Psalm 74, 79	19
20 Habakkuk	21 Jer. 41–45	22 Jer. 46–48	23 Jer. 49–52	24 2 Kings 22–25	25 Lam. 1–3	26
27 Lam. 4–5	28 Ezek. 1–3	29 Ezek. 4–8	30 Ezek. 9–12	31 Ezek. 13–15		

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/119-5-BLE-96](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/119-5-ble-96)



Waters Retires From Education Leadership

KEITH WATERS RETIRED ON AUG. 1 AFTER 48 YEARS IN ADVENTIST EDUCATION.



Keith Waters, former NPUC secondary education director

Waters first encountered Adventist education in seventh grade when he attended Pine Tree Academy in Maine. He finished high school at South Lancaster Academy in Massachusetts, where he met Deanna Minty, his future wife.

"I knew Keith could teach early on as I watched him interact with my little brother," Deanna said. "He was so good to him, let him tag along and was always patient. When we worked together at Camp Winnekeag, I saw his commitment to God grow."

In 1973, Waters left New England to serve as a student missionary in Zaire. When he

returned to study at Atlantic Union College, he pursued elementary education.

Upon graduation, Waters got married and became head teacher at New London School in Connecticut. There, Waters attended summer workshops to develop science curricula for multigrade schools.

Neil Clauson, Forestdale Christian School principal, remembers Waters as his first-grade teacher. "This was my only year in an Adventist school until I became a teacher at an Adventist school in 2001," Clauson said. "A good seed was definitely planted in my heart!"

In 1985, Waters became Cedar Brook Junior Academy principal in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. There, Waters achieved a master's degree at Eastern Connecticut State University. Waters also taught biology and earth science, piquing students' interest with a collection of pet snakes. He enjoyed music and could often be found directing the band with one hand while playing trumpet with the other.

In 1990, Waters accepted the position of Upper Columbia Conference associate

superintendent, where he coordinated the UCC Outdoor School program. In 1995, he became superintendent of education.

Holley Bryant, Walla Walla Valley Adventist Schools head of schools, recalls Waters visiting her third-grade class at Harris Junior Academy in Pendleton, Oregon. Bryant shared, "Throughout my student academic life and my adult academic career, Waters has been a personal cheerleader."

In 2007, Waters accepted the position of North Pacific Union secondary education director. Over the past years, Waters has enjoyed visiting NPUC academies, evaluating schools and attending North American Division curriculum committees. He has enjoyed traveling to Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Micronesia.

Debbie Hendrickson, NPUC education certification registrar, said she will miss working with Waters. "He's probably the kindest, most intuitive person in terms of thinking of others I've ever worked for."

While he looks forward to not having to live by a calendar, Waters plans to continue to support Adventist education even after retirement.

"I've enjoyed every aspect of my education career, and I believe it is still a mission," Waters said. "Over 48 years, I've learned to rely on God daily. I've seen so many situations where something can't happen, and through prayer, God has always provided. Where a church has wanted a school, there has always been a way. If we trust God and follow His will, He will provide for us and for our children."

JANELLE SUNDIN
Freelance writer



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-5-NPUC-23](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/119-5-npuc-23)

EDUCATION

Harris Joins Northwest Education Team

BRIAN HARRIS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM NORTH PACIFIC UNION TO SERVE AS THE NEXT DIRECTOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION. HE WILL BE REPLACING KEITH WATERS, WHO RETIRED IN AUGUST.

Harris has been serving as vice president for education at Upper Columbia Conference in Spokane, Washington, since 2019. He was instrumental in developing a strategic plan for the UCC education department and has a passion for bringing teachers together to learn from each other and advance education throughout the conference. Harris has also invested in future educators through higher education instruction at Walla Walla University.

Prior to his time in conference leadership, Harris served as principal of Walla Walla Valley Academy from 2012 to 2019. During his tenure, his tireless efforts to build a mission of empowering students for Christ renewed the school's commitment to students, family and alumni.

"Harris is well skilled for his role on our Northwest leadership team with his many years of successful leadership in secondary schools and at the conference level," said Keith

Hallam, NPUC vice president for education. "His passion for Adventist education is vital to helping us fulfill our vision for every Adventist early childhood through grade 12 program and school to be a valued asset to the ministry of the local church."

Harris has a Master of Education with endorsements in administration, physical education and history. He is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Harris began his career as an athletic director and physical education teacher for Rio Lindo Academy, in Healdsburg, California, in 1997. He then served as principal at Palisades Christian Academy in Spokane and Cascade Christian Academy in Wenatchee.

Harris and his wife, Ayrin, met at Pacific Union College and married in 1996. They live in Walla Walla with their

children, JT and Ellie. The family enjoys backpacking, camping, golf, baseball and their two dogs, Molly and Moses.

"I am humbled and excited for this new ministry opportunity," said Harris. "I love Adventist education and feel so blessed to be able to continue to contribute to the educational mission in NPUC. God is good!"

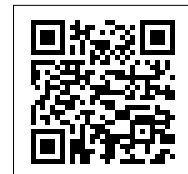
NPUC serves more than 7,500 students and 680 teachers and administrators in 125 schools and early childhood programs with the intent purpose to lead students to encounter Jesus, accept His gift of salvation and follow Him.

DUSTIN JONES
Upper Columbia Conference communications director

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union communication director and Gleaner editor



Brian Harris, new NPUC secondary education director



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-NPUC-02 

EDUCATION

New Collaborative Programs Offered for Adventist Teachers

IT'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIME FOR THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING NORTH PACIFIC UNION SCHOOLS. THEY WILL BE SERVED BY TEACHERS WHO ARE TRAINED TO ENSURE THE CHRIST-FOCUSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE STUDENT, A HALLMARK OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION. WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY BELIEVES ADVENTIST EDUCATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.

To encourage more students to consider teaching as a career, WWU partners with NPUC to offer the NextGen Teacher scholarship. WWU is also offering new programs and collaborative services to support even more Adventist teachers as they inspire academic excellence and faith in God.

JOB-EMBEDDED NAD ADVENTIST CERTIFICATION COURSES

To maintain a consistent educational standard, develop professionalism and ensure a faith-based learning environment, Adventist Educators' Certification is required for teachers in Adventist schools. Generally, this meant teachers spent summers in classes.

WWU's new job-embedded Adventist certification courses allow teachers to gain essential skills through online, self-paced courses that incorporate real classroom activities into the teaching and learning process.

"One of the biggest challenges for Adventist teachers who want to engage in professional development is their busy schedules," said Maria Bastien Valenca, WWU School of Education and Psychology dean. "Because they can do these courses during their school year, teachers can field test what they learn in their own

classrooms and receive feedback and support from faculty in real time."

"Taking courses during the school year instead of waiting for summers allows teachers to work towards their Adventist certification goals faster and it improves work-life balance," she added.

Current teachers with classroom access and who are under contract with their Adventist conference may enroll in these courses, even if they do not teach in the NPUC region. For more information about the courses or how to enroll, email edpsyc@wallawalla.edu.

NEW FLEXIBLE SCIENCE EDUCATION BACHELOR'S DEGREE

The demand for teachers is outpacing the supply, especially for qualified science, technology, engineering and math teachers.

"It takes a specialty degree to teach earth science, biology, chemistry or physics in a school," explained Brian Hartman, WWU associate professor of education. "Often a teacher with one certification would have to work on the side to take the required classes for additional specializations. This makes it more difficult for science teachers to qualify for jobs where they must teach more than one subject. It also makes it more difficult for schools to find science teachers who can teach multiple science areas."

To help place more qualified science educators, WWU now offers a degree in science education that can lead to endorsements in at least two science areas when paired with a bachelor's of education degree.

"With this degree, schools can hire a science teacher to teach multiple science areas," Hartman said.

The School of Education and Psychology partners with the biology, chemistry and physics departments to offer the degree. Students who complete it may sit for the credentialing examinations in their areas right away. The degree may also be customized for students who wish to become credentialed in more than two science areas.

"College students may not initially think about science education, so we want to raise the visibility of this as a highly valued option," Hartman said.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRAINING

You may have asked Siri to dial your phone or typed a question for Google. If so, you have engaged in artificial intelligence, which is increasingly part of our everyday lives.

AI's impact on education is undeniable, both for students and teachers. "AI is forcing us to rethink education

CALEBRISTON



Supporting the work of teachers is important at WWU, as the work of teachers to inspire academic excellence and faith in God impacts students and their families for years to come.

in dramatic new ways,” said Cynthia Westerbeck, WWU English and modern languages department chair. “These tools aren’t going away, but we don’t want people to lose the ability to think for themselves, to understand concepts and to know when AI is wrong. We need to talk more about AI and learning.”

For that reason, Westerbeck recently facilitated conversations about the complexities of AI in education with NPUC principals and superintendents, and also with Walla Walla Valley Adventist Schools K-12 teachers. Students will use these quickly evolving tools, likely in different ways for every discipline, so they should be taught when AI is appropriate to use and how to keep thinking critically.

Helping Adventist teachers know how to embrace AI to improve learning is just as important as helping students use it responsibly. For this reason, the School of Education and Psychology reconfigured educational technology classes for both pre-service teachers and graduate students to more directly cover AI concepts. Teachers learn how to develop assignments that either include or exclude AI.

“AI has the potential to improve teaching and even reduce workload,” Hartman said. “It’s important to carefully explore how to use AI ethically in

teaching and how to help students use it responsibly as well.”

“Education is about the process, not simply a destination,” Westerbeck emphasized, something she thinks about frequently as she leads the university’s general studies committee to provide a balanced education for all students.

“WWU’s mission calls us to prepare students for ‘responsible citizenship, generous service, a deep respect for the beauty in God’s creation and the promise of re-creation through Jesus Christ.’ We recognize that we’re all in this mission together – this important work happens at every level in Adventist education,” said Westerbeck.

“The work of teachers impacts students and their families for years to come,” added Bastien Valenca. “At WWU, supporting our Adventist teachers as they do their work is a partnership that is more than fulfilling, it’s an investment in eternity.”



JODI WAGNER
WWU vice president for
university relations and
advancement

More online at  NWADVENT.ST/119-5-WWU-66



BOBBY LOCKE

“Support for our teachers is important to us at WWU,” said Bastien Valenca, “starting with our pre-service teachers as they go through our program, and then for in-service teachers as they engage in professional development and graduate degrees.”



GIANNIPAQUINI

Hartman is uniquely qualified to help science students recognize the blessings of teaching. He holds undergraduate degrees in engineering and biology, a master of initial teaching degree and a Ph.D. in science and math education.



CHRIS DRAKE

“Education is about the process, not simply a destination,” Westerbeck emphasized. “We recognize that we’re all in this together — this important work happens at every level in Adventist education.”



Adventist Health Northwest Heart Center aims to meet the increasing demand for rural access to quality heart care.

New Name for Cardiac Care in Pacific Northwest

ADVENTIST HEALTH IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW NAME FOR ITS REGIONAL NETWORK OF CARDIOVASCULAR CARE SITES ACROSS OREGON.

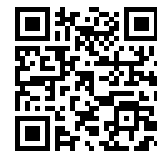
Formerly known as Northwest Regional Heart and Vascular, the new name, Adventist Health Northwest Heart Center, more clearly identifies the program's location and that it is part of the Adventist Health system.

"This is more than a name change," said Kyle King, Adventist Health Oregon State Network president. "This is a unified program. The new name more accurately and effectively represents the size and scope of the Adventist Health cardiac care program across our network."

Adventist Health Northwest Heart Center aims to meet the increasing demand for rural access to quality heart care. The center is well known for minimally invasive surgery, treatment of emergent chest pain and advanced cardiac care through interventional cardiology and electrophysiology. The center has locations in Portland, McMinnville, Columbia Gorge and on the Oregon coast.

"Refocusing cardiac services into one statewide service line allows us to better meet this need with coordinated

care, supporting patients across all our Oregon sites," said Fawaz Alhumaid, Adventist Health Northwest Heart Center medical director.



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

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-AH-18

Tillamook Recognized as Top Healthcare Employer

ADVENTIST HEALTH TILLAMOOK WAS RECOGNIZED IN APRIL BY BECKER'S HOSPITAL REVIEW AS ONE OF 27 CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS TO KNOW THIS YEAR AND ONE OF THE TOP 150 HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS TO WORK FOR IN HEALTHCARE.

"We are deeply honored by this recognition," said Eric Swanson, Adventist Health Tillamook president. "This recognition comes from our dedicated team's hard work and the innovative approaches we employ to deliver quality care, enhance community well-being and fulfill our mission."

Critical access hospitals are vital components of the overall healthcare delivery system, providing quality care to residents and visitors of rural areas. These organizations expand access to specialty care, cut patient travel times and improve community health.

As part of the selection process, Becker's Hospital Review examined rankings and awards from several respected organizations, including Healthgrades, National Rural Health Association and Chartis Center for Rural Health.

Adventist Health Tillamook is the only critical access hospital in Oregon to be highlighted this year. This recognition

underscores the crucial role of the hospital in providing high-quality medical care and fostering a fulfilling work environment for employees and providers.

For more information about services and careers at Adventist Health Tillamook, visit AdventistHealth.org/Tillamook.



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

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-AH-55



GARY MCCLAIN

Adventist Health Tillamook is the only critical access hospital in Oregon to be highlighted by Becker's Hospital Review in 2024.

Will You Go?



Short-Term Medical and Evangelistic Mission Trips

Whether you're interested in becoming an international evangelist and preaching a series of meetings, or would like to serve through an AWR360^o Health medical clinic as a medical professional or non-medical volunteer, we have various opportunities throughout the year.



Start planning now:



Visit: awr.org/missiontrips | Deadline to help with the evangelism program: Oct. 28

Adventist World Radio 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Let's Connect!



AYERS — Douglas Leon, 70; born Oct. 17, 1953, Walla Walla, Washington; died May 17, 2024, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Sylvia Louise Ayers; daughters, Laura Sloan and Patricia Moursalian; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

BALTRUSCH — Ila Ruth (Burlingame), 87; born Nov. 28, 1936, Colfax, Washington; died May 29, 2024, College Place, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Roger; sons, Loren and William; daughter, Regina; 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

BLACKWOOD — Dolores Maxine (Cherry), 91; born Aug. 18, 1932, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; died May 25, 2024, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Tim; daughter, Beth Blackwood; 2 grandchildren.

CASEBOLT — Donald Edward, 96; born Aug. 19, 1927, The Dalles, Oregon; died May 13, 2024, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Douglas and Keith; daughter, Connie Casebolt Carver; brothers, Wilfred and Bryce; sister, Lillian Christian; 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

CORWIN — Duane Meade, 94; born Feb. 13, 1930, Loma Linda, California; died May 1, 2024, Roseburg, Oregon. Surviving: son, Daryl; daughters, Duanna (Corwin) Richards and Lonna (Corwin) Montgomery; 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

1930–2024

DUANE MEADE CORWIN

Duane Meade Corwin of Roseburg, Oregon, was born on Feb. 13, 1930, in Loma Linda, California, and went to sleep in Jesus on May 1, 2024. He was the youngest of three sons born to Walter and Leila Corwin. From the age of 2, he was raised by his stepmother, Allie Bell Corwin.

Duane graduated from Rogue River Academy in 1947 and attended Pacific Union College and Walla Walla College to obtain a bachelor's degree in theology in 1952. He received a master's degree in religion from Andrews University in 1965.

In 1950, Duane married Joanne Wheeler, who assisted him in his ministerial career until her death in 2008. Duane worked for the Adventist Church as a teacher, pastor and evangelist for 43 years in Oregon, Central California and Northern California conferences. He served as ministerial director of Northern California Conference for eight years. He did short-term evangelistic service in the Philippines, the Bahamas, Russia and Ghana.

Duane is survived by his son, Daryl Corwin, and his wife, Juvy; daughter, Duanna Richards, and her husband, Harold; daughter, Lonna Montgomery, and her husband, Mike; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



DAY — Earl Douglas, 99; born Nov. 26, 1924, Schenectady, New York; died Feb. 18, 2024, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Terry and Ron; 7 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

DUERKSEN — Merlyn Chester, 98; born Sept. 16, 1925, Shafter, California; died Oct. 16, 2023, Hayden Lake, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Rosemary (Halburg); son, Jon; daughters, Denise Graves, Lynette Harris and Liesl Oak; 16 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

EIGHME — Mary Margaret (Putnam), 95; born Sept. 8, 1928, Glendale, California; died April 17, 2024, Burlington, Washington.

HANCHETT — Joseph Alohikeyau, Jr., 92; born June 26, 1931, Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii; died June 6, 2024, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Lanier, Ivan and Darrell; daughter, Beth (Hanchett) Verigan; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

HUBBARD — Rhodene M., 73; born Jan. 14, 1951, Kona, Washington; died March 27, 2024, Yakima, Washington. Surviving: brother, Dean.

KETTENBURG — William Hans, 77; born Feb. 11, 1947, San Francisco, California; died April 4, 2024, Slate Creek, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Taffy (Dennis); daughters, Katherine (Kettenburg) Austin and Derith Kettenburg; 1 grandchild.

KIELE — Greta Arlene (Hawkinson), 90; born Sept. 6, 1931, Chicago, Illinois; died March 3, 2022, Port Orchard, Washington. Surviving: sons, Scott, Jan and Lane; daughter, Julie Schöberl; 14 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

LINDSTROM — Donna Joyce (Newell), previously Donna Burns, 96; born July 25, 1927, Hope, North Dakota; died July 13, 2024, Kennewick, Washington. Surviving: son, Len Burns; daughter, Teresa (Burns) Myers; 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

MARTELL — Clifford James, Jr., 69; born March 13, 1954, Missoula, Montana; died Feb. 29, 2024, Meridian, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Marcia Kay (Slone); son, Jeffrey; daughter, Amy Kluchesky; 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

MORFORD — Barbara Dean, 70; born March 11, 1954, Walla Walla, Washington; died July 5, 2024, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: brothers, Ted, Tim and Todd.

PESTER — Shirley Ilene (Edwards), 86; born Dec. 27, 1937, Yakima, Washington; died May 18, 2024, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: son, Eugene; daughters,

Terri (Pester) Higgins and Carolyn (Pester) Richardson; 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

REEVES — Cecile Mae (Randall), 91; born Aug. 11, 1932, Jefferson, Oklahoma; died June 11, 2024, College Place, Washington. Surviving: son, Douglas; daughter, Renita (Reeves) Carlin; sister, Donna (Randall) Krenzler; 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

RICE — Richard Glenn, 82; born Feb. 11, 1942, Portland, Oregon; died May 24, 2024, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: sisters, Jean Rice and Gay Lobel.

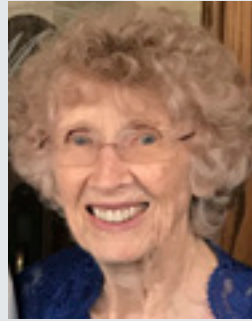
ROGERS — Mildred Irene (Tucker), 94; born Dec. 27, 1929, Miller, South Dakota; died March 29, 2024, Eugene, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Richard, Randy, Maurice and Ken Jr.; daughters, Sharon (Rogers) Anderson and Janet (Rogers) Evans; 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

RUPPEL — Bernhard Karl, 91; born June 15, 1932, Mannheim, Germany; died March 3, 2024, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Emily (Schuster); son, Paul; daughters, Susanna (Ruppel) Brinlee, Margaret (Ruppel) Eddings and Elizabeth (Ruppel) Steinweg; 11 grandchildren, 1 step-grandchild, 13 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

SAYLES — Douglas Allen, 81; born July 9, 1942, Portland, Oregon; died June 23, 2024, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Ginger; sons, Wally and Michael; daughter,

1923–2024

VERONA “RONNI” MAURINE SCHNIBBE



Verona “Ronni” Maurine Schnibbe passed away on May 15, 2024 in College Place, Washington. Ronni was born on Dec. 7, 1923 in College Place, Washington, to Keith Montanye and Violet Thompson Montanye.

Ronni attended one year at Pacific Union College Preparatory School and graduated from Auburn Adventist Academy. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in English from Walla Walla College. While there, Ronni met Fred Schnibbe, whom she married on June 20, 1948. Fred, a family practice doctor, and Ronni spent the majority of their lives in the Brewster, Washington, area where they raised three boys.

Ronni volunteered throughout the Walla Walla and Brewster communities, loved journalistic writing and found great joy with her family, friends and horses.

Ronni is survived by her son, Dale, and his wife, Ann; daughter-in-law, Winnie Wied; daughter-in-law, DeeAnn Schnibbe, and her husband, Rob Gohl; sister-in-law, Florence Montanye; grandchild, Liesl, and her husband, Stephen Richmond; grandchild, Heidi Hayes; grandchild, Eric, and his wife, Shannon; grandchild, Tonya Burnham, and her husband, Jared; grandchild, Jacob; and great-grandchildren, Koen and Addison Hayes, Cole and Oliver Burnham, and Poppy and James.

Ronni is preceded in death by her husband of 71 years, Fred; sons, Robert and Richard; parents, Keith and Violet; and all three siblings, Virginia “Ginger,” Ted and Mike.

Shoni (Sayles) Evans; sister, Sandra (Sayles) Leavelle; 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

SCHACHER — Arthur John, Jr., 79; born Dec. 2, 1944, Portland, Oregon; died June 28, 2024, Corvallis, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Donna Lorts Schacher; son, John Lee Schacher; daughter, Linda Marie Russell; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

STUIVENGA — Wilma Marie (Ellerman), previously Wilma Carpenter, Wilma Wilde, 93; born March 12, 1931, Denver, Colorado; died June 3, 2024, Roseburg, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Dean Carpenter and Edwin Wilde; daughter, Jeanneta (Wilde) Fridd; 11 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

UNTERSEHER — Betty Jean (Walters), 95; born Oct. 16, 1928, Portland, Oregon; died July 13, 2024, Hillsboro, Oregon. Surviving: son, Randall; daughter, Marla Unterseher Danielson; brother, Dean Walters; 5 grandchildren.

VISGER — Darry Lee, 71; born April 13, 1952, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; died Aug. 18, 2023, Las Vegas, Nevada. Surviving: son, Darcy.

WRIGHT — Pluma Mae (Wallen), 90; born May 26, 1933, Roseburg, Oregon; died April 8, 2024, Seattle, Washington. Surviving: son, Lloyd; brother, Carl Wallen; sisters, Myrtle Bigelow and Ethel Acosta; 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

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

ADVERTISEMENTS

EMPLOYMENT

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified Adventists who may fill open roles in fulfilling our mission to seek knowledge, affirm faith and change the world. If this is of interest to you, please check out our current openings at andrews.edu/jobs.

SEARCHING FOR A MISSION-MINDED DAYCARE DIRECTOR for our ABC daycare in Sheridan, Oregon. Call or email Bill Kernan for job description and application process: 503-559-0565, kernan.bill@gmail.com.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time faculty in the area of counseling for the 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 an APA-accredited program could be considered if applicant has been employed as 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, please visit southern.edu/jobs.

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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. For a full job description and desired qualifications, please visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks a full-time teaching faculty member in the department of applied technology, specifically in the area of construction management. Master's degree in construction management-related field is required. Ideally, will have experience in commercial construction. Candidate must be capable of mentoring university students and have a strong commitment to Christ. For more information, please visit sau.catsone.com/careers.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks qualified candidates for the following staff salaried positions: director of marketing and enrollment management, graduate and professional studies; systems analyst, information technology; DHSI retention and resilience coordinator (REOPENED); DHSI community outreach coordinator (REOPENED); academic support and retention services; associate chaplain, office of ministry and missions. For more information, go to sau.catsone.com/careers.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks qualified candidates for the following staff hourly positions: office manager, chemistry department; S.A.L.T. outreach coordinator, School of Religion; cashier/customer service clerk, Village Market; automotive technician, applied technology/Southern Auto Care; deli manager, Village Market. For more information, please visit sau.catsone.com/careers.

UNION ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks applicants for a university campus counselor. This is a full-time, exempt position. Candidates must be licensed to practice. The primary role is to provide counseling services, educational programming and group experiences for students. Generous benefits package included. Please see full job description and instructions for application at uau.edu/employment.

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seeks Christ-centered Adventists to serve on a campus surrounded by breathtaking beauty and pristine forest land. We are looking for a nurse, maintenance and grounds assistant, teacher and dorm supervisor to prepare young people for eternity. Mission Creek seeks staff who believe they are mission-minded and called to this service. Please contact Mary Nell Ellingsen at 360-875-6050 or 360-942-9068. Email missioncreekoutreach@gmail.com.

EVENTS

GINA WILLIAMS, ADVENTIST PERFORMING ARTIST, invites you to a Christian festival in the works to launch Oct. 11-13 in Easton, Washington. For more information, please visit ginawilliams.com/gospel-concert.

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.

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NOV./DEC. SEPT. 16
JAN./FEB. NOV. 4

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Monday–Thursday 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

- | | |
|--|---|
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Kevin Miller, president; Ashwin Somasundram, v.p. administration; Garrett Holmes, v.p. finance

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Sunset times:
nwadventists.com/sunset

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION

Offering

- Sept. 7 – Local Church Budget
- Sept. 14 – World Budget (GC)
- Sept. 21 – Local Church Budget
- Sept. 28 – Local Conference Advance
- Oct. 5 – Local Church Budget
- Oct. 12 – Walla Walla University (NPUC)
- Oct. 19 – Local Church Budget
- Oct. 26 – Local Conference Advance

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

Official notice is hereby given that a Regular Membership Meeting of the North Pacific Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists is called for 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024 at Walla Walla University in College Place, Washington.

The membership is comprised of the members of the North Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee. The purpose of the Regular Membership Meeting is to hear reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

John Freedman, president

James D. Graham, secretary/treasurer

OREGON CONFERENCE

Journey Christian School Centennial Gala

Journey Christian School—formerly Kelso Longview Adventist School—is celebrating 100 years of excellence, and we want you to be part of the celebration! Former principals, teachers, staff, students and their families are warmly invited to our Centennial Gala on Sunday, Oct. 6, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at Koelsch Hall at Journey Church, in Kelso, Washington.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit events.readysetauction.com/journeychristianschool/gala or call 360-423-9250. RSVP by Sept. 25 to reserve your seat. We look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with you!

Mount Tabor Church Free Community Fun Day

Join the festivities at Mount Tabor Church for our FREE Community Fun Day on Sept. 15, from 2–5 p.m. Enjoy fair games, live music, delicious food, exciting raffles and much more as we bid farewell to summer. See you at 1001 SE 60th Ave., Portland, Oregon, 97215.

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Colville Church Seeking Missing Members

Colville Church is looking for the following members: Tessie Eckerd, Cailen Mattingly, Jerry Zastera, Jacob Level, Katherine Hendrix, Montana (Eaton) Lennartz, Elizabeth (Durst) Pike and Janeain Nance. If you have any contact information, please call JudyAnn Hoerler, church clerk, at 509-675-4583 or email ColvilleSDA@ColvilleforChrist.com.



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IMAGES of CREATION

PHOTO CONTEST

50+ CASH PRIZES!



Submit up to 21 images by Nov. 11, 2024. For contest rules and to submit entries go to nwadventists.com/photocontest

MISSION RALLY

Sept. 27, 7p | Sept. 28, 10:50a | Sept. 28, 3:30p

2300 Bible workers in 44 countries



SEARCH RESCUE

Focused on spiritual search and rescue in the 10/40 Window.



John Bradshaw

Evangelist, writer and president of *It Is Written*, John Bradshaw will speak Friday evening as well as during the Sabbath worship service and at the Sabbath afternoon mission rally.



Fountainview Academy

Students from Fountainview Academy will present a mini concert Friday evening and special music during the Sabbath worship service and at the afternoon mission rally.

Also featuring

- A visit from leaders of the work in India
- Frontline reports from the 10/40 Window
- Inspiring messages, music & fellowship

Location

Village SDA Church
715 SE 12th Street
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GOSPEL OUTREACH

712 NE C St., College Place, WA 99324

FOR A LIMITED TIME

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Interested in making an impact? Call Jay Graham at (360) 857-7000 to learn more and get involved!



JOURNEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Centennial Gala
100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Sunday, October 6, 2024
5:30 PM
Koelsch Hall
Journey Adventist Church
Kelso, WA

Dinner
Live Music
Live Auction
Silent Auction

Attire: Black Tie Optional

Tickets & Information
events.readysetauction.com/journeychristianschool/gala
or call (360) 423-9250

RSVP by September 25, 2024



Lydia Opens Her Heart and Home

Have you ever met someone new? Maybe you went to a new classroom or visited a new town. That's what Paul and his friends did.

They went to a city they had never been to. It was Sabbath, and there was no church to worship in. Paul knew that small groups met in homes or by rivers, so he went out the city gate and walked along the river.

Paul and his friends wanted to share the good news about Jesus. They saw a group of women singing and praising God on the riverbank. Paul sat down and talked with the women. One of them was Lydia.

Lydia worshiped God, but she did not know about Jesus. God opened her heart to accept what Paul told her. She and all the people living in her house were baptized in the river.

Many people knew Lydia. She owned a business that sold purple cloth and dye. The

cloth cost so much money that only rich people could afford it.

Lydia was also kind. She had Paul and his friends stay in her home. She helped them tell people about Jesus. Many people learned that God is love. Soon, her home became a worship center.

Paul was the new kid in town and Lydia welcomed him. They talked about Jesus and became friends.

Now think about a new kid coming to your school or Sabbath School class. Do you suppose they might need a friend? How can you welcome them?

You can be a good friend and a good leader like Lydia. Anyone — boy or girl, rich or poor — can be a worker for Him. He will help you tell others about Jesus and make friends for Him.

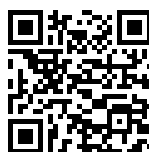
For family worship, you can read more about this story in Acts 16:11–15.



Make Purple Cloth

Lydia sold purple cloth. She got the purple color from snails found in the sea near her home. There's a way for you to make purple cloth, too — without the snails!

You can tie-dye T-shirts, bandanas, napkins or any white fabric item using food coloring. Every time you wear or use your tie-dye creation, you can remember to be kind and tell others about Jesus, just like Lydia.



PAULA WART
Just for Kids columnist

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-KIDS-72 

STEP 1: Collect Supplies

Collect these supplies: white fabric items, vinegar, blue and red liquid food coloring, salt, a pile of rubber bands, a bowl, a squeeze bottle, a measuring cup, a rimmed cookie sheet, water, a zip-top bag and a timer.

You may also want disposable gloves and an artist's smock to protect your hands and clothes from the food coloring.



STEP 2: Prep Your Cloth

Place your cloth in a bowl. Pour one cup of vinegar and one cup of water over the cloth. If needed, add another cup of vinegar and another cup of water until the cloth is fully covered. Let it set for one hour. Then twist out the vinegar water.



STEP 3: Create Your Design

Pinch, fold, twist, swirl or scrunch your cloth into different shapes. Wrap with at least three rubber bands. Anything covered by rubber bands will stay white. Need pattern ideas? Look online for inspiration and more tutorials.



STEP 4: Start Dyeing

Place your prepped and banded cloth onto a rimmed baking sheet. Pour one cup of water into a squeeze bottle. Add one drop of blue food coloring and two drops of red food coloring. Shake gently to mix into a purple color. Squeeze the food color stain over the cloth. Make sure to get both sides. Want layers of purple coloring? Increase the amount of food coloring after squirting out each quarter cup of stain. Want to use multiple colors? You'll want one squeeze bottle per color.



STEP 5: Prepare to Wait

When done staining your cloth, place it in a plastic bag and seal it shut. Ideally, place the bag in a sunny spot for 24 hours, or a minimum of 8 hours.



STEP 6: Unveil Your Cloth

Remove the cloth from the bag, remove the rubber bands and unfold the cloth. Place the cloth in a bowl. Dissolve 1/2 cup salt in 1/2 cup water, then pour over the cloth. Dip the cloth up and down in the salt water a few times, then let it soak for five minutes. Pull out the cloth and wring out the salt water. Rinse the cloth under a faucet with cold water until the water runs clear. Wring out the cloth and toss it in the dryer.

Two notes: 1: Wash your tie-dyed cloth(s) by themselves for the first three washes. 2: Food coloring is an acid-based stain, not a dye. It will fade over time, especially with cotton fabrics.



The Canoe Journey

Each year my family participates in the annual Native American Canoe Journey. My dad, Brian Cladoosby, purchased a 14-person canoe – the Salmon Dancer – so that we could attend each year. How long we will travel depends on the tribe that hosts.

My husband, Tyler, and our kids have attended:

- 2010: Paddle to Makah
- 2011: Paddle to Swinomish
- 2012: Paddle to Squaxin
- 2016: Paddle to Nisqually
- 2017: Paddle to We Wai Kai and Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River, British Columbia)
- 2018: Paddle to Puyallup
- 2019: Paddle to Lummi
- 2023: Paddle to Muckleshoot

We are getting ready to start the Paddle to Puyallup Youth Canoe Journey 2024. It's important for Tyler and I to involve our kids in Coast Salish culture and get to know our large extended family. The Canoe Journey is a place for my kids to understand ceremony, traditions and cultural identity. I want them to understand and

appreciate the Coast Salish culture that has sustained my people for countless centuries.

Through the years, we have had exciting experiences and difficulties at this annual drug/alcohol-free traditional event. Whether it's canoeing for many days or driving as ground crew to set up camp, it's long days in the summer sunshine. But, we get to visit our Coast Salish people, spend time with family, experience our unique culture, sing, dance, eat, laugh, pray and shop Indigenous artists.

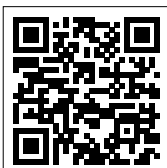
The Canoe Journey is a lot like faith – and I've been thinking about how this experience mirrors faith development in three specific ways: community, navigation and endurance.

Community

When you're with your canoe family for two weeks or more, paddling and camping, it takes a great effort, trust and support. This community building gives us strength – more than we thought we had. That's a lot like a faith community. We *need* each other in this faith journey.



AUTHOR Lavonne Long



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/119-5-POV-42](https://nwadvent.st/119-5-POV-42)



Maintaining your faith journey – especially in difficult times – requires endurance as well. You must paddle hard through those rough waters – in the Canoe Journey and your faith journey.

Gal. 6:2 tells us, “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Navigation

I usually help my mom, Nina Cladoosby, on the ground crew, driving the miles with camping gear and food. For me, navigating the roads is much simpler than navigating the waters, but we all need good navigation to get us to our destination. Similarly, we all need guidance and support from mentors and scriptures to help us navigate our faith journey. We cannot do it alone. Good navigation gives us clear direction.

Prov. 3:5 tells us, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

Endurance

Paddling 10 or more hours each day requires persistence and endurance. There are a few days when I will get on the canoe and those are the two- to four-hour legs of the journey. It’s hard work to paddle in the Salish Sea. Maintaining your faith

journey – especially in difficult times – requires endurance as well. You must paddle hard through those rough waters – in the Canoe Journey and your faith journey.

James 1:2-4 tells us, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

The time spent paddling on the water, gives you quiet, peaceful time to reflect spiritually. Whether it’s the importance of community, clear navigation or endurance to push through – it’s all a journey. We just need to stay on course and keep the faith. These are the things I am learning through the Canoe Journey – and that I am teaching my kids. We need community, navigation and endurance to reach our goal.

LAVONNE LONG
*Northwest Adventists
family columnist*



Each year, LaVonne Long and her family embark on the Native American Canoe Journey in the Salmon Dancer, a 14-person canoe.



Paddling 10 or more hours each day requires persistence and endurance.



The Canoe Journey is a place and time to understand ceremony, traditions and cultural identity.

Women Leading in the Spirit of the Latter Rain

God has promised a special gift to His church and His people living in the last days. This promise is illustrated in a

very familiar passage found in Joel 2:28–29: “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit.” This promise is for us today – for all people.

As we prepare for the Pentecost 2025* evangelism initiative, there is a need to reiterate this promise and to clarify that God is inviting young people, old people, men and women to receive His Spirit and to teach and preach as a witness for Him in these last days.

In the Adventist Church, we believe in the priesthood of all believers – all have been called to proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ. To be clear, women are a part of this calling and our youth are a part of this calling. We need everyone to finish the work that God has entrusted to us.

The Adventist Church still believes God has called women to play a significant role in the advancement and the finishing of

His work. The church still calls women to serve in leadership roles in the local church as pastors, elders and departmental leaders, as well as conference, union, division and General Conference leaders.

I want to take this moment to celebrate and thank all the women who have served this church so faithfully over the years. I also want to acknowledge that this church would not be where it is today without women leading in various capacities and the pivotal role they have played in the advancement of our mission.

God calls us to make disciples in Matt. 28:18–20 and promises in Acts 1:8 that He will grant the power of the Holy Spirit upon us to be His witnesses. When the Christian church began, we see in its infancy a marvelous display of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 11:15–17 says, “And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them [Gentiles], as upon us at the beginning ... Forasmuch then as God gave them the gift as He did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?”

The disciples discerned that the same Holy Spirit that fell



G. ALEXANDER BRYANT
*North American
Division president*

“
*God was, and still is, pouring
out His Spirit upon all flesh.*”

PERSPECTIVE



upon them had also fallen upon the Gentiles. God was fulfilling His promise. He was, and still is, pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh.

It is my prayer that we earnestly pray for the outpouring of God's Spirit upon all of God's people. May His gift be seen in each of us!

As we prepare for Pentecost 2025, the shaking time and for the final and rapid movements of God, may the words of the prophet Joel be lived out in God's church: "I will

pour out My spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions."

Let us pray fervently for the outpouring of the latter rain and let us use everyone that God is calling to preach the everlasting gospel as a witness to all nations so that the end will come and we can see our Lord and Savior face-to-face. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

**Pentecost 2025 is an evangelism initiative spanning NAD that encourages churches, schools and members to pray for the Holy Spirit's power in conducting at least 3,000 proclamation events.*

G. ALEXANDER BRYANT
North American Division president

This article also appears in the
October 2024 *Adventist Journey*.



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-POV-09



The Best Boss

I

hear a lot of stories from people about how they hate their boss or how their supervisor is super hard to please and get along

with. I, too, have worked for people through the years that have made life harder and less pleasant. An unpleasant boss can make work a miserable experience—one we often stick with only because we need the paycheck.

Although there are days I am exhausted and low on positivity, and although I am not the best at always listening to my boss, I can honestly say that by doing pastoral ministry I have the best “boss.”

Some of you will say that the main reason I’m so positive is because I get to do ministry with my husband. It’s true that working with him is the best pairing for coworkers—we do enjoy each other’s company, work very well together and get along better than most colleagues. I am truly blessed to be able to do ministry alongside my spouse, but this isn’t the work relationship I’m referring to.

The boss and leader I report to first is Jesus Christ.

As a pastor, I have the amazing opportunity and blessing of working for Jesus. My calling to be a pastor is one I received from God at a young age. Try as I might to resist this call, it has continued

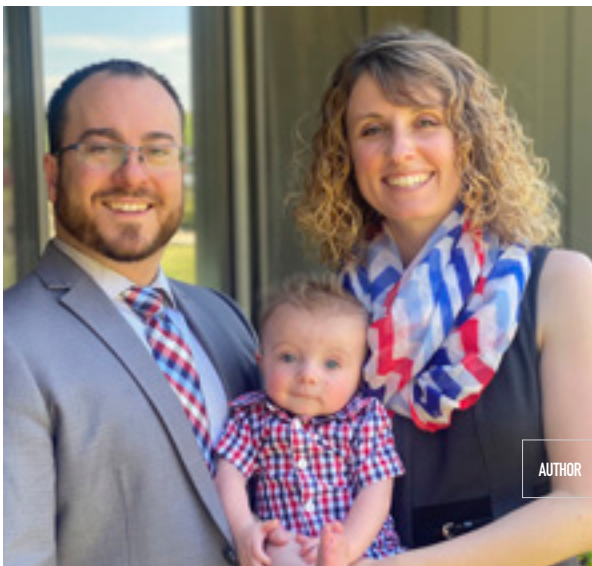
to burn in my heart. It’s a calling that drives me to share Jesus with those around me and work to lead a church to the best of my abilities.

When God put a call on my heart and gave me a passion, I couldn’t ignore it. When He provided ways—even outside the normal routes—for me to work for Him, I must obey and follow that call. This doesn’t mean that my calling—pastorate—is without challenges and difficulties. Any profession has its hard parts and difficult days, but I can honestly say there is nothing in this world I would rather do as a job and profession.

I am so blessed to be able to do pastoral ministry and share Jesus with people. I have been and continue to be blessed with a church family that affirms my calling into pastoral ministry. I want to seek to follow God’s call in my life for as long as I live and, hopefully through my ministry, be a blessing to others.

For those of us who have chosen to follow the call of God into pastoral ministry, I would implore you to remember this verse with Jesus’ words spoken to humanity.

Matt. 11:28–30 says, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.



AUTHOR

Natashia McVay



When God put a call on my heart and gave me a passion, I couldn't ignore it. When He provided ways – even outside the normal routes – for me to work for Him, I must obey and follow that call.

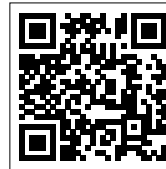
Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

We are never alone in this world and in the challenges we face. Whether a pastor or not, these words should be remembered. Jesus wants to carry our burdens and make our load light; He wants to help us through life.

If you are working in a non-pastoral position, you are truly working in the mission field. Remember Jesus' words, He wants to carry your burdens and give you rest. Take time to acquaint yourself with the best “boss” you can ever serve.

If you are a pastor, I would plead with you to find time to be connected with Jesus Christ. He should be the first being you report to each and every day.

Don't forget the calling God placed on your heart that led you into pastoral ministry. He still wants to do great things through you.



NATASHIA MCVAY
*Moscow and
Pullman Church
associate pastor*

More online at 
NWADVENT.ST/119-5-POV-40



**BEST.
BOSS.
EVER.**

Like Smoking on a Plane



Did you know that smoking was once acceptable on airplanes? It wasn't until the 1980s that health advocates

convinced Congress to make legislation to ban in-flight smoking.

If someone tried to smoke on a plane now, they would be fined and chastised by flight attendants and passengers alike. It wasn't always this way. In 1971, United Airlines was the first company to make a nonsmoking section, writes Allan M. Brandt in his book, *The Cigarette Century*.

On planes, trains and automobiles, smoking was common everywhere. I remember growing up in the 1990s and experiencing secondhand smoke frequently in restaurants.

Today in the Pacific Northwest, there is no smoking permitted in all indoor workspaces. Alaska was the most recent state to pass such legislation in 2018, according to Alaska Department of Health. As of 2024, 28 states have a total indoor smoking ban, reports Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

I am thankful for the laws that have enabled these protections for our collective health and well-being. Smoking on a plane was once ubiquitous, but now it is unthinkable. It got me thinking, what else in our society and church is like that?

This *Gleaner* issue is focused on women in pastoral ministry. I am thankful for that. I am thankful that the Adventist Church is especially set up to lead the way in honoring God's call in the lives of women.

Our foremost pioneer was Ellen White. She was named by Smithsonian

Magazine among the 100 Most Significant Americans of All Time.

According to the Ellen G. White Estate, "She is the most translated woman writer in the entire history of literature, and the most translated American author of either gender." Now don't miss this: Ellen White, the primary founder of the Adventist Church, was — drum roll please — a lady!

At the time of her death in 1915, women still did not have the right to vote in America. That would not come until five years later. Some years ago, I remember being approached by a member of my congregation. He wanted to talk about one of my sermons. He thought I was being too "political."

During that conversation, he asked me, "Do you know where this country went wrong?" I said, "I am not sure." He looked me in the eyes and said with all seriousness, "It's when we gave women the right to vote!"

While I disagreed with him, it was obvious to me this wasn't the kind of conversation where either of us would change our mind.

I am thankful for the 19th Amendment. In 1920, white women were given the right to vote. That did not come for Black women until 45 years later when the Voting Rights Act passed in 1965. This finally gave all women the right to vote.

The thought of going back to a time when only white men could vote is shameful. Is it possible that we will look back at anything else with similar embarrassment?

AUTHOR

Kevin McGill



PERSPECTIVE

Both men and women go to seminary with the expectation that they will be given an equal opportunity in their career trajectory as pastors. However, the way the system is currently set up is clearly biased towards men.

In 2015, secular headlines across the country, like in *The Washington Post*, declared, “Adventists vote against female ordination.”

I’d just come back from seminary at the time of the vote. I thought of my female colleagues. All of them had stories about how God called them to pastoral ministry. All of them had stories of discrimination based on gender, yet they went forward hoping that their calling would be legitimized by the denomination they loved.

I was hopeful in 2015 that progress would be made. I went to that General Conference in San Antonio hoping to see history made.

I was optimistic that Fundamental Belief 14, about equality for all, would find fulfillment in recognizing that both men and women can be called to pastoral ministry.

Instead, the church voted to continue a gender-based distinction in the role of pastoral ministry. Women can be commissioned, but not ordained. This often means not having the same pastoral rights to go along with the role.

Privileges come with ordination. Ordination and commissioning services look the same. The same prayers are said, but there are some important differences to recognize.

Commissioned pastors are ineligible to become presidents of

conferences, unions, divisions or the General Conference.

In most conferences, a commissioned pastor is excluded from organizing a church or ordaining local elders and deacons. Additionally, the commissioned pastor must seek authorization from the conference to perform weddings and baptisms outside the district. Furthermore, an ordained pastor carries the privilege of global ministry access while a commissioned pastor’s rights are limited to the conference that hired them.

All this sends the message to those who have been commissioned that their status is less valuable in the eyes of the hierarchy of the church.

Both men and women go to seminary with the expectation that they will be given an equal opportunity in their career trajectory as pastors. However, the way the system is currently set up is clearly biased towards men.

Ordination acts like a magical key that unlocks the top levels of leadership and opportunities globally within the church. Ordination gives the religious terminology and moral authority to sanctify discrimination.

Words matter. This is why we share the stories of women in pastoral ministry. Imagine if instead of playing semantic word games, we had recognized God’s calling on *all* pastors – both men and women.

Imagine if instead of judging the fitness for pastoral ministry based on outward appearance, we had made that decision based on heart and character.

Now, almost a decade later, I am still hopeful that there will come a time when all churches choose pastors based on their qualifications and calling as opposed to their gender.

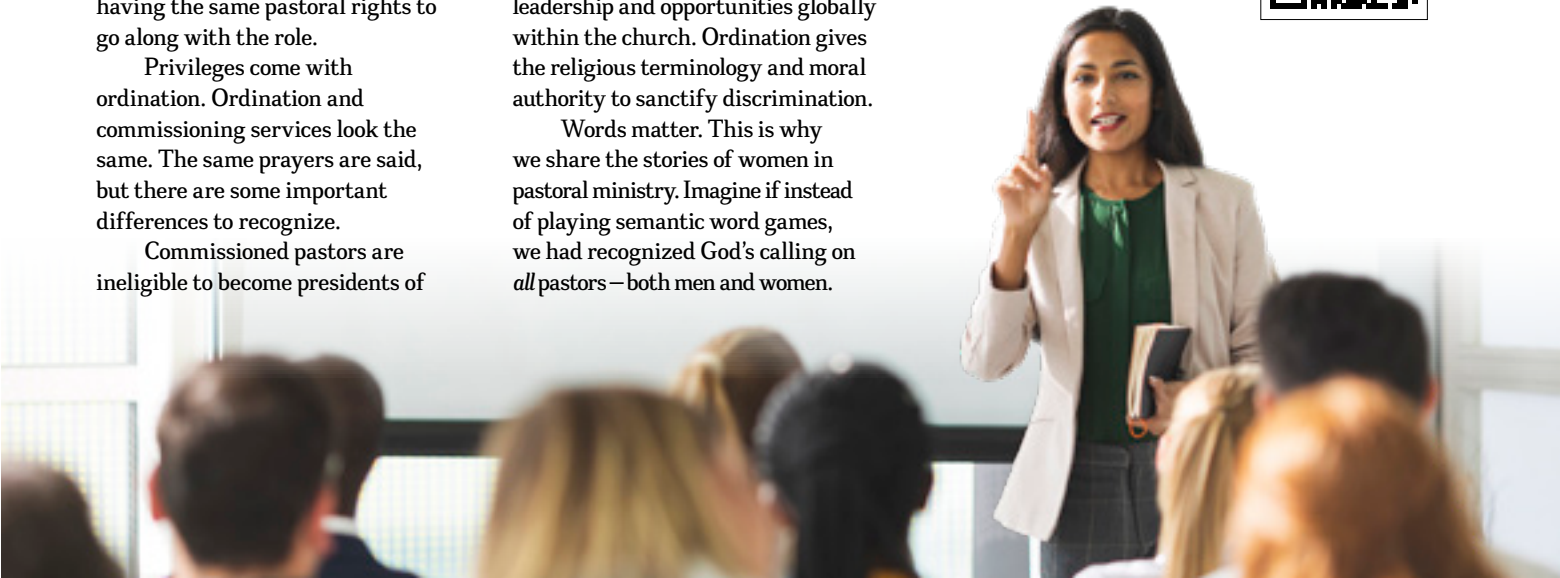
I hope we will look back on this time of discrimination the way we look back at the time before women were given the right to vote. I hope there will come a time when the thought of not ordaining someone because of their gender will be like smoking on a plane – an unimaginable idea.

KEVIN MCGILL

Green Lake Church senior pastor

To view the list of referenced source material, please visit nwadvent.st/119-5-POV-39 or scan the QR Code below.

More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-POV-39



Change of View

HAVE YOU EVER CHANGED YOUR MIND ON SOMETHING IMPORTANT? I HAVE.

Changing your mind about a fundamental issue or belief can be one of the hardest mental shifts to go through.

Perhaps you've adopted a new system of beliefs, experienced a 180-degree shift in thinking or reconsidered an issue or topic after learning more information.

One of my major life mind shifts is related to this issue's topic – women in pastoral ministry. I've come to understand that God calls both men and women into pastoral ministry, but I didn't always have this understanding.

Growing up, I assumed that pastoral roles were for men, like my father, and teaching roles were for women, like my mother. They followed God's leading so well in their life and ministry that this made the most logical sense to me.

In my early adulthood, I encountered women in pastoral ministry and was initially skeptical, thinking their motivations were personal ambitions rather than a divine calling.

Then God began to change my perspective. Through personal and professional encounters with female pastors, my viewpoint gradually shifted. I witnessed the strength of their conviction in God's calling and purpose in their lives.

I learned from the depths of their sermons, Bible studies and small groups, and I experienced a new level of pastoral care. Over time, I listened to their advice, disagreed occasionally and grew in my overall appreciation for their Spirit-led mentoring.

As time went on, it became clear to me that personal biases often overshadow theological understanding in discussions about women in pastoral ministry and women's ordination.

God used first-hand encounters to change my viewpoints and connect me with a tribe of multi-generational female pastors and spiritual leaders. It's often been this group that receives my first phone call or text message on my darkest days. Time after time, these dedicated pastors have followed God's promptings to offer specific encouragement, often before I even knew I needed it.

Maybe this topic of women in pastoral ministry isn't a sticking point for you, but there may be another spiritual,

relational or theological area you struggle with. The same principles apply: As we follow God's leading, He can transform our mindset through scripture study, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, prayer, reflection and daily interactions.

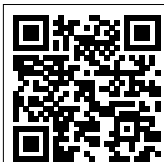
We have a sacred mission to "Reach One More," and this requires all of us – men and women, young and old, pastors and members – to work together with the Holy Spirit.

Let us remain open to how God works in our lives to broaden our understanding and perspective, allowing His truth to shape our hearts and actions as we grow together in faith.

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER
North Pacific Union communication director and Gleaner editor



AUTHOR Heidi Baumgartner



More online at NWADVENT.ST/119-5-TT-44

TABLE TALK PROMPT

Is there a belief or perspective in your life that the Holy Spirit might be prompting you to reevaluate?
How open are you to embracing a change of view?

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

PIETER DAMSTEEGT



Sometimes God uses first-hand encounters to change our viewpoints and connect us with a tribe of multi-generational spiritual leaders.



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