

**EDITORIAL**  
Reach One More

**FEATURE**  
NPUC Scholarships Help  
Increase WWU Enrollment

**PERSPECTIVE**  
Is Evangelism Worth It?

# gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

# 29<sup>th</sup>

# CONSTITUENCY SESSION

**NPUC  
CONSTITUENCY  
DELEGATES  
ELECT  
OFFICERS**

SEPT/OCT  
**2022**  
VOL. 117, N° 6

**"I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help  
come? My help comes from  
the Lord, who made heaven  
and earth. He will not let  
your foot be moved; He who  
keeps you will not slumber."**

**CONTENT**  
**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022**

*REACH ONE MORE*

**FOCUS ON JESUS AND THE MISSION** in which He has called us to participate.  
 Reach One More person for Jesus. Invite one more person to find salvation in Christ.

4

**TO OUR GLEANER READERS:**  
 Recently, a series of unforeseen changes within our magazine production have resulted in publication delays in the last few issues. We thank you for your continued readership and support as we navigate these adjustments through the remainder of the year. We aim to return to a consistent schedule with the January/February 2023 *Gleaner*. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [info@nwadventists.com](mailto:info@nwadventists.com).  
 —The Gleaner Staff



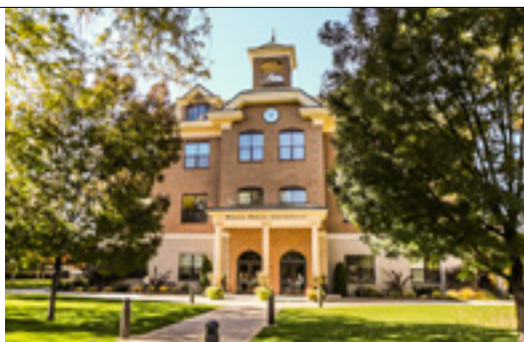
**29<sup>th</sup> CONSTITUENCY SESSION**

**FOLLOWING A ONE-YEAR** delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Pacific Union held their 29th constituency session. Nearly 300 delegates voted in officers, made bylaw amendments and participated in other church business.

**NORTHWEST ADVENTIST NEWS**

<u>16</u> NPUC	<u>18</u> ACCIÓN	<u>20</u> ALASKA	<u>22</u> IDAHO	<u>24</u> MONTANA	<u>26</u> OREGON	<u>32</u> UPPER COLUMBIA	<u>38</u> WASHINGTON	<u>46</u> WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY	<u>48</u> ADVENTIST HEALTH
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**NPUC SCHOLARSHIPS HELP INCREASE WWU ENROLLMENT** 12



**IN EVERY ISSUE**

<u>50</u>	FAMILY
<u>54</u>	ADVERTISEMENTS
<u>55</u>	ANNOUNCEMENTS
<u>56</u>	JUST FOR KIDS
<u>58</u>	PERSPECTIVES

CHURCH

# reach ONE more

## AS A BOY, I ENJOYED SPENDING TIME WATCHING AND TALKING ABOUT FOOTBALL WITH MY FATHER. ONE STORY DAD SHARED WAS ABOUT THE ROSE BOWL.

On New Year's Day, 1929, the University of California and Georgia Tech were competing at the Rose Bowl. Roy Riegels, a University of California player, made history that day. When a Georgia Tech player fumbled the ball, Riegels picked it up and began to run 65 yards toward the end zone. There was only one problem – Riegels was running to the wrong end zone!

For a moment all the other players froze. If Riegels made it to the wrong end zone, he would score a touchdown for the visiting team. One of Riegels' teammates took off after him, catching up to Riegels inside the 5-yard line. Thinking he was a hero, Riegels soon discovered he was being laughed at by people in the stands.

Moments later, the clock ran out, sending the players into the locker room for half-time. The University of California players silently walked into the room. They all sat on benches or on the floor.

All except Riegels. He put a blanket around his shoulders, covered his head and sobbed.

Football coaches usually have a lot to say at half-time. They talk strategy and give pep talks. But Coach Price was silent. He was trying to figure out what to say. It wasn't long before he was told the game would start again in three minutes.

Coach Price looked at his team and said, "Men, the same team that played in the first half will start the second half." The players stood and moved quickly toward the door. But Riegels didn't move.

The coach looked back and gently called out Riegels' name. No reply. Then Coach Price walked over to Riegels and said softly, "Roy, didn't you hear me? I said the same players who started the first half will start the second half."

Riegels lifted his head and replied, "Coach, I can't go back out. I've ruined you. I've ruined the university. I've ruined myself. I cannot face that crowd."

Coach Price put his hand on Riegels' shoulder and said, "Roy, get up and go back out. The game is only half over."

Riegels did get up and move to the field. Players from both teams testified to Riegels' energy, intensity and focus in the second half. Riegels did not give up and allow a discouraging moment to influence him to quit. He played some of the best football of his life.

Reflect for a moment on the truth of Coach Price's words. "Roy, get up and go back out. The game is only half over." Do not give up. There is still time to make a difference.



There are many gospel truths embedded in this story. No matter what mistakes we make, God is willing to forgive us. We are not condemned because of our mistakes, but encouraged to get back up and keep going forward.

We may fumble and stumble, but God still loves us. We may even run toward the wrong goal line and have people laugh at us, but we are chosen and accepted by Christ. We might be so ashamed of the things we have done that we don't want to face the crowd.

Jesus tells us to get back up and get going because life is not over and as long as we are breathing, we can make a positive difference in this world. Don't quit. Don't give up. Keep going forward, living life in Christ. Keep experiencing Jesus' grace and God's love every day.

Our North Pacific Union theme for the next few years is "Reaching One More." It is centered in mission. All the resources of heaven are being poured out for the salvation of men, women and children. We are called by Jesus to work with heaven to invite people to receive salvation, experience grace and enter the Kingdom of God.

"Reach One More" is the mission! It is why we share Christian books, magazines and literature. It is why our church has media ministries like *It is Written*, *Voice of Prophecy*, *Faith for Today* and *Adventist World Radio*. It is why we have Christian schools, summer camps and Vacation Bible Schools. It is why we invite people to church services and evangelistic meetings. We are called to reach people while we are still able to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Friends, we should not give in to discouragement over past failures, or be distracted by world events, or worry about the state of our country or economy. Yes, we should pray over all these things and vote as responsible citizens. However, let's not get distracted from our mission.

Focus on Jesus and the mission in which He has called us to participate. Reach One More person for Jesus. Invite one more person to find salvation in Christ.

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

# gleaner

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Images of Creation, p. 2

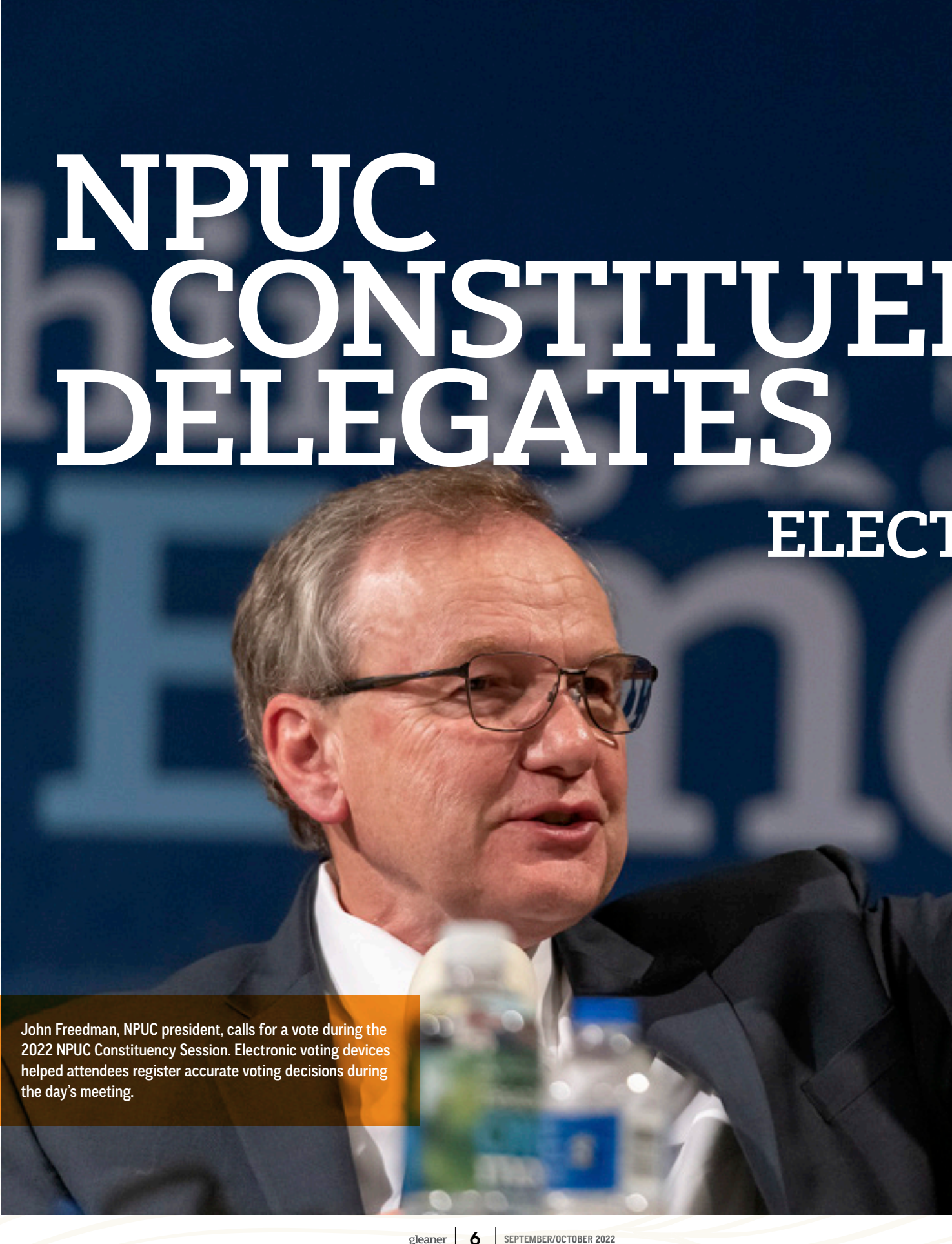


"As Old as the Mountains," in Leavenworth, Washington, by Judson Dean Knoll, of Olympia, Washington



# NPUC CONSTITUENT DELEGATES

ELECT



John Freedman, NPUC president, calls for a vote during the 2022 NPUC Constituency Session. Electronic voting devices helped attendees register accurate voting decisions during the day's meeting.

# NCY

# OFFICERS

# 29<sup>th</sup> CONSTITUENCY SESSION



Constituency Sessions typically occur every five years. The 29th Session was postponed by one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting covered the same five-year period that would have been covered in 2021. The next session, scheduled for 2026, will return to the regular rotation.

### KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

The session included a keynote address by G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division president, encouraging the church to take an offensive posture rather than a defensive one.

Bryant's presentation was followed by a report by Freedman, who recounted Desmond

Doss's passionate prayer, "Lord, give me one more," while saving the lives of wounded soldiers on Hacksaw Ridge during World War II. That plea inspired the theme chosen for the final four years of the coming quinquennium: Reaching One More. A song by that same title, written especially for the session,

was performed by Zach Parks, Journey Church associate pastor in Kelso, Washington.

### REELECTIONS

Reelected officers included John Freedman, president; Bill McClendon, executive vice president for administration; Mark Remboldt, chief financial officer; César De León, vice president for Hispanic ministries; and Byron Dulan, vice president for regional ministries for the 2021 through 2026 term. Prior to affirmation, each delegate gave a presentation.

JAMES BOKOVY

THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONVENED FOR ITS 29TH CONSTITUENCY SESSION ON SUNDAY, AUG. 7, AT THE ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON. THE NEARLY 300 DELEGATES FROM ALASKA, IDAHO, MONTANA, OREGON, UPPER COLUMBIA AND WASHINGTON CONFERENCES RE-ELECTED FIVE NPUC OFFICERS, EACH BY MORE THAN 90% OF THE VOTE.



1

- 1 Bill McClendon, vice president for administration, declares a quorum and calls the session to order.
- 2 Special musical selections by the Tsikirai Family set the tone for a blessed day.
- 3 G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division president, congratulates the NPUC officers after being reelected with more than 90% approval.
- 4 John Freedman, NPUC president, shares Desmond Doss's plea, "Give me one more..." during his president's report.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

After the morning's presentations, the delegates divided into individual conferences for a working lunch to caucus names for new executive committee members to serve the remainder of the 2021-2026 quinquennium. Those new members were also affirmed.

The executive committee will elect departmental directors at its October meeting.

**NPUC BYLAW CHANGES**

Bill McClendon suggested changes to the bylaws on behalf of the bylaws committee, presenting them for a vote in three separate sections.

- 1. The first section included provisions to:
  - Accommodate virtual meetings when extraordinary circumstances arise.



JAMES BOKOVIV

2



# 9<sup>th</sup> CONSTITUENCY SESSION

- Change the notification process for upcoming meetings.
- Allow the executive committee to delay a session for up to a year due to exigent circumstances. It also included language allowing termination of officers “for cause.”

2. The second section clarified the availability of performance evaluations to the executive committee, as well as to the nominating committee as necessary.

The delegates overwhelmingly affirmed both the first and second proposals.

3. The third section would have required the nominating committee to consider gender, race and ethnicity in the nomination of officers and executive committee members. Due to concern among the delegates about specific wording in that section, it was returned to the bylaws committee for further revision and will be reconsidered in the future.

Despite the initial rejection of the diversity provisions, bylaws committee member and Montana delegate Steve Kreitner said, “It was obvious to me from both the diversity in the room and the spirit of the discussion that diversity of representation is a goal for everyone who attended the meetings.”

**“I WAS TOUCHED BY THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN THE SESSION THROUGH THE REPORTS AND THE MANNER IN WHICH GOD’S PEOPLE CONDUCTED HIS BUSINESS.”**

— G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division president

JAMES BOKOVIOY



JAMES BOKOVIOY

3



JAMES BOKOVIOY

4



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Jay Graham, NPUC association treasurer, gave the final report outlining the positive financial position the union is in due to the blessings of providence and solid financial management.

## ADVENTIST HEALTH

Three Adventist Health administrators shared how God is working in and through the medical teams and staff in the hospital system.

## WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

Adventist Health’s presentation was followed by a report by leaders from Walla Walla University on the university’s status in the wake of the pandemic.

John McVay, WWU president, laid out a vision for campus improvements, including a new student life and ministry center. Prakash Ramoutar, newly-appointed WWU vice president for financial administration, shared that the university is in a financially secure position with recent, significant reductions in liabilities and steady growth in assets.

## LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Dennis Plubell was celebrated for his 45 years of service in Adventist education. The constituency session marked the day of his retirement as vice president for education. He gave a particularly moving presentation and tearful goodbye to the delegates.

To fill the impending vacancy in the education department, the nominating committee identified Keith Hallam as the nominee to follow in Plubell’s footsteps. Hallam has served as vice president for education for the Southern Union since 2017. He is returning to the NPUC having previously served as principal of Auburn Adventist Academy from 1995–2009. His nomination was quickly affirmed.

## REFLECTIONS

Many commented on the spirit of unity and warmth among delegates during the meetings.

“I was inspired by the consistent level of interest in the room through a long day of important work. Such interest bodes well for the future of Adventism in our region.” — John McVay, Walla Walla University president

“I think we all left with a feeling of connection, collaboration, energy, and determination to pursue mission in our beautiful neck of the kingdom woods. I left well-nourished, and encouraged, even in these challenging times, about what God will do through us in the days ahead.” — Alex Bryan, Adventist Health chief mission officer

“The Session was a spiritual blessing. ... The spirit among the delegates was peaceful and respectful. It was a delightful day doing God’s work.” — Mileen Loeffler, Washington Conference delegate

JAMES BOKOVY



1



JAMES BOKOVY

2



3

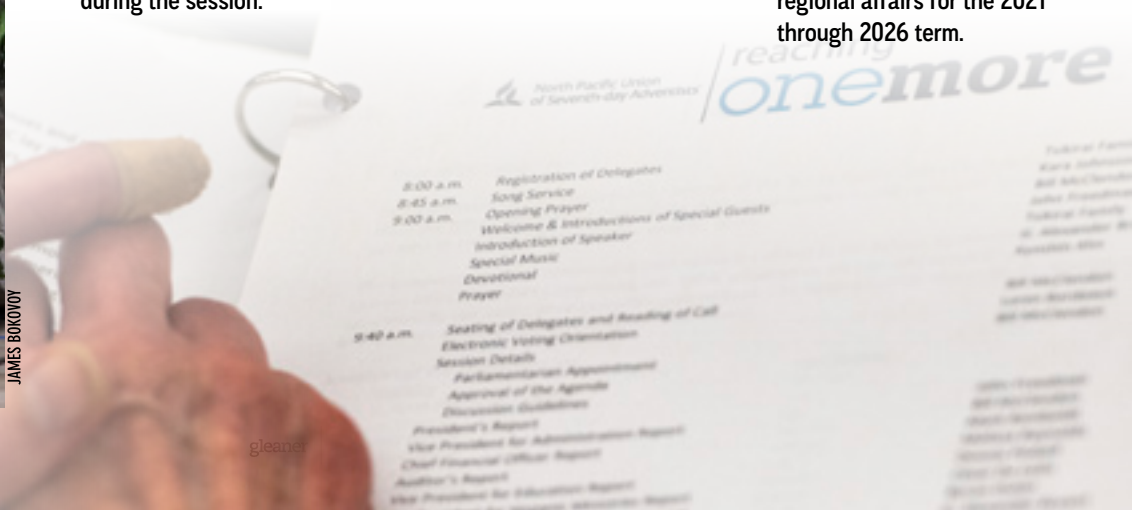


JAMES BOKOVY

**1** Members of the NPUC information technology and communication departments worked tirelessly alongside the Adventist Community Church of Vancouver audio-visual team to ensure a smooth presentation of graphics and streaming during the session.

**2** Zach Parks (left), associate pastor of the Journey Adventist Church, performs "Reaching One More," a song co-written for the session by Mark Bond (right) and Jesse Johnson (not pictured).

**3** Reelected officers included (from left) César De León, vice president for Hispanic ministries; Bill McClendon, executive vice president for administration; John Freedman, president; Mark Remboldt, chief financial officer; and Byron Dulan, vice president for regional affairs for the 2021 through 2026 term.



EDUCATION // WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY



NPUC  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
HELP INCREASE  
WWU  
ENROLLMENT

## Dozens of students are able to pursue their college goals at Walla Walla University thanks to \$2 million in scholarships provided by the North Pacific Union in two innovative programs: the Bright Future Scholarship and the NextGen Scholarship.

### MAKING WWU POSSIBLE FOR MANY MORE

"In 2021, we were seeing enrollment numbers decreasing as a result of the pandemic," said Bill McClendon, NPUC vice president for administration. "As officers, we asked ourselves, 'What can the NPUC do to help improve enrollment?'"

That question was the impetus behind the \$1 million Bright Future Scholarship. To date, those funds have supported 64 students with funds spanning four years of support.

"I'm so thankful for the scholarship," said a Bright Future recipient. "I wanted to attend WWU, but I didn't think I could afford to go. Then my pastor told me about the scholarship funds from the NPUC. I came to visit the school and talked to one of the admissions counselors. They confirmed that I was able to qualify for the scholarship. I was so excited. I have found WWU to be a fantastic place to grow, not only in knowledge, but also spiritually. I really appreciate the religious atmosphere on campus."

### RECRUITING OUR NEXT TEACHERS AND PASTORS

While the Bright Future Scholarship initiative was open to a broad spectrum of first-time students of all majors, the NextGen Scholarship—established this year—was specifically created to help the NPUC recruit teachers and pastors.

"There's a real shortage of educators and pastors in our church," said John Freedman, NPUC president. "As pastors and teachers retire or move, we are finding it challenging to fill vacancies."

"As the school year was starting, we were actively looking for about six teachers to fill open positions across the union," reported Becky Meharry, NPUC elementary education and curriculum director. "There just aren't enough teachers to go around."

The same is true for pastors. "As the average age of our pastoral pool climbs across the NPUC and pastors retire, there aren't enough young, energetic pastors

to replenish the losses," stated César De León, NPUC vice president for Hispanic ministries and ministerial director. "We need pastors with a fresh vision and new skills to reach out to our pluralistic, syncretistic society."

"The NextGen Scholarship is a forward-thinking investment in the future of the NPUC," said McClendon. "We are planting seeds that will bear fruit as these students finish their education and find their callings to ministry here in the Northwest."

The NextGen Scholarships combine with other funding sources to ensure that this year's new theology and education students have 100% of their tuition covered. Thanks to this initiative, WWU has attracted more than 35 new theology and education students for fall 2022.

"We have a mix of students in their 20s, 30s and 40s, and a few as young as 18. There's a broad mix of ethnicities, and several young women who have been called to ministry joining us as well," reported Carl Cosaert, dean of the school of theology. He added that

each new enrollee has a story of how God brought them to WWU. "One of our students is from the Hmong people from Southeast Asia. He had always wanted to be a pastor, but never had the opportunity. His daughter was planning to come to WWU. When he found out about the scholarship, he decided to become a student as well. So, father and daughter are both starting as freshmen on campus together."

New students declaring education bring unique stories with them as well. "We have at least one couple where the husband is starting in our theology program as the wife is joining our education program. It's great when a husband and wife can serve together as a ministry team in this way," said Debbie Muthersbaugh, dean of the school of education and psychology. "We

also have a student who will be the first in her family to pursue a college degree. She is transferring to WWU from a community college. She wanted to be a teacher and attend WWU, but didn't think it could happen financially. When she found out about the Next Generation scholarship, with tears in her eyes, she said, 'I can't believe that I'm going to be able to attend here!'"

"We are blessed to see so many new students entering the education program," added Muthersbaugh. "I sense a renewed excitement among the students as I interview them. I've never had so many positive conversations. There's a real joy in their voices. I believe that their excitement will create a positive ripple effect across campus."

Established in early August, the \$1 million NextGen Scholarship funds have already been fully allocated and there's a waiting list of potential students wanting to become teachers or pastors. The NPUC just committed an additional \$120,000, but this round of funding will not completely address the huge demand for future educators and pastors.

"We hope to fund many more scholarships as we move forward," said

*"I just wanted to say thank you to the NPUC for the scholarship. I don't think I would be here otherwise. I look forward to paying forward the things I'm learning to help other young people in the future."* — A THANKFUL WWU STUDENT

Freedman. "These scholarship initiatives perfectly reflect our NPUC priorities of engaging young adults, advancing education and cultivating excellence in leadership. We want to partner with church members across the Northwest who have a passion to invest in the future leaders of our church."

If you would like to help fund additional scholarships or the NPUC scholarship initiatives, please contact the NPUC treasury department at 360-857-7014. Your involvement will not only strengthen the future of a young adult, but also positively impact both WWU and the NPUC.

MARK BOND  
Gleaner contributor

# **NORTH PACIFIC UNION DEDICATES THEIR HEADQUARTERS**

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AUG. 6, THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION HOSTED A DEDICATION SERVICE FOR THE NPUC BUILDING. THE MORTGAGE ON THE BUILDING WAS OFFICIALLY PAID OFF IN MARCH 2019, AND THE NPUC AND NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION OFFICERS CEREMONIOUSLY BURNED THE ORIGINAL MORTGAGE DOCUMENT DURING THE SERVICE.**

The ceremony was attended by approximately 220 constituents and members of the community, including Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue and Jennifer Lindsay, mayor of the City of Ridgefield, Washington.

“Nearly \$20,000 a month is a lot of weight to carry [for a mortgage payment], and now that goes out to our conferences to expand the ministry of the North Pacific Union,” shared John Freedman, NPUC president. “It’s the house that God built, and it’s also the house that God paid off.”

Mark Remboldt, NPUC chief financial officer, shared a bit about the building’s history. Previously, the NPUC headquarters were located in downtown Portland, Oregon.



In the 1990s, the area began to change. Garbage and drug paraphernalia were often found in the bushes on the property, and employees' cars were frequently broken into, even during office hours.

This prompted NPUC administration to consider moving the headquarters to a new and safer area. In 1998, they decided to put the Portland building up for sale and begin looking for a new place to call home.

The office was sold fairly fast, and the new owners allowed NPUC to continue to occupy the building until they moved into their temporary office in the Columbia Tech Center in Vancouver, Washington.

"Eventually, the property search focused on the I-5 corridor," shared Remboldt. "Initially, a 12-acre parcel along I-5 north of Vancouver, on Delfel Road near the Clark County Fairgrounds, was purchased for \$718,000."

Once it was purchased, they discovered that part of the property was wetlands and therefore not buildable. In addition to that, trees that blocked visibility from the freeway could not legally be cut down.

This was a very disappointing discovery and caused another delay in their moving process. The Delfel road property was eventually sold for a nearly \$200,000

profit, and the search continued for a property more suitable for the needs of the NPUC.

Soon after, Sue Patzer saw a large for sale sign while driving farther north on I-5, near the Ridgefield exit, adjacent to Tri-Mountain Golf Course. She told her husband Jere, then NPUC president, about the 30-acre property, and after much prayer and more research, the search team had the foresight to purchase that beautiful acreage.

On Jan. 24, 2005, the property annexation was completed. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new NPUC office building was held on May 4, 2005, and construction began soon after. By Aug. 30, 2006, 90% of construction was completed

and on target with the budget. On Jan. 10, 2007, the occupancy permit was signed, and the staff began the process of moving into the new building.

"The many earnest prayers for this building project were answered with the purchase of this beautiful property, and with this edifice that was designed for God's glory," shared Remboldt. "Not only has it been a blessing to the members of the NPUC, but community relationships and friendships were established early on, and continue to grow. The full impact of those relationships won't be known until eternity."

**MAKENA HORTON**  
*North Pacific Union assistant director for content and Gleaner managing editor*

More online at  
[NWADVENT.ST/117-6-FT-85](http://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-FT-85)





Dennis Plubell, North Pacific Union vice president for education

EDUCATION

# A Lifetime of Service in Adventist Education

**AFTER A 45-YEAR CAREER** in Adventist education, Dennis L. Plubell has retired. The occasion was celebrated at the North Pacific Union constituency session in August.

Throughout Plubell’s career, he served in three schools, three conferences, three unions and at the North American Division.

## LIFETIME OF SERVICE

As the son of an Adventist educator, Plubell was determined to never work in education. “But God has ways and means to guide your path,” he said. “I have seen God’s leading in the rearview mirror—enough to know that the unknown road is going to be fine, if He is with me in the journey.”

Plubell’s career began in 1977 as a junior high school science and mathematics teacher at Sierra View Junior Academy in Exeter, California. In 1980, he moved to Lodi Academy in Lodi, California, where he taught science and served as registrar and vice principal until 1986. Plubell then taught at Rio Lindo Academy, in

Healdsburg, California, and later became the school principal.

Plubell moved to Canada in 1994 to serve as superintendent of schools for British Columbia Conference.

NPUC called Plubell in 1997. There, he served as associate director for secondary education and accreditation under the leadership of Lanny Hurlbert, then vice president for education.

In 2007, Plubell accepted a call from the NAD to fill the role of associate director for secondary education.

When Lanny Hurlbert retired in 2014, Plubell was invited to return to NPUC to lead as vice president for education.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In his 45 years working in education, Plubell’s influence has made positive impacts on Adventist schools throughout the NAD.

Plubell was privileged to serve as chairperson of the *Journey to Excellence* initiative (J2E). He also helped write J2E, providing NAD schools with a wealth of information and resources to continuously



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-NPUC-74](http://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-NPUC-74)



improve their ministry. J2E continues to advocate for innovation and professional development, resulting in exemplary and vibrant Adventist schools that can effectively minister to young people.

Plubell also worked on two generations of accreditation instruments, and participated in and chaired more than 100 campus accreditation visits. Accreditation is a vital piece of education, ensuring each school is accountable to an ongoing improvement process and best practices in pedagogy and administration.

Throughout his career, Plubell witnessed the transformation of technology and its impact on education.

Early in Plubell's career, the personal computer was introduced, allowing him to spearhead computer-based grade reports and move student academic records and reports to data-based systems. Technology also helped strengthen the relationships

Under Plubell's leadership, the NPUC education department expanded its influence to include a full-time position to lead new-teacher coaching as well as early childhood education, a growing educational need that is significantly relevant.

To continue supporting schools with 21st-century education, Plubell recently pursued and adopted the standards-based learning method for Northwest schools. As it is fully implemented, this modern pedagogy will support teachers and students in their pursuit of academic excellence. It ensures Northwest Adventist schools are providing a competitive and exceptional academic program, inspiring young learners to achieve their personal best.

Plubell's foresight has been influential. "I am quite pleased that the NPUC is viewed, across the NAD, as leading in [standards-based learning] initiative, thanks to the diligent work of our education team," said Plubell.

Together, the effort to educate is made joyful!"

"My career," said Plubell, "all of it, has been about improving our Adventist educators' ability to serve students and families. It's about equipping them to share the good news of Jesus' love and redemption. We are not just a schooling option for families. We are a ministry with an Adventist worldview and redemptive message, vital for these times."

## THE ROAD AHEAD

Plubell says there is a serious need to support teachers. The availability of teachers is at an all-time low, making it more difficult to find quality administrators and educators.

"Energy and enthusiasm for the teaching profession are significantly low," he said. "This seems to be the result of unprecedented stress from the pandemic, and pervasive tension in church and cultural expectations."

Plubell says our greater church needs to continue to champion the improvement of effective professional growth, so educators can improve on their personal and professional journey to excellence.

"It may seem like a daunting challenge," Plubell said. "But God is able—beyond what we can imagine—to grow the Adventist education ministry so we can bring another student and family to the kingdom."

## PARTING REFLECTION

"Our Adventist education is much more than a knowledge factory," said Plubell. "Educating head, heart and hand have always, and must continue to be, our 'why!' We must balance between 'industry' standards and best practices without losing our clear purpose."

"Bringing students to encounter Jesus and experience excellence in learning are both essential. A journey to the kingdom must be a journey to excellence."

ANTHONY WHITE

*North Pacific Union associate communication director*



JAMES BOKOVY

- Dennis and Barbara Plubell receive an award commemorating his career in Adventist education from John Freedman.

between conferences and divisions through improvements in administrative and educator certification records.

With enthusiasm for 21st-century education, Plubell welcomed the introduction of digital textbooks and teaching resources. These tools were vital in supporting administrators, teachers and students during the dramatic shift to remote learning in 2020.

## A SPIRIT OF LEADERSHIP

Ever the consummate leader, Plubell has been a collaborative partner in ministry. As an advocate for teamwork, he valued connecting with and supporting fellow educators with sound leadership, seeking to accomplish many urgent and important tasks together.

"Together," he said, "There is more that encourages, equips and empowers."

CHURCH

# Jesus is On the Move in East Wenatchee

**AT THIS YEAR'S** Upper Columbia Conference Hispanic Women's Retreat, Christ manifested Himself powerfully in the lives of those attending.

Reina Cruz, a Wenatchee, Washington, resident, is a Spirit-directed woman who understands her mission as a disciple of Jesus Christ. At her workplace, she interacts with a group of assistants daily. When she learned of the UCC Hispanic Women's Retreat, she did not hesitate to extend an invitation to "her girls," as she affectionately calls them.

Cruz's friends and coworkers were very happy when she not only invited them

to be her guests but also made the financial arrangements for them to attend.

Cruz's coworkers were thrilled and accepted the invitation. That weekend, their experiences changed the way they conceptualized God. One of them said, "We saw so many women there, but I could see they were very different. Their faces radiated a level of happiness and peace that we wished we had."

After the retreat, Cruz's friends received a second invitation. This time, Cruz invited them to attend the East Wenatchee Hispanic Church. Two of the young women

accepted the invitation. Later, two more began attending church.

The group of friends attending church each Sabbath has grown. On Friday nights, Cruz opens her home so they can study the Bible and learn more about Jesus together.

"I arrive home after work and listen to the songs and spiritual reflections that Reina sends us," said one of the friends. "I play them at high volume; and my husband—who didn't understand me—told me to turn them off because they were bothering him. But those songs and messages bring me peace, so I decided to keep listening despite my husband's protests, and now he also likes to listen and told me the other day, 'One of these days I'm going to go to church with you.'"

Another woman shared, "My husband has noticed that I've been calmer and more at peace, and he told me that he also wanted to know Christ." Later, both she and her husband did make the decision to walk with Christ. On Sabbath, June 4, the couple publicly accepted Jesus as their personal Savior through baptism. They now attend church

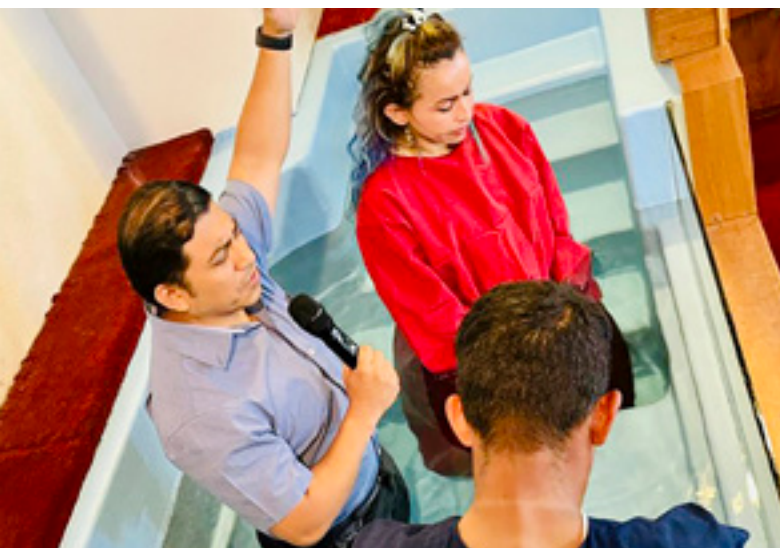


Each week, Cruz invites the women to a Bible study.

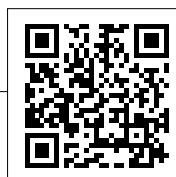
with their children regularly.

Jesus is working on people who need His healing presence in their lives. God wants us to share the love of Christ with individuals at work and in the community, just as Cruz did. There is someone you know who desperately needs to experience the peace, forgiveness and healing love that only Christ can provide! Praise be to Christ for His perfect and eternal plans.

CAROLANN DE LEÓN  
*North Pacific Union Hispanic, family ministries and ministerial associate director*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-HSP-41](http://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-HSP-41)



IGLESIA



# Jesús en Movimiento en East Wenatchee

**EN EL ÚLTIMO RETIRO** de damas organizado por el ministerio hispano de la UCC, Cristo se manifestó poderosamente en la vida de las asistentes.

Reina Cruz, residente de Wenatchee, Washington, es una mujer dirigida por el Espíritu Santo que entiende su misión como discípulo de Cristo. En su lugar de empleo, trabaja con un grupo grande de colaboradoras las cuales interactúa a diario. Cuando ella se enteró del retiro que habría en Camp MiVoden en el mes de abril, no dudó en extender esa bendición a “sus muchachas,” como ella cariñosamente les dice.

Para ellas fue de mucha alegría recibir la invitación de su amiga y compañera de trabajo, y aún más cuando supieron que Reina ya había hecho todos los arreglos financieros para que todas pudieran asistir.

La experiencia que tuvieron ese fin de semana con Jesús cambió su manera de ver a Dios. Una de ellas dijo, “Nosotras vimos tantas mujeres ahí, pero yo pude ver que eran muy diferentes. Ellas irradiaban un nivel de felicidad y paz que nosotras también deseábamos tener.”

Al siguiente sábado, recibieron otra invitación de Reina, ahora para asistir a la iglesia hispana de East Wenatchee. Dos de ellas comenzaron yendo y después otras dos más se unieron los siguientes sábados.

El grupo de amigas que están asiste a la iglesia sábado tras sábado ha crecido. También los viernes por la noche Reina abre las puertas de su casa para que ellas puedan estudiar la biblia y aprender juntas sobre Jesús

Una de ellas dijo lo siguiente: “Llego a mi casa después de trabajar y escucho los cantos y reflexiones que Reina nos envía. Los pongo con volumen alto, y mi esposo, quien no me entendía, me decía que apagara eso porque le molestaba; pero esos cantos y mensajes a mí me traen paz, así que decidí seguir escuchando a pesar de las protestas de mi esposo. Actualmente, a él también le gusta escuchar y me dijo: ‘uno de estos días iré contigo a la iglesia.’”

Otra de ellas comentó: “Mi esposo ha notado que ahora estoy más tranquila y en paz, y me dijo que él deseaba también conocer a Cristo.” Tanto ella como su esposo decidieron caminar con Jesús. El sábado 4 de junio, aceptaron públicamente a Jesús

como su Salvador personal y fueron bautizados. Ahora ambos asisten a la iglesia regularmente junto a sus hijos.

Dios está obrando en personas que necesitan la presencia de Cristo en sus vidas. Alabado sea el nombre de Cristo por sus perfectos y eternos planes.

Dios espera que compartamos el amor de Cristo a las personas que nos rodean en nuestros trabajos y comunidades, como lo hizo Reina. ¡Hay alguien que tú conoces que necesita conocer la paz, el perdón, y el amor sanador que solo Cristo puede brindar!

CAROLANN DE LEÓN  
Hispano ministerios director  
asociado de la Unión del  
Pacífico Norte



MISSION AND OUTREACH



Members of the Kotzebue team help in the Chukchi Arctic Gardens.

# Florida Church Does Outreach in Alaska

**A TEAM OF 22 MEMBERS** from the Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, Florida, arrived in Alaska on July 1. Their teams worked in both Selawik and Kotzebue. Though the central Florida church has been on 40 mission trips since 1992, this was the first time their mission volunteers worked in two different locations at the same time. It's also the first time "friendship evangelism" was the main focus.

The Selawik team almost completed building a garage to house an ATV and snowmobile for Edna and Jose Estrella, Arctic Mission Adventure workers. They installed new windows in the mission house and provided a daily Vacation Bible School which helped to build friendships with local children. These children even

came to the airport to send the team off with a tearful goodbye.

The rest of the mission team stayed in Kotzebue where there are no Adventist missionaries. Their assignment was "friendship evangelism."

Each evening, VBS was presented in the Kotzebue Friends Church. While during the day, the group depended on the Lord to provide them with work and interaction opportunities.

The Kotzebue Parks and Recreation Department gladly accepted help from the mission group. The work involved garbage clean-up at the fairgrounds and help with a 5K race on July 4. A policeman chatted with the team several times during the day. On another day, the group weeded and helped in the Chukchi Arctic Gardens.

The group also worked with the local Baptist church sorting, bagging and labeling 35 large garbage bags of clothes and shoes for the church's clothing distribution center.

Additionally, the Kotzebue team helped with food distribution at the Church of God. They were also able to fix sound systems in both of their churches. The group had lots of individual interactions

with the people they met.

Throughout the mission trip, God faithfully provided opportunities to meet and help the Kotzebue community. In the process, the team learned to depend on God and know that He would provide connections—often at the last minute!

PIA SOULE

*Spring Meadows Adventist Church member, Sanford, Florida*

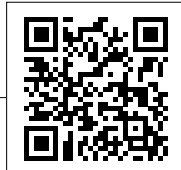


The Selawik team worked to build the shed for Edna and Jose Estrella's ATV and snowmobile.

The Kotzebue Church where the VBS was held is more than 100 years old.



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-AK-22](http://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-AK-22) +



## EDUCATION

# Golden Heart Students Fundraise by Reading

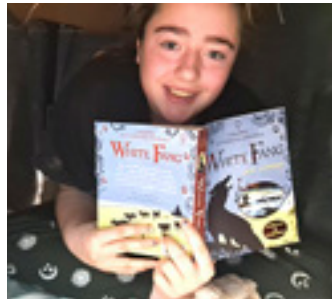
**A FEW YEARS AGO**, Golden Heart Christian School in Fairbanks, Alaska, held a reading marathon as a fundraiser to support its library needs. It has since become an annual event.

A couple of weeks prior, students are given the responsibility to ask friends, family, neighbors and teachers to sponsor them. Sponsors can choose to donate a flat rate or pay for each page read. Per page is a real challenge, and the sponsor needs to be aware that it can add up with a fast reader.

Sponsors fill out a commitment form, and, after the marathon, students follow up with sponsors to thank them, tell how the day went and request the funds promised.

On the morning of the marathon, students wear pajamas to school and bring stuffed animals and blankets to turn their desks into forts. They also bring books. If anyone runs out of books, the library is available.

The kids are excited to get reading as soon as school begins. All is quiet in the beginning, but soon many early readers request help sounding out words. This is a day for them to read



• A student enjoys the classic *White Fang*.

independently and work hard on remembering their phonics. Upper graders revel in the quiet and seemingly workless environment. Staff take the



• A student enjoys reading the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series.

time to grade, plan and prepare lessons.

Students are given a break every thirty minutes. Depending on the weather, the break happens in the gym or outside. Before the break, children gather more books to be ready for the next reading block. One older student was so engaged in her book she chose to read during most breaks.

The reading marathon fundraiser continues to be a favorite day for students and teachers alike. GHCS students and staff look forward to its success in the new school year.

JANE BADOR  
Golden Heart Christian School  
teacher assistant

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-AK-95](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/117-6-AK-95)



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MISSION AND OUTREACH

# Church Member Writes Book Bringing Awareness to Child Trafficking

**THEY CALLED US BABY IS A HOPEFUL AND HEARTWARMING STORY. IT'S ALSO A SERIOUS BOOK BECAUSE IT TELLS THE TRUE STORY OF AN ESCAPE FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

Wendy Williams, the author, is a member of the Cloverdale Church in Boise, Idaho. When she learned that child sex trafficking was happening in her community, she was enraged.

At first, like many, she tried to ignore it, hoping that experts would take care of the problems. She came to understand she couldn't expect it to go away or that someone else would handle it. God, however, had other plans.

One of Williams' friends rescued a dog that previously belonged to a young victim of trafficking. As a result of witnessing the girl's abuse, the dog exhibited many signs of trauma.

When Williams suggested her friend should write a book about the subject, he said that *she* should write the book. She decided she would, but that it would be a children's book, designed for parents to read with their children to start age-



Wendy Williams wrote the book *They Called Us Baby* to bring awareness to child trafficking.

appropriate conversations about this uncomfortable subject.

The book begins with a dog named Baby that ran away because of trouble at home. The dog then finds a young girl who also ran away because of trouble at home.

Williams was careful to carve out pieces of the story that might scare children while still preserving information to educate people on the serious problem. She researched and talked with experts.

They reviewed and approved every word and illustration.

God led Williams to Jessie Nilo, a wonderful illustrator, who created the image of the girl to represent all ethnicities and nationalities. Nilo used the color purple for the girl's dress and the dog's collar to represent royalty—because the girl is still a child of God, a child of the King and a child of royalty.

The book was finally published, and without previous knowledge or experience, Williams became her own marketing and sales department. Throughout the process, God showed her she didn't need to worry over details.

One day, after having brunch with one of her greatest supporters, Williams headed to her next destination to drop off complimentary copies of the book. After driving down the road for a couple of miles, the GPS suddenly told her to turn left in 200 feet and make a U-turn. Annoyed that it hadn't properly instructed her, Williams turned left into a parking lot.

Muttering under her breath, Williams began turning her car around, then stopped to regain her bearings. When she looked up, she was staring directly at the Idaho Youth Ranch Counseling headquarters, a non-profit organization that helps troubled youth.

Williams knew about the organization's thrift stores across the greater Boise area, but she had never visited one. Naturally, she left a book with one of the clinicians.

Williams returned to her car and prepared to exit the parking lot. As she anticipated the turn the GPS had previously indicated, she waited for its instructions. But it turned out that no

**CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING FACTS**

Every **30 SECONDS** a child is **SOLD** into sexual slavery

The industry has surpassed **\$150 BILLION** annually

The **U.S.** is the **HIGHEST CONSUMER** of child pornography

In the United States, the **TARGETED AGE** for human trafficking is **12-14**

Online grooming **INCREASED** by over **30%** during the pandemic

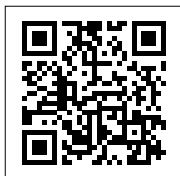
*While some feel this may be alarming to children, the goal is to bring awareness to children and parents alike. It is alarming.*

U-turn had been needed after all. She had been on the right route all along! For Williams, it was evident that God was and is behind the story.

Williams says prayer is her greatest need to continue the project. It's a dark subject, and it is very easy to allow that darkness to inhabit her thoughts and to get discouraged by all the work. Her book has recently been picked up by Advent Source, who are printing 10,000 copies, working on a Spanish translation and creating an animation.

You've heard the saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." So what would that prevention look like? When Williams was prompted to write *They Called Us Baby*, it was because she realized she could be an ounce of prevention for other people.

EVE RUSK  
Idaho Conference communications director



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-ID-32](http://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-ID-32)

*They Called Us Baby* is a heartwarming book designed to be read with trusted adults. It is written for a third-grade reading and maturity level and has been reviewed by experts. The book includes age-appropriate questions to help facilitate discussions.

While some feel this may be alarming to children, the goal is to bring awareness to children and parents alike. It is alarming. While it's not a child's responsibility to protect themselves, awareness can be the ounce of prevention.

You, too, can be an ounce of prevention. Help protect the vulnerable. Familiarize yourself with the language used by traffickers as well as their victims. You can start a ministry for families for prevention. You can get involved in a rescue and rehab program. You can provide copies of *They Called Us Baby* to schools, children's clubs, medical offices and other ministries already helping people.

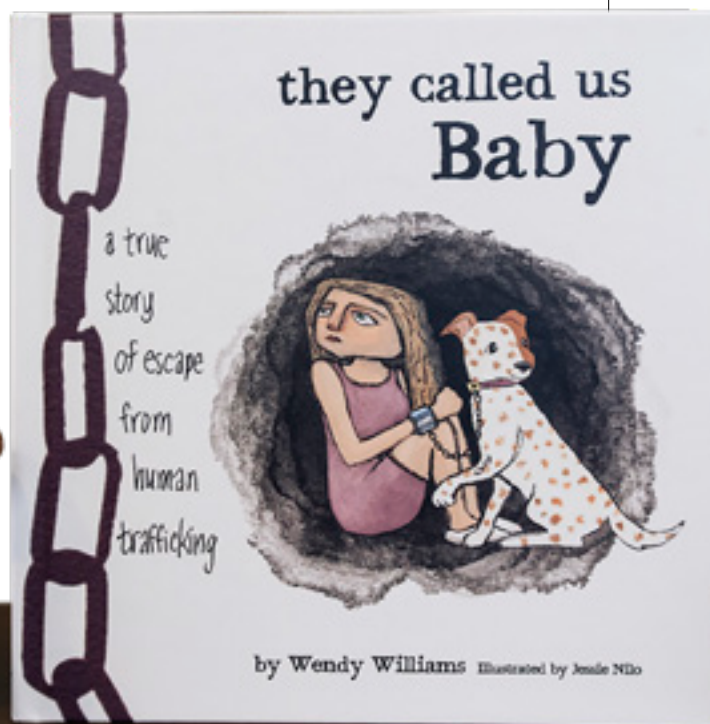
*They Called Us Baby* is available on [lulu.com](http://lulu.com).

<sup>1</sup> Child Liberation Foundation

<sup>2</sup> THORN

<sup>3</sup> National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

<sup>4</sup> [FBI.gov](http://FBI.gov) law enforcement bulletin, March 1, 2011



# The Return of Montana Camp Meeting

**AS PASTORS AND VOLUNTEERS**

arrived early to this year's Montana Camp Meeting, you could feel the excitement for what God was about to do in the lives of His church members. Those who attended in person or online were encouraged to share Jesus, love people and trust God in praying for everything. The Holy Spirit spoke through John Freedman, North Pacific Union president; Pavel Goia, *Ministry* magazine editor; and Ken Norton, Montana Conference president.

Volunteers led out in various hobby classes on Thursday and Friday mornings. Classes included how to give a small group Bible study, gardening, birding, painting, impact writing, design and more.

On Thursday afternoon, a large group went tubing down Madison River. Families and friends of all ages enjoyed floating down the river with each other. While clouds threatened rain, they cleared and sunshine poured down instead.



• Pavel Goia, editor of *Ministry* Magazine for the General Conference Ministerial Association, encourages Montana Adventists to expect miracles when they pray.



• Jim Jenkins, Montana Conference vice president for administration, introduces the weekend's speaker, Pavel Goia.



• Ken Norton, Montana Conference president, welcomes attendees to the 2022 Montana Conference Camp Meeting.

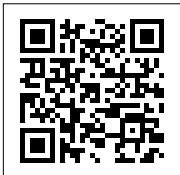
Kids loved attending their morning and evening programs. They looked forward to the songs, crafts, lessons and games each meeting.

The teens and youth enjoyed Stephen Carlile and Kevin Bruce, also known as Two Guys and the Word. They spent time discussing enemies of the heart. They learned that guilt, anger and jealousy, left unchecked, can lead us to do



PHOTOS BY MARK BOND





More online at  
NWADVENT.ST/117-6-MT-62

# Montana Adventists Provide Disaster Relief

**THIS SUMMER, NATIONAL NEWS REPORTED CATASTROPHIC FLOODING IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. MONTANA'S TOWNS – GARDINER, LIVINGSTON, RED LODGE AND FROMBERG – WERE DEVASTATED BY FLOODWATERS AND HAVE BEEN TRYING TO RECOVER SINCE.**

and say things we regret. TGATW looked at Biblical and practical ways to deal with these enemies.

The weekend was wrapped up by The King's Heralds, doing what they do best – spreading the Good News through music. As camp meeting came to a close, one could sense that God had been with His people.

If you missed Montana camp meeting, evening sessions and the Sabbath morning service were recorded and are online for you to enjoy at [mtcsda.org](http://mtcsda.org).

STEPHEN CARLILE  
Billings Church pastor  
and Montana Conference  
communications coordinator

Local churches reached out to Gabriele Laub, Montana Conference Adventist Community Services coordinator. She was already working on ways they could best serve these communities.



SHEILA

Cars were loaded and volunteers were ready to help deliver flood buckets to those in need.

Months earlier, Pathfinder groups from Upper Columbia Conference had prepared flood buckets – five-gallon buckets filled with essential cleanup supplies for flood and water damage. UCC graciously donated all of them. Montana churches then donated more than 150 flood buckets to families for initial cleanup needs.

A group from Bridger Adventist Church showed up in Fromberg with flood buckets in hand. After checking in with the volunteer coordinators, they hit the streets, going house-to-house, knocking on doors, offering buckets and assisting with cleanup. Residents and volunteers shoveled mud out of basements and garages, and removed flooded appliances and furniture before mold set in. Some had to wait to have water pumped out of their basements.

Another group, organized by Mount Ellis Academy Church, volunteered to distribute flood buckets in Livingston and the surrounding communities.

On behalf of Montana Conference, thanks goes to everyone who donated their time, energy and money to help share love and support with Montana neighbors. Special thanks go to Gabriele Laub for volunteering her time to help churches help people.

STEPHEN CARLILE  
Billings Church pastor and Montana Conference communications coordinator



JIM BROWN

Kids eager to help pass out buckets in Fromberg, Montana.

UCC  
Volunteers  
Collaborate  
in a Time  
of Need

SEE PAGE 35



More online at  
NWADVENT.ST/117-6-MT-61



# Gladstone Camp Meeting Celebrates Homecoming

**TO BE HONEST, SOME WERE JUST A LITTLE BIT WORRIED ABOUT THIS YEAR'S CAMP MEETINGS.**

It had been three years since the last Gladstone Camp Meeting—enough time for plumbing and electrical systems to develop all kinds of glitches.

Then there was the 2021 ice storm that wiped-out the campus WiFi, the big tents arrived late and there was a volunteer shortage. “We usually have 400 to 500 volunteers,” said Kerry Nelson, director of locations. “This year, we had 300.”

Some wondered if *anyone* would show up to camp meeting. “We didn’t know if the church members would be willing to come back after the pandemic,” said David Paczka, Hispanic ministries director. “Many are used to watching it on-screen; others could be afraid of getting COVID-19.”

“We didn’t know what to expect,” added Randy Hill, this year’s camp meeting coordinator. “That was our biggest challenge.”

But Seth Cantu, pastor, pointed out, “God doesn’t just show up in the good times.” So, if the challenge was great, God was greater.

“Our biggest blessing,” said Macy Weir, pastor, “has been a brand-new team of pastors and volunteers who are willing to dive in and roll with the punches.”

PHOTOS BY DICK DUERKSEN

"We have an incredible group of young pastors," agreed Gary Parks, camp superintendent.

Innovation inspired creative solutions. Cool weather meant there was no corn for



especially relevant for those working during Gladstone Camp Meeting, and reminded them to trust Him with all the unknowns and challenges.

GREG BROTHERS  
pastor, Astoria-district



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-OR-53](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/117-6-or-53) +



Friday's social. Instead, 3,000 potatoes were roasted.

Due to staffing shortages, the Plaza Pavilion tent wasn't set up in time, so organizers found a way to hold the first night of Spanish-language camp meeting in the Holden Convention Center.

Little by little, God inspired teams to solve problems, answer questions and meet challenges.

"This year, just having camp meeting was an example of God at work," said Matt Ballard, grounds manager.

"Our goal for Oregon camp meeting was that everybody who came would experience what it means to live in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit," said Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president.

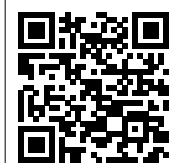
God certainly was working. He was working through the 16 teens who decided to get baptized. He was working through the eight Hispanic churches who led worship. He was working through the children who made 500 snack packs for a local school's summer meal program. He was working through the dozens of young adults who fanned across Gladstone to pull weeds and paint over graffiti.

God was also working through Richie Halversen, Randy Maxwell, Kevin Wilfley and many others as they all led worship, gave seminars and preached sermons.

This year's theme, "Living in the Power and Presence of the Holy Spirit," was



# Young Adults Develop Leadership Skills at Oregon Camp Meeting



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-OR-51](https://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-OR-51) +

**A FAVORITE YOUNG ADULT TRADITION** returned to Oregon camp meeting this year with a trip to Columbia Sportswear's corporate headquarters in Portland. Those who participated in the 2019 training spent an afternoon at the Nike headquarters in Hillsboro, Oregon, learning about leadership strategies and teamwork.

Megan Pardee, Columbia Sportswear apparel sourcing lead and a member of the Crosspoint Adventist Church in Hillsboro, spent the morning sharing Columbia's unique approach to leadership. "We have to check our egos at the door here," she told them. She shared that cross-departmental collaboration was key to Columbia's leadership and teamwork strategy.

"We look for every opportunity to grow our young adult team and our young adult leaders to that next level," said Benjamin Lundquist, Oregon Conference young adult ministry director. "[It's how] we can expand our influence for Jesus and expand our influence for the Kingdom."

Learning from leaders beyond church walls may seem out of the ordinary, but bringing new and innovative ideas is a core part of Lundquist's leadership style.

After spending more than an hour discussing what Columbia's leadership strategies might teach us about how to work alongside the church, the strongest takeaway centered on collaboration.

At Columbia Sportswear, collaboration means constantly listening to customers and reevaluating how to better serve them. It also means uniting people from different departments to make more informed decisions on a broad range of perspectives.

We can improve our ministries when we bring people together and share ideas. Making decisions, informed by a spectrum of cultures, ages and roles, allows us to consider some of our blind spots and discover ways to share Jesus with our communities on a deeper level.

KALEB EISELE

*Oregon Conference digital content specialist*



# Lents Church Celebrates Baptisms and Leadership

THE LENTS ADVENTIST CHURCH IN PORTLAND, OREGON, CELEBRATED FIVE BAPTISMS IN JUNE.

David Kokiong, Lents Church pastor who joined their team last year, was an answer to more than a year of prayers by church members.

Kokiong had previously served as youth pastor at the

Hinsdale Fil-Am Church in Hinsdale, Illinois. Kokiong's Chinese and Filipino cultural heritage meshes well with Lents Church's diverse members. Raised in Canada, Kokiong speaks French as well as English.

Kokiong's desire to visit with church members led him to reach out to Maude Conant. She invited him to connect with her son and daughter-in-law to answer their questions about the Sabbath. Felicia, Maude Conant's daughter-in-law, had explored the Sabbath with others, but still had many questions.

"A Bible lesson study with Pastor Kokiong finally answered my question," said Felicia. "I decided right then I would get baptized." Felicia's

husband, Jeff Conant, and a neighbor, Johnny Jackson, all members of the same Bible study, were baptized on June 4. After Jeff's baptism, he exclaimed, "Hallelujah!"

On June 11, Kokiong baptized Terry Loucks. Terry's sister, Cindy, had been baptized six months earlier after Kokiong conducted fall evangelistic meetings. Terry began coming to church with his sister, and soon asked to be baptized. He attended Bible studies led by church members Jerson and Repell Caluya, and Maude Conant and Kokiong. When Terry came out of the baptismal waters he said, "I praise God, the Almighty God, for allowing me to be baptized!"

Kelsey Christensen was baptized on June 18. Christensen first learned about God years earlier through

her foster parents, Fred and Polly Harvey, Lents Church members. When Christensen reconnected with the Harvey's she shared that she had brain cancer. Polly organized Bible studies at Christensen's home with Carol Henry and Kokiong. Christensen decided to reconnect with the church through baptism. She said, "I want to thank Jesus for loving me."

Lents Church members shared in the joy of the baptisms. Those who had played an active part in their loved ones' decisions, had priceless expressions of thankfulness to the Lord.

CAROL SPECHT

*Lents Church communication leader*



• Felicia and Jeff Conant are baptized.

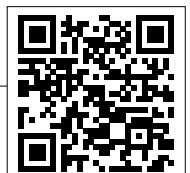


• Johnny Jackson is baptized.



• Kelsey Christensen is grateful for Jesus' love.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-OR-55](https://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-OR-55) +



EDUCATION

# PAA Students Enhance Language Skills

THE FIRST MIRACLE OF THE EARLY CHURCH WAS THE ABILITY OF ALL MEMBERS TO COMMUNICATE IN OTHER LANGUAGES. CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION IS STILL VITAL FOR JESUS' FOLLOWERS TODAY IF WE ARE TO TAKE THE GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE WORLD.



Matthew Strube answers students' questions about his experience learning Spanish to find his family in Guatemala.

Portland Adventist Academy has embraced a philosophy of language acquisition that, while not quite as miraculous as the day of Pentecost, is helping students to cross linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Many adults remember our language classes as lists of vocabulary, grammar drills and culture sound bites. In contrast, PAA's program is based on acquisition-driven instruction. This means teaching in a brain-friendly way to develop

real skills in language and deep cultural understanding.

While reading the book *Esperanza*, the true story of one family's escape from a dangerous political situation in Guatemala, Spanish students grew in their language proficiency while learning about history, geography and current events.

Miranda Patoray, PAA junior said, "This quarter I learned a lot about Guatemala. I think this was really good for me because often we don't go in depth in studying other countries in other classes."

Students also read short biographies of diverse Guatemalans, including an Olympic gymnast, a child prodigy pianist, the creator of the language-learning app Duolingo and a fashion designer with Down Syndrome.

Presenting a variety of perspectives is vital to bridge understanding and avoiding stereotypes. "Before we did our unit on Guatemala, I did not know that much about life and the culture there," said Kate Spencer, PAA senior. "I was glad that we got to see Guatemalans of many different economic classes, lifestyles,

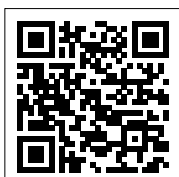
jobs, etc. *Esperanza's* story was incredibly good, and brought light to what being an illegal immigrant can be ... We saw how hard it was for her to get legal status."

To finish the school year, students read *Siempre Marina*, by Rita Barrett, PAA Spanish teacher. It tells the true story of Annette "Marina" Lobaina, a local Adventist from Bolivia. When students interviewed her the last week of class, they could see how much their Spanish speaking had improved.

"It was so satisfying being able to speak in Spanish and being able to understand what the other person was saying," said Cal Patchin, PAA junior. "I feel like my language skills improved tremendously this quarter. ... I was able to understand what she was saying very well, and I was able to ask a question in Spanish without needing help from [my teacher], Profe."

At PAA, students develop valuable language skills which help them connect with Spanish speakers and gain cultural sensitivity. Best of all, they grow eternal skills as followers of Jesus, ready to share His good news with others.

RITA BARRETT  
Portland Adventist Academy  
Spanish teacher



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-OR-45](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/117-6-or-45)

CHURCH

# Scappoose School and Church Celebrate New Members



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-OR-38](http://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-OR-38)

**SCAPPOOSE ADVENTIST SCHOOL**

is a small Christian school serving students in preschool through eighth grade. With 95% of students coming from non-Adventist homes, the SAS staff work hard to serve the Scappoose, Oregon, community by providing an excellent, hands-on Christian education.

Next door, the Scappoose-St. Helens Church members also go above and beyond the call of duty by digging deep into their pockets to support their school. They understand the importance of Christian education for the children in the county.

Due to this support, Jennifer, a community member, was led to SAS last year. Antonee Leo Aguilar, Scappoose-St. Helens Church pastor, received a call from Jennifer inquiring about enrolling her granddaughter in the preschool program.

He took time to learn more about Jennifer, then connected her with Girlie Aguilar, SAS principal. Right away, Jennifer enrolled Lucy in the preschool program. With the paperwork done, she was quickly welcomed by the school family.

SAS holds an Education Sabbath at the church each month. Parents come and



As a result of the Scappoose school's church/school collaboration, the grandmother of one student was baptized. Here Pastor Antonee Aguilar (right) and Elder Dan Pinkey (left), talk with the newly baptized grandmother, Jennifer Williamson (center).

proudly watch their children participate in the program. Jennifer and Lucy's mother, Kimberley, came to watch Lucy's first Education Sabbath program. The three of them returned to church the following week and continued attending every Sabbath after.

Nearly a year later, Jennifer approached Pastor Aguilar and asked if she and Kimberley could attend Bible study classes. He gladly welcomed them. On March 3, Jennifer asked to be baptized.

"I had been searching for a church," explained Jennifer. "I tried several other churches around the community, but

they weren't a good fit. When I came to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, I felt connected. I know that Sabbath is the right day to worship. One day, Principal Girlie Zunega-Aguilar gave me a Bible, and everything made sense from then on."

Jennifer is now very involved in her church and school family. She and Kimberley study their Sabbath school lesson while Lucy enjoys the kindergarten class. Jennifer recently volunteered at SAS to serve school lunch to the students. When she heard SAS was fundraising to make

improvements and construct new buildings, she donated \$1,000 to help out.

Jennifer's story is one of God leading His child into a closer relationship with Him. He is rejoicing that one of His children has accepted Jesus as their personal savior.

It is evident that God is using SAS as an instrument in making connections. The Scappoose-St. Helens Church and SAS know they are working hand-in-hand with God to introduce students and their families to the love of Jesus.

GIRLIE ZUNEGA-AGUILAR  
Principal



Scappoose Adventist School teachers with Jennifer, Lucy, Kimberley and family.

CHURCH

# UCC Members Join Together for 40 Days of Prayer

**THERE'S A REMARKABLE STORY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS THAT DESCRIBES WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN THE CHURCH PRAYS.**



MAKENA HORTON

• David Jamieson

King Herod Agrippa had cast James, the brother of John, into prison. He then sent an executioner to kill him with the sword. Since many people in Jerusalem were pleased with this, he decided to also imprison Peter.

However, when Herod sent a squadron of sixteen soldiers to arrest Peter, the entire church began to pray for his release.

Acts 12:5 says, "So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him."

In other words, they began to pray without ceasing for Peter. They knew he could not be spared from God's cause. They realized they had reached a moment in time when the church would not survive without special help from God.

You know how the story ended. It was the last night before Peter's execution, and while the church was earnestly praying, God heard their

prayers and sent a mighty angel from heaven to rescue Peter.

This amazing story illustrates what can happen when God's people come together with one heart to pray and to make Jesus the King over all of our life's circumstances and needs. It is then that God chooses to do the miraculous!

In *Steps to Christ*, Ellen White wrote, "Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence."

Prayer connects you and me to the source of all power. Prayer changes things. Prayer can do anything that God can do. God's ear is always open when we come to Him in prayer, He is always available; we never get a busy signal.

When the church prays, God hears our prayers. When the church prays, God answers our prayers. When the church

prays, God answers our prayers with power.

When the church prays, lives are changed. When the church prays, sinners will come running and asking, "What must I do to be saved?" When the church prays, drug addicts are released from their addictions. When the church prays, the wayward child you've been praying for comes home. When the church prays, the sick are healed.

When the church prays, the truth will be preached from the pulpits. When the church prays, we will forgive one another. When the church prays, the church will know that God hears from heaven. When the church prays, blessings will come down. When the church prays, the Holy Spirit will pour out His latter reign.

So, if there was ever a time for the church to pray, it is now!

We are told that every revival in history has started with prayer. There has never been a mighty outpouring of the Spirit in a revival which did not begin in the persistent prevailing prayer of a desperate people.

Wouldn't you like to see a revival begin throughout Upper Columbia Conference and beyond?

My friend, what the church needs today is not more machinery or better machinery – not new programs or more novel methods. What the church needs today is men and women the Holy Spirit



can use—men and women of prayer.

One of the great challenges that we face in UCC is how to reach out to lost men and women and boys and girls for the kingdom of God. No matter where you go all around the world, it seems like we don't know how to really go about reaching the many people in our communities. But God says, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jer. 33:3).

On Sept. 1, UCC began 40 days of prayer. Anyone in UCC and beyond are invited and encouraged to join in daily prayer for one specific thing—that God would pour out His Holy Spirit among us, and give us a vision for how to reach lost men and women and boys and girls for His kingdom.

It is my prayer that our conference continues this dedication to daily prayer long after our 40 Days of Prayer initiative.

Pray when you're driving down the road, when you're

out for a walk, when you have family worship or when you have your own personal time. Pray any way you want, but I ask that you sincerely pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon UCC, that we might receive God's vision for reaching lost men and women and boys and girls for His kingdom.

More information and resources for families, churches and schools regarding 40 Days of Prayer are available at [uccsda.org/vertical](https://uccsda.org/vertical).

DAVID JAMIESON  
*Upper Columbia Conference  
president*



# VERTICAL

PRAYING FOR GOD'S VISION

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-UC-40](https://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-UC-40) +



YOUTH

# Upper Columbia Academy Students Volunteer in Malden, Washington

**IN MAY, STUDENTS FROM UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY SPENT A SCHOOL DAY VOLUNTEERING IN MALDEN, WASHINGTON. THE HIGH SCHOOLERS HELPED PAINT AND LANDSCAPE HOUSES BUILT TO REPLACE HOMES LOST IN A FIRE NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO.**

**STARTED BY A TREE** branch falling on a power line in September 2020, the Babb Road Fire burned through 15,000 acres of land. The fire destroyed the neighboring towns of Malden and Pine

City, Washington, after burning more than 80% of the cities' structures to the ground. Since then, the residents of Malden, with the help of local volunteers, have been steadily working on

rebuilding their community.

On May 12, 2022, 130 UCA students traveled the short distance from their school to Malden to help with the town's restoration. New homes had recently been built with funds from the American Red Cross. After the construction of the houses, the leftover grant money was used to purchase supplies



HOPEBUILDERS

• Couple embraces each other after losing their home in the Babb Road Fire.

task force is one of the most important things we do on this campus," said Curtis Anderson, HOPE coordinator. "It is a chance for our kids to get outside their comfort zones and do something good for someone else."

Students said they were inspired

needed for painting and landscaping the new buildings. With the help of UCA student volunteers, Malden residents were able to finish painting the exterior of nearly six houses.

The students volunteered in Malden as a part of the Helping Other People Everywhere task force. Founded by UCA students in 1993, HOPE is an outreach program that strives to get students involved in the community. The day spent in Malden was one of four HOPE task force events planned for the 2021-2022 school year.

In the nearly thirty years since its implementation, HOPE has made a big impact on the school. "I believe that the HOPE

by their work in Malden and they were excited to be involved in a project that made real change in people's lives.

In addition to other volunteer work, UCA's HOPE task force plans to continue working with the residents of Malden as they rebuild their town. To find out how you can be a part of rebuilding efforts in Malden, visit [hope-builders.com/malden](https://hope-builders.com/malden).

CAMRYN CLARK  
Upper Columbia Conference  
communications intern



• Upper Columbia Academy Pathfinders raise a new flag over the town of Malden, Washington, during a ceremony commemorating one year following the widespread destruction from the Babb Road Fire.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-UC-30](https://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-UC-30)



MISSION AND OUTREACH



RICHE BROWER

• Volunteers pose with the flood buckets that are packed with cleaning supplies for flood victims.

# UCC Volunteers Collaborate in a Time of Need

Just before Thanksgiving in November 2021, several groups throughout Upper Columbia Conference collaborated with HopeBuilders to provide resources for victims of natural disasters.

HopeBuilders partners young people and adult volunteers with organizations responding to major disasters. Together, they filled five-gallon buckets with cleaning supplies for flood victims. Each bucket

provides resources needed after major natural disasters.

Volunteers came from UCC Adventist Community Services; UCC Pathfinder coordinators; Osburn, Idaho, Pathfinders; Spangle, Washington's Wheatland Coyote Teens and Pathfinders; and the North Pacific Union Disaster Response.

"I believe we packed 225 buckets," explained Richie Brower, UCC Club Ministries associate director. "The buckets were donated by Lowes stores in Spokane and Spokane Valley. The contents were provided by funds from NPUC Adventist Community Services Disaster Response."

Patty Marsh, UCC Adventist Community Services and disaster relief director, was pleased with the help and cooperation from so

many organizations. "There is great power and impact when organizations and ministries collaborate," said Marsh.

After spending many hours filling buckets, the volunteers put them in storage for safekeeping. "The buckets were originally packed just before Thanksgiving 2021, in response to the flooding in northwest Washington," said Brower. "However, another agency met that need, so ours waited in the HopeBuilders warehouse in Spangle until another need arose."

When catastrophic floods hit Montana in June, it left many communities vulnerable. Gabriele Laub, Montana Conference disaster response coordinator, reached out to Larry Mays, NPUC disaster response coordinator, and requested 100 flood buckets.

Mays delivered the flood buckets to Montana Conference. Marsh expressed

appreciation for the volunteers who had helped fill them.

"Thank you to Richie Brower and Pathfinders, Larry Mays and others who assisted in filling these buckets several months ago in readiness of such a disaster occurring," said Marsh. "Through this collaborative effort, resources helped to assist a community in great need."

For more information about volunteer opportunities through UCC Pathfinders or Adventist Community Services, visit [hope-builders.com](http://hope-builders.com).

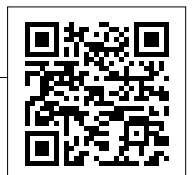
AUTUMN DUNZWEILER  
UCC communications coordinator



RICHE BROWER

• Volunteers pose after filling flood buckets that are packed with cleaning supplies for flood victims.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-UC-33](http://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-UC-33) +



## YOUTH

# All Nations Center Adventurer Club Prepares to Share God's Love

**THE CHILDREN IN ALL NATIONS CENTER ADVENTURER CLUB ARE LEARNING FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS ABOUT WAYS THEY CAN SHARE GOD'S LOVE BY HELPING TO MEET PHYSICAL NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN THEIR COMMUNITY.**

Activities highlighted in 2022 included working to complete awards in First Aid as well as Road Safety. Both included support from community members who taught the Adventurers skills they could use to help others.

The First Aid Award was completed on March 27. The director and staff organized three learning stations Adventurers rotated through. They learned about bandages, how to care for a bloody nose, how to use a first aid kit and what an emergency medical technician does.

The Adventurers were excited to have an EMT come to share with the class. He taught the kids about various injuries he deals with, and the kids each got to practice using safety equipment. Each child received a brand new, fully stocked first aid kit as well as a better understanding of how to help those in need.

The Road Safety Award was completed on April 27. For this award there were two different stations the kids rotated through. They learned about various road signs, how to follow them, why it is important to wear a seatbelt and safety measures that

should be taken when walking or riding a bike.

The Adventurers also got to play a fun safety game. They were surprised by a special visit from a police officer. The police officer spoke to them about road safety and then spent some time answering their questions and showing them some of the equipment he uses regularly.

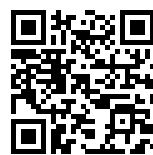
It is amazing how much the Adventurers learned and remembered about these special events. The kids said the experience was "Awesome!" Some parents informed Adventurer staff that their kids were identifying road signs on the drive home that day.

Parents describe Adventurers Club as "fun and educational." One parent said, "My girls loved [the road safety award] and have loved every minute of Adventurers. Thank you to everyone who has made it possible."

KALYSE WEIJOHN

*Assistant club director, All Nations Center Adventurer Club*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-UC-29](https://www.nwadvent.st/117-6-UC-29) +



## EDUCATION

# New Staff Join the Cascade Christian Academy Team

**FOR MORE THAN** 100 years, Cascade Christian Academy in Wenatchee, Washington, has been known for its amazing staff and kind, caring teachers. Together, through demonstrating God's love and a dedication to learning in the classroom, teachers are able to guide their students into great educational achievements.

Aspiring teachers have taken note of the loving environment CCA's staff creates, and they are ready to join the team this fall.

Eliana Kearns recently graduated with her degree in secondary education, along with a double minor in Spanish and music. She will be the new school chaplain as well as the high school Bible and Spanish teacher. In her free time, Kearns enjoys activities like horseback riding and photography. When asked what inspired her to become a teacher, she said, "My dream to be a teacher is deeply rooted in a desire to aim students heavenward, and instill in them a love for languages and learning." She is a great addition to the CCA team.



Eliana Kerns

Marianne Qualie is CCA's new athletic director. She has a master's degree in science of recreation and sport sciences, a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion and a minor in mathematics. She has a passion for coaching and is excited about the opportunity to join the CCA team and encourage students in their faith. "I believe there is no greater mission than to work with young people as they develop their walk in Christ," she said. CCA is very proud to have her join the staff family.

Rex Hossler loves working with students in multiple grade levels. He serves as CCA's new seventh grade homeroom and will teach middle school science and ninth grade technology.



Marianne Qualie

Hossler has had more than 17 years of Adventist education, earning him a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a chemistry minor. His hobbies include reading, traveling and time in the outdoors. He is excited to help lead CCA students even closer to Christ alongside the rest of the amazing staff.

With these great new teachers, the school year is guaranteed to be one for the books.

KASEY BAIS

*Cascade Christian Academy writer*



Rex Hossler

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-UC-47](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/117-6-uc-47) +



## Randy Maxwell Expands Leadership Role

*Washington Conference is pleased to introduce Randy Maxwell as vice president for administration.*

**“THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC, OUR TEAM SAW RANDY MAXWELL DEMONSTRATE GREAT SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP THROUGH PRAYER MINISTRY, MENTORING AND CHURCH PLANTING,” SAID DOUG BING, WASHINGTON CONFERENCE PRESIDENT. “I LOOK FORWARD TO HIS CONTINUED SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP WITH OUR PASTORS, EDUCATORS, MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN WASHINGTON.”**

Maxwell first came to Washington Conference in 2016 to pastor the culturally diverse and vibrant Adventist community of faith in Renton. He additionally served as the conference prayer ministries coordinator, and is nurturing a church plant in Issaquah.

During the pandemic, Maxwell organized Faith Over Fear, a teleconference prayer time. He participated in pastoral accountability prayer calls, planned a virtual week of prayer for camp meeting and provided multiple prayer conferences for local churches. He also wrote curriculum for Marriage Revival Challenges and encouraged families to “Alter the Altar” through worship times.

Previously, Maxwell pastored in Kuna, Idaho, for ten years. While there, he served as the Idaho Conference prayer coordinator and as a member of the conference evangelism and church planting committee.

Maxwell also has 18 years of experience serving as an editor and creative director for advertising at Pacific Press Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho.

Maxwell is an author, conference speaker and the founder of If My People Pray ministries, through which he has presented prayer and revival seminars across North America and internationally.

His library of published books include: *If My People Pray, Bring Back the Glory, On Eagles’ Wings, Five Steps to Christ-like Living, Boot Camp for the Last Days* and *Closing Prayers*. He is also a teaching pastor for seven DVD series.

Maxwell is completing a master of ministry degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He and his wife, Suzette, who serves as associate vice principal for student life at Auburn



Randy Maxwell, Washington Conference vice president for administration

Adventist Academy, value their family time with three adult daughters, their son-in-law and two grandchildren – while they remember a grandchild who is sleeping in Jesus until the resurrection.

Besides his family, Maxwell’s passions are prayer, making the Word plain and practical in our everyday lives and leading people to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

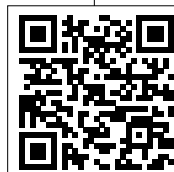
“I am humbled at the opportunity to work alongside our administrative team to equip and inspire the members of the Washington Conference to be the church and advance the Kingdom of God,”

Maxwell said. “My prayer is that we seek the Holy Spirit as never before, calling on God for the boldness and creativity in mission, demanded by a world that has forever changed. The need is great. The key is prayer. The time is now.”

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER  
*Washington Conference communication director*



• Randy and Suzette Maxwell



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WA-63](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/117-6-wa-63)

MISSION AND OUTREACH

# Evangelism Shark Tank Nets \$43,500 for Washington

**THE ENERGY IN THE CONVENTION ARENA WAS PALPABLE. THE BEST EVANGELISM MINISTRY IDEAS WERE ABOUT TO BE AWARDED GRANTS RANGING FROM \$2,000 TO \$20,000.**

Evangelism Shark Tank, a one-hour, late-night program with rapid-paced, five-minute pitches for funding, is a newly established evangelistic outreach ministry.

In all, \$120,000 was awarded at the CALLED Pastors' Family Convention in Lexington, Kentucky. Among the finalists were three representatives from Washington Conference.

Dustin Serns, Lifebridge Church pastor, shared a presentation showing his church's investments in small community health clinics as well as their dream for a larger clinic. "When our team started these free health clinics, we didn't realize this is also a key to planting Adventist churches in secular areas," said Serns. Their team had secured all but the last \$20,000 to meet their goal. Thankfully, the judges chose to fulfill that goal and support Lifebridge's powerful outreach.

The next night, Nitza Salazar, Washington

Conference children's ministry director, passionately shared about Special Stars, a ministry giving special-needs children a stage to "shine" on at Christmastime. "[I'm not simply] putting on a Christmas program," said Salazar.

"I'm giving voices to those kids who don't have a voice; and now they have a stage to shine on."

The Special Stars ministry was inspired by a mother's dream, and it launched with 24 children. Today's interest list includes 140 children. The Shark Tank judging panel awarded Special Stars \$20,000, which funds the venue for two programs this coming Christmas.

The final night, Rome Ulia, Auburn Adventist Academy Church pastor, represented The Two Percent Ministry to help keep Pacific Islander young people off the



The 15 evangelism shark tank finalists hold up their checks for a photo at the conclusion of the 2022 CALLED Pastors' Family Convention.

streets and learn how to help them include their parents' faith as their own. "Two Percent" in the ministry name references the demographic data within the North American Division that Pacific Islanders represent. Shark Tank judges awarded the Two Percent Ministry with \$3,000.

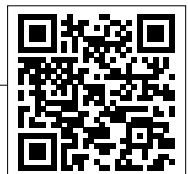
Meanwhile, over at the PK Journey for pastors' kids, Yvanna Sophia Balabarca Martinez, age 13, pitched her own idea at the kids' edition of Evangelism Shark Tank. She proposed a comic book about Jesus

and superpowers. She received a second-place finish with \$500.

"Our team is doing a phenomenal job finding new ways to share the gospel message," shared Jerry Russell, Washington Conference vice president for finance. "God keeps providing the funding in extraordinary ways to keep the mission moving forward."

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER  
Washington Conference  
communication director

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WA-46](https://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WA-46)



MISSION AND OUTREACH



# Free Clinic Creates Community Bridges

**ON JULY 10, LIFEBRIDGE CHURCH IN UNIVERSITY PLACE, WASHINGTON, HOSTED ITS FIRST FREE PHYSICAL THERAPY CLINIC WITH THE SUPPORT OF TRIUMPH PHYSICAL THERAPY.**

There were 37 patients scheduled for the clinic that morning. Though it was expected that a portion of patients would not show up, the incoming stream of patients remained steady from start to end.

Cheiryl Legaspi, clinic head director, said, “I was able to stand back and [look around]. The rooms were full of meaningful conversation and interactions between volunteers and patients.”

The stories that resulted were priceless.

One patient shared, “My sister was a patient at your free Dental Clinic. She called me last month all excited about it. Then I saw your physical therapy clinic. I called her and said, ‘I am going to a clinic put on by the same church!’” The patient also said she will be inviting her sister to join her when she visits LifeBridge Church.

One patient noticed that the majority of LifeBridge volunteers were young adults. “At first, I thought it was just Xander and Michael from Triumph Therapy,” she said. “Now I see it is a whole church! I met all of these wonderful people of the church, and it was just amazing how upbeat and nice all these young people were and also some older people who attended.”

Xander Legaspi, physical therapist host, was injured the week before the one-day clinic. He was unable to take part in

treating patients. However, another therapist came through to fill the three-man team. The clinic was able to run at full capacity as planned.

To start the day, Dustin Serns, LifeBridge Church pastor, known for his unique ability to elevate thoughts and uplift others, shared a worship thought and prayer to set the focus on each person who would enter the building that day.

One couple had been patients at several LifeBridge free health clinics in the past two years. They have had a lot of life challenges but are taking steps forward to improve their situation.

“We recognized them and were excited to see them,” Serns shared. “They said, ‘We keep wanting to go worship with you guys sometime.’ We said, ‘No matter how long it takes, know that you guys are already family to us.’ That’s exactly what it feels like!” they responded. “We keep telling everybody, ‘If you are



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WA-50](http://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WA-50)

PHOTOS BY VICTORY KOVACH



looking for a church, check out LifeBridge Church!”

The volunteers desired to offer patients meaningful experiences, aiming to meet not only a physical need, but emotional and spiritual needs, too. They hope to shine the love and light of Jesus to others who need Him, just like they do.

Patients commented and expressed relief after their treatments.



Derek Lane, Washington Conference outreach ministries director, prays with Dustin Serns, LifeBridge Church pastor, about the community connections for God's kingdom that are being formed at free community clinics.

professionals. They had a vision for what God could do in this community, and they want to see it through. Since early 2020, LifeBridge has hosted seven free health clinics, including multiple dental and vision clinics and one physical therapy clinic.

To date, they have been able to bless the community with \$260,000 worth of healthcare services for nearly 500 community members. They plan to continue making a difference through service and to “live a life that changes others forever.”

LAUREN DRAPIZA  
*LifeBridge Church member*



The free health clinic environment gives ample time for meaningful conversations on health and spiritual wellness.

An ongoing patient at Triumph Physical Therapy was struggling for insurance coverage approval for a bothersome episode of vertigo that had been plaguing her for weeks. After treatment, she said, “The help was fantastic! We started the maneuver and [the vertigo] happened, and then we finished it and when we tried to do it again, it didn’t

happen! Success!”

As another patient checked in at registration, a volunteer asked, “How are you doing?” She responded, “Not well. My house recently burned down, but this free physical therapy clinic is the best thing that has happened in my life in weeks!”

Another patient shared, “Thank you for keeping us company in the waiting room. I’ve had a great experience and I really would like to come to LifeBridge someday.”

One volunteer was a patient at the free dental clinic in June. She had previously signed up for LifeBridge announcements, and when she saw the news about the physical therapy clinic, she was eager to sign up to help. Her dedication to serving alongside a group still new to her was inspiring. She recognized a shared higher purpose and settled into her role, giving 100%.

God can bring individuals and communities together when His mission is being

pursued with intentional love by inclusive members.

LifeBridge Church was recently planted by a group of about 20 young adult



MISSION AND OUTREACH

# Highline Shares Jesus at the Gas Pump

**HIGHLINE CHURCH, IN DES MOINES, WASHINGTON, SENT THEIR LEADERSHIP TEAM TO THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION'S FIRST CHURCH REVITALIZATION BOOT CAMP IN 2021. SINCE THEN, HIGHLINE MEMBERS HAVE ACTIVELY ADOPTED A MINDSET OF REVITALIZATION.**



• Highline Church volunteers paid for and pumped gas for 100 cars and engaged in a community conversation. They participated in a second day at the gas pump in August with similar positive results.

“We’ve invited people to our church for seminars, for God’s Closet and for food boxes,” said Daniel Bennett, Highline Church pastor. “But we realized we hadn’t gone into the community itself.”

With soaring gas prices, a handful of leaders said, “Let’s meet people at the gas station.”

Bennett took the proposal to the church board, requesting \$4,000 to support the Jesus at the Gas Pump project. The board funded the project and the groundwork began.

“We asked permission to distribute flyers at the gas station and a nearby grocery store, so people would know to come on a specific day and time,” Bennett explained.

On July 10, volunteers showed up to serve. Church volunteers provided \$20 worth of fuel for 100 cars. They pumped each driver’s gas and engaged them in conversation.

The conversations were supported by three questions. What else can we do to bless the Des Moines community? (There were many good ideas.) Would you be willing to help? (A quarter of them said yes.) Can we pray for you? (Half said yes.)

Jesus at the Gas Pump recipients were shocked. Some got out of their cars to take pictures or videos with the volunteers. Others asked, “Why are you doing this?”

“We told them that we wanted to build relationships, so people could learn about Jesus and know there are Christians who want to help meet needs throughout the week, not just on the weekend,” said Bennett.

A variety of people came through the free gas line, including low-income families, architects, engineers and pizza

delivery drivers. “We saw all types of people,” Bennett noted. “Gas prices affect everyone.”

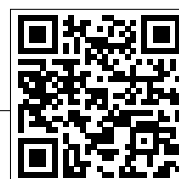
The owner of the pizza restaurant across the street from the gas station came over to chat with Highline volunteers. He had previously picked up emergency food boxes from the church for his employees and neighbors, and he wanted to share how he had followed through with what he had promised.

For Bennett, the day of service was an example of something his mentor taught him early in his ministry. The mentor counseled, “If you can meet the needs of your community and show them that you genuinely care, people will follow you anywhere. They will follow you because they see Christ.”

With different ages, genders and ethnicities, Highline volunteers joined together in service to share Jesus at the Gas Pump, and to interact with their community and see their church grow, by God’s grace.

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER  
*Washington Conference  
communication director*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WA-56](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/117-6-wa-56)



MISSION AND OUTREACH



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WA-58](https://www.nwadventist.org/news/117-6-wa-58)

# Arlington Church Ministers at Street Fair

**PARTICIPATING IN THE** Arlington, Washington, street fair has become an annual event for the Arlington Church. Members have participated in the community event for many years, and according to the fair representative, they are greatly appreciated.

Led by Dawn Hainey, approximately one-third of the Arlington Church members participated in manning the booth during the course of the event.

When the Arlington Church participates in community events, members pass out literature like help pamphlets, worship aids and Bibles. They also conduct surveys to determine needs as well as potential classes they could offer at the church.

A popular gift shared at the church booth are balloon animals. It attracts both children and adults. At this year's street fair, a mother shared that her children had been asking for two weeks about the "balloon people" and when they would be there.

At the board meeting following this year's event, Hainey presented a sizable stack of responses from individuals who responded to questionnaires. There were



• Church members to the right, fair patrons center front.

many requests for Bible studies and classes on how to stretch a food budget. These requests seemed the most urgent, so the church is responding with classes offered this fall.

Cristian Bobocea, Arlington Church pastor, is working with outreach members to determine the best way to hold Bible studies for such a large group of people. Ideas include one-on-one studies, group studies, online studies and combinations of the three to ensure all needs are met and no one who requested Bible studies would be turned away.

Arlington Church's positive impact at the street

fair resulted in an invitation for the church to host a balloon booth for the National Night Out event on August 2. This served as another chance to meet the public, answer questions, as well as spread the Gospel to others who are seeking a closer walk with Jesus.

DAVE PATRICK  
*Arlington Church communication leader*



• John Wilson tying off balloons.

DAVE PATRICK

# September

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					<b>1</b> Ezekiel 13-16	<b>2</b> Ezekiel 17-20	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Ezekiel 21-24	<b>5</b> Ezekiel 25-28	<b>6</b> Ezekiel 29-32	<b>7</b> Ezekiel 33-36	<b>8</b> Ezekiel 37-40	<b>9</b> Ezekiel 41-44	<b>10</b>	
<b>11</b> Ezekiel 45-48	<b>12</b> Daniel 1-3	<b>13</b> Daniel 4-6	<b>14</b> Daniel 7-9	<b>15</b> Daniel 10-12	<b>16</b> Ezra 1-3; 2 Chronicles 36:22-23	<b>17</b>	
<b>18</b> Ezra 4-6	<b>19</b> Haggai 1-2	<b>20</b> Zechariah 1-7	<b>21</b> Zechariah 8-14	<b>22</b> Esther 1-5	<b>23</b> Esther 6-10	<b>24</b>	
<b>25</b> Malachi 1-4; Psalm 50	<b>26</b> Ezra 7-10	<b>27</b> Nehemiah 1-4	<b>28</b> Nehemiah 5-7	<b>29</b> Nehemiah 8-10	<b>30</b> Nehemiah 11-13; Psalm 126		

# October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Psalm 106; John 1:4-14	<b>3</b> Matthew 1; Luke 1:1-2:38	<b>4</b> Matthew 2; Luke 2:39-52	<b>5</b> Matthew 3; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3; John 1:15-34	<b>6</b> Matt. 4:1-22; Mark 1:12-20; Luke 4:1-30; 5:1-11; John 1:35-2:12; Matt. 13:54-58; Mark 6:1-6; Luke 5:1-11	<b>7</b> Matthew 4:23-25; 8:14-17; Mark 1:21-39; Luke 4:31-44	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> John 3-5	<b>10</b> Matthew 8:1-4; 9:1-17; 12:1-21; Mark 1:40-3:21; Luke 5:12-6:19	<b>11</b> Matthew 5-7; Luke 6:20-49; 11:1-13	<b>12</b> Matthew 8:5-13; 11:1-30; Luke 7	<b>13</b> Matthew 12:22-50; Mark 3:22-35; Luke 8:19-21; 11:14-54	<b>14</b> Matthew 13:1-53; Mark 4:1-34; Luke 8:1-18	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Matthew 8:18-34; 9:18-38; Mark 4:35-5:43; Luke 8:22-56; 9:57-62	<b>17</b> Matthew 10; 14; Mark 6:7-56; Luke 9:1-17; John 6	<b>18</b> Matthew 15; Mark 7:1-8:10	<b>19</b> Matthew 16; Mark 8:11-9:1; Luke 9:18-27	<b>20</b> Matthew 17:18; Mark 9:2-50; Luke 9:28-56	<b>21</b> John 7-9	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Luke 10; John 10:1-11:54	<b>24</b> Luke 12:1-13:30	<b>25</b> Luke 14-15	<b>26</b> Matthew 19; Mark 10:1-31; Luke 16:1-18:30	<b>27</b> Matthew 20; Mark 10:32-52; Luke 18:31-19:27	<b>28</b> Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 11:55-12:36; Matt. 21:1-22; Mark 11:1-26; Luke 19:28-48; John 2:13-25	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Matthew 21:23-22:14; Mark 11:27-12:12; Luke 20:1-19; John 12:37-50	<b>31</b> Matthew 22:15-23:39; Mark 12:13-44; Luke 20:20-21:4; 13:31-35					

Our 2022 Bible reading plan is laid out chronologically with Sabbaths off. Sign up for our newsletter and get the entire 2022 reading plan as a free gift.

[nwadvent.st/FreeBiblePlan](http://nwadvent.st/FreeBiblePlan)

# WWU Ranked Fourth Best Value College in Washington

**SMARTASSET HAS RANKED WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY AS THE FOURTH-BEST VALUE UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON FOR 2022. WWU WAS ONLY TOPPED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON'S THREE CAMPUSES.**

The study compared colleges and universities across the country based on a variety of financial factors including tuition, living expenses, scholarships awarded, starting salary for new graduates and student retention rate. By comparing these factors, the study explores where students can get the best return on their investment in higher education.

During the 2021–2022 academic year, WWU awarded \$46.4 million in financial aid, with students receiving an average of \$26,266 each year. Students also benefit from

Washington's high minimum wage while working part-time on campus or in summer jobs.

Cassie Ragenovich, director of student financial services, said, "We know that an Adventist education is a great investment—perhaps the most important one that students and families will ever make. It's great to see that others see and recognize the value we offer."

To learn more about making a WWU education possible, visit [wallawalla.edu/sfs](http://wallawalla.edu/sfs).

KELSI NASH  
WWU university relations supervisor



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WWU-34](http://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WWU-34)



## WWU STUDENTS SHARE MUSIC WITH MEANING

Walla Walla University music students have enjoyed the return of in-person performances as COVID-19 restrictions have eased. The power of sharing music in new formats due to those restrictions has remained evident.

Jinhyang Park, assistant professor of music, and seven students in her piano performance class created a music video featuring hymns to bring hope to listeners. People are able to enjoy them, no matter where they live.

Park said, "We usually choose a composer every year, and discuss and perform the composer's pieces. But this year, we wanted to play comforting music during these anxious and challenging times."

Each piano student reflected on hymns that were personally meaningful, and worked to play one expertly. Stefano Fratianni, sophomore biology major said, "I chose to play 'I Need Thee Every Hour' because it means a lot to me and my family. As I practiced it and thought about the lyrics, it gave me hope. Hope is something a lot of people need right now."

To share their performances, the musicians collaborated with a group of WWU film students. Led by Jerry Hartman, professor of communication, they worked to record, mix, film and edit seven performances. The resulting video was recently released on YouTube.

"I am proud that students are using the talents they receive from God to make Him shine through music and share Him with others," said Park.

To watch the seven performances and discover hymns that are special to WWU students, visit [wallawalla.edu/piano-hymns](http://wallawalla.edu/piano-hymns).

KELSI NASH  
WWU university relations supervisor



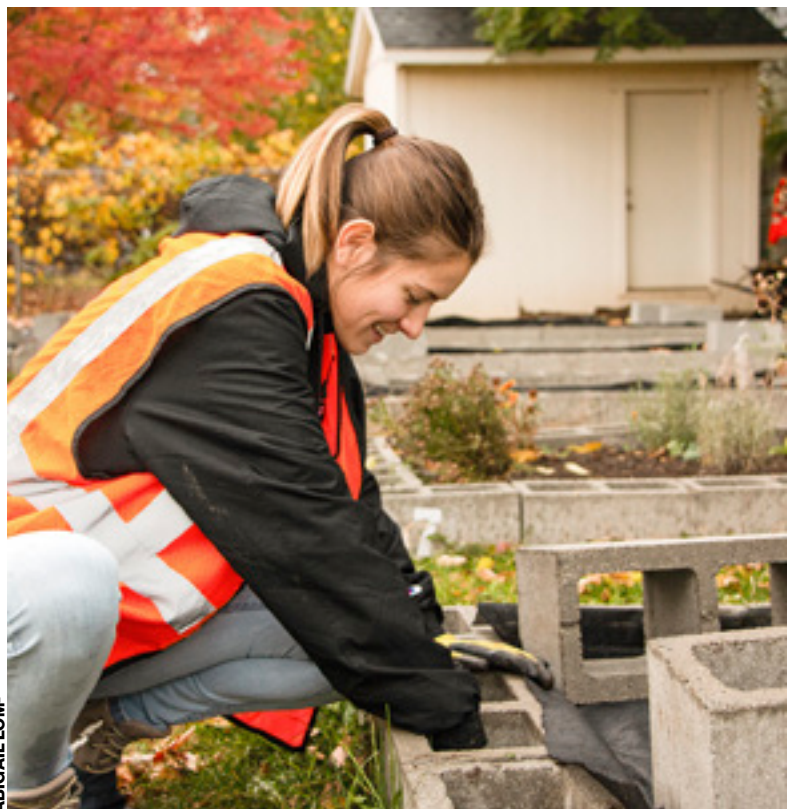
MORE ONLINE AT  
[NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WWU-35](http://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WWU-35)



ADVENTIST EDUCATION

# Building Community Leaders

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY HAS LAUNCHED A NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR LIVES OF IMPACT. THE PROGRAM INCLUDES AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, INTERCULTURAL WORK AND MEANINGFUL AND PRACTICAL SERVICE. THE COMMUNITY IMPACT CERTIFICATE IS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS THIS FALL.**



ABIGAIL LOWE

The new certificate focuses on classes that build the skills and the knowledge necessary for impactful service. It includes studies in Christian ethics, multicultural communication and global development. Beyond the classroom, students will also engage in at least 80 hours of service to a community, either locally or abroad, through the robust service programs already available on campus.

“A part of the program is making sure students working members in the community,” said Jonathan Simons, WWU Center for Humanitarian Engagement associate director. “How

is our church relevant in the communities, and how are we making sure our young people are gaining the skills and experience to be a part of that work?”

WWU strives to help students grow in spiritual and emotional intelligence by providing opportunities to be compassionately active in their communities, just as Jesus was in His community.

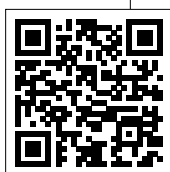
Simons says that nonprofits, healthcare providers, international development agencies and church organizations have expressed a growing interest in students who are prepared to succeed in community impact careers.

“This certificate sets us up to be a leader among our sister institutions by allowing

us to graduate students who are uniquely prepared for humanitarian work, for work in social services, for work in community engagement and for work in the church,” said Simons.

Whether students plan to be an engineer, an artist, a start-up worker or go on to medical school, a Community Impact Certificate can critically inform both their personal lives and professional practices.

KELSI NASH  
WWU university relations supervisor



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WWU-38](http://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-WWU-38) +



HEALTH

# Adventist Health Executives Lead With Heart for Mission

**MORE THAN 120 ADVENTIST HEALTH EXECUTIVES GATHERED AT ADVENTIST HEALTH HEADQUARTERS IN ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA, IN MAY TO IMMERSE IN CONVERSATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION: LIVING GOD'S LOVE BY INSPIRING HEALTH, WHOLENESS AND HOPE.**

The theme of the event was Jesus the Great Physician: Five Clinical Outcomes. It focused on the healing work of Jesus as the foundation of the Adventist Health mission.

Throughout the day, executives explored five outcomes of Jesus' work – people are healed, bodies are valued, souls are loved, community is restored and hope is promised – as well as practical applications of these outcomes in the contemporary healthcare context.

The event was part of the Executive Mission Formation program at Adventist Health, which provides training to ground every executive in ownership of the organization's mission and to focus on mission as the foundation of decision-making. Throughout the day, executives participated in lively discussions on topics such as healthcare without bias, the hospital as a sanctuary, the challenges of caring for physical bodies and hope that is grounded in reality.

"Mission is not an excuse to just have good intentions

and not be brilliant," said Alex Bryan, chief mission officer for Adventist Health. "The bedrock of our ministry, if we are to honor Jesus, has to be competency – doing great work." Bryan spoke for the event on the subject of Jesus healing the sick and injured and, in that process, revealing that God is good.

Event speakers also included Lisa Clark Diller, Southern Adventist University professor of history; Tim



The Executive Mission Formation event brought together more than 120 Adventist Health executives in person for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Alex Bryan, chief mission officer for Adventist Health, leads executives through a thought-provoking exercise during the Executive Mission Formation meetings.

Gillespie, Crosswalk Redlands lead pastor; Timothy Golden, Walla Walla University professor of philosophy; and Karl Haffner, Loma Linda University vice president for student experience.

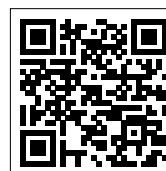
During his opening comments at Operations Council meetings the following day, Todd Hofheins, Adventist Health chief operations officer, said, "Our Executive Mission Formation meetings yesterday have prepared us for today. We have several essential system-wide and market strategies to process. This will only be possible if we keep the honesty, authenticity and courage from

yesterday in our operations."

Joyce Newmyer, chief people officer and president of Adventist Health's Pacific Northwest Network, summarized the importance of mission-focused work. "What if we all began every day as brokers of hope? What if everyone in our workplace understood that? This would be game changing. We've only just touched the surface of how this approach can change healthcare."

KIM STROBEL

*Adventist Health project manager: religion, faith and mission*



More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-AH-63](https://www.adventisthealth.org/nwadvent.st/117-6-AH-63)



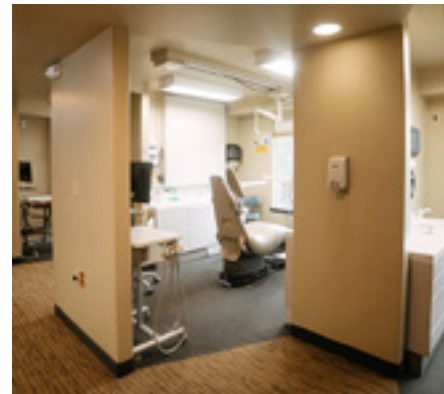
ADVENTIST HEALTH

# SonBridge Dental Clinic Serves the Walla Walla Valley



Some patients have even gotten married after getting their teeth fixed! Proper dental care ends the downward spiral of pain and poor self-perception. It starts a very positive spiral.”

Adventist Health is SonBridge Dental Clinic’s key sponsor and is an extension of Adventist Health’s continuing commitment to the community. The two have worked



- SonBridge Dental Clinic provides care for patients that are struggling financially, some of which have not received dental care for years.

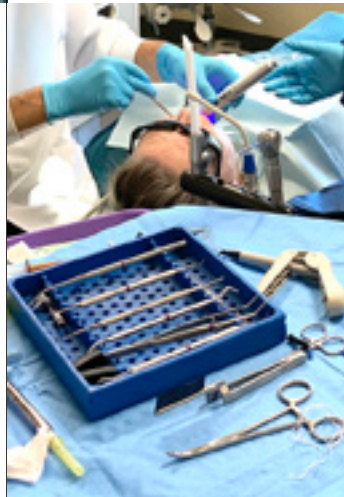
**THE SONBRIDGE DENTAL CLINIC** exists to meet the needs of the Walla Walla Valley, particularly those struggling financially. Support from Adventist Health is vital to its mission to serve patients with dignity and compassion.

Some patients haven’t had access to dental care for several decades, so the clinic strives to create a safe place for those who are intimidated by providing emotional support during procedures and during follow-up exams.

When Chris first came to SonBridge, he had just lost

his job. He needed extensive dental care, but he struggled to overcome his fear and embarrassment. The dental team calmed his nerves, held his hand during the procedure and supported him as his teeth were pulled. Chris was fitted with dentures. Soon after, he reported to the clinic staff that he had been hired for a new job.

“The clinic impacts the lives of the people so much,” said Lorinda Shelden, dental clinic manager. “It has helped them become happier spouses, employees and parents, and has improved their personal health.



together on several projects in the past, including hosting health training programs and supporting health fairs. Norman Thiel, SonBridge executive director, shared that he is looking forward to continuing this partnership in the future.

KIERSTEN EKKENS  
*SonBridge social media intern*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/117-6-AH-43](https://NWADVENT.ST/117-6-AH-43)



**ACOSTA**—Jose Abel, Sr., 89; born Nov. 12, 1932, Caguas, Puerto Rico; died March 7, 2022, Renton, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Ethel (Wallen); sons, Jose Jr., Gabriel and Richard; daughter, Karen Stopsen; brother, Abdiel Acosta; sisters, Ruth Arjona and Estrella Hidalgo; 19 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren.

**ALBERTSEN**—Verner, 90; born May 20, 1932, Denmark; died July 15, 2022, Green Valley, Arizona. Surviving: spouse, Seidi; son, Kenneth; daughter, Diane Stoothof; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**ANDERSON**—Byron Craig Anderson, 71; Nov. 13, 1950, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada; died Jan. 2, 2022, Middleton, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Kathy; son, Christopher Lee; daughter, Karen Lee.

**BRATTON**—Burnadine Mae (Berry), previously Brunadine Meilicke, 94; born April 28, 1926, Hood River, Oregon; died Dec. 4, 2020, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: sons, John Bratton, Danny and Bill Meilicke; daughter, Teri (Meilicke) Haraden; 13 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

**CHARBONNEAU**—Robert “Bob,” 87; born Nov. 11, 1934, Minot, North Dakota; died May 5, 2022, Colville, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Mary Ann; sons, Rick and Scott; daughter, Loren Charbonneau; 2 grandchildren.

**DAWES**—John Earl, 87; born Oct. 28, 1934, Veradale, Washington; died July 20, 2022, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: sons, Larry and Barry; daughter, Terri Dawes;

3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**DAWKINS**—Rockford “Rocky” Wayne, 69; born Aug. 1, 1953, Port Angeles, Washington; died Aug. 10, 2022, Dallas, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Ida Eva (Winter) Dawkins; daughter, Roxanne Dawkins; brothers, Jesse Elkins, Hobart and Shane Dawkins; sisters, Lisa (Dawkins) Hull and Tammie (Elkins) Hall.

**DEALY**—Orletta Mae (Wilson), 92; born Oct. 11, 1929, Twin Falls, Idaho; died Aug. 5, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Don Dealy II and Howard (Tom) Dealy; 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**DONDINO**—Cheryl Marie, 67; born March 13, 1955, Vancouver, Washington; died June 20, 2022, Aloha, Oregon. Surviving: parents, Roger and Donna Dondino; brothers, Terry, Russell and Jeffery Dondino.

**GRIGGS**—Amy Ruth (Kope), 88; born Feb. 13, 1934, Erwin, West Virginia; died July 5, 2022, Tillamook, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Charles and John; daughters, Amy and Charleen Griggs; sister, Mollie Jones; 13 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

**GUTHRIE**—Harriet Sue (Rennings), 77; born Oct. 3, 1944, Milton-Freewater, Oregon; died May 29, 2022, Vancouver, Washington. Surviving: son, James “Ricki” Troutman; brother, Peter Rennings; sisters, Carolyn Mosebar, Kathleen Jones and Sonja Gourley; 3 grandchildren.

**HASSE**—Elwyn “Al,” 89; born Aug. 23, 1932, Rathdrum,

Idaho; died June 25, 2022, Ajjic, Mexico. Surviving: spouse, Maria del Carmen (Sanchez); sons, Russ, Richardo and David; daughters, Teresa (Hasse) Rae and Daisy (Hasse) Zajonk; 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**JANKE**—Mary Ruth (Stevens), 89; born Sept. 19, 1929, Livonia, Missouri; died June 21, 2022, Canby, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Joe; sons, Darrell and Dave; daughter, Sue (Janke) Conyers; 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**KLOPFENSTEIN**—Virginia Lee (Denney), 93; born Jan. 4, 1928, Pasco, Washington; died Dec. 1, 2021, College Place, Washington. Surviving: daughters, Myrna Nelson, Shirley James and Janet Cox; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**KUBLER**—Elaine Vivienne (McClure), 90; born March 17, 1931, San Diego, California; died Sept. 4, 2021, The Dalles, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Bruce and Jeff; daughters, Kathy Berg and Mary Ellen Picha; 11 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren.

**MEANS**—Jack Carlton, 93; born Feb. 3, 1928, Winona, Washington; died Dec. 30, 2021, Happy Valley, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Anna-Jean (Lewis) Means; sister, Kay (Means) Slawson.

**MCCAN**—Dellas Estelle (Weeks), 85; born June 14, 1936, Dexter, Maine; died Feb. 17, 2022, Creswell, Oregon. Surviving: daughters, Dale “Don” Moore, Kathleen and Jeanette McCAN; 5 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

**MCCOY**—Thelma (Johnson), 97; born Nov. 3, 1924,

Waitsburg, Washington; died June 24, 2022, Bellevue, Washington. Surviving: daughters, Nancy Nedderman and Colette Sharer; brother, Melvin Johnson; 1 grandchild and 3 great-grandchildren.

**McKERCHER**—Madeline Mary (MacPhail), previously Madeline Swanson, 83; born June 20, 1926, Saskatchewan, Canada; died June 25, 2022, Tillamook, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Eric and Leif Swanson; stepsons, Scott and Tom McKercher; stepdaughter, Kit Gardes; 6 grandchildren.

**PAULSON**—Sandra Mae (Gibson), 82; born July 7, 1940, Morton, Minnesota; died July 26, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Rochelle “Shelly” (Paulson) Unger; brothers, Fred Gibson and Terry Vogel; 2 grandchildren.

**PFLUGRAD**—Harriet J. (Sabo), 86; born Feb. 15, 1936, Hinsdale, Illinois; died April 18, 2022, Beaverton, Oregon. Surviving: daughters, Pamela (Pflugrad) Blackburn, Cynthia (Pflugrad) Lowe and Kathryn Pflugrad; brother, Cornell Sabo, Jr.; sisters, Judy (Sabo) Wood and Carol (Sabo) Anda; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**REESE**—Lenore Barbara (Grant-Duncan), 83; born Sept. 20, 1937, Portland, Oregon; died Feb. 14, 2021, Bozeman, Montana. Surviving: son, Michael Roger Reese; daughters, Christine Marie (Reese) Greene and Pamala Ann (Reese) Allen; sisters, Dorthy (Grant) Woelk, Mary Ann (Grant) Lizotte and Louise Marie (Duncan) Lindsey; 12 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 7 step-great-grandchildren.

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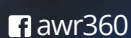
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**Ritter**—Ronald R., 79; born June 24, 1942, Idaho Springs, Colorado; died May 6, 2022, Everett, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Beverly (Paladeni) Riter; son, Richard; daughters, Marianne Cursetjee and Dianne Riter; sister, Joan (Riter) Carman; 4 grandchildren.

**Rizzo**—Kay Darlene (Hancock), 78; born Aug. 12, 1943, Troy, New York; died June 22, 2022, Visalia, California. Surviving: spouse, Richard; daughters, Rhonda Rizzo and Kelli Wheeler; sister, Valerie Hutchinson; 2 grandchildren.

**Roberts**—Barbara J. (Parker), 86; born Oct. 24, 1935, Bend, Oregon; died June 1, 2022, Kirkland, Washington. Surviving: son, Rick; daughter, Sally Roberts; sister, Marie Beck; 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

**Sequeira**—Jack, 89; born Sept. 25, 1932, Nairobi, Kenya; died March 26, 2022, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Jean; son, Chris; daughter, Jenny; 4 grandchildren.

**Specht**—Henry David, Jr., 83; born Oct. 8, 1941, Loma Linda, California; died April 29, 2022, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: spouse, Carol; son, Henry David, III; daughter, Karen (Specht) Kraus; sister, Dyone (Specht) Shelden.

**Stephan**—Ann Marie (Whitney), 84; born Feb. 16, 1938, Stoneham, Massachusetts; died Aug. 17, 2022, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Bob, Jon and Todd; daughters, Julie Voth and Jodi Fresk; 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**Stephens**—Alva L., 97; born March 27, 1925, Taft,

Oregon; died May 13, 2022, Lewiston, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Barbara (Montgomery); daughter, Janet (Stephens) Trees; 10 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

**Taylor-Hyder**—Peggy Joann (Hoofard), 80; born Sept. 20, 1941, Lexington, Oklahoma; died June 28, 2022, Denver, Colorado. Surviving: spouse, Jerry Hyder; sons, Mitch and Martin Taylor; brothers, Floyd and Stanley Hoofard; sister, Carolyn Cooper; 8 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

**Waters**—Anna May (Radke), 88; born Sept. 2, 1933, Portland, Oregon; died July 18, 2022, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Herb; son, Steven “Marlo;” daughters, Vicky (Waters) Edwards, Lisa Waters and Lori (Waters) Young; brother, Jim “Nelle” Cornelison; 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**Watson**—Patricia Landrene (Johnston), 92; born July 15, 1930, Ketchum, Oklahoma; died July 16, 2022, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: son, Edward Ray; daughter, Connie L. (Watson) Hathaway; brother, Roy Johnston; sister, Reba Brown; 5 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 9 step-great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**Watson**—Ray Hampton, 91; born March 11, 1931, Mesa, Arizona; died July 9, 2022, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: spouse, Joe; son, Edward Ray; daughter, Connie L. (Watson) Hathaway; 5 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 9 step-great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**Watson**—Shirley Mae (Jones), previously Shirley Lambeth, 91; born Nov. 7, 1930, Lacombe, Alberta, Canada; died July 29, 2022, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: daughter, Pamela (Lambeth) Juhl; sister, Audrey O’Neil.

**Weir**—Marjorie M. (Budd), previously Marjorie Hart, 100; born March 3, 1922, Devils Lake, North Dakota; died May 31, 2022, Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Surviving: sons, John and Jerry Hart; daughters, Janie Hart and Judi (Hart) Johns; sisters, Cleo (Budd) Wentland Forgey, Hazel (Budd) Burns, Ruthie (Budd) Jacobsen and Naomi (Budd) Parson; 5 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 2 step-great-grandchildren.

**Wibberding**—Bonnie Jean (Goodman), 65; born March 18, 1956, Salmon, Idaho; died Dec. 26, 2021, Yakima, Washington. Surviving: spouse, Gary; daughter, Laura Spiry; sister, Kathleen; 2 grandchildren.

**Wilkerson**—Sally Joyce (Bruggeman), 61; born Dec. 12, 1960, Grand Rapids, Michigan; died June 28, 2022, Tillamook, Oregon. Surviving: stepson, Samuel Wilkerson; sisters, Janis Lynn Joseph and Merry Alice Winter; 5 step-grandchildren.

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

*Correction:* The GIENGER expanded obituary in the July/August 2022 *Gleaner* should have read: Edmund Gienger Surviving: wife, Allegra Lang Gienger; children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Dean (Carol Norton) and their four children, Bradley, Jon, Karlee, Dustin, and six grandchildren; Lynae (Jim Moor) and their three children, Ryan, Trisha, Emily, and four grandchildren; LoAnn (Kevin Ayers) and their three children, Alan, Breianna and Bryan and their four grandchildren; Lonnie (Shelley Meyer) and their four children, Kylon, Lachelle, Chelann, Sky, and three grandchildren; and a total of 13 great-grandchildren. He is survived by one sister, Darlene Christenson. A grandson, Brandon Moor, preceded Edmund in death.

*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.*

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**RIVERSIDE ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL** seeks donation of a compact or small tractor with front end loader or bucket in operating condition for school campus maintenance. Donations are tax-deductible. Please contact Dave at [djkupetz@gmail.com](mailto:djkupetz@gmail.com) or church admin at 360-835-3114, Tuesday through Thursday between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## ADVERTISING DEADLINES

JAN./FEB. NOV. 8

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NORTH PACIFIC UNION

### Offering

**SEPT. 3**—Local Church Budget

**SEPT. 10**—World Budget (GC)

**SEPT. 17**—Local Church Budget

**SEPT. 24**—Local Conference Advance

**OCT. 1**—Local Church Budget

**OCT. 8**—Walla Walla University (NPUC)

**OCT. 15**—Local Church Budget

**OCT. 22**—Local Conference Advance

**OCT. 29**—Local Church Budget

## UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

### Milton Adventist Church Seeking Missing Members

The Milton Adventist Church in Milton-Freewater, OR is seeking addresses for the following missing members: Charles Davis, Jr.; Charles Randy Ellis; Adrian L. Johns; Matt Legassie; Michelle Perez; Andrea Satterlee; Katherine M. Yeoman. If you have any information regarding these names, please call or email the church office at 541-938-3066 or [churchoffice@miltonadventist.org](mailto:churchoffice@miltonadventist.org).

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Creation Study Center .....	Stan Hudson	Public Affairs, Religious Liberty .....	André Wang
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Early Childhood Coordinator .....	Carisa Carr	Assistant .....	Velvet Lang

## Local Conference Directory

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907-346-1004 • alaskaconference.org  
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### IDAHO CONFERENCE

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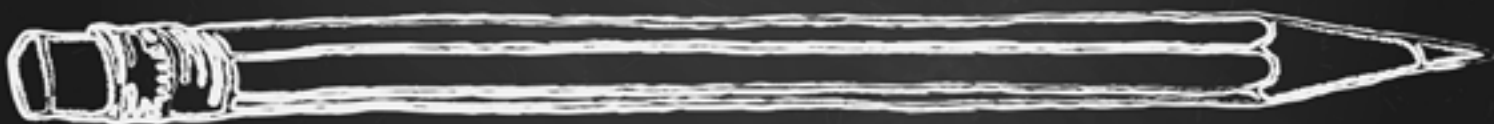
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# BACK TO SCHOOL



SUMMER HAS COME TO AN END AND SCHOOL IS UNDERWAY! HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN BE PREPARED AND HAVE A SUCCESSFUL START TO THE NEW YEAR.

## SET A SCHOOL ROUTINE

Determine and follow a routine for the school year. Set up a consistent sleep schedule, make sure you spend time with family and set aside time for school work.

## ON SUNDAY, PLAN YOUR OUTFITS FOR THE WEEK

Chances are, your laundry is done on the weekend. Once all your clothes are clean, plan your outfits for each day of the week. Be sure to check the weather so you don't get too hot or too cold!

## PACK YOUR LUNCH BOX THE NIGHT BEFORE

If you are in charge of packing your own lunch, pack it the night before! This will save you time in the morning.

## PUT YOUR BACKPACK BY THE DOOR

Before you go to bed every night, put all your homework, pencils and folders into your backpack and place it by the door. This will ensure that you aren't scrambling to find your math homework in the morning. Placing it by the door reminds you to grab your bag as you head out for school.

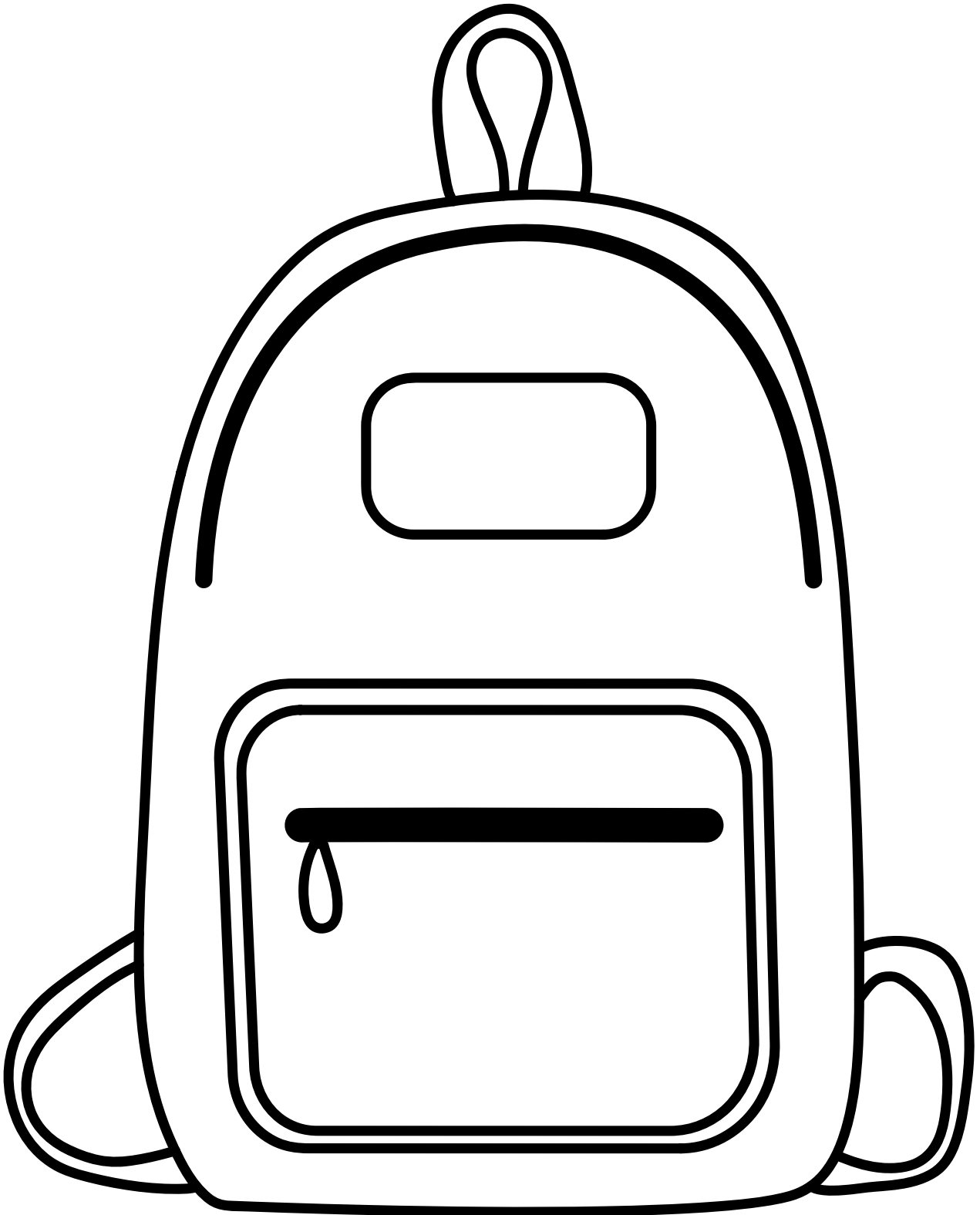
## BRING EXTRA SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Be sure to pack a few extra pencils and an extra notebook so you'll have extras if you lose yours. It also gives you the chance to share with others and make some new friends.

MAKENA HORTON

North Pacific Union assistant director for content and Gleaner managing editor





# DESIGN YOUR OWN BACKPACK



# Is Evangelism Worth It?



Does evangelism—especially public evangelism—still work? That’s a big question, and it’s asked often.

Why do we do evangelism? Is there a purpose behind sharing our Adventist beliefs and ideas?

This past fall, my husband and I preached a full evangelistic series at our home church. We held 20 meetings, over a five-week period. It was intense and a lot of work. If you have ever done public evangelism or have been involved in it, you know it is a lot of work—and it’s not just the preaching, but all the preparations and behind-the-scenes details to make sure the series goes smoothly.

One of the greatest challenges of public evangelism is often a lack of local church support and help. If you don’t have enough members that are invested in doing an evangelistic series, it will never be a success. You need members who will attend, help fill the pews and be involved in the welcoming of visitors, as well as participating in childcare and visitor outreach. It takes a team to make public evangelism something that even has a chance of being a success.

But even with supportive congregations, there’s still the challenge to inspire enough people to attend the meetings. And, more important than member involvement

is people’s interest in your topics, and personally being touched by the Holy Spirit to attend the meetings. Without the Holy Spirit guiding people, and without their hearts being tender to His leading, you won’t have many in attendance.

Of course, it would be nice to be able to control the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but we don’t have that power. However, through prayer and thoughtful devotion to God, we can be granted wisdom to know when and where to attempt public evangelism. God can—and still does—work through our evangelistic efforts, but we need to be mindful of God’s timing and the ripeness of our communities.

Just doing evangelism because it’s what we’ve always done isn’t a good reason to do it. Rather, it should be Spirit-led. This allows for more involvement by our church and communities.

When it comes to public evangelistic series, there are details that we Adventists tend to stress while there are others we sometimes wait to present.

This reality inspired my husband and me to write our own sermons rather than using a prewritten curriculum. This wasn’t because the material was bad, but rather it was because we felt it would be a good exercise for us as pastors.



AUTHOR | Natashia McVay

*Evangelism only works when people's hearts are touched by Jesus and the character of God.*



The message of salvation through Jesus is what is needed in our world today. The message of a Creator God who loves us and died for us is what transforms people's lives, it's what creates a desire to change and be made new in His image.

Evangelism only works when people's hearts are touched by Jesus and the character of God. As followers of Christ, our duty is to present the love of God whether through public evangelism or other means. When the focus is on sharing Jesus, our Seventh-day Adventist beliefs will be palatable and understood as a result of Jesus transforming our lives. That's when evangelism is successful.

NATASHIA MCVAY  
 Moscow and Pullman Church  
 associate pastor

People who are attracted to a Seventh-day Adventist evangelistic series often come because of the fliers that show beasts and political images. People are curious and wonder what it's all about.

We decided against sensational images on our fliers, and rather, we simply featured an image of Jesus on the front. We wanted people to come that were interested in hearing about Jesus and the Bible, not

just Revelation and its beasts. Our desire was to start with Jesus. We didn't want to use beasts or fearful ideas to get people in the door. We wanted people to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior first!

Once someone accepts Jesus, God is the one who does the changing of their hearts. The theology comes from a relationship with Jesus. The changes in lifestyle come from a relationship with Jesus.

We still need to share our beliefs on Revelation, end time events, the second coming, our health message, etc. But it must come from a place of love for Jesus, or it won't be something that makes a lasting change in our lives. This is why we chose to begin with the message of Salvation through Jesus. The first few meetings focus on Jesus, who He is and why that matters to us as Seventh-day Adventist Christians.

More online at  [nwadvent.st/117-6-POV-65](http://nwadvent.st/117-6-POV-65)

# God and Genocide

**“I WOULD RATHER HAVE QUESTIONS THAT CAN’T  
BE ANSWERED THAN ANSWERS THAT CAN’T BE  
QUESTIONED.” – RICHARD FEYNMAN**



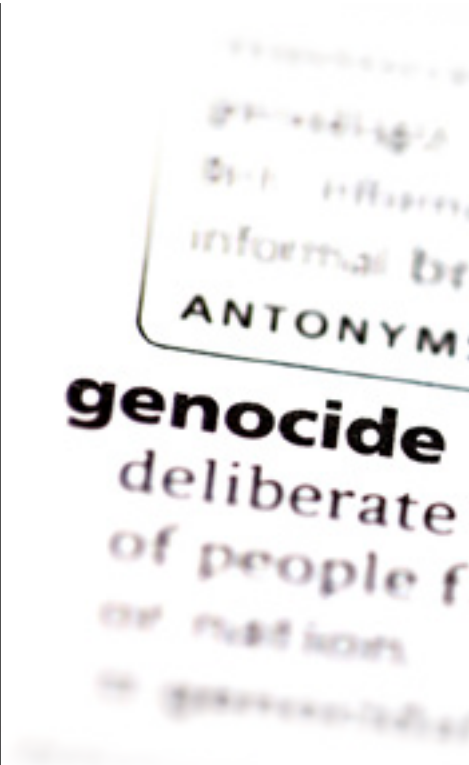
AUTHOR | Kevin McGill

For years I have struggled to make sense of the ethnic cleansing of the Canaanites. It’s one thing if there is a judgment from God by fire or flood, but a judgment via military invasion, where God commands the “chosen ones” to kill women and children, is beyond what I am willing to consider from a “merciful” God.

Of course, if you believe God would command ethnic cleansing (Deut. 7:1-2, Josh. 11:19) why wouldn’t you also believe he would burn the “wicked” forever in hell? Is it honest or ethically responsible to call such things loving or just?

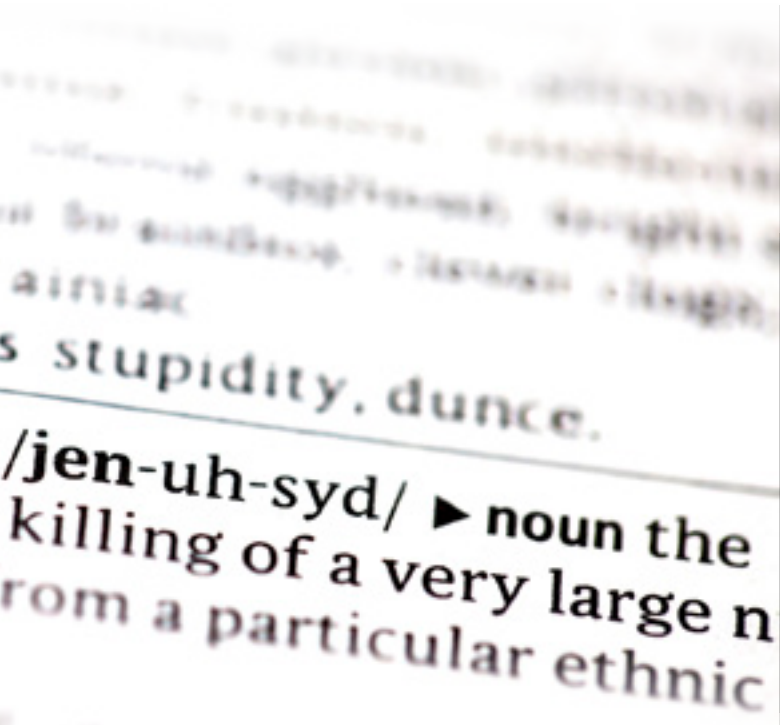
It would be easier to pretend these passages weren’t recorded in the Bible as commands from God. But neglecting to talk about this comes at a cost. History records a litany of crimes that have been committed by bigoted religionists. Believers who read their Bible, went to church and thought they were the righteous ones. This commitment to false “truth” is deadly and deceptive.

In the *Desire of Ages*, Ellen White explained, “The greatest deception of the human mind in Christ’s day was that a mere assent to the truth constitutes righteousness. A jealous regard for what is termed theological truth often accompanies a hatred of genuine truth as made manifest in life. The darkest chapters of history are burdened with the record of crimes committed by bigoted religionists.



The same danger still exists. Many take it for granted that they are Christians, simply because they subscribe to certain theological tenets. But they have not brought the truth into practical life. They have not believed and loved it, therefore they have not received the power and grace that come through sanctification of the truth. Men may profess faith in the truth; but if it does not make them sincere, kind, patient, forbearing, heavenly-minded, it is a curse to its possessors, and through their influence, it is a curse to the world” (Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 309-310).

Bibliolatry can be a curse to the world. If our theology doesn’t make us more kind, loving and heavenly-minded, it is not Christlike. Genocide doesn’t become a holy act because it occurs in the Bible. The Canaanite children didn’t deserve to be slaughtered. No child deserves to



*Bible is not a static document. The tendency to justify violence – even though the clear trajectory of scripture is a movement towards nonviolence – needs to stop.*

When we encounter any biblical text that appears to be inconsistent with God’s moral perfection, we have the following options. We can either believe the text is in error, or our understanding of the text is in error, or our understanding of moral perfection is in error.

**3. PRINCIPLE OF THE CANON**

Every passage of the Bible should be interpreted considering the entirety of the Bible, and the larger trajectory of scripture.

**4. PRINCIPLE OF JESUS**

For the Christian, Jesus is the key to unlocking the whole of Scripture. Jesus is the guide for understanding who God is and what Scripture demands of us.

**5. PRINCIPLE OF LOVE**

The Bible should never be used to inspire, promote or justify acts of violence. This means, among other things, that the Bible should not be read in ways that oppress or otherwise harm people.

As Randal Rauser says in his book, *Jesus Loves Canaanites: Biblical Genocide in the Light of Moral Intuition*, “We need to lean into our deepest moral sensibilities. This requires us to distinguish between the

‘textual God’ and the ‘actual God’ by recognizing that many descriptions of God’s being and action within the Bible may not be correct descriptions of who God, in fact, is.”

We search the scriptures because we hope to find meaning in them. We hope to discover God, and in the Bible, we are given language and metaphors to connect with the Almighty. But we need to be wary – we could miss Jesus when worshipping the Bible.

Jesus put it like this, “You search the scriptures because in them you think you have eternal life. But these are the very scriptures that testify of me” (John 5:39).

The Bible is not a static document. The tendency to justify violence – even though the clear trajectory of scripture is a movement towards nonviolence – needs to stop. Not everything that happens under the banner of heaven represents Jesus. I have questions about many Biblical passages. What is clear to me is that Jesus was the embodiment of love. I have found that as I allow my questions to be filtered through the lens of a compassionate Christ, moral clarity becomes more apparent.

KEVIN MCGILL  
*Green Lake Church senior pastor*

be treated that way. Can you imagine the same Jesus who said, “Let the little children come to me” saying, “But not the Canaanite children! Their parents are so wicked and bad, we should kill them all without mercy.”

I can’t imagine Jesus telling His followers to love everyone except the Canaanites, can you? So what do we do about the commands for the ethnic cleansing that occur in scripture? I have found five helpful principles of interpretation:

**1. PRINCIPLE OF A PERFECT GOD**

If in defense of the Bible, maybe we should reevaluate the way we have read and elevated the Bible. A perfect God doesn’t change from commanding genocide against our neighbor to suddenly

commanding us to love our neighbor. A perfect God doesn’t go from “show no mercy” (Deut. 7:2) to “Blessed are the merciful” (Matt. 5:7). A perfect God doesn’t change. A perfect God must be perfect all the time.

**2. PRINCIPLE OF TWO AUTHORS**

The Bible was not a letter written to us with God’s pen. Ellen White says in *Selected Messages*, “The Bible was given in the language of men. Everything that is human is imperfect. God, as a writer, is not represented. Men will often say such an expression is not like God. But God has not put Himself in words, in logic, in rhetoric, on trial in the Bible. The writers of the Bible were God’s penmen, not His pen” (Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages, Vol. 1*).



# Ten Beyond-the-Sandwich Lunch Box Ideas



AUTHOR LaVonne Long

I

'll be honest; packing my kids' school lunches is one of my least favorite parenting tasks. Some days, it truly is easier to send my kids to school with money for hot lunch. But in our family, we only buy hot lunch once a week.

Thankfully, our Adventist school offers a healthy, vegetarian hot lunch. When my kids eat school lunch, they get to enjoy pasta with steamed broccoli, bean and cheese burritos or cheese pizza. It's a good deal and my kids like it.

Now that my children are older, they're responsible for packing their lunches. In fact, it's on their evening to-do list, so our mornings go much more smoothly.

If your back-to-school goals include expanding your lunches beyond the typical sandwich, be sure you get your kids involved. You could even prep school lunches together on Sundays, to make the week ahead easier.

I make sure to always keep our kitchen stocked with foods my kids like, foods that are healthy and foods that are easy to pack. I also try hard to provide a variety of options because they both have different likes and dislikes.

Here are 10 examples of lunch box meals my kids enjoy. I hope this inspires some new ideas for your family.

## TEN BEYOND-THE-SANDWICH LUNCH BOX MEALS:

- » Macaroni and cheese, sliced vegetarian hot dogs and steamed broccoli
- » Hummus wrap with fresh veggies and fruit on the side
- » Peanut butter and jelly roll-ups and cut fresh veggies
- » Black beans, rice, cheese and tortilla chips with fresh salsa
- » Bagels with cream cheese and sliced cucumbers
- » Vegetable soup with crackers in a heat-safe container
- » Vegetarian chicken salad on toast or with crackers and grapes
- » Pasta salad loaded with veggies and cubed cheese
- » Bean and cheese quesadillas
- » Veggie meatball sub with carrots

That's just a start! I am sure you have more ideas you could add to this list.

One last tip: Before your kids walk out the door for school, sneak a note or joke into their lunch boxes. They will love a special surprise from you!

Happy back-to-school season!

LAVONNE LONG  
*Northwest Adventists family columnist*

More online at [nwadvent.st/117-6-POV-66](http://nwadvent.st/117-6-POV-66)



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(Literacy instruction, special education, or educational leadership with denominational principal certification.)

Campus: Online.

- Tuition waivers available for NPUC teachers.

#### **Master of Initial Teaching (M.I.T.)**

(Elementary or secondary teaching certifications.)

Campus: College Place, Washington.

- Washington state and denominational certification available.

### **Social Work (M.S.W., D.S.W.)**

#### **Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)**

Campus: College Place, Washington; Missoula, Montana; or Billings, Montana.

- No GRE required.
- Two-year completion time or less.
- Open to applicants with an accredited bachelor's degree.
- Clinical focus on broad spectrum.

#### **Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.)**

Campus: College Place, Washington; Missoula, Montana; or Billings, Montana.

- No GRE required.
- Two-year completion time or less.
- Two paid Teaching Assistant positions are available.
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